

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

June 2014

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City of Auburn



### Council to Consider Next Biennial Budget in June

In June the Auburn City Council will consider the City's next biennial budget, covering fiscal years 2015 and 2016. Current budgeting challenges for policy makers include balancing the needs of Auburn City Schools in the face of rapid enrollment growth with the need to maintain city services at the level that citizens expect and demand.

To meet these challenges, the City of Auburn will continue budgeting practices begun in 2006, and intensified when it became apparent that the national economy was headed into deep recession. Those cost-cutting measures have included holding operating costs level and evaluating all job vacancies before replacements are hired. Additionally, city employees have not received cost-of-living adjustments in five years. The City has long operated on a lean personnel budget, currently spending 40.5% of the General Fund on personnel costs, while most cities operate at well over 60%. The City has also aggressively pursued grant funding, and the award of almost \$11 million in ATRIP funds over the past two years has provided for more infrastructure projects to be accomplished with less local funding. The City's Five-Mill fund has also absorbed the cost of some infrastructure and facility projects, from street-resurfacing to the recent downtown parking project.

The Auburn City Council has long made school funding a top priority, with the City providing \$123.8 million from the City's general fund to Auburn City Schools in the past 28 years. The exceptional quality of local schools is demonstrated in the caliber of students, teachers and staff, as well as through the recognitions and awards the school system receives. The quality of local schools also influences the quality of life in Auburn, from property values to our reputation as a friendly and safe community. Rapid enrollment growth has led to the need for increased school funding and additional facilities. The City of Auburn does not have the financial resources to fully meet those needs, but the budget controls listed above coupled with reductions in planned and scheduled capital projects will allow the City to provide increased funding for the schools. As this issue of Open Line hits mailboxes, city management is finalizing a budget proposal to the Council to balance increased funding for schools with provision of necessary city services. Details of the plan will become available as the City Council considers the City's next budget in public meetings.

Auburn citizens have made it clear through both the Annual Citizen Survey and through direct input to City Hall that, in addition to continued support for Auburn City Schools, traffic flow and congestion management and maintenance of city infrastructure should be top priorities. Residents have also said they want a better Opelika road, with a focus on redeveloping abandoned and underused properties.

Recent budgets have balanced all of these concerns. The last four biennial budgets have funded a total of \$61.9 million from the City's general fund to Auburn City Schools. In the same time, economic development recruitment projects have announced 3,400 jobs. When industries locate in Auburn, school taxes are not abated so the taxes on any investment these industries make in Auburn goes directly to Auburn City Schools. The City has completed annual resurfacing projects to maintain Auburn's infrastructure and several major projects to improve traffic flow throughout Auburn including at Shug Jordan Parkway and Richland Road; Magnolia Avenue and Donahue Drive; Donahue Drive, Bragg Avenue and Martin Luther King, Junior Boulevard; and South College Street at East



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University Drive among others.

Even during the depths of the recent recession, the City's quality of life, economy and financial management were recognized externally. The City's bond rating was upgraded from AA- to AA+ by S&P, and from Aa3 to Aa2 by Moody's. National media recognitions included Auburn being named a "Great Place to Live" by The Today Show, a top ten "Best Places to Live" by U.S. News and World Report, a "Best Small Place for Business and Careers," and a "Best Small City for Jobs," by Forbes Magazine.

The next budget will continue to find a fiscally responsible balance between the new level of funding needed for Auburn City Schools and the continued need for the city services citizens expect. For more information on discussion and consideration of the next budget by the Auburn City Council, keep an eye on the City's web site at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org).



## Judge Joe Bailey

Former Municipal Judge Joe Bailey died on April 5, 2014 at UAB Hospital after a long battle with cancer and other health complications. Judge Bailey was born in Auburn on December 28, 1946. He graduated from Auburn University in 1969 and the University of Virginia School of Law in 1979. Judge Bailey practiced law and served as the Municipal Court Judge in Auburn for 30 years. Joe will always be remembered by those who worked with him for his support and wisdom as a member of the City's Management Team, his love of outdoors, his affable personality and for the wealth of humor and stories he was always ready to share.

## Political Sign Regulations Reminder

This year, Auburn citizens will vote in elections at the Federal, State and local level. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, municipal elections will be held for Mayor and City Council. With election year upon us, the City of Auburn would like to take a moment to remind citizens and candidates of regulations governing the placement of political signs in the City limits:

- Signs may not be placed earlier than 30 days prior to the election date. This includes signs for primary elections.
- Signs may not be placed in the public right of way, on any structures in the right of way (power poles, traffic signs, and medians), or on any property owned by the City of Auburn or Auburn City Schools.
- Signs are limited to a maximum size of 32 square feet.
- Signs must be removed within seven days following the election.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that volunteers who distribute and install political signs are in compliance with these regulations.

For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org) and select "Guide to Signs" under the blue "Residents" tab or contact the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3040.

Political Sign regulations are set forth in Chapter 8 of the City Code. [www.auburnalabama.org/code](http://www.auburnalabama.org/code)

## Veterans Brick Orders Due June 30

Each year, the City of Auburn provides citizens with the opportunity to honor a member of the military by purchasing a memorial brick to be placed at the Veterans Memorial Monument, located on the corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. Personalized bricks engraved with the veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and years of service may be purchased for \$100. For bricks to be placed at the Veteran's Memorial Monument in time for the 2014 Veterans Day Ceremony, brick orders must be received no later than Monday, June 30. Please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/veterans](http://www.auburnalabama.org/veterans) for brick order forms or to use the brick archive map to locate individual bricks from the more than 800 bricks that have been installed at the Memorial.



## Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation

Each year, the Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation seeks to provide two \$2,000 scholarships to assist a local veteran or dependent in attending a local, post-secondary educational institution. The goal of the Foundation is to fund a \$100,000 endowment as a long term source for the scholarship program.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for citizens or businesses interested in contributing to the Foundation. To make a donation, please fill out a pledge card and make checks payable to the Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation. Pledge cards can be printed at [www.auburnalabama.org/veterans](http://www.auburnalabama.org/veterans) and pledges and payments may be mailed to the following address:

Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation  
144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 2  
Auburn, AL 36830

The City of Auburn and the Auburn Veterans Committee established the Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation in 2008. The Foundation was created in an effort to demonstrate the Auburn community's appreciation for the sacrifices made by our service men and women and their families. For more information, please contact the City Hall at 501-7270.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk

Don't miss one of Auburn's favorite summer traditions! Join the City of Auburn, Auburn Arts Association, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and the Downtown Auburn Merchants for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk on Friday, June 13 from 6 – 9:30 p.m. in downtown Auburn. SummerNight is a downtown entertainment district event.

Join us for this block party with artistic flair! Take advantage of late night shopping hours and enjoy an evening of dining, art, music by John and the Conners, and children's activities. Local artists will have their works on display throughout downtown and many downtown merchants will be offering SummerNight specials. Amateur bakers are invited to enter our new cupcake contest this year!

Interested in participating in SummerNight as an artist, merchant, volunteer, or amateur baker? Please visit our website at [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) to download an application. Applications are due Friday, June 6. Sponsorships are also available.

For more information, including applications, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

*Downtown streets will be closed during the event. In the event of rain, join us on Saturday, June 14.*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Day in Clay

Looking to get your hands dirty this summer? Join the Dean Road Ceramics Studio for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Day in Clay on Saturday, June 28 from 1 - 4 p.m. This FREE open house includes a tour of the studio, refreshments, and a chance to create a one-of-a-kind ceramics work. Choose from a children's or adult ceramics project to create for just \$10/project. Projects will be led by a Dean Road Ceramics Studio instructor and will be taught every hour, on the hour, from 1 - 3 p.m. Reservations are required for clay projects. Make your reservations at the Harris Center, 425 Perry Street, by Friday, June 20.

Come explore a new hobby and join us for a day of food, fun, and clay! For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Cari Cleckler, Art Education Specialist, at 501-2944.

## Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be announced at the May 20, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the June 17, 2014 City Council meeting.

Two vacancies on the **Planning Commission** will be announced at the June 17, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the July 15, 2014 City Council meeting.

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



## Summer Outdoor Movie Series

Enjoy FREE movies in the park as Auburn Parks and Recreation presents the Summer Outdoor Movie Series select Fridays this summer at Duck Samford Park – Field 1. Movies begin at 8:30 p.m. Bring a blanket and chairs and purchase snacks from our vendors to enjoy a relaxing evening of family fun under the stars. This summer's movies include:

Friday, June 6 | "The Goonies"  
Friday, July 11 | "Frozen Sing-Along"  
Friday, Aug. 1 | "The Blind Side"\*  
Friday, Aug. 8 | "Rudy"

*\*Shown during the Farewell Summer Block Party at Town Creek Park.*

In the event of rain, movies will be shown at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) and follow the City of Auburn on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL](http://www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL) for weather updates and movie schedule announcements.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### JUNE

- 2 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 3 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
- 4 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 6 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 10 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
- 12 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 17 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
- 19 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford 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).**

# City Management

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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 501-7266.

# 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 Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.

### Genealogy 101

In celebration of Family Reunion Month in July, the Auburn Public Library (APL) will present "Genealogy 101." Join us in the library's board room on the following Thursday afternoons beginning at 2:00 p.m.

July 10 – Your Family's History—Getting Started in Genealogy

July 17 - Using Ancestry.com and other online resources

July 24 - Tips on researching African-American Ancestors

July 31 – Making the most of Census Records

Registration is not required. Beginners are the target audience for these classes. Please call Dianne at (334) 501-3194 for more information.

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS

**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00p.m. for ages birth – 18 months and their caregivers.

**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00p.m. for ages 18 months - 3 years and their caregivers.

**Preschool Time** - Thursdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00p.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

**Legomania** – Join us every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for "free play" with Legos®.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**LitWits Reading Club** Tuesdays 6/10 & 6/24 @ 3:30p.m. for ages 13 and up. For more information call Youth Services, 501-3196.

**SHOUT!** Thursdays @ 3:30 for rising grades 5 - 7

**Teen Café**, Thursdays @ 6:30 for rising grades 8 - 12

**Salmagundi**, Wednesdays @ 2:00 for rising grades K – 5

**Registration for the 2014 Summer Reading Programs** "Fizz, Boom, Read!" and "Spark a Reaction!" is May 23 – June 30. Programs begin the first week of June and continue through August 2.

## Parks and Recreation

**Now Showing...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition** - Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition. The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **16th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, May 16 – June 27.** A competitive show open to artists and craftpersons in Lee and adjacent counties.

**May 17 – 18...Lee County Master Gardeners 2014 Garden Tour** – Join the Lee County Master Gardeners for their 2014 Garden Tour on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 18 from 1 – 6 p.m. This self-guided tour features unique gardens and educational sites across the Auburn area. Tickets are \$20 in advance at the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and \$25 at the featured gardens the days of the tour. Proceeds from ticket sales support the gardens at Kiesel Park, plantings on the Historic Tree Trail, and other garden-related projects benefitting the Auburn community. For more information, visit [www.leemg.org](http://www.leemg.org) or email [2014gardentour@gmail.com](mailto:2014gardentour@gmail.com).

**Ending May 23...Registration for Summer Camps and Programs** - Registration for summer camps and programs will be held through Friday, May 23 at the Harris Center. Sign up for camps while spots are available!

**Opening May 26...Auburn City Pools** - Splash into summer at the Auburn City Pools! Pools open for daily swim hours on Monday, May 26. Purchase your 2014 Splash Pass weekdays at the Harris Center from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Splash Passes are good for unlimited admission to Auburn City Pools all summer. Passes are \$50 for individuals and \$125 for families. Family passes are good for immediate family members, including parents or guardians and children under the age of 19, residing in the same household only.

**Register through May 27...Adult Summer Softball and Kickball Leagues** - Registration for adult softball and kickball leagues is going on now at the Auburn Softball Complex. Participants may register through Tuesday, May 27. Kickball teams are \$225 and softball teams are \$450, due in full at registration. A mandatory coaches meeting for both leagues will be held on Tuesday, May 27 at 7 p.m. at the Auburn Softball Complex. Both seasons begin the first week in June.

**June 6...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer** - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on June 6 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.

**June 20...Float-N-Movie Featuring "Dolphin Tale"** – Grab a float and come drift while you enjoy "Dolphin Tale" on the big screen at Samford Pool on Friday, June 20 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is FREE with a Splash Pass or \$2/person.

**June 27...Friday Night Splash** - Back by popular demand, join the Aquatics Staff from the Auburn City Pools for Friday Night Splash on Friday, June 27 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Samford Pool. Enjoy swimming, games, a cookout, music, and more! Admission is FREE with a Splash Pass or \$2/person.

