

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens
May 2001

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Open Line

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City of Auburn



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Is Your Child's Car Seat Installed Properly?

The City of Auburn, in conjunction with the Alabama Safe Kids Coalition, is pleased to announce that a Safe Kids Car Seat Check Up Event will be held at City Hall on Saturday, May 5th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. This event is the second such event offered by the City to provide life-saving child passenger safety information and hands-on car seat installation assistance as a free service to Auburn residents.

The City of Auburn has initiated contact with the Alabama Safe Kids Coalition to set up two training sessions in April and May and host this event. Certified City of Auburn public safety personnel will serve as in-house technicians assisted by other certified technicians from throughout Alabama.

Mayor Bill Ham stated, "Due to the overwhelming response we received from the Car Seat Check Up event we hosted last year, I am glad that we will be able to provide this service again to our citizens. This event allows parents and caregivers to have a trained technician evaluate the installation of their car seats to make sure they are properly installed to fit the needs of their child. I sincerely encourage Auburn families to take advantage of this program so that our children ride throughout Auburn safely restrained."

Research has shown that approximately 30 percent of children still ride unrestrained and 85 percent of car seats continue to be used incorrectly in some way. The safest way for a child to travel in a vehicle is to be properly restrained in a rear seat. Parents should secure infants in a rear-facing car seat until they reach at least one year and 20 pounds, toddlers in a forward-facing car seat, and older children in a belt-positioning booster until they can comfortably wear the vehicle seatbelt while sitting all the way back in the seat.

Due to variations of car seats, vehicle seats, and safety belt systems, the best way to make sure your child's car seat is installed properly is to read thoroughly both the car seat manual and your vehicle owner's manual and to have the installed seat inspected by a certified technician. Even if your car seat was checked at last year's event, your child's restraint needs may have changed due to the age of your child or the purchase of a new family vehicle. For more information on car seat safety and the national campaign, visit www.safekids.org. For more information on this event, call Assistant City Manager Wendy Hassett at 821-1900.



Police Officer Steven Davis checks the installation of a car seat.

Memorial Day Breakfast

The Third Annual Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast will be held on Monday, May 28 at 7:00 a.m. in the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Major General Jim Livingston, an Auburn graduate and recipient of the Medal of Honor, will be the honored guest at this year's event and the award winner of the City of Auburn's Distinguished Veterans Award. Last year's winner was General Jimmie V. Adams.

At 9:00 a.m., immediately following the breakfast, there will be a memorial wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Monument honoring those men and women who have served our country so courageously. The Monument is located at the northeast corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to park at City Hall or Felton Little Park.

The Memorial Day Breakfast Committee members include Hal Moore, Jim Foy, Norm Caldwell, Andy Lamar, Gussie Calhoun, Jay Crowder, and Doug Sams. The Chair of the Committee is Dick Pheilan.

Tickets are now available for this event at City Hall or from the Committee members for \$20 each. All proceeds will go to the Veteran's Memorial Fund.



The Veterans Memorial Monument is located at the corner of Glenn Avenue and Ross Street.

The Coffeehouse Concept: Bringing Young Adults into the Library

The Young Adult Coffeehouse was introduced in the summer of 2000 as part of the annual summer programs at the Auburn Public Library. Prior to the end of the school year, the program was widely publicized to introduce this new concept to Auburn teens and attract a following of young adults.

Attendance has grown from six students who attended the first program to a current average attendance of thirty to fifty students. Topics addressed in this program have included a poetry slam, Car Talk (how to buy your first car, maintain it and insure it), Urban Tales and Internet Hoaxes, Reader's Theatre Night, LEOs (Law Enforcement Officers) and Police Exploring, and a Christmas party that featured the Auburn High School varsity choir.

Currently, the group is making plans to start a teen advisory council and teen "ambassadors" to greet people at the programs and assist during the programs. The Young Adult Coffeehouse meets the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Library. If you would like more information about this or any other programs offered at the Library, call 887-4997.

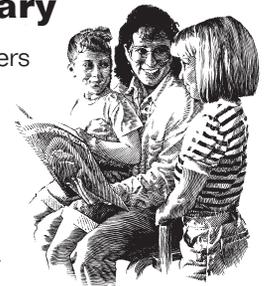


Young adults meet monthly at the Auburn Public Library's Young Adult Coffeehouse.

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 May 1:	Horses
Week of May 7:	Mothers
Week of May 14:	Fathers
Week of May 21:	Ocean

FYI... Call **911** for emergencies only.
For police non-emergency calls,
dial **887-4981**.

Citizen Survey Results Are In



For sixteen years, the City of Auburn has conducted an annual telephone opinion survey to determine how you feel about City services and major projects and initiatives. The City Council has found the survey to

be of great help in monitoring the quality of City services and in establishing budget priorities for future years. The 2001 survey has recently been completed and results are posted on the City's web site, www.auburnalabama.org. Copies are also available at City Hall for review.

Planning Department staff, in conjunction with the Office of the City Manager, develops the survey, and provides the training and oversight of the interviewers. Telephone numbers of citizens called are randomly selected from all of the Water Board accounts and directories. From the pool of randomly selected citizens, 1604 calls were placed which resulted in 616 completed interviews conducted over a two-week period beginning in early February.

A preliminary examination of the responses indicates that the citizens of Auburn are generally satisfied with City services. One question of the survey was, "Overall, how would you rate the services provided by the City of Auburn." Over 93 percent of those surveyed rated the services either 'excellent' or 'good.'

When asked about priorities of the City government, the respondents named the school system (38.6%) as the top priority, and police protection as the second highest priority. Those surveyed also reported that they believe Auburn is a safe community. Nearly 99 percent said they 'always' or 'most of the time' feel safe in the City and 97.6 percent said they feel safe in their neighborhoods.

We thank all 616 citizens who participated in this year's survey.

Meeting Schedule

City Council - Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - Wednesday, May 2, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - Thursday, May 3, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room.

Cemeteries Advisory Board - Monday, May 7, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

Water Works Board - Monday, May 7, 4:00 p.m., Engineering Conference Room.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Monday, May 7, 6:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

Historic Preservation Commission - Tuesday, May 8, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room (Special Meeting).

Board of Education - Tuesday, May 8, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room.

Planning Commission - Thursday, May 10, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber.

City Council - Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Historic Preservation Commission - Tuesday, May 22, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room.

Library Board - Thursday, May 24, 1:30 p.m., Library Conference Room.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn currently 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 and are also listed at the Alabama State Employment Office. The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.

A few of the current full-time openings include the following:

- Environmental Engineer (\$3,750.00 - 4,583.33/month)
- Recreation Center Director (\$2,598.35 - 3,012.21/month)
- Police Records Clerk (\$1,613.37 - 1,870.34/month)

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

Check Your Cell Phone

The majority of all 911 calls are made via cell phone, but many of these are accidental. Many cell phones have an "Emergency One Touch 9" feature that automatically dials 911 when the 9 key is held down for several seconds. When a cell phone is left in a backpack, pocket or purse, other items may press the keys on the key pad and inadvertently dial 911. Armrests and seats in vehicles can also cause accidental 911 calls. These calls tie up emergency operators and phone lines, which are needed for actual emergency calls.



Remember - all 911 calls are recorded on tape and an accidental 911 call is no exception. Many private conversations are recorded due to an accidental 911 call. Consult your owner's manual for your cell phone if you wish to disable the "Emergency One Touch 9" feature.

Holiday Closure

City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 28 in honor of Memorial Day.

The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be changed for that week.

Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday, May 29. Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday, May 30. Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, May 31. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, June 1.

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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 or mail them to us at City Manager's Office, 171 North Ross Street.

up COMING EVENTS

The **Auburn Community Orchestra** will perform at the Opelika Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. Robert Schumann's Fourth Symphony will be followed by Dvorak's Cello Concerto performed by Montgomery's Symphony Principal Cellist Bo Li. Free admission.

Performances of **The Rainmaker** will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center on May 3 - May 6. For ticket information, please contact Brooks Applebaum at 821-4475.

Children from the after-school program at Dean Road Elementary will present a **Student Art Exhibition** displaying a variety of artwork including Egyptian sculpture, collage pieces, and paintings in the Children's Art Gallery at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center through Friday, May 11. Free admission.

The **Student Art Exhibition 2001**, displaying works by Auburn High School advanced art students, will be open to the public at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center until May 12. Free admission.

The **Fishing Rodeo** for children 12 and under will be held on Saturday, May 5 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Children ages 12 and under accompanied by a parent are invited to participate in a morning of great fishing at the Auburn Technology Park Lake. Bring your lucky fishing pole and all bait is provided. The registration fee is \$7.00 per child and will be available the day of the event. For more information call Donna Forbus at 887-4930.

A **Car Seat Check Up Event** will be held at Auburn City Hall on Saturday, May 5 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information on this event contact Wendy Hassett at 821-1900.



The **Bike Bash** will be held on May 12.

This year's **Bike Bash** will be held at Ogletree Elementary School on Saturday, May 12 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Join Auburn bicyclists in participating in one of several organized bike routes of various distances, demonstrations, information booths, live music, and more. T-shirts will be given to all registered participants. The pre-registration fee is \$7.00 per bike participant. Registration on the day of the event will be \$10.00 per participant. Bicycle helmets are required. Group rates are available. For more information or to volunteer, call Dee Watson at 887-4930.

Swim registration will be on May 19th from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

A **"Swing Into Summer"** dance will be hosted by the Village Squares at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center on Saturday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. Young and old are welcome to attend and experience an enjoyable evening of music and dancing. Tickets are \$6.00

per person. For tickets or more information, please contact Sonny Dawsey at 887-9057.

The **Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast** will be held on Monday, May 28 at 7:00 a.m. in the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Tickets are now available at City Hall for \$20 each. All proceeds will go to the Veteran's Memorial Fund.

Registration for the Auburn Public Library's "Go Wild...READ!" **Summer Reading Program** starts on Tuesday, May 29. The Kickoff Party will be Monday, June 4 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and will offer games and crafts to participants. A schedule of events will be available at the time of registration, or call Youth Services at the Auburn Public Library at 887-4997 for more information.



The **Auburn Community Orchestra** will perform on May 2.

Spring Reminder:

Leaves and grass clippings can clog storm drains and creeks if placed in or around these areas, making it difficult for water to flow during storms, possibly affecting downstream property owners. Please make an extra effort this season to bag your yard waste and clippings and leave them behind the curb, clear of storm drains, for trash pick-up.

Board Vacancy

One vacancy on the **Indian Pines Recreation Authority** will be announced at the May 1st City Council meeting and will be filled at the June 5th City Council meeting.

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