

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

December 2005

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Governor Riley Makes One-Day Visit to Auburn

Governor Bob Riley made a one-day visit to Auburn on Thursday, November 17 as the guest of honor at both the groundbreaking of the Auburn University Research Park and the community-wide celebration held for Auburn Early Education Center.

The Governor's first stop included the 10:00 a.m. groundbreaking for the Auburn University Research Park. The park, which will occupy a 156-acre site on the campus of Auburn University, is an initiative on the part of Auburn University, the City of Auburn, and the State of Alabama to recruit research and high-technology companies to the University and the City of Auburn. In a press release from the Office of the Governor,

Governor Riley said, "This research park will be an economic development engine for the entire state... We are transforming Alabama's economy, expanding opportunity, and securing our future as a leader in high technology and research industries."

In his remarks, the Governor commended Representative Mike Hubbard and Mayor Bill Ham for their hard work and dedication to making the Research Park a reality and added that Auburn has one of the "best mayors in the State of Alabama." Representative Hubbard was instrumental in pushing for state funds for this project. The City of Auburn has committed \$5 million to the Research Park for infrastructure development.

On the evening of November 17, the Governor was on hand for the community-wide celebration honoring Auburn Early Education Center as a 2005 Intel Corporation National School of Distinction. In his remarks, Governor Riley commented to School Superintendent Dr. Terry Jenkins, "You are more creative and more innovative in this district than, I think, any other district in the State of Alabama. For that, you should take a tremendous amount of pride."

"It is parental involvement in our schools that make them what they are. There are schools across the nation and across the state that money is poured into, but don't get the same results we do. We are fortunate that you are willing to put your money where your mouth is and your city puts so much money in the schools, but without your involvement, these types of things would not happen," said Mayor Bill Ham commenting on parental involvement in Auburn City Schools.

The City of Auburn commits millions of dollars each year to Auburn City Schools. The schools have always been and still remain a top priority to the City Council each year.

Great things are happening in the City of Auburn each day. The last year has seen tremendous strides in infrastructure improvements, expanding industry, job creation, national recognition for Auburn City Schools, the groundbreaking for Auburn University's Research Park, and expanded retail opportunities. 2006 looks to be even more promising.



Board Vacancies

• Two vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** will be announced at the December 6 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 2, 2006 meeting. The 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.

The City of Auburn cordially invites you to a community-wide reception honoring

*Mr. Charles M. Duggan, Jr.
Assistant City Manager*

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005
5:30-6:30 p.m.*

*Auburn City Hall Lobby
144 Tichenor Avenue*

Auburn Bicycle Committee Looking for Neighborhood Association Contacts

The Auburn Bicycle Committee is compiling contact information for all Auburn neighborhood associations. The Bicycle Committee was created to promote Auburn as a bicycle-friendly community, and is looking for ways to keep in touch with neighborhoods throughout Auburn in an effort to provide updates on bicycle related issues in the City. All Auburn neighborhood associations are asked to send the following information to ahall@auburnalabama.org:

Neighborhood Association Contact Name
Neighborhood
Mailing Address
Phone Number
E-mail



For more information, contact Alison Hall, Community Programs Director, at 501-2940.

Winterize Your Home

With winter heating bills on the rise this year, there are several steps citizens can take to winterize their homes and increase heating efficiency. Alabama Power customers can log on to their website at www.alabamapower.com/energycheckup to conduct an energy audit of their home. This free online service identifies ways for customers to save money on energy at home. Alagasco customers can visit www.alagasco.com and click on "Conservation Tips" to find energy savings tips for your home. In addition, below are a few tips from Alabama Power and Alagasco for increasing the efficiency of your home this winter:



- **Check Filters:** Heating and cooling systems work more efficiently when they can breathe freely. Check filters monthly and clean or replace them as needed.
- **Insulation:** A properly insulated home will preserve warm air in your home. Check with a contractor to make sure your attic and crawl spaces are properly insulated.
- **Check Doors and Windows:** Look for air leaks around doors and windows. Weatherstrip or caulk cracks or gaps around doors and windows to keep cold air out. Place a throw rug at the bottom of exterior doors.
- **Check Water Temperature Setting:** For general use, a temperature of 120° F is acceptable for hot water heaters.

For more information on conservation tips or winterizing your home, contact your energy provider. Alabama Power customers may call 1-800-245-2244. Alagasco customers may call 887-4800.

Safety Tip

Fireplace season is here. Your wood burning fireplace should be inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep to prevent flue fires. Burning only hardwood in your wood burning fireplace lessens the build-up of creosote in the flue, which can lead to chimney fires.



Going Out of Town?

If your holiday plans include travel, here are a few suggested precautions you can take to ensure the safety of your home while you are out of town:

- Temporarily stop your newspaper and mail delivery while you are gone.
- Use timers with staggered on/off times for indoor lighting so would-be burglars think the home is occupied and install outdoor lighting with motion sensors.
- Consider removing valuables such as silver and jewelry from your home and leaving them in your safe deposit box at the bank.
- Turn down your heat instead of completely turning it off to ensure your pipes will not freeze.
- Do not leave descriptive answering machine or voicemail messages that alert the caller you are out of town.
- Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to check the house periodically to make sure everything is safe and consider leaving a key with a neighbor in case of an emergency.
- Contact the Auburn Police Division and ask that your home be placed on a "House Check" list for extra patrol. To make this request during regular business hours, call 501-3150. After hours and on weekends, call the non-emergency number at 501-3100.



Parks and Recreation Youth Field Trips

Bowling/Movie



Students in grades 3rd-6th are invited to join Parks and Recreation for a day of bowling and a trip to the movies on Tuesday, December 27 from 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The day begins with bowling at Auburn Lanes, followed by a brown bag lunch, and finally a movie at Wynnsong Cinemas. Tennis shoes and socks are required. Participants must meet at the Dean Road Recreation Center and provide their own bag lunch. The cost is \$10, payable to the City of Auburn. Participants must be registered by December 23. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



Montgomery Zoo

Visit the Montgomery Zoo with Parks and Recreation on Thursday, December 29 from 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This trip is open to students in grades 3rd-6th. See over 700 animals from 5 different continents housed in natural, "barrier free" habitats. Bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy a group picnic with the giraffes. The cost is \$10, payable to the City of Auburn. Participants must be registered by December 23. Participants will meet at the Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



Time to Renew Dog Licenses

The City of Auburn requires owners to have a dog license for all dogs ages three months and older. Dog licenses are renewed each calendar year. Currently, licenses for 2006 are on sale. To avoid a late penalty, renewals should be completed before January 31, 2006. To download a dog license form, visit www.auburnalabama.org/finance/forms.html and click on "Dog License." For more information on dog licenses, contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239.



Job Vacancies



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

- Police Officer
(\$2,665.69-3,182.97/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

Cemetery Advisory Board - December 5, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - December 6, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council - December 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - December 7, 4:30 p.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - December 7, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Planning Commission - December 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber.

Water Works Board - December 12, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue.

Greenspace Advisory Board - December 13, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.

Historic Preservation Commission - December 13, 4:00 p.m., Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

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

City Council - December 20, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

City Council - January 3, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - January 4, 4:30 p.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - January 4, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

- Meeting times and places are subject to change -

Holiday Schedules

Christmas



City Hall will be closed on Monday, December 26 for the holidays. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their normal schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of December 26-30 will change as follows:

Normal Collection Day

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday

Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

Tuesday, December 27
Wednesday, December 28
Thursday, December 29
Friday, December 30

New Year's



City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their normal schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of January 2-6 will change as follows:

Normal Collection Day

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday

Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

Tuesday, January 3
Wednesday, January 4
Thursday, January 5
Friday, January 6

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Auburn City Schools
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up COMING EVENTS

ma.org/parks. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

The Auburn Public Library presents **Preschool Story Time** for children ages 3-5 each Wednesday this month from 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3196.



The **Auburn Christmas Parade** will be held on Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. in downtown Auburn. This annual event features floats, local musicians, children's groups, and a special appearance by Santa Claus. For more information, contact the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at 887-7011.

The **Nutcracker Tea Party**, hosted by the Lynn Terra Ballet Company and the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, will be held on December 3 from 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Join us for an eventful afternoon featuring a mini performance of *The Nutcracker*, arts and crafts, and an elegant tea party setup. Tickets are \$10 per adult with child and \$3 for each additional person. For more information or to order tickets, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963. All proceeds go to the LynnTerra Ballet Company.



Youth Basketball Registration will be held Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center for 8th-12th grade teams. Registration will be held through December 5. Participants must pick up their packets at the Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night** on Friday, February 10 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Best Western University Convention Center. Tickets are available at the Dean Road Recreation Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. beginning December 5. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. A limited number of tickets are available. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



The Auburn Public Library's **Annual Christmas Party** will be held on December 8 at 6:30 p.m. Youth ages 2-11 are invited to attend. Join us for stories, crafts, and a special appearance by the Chick-fil-A Cow. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3196.

Registration for the Auburn Public Library's **Winter Reading Program** "Books are Cool" will continue through December 31. Youth ages 3-11 are invited to participate. The program ends on February 28. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3196.



Join the Auburn Bicycle Committee for their **Holiday Winter Lights Ride** on December 15 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The ride begins at 7:00 p.m. and is a 3 mile course along the Grove Hill bike path. Riders will start and finish at Ogletree Elementary School and a refreshment station will be set-up at the mid-way point. Participation is open to families, children, youth groups, and avid bicycle enthusiasts. Each rider must have a front light and rear reflector and wear a helmet. Entertainment and refreshments from local vendors will be provided following the ride. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Performances of the **10th Annual Nutcracker Ballet**, presented by Parks and Recreation and LynnTerra Ballet, will be held on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. and December 18 at 2:00 p.m. at the Opelika Center for the Performing Arts. The performance features company dancers, community members, and guest artists from the Alabama Ballet. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. All tickets are reserved seating. Tickets are available now by calling the Opelika Arts Association Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at 749-8105.



The Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center presents **New Works VII**, a gallery exhibition featuring works by Martha Pace Hoerr and August Hoerr, through December 20 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

Snow skiing in Alabama? You bet! Come enjoy a day of winter fun with the **X-Cell Program** at Alabama's only alpine ski resort on January 21. This event is open to youth ages 12-15. Cloudmont Ski Resort, located in Mentone, AL has two different 1,000 ft ski slope challenges. Participants will leave at 6:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$40.00, payable in cash on the day of the trip, and includes admission, lift tickets, a beginner lesson, and all equipment. Please bring a brown bag lunch. All participants must be registered by January 17. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



CityFest 2006 applications and sponsorships are now available. Are you interested in participating in Auburn CityFest 2006 presented by the Opelika-Auburn News as a food, arts and crafts, or non-profit exhibitor? If so, applications are currently available online at www.auburncityfest.com. CityFest 2006 will be held Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For more information or to find out about sponsorship opportunities, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Happy Holidays