

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

June 2010

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Open Line
A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

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City of Auburn



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Auburn Citizens Voice Their Opinions

Auburn Citizens offer direction for the City of Auburn in a variety of ways. They provide daily feedback through direct contact with City Hall, the City departments and their elected officials. Over 115 of our citizens serve on the City's various boards and commissions. Many of our citizens routinely enjoy the numerous parks and recreation amenities the City has to offer. All of these interactions are important, and help shape the course our City takes. Each interaction tells us what an individual or a group of individuals thinks, and helps us evaluate trends in the needs and wants of our citizens. Once a year these voices unite to give us a comprehensive report card from the citizenry at large. With the Annual Citizen Survey complete, this year's grades are in, and the numbers speak for themselves.

Quality of Life

In the 2010 Annual Citizen Survey, the City of Auburn ranks above the national average in 26 areas. Auburn received the highest ranking out of all cities surveyed nationally in three areas: enforcement of traffic laws, maintenance and preservation of downtown, and debris clean-up of private property. These statistics speak to the satisfaction of Auburn citizens with the quality of life in their community. Other quality of life results include:

- 94% - satisfied with Auburn as a place to raise children
- 94% - satisfied with Auburn as a place to live
- 92% - satisfied with the quality of the public schools
- 90% - satisfied with the quality of police, fire and ambulance

City Maintenance and Services

The Citizen Survey shows that 42% of residents surveyed had called or visited a City department with a question or concern over the past year. Of those, 86% found it very or somewhat easy to reach the person they needed to reach. More than three-fourths (81%) of those who had contacted a City department thought the staff in the department they contacted were responsive to their issue. Satisfaction with the overall quality of City services was 26% above the national average.

- 89% - satisfied with residential garbage collection service
- 89% - satisfied with the overall image of Auburn
- 88% - satisfied with the quality of city library services
- 87% - satisfied with the quality of local police and fire
- 85% - satisfied with the quality of water service to their home
- 83% - satisfied with the sanitary sewer service
- 81% - satisfied with the quality of city parks programs/facilities

Room for Improvement

As is true with any growing city, survey results show that residents' top priority is the flow of traffic and congestion management. Maintenance of City streets and facilities came in as the second highest priority for citizens. As Auburn grows, the City is continually working to improve traffic flow. In the past year, projects to improve traffic flow have included:

- Working with the University to increase safety on Magnolia Avenue
- Improvements at the intersection of Magnolia Avenue and Donahue Drive
- A traffic light at the intersection of Glenn Avenue and Airport Road
- Work on the North Donahue Bridge Replacement Project
- Replacement of the Wire Road Bridge



Infrastructure Improvements (above: Magnolia Avenue Safety Improvements; below: Wire Road Bridge Completion).



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Auburn Citizens Voice Their Opinions

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While traffic flow is still a priority, the 2010 Citizen Survey results show that Auburn citizens recognize that we are listening and addressing their concerns in this area, and satisfaction with the flow of traffic and congestion management has increased by 7% over the past year.

Value of the Tax Dollar

It is striking that, even during a historic recession, Auburn citizens are happy with the value they receive for their tax dollar. Survey results show that (74%) of citizens are satisfied or very satisfied with their tax dollar value, which puts Auburn 29% above the national average. The City of Auburn is fortunate to maintain such a position of strength in the provision of City services, even when some municipalities across the nation are experiencing budget and service cuts, as well as layoffs.



Yarbrough Tennis Center

budget and policy priorities for the next two years and beyond. The Citizen Survey represents one of many ways in which the City Council and staff facilitate open and transparent government. Survey results are presented publicly to the City Council and citizens. The complete Citizen Survey Results, as well as the City's Biennial Budget, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, meeting packets and a wealth of other materials are available for citizens to review on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org. Public availability of these documents, coupled with ease of access through the City's e-Notifier electronic subscription service, is an important part of informing Auburn's citizens about the workings of their government.

The Citizen Survey is an independently-conducted, scientifically-valid survey administered by the ETC Institute of Olathe, Kansas. Results are available online at www.auburnalabama.org/survey. Copies are also available for review at Auburn City Hall and the Auburn Public Library. The City of Auburn would like to thank the citizens who participated in this year's survey. Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager said "We will assess these latest survey results, and work even harder to fulfill our commitment to our citizens."

Summer Camps and Programs



Looking for a cure to summer boredom? The City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of summer camps and programs for children of all ages. Join us for preschool music camp, visual arts workshops, art for young children, young

artist atelier, theatre camp, musical theatre camp, therapeutics camp, day camp, and much more.

Registration for summer programs will be held May 3 - 28. For a complete guide to summer camps, programs, and special events, be sure to pick up a copy of the Parks and Recreation Summer 2010 Brochure, available at City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks/brochure.asp.



Public Safety (Auburn Police Division patrols)

The 2010 Survey and beyond

"Despite the tough conditions that the nation has experienced, the City of Auburn has done exceptionally well, and has moved into the top tier of performers nationwide," said Chris Tatham, an ETC Institute consultant who conducted this year's study. The Annual Citizen Survey results do more than just sit on a shelf until the next survey. The results are currently being analyzed as City leaders formulate the new biennial budget for Fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Survey results will stand with Council priorities and staff input as major factors in creating the

MEETING SCHEDULE

JUNE

- 1 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
City Council, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 2 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- 4 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
- 7 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- 8 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room
Historic Preservation Commission, 4 p.m., Development Services Building
Board of Education, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room
- 10 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber
- 15 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 17 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room
- 29 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/boards.

City Offers Incentives For Recycling

The City of Auburn was the first Alabama city to offer curbside recycling, a program which has been available to residents for 23 years. The curbside recycling program is made possible through a partnership with Waste Recycling, Incorporated. To reduce the cost of the program to taxpayers, recycling program participants separate recyclable items before placing them into bins to be picked up on their collection day. The source-separated recycling collection system is the most popular and practical form of curbside recycling for communities that don't have a nearby Materials Recovery Facility.

The following items may be recycled at the curb:

1. Aluminum cans
2. Flattened Cardboard (4'x2')
3. Newspapers (newsprint)
4. Steel cans
5. Plastic bottles (having a neck that is smaller than the base)
6. Brown glass - separated from clear glass
7. Clear glass - separated from brown glass

Residents can also bring materials to the recycling drop-off center on 365-A North Donahue Drive in Auburn. Six convenient new recycling stations are now available downtown for those wanting to recycle aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and newspapers.

Thanks to a grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management through the Alabama Recycling Fund, a limited number of free-recycling bins are available to residential garbage customers while supplies last. Contact the Environmental Services Department at 334-501-3080 or webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org for more information on how to receive a bin while supplies last.

Waste Collection Day Yields Record Numbers



The Environmental Services Department collected 22,173 lbs. of household hazardous waste at its 8th Annual Collection Day on Saturday, April 10th. Of the total collected Saturday, the top 5 waste items were as follows:

Waste Item	Weight (lbs)
Paint	14,000
Oil	1,800
Alkaline/Nicad Batteries	1,400
Pesticides	1,000
Flammable Liquids	800

Approximately 300 people dropped-off waste and electronics. Environmental Services also collected 8 lbs. of Hg (Mercury), which is highly toxic. The 1990 Clean Air Act put mercury on a list of toxic pollutants that need to be controlled to the greatest possible extent.

SummerNight downtown art walk



June 18th 2010
Auburn, Alabama

Join the City of Auburn, Auburn Arts Association, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and the Downtown Merchants Association for the 4th Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk on Friday, June 18 from 6 - 9:30 p.m. in downtown Auburn. Enjoy an evening of shopping, dining, art, music, and children's activities at this FREE community event. Local artists will have their works on display throughout downtown and many downtown merchants will be offering specials and late-night shopping hours.

Interested in participating in SummerNight as an artist or merchant? Please visit our website at www.auburnalabama.org/arts to download an application.

Visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963 for more information, including applications.

Downtown streets will be closed during the event.

Veterans Brick Orders Due June 30

Each year, the City of Auburn provides citizens with the opportunity to honor a member of the military by purchasing a memorial brick to be placed at the Veterans Memorial Monument, located on the corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. Personalized bricks engraved with the veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and years of service may be purchased for \$100. For bricks to be placed at the Veteran's Memorial Monument in time for the 2008 Veterans Day Ceremony, brick orders must be received no later than Monday, June 30. Brick order forms are available online at www.auburnalabama.org/veterans/bricks.asp or at Auburn City Hall. The location of the more the 775 bricks, which are currently located in the Memorial can be viewed on our interactive website at www.auburnalabama.org/maps.



Board Vacancies

- Two vacancies on the **Planning Commission** will be announced at the June 15 City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 20 City Council meeting. One incumbent has served one partial term and one full term and one incumbent has served one partial term and two full terms.
- Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be announced at the July 6 City Council meeting and will be filled at the August 3 City Council meeting. One incumbent has served one partial term and one full term and one incumbent has served two full terms.



Citizens interested in serving on a City Board or Commission are encouraged to contact their City Council member or notify the City Manager's Office at webocm@auburnalabama.org or call 501-7260.

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Open Line Feedback

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share? If so, please contact us at openline@auburnalabama.org or call 501-7255.

up COMING EVENTS

Due to space considerations, we are unable to publicize any events that are not directly affiliated with a City department.



Now Showing ...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions - Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

- **12th Annual Juried Art Exhibition**, through June 5. A competitive exhibition open to artists and craftpersons in Lee County.
- **Photography Invitational I**, June 14 - July 19. Photographs by John Shadrick and Hank Siegel.

June 4...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on June 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center. Citizens ages 19 and up are encouraged to play. All levels of play are welcome. No partner is necessary. The event will be held rain or shine. Yarbrough Tennis Center non-member court fees apply. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/tennis or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.



Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in June...Auburn Stride Walkers Club - Join the Auburn Stride Walkers Club as they explore various City walking trails every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday this month at 9 a.m. This FREE program is a great way to make new friends and walk your way to a healthier lifestyle. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.

The Summer Library Reading Program, Begins June 1 - "Make a Splash: READ!" Join the Auburn Public Library's summer reading program. Prizes will be awarded to participants who reach their reading goals. To sign up or for more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Weekly in June...Auburn Public Library Story Times for Children - Join the Auburn Public Library as they host special story times for children ages 6 months - 5 years and their caregivers. All story times are held at 10 a.m. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

- **Tuesdays** - Baby Time (ages 6 - 18 months)
- **Wednesdays** - Preschool Story Time (ages 3 - 5 years)
- **Thursdays** - Toddler Time (ages 18 months - 3 years)



Tween Movie Day...Beginning June 1 - Tweens are invited to the Auburn Public Library every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to watch a movie. To sign up or for more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Beginning June 1...Salmagundi - Children in Kindergarten - 5th grades are invited every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. for Salmagundi at the Auburn Public Library. To sign up or for more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Teen Cafe...Beginning June 1 - Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to the Auburn Public Library every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. to participate in Teen Cafe. To sign up or for more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Auburn CityFest 2010 Sponsors



The City of Auburn and the Auburn CityFest Committee would like to thank our sponsors for their support of Auburn CityFest 2010 presented by the *Opelika-Auburn News*. Their support helps make Auburn CityFest a FREE community event for citizens to enjoy.

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Save the date for Auburn CityFest 2011 on Saturday, April 30!