

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2013

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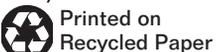
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City of Auburn



### Auburn Welcomes New Corporate Citizen



"We're an Auburn company," were the words uttered by a manufacturing executive whose company is the latest to locate in Auburn. German auto parts manufacturer RAPA (Rausch & Pausch LP) announced in December that it will establish a U.S. headquarters and production facility in Auburn, adding 105 new jobs and a planned capital investment of \$18 million.

"Over time, we want to build a company in Auburn that is independent from Germany, with its own research and development capabilities and its own set of North America-based customers," said Horst Pausch Sr., RAPA's Chairman of the Board.

RAPA executives were joined by Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., Governor Robert Bentley, Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard and Senator Tom Whatley to announce the company's plans to start production in Auburn Technology Park West in fall 2013. RAPA will produce high-precision automobile parts, including solenoid valves and control blocks, to supply Chrysler as well as German transmission manufacturer ZF.

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., hailed the local economic news, saying, "We are proud to bring in another dynamic company that will provide Auburn citizens with well-paid jobs, while strengthening our local manufacturing base. It's exciting that such a unique product, to be sold internationally, will be manufactured in Auburn."

Governor Robert Bentley noted the success of the State's strategic business development plan, Accelerate Alabama. "The automotive industry is one of the business sectors we focus on in Accelerate Alabama, and RAPA fits right in with our long-term economic development plans for Alabama." On the company's location, Bentley also commented that "It's interesting that out of all the announcements we've made across the state since I've been Governor over the past 21 months, we've come to Auburn more than any other city."

A family-owned company founded in the 1920s, Rausch & Pausch GmbH has prospered in North Bavaria, Germany through four generations of leadership by the Pausch family. Of their new U.S. headquarters, Dr. Roman Pausch commented, "Auburn combines excellent location factors with programs tailored to help small and medium-sized businesses overcome any possible hurdle."

### New Utility Billing Software Enhances Customer Service

In January 2013, the Auburn Water Works Board (AWWB) implemented new financial software to process monthly utility bills and payments. With this new software, customers have access to more automated payment options, such as pay by phone and pay online as well as 24-hour access to real-time account information. The new software is expected to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the billing process.

Beginning with bills due in February 2013, AWWB customers will have a new account number. This new number should be used to access utility billing account information.

### ShopAuburn During Spring Break



Make your Spring shopping hassle-free with meter-free parking in downtown Auburn this year. Meter-free parking will be available Monday, March 11 through Friday, March 15. In addition to free on-street parking available throughout downtown, free parking can be found on and surrounding the first floor of the Auburn Municipal Parking Deck, accessible

from both Gay Street and Tichenor Avenue.

The new, temporary parking lot on Gay Street, adjacent to the Auburn Municipal Parking Deck, added approximately 67 parking spaces for downtown shopping; all of which are available free to the public until the permanent parking facility is completed.

Keep your sales-tax dollars local and enjoy meter-free parking when you shop, dine or do business downtown this week. Auburn's sales tax revenue supports Auburn City Schools; funds the maintenance of roads and local infrastructure, and helps make possible community events such as Auburn CityFest.

# City to Drive Home Transportation Safety During Travel With Care Week

Safe travels are the focus of the 2013 Travel with Care transportation safety awareness campaign that is to kick-off on Monday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m with a special ceremony on Samford Lawn. The Travel With Care campaign is an annual collaborative effort to promote safety on the road and courtesy between all modes of transportation including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

In its fourth year, the campaign is a collaboration between the City of Auburn, Auburn University, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, and is sponsored in part by Big Dog Running Company. At the kickoff ceremony, representatives from each organization will emphasize the importance of transportation safety. The community is invited to join Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., Auburn University President Jay Gogue, Auburn Police Chief Tommy Dawson, and Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones to kick-off a week full of awareness activities.

Throughout Travel with Care week, traffic laws and safety guidelines will be reinforced through public service announcements. Promotional items, many of which increase commuter visibility, will also be given away daily at various event stations. Big Dog Running Company is partnering with the campaign to make available a wide range of clothing and gear designed to increase nighttime visibility of walkers, cyclists and runners.

Event Stations will be set up at the following times and locations:

Monday	10am-2pm	Downtown Auburn
Tuesday	10am-2pm	AU Concourse
Wednesday	10am-2pm	Magnolia across from Chick-fil-A
	5pm-7:30pm	AU Village Courtyard
Thursday	10am-2pm	AU Concourse
Friday	10am-noon	Corner of Magnolia Ave./Donahue Drive



One of the most effective elements of the campaign are the Auburn Police Division's efforts to enhance awareness of traffic and safety violations. Officers will educate commuters about nighttime visibility, jaywalking, proper passing of transit and school buses, as well as reminding them of the three-foot law for passing cyclists.

Visit [www.TravelWithCareAuburn.com](http://www.TravelWithCareAuburn.com) to find out more about the many activities taking place March 18-22, 2013.

## 2013 Citizens Public Safety Academy

The City of Auburn Public Safety Department is currently accepting applications for the 2013 Auburn Citizens Public Safety Academy. The program is free and offered to area citizens ages 18 and older. Activities range from presentations provided by Public Safety officials to "hands-on" events that allow participants to experience firearms training, ride-alongs, fire prevention and emergency medical response.

The 2013 Auburn Public Safety Academy begins Thursday, February 28, 2013. Eight out of the ten remaining sessions will also be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. with the other two sessions being held on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Over nine weeks, a group of citizens will become a body of one with close ties to public safety and one another. The final session's focus is future goals and includes an alumni association presentation. The academy will conclude with graduation and a group of citizens with a better understanding of public safety in their community. A graduation ceremony will be held on May 2, 2013.

If you are interested in participating in the Auburn Public Safety Academy or know someone who is, you may contact Captain Tommy Carswell by calling 501-3122 or emailing [tcarswell@auburnalabama.org](mailto:tcarswell@auburnalabama.org) with "Public Safety Academy" in the subject line. Applications may be picked up in the Auburn Public Safety building at 161 N Ross St during normal business hours.



## Daylight Savings Time Begins March 10

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 a.m. Remember to move your clocks forward one hour Saturday night. This is also a good opportunity to take a few moments to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

## MEETING SCHEDULE MARCH

- 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 Library Board**, 2:00 p.m., Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- 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).**



## 32nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

~  
Sponsored by  
Wells Fargo

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation as we celebrate spring at the 32nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Wells Fargo, on Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m. at Kiesel Park. This FREE community event is one of the largest egg hunts in Lee County, with more than 35,000 eggs hidden over a four-acre area. Four "hunting grounds" are available for the following age groups: 3 & under, 4 - 6, 7 - 9, & 10 - 12 years of age. After the hunt, join us for free soft drinks and balloons, courtesy of Wells Fargo; musical entertainment; and a chance to have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Auburn will be selling hamburgers and hotdogs, so bring a picnic blanket and plan to stay for lunch.

In the event of rain, the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, March 31 at 2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

### Egg Hunt Notes

- Egg hunts are divided by age groups and are held simultaneously.
- Children must hunt in their age-appropriate "hunting ground".
- Please allow time for traffic, parking, and getting your child to the appropriate field.
- **All egg hunts will begin promptly at 11:15 a.m.**

## Tax Forms Available at Library

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

## Bark in the Park: Celebrating Responsible Dog Ownership

Calling all dog lovers! Auburn Parks and Recreation will host Bark in the Park, an event celebrating responsible dog ownership, on Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. - noon at Kiesel Park. This FREE community event is open to all dog owners and their favorite four-legged friends. Visit a variety of educational booths, shop with local pet vendors, take advantage of low-cost rabies vaccinations



for your pets, and enjoy door prizes and dog-friendly activities. Looking to expand your canine family? Rescue dogs will be available for adoption as well!

Bring your friends and family, both two-legged and four-legged, and join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a morning of doggone good fun at the park! For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

## 2013 Auburn Floral Trail

Take in the sights and sounds of spring on the 2013 Auburn Floral Trail presented by the Auburn Beautification Council and the Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau. Auburn's annual floral trail winds through 14 miles of the most beautiful spring blooms the South has to offer. For route information, visit [www.auburnbeautification.org](http://www.auburnbeautification.org).

## March 23 Proclaimed Big Event Day

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham has declared Saturday, March 23rd as "Big Event Day" in the City of Auburn. The Big Event is a student-run volunteer day hosted by Auburn University's Student Government Association (SGA) that encourages college students and faculty to thank the community for providing a thriving environment to live and learn. With support from the All Auburn All Orange Initiative, this one-day service project has expanded to become an Auburn tradition of giving back to the surrounding community and thanking them for making Auburn an incredible place to live. Last year's Big Event included over 2,400 students and faculty members completing almost 200 service projects.



If your business, church, household, or organization would like to request student volunteers for The Big Event, please fill out the application included in the February Open Line, online at [www.auburnalabama.org/openline](http://www.auburnalabama.org/openline) and return it to the Auburn University SGA office by February 12th.

## City Requires Contractors and Sub-Contractors to be Licensed

The City of Auburn requires that all building contractors and sub-contractors be licensed. Using an unlicensed contractor puts your biggest investment at risk. Since an unlicensed contractor is not able to obtain required permits, your construction work will not be inspected for code compliance. The City of Auburn regulates construction and provides safeguards to ensure public safety through its permitting and inspection processes. As part of the permit process, plans are reviewed to ensure compliance with adopted codes. Building permits are issued for new construction as well as for additions to and remodeling of existing buildings and structures. Most repairs or alterations require a building permit and inspection(s). These include but are not limited to: residential, remodels, re-roofing, siding, electrical system changes, plumbing system changes, water heater replacements, heating and air conditioning system changes/unit replacements, demolitions, fire damage repair, fire protection systems and window replacement.

## Board Vacancies

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

One vacancy on the **Library Board** will be announced at the March 5, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the April 2, 2013 City Council meeting.

Two vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission** will be announced at the March 19, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the April 16, 2013 City Council meeting.

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

## City Management

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Municipal Court  
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Public Safety Department  
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Public Works Department  
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Water Resource Management Dept.  
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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](mailto: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

For more information, contact the Auburn Public Library Youth Services Division at 501-3196.

**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages birth – 18 months and their caregivers.

**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages 18 months - 3 years and their caregivers.

**Preschool Time** - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

**Legomania** – Every Saturday in March from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for students ages 4-12. Join us every Saturday of the month all day for “free play” with Legos®.

**Magic Tree House Club** – Wednesday, March 6 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

**Puppet Show** - Tuesday, March 12 at 3:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11.

**American Girl's Club** - Thursday, March 21 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

### Programs for Tweens and Teens

**Teen Café** - Thursdays, March 7, March 14, and March 28 at 6:30 p.m. Students in grades 8 – 12 are invited for fun activities and refreshments. For more information contact Youth Services, 501-3196.

**SHOUT** - Mondays, March 11 and March 25 at 6:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-7 are invited for fun activities and refreshments as part of a brand new Youth Services program.

**ClubBook** - Friday, March 1 at 3:45 p.m. Students in grades 8-12 are invited as part of a brand new Youth Services program.

### Special Programs

**Poetry Workshop** - Wednesday, March 20 at 4:30 p.m. for students in grades 4-8. Join the library and the AU Live Poets Society as we learn all about poetry.

**Spring Break Lollapalooza** – March 25-29 for students in grades K-12. Special activities will be provided throughout the week.

**Loiving Listeners** – Canine reading partners Rosie and Gemini will be available weekly for beginning readers. Dates and times vary. Contact Youth Services for more information at 501-3196.

## Parks and Recreation

For more information on any of the events listed, or to pre-register for a program, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).

**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.

**Annual Graphic Design Juried Exhibition, Feb. 25 - March 6.** A competitive show of graphic design projects by Auburn University students.

**Spring Invitational, March 15 - April 16.** Invitational exhibition featuring works on paper by regional artists.

**Available Now...Register for Early Bird Swim Lessons and Purchase Splash Pass** - Register for early swim lessons with the Auburn City Pools Feb. 18 - April 19. Registration is available weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. While you're there, purchase your 2013 Splash Pass, good for unlimited daily admission to the Auburn City Pools all summer, May 25 - Sept. 2. Passes are \$50 for individuals and \$125 for families.

**Now Registering...Youth Track** - Online registration for youth track will be held Feb. 19 - March 15. Log on to [www.auburnalabama.org/athletics](http://www.auburnalabama.org/athletics) to register. A one-time, walk-in registration will be held on Tuesday, March 12 from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Youth track is for participants ages 9 - 14. The cost is \$45 + online fees or \$50 for walk-in registration. Registration includes a t-shirt.

**March 1...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer** – Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on March 1 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, contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

**March 6 - 11...AACT Presents "Into the Woods, Jr."** –Join the Auburn Area Community Children's Theatre for their production of "Into the Woods, Jr." March 6 - 9 & 11 at 6:30 p.m. and March 9 at 2 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children, students, and seniors. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

**2013 Bullfrog Tennis Tournament** – The City of Auburn welcomes the best and brightest of youth tennis during the 2013 Bullfrog Tennis Tournament at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center March 29 - April 1. Over 250 of the Southeast's best junior tennis players and their families will be in Auburn for the four-day tournament. Businesses are encouraged to display "Welcome Bullfrog Tennis Players" on their marquees during the tournament to encourage and welcome players. For more information on the tournament, or to volunteer, contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

