

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

January 2009

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City of Auburn



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Your Voice in Auburn's City Government

2009 Citizen Survey Coming Soon

The City of Auburn's mission "to provide economical delivery of quality services created and designed in response to the needs of its citizens, rather than by habit or tradition" presents a clear vision for citizen involvement in government.

City of Auburn officials encourage citizen involvement and embrace transparency in the governing process. City Council and all Board and Commission meetings are open to and well-attended by citizens. These meetings provide an opportunity for any individual to be heard by the City's elected and appointed officials. Currently, more than 100 citizens influence local policy by serving on 20 advisory boards and commissions.

Transparency in government is enhanced and made more efficient through technology. Citizens can find many of the same documents used by the City Council in establishing policy located on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org. The City's budget document, located at www.auburnalabama.org/budget, details how tax money is spent. Digital copies of meeting packets for the City Council, Planning Commission, and Board of Zoning Adjustment are also available to citizens online at www.auburnalabama.org/packets.

The City's Annual Citizen Survey provides citizens with another valuable avenue to be heard. Now in its twenty-third year, the survey plays an influential role in formulating the City's budget and project priorities, both short and long-term.

The Citizen Survey's impact is evident in a number of ways. The survey consistently shows strong support for Auburn City Schools. In response, the City Council dedicates 13% of adjusted General Fund revenues to the school system, totaling nearly \$7 million for FY2009. These funds play a crucial role in helping Auburn City Schools maintain its status as a quality, nationally ranked school system. Additional initiatives in response to the Citizen Survey include increased neighborhood traffic enforcement, and a continued focus on infrastructure. The priority placed on infrastructure improvements by citizens was important in choosing the projects up for consideration by voters in the forthcoming Special Five Mill Referendum (see inset).

The 2009 Citizen Survey will be administered by mail beginning Friday, January 16. Citizens who receive a copy are asked to take a few moments to fill out the survey and return it in the postage-paid envelope. Citizens unable to return the survey by mail will receive a telephone follow-up survey, providing them with an additional opportunity to participate. Your participation is vital in communicating your priorities to Auburn's elected officials.

Survey results are tentatively scheduled to be presented to the City Council and citizens at the Tuesday, April 7 Committee of the Whole meeting. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org or contact Auburn City Hall at 501-7260.



Citizen participation is an important part of Auburn's City government.

Special Five Mill Referendum Vote Set for January 27

The Auburn City Council has authorized a special election on Tuesday, January 27 for citizens to vote on the use of proceeds from the Special Five Mill Tax Fund to provide a number of infrastructure, public works, and facility improvements throughout the City. This referendum **does not** involve the addition of any new taxes, but instead allows voters to approve how existing tax monies are used. The Special Five Mill Tax Fund is supported by a dedicated portion of property taxes set aside each year. By law, proceeds from the fund may only be used to pay for bonds issued for public improvement projects authorized by voters. Funds simply accumulate if they are not used for this narrow purpose. Examples of previous Special Five Mill Tax Fund projects include the recently-completed Auburn Public Library expansion, the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center, Town Creek Park and Cemetery, and the Auburn Soccer Complex.

Projects for the upcoming referendum were chosen based on citizen input via the Annual Citizen

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Special Five Mill Referendum

(continued from page 1)

Survey and the priorities of the City Council. By focusing on infrastructure, the City can use accumulated Special Five Mill Tax Funds for essential projects without creating a strain on the General Fund during uncertain economic times.



The Donahue Drive-Magnolia Avenue Intersection Improvements are top priority under the proposed list of projects for the Special Five Mill Referendum.

Citizens participating in the special election will vote whether or not to approve the use of funds for the entire proposed package of improvements totaling an estimated \$9 million. These projects include:

High Priority Projects

- Donahue Drive/Magnolia Avenue intersection improvements
- FY09 & FY10 Resurfacing and street restriping
- North Donahue Bridge replacement
- Magnolia Avenue resurfacing and installation of raised crosswalks
- Moores Mill Bridge replacement
- Frank Brown Recreation Center renovation (Phase I)

Supplemental Projects

- Wire Road Bridge replacement
- Wire Road bikeway
- Utility asset mapping and maintenance project
- Fire Station No. 6 (cost of land and design)
- Traffic signal at intersection of West Samford Avenue and Shug Jordan Parkway (pending Alabama Department of Transportation approval)

High priority projects will receive funding without question. Supplemental projects will be added once budgets for high priority projects are set. Pending voter approval, project work will begin immediately and continue into 2010.

For more information, including a list of polling locations, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/5mill.

Special Five Mill Referendum
Tuesday, January 27
Polls open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Board Vacancies

- Two vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** were announced at the December 2, 2008 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 6 meeting.
- Five vacancies on the **Metropolitan Planning Organization - Citizens Advisory Committee** will be announced at the February 3 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 3 meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Commercial Development Authority** will be announced at the February 3 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 3 meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Mental Health Mental Retardation Board** will be announced at the February 17 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 17 meeting.

Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact their City Council member or notify the City Manager's Office at webocm@auburnalabama.org or call 501-7260.

It's Coming...



Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. has declared Saturday, February 14 The BIG EVENT Day in the City of Auburn in recognition of Auburn University Student Government Association's (SGA) one-day, student-run community service project. The program is a way for AU students to give back to their local community. If you would like to request student volunteers for a project, please visit www.auburn.edu/sga to download a job request form or contact the AU SGA Office at 844-4240 for more information.

MEETING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

- 5 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- 6 Industrial Development Board**, 4 p.m., City Hall Conference Room
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 7 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- 8 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber
- 9 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
- 13 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Development Services Building
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room
- 20 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 22 Library Board**, 10 a.m., Library Board Room
- Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room
- 27 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building

FEBRUARY

- 2 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- 3 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 4 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- 6 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Meeting times and places are subject to change

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

Holiday Schedules



City of Auburn

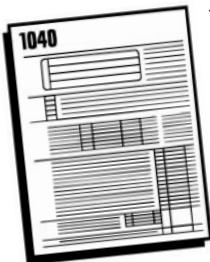
City Hall will be closed Thursday, January 1 for the **New Year's holiday** and Monday, January 19 in observance of the **Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday**. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules both days.

FEMA Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study Update

Lee County is in the process of updating its Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study. The City of Auburn's FEMA Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study will also be updated as part of the countywide map modernization project. State officials will host a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) community coordination meeting for the City of Auburn on Tuesday, February 24 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the City of Auburn Meeting Room, located at 122 Tichenor Avenue. The meeting is open to the public. Additional information regarding the study and the public meeting will be available in the next issue of *Open Line* and on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/fema.

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Public Works Department at 501-3000.

Income Tax Preparation Assistance



The City of Auburn, in partnership with Auburn University and the non-profit initiative SaveFirst, is pleased to sponsor free income tax preparation and fast electronic filing for families:

- Making less than \$42,000 with children in 2008
- Making less than \$20,000 without children in 2008

Free tax preparation and e-filing will be available at Boykin Community Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays beginning Wednesday, January 21. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call 1-888-99-TAX-AL.

Sewer Rate Study

On April 1, 2008, the Auburn City Council authorized a sewer rate study to be conducted by the Professional Resource Management Group, Inc. The results of this study were presented to the Council at a workshop on December 17, 2008 and are available online at www.auburnalabama.org/sewer. The City Council will consider an ordinance to implement the recommendations of the study at its Tuesday, January 6 meeting.

Please visit www.auburnalabama.org/sewer for more information.

clip out and save

2009 Holiday Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Schedule

Citizens are encouraged to keep this schedule to use as a reference throughout the year

January

New Year's Day Holiday

All routes will remain the same with the exception of Thursday's route, which will be collected on Friday, January 2.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Monday, January 19	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, January 20	Monday's route
Wednesday, January 21	Tuesday's route
Thursday, January 22	Wednesday's route
Friday, January 23	Thursday's route

May

Memorial Day Holiday

Monday, May 25	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, May 26	Monday's route
Wednesday, May 27	Tuesday's route
Thursday, May 28	Wednesday's route
Friday, May 29	Thursday's route

July

Independence Day Holiday

There will be no change in the collection schedule the week of July 4th.

September

Labor Day Holiday

Monday, September 7	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, September 8	Monday's route
Wednesday, September 9	Tuesday's route
Thursday, September 10	Wednesday's route
Friday, September 11	Thursday's route

November

Veterans Day Holiday

Monday, November 9	Monday's route
Tuesday, November 10	Tuesday's route
Wednesday, November 11	HOLIDAY
Thursday, November 12	Wednesday's route
Friday, November 13	Thursday's route

Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, November 23	Monday and Tuesday's routes
Tuesday, November 24	Wednesday's route
Wednesday, November 25	Thursday's route
Thursday, November 26	HOLIDAY
Friday, November 27	HOLIDAY

December

Christmas Holiday

There will be no change in the collection schedule the week of Christmas.

Carts and recycled materials must be placed at the curb by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. All carts and collection bins must be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the following day.

Visit www.auburnalabama.org/es/holiday.asp or contact the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department at 501-3080 for more information.

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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@auburnlabama.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



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 on the Gallery or future exhibitions, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **Found Objects**, January 9 - February 14. Two and three-dimensional works utilizing non-traditional materials.

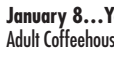
Wednesdays in January...Preschool Story Time - Preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Preschool Story Time every Wednesday this month at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Thursdays in January...Toddler Time - Toddlers ages 18 months - 3 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Toddler Time every Thursday this month at 10 a.m. Please note there will be no Toddler Time January 1. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



January 7...Magic Tree House Club - Youth in grades K - 5 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for the Magic Tree House Club January 7 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured book title is *Winter of the Ice Wizard*. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



January 8...Young Adult Coffeehouse - Young adults in grades 6 - 12 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Young Adult Coffeehouse January 8 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for movie night featuring *The Outsiders*, based on the book by S.E. Hinton. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



January 13...Puppet Show - Youth of all ages are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for a puppet show entitled *Three Winter Tales* January 13 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



January 20...LifeSouth Blood Drive - The City of Auburn's LifeSouth Blood Drive will be held January 20 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the City of Auburn Meeting Room, located at 122 Tichenor Avenue. Citizens are invited to participate. For more information, contact Stephanie King in the City of Auburn Human Resources Department at 501-7240.



January 20...Auburn Public Library Book Group - The Auburn Public Library Book Group will meet January 20 at 6:30 p.m. Participants may read a fiction or non-fiction book on US Presidents. For more information, contact the Reference Desk at 501-3195.



January 22...American Girls Club - Youth in grades K - 5 are invited to join the American Girls Club at the Auburn Public Library January 22 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured character is Felicity. Program space is limited. Contact Youth Services at 501-3196 to sign up.



January 22...Bilingual Story Time/Cuentos Bilingues - Join the Auburn Public Library for their brand new program, Bilingual Story Time/Cuentos Bilingues January 22 at 6 p.m. The program is open to all ages. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

April 25...Auburn CityFest 2009 - Auburn CityFest 2009, presented by the *Opelika-Auburn News* is set for April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Applications for fine arts, arts & crafts, food, and non-profit exhibitors are now available on the CityFest website at www.auburncityfest.com. A limited number of spaces are available for exhibitors, so be sure to apply today! Event sponsorships are also available. For more information, visit www.auburncityfest.com or contact CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930.



Spring 2009 Parks and Recreation Registration

Youth Soccer

Online Registration will be held January 19 - February 4 at www.auburnlabama.org/soccer.

Mail-in Registration is due February 2. Forms may be mailed to:
Auburn Soccer Association
P.O. Box 1533
Auburn, AL 36831

Walk-in Registration will be held on Wednesday, February 4 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road.

Youth Baseball • Youth Softball • Youth T-Ball

Online Registration will be held January 19 - February 14 at www.auburnlabama.org/baseball.

Walk-In Registration will be held on Saturday, February 14 from 9 a.m. - Noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

Registration Reminders

- A birth certificate is required to register for any sport.
- Registration fee assistance is available through the City of Auburn Community Development Division. In order to qualify for assistance, a household must meet the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) income requirements. Funds are available for a limited time. **Arrangements for scholarships must be made prior to registration.** For more information, contact the City of Auburn Community Development Division at 501-7280.

For more information on registration, please contact the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.