

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2012

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
501-7260
bham@auburnalabama.org

Arthur L. Dowdell, Sr., Ward 1
524-2074
bishopdowdellministries@yahoo.com

Sheila H. Eckman, Ward 2
821-9666
750-9666
sheilaeckman@bellsouth.net

Thomas Worden, Ward 3
740-1783
tworden@charter.net

Brent Beard, Ward 4
821-4302
brent@alabamacontractsales.com

Robin Kelley, Ward 5
887-0033
robinkelleylaw@gmail.com

Dick Phelan, Ward 6
887-2071
dickphelan@yahoo.com

Gene Dulaney, Ward 7
887-7908
466-3191
gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Bob Norman, Ward 8
319-2251
bobnorman67@gmail.com

City of Auburn Receives 'Quality of Life Award'

The City of Auburn has been selected to receive the 2012 Quality of Life Award from the Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM). Auburn wins for the category of Cities larger than 50,000 in population, the largest of three size categories in the annual competition. The City is being recognized for its use of Geographic Information Services (GIS) to enhance public engagement as part of its effort to modernize FEMA flood maps.



A key element in the City of Auburn's successful completion of this project was not only fulfilling FEMA requirements, but also engaging citizens during the map modernization process. Auburn officials wanted to utilize every tool at their disposal to reach out to as many citizens as possible. In addition to the traditional community meetings and the paper-based public notifications, the City of Auburn's Information Technology Department, Geographic Information Services Division, created an interactive, web-based mapping solution to allow the public to browse both the current and proposed flood plain maps and to see proposed changes as they happened throughout the process.

The resulting GIS data allowed residents to use proposed flood plain layers on the map to visualize the changes to their property, and to view the data in relation to other GIS layers including parcel lines and aerial photography. This interactive map was deployed on the City's existing website, allowing for easy access and a sense of continuity and familiarity for users. Map navigation was made intuitive by adopting common trends in web-based map navigation. By using industry standard controls, such as one-click navigation and autocompleting searches, users spent less time learning how to use the map and more time studying proposed changes.

The City's response in exceeding the Federal Government's mandate with the FEMA flood maps project is an example of how the City of Auburn's GIS technologies can be used to provide information to citizens and how technology provides citizens with tools for providing government input. As technology continues to advance, these tools can only help our local government be more transparent, open and responsive. The ALM Award will be presented to the City of Auburn at the league's annual convention during May 19-22, 2012.

For more information on the GIS tools available to Auburn residents, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/maps.

Travel with Care 2012



The 2012 Travel with Care transportation safety campaign launches Monday March 19th at 10:30 am with a kick-off celebration on the lawn of Samford Hall. Everyone is encouraged to join Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., Auburn University President Jay Gogue, Auburn Police Chief Tommy Dawson, and Sheriff Jay Jones to kick-off a new season of safe travel habits.

Travel With Care is an awareness campaign that encourages safe and courteous habits for all modes of transportation including walking, cycling, and driving. The campaign aims to educate citizens on the laws and rules established to enhance the safety of all road users.

This year's campaign is a partnership of the City of Auburn, Auburn University, Auburn Public Safety, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office. The campaign will include increased enforcement and education of traffic and safety issues such as nighttime visibility, jaywalking, proper passing of transit and school busses, and the new "give me 3" law for passing cyclists. The campaign will also feature free giveaways and prize packs.

Visit www.TravelWithCareAuburn.com for tips on travel safety and to find out more about the activities taking place in conjunction with this campaign March 19-23.

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Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7261
fax: 334-501-7299

web:
www.auburnalabama.org

email:
cduggan@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn



Bike Bash 2012

The City of Auburn and the Auburn Bicycle Committee will host Bike Bash 2012 on Saturday, March 17 at Ogletree Elementary School. This annual event encourages biking activities, advocates bicycle safety, promotes the health benefits of this great leisure sport, and emphasizes local bike-friendly trails and areas. Route distances of 3 - 30 miles through a variety of Auburn neighborhoods will be offered for riders of all skill levels.

Registration

Pre-registration is going on now. Visit www.auburnalabama.org/cycle and follow the links to register. Registration forms are also available at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Day-of registration will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Registration fees include the ride, t-shirt, and a goody bag.

	Pre-Registration	Day-of Registration
Ages 13 & up	\$14	\$16
Ages 12 & under	\$12	\$14
Family Rate *	\$32	\$37

*Family Rate: Three or more individuals living in one household. Limit of four t-shirts/family.

Rides and Start Times

Extended Ride (appx 30 miles)	8:45 a.m.
Long Ride (appx 20 miles)	9 a.m.
Medium Ride (appx 10 miles)	9:30 a.m.
Short Ride (appx 3 miles)	10 a.m.

In addition to information booths, refreshments, and musical entertainment, door prizes will be awarded at 11:30 a.m.!

Don't miss your chance to pull your bicycles out of storage, pump up the tires, grab your helmet, and explore Auburn's bicycling community on Saturday, March 17! See you there!



Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be filled at the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Library Board** will be announced on March 6, 2012 and will be filled at the April 3, 2012 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Auburn Cemeteries Advisory Board** will be announced on March 6, 2012 and will be filled at the April 3, 2012 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission** will be announced on March 20, 2012 and will be filled at the April 17, 2012 City Council meeting.

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



ShopAuburn This Spring

The City of Auburn would like to remind citizens to shop Auburn this spring and keep your sales tax dollars local. Meter-free parking will be available downtown March 12 - 16. Citizens are invited to shop downtown and take advantage of public parking spaces, including those available on the first floor of the Auburn Municipal Parking Deck, located off Tichenor Avenue between College Street and Gay Street.

Auburn's sales tax revenue supports Auburn City Schools; provides for infrastructure improvements; supports public services such as police and fire protection; provides for the maintenance and paving of roads; and helps sponsor community events such as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Auburn CityFest, and Bike Bash.

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Finance Department at 501-7220 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/fi.

2012 Holiday Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Schedule

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

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's route
Tuesday, November 20	Tuesday's route
Wednesday, November 21	Wednesday's and 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

Income Tax Forms Available at Auburn Public Library

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.



City of Auburn

Public Hearing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2012 Action Plan

The City of Auburn wants your input to develop the 2012 CDBG Action Plan, which defines how the City will use Community Development Block Grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. A public hearing will be held to obtain citizen input about housing and community development needs to help ensure that funding is used to benefit low to moderate-income citizens of Auburn. The hearing provides an opportunity for citizens to guide the FY2012 Action Plan as it is developed.

The public hearing will be held on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 10:00 am at the Boykin Community Center (Meeting Room C) located at 400 Boykin Street. Please direct all questions regarding the public hearing to the Community Development Office at (334) 501-7280.

March 24th Proclaimed "The Big Event Day"

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham has declared Saturday, March 24th as "The Big Event Day" in the City of Auburn. The Big Event is a student-run volunteer day hosted by Auburn University's Student Government Association (SGA) that encourages college students and faculty to thank the community for providing a thriving environment to live and learn. With support from the *All Auburn All Orange* Initiative, this one-day service project has expanded to become an Auburn tradition of giving back to the surrounding community and thanking them for making Auburn an incredible place to live. Last year's Big Event included over 1,700 students and faculty members completing over seventy-five service projects. If your business, church, household, or organization would like to request student volunteers for The Big Event, please fill out the application included in the February *Open Line*, online at www.auburnalabama.org/openline and return it to the SGA by February 17th.



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 11

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 11. Remember to move your clocks up one hour Saturday night and change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

City of Auburn Supports Smart Yards Incentive Program

The Saugahatchee Watershed Management Plan (SWaMP) is pleased to offer the Smart Yards Incentive Program to City of Auburn residents located in the Saugahatchee Watershed in the northern region of Auburn. The Smart Yards Incentive Program is made possible through a partnership between the City of Auburn and SWaMP, and is funded by an EPA Region 4 watershed restoration grant awarded by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

Through the Smart Yards Incentive Program, qualifying Auburn residents can apply for funding for landscape improvements to reduce stormwater runoff from their property. These improvements, also recognized as stormwater best management practices, can include rain gardens, bioswales, stream bank or riparian zone restorations, and other stormwater runoff management improvements. These projects not only benefit your property but can benefit other properties while preserving our water resources.

If you live near the Saugahatchee Watershed and are interested in this opportunity to improve your property and help protect our streams, go to www.swamp.auburn.edu, or contact SWaMP by phone at 844-4785, or by email at reuteem@auburn.edu. You can also contact the City of Auburn's Water Resource Management Department at 334-501-3077 or mdunn@auburnalabama.org for more information.

MEETING SCHEDULE

MARCH

- 2 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 5 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 6 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 7 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 8 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 13 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Dean Road Recreation Center, 122 Tichenor Avenue
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 20 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 22 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 27 Library Board**, 2 p.m., Library Board Room, 172 East Thach Avenue
- Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

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

City Management

Charles M. Duggan, Jr.
501-7261
City Manager
cduggan@auburnalabama.org

Kevin A. Cowper
501-7262
Assistant City Manager
kcowper@auburnalabama.org

James C. Buston, III
501-7201
Assistant City Manager/CIO
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

Economic Development Dept.
Phillip Dunlap, Director
501-7270
pdunlap@auburnalabama.org

Environmental Services
Department
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3080
twoody@auburnalabama.org

Finance Department
Penny Smith, Director
501-7220
webfinance@auburnalabama.org

Human Resources Department
Steven A. Reeves, Director
501-7240
sreeves@auburnalabama.org

Library
Margie B. Huffman, Director
501-3190
mhuffman@auburnalabama.org

Municipal Court
Jim McLaughlin, Judge
501-3180
jmclaughlin@auburnalabama.org

Parks and Recreation Department
Rebecca O. Richardson,
Director
501-2930
brichardson@auburnalabama.org

Planning Department
Forrest E. Cotten, Director
501-3040
fcotten@auburnalabama.org

Public Safety Department
William H. James, Director
501-3110
bjames@auburnalabama.org

Public Works Department
Jeffery L. Ramsey, Director
501-3000
jramsey@auburnalabama.org

Water Resource Management Dept.
Laura A. Koon, Director
501-3060
lkoon@auburnalabama.org

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Auburn City Schools
Terry Jenkins, Superintendent
887-2100
tjenkins@auburnschools.org

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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 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.

Auburn Public Library

For more information, contact Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.



Baby Lapsit - Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for ages birth – 12 months and their caregivers.

Baby First Steps Storytime - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 12 - 24 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages 24 months - 3 years.

Preschool Time - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

Lego Play All Day - Saturday, March 3 all day for ages 4 - 12.

Magic Tree House - Monday, March 5 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K - 3.

Puppet Show - Tuesday, March 13 at 3:30 p.m. for ages 3 - 11.

American Girls Club - Thursday, March 15 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K - 5.

Wii Play All Day - Saturday, March 17 all day for ages 13 - 17.



Parks and Recreation

For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Now Showing...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 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Auburn University Graphic Design Student Show**, Feb. 27 - March 8. An exhibition of works by current Auburn University graphic design students.
- **Spring Invitational 2012**, March 19 - April 30. An exhibition of works by artists who formerly resided in Auburn.



Feb. 29 - March 6...AAAT Presents "Once on this Island Jr." –Join the Auburn Area Community Theatre for their production of "Once on this Island Jr. Feb. 29 - March 3, 5, & 6 at 6:30 p.m. and March 3 at 2 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for children, students, and seniors. Don't miss a special family night performance March 5; all tickets will be \$7. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

March 2...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer – Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center. Citizens ages 19 and up are encouraged to play. All levels of play are welcome. No partner is necessary. The event will be held rain or shine. Yarbrough Tennis Center non-member court fees apply. For more information, contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.



2012 Splash Pass Available March 5 - Purchase your 2012 Splash Pass for Auburn City Pools, beginning Monday, March 5 at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Passes are valid for unlimited daily admission to Auburn City Pools all summer, beginning May 7 with special early bird recreation and lap swim hours. Passes are \$50 for individuals and \$125 for families. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

March 13 & 14...Auditions for AACT's Production of "On Golden Pond" – Auditions for the Auburn Area Community Theatre's performance of "On Golden Pond" will be held on March 13 & 14 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Callbacks will be held on March 15 from 6 – 8 p.m. These roles will provide perfect opportunities to get acquainted with AACT. No experience is necessary and prepared readings are not required to audition. Stage managers, costumes, and technical crews are also needed. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

March 24...Responsible Dog Ownership Day at Kiesel Park - Calling all dog lovers - join Auburn Parks and Recreation for Responsible Dog Ownership Day at Kiesel Park on Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. – noon. Come learn about dog first aid, dangerous household items for your dog, necessary vaccinations, dog obedience training, Canine Good Citizen training and testing, Spay/Neuter Clinic, Therapy Dogs, and much more! On-site rabies and microchip clinics will be available as well. Bring your dog and join us for a day of fun at Auburn's favorite dog park! For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

April 7...31st Annual Easter Egg Hunt Sponsored by Wells Fargo - Grab your baskets and join Auburn Parks and Recreation and Wells Fargo for the 31st Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7 at 11 a.m. at Kiesel Park. Children ages 12 & under are invited to participate. Over 35,000 eggs will be hidden throughout the park! Enjoy free soft drinks and balloons, courtesy of Wells Fargo, and bring your cameras for a chance to have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! In case of rain, join us Sunday, April 8 at 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

April 28...Auburn CityFest 2012 – Auburn CityFest 2012, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News, is set for Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Applications for fine arts and arts & crafts vendors and Juried Art Show participants are available online at www.auburncityfest.com. Sign up for the Auburn CityFest 5K and Fun Run to kick-off the festivities! For more information, contact Auburn CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930. Mark your calendars...we'll see you at Auburn CityFest 2012 on Saturday, April 28!

