

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

January 2007

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## Cable Television in Auburn



*The City of Auburn requires cable TV providers to obtain a franchise but cannot grant an exclusive franchise to a provider.*

Telecommunications services, including cable television, are regulated by Federal law, per the amended Telecommunications Act of 1996. Under current Federal law, cities have the right to require cable TV companies to obtain a franchise to operate within city limits. Utility poles are part of the public right of way and cable TV companies use the existing poles to attach their wires for transmission. Franchise fees are paid as a form of rent for use of a city's public right of way. The City of Auburn requires cable TV companies to obtain a franchise.

The City of Auburn is authorized to grant one or more non-exclusive cable TV franchises, thereby prohibiting the City from granting an exclusive franchise. Currently, the City has one cable TV franchise. Franchises cannot be granted for more than ten years and are not automatically renewed. The City has the right to require all cable TV franchisees to provide cable within the entire City limits. The City's existing franchise does require this, with the stipulation that areas not currently served by cable TV will be provided service within a reasonable time after density requirements have been met. Assuming all requirements for a new franchise were met, the City could grant any number of additional franchises. To date, however, no additional providers have found a cost effective way to enter the market.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Manager at 501-7260.

## What You Need to Know About Towing

City of Auburn Ordinance No. 1717, adopted by the City Council in December 2003, regulates fees and provides guidelines for towing companies conducting business within the City limits. Please note, this ordinance does not establish the practice of towing within the City, but rather serves to regulate the fees and other requirements associated with towing in the City.

### Quick Facts on Towing in Auburn

- If you discover your vehicle is missing from the location where you left it, contact the City's non-emergency number at 501-3100 to see if it has been towed. The towing company must report all tows to the Auburn Communications Division within one (1) hour from the time of the tow.
- The maximum allowable towing fee is \$75. There is an additional \$5 fee for returning a vehicle outside normal business hours. The towing company must accept payment for all fees both in cash and at least one universally-recognized credit card.
- You may not be charged storage fees for the first 24 hours after a vehicle has been towed. After the first 24 hours, the fee is \$10/day or any part of a day.
- If the vehicle owner or driver contacts the towing service during business hours, the towing service shall accept payment and release the vehicle within 30 minutes of notice from the owner or driver of the vehicle.
- A towing company in violation of a provision of the towing ordinance is subject to punishment, according to the Auburn City Code. If you suspect a violation has occurred, please contact the Auburn Police Division at 501-3150 to file a complaint.



*Citizens who believe their vehicle has been towed should contact the City's 24-hour, non-emergency number at 501-3100 to see if the vehicle has been towed.*

Copies of the towing ordinance may be picked up at City Hall, located at 144 Tichenor Avenue, or the Public Safety Administration Office at 161 North Ross Street. For more information on towing in the City of Auburn, see Chapter 12 of the City Code online at [www.auburnalabama.org/code](http://www.auburnalabama.org/code) or contact the Public Safety Department-Communications Division at 501-3100.

## City to Begin Issuing Vehicle Noise Citations

Please see page 3 of this month's *Open Line* for important information regarding vehicle noise citations.

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City of Auburn



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# City Council Meeting Changes and City Holiday Schedule

At its November 21, 2006 meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution changing the meeting dates of the City Council for the month of January 2007. The City Council will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. Meetings will resume on their normal first and third Tuesday of the month schedule in February. For more information, please contact City Hall at 501-7260.

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday and Monday, January 15 in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules during both holidays. Please see page 3 of this month's *Open Line* for a complete listing of the 2007 Environmental Services Holiday Garbage, Trash, and Recycling dates. For more information on holiday schedules, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org).

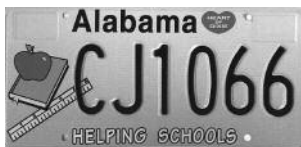
## Support Auburn City Schools

Citizens can help further support Auburn City Schools by purchasing the State issued Helping Schools Tag. The tag is available through the Lee County Revenue Commissioner's Office for \$15 in addition to regular taxes and fees. Personalized plates may be requested at no extra cost. Citizens requesting this specialty tag can specify that the money go to the school of their choice. Auburn City Schools' **FACES**, the Foundation for Auburn's Continuing Enrichment in Schools, receives \$11.63 for every tag whose proceeds are designated to Auburn City Schools.



FACES is a non-profit organization that provides funding for mini-grants to teachers in Auburn City Schools to help provide enrichment in the classrooms. FACES encourages and recognizes outstanding teaching through its Teachers of Excellence Awards and has impacted more than 60,000 students over the past 20 years. In addition to tag sales, FACES uses funds from other sources to help supply funding for grants. To date, FACES has funded 525 grants totaling more than \$240,000.

To order the Helping Schools Tag, please contact the Lee County Revenue Commissioner's Office at 737-3655. For more information on FACES, to make a tax-deductible donation, or to volunteer, please contact Jenifer Loworn at 707-1126.



## Blood Drive

The City of Auburn's semi-annual LifeSouth Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, January 23 from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the City Meeting Room, located at 122 Tichenor Avenue. Citizens are invited to participate. For more information, please contact Stephanie King at 501-7240.



## Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** were announced at the December 5 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 9 meeting. One incumbent has served two full terms and one partial term and one incumbent has served one full term.



Three vacancies on the **Commercial Development Authority** will be announced at the February 6 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 6 meeting. The incumbents have served one term each.

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

## Meeting Schedule

### Board of Zoning Adjustment

January 3, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

### Tree Commission

January 5, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

### Water Works Board

January 8, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue

### Greenspace Advisory Board

January 9, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue

### Industrial Development Board

January 9, 12:00 p.m., City Manager's Conference Room, 144 Tichenor Avenue

### Historic Preservation Commission

January 9, 4:00 p.m., Development Services Building

### Board of Education

January 9, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room

### City Council

January 9, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

### Planning Commission

January 11, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

### Bicycle Committee

January 23, 7:00 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 N. Ross Street

### City Council

January 23, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

### Library Board

January 25, 1:15 p.m., Library Board Room

### Tree Commission

February 2, 11:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

### Cemeteries Advisory Board

February 5, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

### Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

February 6, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

### City Council

February 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

### Board of Zoning Adjustment

February 7, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

### Planning Commission

February 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

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

# 2007 Holiday Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Schedule

## January

### New Year's Day Holiday

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, January 1    | HOLIDAY           |
| Tuesday, January 2   | Monday's route    |
| Wednesday, January 3 | Tuesday's route   |
| Thursday, January 4  | Wednesday's route |
| Friday, January 5    | Thursday's route  |

### Martin Luther King Holiday

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, January 15    | HOLIDAY           |
| Tuesday, January 16   | Monday's route    |
| Wednesday, January 17 | Tuesday's route   |
| Thursday, January 18  | Wednesday's route |
| Friday, January 19    | Thursday's route  |

## May

### Memorial Day Holiday

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, May 28    | HOLIDAY           |
| Tuesday, May 29   | Monday's route    |
| Wednesday, May 30 | Tuesday's route   |
| Thursday, May 31  | Wednesday's route |
| Friday, June 1    | Thursday's route  |

## July

### Independence Day Holiday

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, July 2    | Monday's route    |
| Tuesday, July 3   | Tuesday's route   |
| Wednesday, July 4 | HOLIDAY           |
| Thursday, July 5  | Wednesday's route |
| Friday, July 6    | Thursday's route  |

## September

### Labor Day Holiday

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, September 3    | HOLIDAY           |
| Tuesday, September 4   | Monday's route    |
| Wednesday, September 5 | Tuesday's route   |
| Thursday, September 6  | Wednesday's route |
| Friday, September 7    | Thursday's route  |

## November

### Veterans Day Holiday

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, November 12    | HOLIDAY           |
| Tuesday, November 13   | Monday's route    |
| Wednesday, November 14 | Tuesday's route   |
| Thursday, November 15  | Wednesday's route |
| Friday, November 16    | Thursday's route  |

### Thanksgiving Holiday

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday, November 19    | Monday and Tuesday's routes |
| Tuesday, November 20   | Wednesday's route           |
| Wednesday, November 21 | Thursday's route            |
| Thursday, November 22  | HOLIDAY                     |
| Friday, November 23    | HOLIDAY                     |

## December

### Christmas Holiday

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, December 24    | Monday's route    |
| Tuesday, December 25   | HOLIDAY           |
| Wednesday, December 26 | Tuesday's route   |
| Thursday, December 27  | Wednesday's route |
| Friday, December 28    | Thursday's route  |

Carts, trash, and recycled materials must be placed at the curb for collection by 6:00 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. Carts must be removed from the curb by 6:00 a.m. the following day. For information on garbage, trash, and recycling pick-up, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 501-3080. This schedule is also available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/esd](http://www.auburnalabama.org/esd).

## City to Begin Issuing Vehicle Noise Citations

At its December 19, 2006 meeting, the City Council discussed a directive for the Auburn Police Division to begin issuing non-traffic citations for vehicle noise and vibrations. The enforcement falls under the disorderly conduct section of the Alabama Criminal Code, as adopted by City Ordinance, and calls for a \$200 fine in addition to \$125 assessed in court costs. Officers from the Auburn Police Division will begin issuing warnings on Wednesday, January 10 for a period of 30 days. Beginning Saturday, February 10, officers will begin issuing citations for any vehicle whose noise is deemed unreasonable; for example, a car stereo whose noise can be heard and/or felt from a distance of 25 feet or more. Complaints regarding noise other than vehicle noise will continue to be handled under existing policy. For more information on vehicle noise citations, please contact Public Safety Administration at 501-3110.

## License Reminders

City **dog license** renewals must be completed by Wednesday, January 31 to avoid a late fee. City **business license** renewals must be completed by Wednesday, February 28. For more information, please contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239.

## City Receives 20th Consecutive CAFR Award



The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Auburn by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

This year's Certificate of Achievement represents the 20th consecutive award the City of Auburn has received for its CAFR since receiving its first award in 1986. The City has the second highest number of CAFR awards for any city in the State of Alabama, second only to Birmingham. The City of Auburn's Finance Department will be presented with an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement at a future City Council meeting.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 16,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL and Washington, DC.

Citizens may view the City's CAFR online at [www.auburnalabama.org/cafr](http://www.auburnalabama.org/cafr). For more information, contact the City of Auburn's Finance Department at 501-7220.

# 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 if you prefer, please drop us a line at:  
City Manager's Office, 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 1, Auburn, AL 36830



## up COMING EVENTS



**2007 Parks & Recreation Calendar Available Now...** Be sure to pick up your copy of the 2007 Parks and Recreation Calendar available now at various City facilities and on the web at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). This FREE calendar lists special events, program quarters, brochure release dates, Auburn City School holidays, facility closings, athletic registration dates, City holidays and events, and much, much more. For more information, contact Parks & Recreation at 501-2930.

**Parks and Recreation Winter Quarter Brochure Available Now...** The Parks and Recreation Winter Quarter Brochure is available now at various City facilities and online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). The program quarter continues through March 9. For more information, contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).



**Every Wednesday this Month... Preschool Story Time** - Join the Auburn Public Library for Preschool Story Time every Wednesday this month at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Every Thursday this Month... Toddler Time** - Join the Auburn Public Library for Toddler Time every Thursday this month at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**January 6... Young Adult Coffeehouse** - Students in grades 6-12 are invited to Young Adult Coffeehouse at the Auburn Public Library on January 6 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

**Beginning January 6... Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions** - Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

- **Winter Invitational 2007**, January 6-February 10, works by area craftspersons and folk artists.
- **PTA Reflections Exhibition**, January 16-26, works selected by the PTA from Auburn City Schools children in grades K-12.



**January 8-February 23... ABC-123 - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays** - Preschoolers ages 3-5 are invited to join us for a fun-filled quarter full of arts and crafts, storytelling, and creative learning at ABC-123. This program reinforces preschool readiness and promotes socialization skills. Field trips may be offered. All children must be toilet-trained to participate. Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. beginning January 8-February 23 at the Frank Brown Recreation Center. The cost is \$60 for the quarter, payable to the City of Auburn. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

**January 10... Magic Tree House Club** - Students in grades 1-3 are invited to the Magic Tree House Club at the Auburn Public Library on January 10 at 3:30 p.m. This month's theme is Polar Bears Past Bedtime. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**January 10... Salmagundi** © - Youth in grades K-5 are invited to Salmagundi © on January 10 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This month's theme is Aesop's Fables. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**January 12... American Girls Club** - The American Girls Club will meet January 12 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This month's character is Kirsten. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

**January 16... Auburn Public Library Book Group** - The Auburn Public Library Book Group will meet on January 16 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss books by Sena Jeter Naslund. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.

**January 20 and February 17... Snow Skiing Field Trip** - Snow skiing in Alabama? You bet! Come enjoy a day of winter fun on January 20 and February 17 with the X-Cell Program at Alabama's only alpine ski resort, Cloudmont Ski Resort, located in Mentone, AL. The resort features two different 1,000 ft ski slope challenges. This event is open to youth ages 12-15 years old. Participants will depart from the Dean Road Recreation Center at 6:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. The cost of each 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. Participants for the January trip must be registered by January 12. Participants for the February trip must be registered by February 9. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



**January 24... Auburn Public Library Puppet Show** - Join the Auburn Public Library for a puppet show entitled *Where the Wild Things Are* on January 24 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. All ages are invited to attend. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

**February 9 & 10... Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night** - This year, DDDN will be held on two separate nights: Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10 at the Best Western Convention Center. Doors open both nights at 6:30 p.m. for pictures and the dance will be held from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Ticket for Saturday night are sold out. A limited number of tickets remain for Friday night. Tickets are on sale at the Dean Road Recreation Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.

**April 28... Auburn CityFest 2007, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News** - Mark your calendar for CityFest 2007 on Saturday, April 28. Applications for Fine Arts, Arts & Crafts, and Non-Profit Exhibitors are currently available on the CityFest web site at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com). Auburn CityFest 2006, Auburn's largest FREE festival, attracted more than 35,000 people to Kiesel Park. For more information or to download an application, visit [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com) or contact the CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930.

## Spring 2007 Parks and Recreation Registration

### Youth Baseball • Youth Softball • Youth T-Ball

Registration will be held on Saturday, February 3 and Saturday, February 10 from 9:00 a.m.-Noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

### Youth Soccer

Registration Forms will be available online and at the Dean Road Recreation Center beginning Monday, January 22.

Online Registration will take place January 22-February 8. To register, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/soccer](http://www.auburnalabama.org/soccer).

Mail-in Registration is due by Friday, February 2. Registration forms may be mailed to:  
Auburn Soccer Association  
PO Box 1533  
Auburn, AL 36831

Walk-in Registration will be held on Wednesday, February 7 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road.

Birth certificates are required for all registrations. Arrangements for scholarships must be made with the United Way office prior to registration. For more information on youth baseball, soccer, softball, or t-ball registration, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.