

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens
December 2002

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Open Line

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City of Auburn



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City Continues to Build Bike Paths

In 1998, the City Council formed a Bicycle Committee to develop a Bike Plan for the City of Auburn. The Plan, adopted as part of Auburn 2020, calls for the addition of bike lanes along residential streets and roads and the construction of bike paths that are separated from motorized traffic. Auburn's first off-road path, the Shell Toomer Bike Path (shown below), was opened in September 2001.

During recent months, the City has taken steps to continue its commitment to making Auburn a bicycle-friendly community. The City Council recently approved a bid to begin work on Wright's Mill Road. This project includes resurfacing the road and adding six-foot wide bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadway between I-85 and Shell Toomer Parkway. When completed, these lanes will connect the Shell Toomer bike path and Ogletree bike lanes.

In other recent developments, the City has received grants to extend bike lanes on Thach Avenue and construct a bike lane on Martin Luther King and a bike path along Grove Hill Road and Moore's Mill Road. Federal funding for the Grove Hill bike path is expected to be released in Spring 2003. The Grove Hill path will connect the Ogletree Road and Windway Road bike lanes. In early October, the Council approved funding to install six-foot bike lanes on both sides of Wire Road from Cox Road to Chadwick Lane. Implementing the Bike Plan will help the City reduce traffic congestion, safeguard air quality, and make bicycling a much safer and enjoyable mode of transportation.

The City staff and the Bicycle Committee are instrumental in a number of bicycling efforts including planning and promoting the 4th grade Bike Education program, organizing the Annual Bike Bash, and offering other educational activities throughout the year. There are many opportunities to assist the Bicycle Committee in its efforts to promote biking in Auburn through education, engineering, and enforcement. Any citizen interested in improving the biking experience in Auburn can contact Public Works Director Jeff Ramsey, who serves as the City's Bike Coordinator, at 501-3000.

Bikers should remember to obey all traffic laws. Drivers should watch out for those who ride their bikes and use caution when bicyclers are traveling on or near roadways.



Management Innovation Award

City Manager Doug Watson presented a plaque to Finance Director Andrea Jackson, this year's winner of the annual Management Innovation Award, for her work on developing a financial projection model for the City of Auburn. This model is a valuable tool for determining the effect of long-term economic impact decisions on the City's fund balance. The Management Innovation Award was established in 1996 to encourage and recognize innovations in City of Auburn programs and management practices that significantly improve public relations, create cost savings, or otherwise enhance organizational efficiency and effectiveness.



City Manager Doug Watson and Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. are shown with award winner Andrea Jackson.

Theft of Roadway Signs Endangers Motorists



Theft of roadway signs and sign vandalism are serious crimes that create dangerous situations for motorists. A missing or damaged sign, especially a stop sign, deprives motorists of important information and can cause harmful and fatal accidents. Roadway sign theft is a misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$500.00. You can help your community by reporting damaged or missing signs to the Public Works Department at 501-3000. Please help us keep our community safe.



Looking for a Job?

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

- **Police Officer (\$2,211.82-2,564.11/Month)**
- **Heavy Equipment and Automotive Mechanic II (\$3,032.25-3,515.21/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.



Reading Programs for Children



Preschool Storytime is for children ages 3 – 5 and meets Tuesdays from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. The themes for December are as follows: Toys- Dec. 3 & 4; Santa- Dec. 10 & 11; Nativity- Dec. 17 & 18. There will be no Story-time on December 24 or 25.

TODDLER TIME **Toddler Time** is offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for children ages 18 months – 3 years at the Auburn Public Library. The themes for December are as follows: Toys- Dec. 5, Santa- Dec. 12. There will be no Toddler Time on December 19 or 26.

Library Closure and Holiday Hours

The Auburn Public Library will be closed on Thursday, December 19 for a staff workday. The Library will reopen Friday, December 20 at 9:00 a.m. The Library also will be closed December 24 and 25 and will close at 6:00 p.m. on December 31.

2003 Dog Licenses Available Now

Auburn dog owners can purchase 2003 dog licenses beginning December 1, 2002. City Ordinance requires all dogs over three months old to be licensed and to have a City license affixed to his or her collar. Licenses are \$5 for sterilized dogs and \$15 for non-sterilized dogs.

To make purchasing a dog license more convenient, the City has implemented a way for dog owners to purchase licenses by mail. Residents may download the City dog license form from the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/finance/pdf/doglicense.pdf or they may call the Finance Department at 501-7220 and request a form to be sent by mail.

The completed form, along with a copy of the dog's rabies certificate and documentation for special conditions (spayed/neutered, guide dog, or if the dog owner is 65 or older) is required to purchase a license. A check payable to the City of Auburn for the total of the license fee applicable to each dog plus \$1.50 for postage and handling fees should be addressed to: Dog License, Revenue Office, City of Auburn, 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 6, Auburn, AL 36830.

A dog license is the dog's identification and allows the City's Animal Control Division or Lee County Humane Society to locate an owner in case the dog is lost. If the City of Auburn Animal Control Division picks up a dog not wearing a license, the cost is a \$25 fine and more than \$100 in court costs. Licenses are valid through the end of the calendar year. To avoid a late penalty, renewals should be completed before January 31.



Going out of Town?

If your holiday plans include travel, a few simple precautions will help ensure the safety of your home while you are out of town.

- Have the newspaper hold delivery while you are out of town. Piles of papers on the front door step are signs the homeowner is away.
- Go to the post office and fill out a hold order for your mail.
- Put your indoor lighting on a timer so would-be burglars think the home is occupied and install outdoor lighting with motion sensors.
- Rather than completely turning off the heat, turn it down to ensure your pipes do not freeze.

- Do not leave descriptive answering machine messages saying you are out of town.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to periodically check the house to make sure everything is safe.



Safety Tip: Smoke Detectors Save Lives

Smoke detectors should be located outside each bedroom area and on each level of the house. Homeowners should test smoke detectors monthly to make sure that they are working properly.



MEETING SCHEDULE

Cemetery Advisory Board - December 2, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - December 2, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council - December 3, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - December 4, 4:30 PM, Development Service Building Conference Room.

Tree Commission - December 5, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

Water Works Board - December 9, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory Board - December 10, 2:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

Historic Preservation Committee - December 10, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education - December 10, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

Planning Commission - December 12, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

City Council - December 17, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustments** will be announced at the December 3 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 7 City Council meeting.

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

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up COMING EVENTS

Salmagundi, offered to children in grades K - 5, will meet on



December 4 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the Youth

Services area at the Auburn Public Library. The theme for December is "Christmas Around the World."



The **Festival of Trees** will be open to the public beginning December 5 at 5:00 p.m. at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. The exhibit will last until December 14. For additional information, contact the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at 887-7011.

The Auburn Public Library's **Annual Christmas Party** will be held December 5 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



First Friday for Homeschoolers will be held December 6 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. December's theme is "Christmas Around the World."

The **Auburn Nutcracker Party**, an Interactive Nutcracker Experience, will be held December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children ages 12 and under. For more information, call the Auburn Arts Association at 887-2832 or Cindy Davino at 887-5717.

Auditions for Applebell's Winter Production, Checkhov and Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor" will be held December 8 at 2:00 p.m. and December 9 and 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Auditions are for actors and backstage crew. Callbacks will be held December 12 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Brooks Appelbaum at 821-4475 or appelbc@mindspring.com.



The **RPG Book Club**, a new feature at the Auburn Public Library, will meet December 10 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. The Reading Promotes Greatness Club is for students in grades 6 - 12. December's topic will be "Lord of the Rings- the Movies, Games, and Books." Contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190 for more information.

Young Adult Coffeehouse will meet December 12 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. The Auburn High School Varsity Choir will perform. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



The **Auburn Christmas Parade** will be held Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, call the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at 887-7011.

Contemporary Art Quilts II, a collection of new works by members of the Southeast Eclectic Quilt Guild, will be on display in the gallery of the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from January 7 until February 7. Admission is free.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Hall will be closed on **Christmas Eve**, Tuesday, December 24, and **Christmas Day**, Wednesday, December 25. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will not be changed for those on Monday or Tuesday's route. However, Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, December 26. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, December 27.

City Hall will also be closed on **New Year's Day**, Wednesday, January 1. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will not be changed for those on Monday or Tuesday's route. However, Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, January 2. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, January 3.



Happy Holidays!