

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2005

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Open Line is produced by
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2005 Bike Bash

The Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Bike Bash on Saturday, March 19 at Cary Woods Elementary School. Bike Bash is a community event designed to encourage bicycling activities, endorse bicycle safety, promote the health benefits of bicycling, and emphasize local bike-friendly lanes and areas. This year's event will consist of three bike routes: a short ride (approximately 3 miles), a medium ride (approximately 10 miles), and a long ride (approximately 23 miles). All routes begin and end at the school and will include rest stops along the way. Participants are required to have a helmet.

During the event, there will be free bicycle safety inspections, helmet fittings, and information booths, as well as live music featuring KOOSTICO. Door prizes will include two bicycles provided by The Bike Shop and Kinnucan's.



Sponsors of the event include the Auburn Civitan Club, The Bike Shop, Briggs & Stratton, Eagle Tire & Service, Inc., Family Medicine Associates of East Alabama, Kinnucan's, Magnolia Cleaning, Niffer's, Prestige Properties, and Weidmann Plastics.

Registration information is now available at Dean Road Recreation Center and on the Auburn Bicycle Committee's website at www.auburnalabama.org/cycle. The deadline for pre-registration is Wednesday, March 9. All participants that pre-register are guaranteed a t-shirt and will receive a 20% discount on their next bike tune-up at The Bike Shop. Registration will continue up until the morning of the event, however only those who pre-register will receive a t-shirt and discount.



Pre-Registration

\$7.00 children 12 & under
(\$9.00 day of the event)

\$10.00 adults 13 & older
(\$12.00 day of event)

Family* \$20.00
(\$25.00 day of the event)

*The family rate is for two or more people living in a household / Limit 4 t-shirts per family.

Bike Bash 2005 Schedule Saturday, March 19

8:00-8:45 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Long bike ride begins
9:15 a.m.	Medium bike ride begins
9:45 a.m.	Short bike ride begins
10:45 a.m.	Drawing for Door Prizes, must be present to win

For additional information about Bike Bash 2005, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 501-2930, or visit www.auburnalabama.org/cycle.



Pay Your Water Bill The Easy Way

The Water Board provides two convenient payment options for its customers: The Automatic Bank Draft Program and Water Bill Payment Drop Box. The bank draft program frees customers from waiting in line at the Water Revenue counter or drive-through window and eliminates the cost of stamps, late penalties, service interruption, and re-connection fees.



Sign Up for
Automatic
Bank Draft

Bank draft customers continue to receive a bill each month, enabling them to review their billing information and deduct the payment from their check registers. The payment is drafted from the customer's bank account on the day the bill is due. This payment option helps ensure that a customer's water bill is paid before the 15th each month, avoiding late payment penalties. Bank draft is particularly convenient for customers who travel frequently.

To enroll in the bank draft program, call the Water Revenue Office at 501-3050 to request that an automatic bank draft program form be mailed to you. Fill out the brief form, attach a voided check or deposit slip, return it to the Water Revenue Office, and say goodbye to writing monthly checks for your water bill.

Another convenient payment option is the water bill payment drop box in City Hall. Payments may be placed in the drop box located in the lobby near the Gay Street entrance during City Hall business hours (M-F, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). The Water Revenue Office will post payments made at City Hall on the following business day. Cash payments and all payments on or after the 15th of the month must be taken to the Water Revenue Office.

Change Your Clock – Change Your Battery

Daylight Saving Time begins April 3. Remember to move your clocks up one hour and change the batteries in your smoke detectors.



Important Correction from Alabama Dept. of Revenue

The Alabama Department of Revenue has issued an immediate advisory to taxpayers who received an Alabama Tax Return Form 40 (Long Return) or a Form 40 NR (Non-resident Return) Tax Booklet. An instruction error has been reported. Because the City of Auburn has an occupational license tax withheld from wages or salaries, Auburn residents are permitted by Alabama law to claim the occupational license tax as a full deduction. This deduction should be claimed on the **Schedule A, under the section entitled "Taxes you paid"** and **not** as a miscellaneous tax deduction as stated in the booklet. Corrected instructions have been posted on the Alabama Department of Revenue website at www.ador.state.al.us.



Need Income Tax Forms and Information?

Tax day is just around the corner. A variety of income tax forms are available at the Auburn Public Library. Federal tax forms, information, and frequently asked tax questions are also available on the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov.



Board Vacancies

The following vacancies will be announced at the March 1 City Council meeting and are expected to be filled at the April 5 meeting:

- ◆ One vacancy on the **Library Board**. The incumbent is eligible for reappointment.
- ◆ Three vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission**. All incumbents are eligible for reappointment.

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



Water and Sewer Access Fees to Increase

Access fees are **one-time** charges for the initial connection of a property to the City of Auburn's water and sewer lines and are used to maintain the City's water and sewer facilities. **These fees only apply to new construction or existing structures that convert to the City's water and sewer systems.**

Effective April 1, 2005, there will be an increase in access fees for the City's water and sewer lines. Water access fees will increase one-step on April 1, 2005. Sewer access fees will increase over a two-year period, with the first increase on April 1, 2005 and the second on April 1, 2006. The typical house requires a 3/4" meter for water and sewer. Currently, the access fee for a 3/4" water meter is \$500 and will increase to \$1,000 on April 1, 2005. The access fee for a 3/4" sewer meter is \$500 and will increase to \$750 on April 1, 2005 and \$1,250 on April 1, 2006. The City Council and Water Works Board approved these fee increases in September 2004, marking the first increase since the original ordinance was adopted in 1997.

For questions or concerns regarding access fees, please contact the Water and Sewer Department at 501-3060.

24th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Once again, Kiesel Park will be the site for the City's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and SouthTrust Bank. This year's egg hunt, the largest in Lee County with over 20,000 eggs hidden, will take place on Saturday, March 26, at 11:00 a.m. All children ages 12 and under are invited to take part in this free community event. All participants are required to bring their own baskets. Make sure to bring your camera for a photo opportunity with the Easter bunny. Citizens are encouraged to join in the day's festivities, including musical entertainment



and free soft drinks and balloons. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be on sale from the Kiwanis Club of Greater Auburn with all proceeds going to needy families throughout our community. In the event of rain, the egg hunt will be rescheduled for Sunday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Alison Hall at 501-2940.



City Finances Award Winning

The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003 have received awards from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The CAFR received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The GFOA Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment. Auburn's CAFR was judged by an impartial panel and was found to meet the program's high standards, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users to read the CAFR.



The PAFR received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting. This award is a prestigious national award, recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 14,000 government finance professionals. This is the eighteenth consecutive year the City of Auburn has been recognized for its CAFR and second consecutive year for the PAFR. To view the City's CAFR and PAFR, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/CAFR.

Job Vacancies

The City of Auburn has full-time and part-time positions in a wide range of areas. Some of the current regular, full-time job openings include:

- **Codes Enforcement Officer**
(\$2,856.72-\$3,411.08/Month)
- **GIS Programmer/Analyst**
(\$3,001.34-\$3,583.76/Month)

For updated job opportunities, visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org, contact the Alabama State Employment Office, or call the City's job line at 501-7250. The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.



Meeting Schedule

Park & Recreation Advisory Board – March 1, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council – March 1, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission – March 2, 4:30 PM, City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.

Board of Zoning Adjustment – March 2, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Cemetery Advisory Board – March 7, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Water Works Board – March 7, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory Board – March 8, 11:30 AM, City Hall Conference Room.

Historic Preservation Commission – March 8, 4:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education – March 8, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

Planning Commission – March 10, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

City Council – March 15, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Library Board – March 24, 1:15 PM, Library Conference Room.

Auburn Bicycle Committee – March 29, 7:00 PM, Development Services Building Conference Room, 171 North Ross Street.

Cemetery Advisory Board – April 4, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board – April 5, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council – April 5, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission – April 6, 4:30 PM, City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.

Board of Zoning Adjustment – April 6, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Water Works Board – April 11, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

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up COMING EVENTS

Armchair Safari will be presenting the Salmagundi© program at the Auburn Public Library on March 2 at 3:30 p.m. This program is open to children in grades K-5. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



Young Adult Coffeehouse, for students in grades 6-12, will meet March 3 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library to enjoy an evening of music and dance with the band Hot Chile. Refreshments will be provided and admission is free. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



The Jan Dempsey Community Art Center presents **Paintings by Kyle Braund/Works by area potters**. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. from March 7-April 2. For more information, call 501-2963.

Personal trainer Joy Hooks will present a **discussion on obesity and fitness** on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. Discussion topics will include why obesity has become an epidemic, how to prevent obesity in children, how to change your habits if you are already obese, and basic fitness. Ms. Hooks will also answer any questions from the audience. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.

The **Spring 2005 Mini Soccer Camp Programs** will provide instruction on the technical and tactical fundamentals of soccer to youth ages 5-16. The staff will include coaches with a variety of playing and coaching backgrounds at the high school and college levels. Each age group will train separately with a licensed ASA staff coach. Mini camps will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on March 4, April 15, & May 13 at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road. The cost is \$10 per mini camp, payable to the Auburn Soccer Association. Registration is M-F, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Enrollment is limited! For more information, contact Louis Richard at 501-2943.



Auburn Area Community Theatre Young Actors will perform excerpts from *Chicken Little* and *The Paperback Players* on March 5 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Hollifield Room at the Auburn Public Library. All ages are welcome. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

The **Auburn Area Community Theatre (AACT)** presents Kenneth Lonergan's *The Waverly Gallery* at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. This comic drama, directed by Steve Bice, centers on a family's struggles with their mother's Alzheimer's disease. Discussions with the cast will follow the performances and will be moderated by a medical professional who will answer any questions. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors. For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

Performance times are as follows:

- March 10, 11, and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and March 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- March 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and March 20 at 2:00 p.m.

The Parks & Recreation Department is offering a challenging **bike ride** on March 12 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for 12-15 year olds on the historic Bartram Trail, located in the Tuskegee National Forest. Riders must provide their own mountain bike, helmet, and a bottle of water. This is a free event, but participants must be registered by March 8. For more information, call Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



A **puppet show** entitled *The School Play* will be performed on March 16 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. All ages are invited. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

Mark your calendar for the **2005 Bike Bash** on March 19 from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. held at Cary Woods Elementary School. For more information, see page 1 of this month's *Open Line* or contact Dee Watson at 501-2962.



The **library book club** will meet at the Auburn Public Library on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. Participants can read either a fiction or nonfiction work focusing on Ireland. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.

Dean Road After School Program will present excerpts from **The Wizard of Oz** on March 23 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. All ages are invited. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



Montgomery native fingerstyle **guitarist John Danley** will play at the Auburn Public Library on March 24 at 6:30 p.m. Danley is a regular contributor to NPR's *All Things Considered*, a performing arts entertainer, and composer of music for film and television. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.

The Parks and Recreation Department will host the **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at 11:00 a.m. on March 26 at Kiesel Park. The rain date is scheduled for March 27 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, see this month's *Open Line* or contact Alison Hall at 501-2940.



Discover **Dugger Mountain** with the staff of Parks and Recreation as they take on this moderately strenuous hike April 9 from 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Youth ages 12-15 are invited to participate. Hikers should wear sturdy footwear and proper clothing and bring a daypack with food and water. Participants must be registered by April 4. The cost is \$10, payable in cash on the day of the trip. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

The City of Auburn and the Department of Environmental Services will host the **3rd Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day** on April 16. This event is open to all Auburn residential garbage service customers needing to dispose of any household hazardous chemicals. For more information, contact Environmental Services at 501-3080. Look for details in next month's *Open Line*.



CityFest 2005 applications and sponsorships are now available. Are you interested in participating in Auburn CityFest 2005 as a food or arts and crafts vendor? Do you want to sponsor the event or participate as a volunteer? If so, visit the official CityFest 2005 web site at www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest. Food vendor applications are due March 5 and Arts & Crafts vendor applications are due March 14. CityFest will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.