

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2001

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## Open Line

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## Progress on City Buildings

Renovation of the former Post Office located at the corner of Gay Street and Tichenor Avenue is underway and will soon serve as the new City Hall. This historic downtown building is scheduled to be completed in May 2001 and will house the offices of the Mayor and City Manager, the departments of Finance, Economic Development, Information Technology, and Human Resource Management. Once the new City Hall is open to the public, work will begin on



*Future City Hall*

paving improvements on Tichenor Avenue.

On October 3, 2000, the City Council approved the purchase of the building located at 128-130 Tichenor Avenue to serve as the City Hall Annex. This 4700 +/- square foot building will be renovated into additional meeting space available to the community, City boards, commissions, and departments in the future.

At its January 2, 2001 meeting, the City Council approved the bid for constructing a new parking lot at the corner of College Street and Tichenor Avenue. The City reached an agreement with



*Future City Hall Annex*

Auburn First Baptist Church on the use of its parking lot for City employees once the new City Hall is open. This agreement allows City employees to use thirty-five parking spaces during working hours. Through this arrangement, employees' vehicles will not have to occupy parking spaces in the municipal parking deck or around the new City Hall which will then be available for citizens, downtown merchants, and visitors. Construction on the new parking lot should begin in the near future.



*Site of the new parking lot*

*Continued on page 2*

## Progress on City Buildings

Continued from page 1



*Future Development and Public Safety Buildings*

The current Public Library building will provide additional space for Public Safety Department functions.

The new Auburn Public Library, now under construction at the corner of Thach Avenue and Dean Road, is nearing completion. The \$2.8 million building will have over 25,000 square feet. The Library is scheduled to be open to the public in April 2001.



*The new Auburn Public Library*

The Planning Department, Water Board Revenue office, Codes Enforcement Division of the Public Safety Department, and Engineering Division of the Public Works Department will occupy the current City Hall building located on Ross Street which will be known as the Development Building. The

## City Finances Award Winning



The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1999, has received an award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial

Reporting. Publication of the City's CAFR is a collaborative effort involving the City's Finance Department and the City's independent auditors, Machen, McChesney and Chastain, CPAs.

The Certificate of Achievement for the fiscal 1999 financial report is the City of Auburn's fourteenth consecutive award from GFOA for the City's CAFR. Auburn is among twelve Alabama cities whose annual financial reports received this award, including Birmingham, Brewton, Decatur, Dothan, Eufaula, Hoover, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, and Wetumpka. Only Birmingham and Auburn received GFOA awards for both their annual financial reports and their budget documents.

The GFOA Certificate of Achievement is considered the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the City government. The City's CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of this national program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users to read the CAFR.

## Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn has full-time and part-time job openings in a wide range of areas. City job vacancies are posted on the City's web site at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org) and are also listed at the Alabama State Employment Office. The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.

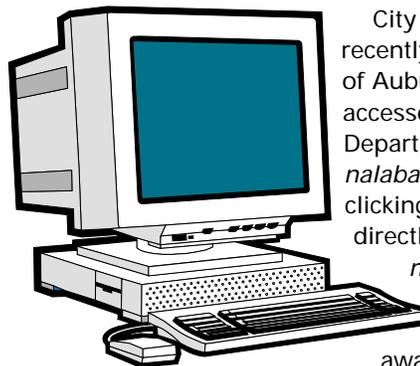
A few of the current openings include the following:

**Student Firefighter** - (\$5.35/hr.) Tuition reimbursement and housing available.

**City Planner** - (\$2,598.35/month)

Join a winning team of employees at the City of Auburn!

## Bid Information Now Available on the Web



City bid information has recently been added to the City of Auburn web site. Bids can be accessed from the Finance Department page at [www.auburnalabama.org/finance](http://www.auburnalabama.org/finance) and then clicking the bids button or directly at [www.auburnalabama.org/finance/bid.htm](http://www.auburnalabama.org/finance/bid.htm).

Currently advertised bids and recently awarded bids are listed. Bid invitation letters and addenda can also be viewed. Bid opening dates and times are available as well as the bid award recipients. If you would like to be placed on the City's list of vendors and bidders, the required form can be printed from the web site and returned to the City.

The City of Auburn believes in equal opportunity in the provision of supplies, equipment, construction, and services.

## Funding for Cultural Programs



*Auburn Public Library Board Chairman Martha Baker accepts grant money from Senator Ted Little*

*Adventures in Art* program at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

*Adventures in Art*, an arts education program, will offer Auburn elementary school children a unique art educational experience featuring a hands-on visual arts project, a gallery exploration, and other exciting activities. Last year, more



*Rep. Mike Hubbard presents Mayor Ham with the "Adventures in Art" grant*

Auburn's legislators, Senator Ted Little and Representative Mike Hubbard, have worked hard to generate money toward arts and cultural programs. On December 27<sup>th</sup>, Senator Ted Little presented the Auburn Public Library, Auburn Arts Association, and Auburn Community Orchestra with Community Service Grants. The grant for the Auburn Community Orchestra was for the purpose of providing free concerts to school children. The grant to the Auburn Public Library was for the purchase of books, periodicals, and visual equipment, and to the Auburn Arts Association for the purchase of computer equipment.

At the January 2, 2001, City Council meeting, State Representative Mike Hubbard presented the City of Auburn with an \$8,500 grant to fund the second annual

than 1,100 third through fifth grade students from all five Auburn elementary schools attended the program.

"We are grateful to Senator Little who dedicated a portion of the Community Service Grant money to these three groups involved in promoting arts and culture. We also appreciate the efforts of Representative Mike Hubbard to secure funding for the *Adventures in Art* program for a second year. Based on the overwhelming response from the children and teachers, we are very pleased to continue the program," said Mayor Bill Ham.

Citizens interested in volunteering to assist with the Spring 2001 *Adventures in Art* program should contact Alison Hall at 887-4938.



*Margaret Gluhman, president of the Auburn Arts Association, accepts grant money from Senator Ted Little*

## Kids and Car Safety



- Always buckle your seat belt.
- The safest way for a child of any age to travel in a vehicle is to be properly restrained in a rear seat.
- Infants should be secured in a rear-facing car seat until they reach at least one year and 20 pounds.
- Children who are over 12 months old and weigh between 20 and 40 pounds can be in a forward-facing car seat.
- Children weighing 40 – 80 pounds should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat.
- Usually children over 80 pounds and 8 years old can fit correctly in lap/shoulder belts while sitting all the way back in the seat.

The Parks and Recreation Spring Program Brochure will be released on Monday, February 5, 2001. Stop by the Dean Road Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up a copy.

## Citizen Survey Begins This Month



The City of Auburn's annual telephone Citizen Survey begins this month. Over 600 interviews of citizens selected randomly are completed each year.

Survey questions concern the quality of City services, major projects, and policies. The City Council and City administration use the survey results to monitor the quality of City services, in establishing budget priorities for future years, and in making policy decisions.

If you are called, please take the brief time necessary to participate in the survey. The survey should take only about fifteen minutes to complete. If by chance the interviewer calls at an inconvenient time, he/she will be glad to try back later.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the City's annual citizen survey, please call the Office of the City Manager at 887-4900 or visit the City's web site at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org). Results of the survey will be published in Open Line and on the City's web page.

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**Do you have any story ideas that you would like to read about in upcoming issues of *Open Line*? If so, let us know! You may e-mail your ideas to us at [dwatson@auburnalabama.org](mailto:dwatson@auburnalabama.org) or mail them to us at City Manager's Office, 171 North Ross Street.**

## Join Us at the Library

The Auburn Public Library offers *Storytime* for children ages 3-5 on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. *Toddler Time* is offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for children ages 18 months – 3 years.

The themes of *Storytime* and *Toddler Time*:  
Week of February 5: African Americans  
Week of February 12: Valentines  
Week of February 19: African Animals  
Week of February 26: Wild Animals for *Storytime* and Transportation for *Toddler Time*

## Registration Dates for Spring Sports

### Youth Soccer

Mail-in registration accepted until February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Walk-in registration on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Dean Road Recreation Center.



### Adult Soccer

Walk-in registration at Dean Road Recreation Center through February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

### Youth Baseball, T-ball, and Softball

Walk-in registration on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at Dean Road Recreation Center from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. each day. On-line registration is available on the City web page after February 1.



### Adult Softball

Walk-in registration through February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Auburn Softball Complex.

## Meeting Schedule

**Cemeteries Advisory Board** - Monday, February 5, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** - Monday, February 5, 6:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

**City Council** - Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

**Board of Zoning Adjustment** - Wednesday, February 7, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

**Tree Commission** - Thursday, February 8, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room.

**Planning Commission** - Thursday, February 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber.

**Water Works Board** - Monday, February 12, 4:00 p.m., Engineering Conference Room.

**Board of Education** - Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room.

**City Council** - Tuesday, February 20, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

**Historic Preservation** - Tuesday, February 27, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room.

*-Meeting times and places are subject to change-*

## up COMING EVENTS

The **Young Adult Coffeehouse** will meet from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 1 in the Library Conference Room. The topic this month is "Law Enforcement Officers." Teens are invited to join in a lively discussion about what it is like to be a law enforcement officer and how to become one. Refreshments provided.

The **Dixie Chapter of the Embroider's Guild of America** display of a selection of needlepoint works exhibiting a variety of stitches and techniques will continue to be open to the public until February 10 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Free admission.

The Auburn Public Library will host a **Valentine's Party** in the Library Meeting Room on Thursday, February 8 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for children ages 3-10. Craft projects and stories will add to the fun. Free admission.

The twelfth annual **Daddy-Daughter Date Night** is scheduled for Saturday, February 10 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Colonial Mall Social Center. Dancing, refreshments, pictures and surprises make this special evening a very popular event. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. Call 887-4930 to make your reservations.

The **Winter Invitational Exhibition** featuring sculpture by Bill Squires, engravings by Tom Hammond, and color lithographs by Leonard LaRoux will be open at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from February 16 until March 16. Free admission.

**Auburn CityFest**, a festival celebrating art and music, will be held at Kiesel Park on April 28, 2001. If you are interested in showcasing your unique artwork or special craft, volunteering, or becoming a sponsor for this exciting community festival, applications are due by February 16. To obtain an application, please stop by Dean Road Recreation Center or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest](http://www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest). For more information on CityFest, please contact Julie Buntin Wall at the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.