

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2011

## City Council

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

Arthur L. Dowdell, Sr., Ward 1  
524-2074  
bishophdowdellministries@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

## Retiring Judge Leaves Auburn Municipal Court in Good Hands

Judge Joe Bailey has passed on the gavel after years of serving on Auburn's Municipal Court bench. Judge Bailey has served continuously as Municipal Judge since 1992, but that isn't the beginning of his story as a public servant. While there were gaps of a few months here and there, Judge Bailey also served as presiding Judge throughout most of the 1980's. In all, Judge Bailey has served Auburn's citizens with a firm and fair hand for over 28 years.

And even with a full career dedicated to Auburn and a well-deserved retirement underway, Judge Bailey's public service continues. While he has retired as Auburn's Municipal Judge, Bailey will serve as Auburn's Associate Judge to assist Auburn's new Municipal Judge, Jim McLaughlin.

A long-time local attorney, Judge McLaughlin served for eleven years as Auburn's Public Defender. Judge McLaughlin was appointed unanimously by the Auburn City Council on November 16, 2010. Auburn Mayor Bill Ham said "we're fortunate to have a long association with a great candidate to assume the Judge's role. I believe that Judge McLaughlin will continue a long tradition of a fair and open Municipal Court and that he'll work well as a member of the Auburn team." Judge McLaughlin will leave the law firm of Davis, McLaughlin and Muncie to dedicate himself to the new position.



## Aerial Photography

The timing for a new aerial imagery project is picture perfect for the City of Auburn. Three years have passed since the City updated elevation models, hydrography, building footprints and street layouts in Auburn. The Auburn City Council recently approved funding for an aerial imagery project to be able to locate, identify and

measure City assets needed to further the City's growth, infrastructure and Public Safety planning efforts. Best practice recommendations suggest that aerial projects be implemented at least once every three years. In an effort to provide significant cost savings, the City has coordinated its aerial project with the aerial projects of Lee County, the City of Opelika, and Auburn University. This group, the Lee County Cooperative, all rely heavily on data from aerial projects, but have historically pursued them independently. By taking the lead, and spear-heading a cooperative project, the City of Auburn will receive data for the whole county at a fraction of the cost. Data collected from this project will be shared based on the geographic area between Lee County, the City of Auburn, the City of Opelika, and Auburn University. Once complete, the new aerial photography will be visible from the City's interactive maps, available at [www.auburnalabama.org/maps](http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps). For more information, please contact the City's Information Technology Department at 501-7200.



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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](http://www.auburnalabama.org)  
email:  
[cduggan@auburnalabama.org](mailto:cduggan@auburnalabama.org)



City of Auburn



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Love Your Heart Run & 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden's Bicycles Crank Your Heart Ride

Join the Exceptional Outreach Organization and Auburn Parks and Recreation for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Love Your Heart Run and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden's Bicycles Crank Your Heart Ride benefitting 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 Charter Cable Love Your Heart 10K (6.2 mile) course. And back for the fourth year is the Golden's Bicycles Crank Your Heart Ride, which will consist of 3.5, 11, and 22 mile bike rides. All routes begin and end at Chewacla State Park. Individuals wishing to participate can register online by visiting [Active.com](http://Active.com) or [LoveYourHeartRun.com](http://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 above, or contact Alison Hall at 501-2930.

## Daddy-Daughter Date Night February 10 - 12

A limited number of tickets for Daddy-Daughter Date Night 2011 are still available. Girls, grab your dads and get ready for an evening of music, dancing, and fun February 10 - 12 at The Lexington Hotel on South College St. Tickets are \$30/couple and \$5/each additional child. Purchase tickets while they last at the Dean Road Recreation Center weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, visit [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



### Daddy-Daughter Date Night 2011

Thursday, February 10 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Friday, February 11 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, February 12 6:30 - 9 p.m.

## Keeping Fido Friendly

A dog is man's best friend, but dog owners should make sure their pet doesn't become a neighbor's worst enemy. Complaints to Animal Control and Police about barking dogs are not uncommon in the City of Auburn. According to Section 4-27 of the City's animal control ordinance: "No owner shall permit a dog to habitually bark or yelp in such a loud and frequent manner as to annoy and disturb the public in the vicinity".

Dog owners are responsible for taking necessary measures to keep their dogs from becoming a noise nuisance, whether that requires giving the dogs extra attention or using humane collars and devices that diminish barking. Neighbors have the right to report noise complaints to police if a dog's barking persists. If police are contacted more than three times in reference to a specific dog owner's residence, that owner may be subject to prosecution in municipal court. For more information on how to keep Fido friendly, contact the Animal Control Division of the City of Auburn's Environmental Services Department at 501-3090.

## Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

The City of Auburn Tree Commission will host its annual Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, February 26. Members of the Tree Commission will distribute Nuttall Oak and Dogwood seedlings to citizens free of charge while supplies last at select locations throughout the City. Planting instructions will be included with the seedlings. For a list of distribution locations, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).



The Auburn Tree Commission is a citizen group appointed by the Auburn City Council. The commission advises the City on proper tree care and planting, and is committed to the growth and preservation of the urban tree canopy.

The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Auburn as a Tree City USA for over 20 years. The program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service, acknowledges the City's commitment to the four standards necessary to maintain Tree City USA status: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

Arbor Day in Alabama is celebrated in February because winter, a time when many trees are dormant, is the best time of year to plant most trees. Citizens of all ages are invited to be a part of keeping Auburn green by planting trees.

For more information, please contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

## Paving the Way for Progress: An Update on North Donahue Drive Construction

The City of Auburn began the North Donahue Bridge Replacement and Road Construction Project in April 2010. Construction on the new North Donahue Bridge, along with the widening of North Donahue Drive, is expected to be complete by the end of March, 2011. The new bridge will have three traffic lanes and a separate bicycle/pedestrian path and will be significantly higher than the previous bridge to reduce the risk of flooding. The bridge replacement is a jointly funded project between the City of Auburn and Lee County to benefit all area residents by improving safety and travel conditions for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians who use this important roadway.

For almost a year, this extensive road project has required residents living near the construction zone to take alternate routes. The City of Auburn would like to thank the residents of Auburn and Lee County for the patience they have shown while these improvements were underway.

## City Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting has been presented to the City of Auburn for its Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented the prestigious national award to the City for its conformance to the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular (short form) reports.

This year marks the 8<sup>th</sup> year that the City of Auburn has received the PAFR Award. In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal. Auburn published its first PAFR in 1996 and was the first City in the State to publish such a document.

In addition to this award, the GFOA also awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Auburn for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

This year marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that the City of Auburn has received the GFOA CAFR Award. In order to earn the CAFR Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. The report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

These awards further validate Auburn's commitment to financial reporting excellence and transparency in government.

## MEETING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

- 1 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 1 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 2 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 4 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 7 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 8 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., 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 p.m., City Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue
- 10 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 15 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 17 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 22 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., 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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/boards).

## Traffic Circle Rules

One of the most popular traffic calming devices used in Auburn neighborhoods is the traffic circle. Traffic circles function as miniature roundabouts and help to redirect cut-through traffic, reduce accidents, mitigate the severity of accidents, and reduce speeds by as much as 9-10 mph.

While traffic circles are an effective means of slowing down vehicular traffic, there are several rules for maneuvering around them that drivers should keep in mind so that they are utilized safely and effectively:

- All roads approaching the circle are marked with yield signs. Drivers approaching the circle should yield to traffic already in the circle.
- If two vehicles on opposing roads arrive at the circle at the same time, the vehicle to the immediate right of the other vehicle goes first.
- The recommended speed for a traffic circle is 15 mph, allowing motorists to maneuver the intersection slowly enough to yield to the vehicles already in the circle.
- When making a left turn, drivers must go around the circle before turning left.

Traffic circles are safe and effective means for slowing traffic in residential neighborhoods when drivers understand the rules to maneuver them. Traffic circles are typically installed at the request of area residents in accordance with the City's traffic calming policy. For traffic circles to be installed, certain traffic criteria must be met, and a petition must be submitted to the City indicating the approval of at least 66 percent of affected residents. For more information on traffic calming devices, including traffic circles, please go to [www.auburnalabama.org/pw](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pw) and click "Policy" or contact Brandy Ezelle, City Traffic Engineer, at 501-3029.



## Income Tax Forms Available at Auburn Public Library

A variety of income tax forms are available at the Auburn Public Library. Federal tax forms, information, and frequently asked tax questions are also available on the Internal Revenue Service website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. has declared Saturday, March 26, 2011 THE BIG EVENT Day in the City of Auburn in recognition of the Auburn University Student Government Association's (SGA) one-day, student-run community service project. In support of the event, THE BIG EVENT job request form will appear in place of Upcoming Events this month. For the latest news and announcements from the City of Auburn, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org).

The City of Auburn would like thank Auburn University and the Student Government Association for their contributions to the Auburn community.

**Auburn University SGA Presents  
THE BIG EVENT**

**Saturday, March 26, 2011**

THE BIG EVENT is a one-day, student-run service project sponsored by Auburn University's Student Government Association (SGA). The program began in 2003 as a way for Auburn University's students to give back to the communities of Auburn, Opelika, and Lee County. Event organizers are looking for *your* help. If your business, church, household, or organization would like to request student volunteers for THE BIG EVENT on **Saturday, March 26th, 2011** please fill out this job request form and return it to the SGA Office by **Friday, February 25th, 2011**. This project is not based on financial need, but is rather a way of saying THANK YOU to the community.

Please return your completed form in a **separate** envelope postmarked by **February 25th, 2011** to:  
 Auburn University SGA Office • Attn: THE BIG EVENT  
 3130 AU Student Center • Auburn University, AL 36849-5134  
 Inquiries:  
 Jop0002@auburn.edu • phone: 334-844-4240 • fax:334-844-4172

For more information, please visit [www.auBIGEVENT.com](http://www.auBIGEVENT.com) or contact the SGA Office at (334) 844-4240.

Project Name..... Business Church Household Organization  
 (circle one)

Work Site Address..... Auburn Opelika Lee County  
 (circle one)

.....

Contact Name..... Phone Number.....

Alternate Phone..... Email.....

**VOLUNTEERS WILL BE AVAILABLE SATURDAY, March 26, 2011 FROM 10 AM - 2 PM ONLY.  
 PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH PROJECTS.**

Interior Work		Exterior Work		Specialized Work	
....Window washing	....Painting	....Planting	....Painting	....Electrical	....Plumbing
....Cleaning/sweeping	....Organizing	....Trimming	....Digging	....Construction	
....Other (describe below)		....Fertilizing	....Other (describe below)	<i>Please mark all that apply and describe in detail below.</i>	

**Do you have storage available?**    Shed                      Garage                      Room                      None  
 (circle one)

**Estimated number of volunteers needed to complete your request**.....

**Detailed description of the work requested**.....

.....

By signing below, I certify that I am the owner or have obtained approval from the owner of the work site concerning the above requested work. I understand this is only a **request** and all requests must be approved by THE BIG EVENT Committee, pending a work site visit.

**X**..... **Date**.....  
 Signature