

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2014

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City of Auburn



Downtown Parking

Parking just got a little easier in downtown Auburn with the opening of the new Gay Street parking lot, located on Gay Street between Magnolia Avenue and Glenn Avenue. Completed in late 2013, the new parking lot adds 93 conveniently located spaces to the downtown parking inventory, bringing on-street parking as well as improved landscaping, lighting and pedestrian facilities to this section of downtown. The parking lot can also double as event space, thereby reducing the number of downtown street closings throughout the year. The pre-Iron Bowl edition of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce's "Downtown Autumn Nights" was the inaugural event for the new parking lot.

The Gay Street lot features enhanced lighting for added security and employs a new parking meter system with electronic parking kiosks stationed throughout the lot. Parking spaces are individually numbered, and downtown visitors and workers can pay to park using any kiosk by entering the parking space number and method of payment. Kiosks will accept cash, coin or credit, but cannot provide change. The Gay Street lot is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with payment required to park weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; the same as other metered parking downtown. Parking in the Gay Street lot costs \$.25 an hour with a four-hour time limit.

The parking lot is the result of a long term planning process with significant citizen input. In the city's Annual Citizen Survey, residents regularly identify downtown parking as a priority need, and citizens approved the funding source for the project in a 2012 referendum. Future downtown parking, traffic flow needs and other downtown improvements are being contemplated by the Downtown Master Plan process, which is currently in its public input phase. Visit www.auburnalabama.org/downtown to stay up-to-date on future meetings scheduled for the Downtown Master Plan.



Rediscover the Auburn Public Library in 2014

Inform. Inspire. Connect.

The Auburn Public Library strives to provide the Auburn community with programs and services that inform, inspire and connect. At the Library, we want to help our patrons find the information resources that they need and to play a role in making Auburn the wonderful place that it is to live, work, learn and play.

Inform: In 2013, the Auburn Public Library spent \$136,737 on books and media for the library collection. In that same time, patrons borrowed 237,148 books, audiobooks, ebooks and movies from the Auburn Public Library. If Auburn residents had individually purchased a copy of every item borrowed, they would have spent a total of \$3,400,851.69, a literal wealth of information available with your library card and a tremendous return on investment. Additionally, last year, the Library received a \$20,000 collection development grant to expand its DVD collection. Through this grant, the Library has acquired almost 800 critically-acclaimed movies, TV series, and educational films. The Library also continues to update and expand its collection of print materials, so that patrons can have access to the latest bestsellers and the most current, relevant information resources possible.

Inspire: The Auburn Public Library offers a wide range of programs for children, teens, and adults. These programs include story times for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, as well as our Summer Reading Program for children and teens. Through these programs, children, teens and young adults develop and improve their literacy skills. It is the goal of our passionate library staff to help young people succeed in school and life, while inspiring a love of reading and learning. For adults, the library offers genealogy classes, book clubs, and other activities that support lifelong learning. Over 14,000 children, teens, and adults attended library programs in FY 2013.

Connect: The Auburn Public Library provides a number of technology resources for our patrons. The Library has 44 public computers with high-speed internet, Microsoft Office, and printing capability. In FY 2013, library patrons logged into our public computers 91,880 times for everything from checking email to applying for jobs to completing assignments for school. Our trained professional staff provides one-on-one training on basic computer skills, as well as personal assistance with tablets and e-readers.

At the Auburn Public Library, we are very excited about a number of new services, resources and activities in the works for 2014. The Library is partnering with the Lee County Literacy Coalition to offer drop-in tutoring for adults preparing to take the GED. With the participation of the City of Auburn Information Technology Department and the Parks and Recreation Department, the Library will offer computer classes at the Harris Senior Center. We are also planning "One Book, One Village," an adult reading program for Spring 2014. And, of course, the Library will continue to provide the best possible collection of print books, audiobooks, e-books, movies and media for all ages.

The Auburn Public Library is here to help you connect with the world around you, discover what inspires you and provide information relevant to every aspect of your life. If you don't have a library card, please visit the Auburn Public Library at 749 E. Thach Avenue to sign up, or go to www.auburnalabama.org/library for more information. We look forward to seeing you soon at the Auburn Public Library.



Mayor Proclaims March 22, 2014 "The Big Event Day"

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham has declared Saturday, March 22, 2014 as "The 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) encouraging college students and faculty to thank the community for providing a thriving environment in which to live and learn. This one-day service project has become an Auburn tradition of students giving back to the surrounding community. The Big Event recruits hundreds of Auburn University students and faculty through whose efforts dozens of local projects are completed.

If your business, church, household, or organization would like to request volunteers for The Big Event on Saturday, March 22, 2014, please fill out the application included on the back of this issue of Open Line and follow the instructions on the form for returning it to the SGA by Tuesday, February 12.

Library to Host Children's Valentine Party

Children ages 3-11 are invited to the Auburn Public Library on Thursday, February 13 from 6-7 p.m. for a Children's Valentine Party. Those in attendance will make Valentine crafts and participate in fun activities.

25th Annual Love Your Heart Run and 7th Annual Crank Your Heart Ride

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Exceptional Outreach Organization on Saturday, February 22 for the 25th Annual Love Your Heart Run, benefiting individuals with special needs and supporting our annual Therapeutic Summer Camp, Special Olympics of Lee County and Best Buddies of Auburn University. 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 seventh year is the Crank Your Heart Ride, consisting of a 3.5, 11, or 22 mile bike ride. All routes begin and end at Chewacla State Park.



Register online at www.loveyourheartrun.com. Participants registered by Wednesday, February 12 are guaranteed a t-shirt. Race day registration begins at 6:15 a.m. Sponsorships are available. Visit www.loveyourheartrun.com or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 for more information.

Community Development Block Grant Applications Accepted Through Jan. 31

The City of Auburn is currently accepting proposals for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs for FY 2014. As part of the annual budget development process, proposals will be considered to fund housing and public service projects benefitting low to moderate-income residents of Auburn. Applications are available at the Community Development Office located at 122 Tichenor Avenue or online. The application must be completed and mailed to the following by Friday, January 31, 2014 at 5:00 pm:

City of Auburn
Community Development Division
CDBG FY2014 Request for Proposal Application
144 Tichenor Avenue
Auburn, AL 36830

Applications received after January 31, 2014 will not be accepted.

Economic development projects will be funded by the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. The Economic Development Department (Community Development Division) is accepting applications for a Micro-Loan program in an effort to create/retain jobs principally benefiting employees in low to moderate-income levels. The City will be offering short-term loans for active small businesses and small business start-ups with the ultimate goal for entrepreneurs to become financially independent and eligible for loans from commercial lenders. Economic development loans will only be available to businesses operating in the City limits of Auburn.

Funding for housing and public service projects will be available during the CDBG 2014 program year beginning June 1, 2014. The CDBG program is administered by the Community Development Division. Please direct all questions regarding this Public Notice to the Community Development Office by calling (334) 501-7280 or via email to tmwhite@auburnalabama.org.

Daddy-Daughter Date Night 2014 Winter Wonderland

At press time, a limited number of Thursday night tickets were still available for the 25th Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night, February 6-8 at the Clarion Inn & Suites. Tickets are \$30/couple and \$5/additional child. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

MEETING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

Note: The January 7th City Council meeting was moved to January 14th.

- 3 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 4 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 5 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., 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**, Noon, Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 13 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 18 Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 20 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 24 Auburn City Schools Community Meeting**, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Pick Elementary, 1320 North College Street
- 25 Auburn City Schools Community Meeting**, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Ogletree Elementary, 737 Ogletree Road

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

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

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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.



The BIG Event is a one-day student-run service project sponsored by Auburn University's Student Government Association. The BIG Event serves as a way for Auburn students to give back to the surrounding communities that offer continual support to the university in so many ways. This project is not based on financial need, but it is rather a way of saying THANK YOU!

03.22.14

If your business, church, household, or organization would like to request student volunteers for The BIG Event on **Saturday, March 22, 2014**, please fill out the following information and return to the attached address by **Tuesday, February 12, 2014**.

Contact Information:

Name _____
Jobsite Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone Number _____
Email Address _____
Alternate Phone Number _____

Brief Description of work requested:

Please return your completed form in a separate envelope postmarked by

February 12, 2014 to:
255 Duncan Drive
3130 AU Student Center
Auburn, AL 36849
ATTN: The BIG Event

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