

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

January 2008

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## Auburn: A City with a Mission

*How the City of Auburn's Mission Statement Guides Decision-Making*

The City of Auburn is driven by a mission of service to Auburn citizens. This issue of *Open Line* is dedicated to sharing with the public the mission of the City of Auburn, and how that mission is reflected in every aspect of the City's work.

**The mission of the City of Auburn is to provide economical delivery of quality services created and designed in response to the needs of its citizens, rather than by habit or tradition.**

This mission involves eight key components that guide the City's elected leaders and professional management staff in their decision-making.

**Encouraging planned and managed growth as a means of developing an attractive built-environment and protecting and conserving its natural resources**

Growth management requires careful analysis of the growth that is taking place in and around Lee County. Understanding current and future growth patterns is essential to planning for growth in a way that will maintain the infrastructure and quality of services Auburn citizens have come to expect.

Staff from the City of Auburn Planning Department began working on an Interactive Growth Model for the City last year. This model will forecast the spatial distribution of the City's population over time and the apportionment of land uses necessary to meet the needs of the population. In addition, the Interactive Growth Model will assist City management in addressing infrastructure needs such as roads, water and sewer lines; public safety needs, such as the placement of future fire stations; and the needs of Auburn City Schools.

**Creating diverse employment opportunities leading to an increased tax base**

The City of Auburn has seen a remarkable amount of growth with only minimal tax increases in the last few

decades. One key reason that Auburn citizens enjoy a relatively low tax burden is the diversification of employment opportunities in the City, allowing the city's tax base to grow and evolve along with the population. This allows the City's infrastructure and services to keep pace with growth without increasing the burden on taxpayers.

In 2007, the City of Auburn and Auburn University announced that Northrop Grumman Corporation would be the first tenant in the Auburn Research Park. The Auburn Research Park, on 156 acres at the southern entrance of the Auburn University campus, is a collaborative effort between the State of Alabama, Auburn University, and the City of Auburn.



City of Auburn/Auburn University  
Yarbrough Tennis Center

State Representative Mike Hubbard commented that "without question, the Auburn Research Park will be a catalyst for the continued economic growth and prosperity for Auburn, Opelika, and Lee County residents."

In addition to industrial recruitment and job creation, the City continues to pursue expanded retail opportunities. Soon, residents will see the grand opening of the new Sam's Club at Bent Creek Road and Glenn Avenue, with an as yet unnamed big box retailer to locate nearby. Sales tax revenue from these retailers is expected to generate significant returns for the City.

**Providing and maintaining reliable and appropriate infrastructure**

The 2007 Citizen Survey showed a high level of

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City of Auburn



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*Ivy Morris Bike Lane Dedication*

satisfaction with local infrastructure, while demonstrating that City streets, sidewalks and other infrastructure are the top concerns for Auburn's citizens.

In Fiscal Year 2007, more than 10.5 miles of streets were repaved, including portions of Magnolia Avenue, Stage Road, and Deer Run Road. Each year, the City Council allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars for street repaving. The FY07 Resurfacing project budget totaled more than \$992,000.

Construction at Exit 57-Bent Creek Interchange is in its final stages, with the bridge expansion bringing much-needed traffic relief to one of Auburn's two existing interchanges. The City is in the process of acquiring right-of-way for the addition of Auburn's new interchange, Exit 50 - Auburn Technology Park Interchange. This project is expected to go to bid in the early part of 2008.

City staff worked with officials from CSX Railroad to provide a much-needed upgrade to the railroad crossing at East University Drive. City officials continue to work with CSX to repair the other railroad crossings in the City.

Sidewalk maintenance remains a priority of the City Council. In Fiscal Year 2007, 3,228 feet of sidewalk were rebuilt or repaired. Currently, the City has over 62 miles of sidewalks and 7 miles of multi-use paths.

City officials are working to expand Auburn's existing bike network. In 2007, grand openings and dedications were held for the Highway 14 Multi-Use Path and the Ivy Morris Bike Lane. Currently, the City has over 30 miles of bike paths, with proposed paths around the City potentially providing over 100 miles of bike paths.

### **Providing and promoting quality housing, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities**

The City of Auburn, in partnership with the North Auburn Housing Development Corporation, began work on the infrastructure for the Northwest Village Subdivision, Auburn's newest affordable housing subdivision, in January 2006. Construction of the homes began in June 2007, and the first homeowners were presented with their keys during a ceremony last month. During 2007, the City assisted in rehabilitation of 7 housing units through its funding of housing loan and rehabilitation programs.

In April 2006, voters approved funding for the construction of the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center and an expansion of the Auburn Public Library. In November 2007, City and University officials held the official ribbon cutting for the Yarbrough Tennis Center. Since opening in summer 2007, the Tennis Center has hosted 5 tournaments, including the Fall SEC Women's Tournament.

Construction of the 10,000+ square foot Library expansion is well underway. Once complete, the expanded facilities will boast a new electronic services area and a new youth services area.

Annual events such as Auburn CityFest, Downtown Trick or Treat, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Sundown Concert Series, and the Fourth of July Celebration continue to set participation records by Auburn residents. Auburn CityFest 2007 drew a record crowd of 35,000. The Auburn Parks and Recreation department continues to offer a wealth of athletic, recreational and educational programs for Auburn citizens.

### **Providing quality public safety services**

In the 2007 Citizen Survey, 87% of Auburn residents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the quality of the City's Police, Fire, and ambulance services. The City of Auburn's fire protection capabilities have expanded significantly to keep pace with growth. Last year, construction was completed on Fire Station No. 5 in Auburn Technology Park South. The new station serves the southern portion of the City, in addition to providing support to Auburn's four other fire stations. The City Council also authorized funding for a 95-foot aerial platform fire truck. The new truck allows fire personnel to reach buildings taller than three stories and primarily covers the downtown area and the campus of Auburn University.

In progress is a wireless initiative which will be utilized by Auburn Police for communications and reporting. The City Council has recently authorized purchase of mobile data terminals for Police vehicles. These terminals will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Police officers by allowing them to connect to the City's data and communications network in the field. This will allow



*Fire Station No. 5*

officers to maximize their time on patrol beats and reduce the number of hours in the office completing mandated paper work and reports.

### **Operating an adequately funded City government in a financially responsible and fiscally sound manner**

In December 2006, Standard & Poor's (S&P) upgraded the City of Auburn's credit rating to a straight AA. This rating, like Moody's Aa3, demonstrates the City's strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. These ratings are among several validations by the financial community of the fiscal discipline exemplified by the City Council and management.

The City's financial and budget documents continue to earn accolades from the Government Finance Officers' Association for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This marks the City of Auburn's 21st recognition for the annual CAFR, and the 5th recognition for the PAFR. Each of the last eight city budget documents, covering twelve fiscal years, has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The City's General Fund performed very well again in Fiscal Year 2007, with revenues significantly higher than projected and expenditures well within budget. Despite continued increases in

cost of living and operating expenses, the City continues to maintain adequate funding for both its operating expenses and capital outlay projects thanks to sound financial management practices in concert with a healthy and expanding tax base.

**Recruiting and maintaining a highly motivated workforce committed to excellence**

The 2007 Citizen Survey indicated a 78% satisfaction level among residents with the quality of City services overall. Over the years, the City has been able to retain an excellent staff of professionals truly dedicated to serving Auburn's citizens. The City is fortunate to have employees that seek to improve their skills by pursuing degrees and training on their own time. The City also provides training in customer service, employee supervision, workplace safety and ethics.

**Facilitating citizen involvement**

The City of Auburn takes great pride in facilitating a high level of citizen involvement. With over 120 citizens serving on 25 advisory boards and committees, public participation is an important part of the City's daily operations.

Auburn is committed to offering the transparency, access and resources necessary to keep citizens fully informed. City Council meetings are heavily attended by citizens, as are board and commission meetings. In the last year, the City Council has convened 3 task forces comprised of citizens and City staff members.

The City's newly re-designed website continues to provide citizens with a wealth of information, including the City's budget documents, City Council meeting packets, and the latest news and events. Citizens may sign up to receive e-mail notifications for City news and events, City Council and Planning Commission meeting packets, and Parks and Recreation sports announcements via the e-Notifier, the City of Auburn's e-mail subscription service. Open Line provides monthly updates and news from City departments, board and commission vacancy announcements, meeting schedules, and information on upcoming events for all Auburn residents.

For more than twenty years, the City has conducted an annual survey of its residents. Results of the Annual Citizen Survey are utilized by the City Council as a measure of the quality of City services and as a gauge for establishing budget priorities for the future. The 2008 Citizen Survey will be administered by mail beginning January 16 through February 29 with results tentatively scheduled to be presented to the City Council at the Tuesday, April 1, Committee of the Whole meeting.

The City of Auburn's elected officials and staff are continually striving to make Auburn a better place in which to live and work, while retaining the charm and atmosphere that makes Auburn such an attractive place to live. City leaders and management will continue to use the City of Auburn's mission statement to guide them in their policy and decision-making.



*Auburn CityFest 2007  
at Keisel Park*

*clip out and save*

# 2008 Holiday Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Schedule

**January**

**New Year's Day Holiday**

Monday, December 31	Monday's route
Tuesday, January 1	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Wednesday, January 2	Tuesday's route
Thursday, January 3	Wednesday's route
Friday, January 4	Thursday's route

**Martin Luther King Holiday**

Monday, January 21	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday, January 22	Monday's route
Wednesday, January 23	Tuesday's route
Thursday, January 24	Wednesday's route
Friday, January 25	Thursday's route

**May**

**Memorial Day Holiday**

Monday, May 26	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday, May 27	Monday's route
Wednesday, May 28	Tuesday's route
Thursday, May 29	Wednesday's route
Friday, May 30	Thursday's route

**July**

**Independence Day Holiday**

There will be no change in the collection schedule the week of July 4th.

**September**

**Labor Day Holiday**

Monday, September 1	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday, September 2	Monday's route
Wednesday, September 3	Tuesday's route
Thursday, September 4	Wednesday's route
Friday, September 5	Thursday's route

**November**

**Veterans Day Holiday**

Monday, November 10	Monday's route
Tuesday, November 11	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Wednesday, November 12	Tuesday's route
Thursday, November 13	Wednesday's route
Friday, November 14	Thursday's route

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

Monday, November 24	Monday and Tuesday's routes
Tuesday, November 25	Wednesday's route
Wednesday, November 26	Thursday's route
Thursday, November 27	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Friday, November 28	<b>HOLIDAY</b>

**December**

**Christmas Holiday**

Monday, December 22	Monday's route
Tuesday, December 23	Tuesday's route
Wednesday, December 24	Wednesday's route
Thursday, December 25	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Friday, December 26	Thursday's route

Carts and recycled materials must be placed at the curb for collection by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. All carts and recycling bins must be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the following day. The holiday collection schedule is available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/es/holiday.asp](http://www.auburnalabama.org/es/holiday.asp). For information on garbage, trash, and recycling pick-up, please contact the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department at 501-3080.

# City Management

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## Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** was announced at the December 4, 2007 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 8 meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** were announced at the December 4, 2007 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 8 meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Cemeteries Advisory Board** were announced at the December 18, 2007 meeting and will be filled at the January 22 meeting.



*Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact their City Council member or notify the City Manager's Office.*

## Holiday Schedules and January City Council Meeting Changes

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday and Monday, January 21 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules both days. Please see page 3 of this month's Open Line for holiday collection schedules.

The January City Council meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, January 8 and January 22, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber, located at 141 North Ross Street.

Starting in February, City Council meetings will be held on their regular schedule of the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

## City of Auburn Non-Emergency Phone Number

Please note the City of Auburn's 24-hour non-emergency number is 501-3100. Citizens are encouraged to use this number when contacting the Public Safety Department with non-emergency requests and issues, such as cars blocking the roadway and noise complaints. In addition, this number may be used for all after-hours issues.



This number was established to keep 911 lines open for true emergencies. In the event of a true emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

## Meeting Schedule

### Tree Commission

January 4, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

### Cemeteries Advisory Board

January 7, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

### Water Works Board

January 7, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room

### Greenspace Advisory Board

January 8, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room

### Industrial Development Board

January 8, 4:00 p.m., Auburn City Hall-City Manager's Conference Room

### Historic Preservation Commission

January 8, 4:00 p.m., Development Services Building

### Board of Education

January 8, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room

### City Council

January 8, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

### Board of Zoning Adjustment

January 9, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

### Planning Commission

January 10, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

### City Council

January 22, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

### Library Board

January 24, 10:00 a.m., Library Board Room

### Bicycle Committee

January 29, 7:00 p.m., Development Services Building

### Tree Commission

February 1, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

### Cemeteries Advisory Board

February 4, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

### Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

February 5, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

### City Council

February 5, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

### Board of Zoning Adjustment

February 6, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

**-Meeting times and places are subject to change-**