

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2012

### 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  
319-2251  
bobnorman67@gmail.com

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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



### 2012 Citizen Survey

At each City Council meeting the Auburn City Council acts on an agenda representing the City's current projects and priorities as a step in realizing a larger plan reflecting the broader priorities of the City Council and the citizens they serve. Citizen input comes in a variety of ways, with citizens sometimes visiting City Hall, or attending public meetings to make their voices heard. We welcome feedback which is why the City also goes to the citizens for input through the Annual Citizen Survey.

Participating in the Annual Citizen Survey is one of the most important ways to influence the local public policy agenda. The citizen survey helps City officials identify areas where things are going well, and the areas in which improvement is needed, helps City officials plan for the future, and is carefully considered when establishing the City's budget and project priorities. In fact, the 2012 survey kicks off a new budget season, as the City's budget for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 will be formulated in the months following this year's survey.

The validity and reliability of survey results are crucial. By conducting a scientifically valid poll, the City not only gets an opportunity to hear how individual citizens feel, but to gauge the priorities and concerns of residents in general. Toward this end, the City contracts with the ETC Institute, a research firm specializing in community-based market research. ETC analyzes the survey results, measuring citizen satisfaction in each of the City's service areas as well as the relative importance of each service area to residents, helping City officials target the most important areas for improvement. The survey also includes a number of questions asked of other cities surveyed by ETC, allowing the opportunity to compare satisfaction levels within the City of Auburn to other communities around the nation. To achieve scientific validity, the ETC Institute follows strict survey procedures. The City of Auburn's survey has a minimum of a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 3.9%.

A statistically valid random sample of residents will receive the surveys during the second week of February. If you receive a survey, please take a few moments to fill it out, and return it in the postage-paid envelope. If you're unable to return the survey by mail you will receive a telephone follow-up to provide an alternate way to participate. Your participation is vital and your individual answers are kept strictly confidential. The results are reported in aggregate. If you receive a citizen survey, please don't pass up this opportunity to communicate your priorities to your City government.

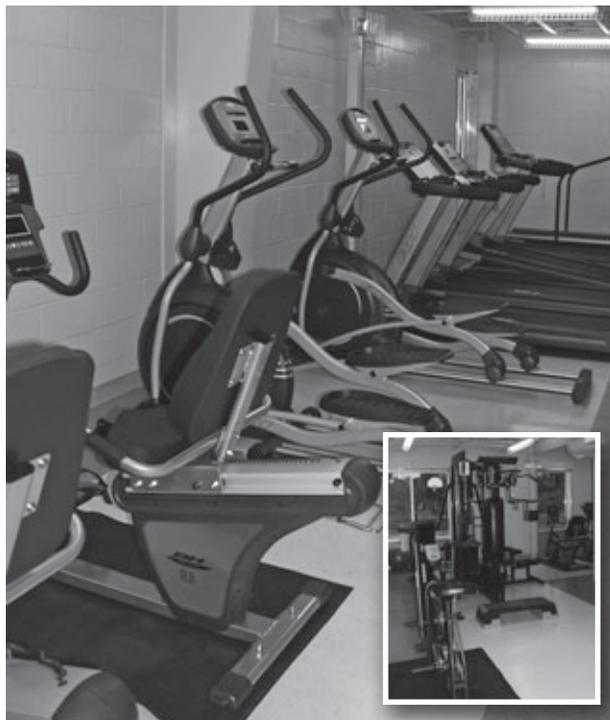
To see the Annual Citizen Survey results since 2005 please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/survey](http://www.auburnalabama.org/survey). You can also watch the ETC Institute's presentation of the 2011 Survey Results to the City Council on demand at [www.auburnalabama.org/survey](http://www.auburnalabama.org/survey) and weekdays at 1:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Charter cable channel 16 and [www.auburnalabama.org/tv](http://www.auburnalabama.org/tv). For more information, please call Auburn City Hall at 501-7260.



## 23rd Annual Love Your Heart Run and 5th Annual Crank Your Heart Ride

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 18 and join the Exceptional Outreach Organization and Auburn Parks and Recreation for the 23rd Annual Love Your Heart Run. The run benefits individuals with special needs and supports Auburn Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Summer Camp, Special Olympics of Lee County, Best Buddies of Auburn University, and other therapeutic programs. Participants may choose to run or walk either a one-mile course or the Love Your Heart 10K (6.2 mile) course. Back for the fifth year is the 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. Register online at [www.loveyourheartrun.com](http://www.loveyourheartrun.com). Participants registered by February 3 are guaranteed a t-shirt. Race day registration begins at 6:15 a.m. For more information, visit [www.loveyourheartrun.com](http://www.loveyourheartrun.com) or contact Alison Hall at 501-2940.



### Free Fitness in the New Year

If your New Year's resolution includes plans to increase your overall health and wellness, let Auburn Parks and Recreation help you with several FREE fitness options for individuals and families.

- **Auburn Stride Walkers** - The Auburn Stride Walkers meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 a.m. January - March and 9 a.m. April - December (no walks in August or on rainy days). The group explores various City walking trails at an individual's own pace and distance. Walkers meet at Kiesel Park for the first walk of each month. Monthly schedules are posted online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). This program is open to all ages and is free to Auburn Citizens.
- **Frank Brown Recreation Center Fitness Room** - The Frank Brown Recreation Center features a weight and cardio room for citizens ages 16 and older to use free of charge. Equipment includes stationary bikes, free weights, treadmills, exercise balls, and weights. The Fitness Room is open during regular hours, Monday - Thursday from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. - noon, and Sunday from 1 - 6 p.m. Citizens may simply sign in at the front desk and show a current photo ID.
- **Kiwanis Fitness Trail at Town Creek Park** - The Auburn Kiwanis Club sponsors the Kiwanis Fitness Trail at Town Creek Park. Located opposite of the pavilion overlooking the pond, the Fitness Trail features several pieces of resistance-style exercise equipment available for citizens 13 and older.

Citizens are also encouraged to enjoy a walk or run along miles of trails at Auburn's parks and athletic facilities. A complete list of trails is available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) and click on the "City Parks" tab. As a reminder, all parks open at sunrise and close at sunset.

Let Auburn Parks and Recreation help you discover a better version of you in 2012. For more information on fitness programs and events, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, LeisureLink, at [www.auburnalabama.org/leisure](http://www.auburnalabama.org/leisure) or visit our website at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).

Please consult your physician before beginning any exercise program. Citizens participate in programs and use equipment at their own risk.

## MEETING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

- 1 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 3 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 7 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 9 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 14 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Dean Road Recreation Center, 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
- 21 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 23 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 28 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street

### 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).

## City Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been presented to the City of Auburn for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) 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. The award represents the highest recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

This year marks the 24th 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.

This award further validates Auburn's commitment to excellence and transparency in government financial reporting.



## Daddy-Daughter Date Night Tickets Available

Have you made your plans to attend the social event of the season for girls 12 and under? Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for the 23rd Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night Feb. 9 - 11 at the Lexington Hotel and University Convention Center. Thursday night tickets are available for purchase at the Dean Road Recreation Center Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., while supplies last. Purchase your tickets for \$30/couple and \$5/additional child. Don't miss an evening of music, refreshments, dance contests, and memories! For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



## City Works To Restore Streets and Neighborhoods After Tornado

When an EF-1 tornado touched down in Auburn on Wednesday, November 16, the community was fortunate that there were no serious injuries or lives lost. The 110 mile per hour winds toppled trees and damaged homes, but didn't bring with them the same widespread devastation seen all too recently in other Alabama communities. Once the storm ended, emergency responders and City crews went straight to work restoring order to a path of destruction 33 miles long and up to 700 yards wide across East Alabama.

With the National Weather Service reporting only 1 injury in Alabama, the biggest impact of the storm in Auburn was to residents whose homes sustained an estimated \$4.2 million in damage. The response mobilized almost every City department, with Public Safety evaluating and responding to immediate needs on the ground, and Environmental Services, Public Works and Parks and Recreation leading the cleanup of debris. As this article goes to print, Public Works crews have moved approximately 7,500 cubic yards of debris, including more than 700 trees, to a site where the debris will be ground and potentially recycled into biofuel. By mid-December, Environmental Service crews were back to a normal curbside pickup schedule, even as debris continues to be placed at the curb into January. At the December 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the Auburn City Council thanked City crews for their tireless efforts after the storm.

## Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be announced at the February 21, 2012 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Library Board** will be announced at the March 6, 2012 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 3, 2012 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Auburn Cemeteries Advisory Board** will be announced at the March 6, 2012 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 3, 2012 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission** will be announced at the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 17, 2012 City Council meeting.



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



Auburn University's Student Government Association Presents

# The BIG Event

Saturday, March 24th, 2012

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 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 24, 2012 please fill out the following jobsite request form and return it to the SGA Office by Friday, February 17th, 2012. Approved projects will be contacted by a project coordinator in order to schedule a site visit. 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 17th, 2012** to:

Auburn University SGA Office  
ATTN: The BIG Event  
3130 AU Student Center Auburn University, AL 36849-5134  
Inquiries: [krw0014@auburn.edu](mailto:krw0014@auburn.edu) # phone: 334-844-4240 # fax: 334-844-4172

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

Contact Name .....

Circle One:  
Business   Church   Household   Organization

Jobsite Address .....

Circle One:  
Auburn   Opelika   Lee County   Notasulga

Phone Number .....

**VOLUNTEERS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012 FROM 10AM -  
2PM ONLY. PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND  
WHEN REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH  
PROJECTS.**

Alternate Phone .....

E-mail .....

**Interior Work**

.... Window washing   .... Painting  
.... Cleaning/ Sweeping  
.... Other (describe in detail below)

**Exterior Work**

.... Planting   .... Trimming  
.... Digging   .... Fertilizing  
.... Other (describe in detail below)

**Painting**

.... Exterior Painting  
(We will provide exterior paint in either white, tan or yellow. Project Coordinator will provide specific colors upon site visit.)

.... Interior Painting  
(We will gladly provide supplies and labor, but **NO** interior paint will be provided)

**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 Events Committee, pending a jobsite visit.

.....

Date.....

Signature



Student Government Association, 225 Duncan Drive- 3130 AU Student Center, Auburn University, AL 36849-5134  
Phone: (334) 844-4240 - Fax: (334) 844-4172 - [sga@auburn.edu](mailto:sga@auburn.edu)