

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2013

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City of Auburn



Citizen Input and Involvement is Key

"The mission of the City of Auburn is to provide economical delivery of quality services created and designed in response to the needs of its citizens rather than by habit or tradition."

This mission statement guides the City Council, City Management and the City's staff in their daily work on behalf of Auburn's citizens. To fulfill that mission, the City of Auburn tries to facilitate a high level of citizen involvement and input in making decisions which affect our community. Throughout the year, the Auburn City Council listens to citizen input when residents reach out to the city on the phone, in person or at a public meeting. In turn, there are a number of ways the City of Auburn has reached out to citizens to keep them informed and seek input:

Auburn 2020

With goals and principles that are still a guiding force today, Auburn 2020 was a community-wide visioning effort involving approximately 200 Auburn citizens, including citizen volunteers, elected officials and City staff. This strategic plan was established with the purpose of guiding the future of the City and setting forth new goals, policies and programs for encouraging and influencing positive change. Seven reports outlined detailed strategies and goals in the areas of Education, Growth and Development, Inter-governmental Relations, Transportation, Utilities and Technology, Family and Community and Public Safety. The Auburn City Council still receives updates on Auburn 2020 goals in the biennial budget document.



CompPlan 2030

CompPlan 2030 was adopted by the City Council in October of 2011 as the City's plan for future growth and development. The plan looks forward 20 years and provides recommendations for the future based on public input, analysis of existing and future conditions and "best practices" in planning. Public input was fundamental to formulating the plan. Over 200 people attended five public meetings and staff met with four focus groups and surveyed over 100 stakeholder organizations, receiving over 700 comments regarding the plan.



Renew Opelika Road

A recently completed series of three public meetings, supplemented by online input, was fundamental to kicking off the Renew Opelika Road project. Around 200 people attended the public meetings while several hundred more participated in the planning process via surveys on the project website. Targeting one of the City's most important commercial corridors, Renew Opelika Road is intended to help revitalize and redevelop the area by encouraging new investment and reinvestment to enhance Opelika Road's visual aesthetic, improve land use, fill vacancies and improve traffic flow. Renew Opelika Road is intended to help maintain and grow the corridor as a vibrant, beautiful and economically-productive area.

The Annual Citizen Survey

The Annual Citizen Survey is a crucial part of citizen involvement in Auburn. With the Citizen Survey, the City of Auburn looks to residents for input to help plan Auburn's future. The 2013 Citizen Survey will be administered in January and February of 2013, with results presented to the Auburn City Council and the public in April. The ETC Institute conducts the survey to present a scientifically valid snapshot of the satisfaction levels and needs of Auburn citizens. All citizens who receive a survey this year are encouraged to participate.

The City of Auburn is fortunate to have an involved citizenry, with 115 citizens serving on 21 Boards and Commissions. Many of these boards serve in an advisory capacity to the Auburn City Council, and as a conduit for public input on specific areas of interest to residents. Whatever form it takes, all citizen input helps City leaders formulate the city's budget, policies, projects and plans for the future.

Former Assistant Director to Lead Water Resource Management Department

Auburn City Manager Charles M. Duggan, Jr. has appointed Eric Carson as Water Resource Management Director. Carson has been serving as Acting Director of Water Resource Management (WRM) for the last four months and previously served as the Assistant Director of WRM for 11 years.

"Eric has been with the City's Water Resource Management Department for many years and understands the needs and expectations of Auburn residents and the Auburn Water Works Board," said Auburn City Manager Charles M. Duggan, Jr. "I look forward to working with him as he shapes the department for the future," Duggan added.

Carson is a native of El Paso, Texas and a graduate of Auburn University where he earned a Bachelor of Civil Engineering. He has lived in Auburn for the past 28 years with the exception of a one-year stint in Tallahassee, Florida following his graduation from Auburn University.

"The Water Resource Management Department is fortunate to have great employees and I am proud to be part of the team. I'm excited about my new position as Director and I look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Auburn and leading the department into the future," said Carson of his promotion, adding "I'm truly honored to be given this opportunity."



City Welcomes New Library Director

The City of Auburn has welcomed a new Director to the Auburn Public Library (APL). Chris Warren, former Branch Manager of the South Columbus Public Library, joined the City of Auburn as APL Director on December 10.

"I'm excited about the enthusiasm and experience Mr. Warren is bringing with him, and I'm confident that our Library will continue to meet the high standard of excellence that residents expect," said Auburn City Manager Charles M. Duggan, Jr.

Chris Warren has worked in various capacities in libraries for more than eight years, including library management, circulation, reference, youth services, and most recently managing a branch of the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries in Columbus, Georgia. "I'm looking forward to joining the staff of the City of Auburn, and I hope to continue providing excellent library services to Auburn's citizens," said Warren of his new appointment.

Warren is a native of Warner Robins, Georgia and a graduate of Florida State University where he earned a Master of Science in Information Studies, specializing in Reference and Instruction and Youth Services. He joins the City of Auburn following the retirement of Library Director Margie Huffman who served Auburn residents for 41 years.



New Downtown Parking Available in January

New parking will soon be available in downtown Auburn. The temporary parking lot, on Gay Street adjacent to the Auburn Municipal Parking Deck, will add approximately 67 new spaces and will be made available free to the public in January of 2013. Construction of the temporary lot began in November 2012 with the demolition of the old Auburn Bank Drive-Thru and the small yellow building on Gay Street. Temporary parking will remain free to the public until a permanent parking lot is constructed in Summer of 2013. The permanent, metered parking lot will include new landscaping and a new parking configuration along Gay Street. Funding for the downtown parking project was approved by voters in January of 2012.

Daddy-Daughter Date Night 2013

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|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Thursday, Feb. 7 | 5:30 – 8 p.m. | Available At Press Time |
| Friday, Feb. 8 | 6:30 – 9 p.m. | Sold Out |
| Saturday, Feb. 9 | 6:30 – 9 p.m. | Sold Out |

Daddy-Daughter Date Night 2013 will be held Feb. 7 - 9 at the Lexington Hotel and University Convention Center on South College Street. As of press time, a limited number of Thursday night tickets were available for purchase on a first come, first served basis. Purchase tickets Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., at the Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

MEETING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

- 1 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 4 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 5 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
- 6 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 12 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 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
- 14 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 19 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 21 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 26 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.

New I-85 Interchange in Auburn Completed and Open to Traffic

Auburn's new I-85 interchange, Auburn Technology Parkway (Exit 50) is open to traffic. The new interchange will provide improved access for Auburn's technology parks, and is expected to improve traffic flow in Auburn, especially on game day.

"I can't overstate the importance of this new interchange to the City of Auburn," said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. "Auburn Technology Parkway is crucial to our technology parks, which invest in our community and provide local jobs, and will serve our residents and visitors well," he added.

The \$18.3 million interchange project included roadway improvements to realign Beehive Road as well as improving Cox Road to connect the interchange to South College Street.

"We're thankful to John Cooper and DeJarvis Leonard at ALDOT for their partnership in improving our local infrastructure. Thanks also to the elected officials who supported this project, including Speaker Hubbard and former Governor Riley in Montgomery, and Representative Rogers, Senator Sessions and Senator Shelby in Washington. Special thanks are due to Representative Rogers and Senator Sessions, who secured the funding needed to make this project a reality," said Mayor Bill Ham, Jr.

For more information, please visit www.dot.state.al.us.

24th Annual Love Your Heart Run, 6th Annual Crank Your Heart Ride

Join the Exceptional Outreach Organization and Auburn Parks and Recreation on Saturday, Feb. 23 for the 24th Annual Love Your Heart Run, benefiting individuals with special needs and supporting our annual 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 miles) course. Back for the sixth year is the Crank Your Heart Ride, which will consist of a 3.5, 11, or 22 mile bike ride. All routes begin and end at Chewacla State Park.

Register online by visiting Active.com or LoveYourHeartRun.com. Applications are also available at area gyms and the Dean Road Recreation Center in Auburn. The early bird registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 8 to guarantee a t-shirt. For more information, please contact Community and Special Programs Director, Alison Hall at 501-2930.

Board Vacancies

Five vacancies on the **Metropolitan Planning Organization - (Citizens Advisory Committee)** will be announced at the February 6, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the March 6, 2013 City Council meeting.

Two vacancies on the **Commercial Development Authority** will be announced at the February 6, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the March 6, 2013 City Council meeting.

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



City Accepting Applications for Community Development Programs

The City of Auburn is accepting applications for the Micro-Loan Program, Commercial and Industrial Loan Program, and the Individual Development Account Program. All projects must comply with the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The micro-loan and commercial and industrial loan programs are funded under the Section 108 Loan Guarantee provisions of HUD enabling legislation. The Individual Development Account Program is offered through a joint collaboration between the City of Auburn's CDBG program and the Alabama Asset Building Coalition.

• Micro-Loan Program

The Micro-Loan Program offers short-term loans for existing small businesses and small business start-ups. The Micro-Loan Program may be used to finance economic development activities needed to establish, stabilize, or expand a small business. Loans made under this program may be used for small real estate purchases, inventory and/or working capital, supplies, furniture, fixtures, machinery and equipment.

• Commercial and Industrial Loan Program

The Commercial and Industrial Loan Program offers loans for the purpose of undertaking special economic development activities. Loans made under the Commercial and Industrial Loan Program may be used for acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of commercial or industrial buildings, structures, and other real property equipment and improvements.

• Individual Development Account (IDA) Program

The IDA Program is designed to assist qualified low-income individuals to acquire savings that will enable them to start or expand a business. Participants save a maximum of \$2,000 which will be matched with \$4,000 from the City of Auburn and the Alabama Asset Building Coalition.

Applications for the Micro-Loan Program, Commercial and Industrial Loan Program, and the Individual Development Account Program are available through the City's Community Development Division:

Sharon Tolbert, Director of Community Development
City of Auburn
Community Development Division
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Environmental Services
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Penny Smith, Director
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Public Works Department
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Water Resource Management Dept.
Eric A. Carson, Director
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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.

Auburn University's Student Government Association



Saturday, March 23, 2013

2013 Jobsite Request Form

The BIG Event is a one-day student-run service project sponsored by Auburn University's Student Government Association. The program began in 2003 as a way for Auburn University students to give back to the surrounding communities. 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 23, 2013 please fill out the following contact information and return to the SGA office by Tuesday, February 12, 2013. This project is not based on financial need, but rather a way of saying THANK YOU to the community.

Please return your completed form in a separate envelope postmarked by February 12, 2013 to:

255 Heisman Drive
3130 AU Student Center
ATTN: The BIG Event
Auburn, AL 36849

*For more information visit www.aubigevent.com or contact the SGA office at 334-844-4240

Contact Name _____

Jobsite Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Alternate Phone Number _____ Estimated Number of Volunteers _____

Brief Description of work requested _____

Due to the growth in our event, we will approve applications in the order they are received. A project coordinator will contact approved projects in order to schedule a site visit. No request outside a driving distance of 15 minutes from the university will be accepted.

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE AVAILABLE SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013 FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ONLY. PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH PROJECTS