

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2010

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
501-7260
bham@auburnalabama.org

Arthur L. Dowdell, Sr., Ward 1
524-2074
bishopdowdellministries@yahoo.com

Sheila H. Eckman, Ward 2
821-9666
750-9666
sheilaeckman@bellsouth.net

Thomas Worden, Ward 3
740-1783
tworden@charter.net

Brent Beard, Ward 4
821-4302
brent@alabamacontractsales.com

Robin Kelley, Ward 5
501-7947
887-0033
robinkelleylaw@gmail.com

Dick Phelan, Ward 6
887-2071
dickphelan@yahoo.com

Gene Dulaney, Ward 7
887-7908
466-3191
gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Bob Norman, Ward 8
821-1901
bobnorman67@bellsouth.net

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Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7261
fax: 334-501-7299

web:

www.auburnalabama.org

email:

cduggan@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn



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Inside Auburn

Recent Recognitions and Current Projects

In the 2010 Annual Citizen Survey, Auburn citizens voiced a strong satisfaction with the quality of life in their community. Results in the survey included that 94% of citizens are satisfied with Auburn as a place to raise children and as a place to live. In addition to the citizen satisfaction shown in the survey, Auburn has been recognized nationally for the strength of the local quality of life. The City of Auburn is dedicated to working continuously to maintain and improve services for all of its citizens.

Community Recognitions

In addition to the Citizen Survey results, reported in last month's issue of *Open Line* and available on the web at www.auburnalabama.org/survey, the Auburn area has received a number of national recognitions recently. Did you know...

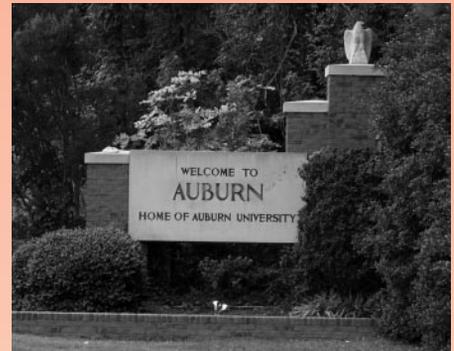
- Auburn was named a top 10 job growth market in the U.S. for 2010 by *Business Week Magazine*
- *Forbes.com* ranked Auburn as a 2010 Top Ten Best Small Place nationally for business and careers
- Auburn was named a Top 10 best place to live by *US News and World Report* (2009)
- Auburn is home of the 2010 Alabama State Teacher of the Year, awarded by the Alabama Department of Education
- From 2005 through 2009 Auburn was also named:
 - * Number One Golf City in the U.S. by *Golf Digest* (2005)
 - * Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists (2005)
 - * Thirtieth Ranked "Boomtown" in the Nation by *Inc. Magazine* (2007)
 - * Sixth fastest Growing Metropolitan Statistical Area in the Nation by *Forbes.com* (2008)
 - * 16th best small place to launch a business in the Nation by *CNN Money* (2009)
 - * Ninth strongest building market nationally by *BusinessWeek Magazine* (2009)
 - * Top place to retire by *Where to Retire Magazine* (2009)
 - * Best city for starting a business in Alabama by *BusinessWeek Magazine* (2009)
 - * Number one in projected growth for 179 small metros by *Forbes Magazine* (2009)
 - * Number 10 Best Small Place for Business and Careers by *Forbes Magazine* (2009)

City Efforts

In keeping with Citizen Survey results, the City of Auburn continues to work to protect and improve the local job market, transportation infrastructure, city services and the local quality of life. Recent and current efforts include:

- The City of Auburn estimates significant job creation over time in its newest 430-acre technology park, Auburn Technology Park West.
- The City is currently working with the Alabama Department of Transportation on Exit 50, Auburn's forthcoming new Interstate 85 interchange. This interchange will enhance the attractiveness of Auburn Technology Park West to prospective industries, and will provide additional economic development opportunity for the Community. Federal funding has been made available to assist with this project.
- The City is also implementing plans to extend West Veterans Boulevard in an effort to improve traffic and better provide access to local technology parks. Some Federal funding has also been made available for West Veterans Boulevard.
- In concert with the City of Opelika and Lee County, the City of Auburn helped secure funds to build the new terminal at the Auburn University Regional Airport. This two-story, 26,000 square foot,

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Inside Auburn

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state-of-the-art facility is expected to be completed in July and should draw business and commerce. The Airport is an important component of the areas' economic development efforts and potential.

- The City of Auburn has used Federal funding through the COPS grant program in working to develop and install a Wireless Mobile Data system for Police vehicles. There are currently 50 wireless mesh access points that provide on-site data to 72 mobile data terminals in police vehicles. This wireless system allows police officers access to information and reports previously only available at the police station. Patrol units equipped with this system can increase efficiency by maintaining their availability in the field. The City of Auburn is continuing to enhance this system.
- The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Auburn as a Tree City USA for the last 25 years. The Auburn Tree Commission advises the City on proper tree care and planting, and is committed to the growth and preservation of the urban tree canopy. The City's Parks and Recreation Department includes expert employees in Beautification and Urban Forestry to help maintain attractive greenspace and landscaping throughout the City.
- The City of Auburn has plans to expand its bicycle network and improve the safety and convenience of alternative modes of travel. The City Council's commitment to funding bicycle paths has been strong, with over 30 miles of existing bike and multi-use paths available in the City and almost 120 miles proposed for the future. A Bicycle Plan was included in the City's Auburn 2020 visioning document, and the cycling community continues to be influential in related planning efforts. Every fourth grader in the city participates in the school system's bicycle safety program.
- The City recently worked with Auburn University on the "Travel with Care" campaign to educate and raise awareness for good safety practices. Recent and planned safety improvements include LED lighting and improved signage at mid-block crosswalks on Magnolia Avenue, improved lighting on Magnolia Avenue and the removal of sidewalk aprons that do not lead to crosswalks. Additional transportation safety campaigns will be held in the future.
- The City is continuously working to improve infrastructure and services through street resurfacing. Recent rehabilitation work has been performed to maintain the City's sewer system. The City's recycling program continues to evolve with six new recycling locations available to the public throughout the downtown area.



Auburn will continue to be guided by the citizens in developing budget and project priorities as we strive to maintain a quality of life that has been recognized by citizens and the national media alike. The City of Auburn is a dynamic community that continues to evolve even while maintaining the unique character of a University community widely known as "the loveliest village on the plains."

Community Art Happening Friday, July 30

The Auburn Arts Association and the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department invite citizens to celebrate one another's cultural contributions through arts at the Community Art Happening on Friday, July 30 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The celebration will include professional art educators and artists teaching multicultural, intergenerational arts workshops throughout the day. Enjoy live performances and activities, storytelling, food, music, and much more. This program is funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** was announced at the June 1 City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 6 City Council meeting. The incumbent resigned.
- Two vacancies on the **Planning Commission** 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.



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

MEETING SCHEDULE

JULY

- 2 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
- 6 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 7 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- 8 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber
- 13 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
- 20 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 22 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room
- 27 Library Board**, 2 p.m., Auburn Public Library Board Room
- 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.

Auburn City Pools Open

Auburn City Pool season passes are available at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Individual passes are \$50.00 and family passes are \$100.00. Daily admission is \$2.00 per person (Children 1 year old and younger are free). The City operates two pools: Samford Pool, which is located at 328 Samford Avenue (behind Auburn Junior High School) and Drake Pool, which is located at 653 Spencer Avenue (behind Drake Middle School). Samford Pool will be closed several days throughout the summer due to swimming and diving meets. Closing times and schedule changes will be posted at the pool, Dean Road Recreation Center and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks.



Airport Terminal Nearing Completion

Standing two stories tall and 26,000 square feet in size, the new Auburn University Regional Airport Terminal is expected to help Auburn and the surrounding communities soar to new heights. The airport is an important tool for Economic Development recruitment in the region. The new terminal has all the amenities of a modern-day airport, far surpassing the original terminal that was built in 1950. "We weren't a first-class facility that could take care of the needs of the public in terms of modern-day aviation," said Airport Director Bill Hutto about why the renovation project was needed.

Construction on the project began last summer, and crews are expected to complete finishing touches sometime in July. The terminal will have state-of-the-art features, complete with a large lobby, flight planning room, board room, pilots lounge, and a vending area. Funding for the \$10 million project was provided by local governments - Auburn, Opelika and Lee County. State appropriations were also secured by State Representative Mike Hubbard to build the roadway that connects the terminal to Bent Creek Road.

The City of Auburn expects that the improvements to the airport will help draw business and commerce to the area. An Open House for the public will be scheduled this fall.

Auburn Police Launch New Tip Line

The Auburn Police Division has a new anonymous tip line. Citizens can call the new tip line number at 334-246-1391. The phone line will handle both voice and text messages. According to Auburn's Acting Police Chief Tommy Dawson, the tip line has proven successful in helping to solve cases in the past, and should be even more successful in the future with the added capability to receive text messages. "We rely on the extra eyes and ears of the community, and could not do what we do without the support of our citizens," Chief Dawson said. Police note that things like a suspect's description, vehicle description, tag number, direction of travel, and other details are very important. "When you see something suspicious, give us a call immediately," said Chief Dawson. "The sooner we can get officers into the area, the better our chances are of apprehending the offender," he adds. In addition to the new tip line, the non-emergency line is still available at 501-3100. As always, citizens should call 911 in case of emergency.



Auburn Public Safety Enforces Fire Hydrant Ordinance

The City of Auburn Public Safety Department reminds residents that Section 507.5.5 of the International Fire Code, adopted by the Auburn City Council on January 19, 2010, requires a 3-foot clear space around the circumference of all fire hydrants within the City. Residents should remove any plants or shrubbery within 3-feet of their fire hydrants.



Annual Fourth of July Celebration

Sunday, July 4

Sponsored by

Briggs & Stratton Corporation

Join the City of Auburn for the Annual Fourth of July Celebration, sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation, on Sunday, July 4 behind the home field side of Duck Samford Stadium. This FREE community event is open to all ages. Gates open at 6 p.m., followed by live music and children's activities at 7 p.m. Back by popular demand this year is Floyd the Barber, a family-friendly band playing favorites from the 60's, 70's, 80's, and today! The evening culminates at 9 p.m. with one of the largest fireworks displays in the area. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or chairs. Enjoy a picnic dinner with family and friends or purchase refreshments from local vendors on site.



NEW THIS YEAR - the parking lot off Airport Road, between the Bo Cavin Fields and the new Duck Samford Fields, will be closed to the public during the event to accommodate a new fireworks shoot site. The parking lot on East University Drive near the old Duck Samford Fields will now be OPEN to the public for parking. The new shoot site will provide greater visibility for citizens to enjoy the fireworks display.

Join us as we celebrate our nation's 234th Birthday on Sunday, July 4. In the event of rain, the fireworks display will be held on Monday, July 5. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.

The City of Auburn would like to thank

BRIGGS & STRATTON

for their generous sponsorship of the
Annual 4th of July Celebration

City Management

Charles M. Duggan, Jr.
501-7261
City Manager
cduggan@auburnlabama.org

Kevin A. Cowper
501-7262
Assistant City Manager
kcowper@auburnlabama.org

James C. Buston, III
501-7201
Assistant City Manager/CIO
jbuston@auburnlabama.org

Economic Development
Department
Phillip Dunlap, Director
501-7270
pdunlap@auburnlabama.org

Environmental Services
Department
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3080
twoody@auburnlabama.org

Finance Department
Andrea E. Jackson, Director
501-7220
ajackson@auburnlabama.org

Human Resources Department
Steven A. Reeves, Director
501-7240
sreeves@auburnlabama.org

Library
Margie B. Huffman, Director
501-3190
mhuffman@auburnlabama.org

Municipal Court
Joe S. Bailey, Judge
501-3180
jbailey@auburnlabama.org

Parks and Recreation Department
Rebecca O. Richardson,
Director
501-2930
brichardson@auburnlabama.org

Planning Department
Forrest E. Cotten, Director
501-3040
fcotten@auburnlabama.org

Public Safety Department
William H. James, Director
501-3110
bjames@auburnlabama.org

Public Works Department
Jeffery L. Ramsey, Director
501-3000
jramsey@auburnlabama.org

Water Resource Management Dept.
Laura A. Koon, Director
501-3060
lkoon@auburnlabama.org

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Auburn City Schools
Terry Jenkins, Superintendent
887-2100
tjenkins@auburnschools.org

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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@auburnlabama.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.



Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in July...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.

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.auburnlabama.org/arts or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



- **Photography Invitational I**, June 14 - July 19. Photographs by John Shadrack and Hank Siegel.
- **Summer Invitational 2010**, July 26 - August 21. Puzzles and sculptures by Eric Harshbarger, carved and painted sculpture by Vernon Robinson, and mixed-media boxes by Gail Langley.



Summer Library Reading Programs Continue in July - "Make a Splash: READ!" and "Make Waves @ Your Library." Join the Auburn Public Library's summer reading programs. Prizes will be awarded to participants who reach their reading goals. To sign up or for more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

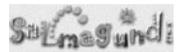
Weekly in July...Auburn Public Library Story Times for Children - Join the Auburn Public Library as they host special story times for children ages 6 months - 5 years and their caregivers. All story times are held at 10 a.m. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services 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...Tuesdays in July - 5th-8th Graders are invited every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to watch a movie. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Every Week in July...Salmagundi - Children in Kindergarten - 5th grades are invited every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. for Salmagundi. Don't miss special activities and performances all summer! For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Teen Cafe...Thursdays in July - Teens in 8th-12th grades are invited every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and a variety of activities.

July 2...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on July 2 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.auburnlabama.org/tennis or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.



Register by July 2...X-Cell Field Trip on the Coosa River - Youth ages 12 - 15 years, join the Parks and Recreation Department for a day of kayaking on the Coosa River July 10 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Enjoy a six mile course of flat water and Class I and II rapids. All participants must be able to swim and wear appropriate clothing, sunscreen, and footwear that will stay on in the water. Bring a light lunch and drink in a soft-sided, waterproof container. The cost is \$30, payable in cash on the day of the trip. Participants must be registered by July 2. For more information, or to register, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

July 4...Fourth of July Celebration - Music and entertainment begins at 7:00 p.m., followed by a fireworks display at 9:00 p.m. at Duck Samford Stadium. Admission is free to the public.



July 5 - 9 and July 19 - 23...Visual Art Workshops for Children - Youth ages 7 & up are invited to join Auburn University Professor Chichi Lovett for Visual Art Workshops for Children July 5 - 9 and July 19 - 23 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Workshops emphasize the process of creating art, elements of art, experience using a variety of age-appropriate materials, and art appreciation. The cost is \$60 per week, per child and \$50 for each additional child. For more information, or to register, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

July 13 - 15 and July 27 - 29...Art for Young Children - Preschoolers ages 4 - 6 years are invited to Art for Young Children July 13 - 15 and July 27 - 29 from 10 a.m. - Noon at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Workshops emphasize the process of creating art, elements of art, experience using a variety of age-appropriate materials, and art appreciation. The cost is \$40 per session, per child. For more information, or to register, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

July 26...Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure Available - Be sure to pick up your copy of the Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure, available at City facilities and online at www.auburnlabama.org/parks/brochure.asp, beginning July 26.

July 26 - August 11...Online Fall Soccer Registration - Online registration for fall soccer will be held July 26 - August 11. Log on to www.auburnlabama.org/soccer to register. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/soccer or call 501-2930.



July 30...Community Art Happening - Learn about and celebrate each other's cultural contributions through the arts on Friday July 30 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Professional art educators and artists will facilitate multicultural, intergenerational arts workshops, performances and on-going arts activities.



August 6-8...Sales Tax Holiday Weekend - The City of Auburn encourages you to *Shop Auburn* during the weekend of August 6-8. For a complete list of items exempt from sales tax, please visit www.auburnlabama.org/taxholiday. For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Revenue Office at 501-7239.