

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

June 2003

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Open Line

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City of Auburn



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City Expanding Wastewater Treatment Plant

In May, the City broke ground on a \$6.2 million expansion of the H.C. Morgan Wastewater Treatment Plant. This expansion is a major step in ensuring the City's sewer system will be adequate to serve the Auburn community for the next twenty years. When the City bought the facility from Professional Services Group in 2001, a savings of \$10 million was realized. The project is funded from those savings.

Currently, the H.C. Morgan Wastewater Treatment Plant has a 5.4 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity. After the expansion is completed in winter 2004, capacity will be increased to 9.0 MGD. The project consists of construction of a headworks system with a mechanical screen and grit removal system; construction of two anoxic tanks and installation of required mixers; construction of a third clarifier and installation of three flow control valves; and construction of a sludge handling facility with a sludge belt press, lime silo, and pug mill. The City's engineering consultants, Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood, project that this expansion will give the City adequate sanitary sewer capacity through 2020. The Northside Treatment Plant will be closed after the expansion is completed and will be converted to a pumping station.

This expansion creates numerous benefits for the City. First, the conversion of the Northside Treatment Plant will result in reductions in annual operating and maintenance fees because of the savings in electricity, chemicals, and personnel costs. Another benefit is that the conversion of the Northside Treatment Plant to a pumping station will remove effluent from the Saugahatchee Creek, which the Alabama Department of Environmental Management classifies as an endangered stream. A final benefit is that all wastewater will be centrally treated at the H.C. Morgan Plant, thereby making wastewater reuse more feasible. For more information about this project, please contact the Water and Sewer Department at 501-3060.



H.C. Morgan Wastewater Treatment Plant

July 4th Celebration



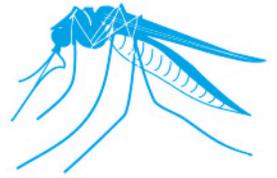
Celebrate this Fourth of July with the City of Auburn and Briggs & Stratton! The event will offer great food, live musical entertainment, and the best fireworks display in the area. This free celebration will be held Friday, July 4 from 7 - 9 p.m. at Duck Samford Stadium.

The Tip Tops, a high-energy dance and show band with a musical emphasis on the 60's, Motown, and rhythm and blues, will kick off the festivities at 7:00 p.m. During the celebration, prizes for kids and adults will be given away. The evening will conclude with a spectacular fireworks show beginning at 9:00 p.m. Grab your picnic basket, blanket, and the family and head to Duck Samford Stadium for a fabulous Fourth of July celebration!

For more information contact Alison Hall, Community Programs Director, at 887-4930.

Avoiding the Bite of Mosquitoes

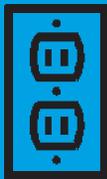
With the onset of summer comes renewed concern about mosquitoes. Preliminary tests in Mississippi and around the United States show a return of the West Nile Virus this year. West Nile Virus can cause a type of encephalitis that results in an inflammation of the brain. This particular type of encephalitis is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito carrying the West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes become infected with the virus by biting a wild bird that has the virus.



The City of Auburn, in conjunction with the Lee County Health Department, is encouraging citizens to take precautionary steps to avoid mosquito bites. Here are a few precautionary steps that can be taken:

- Prevent or limit exposure to mosquitoes by avoiding outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- When outdoors, wear clothing that covers arms and legs and use insect repellent.
- Since some adult mosquitoes rest on the underside of leaves in dense vegetation during the day, cut tall weeds, and keep shrubs and trees trimmed away from the house to increase air circulation.
- Clean and chlorinate pools that are not in use.
- Invert, cover, or remove any containers that could hold water such as tires, buckets, birdbaths, wheelbarrows, and wading pools.
- Change the water in pet bowls daily.
- Clean debris from rain gutters. Clogged rain gutters are a very common breeding location for mosquitoes.
- Install or repair screens and caulk cracks and crevices where insects can enter the home.
- Use yard foggers or sprays to repel mosquitoes.

For additional information on preventing mosquito bites, contact Bill Niemeyer at the Lee County Health Department at 745-5765 or visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/mosquito.htm>



SAFETY TIP: COVER THOSE OUTLETS!

Electrical panels, plugs, and switches should have a cover on them to prevent dust and debris from getting into the wiring. This reduces the risk of fire and electrical shocks.

Citizen Survey Begins Soon

The City of Auburn is preparing to conduct the 18th annual Citizen Survey. Interviewers will call randomly selected Auburn citizens between the hours of 5:30-9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday evenings beginning later this month. The telephone survey should only take about 15 minutes to complete. If you are contacted, your participation will be greatly appreciated. If the interviewer calls at an inconvenient time, he or she will be glad to try back later.



The Citizen Survey has been a valuable tool in monitoring the quality of City services, helping establish budget priorities, and in making policy decisions. A summary of the survey results will be published in a future issue of *Open Line*, available at City Hall, and posted on the City's website. For more information about the Citizen Survey, please call the Office of the City Manager at 501-7260.



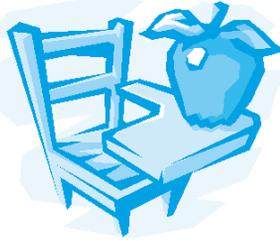
Visual Art Workshops

This summer, the Auburn Arts Association and the Auburn University Department of Art will offer visual art workshops to children ages 7 years and older. Four week-long morning sessions will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Area artists and art educators will teach a variety of classes. The fee for the workshop is \$35 per child per week. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

- Session I: June 9 - 13 • 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Session II: June 23 - 27 • 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Session III: July 7 - 11 • 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Session IV: July 21 - 25 • 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Public School Funding Crisis

The current public school funding crisis in Alabama has caused a number of cities to search for ways to address the financial needs of their public schools. This issue has been given a great deal of thought by the Auburn City Council and others over the past few months and has been the subject of numerous stories in the local media. A detailed memo entitled Revenue Review addressing the issue is available for viewing on the City's web page at www.auburnalabama.org/budget. The problem facing the City and the Auburn City School system is that the State of Alabama has informed the City Schools that it will receive \$2.1 million less next year than this year. Since the Schools are the City Council's number one priority, the members felt the need not to let the Schools suffer this loss. The Council also passed a resolution stating its intent to ask the State Legislature for authority to hold a property tax referendum to determine if Auburn citizens would prefer to replace the sales tax increase with a property tax for the Schools.



MEETING SCHEDULE

- Cemetery Advisory Board** - June 2, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - June 2, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- City Council** - June 3, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Tree Commission** - June 4, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - June 4, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Water Works Board** - June 9, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive
- Historic Preservation Committee** - June 10, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.
- Board of Education** - June 10, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
- Planning Commission** - June 12, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
- City Council** - June 17, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Greenspace Advisory Board** - June 24, 11:30 AM, City Hall Annex.
- City Council** - July 1, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Tree Commission** - July 2, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - July 2, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Water Works Board** - July 7, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive

- Meeting times and places are subject to change -

Reading Programs for Children



The Auburn Public Library offers **Preschool Storytime** for children ages 3-5 on Tuesdays from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Time is offered on Thursday mornings from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. for children ages 18 months to 3 years.



The themes for June are as follows: 6/2-6 My Little Island; 6/9-13 Going Fishing; 6/16-20 Boats, Boats, Boats; 6/23-27 Drums Along the River.

During the summer, **Salmagundi** will meet every week. Salmagundi is offered to students entering grades K-5 and is held on Wednesdays from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. June's themes are as follows: 6/4 Famous Islands and Lighthouses; 6/11 Rick Rakestraw and his Critters from Around the World; 6/18 Famous Shipwrecks; 6/25 "Be-At Your Best" Drum Extravaganza with Mark Seymour.

Young Adult Coffeehouse, for students entering grades 6-12, will also meet several times during the summer on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The themes for June are as follows: 6/5 Luau and Beach Party; 6/12 Band "I-85;" 6/19 Wreck of the "Edmund Fitzgerald;" 6/26 River Music.



Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be announced at the June 17 City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 15 City Council meeting. Incumbent is eligible for reappointment.

Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be announced at the June 17 City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 15 City Council meeting. Incumbents are eligible for reappointment.

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

Erosion Hotline



The City has established an erosion hotline for reporting situations of suspected pollutants being discharged into rivers, creeks, or the storm sewer system within Auburn's City limits. Please call 501-3000 or send an e-mail describing your concern to: erosioncontrol@auburnalabama.org. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pubworks/hotline.htm.



Holiday Closure

City Hall will be closed on Friday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will remain on regular schedule.

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up COMING EVENTS



New Works III, an exhibition featuring works in a variety of photographic mediums, will run through June 28 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Admission is free. For more information, contact the Auburn Arts Association at 887-2832.

The X-Cell Club Canoe Trip will be held June 14 for children ages 12 – 14. Participants will enjoy a fun-filled day of canoeing on the Coosa River. Chaperones, a certified lifeguard, and all gear will be provided. The cost is \$20, and participants should bring a brown bag lunch. Spaces are limited and registration for this trip must be completed by June 6. Participants will meet at the Dean Road Recreation Center at 8:30 a.m. and return around 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 887-4930.



A free **Research Mysteries @ Your Library Summer Camp** will be held on June 14 from 9:00 – 11:45 a.m. for students entering grades 5-8. The camp will introduce youth to research methods and teach computer skills. Students must register in advance. For more information or to register your child, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3196.

The **DARE to be Day Camp** for current fifth graders will be held June 23-27 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Auburn Junior High School. This free camp, sponsored by the Public Safety Department will offer recreational opportunities, afternoon swimming, guest speakers, and an opportunity for participants to get a close look at a Marine Corps helicopter. Registration forms are available at the Public Safety administration office at 161 North Ross Street. Lunches and snacks will be provided each day and door prizes will awarded daily. Contact Sgt. Grady Jones at 501-3125 or Keith Home at 501-3124 for more information.

The Auburn Public Library will host a special performance by the **Pot Luck Drum Choir** on June 29 at 3:00 p.m. for all ages.



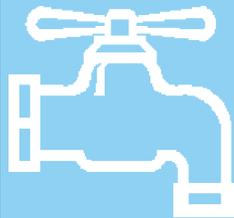
A **Knitting Camp for Kids** ages 8 years and older will be held June 30 – July 3 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Students will make a simple two-color hat while learning to cast on, knit, bind off, and make pom-poms. They will also make their own knitting needles, learn to dye yarn, and learn how yarn is made. The camp costs \$35 per child, and students should bring two 3-ounce skeins of worsted weight yarn in two different colors. For more information, contact Lisa Royal at 826-2538 or Auburn Parks & Recreation at 887-4930.

Registration for **Youth Soccer Camps** will be accepted until July 3 at the Dean Road Recreation Center. The Rising Tiger soccer camp for children ages 4-8 will be held July 14-18 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Fields. The fee for this camp is \$65. Auburn Soccer Association Junior and Senior camps will be held July 14-17 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Fields. Junior camps are for ages 9-12, and Senior camps are for ages 13-18. The fee for these camps is \$80. For more information about summer soccer camps, contact Louis Richard at 887-4930.



The Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration will be held at Duck Samford Stadium on July 4. Live musical entertainment will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the fireworks display will begin at 9:00 p.m. (See story on first page.)

Water Tap Schedule



Due to a sharp increase in requests, the Water and Sewer Department anticipates all applications for new water taps will face a minimum 3-week wait. Requests for irrigation meters will have a 4-6 week wait, and requests for new meter sets will face a 3-day waiting period. Currently, the City's Water Board is adding 25 – 40 new meters each month. The Water Board will make every effort to accommodate requests in a timely manner, but citizens are asked to be patient during this rush period. For more information, please contact the Water and Sewer Department at 501-3060.