

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

January 2011

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
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



Your Voice in Auburn's City Government 2011 Citizen Survey Coming Soon

On many occasions surveys are conducted to provide beneficial information to a business or an academic study, but this spring the City of Auburn will conduct its annual survey designed to benefit you. The Citizen Survey is the primary tool used to provide the Auburn City Council with a clear vision of citizen needs.

The City's Annual Citizen Survey offers citizens a valuable venue through which they can communicate their concerns to the Auburn City Council. Now in its twenty-fourth year, the survey plays an influential role in formulating the City's budget and project priorities, both short and long-term. The survey gives direction to City Administrators on improving City services for Auburn citizens. Survey results consistently show strong citizen support for Auburn City Schools. As a result, the City of Auburn dedicates 13% of the City's general fund budget in support of Auburn's public schools. These funds play a crucial role in helping Auburn City Schools maintain its status as a quality, nationally ranked school system. Additional initiatives in response to past Citizen Surveys have included increased neighborhood traffic enforcement, and a continued focus on improving the City's infrastructure.

The 2011 Citizen Survey will be administered by mail beginning January 16. Citizens who receive a survey are asked to take a few moments to fill it out, and return it in the postage-paid envelope. Citizens unable to return the survey by mail will receive a telephone follow-up survey, providing them with an additional opportunity to participate. Your involvement is vital in communicating your priorities to Auburn's elected officials.

Survey results are tentatively scheduled to be presented to the City Council and citizens at an April, 2011 City Council meeting. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org or contact Auburn City Hall at 501-7260.

GE Aviation To Build Facility in Auburn

Auburn will soon be home to a GE Aviation manufacturing facility. General Electric (GE) has selected Auburn as the site for a new environmental coatings facility for advanced military jet engine components. GE selected Auburn based on the area's access to a strong technical workforce, local government support, employee training opportunities, and close proximity to Auburn University.

GE Aviation, a GE operating unit based in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a world-leading supplier of commercial and military engines and components as well as integrated digital, electric power, and mechanical systems for aircraft. GE is expected to employ 300 to 400 people when the facility ramps up to full rate production later this decade.

"It's a proud day for Auburn. In the last few years, regardless of national economic conditions, Auburn has received recognition as a great place to live, work and do business," said Mayor Bill Ham. "We've seen local industry expand and new industry join our community. An announcement like this can't be made without thanks to Governor Riley and Representative Hubbard, thanks to Dr. Gogue and Auburn University for what they bring to the community, and thanks to Auburn's Economic Development team for their tireless work to keep Auburn's economy strong," Ham added.

Construction of the new 200,000 square-foot facility will begin in 2011 at Auburn Technology Park West, and the facility is expected to open in 2012. The facility will enhance components for the GE/Rolls-Royce F136 jet engine for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 program (the Department of Defense's focal point for defining affordable next generation strike aircraft weapon systems for the Navy, Air Force, and Marines). Initial F136 production will start in 2013.

"This is a great win for citizens of Auburn, Lee County and the state of Alabama," said State Representative Mike Hubbard. He continued, "GE Aviation's decision to locate in Auburn brings more jobs to the East Alabama area, as we continue to outperform a sluggish national economy. This location is a testament to the strength of Alabama and to the quality of the greater Auburn community".

The City of Auburn welcomes its newest industry.



Improving Traffic Flow in Auburn

The City of Auburn's Public Works Department has been working hard to improve traffic flow around town. In August, a new traffic signal was installed at the intersection of North College Street and Shelton Mill Road. This installation was funded in part by a private development. The new intersection features pedestrian signals to enhance the safety of pedestrians and children walking to and from Cary Woods Elementary School. New countdown pedestrian signals are scheduled to be installed at several downtown intersections.

At the end of summer, staff completed a project to optimize traffic signal timings around the Village Mall area. The five intersections around the mall were coordinated with radio communication so that the signals work together to move traffic as one unit through the mall corridor. This system is programmed to reduce delays and improve the overall travel time for motorists. Additionally, the left turn signals at the Opelika Road intersection with East University Drive were altered to allow motorists to yield and make a left turn on green. Previously, motorists had to wait for a green arrow to proceed left through the intersection.

Similar enhancements have been completed at the intersection of South Donahue Drive and East University Drive where left turn signals were installed to provide protected left turns. These improvements were finalized in November.

From ongoing improvements in street signs and traffic signals, to the "Travel with Care" safety campaign and pedestrian improvements on Magnolia Avenue, employees of the Traffic Engineering division of the Public Works department are dedicated to providing citizens with the best possible traffic conditions and infrastructure for all modes of travel.



Maintaining the Public Right of Way

In the City of Auburn, the public right-of-way is used for providing water service lines, sanitary sewer lines, storm water runoff, sidewalks, street widening, electric utilities, gas utilities, phone lines, cable television lines and other items as needed for public use (*State of Alabama Code Section 11-47-171*). Along most streets, the right-of-way extends beyond the back of the curb for several feet. The best way for a homeowner to know where the right-of-way begins and ends is to locate the property survey pins for the lot. Anything on the street side of the property pins is within the public right-of-way. If the property pins are not easily located, look for the water meter and utility poles. Both of these are normally placed within the right-of-way. Citizens may view subdivision plats at the office of the City Engineer, 171 North Ross Street, to get a general idea of the width of the right of way abutting their property. The City has responsibility to maintain the City services that are within the right-of-way. Public sector utilities such as Alabama Power, and authorized private sector companies such as AT&T, Charter Communications and Knology, are permitted to work within the right-of-way to maintain their services.

Homeowners often plant flowers, trees and shrubs within the right-of-way or next to the public right-of-way. This practice can cause safety concerns when branches and leaves limit the site distance needed for vehicle operators to safely enter or exit a roadway. The City must make repairs to services located in the right-of-way when needed. The City may remove any item that is placed within the right of way. Homeowners who plan to construct a fence, flower bed, wall, irrigation system, or other appurtenance should check to make sure that the construction will fall within their property limits and not on the public right-of-way. If you have any questions about right-of-way, please contact the City of Auburn's Land Acquisition Specialist, Riley Brice, at 501-3000.

2011 Holiday Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Schedule

Citizens are encouraged to keep this schedule to use as a reference throughout the year.

January

New Year's Day Holiday

All routes will remain the same.

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Monday, January 17	Holiday
Tuesday, January 18	Monday's route
Wednesday, January 19	Tuesday's route
Thursday, January 20	Wednesday's route
Friday, January 21	Thursday's route

May

Memorial Day Holiday

Monday, May 30	Holiday
Tuesday, May 31	Monday's route
Wednesday, June 1	Tuesday's route
Thursday, June 2	Wednesday's route
Friday, June 3	Thursday's route

July

Independence Day Holiday

Monday, July 4	Holiday
Tuesday, July 5	Monday's route
Wednesday, July 6	Tuesday's route
Thursday, July 7	Wednesday's route
Friday, July 8	Thursday's route

September

Labor Day Holiday

Monday, September 5	Holiday
Tuesday, September 6	Monday's route
Wednesday, September 7	Tuesday's route
Thursday, September 8	Wednesday's route
Friday, September 9	Thursday's route

November

Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, November 21	Monday's and Tuesday's route
Tuesday, November 22	Wednesday's route
Wednesday, November 23	Thursday's route
Thursday, November 24	Holiday
Friday, November 25	Holiday

December

Christmas Holiday

Monday, December 26	Holiday
Tuesday, December 27	Monday's route
Wednesday, December 28	Tuesday's route
Thursday, December 29	Wednesday's route
Friday, December 30	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. For more information, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 501-3080.

License Reminders

City **dog license** renewals must be completed by Monday, January 31 to avoid a late fee. City **business license** renewals must be completed by Tuesday, February 15. For additional information on purchasing a dog license or business license contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239 or visit the City's web page at www.auburnalabama.org/fi.

Federal and State Employees Working in Auburn

Generally, every person working in Auburn is subject to the City's occupation license fee. The occupation license fee is 1% of an employee's gross wages, which is withheld by employers and then paid to the City on a quarterly basis. Self-employed individuals pay a business license fee instead of the occupation license fee.

The federal government does not withhold occupation license fees (OCC) from the gross wages of federal employees who work in Auburn. Federal employees are required to pay OCC to the City individually. Similarly, State employees who are not based in Auburn, but who work in Auburn from time to time, are subject to the OCC ordinance. The State does not withhold OCC from State employees' pay for the time that they work in Auburn. It is therefore the responsibility of the State employees who fall into this category to individually pay OCC to the City.

All federal and State employees working in Auburn should be aware that they are subject to the occupation license fee requirement, with payments required to be made each quarter (by January 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31). Federal and State employees can obtain the license fee filing form online at www.auburnalabama.org/fi or by contacting the City's Revenue Office at 334-501-7239. The City is committed to collecting all the City taxes and license fees that are due from every taxpayer.

Reflective Clothing Helps Prevent Accidents

Residents who bicycle, jog, or walk between dusk and dawn need to wear reflective material in order to be visible to automobile drivers. City Ordinance 1272 requires bicyclists, walkers, and joggers to wear reflective clothing from one-half hour before sunset until one-half hour before sunrise. This reflective material must be worn between the waist and shoulders on the front and back. In addition, all bicyclists must have an operating headlight on the front of their bicycles and reflectors on the spokes of the front and rear wheels and pedals.

Reflective materials must give indication of the presence of a bicyclist, walker, or jogger by the headlights of motor vehicles at a distance of a minimum of five hundred feet. Let's work together to make Auburn's roadways safe places for everyone.



MEETING SCHEDULE JANUARY

- 3 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 4 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 4 City Council**, 7 p.m., Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 5 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 7 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 11 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- City Council/Planning Commission Joint Meeting**, 6:00 p.m., City Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue
- 13 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 18 City Council**, 7 p.m., Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 20 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 25 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street
- Library Board**, 2 p.m., Auburn Public Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

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

Reporting Street Light Outages

Citizens experiencing problems with street lights, should report those issues to Alabama Power's customer service number at 1-800-245-2244. Reporting maintenance issues to this number will ensure that an Alabama Power work order is generated and repairs are scheduled. If the maintenance issue is not addressed within two weeks of placing the call, contact the City of Auburn's Traffic Engineer, Brandy Ezelle, at 501-3000 for help in determining the cause of the delay.



Board Vacancies

- Three vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** will be announced at the December 1, 2010 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 18, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Commercial Development Authority** will be announced at the February 1, 2011 meeting and will be filled at the March 1, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **East Alabama Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board** will be announced at the February 15, 2011 meeting and will be filled at the March 15, 2011 City Council meeting.



Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact one of their City Council members or notify the City Manager's Office.

City Management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Auburn City Schools
Terry Jenkins, Superintendent
887-2100
tjtenkins@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@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.

Auburn Public Library



Tuesdays in January...Baby Time – Babies ages 6-18 months and their caregivers are invited on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for Baby Time. The program features music, finger plays, and books. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



Every Wednesday in January...Toddler Time – Toddlers ages 18 months – 3 years-old and their caregivers are invited every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for Toddler Time. The program features music, visual aids and simple crafts. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

Preschool Time...Every Thursday – Preschoolers ages 3-5 years are invited every Thursday in January at 10:00 a.m. for Story Time. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



Every Thursday in January...Home School Chess Club - Students ages 5-13 years are invited each Thursday at 2:00 p.m. for Home School Chess Club. Bring your chess board and play a round of chess. A limited number of chess boards will be provided by the library. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

January 5...Magic Tree House Club - Children in grades Kindergarten – 5thGrade are invited on Wednesday, January 5 at 3:30 to participate in the Magic Tree House Club. The program features reading and a craft. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



January 6...Teen Cafe' – Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to Teen Cafe' on Thursday, January 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

January 11...Puppet Show – Children, ages 3-11, are invited to a puppet show on Tuesday, January 11 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

January 20...American Girl's Club – Students in grades Kindergarten – 5th Grade are invited on Thursday, January 20 at 3:30 to learn about girls who grew up during various times in history. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

Parks and Recreation

Register by December 31...X-Cell Trip to Cloudmont Ski Resort - Who knew you could snow ski in Alabama?!?! Youth ages 12 – 15 are invited to join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a day of winter fun at Alabama's only alpine ski resort on Saturday, January 8 from 5 a.m. - 6 p.m. The cost is \$55, payable in cash on the day of the trip, and includes admission, lift tickets, a beginner lesson, and ski equipment. Participants must bring a brown bag lunch. Registration ends December 31. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Beginning January 3...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Children's Art Gallery – Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Children's Art Gallery exhibit. The exhibit is 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.



• **PTA Reflection Exhibition and Reception, January 3 - 14.** PTA Reflections is an art education program that gives Auburn City School students the opportunity to create works of art in a variety of media. The program helps parents encourage creativity and lifelong learning for children's artistic endeavors. **Student winners will be announced at the PTA Reflections reception on Sunday, January 9 from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.**

Due January 5...Spring Baseball Coaching Applications – The Auburn Baseball/Softball Association is recruiting coaches for spring baseball. Applications are available online at www.auburnalabama.org/baseball. Click on the "Approved Coaches" button. All applications must be postmarked by January 5. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Beginning January 7...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition – Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition. The exhibit is 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.

• **Winter Invitational – "From A to Z", January 7 – February 19.** Works in a variety of media by local and regional artists.



Beginning January 17...Online Baseball, Softball, and T-Ball Registration – Online registration for spring baseball, softball, and t-ball begins January 17. Log on to www.auburnalabama.org/baseball to register. Registration ends February 5. Walk-in registration will be held February 5 from 10 a.m. – noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Beginning January 17...Online Soccer Registration – Online registration for youth soccer begins January 17 and continues through February 2. Log on to www.auburnalabama.org/soccer to register. Walk-in registration will be held February 2 from 6 – 7 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer complex. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



February 19...2011 Love Your Heart Run & Golden's Bicycles Crank Your Heart Ride – Join the Exceptional Outreach Organization (E00) and Auburn Parks and Recreation for the 22nd Annual Love Your Heart Run and 4th Annual Crank Your Heart Ride benefiting individuals with special needs and supporting therapeutic programs such as Summer Camp and Special Olympics. Participants may choose to run or walk either a one-mile course or the Love Your Heart 10K (6.4 mile) course. And back for the fourth year is the Golden's Bicycles Crank Your Heart Ride, which will consist of a 3.5, 11, and 22 mile bike ride. All routes begin and end at Chewacla State Park. Individuals wishing to participate can register online by visiting Active.com or LoveYourHeartRun.com; applications can also be picked up at area gyms or the Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information about the Run or Ride, please visit the websites mentioned, or contact Alison Hall at 501-2930.

