

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens
May 2002

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Open Line

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City of Auburn



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Citizen Survey Results Are In

For seventeen years, the City of Auburn has conducted an annual telephone opinion survey to determine how Auburn residents feel about City services, major projects, and other 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 2002 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, 3568 calls were placed which resulted in 640 completed interviews conducted over a two-week period beginning in early February.

The responses indicate that the citizens of Auburn are generally satisfied with City services. One question on the survey was, "Overall, how would you rate the services provided by the City of Auburn?" Over 94 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 (36.1%) as the top priority, and police protection as the second highest priority. Those surveyed also reported that they believe Auburn is a safe community. More than 98 percent said they 'always' or 'most of the time' feel safe in the City and 97.4 percent said they feel safe in their neighborhoods.

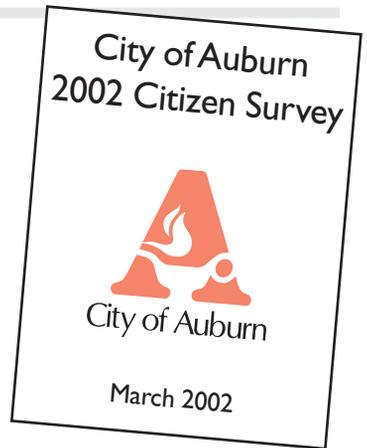
We thank all 640 citizens who participated in this year's survey.



The City of Auburn Plans New Cemetery

The City of Auburn and the Cemetery Advisory Board are currently working on the plans for a new cemetery to be located on South Gay Street. Features to be included are a columbarium to hold cremation ashes, a committal shelter for services held at the cemetery, space for upright granite markers, and space for ground level bronze markers.

The inclusion of individual and family mausoleums in the cemetery that provide above-ground crypt space is being considered. To assist with determining if this feature should be included in the plan, the Cemetery Advisory Board is asking anyone who would be interested in purchasing a mausoleum, if available, to respond by calling 887-4930 before May 31.



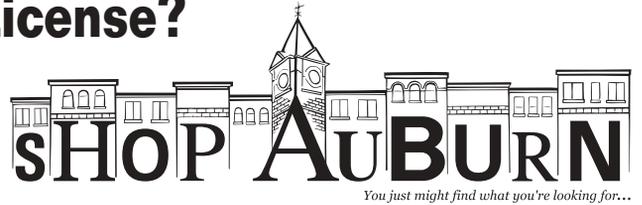
May I See Your Business License?

Citizens can support the City's efforts to license all companies doing business in Auburn by making sure that the businesses they patronize have a current City business license. Purchasing a business license gives the legal authority to do business within the City of Auburn.

Business license fees are one of the top five revenue sources for the City, providing approximately \$4.5 million or 15% of the budget's resources each year. These license fees, like sales taxes, help to finance City schools, police and fire protection, road maintenance, parks, recreation programs, and other services enjoyed by Auburn citizens.

How can citizens be sure that they patronize licensed businesses? City ordinance requires each business to post its business license in a place that is visible to the public. Customers can ask to see a current City of Auburn business license. The City offers convenient wallet-sized copies of licenses for those who make deliveries or sales calls or who provide services at their customer's site.

When a citizen is solicited by a business, one question that should always be asked is whether or not the business has a current city license. Citizens can verify business license status by calling the City's Revenue Office at 501-7226 (or 501-7227 or 501-7228). By refusing to do business with unlicensed companies, citizens encourage these businesses to become properly licensed. Questions can also be submitted to the Finance Department via the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org.



Holiday Closure

City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 27 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 28. Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday, May 29. Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, May 30. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, May 31.

Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn currently has full-time and part-time positions in a wide range of areas. Some of the current job openings include:

- Right of Way Maintenance Worker (Regular/Full-time, \$8.71/Hour)
- Computer and Network Maintenance Technician (Temporary/Part-time, \$14.79/Hour)

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.



Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **East Alabama Health Care Authority** will be announced at the May 7 City Council meeting and will be filled at the June 4 City Council meeting.

One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be announced at the May 7 City Council meeting and will be filled at the June 4 City Council meeting.

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

Keep Clippings Clear of Storm Drains...



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 and 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 and clear of storm drains for trash pick-up.



Join the Book Discussion Group

Auburn Public Library is hosting a monthly book discussion group for adults. This is a free forum, open to all literary interests, ranging from historical nonfiction to the classics of literature. Books will be chosen by the members, and the meetings will be driven by open discussion rather than established moderators. Join anytime! For further information on future meetings, contact Stephanie Leedy or Tyler Whitten at 501-3190.



Honoraria and Memorial Gifts

The City of Auburn offers several options to honor or memorialize individuals.

1. Bricks at Veterans Memorial Monument.

If the individual to be honored was a member of the military, you may purchase a memorial brick to be placed at the Veterans monument located at the northeast corner of Ross and Glenn. The dedication ceremony was held at the site of the Memorial at 8:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, November 11, 2000. The central element of the memorial is a 15-foot high obelisk, positioned in a central plaza surrounded by brick sitting areas, landscaping, and flagpoles. The monument was the first major effort in Auburn to recognize the contributions made toward our freedom by military veterans. The City Council authorized the use of the City-owned property for this purpose and funding for the monument has been provided through donations and the sale of brick pavers. Bricks engraved with the names of veterans are being sold for \$100 and will continue to be placed in various areas around the monument and in the walkways. For bricks to be placed by Veterans Day 2002, orders need to be in by August. If you would like to find out more about purchasing a brick, please contact Mariele Fischer by calling 501-7260 or through e-mail mfisher@auburnalabama.org.



2. Memorial Books in City Library.

The Auburn Public Library offers a program for the placement of books in the Library in honor or in memory of someone. The Library staff selects an appropriate book and makes acknowledgements promptly. A plaque is placed in the front of the book acknowledging the gift. For more information contact



Tyler Whitten at the reference desk in the Library at 501-3195.

3. Trees at Kiesel Park. The Tree Trust accepts minimum donations of \$50 as honoraria and memorial gifts. Money will go toward Celebration Grove at Kiesel Park. An acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family honored. For more information on this program, call Parks and Recreation at 887-4930.



How Do I Register to Vote?

To become a registered voter in Auburn or to update your voter registration information, Auburn residents may utilize any of the following governmental offices:

- (1) Auburn City Hall located at 144 Tichenor Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Telephone: 501-7260
- (2) Lee County Board of Registrars at the Lee County Courthouse in Opelika, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (may be closed between 12:00 noon and 1:00 PM); Telephone: 745-9780
- (3) Lee County Judge of Probate at the Lee County Courthouse in Opelika, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM; Telephone: 745-9761



2002 MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATES

Voters Apply for Absentee Ballot	June 3 – August 22
Voters Cast Absentee Ballots.....	July 17 – August 27
Candidates May Qualify.....	July 5 – 16
Last Day to Register to Vote.....	August 16
Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballots.....	August 22
Election Day	August 27
Run-off Election Day (if required)	September 17

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Zoning

Adjustment - Wednesday, May 1, 4:30 PM, City Hall Annex.

Tree Commission

- Thursday, May 2, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

Cemeteries Advisory

Board - Monday, May 6, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation

Advisory Board - Monday, May 6, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council

- Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 PM, City Hall Annex.

Planning Commission

- Thursday, May 9, 5:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

Water Works Board

- Monday, May 13, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory

Board - Tuesday, May 14, 11:30 AM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Historic Preservation

Commission - Tuesday, May 14, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education

- Tuesday, May 14, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

Library Board

- Thursday, May 16, 10:00 AM, Library Board Room.

City Council

- Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 PM, City Hall Annex.

Cemeteries Advisory

Board - Monday, June 3, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation

Advisory Board - Monday, June 3, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council

- Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 PM, City Hall Annex.

Board of Zoning

Adjustment - Wednesday, June 5, 4:30 PM, City Hall Annex.

Special Note: During renovation to the Council Chambers, several regularly scheduled meetings will be held in the City Hall Annex located on Tichenor Avenue next to City Hall.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

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Rex B. Griffin, Jr.
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Joe S. Bailey
501-3180
Municipal Judge
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Terry Jenkins
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Auburn City Schools Superintendent
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up COMING EVENTS

This year's **Bike Bash** will be held at Ogletree Elementary School on Saturday, May 4 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Join Auburn bicy-



clists in participating in organized bike rides, demonstrations, information booths, and live music. T-shirts will be given to all registered participants. The registration fee in advance and on the day of the event is \$12 per bike participant. Family rates are available. All other activities are free to the public. For more information, call Dee Watson at 887-4930.

The **Parks and Recreation Summer Program Brochure** will be released on May 6. Stop by the Dean Road Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up your copy.



The **Student Art Exhibition 2002** will be open to public viewing through May 12. This exhibition will display works by the Auburn High School advanced art students.

The **Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center** will be offering a variety of classes for children and adults this summer. Registration is May 13 - 31. Please call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for pre-registration information at 887-4938.

The **Starlite Dance Club's "Spring Ball"** will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center on Saturday, May 25 from 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. The music will be a mixture of swing, waltz, foxtrot, cha cha, rumba, samba, mambo, and slow dance songs. Visiting couples are welcome, but they must be the guests of a Starlite member couple. Those who wish to attend but do not know a member of Starlite, should call Tom Padgett at 821-2472. The guest fee is \$20 per couple for this dance.

The **Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast** will be held on Monday, May 27 at 8:00 a.m. at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Tickets are available from Veterans Committee members and at Auburn City Hall for \$20.00 each. Tables can be sponsored for \$200 per table (ten tickets). All proceeds will go to the Veterans Memorial Fund.



Summer Invitational 2002, displaying recent works by area artists and craftspersons, will be open to the public during May 31 - June 30 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.



The theme of the **Summer Library Program** this year is "Summer of Mystery." Kickoff for the program will be Monday, June 3 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. The reading programs begin that week. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

Art for Young Children, a series of art activities designed for younger children ages 5-7, will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center on June 3, 5, and 7 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. The cost for this program is \$25.00. Please call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for pre-registration information at 887-4938.



Salmagundi, offered to children in grades K-5th, will meet on Wednesday, June 5 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. *During the months of June and July Salmagundi will meet every Wednesday beginning June 5 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.* For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

The **Young Adult Coffeehouse** will be held from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on June 6 and July 1 in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



The City of Auburn will host a **Car Seat Check Up Event** in front of the old Wal-Mart on South College Street on Saturday, June 8 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. This free safety event is open to the public. Have your child's car seat inspected for safety by certified child passenger safety technicians. For more information on this event contact, Wendy Hassett at 501-7262.

Children's Visual Workshops for ages 7 years and older will be held June 10-14 and June 24-28 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. A variety of art activities will be offered and classes will be conducted by area artists and art educators. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. The fee is \$40.00 per week and special family rates are available. Please call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938 for more information.

A free **Research Mysteries @ Your Library Summer Camp** will be held on Saturday, June 15 for students in grades 5 - 8. The camp will introduce youth to research methods for reference materials and teach computer skills using unsolved mysteries as a theme. A second session will be held on July 20. Students must be registered for these sessions at least 3 days in advance. For more information or to register your child, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.