

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

January 2006

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## City Continues to Receive Recognition for its Outstanding Finances

The City of Auburn has received numerous awards and accolades for its strong financial standing within the governmental finance community. For the last nineteen years, the City has consistently received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. In addition, the City's excellent bond ratings of AA- and Aa3 were recently affirmed by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, respectively. At the heart of the City's financial and budgeting success lies the City's Biennial Budget, which includes a six-year capital plan used to develop and implement long-term financial goals for the City.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was recently awarded to the City of Auburn by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the City's financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. This year's Certificate of Achievement represents the 19th consecutive award the City of Auburn has received for its CAFR after receiving its first award in 1986. The City has the second highest number of CAFR awards for any city in the State of Alabama, second only to Birmingham.

In early 2005, the City requested a bond rating review in anticipation of the issuance of \$5 million of general obligation bonds to fund projects Auburn voters approved in the August 2004 Five Mill Tax Referendum. In the review, both bond rating agencies cited the City's diversified revenue base, strong revenue growth, and low overall debt burden as the basis for the affirmation of the ratings. Auburn residents benefit from these excellent ratings in the form of lower interest rates on the City's bonds. The bonds are being used to fund voter-approved projects, including road reconstruction, traffic signal installation, and construction of sidewalks and bikeways throughout the City.

Beginning in FY01, the City of Auburn began utilizing a biennial budget. This two-year budget and six-year capital plan gives the City a longer-range vision of the City's needs, goals, and financial capabilities and enables City management to plan and implement the City's work plan more effectively. The City of Auburn relies on a diverse revenue stream, 40% of which is derived from sales tax. In comparison to other Alabama municipalities, Auburn sets a goal to use less than 50% of its budgeted expenditures for employees' salaries and benefits. Many municipalities dedicate more than 70% of their budgets to staffing costs. The City's budgetary system encompasses the Citizen Survey results, City Council priorities, long-range and annual goals, key decisions, and a comprehensive capital improvements program that allows the Council and City staff to concentrate on major issues facing the Auburn community, including Auburn City Schools, infrastructure improvements, as well as new facilities and programs.

Auburn residents can take confidence in knowing that the short-term and long-range financial needs of the community will be addressed more effectively through the City's excellent financial management policies and procedures. These policies and procedures are implemented in a cooperative effort by the City's management team and a highly qualified and experienced staff in the Finance Department, as well as financial management staff who work in departments other than Finance. For more information on the City of Auburn's CAFR, Biennial Budget, and Finance Department, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/finance](http://www.auburnalabama.org/finance).



## Open Line

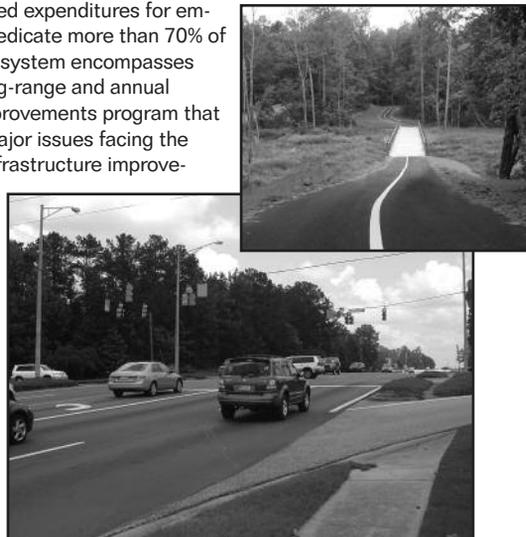
A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

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## Board Vacancies

• Two vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** were announced at the December 6 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 3 meeting. The incumbents are eligible for reappointment.



• One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be announced at the February 21 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 21 meeting. The incumbent is eligible for reappointment.

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

## Spring 2006 Parks and Recreation Registration

Youth Baseball • Youth Softball • Youth T-Ball

**Registration** will be held on Saturday, February 4 and Saturday, February 11 from 9:00 a.m.-Noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Birth Certificates are required for registration. All arrangements for scholarships must be made with the United Way office prior to registration.



### Youth Soccer

**Registration Forms** will be available online and at the Dean Road Recreation Center beginning Monday, January 23.

**Online Registration** will take place January 23-February 3. To register, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/soccer](http://www.auburnalabama.org/soccer).

**Mail-in Registration** is due by Friday, February 3. Registration forms may be mailed to:

Auburn Soccer Association  
PO Box 1533  
Auburn, AL 36831

**Walk-in Registration** will be held on Saturday, February 4 from 10:00 a.m.-Noon and Thursday, February 9 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road



For more information on youth baseball, soccer, softball, or t-ball registration, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share? If so, please contact us at [openline@auburnalabama.org](mailto:openline@auburnalabama.org).



## Auburn CityFest 2006

### Presented by the Opelika-Auburn News

The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce the Opelika-Auburn News is the presenting sponsor of Auburn CityFest 2006 for the second consecutive year. "We are excited to have the Opelika-Auburn News on board again," said Ali Wilson, Auburn CityFest co-coordinator. "It's great to have a local organization as a presenting sponsor."

Auburn's largest FREE outdoor festival will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. This one-day festival includes hundreds of exhibitors and vendors, a juried art show, a variety of live musical entertainment, and several children's activities. The average annual attendance for CityFest is 30,000 people.

"We are anticipating another successful year with a variety of exhibitors, and we are currently researching several new activities and entertainment acts to incorporate into this year's festival," said Wilson. If you or your business would be interested in participating in CityFest, now is the time to get involved. Exhibitor, vendor, and volunteer applications are available to download at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com). There is a limited amount of space available for exhibitors. The newly designed website also includes sponsorship information, photo galleries, and much more.



## Holiday Schedules

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their normal schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of January 2-6 will change as follows:

### Normal Collection Day

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday

### Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

Tuesday, January 3  
Wednesday, January 4  
Thursday, January 5  
Friday, January 6

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 16 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their normal schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of January 16-20 will change as follows:

### Normal Collection Day

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday

### Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

Tuesday, January 17  
Wednesday, January 18  
Thursday, January 19  
Friday, January 20

## The City of Auburn and Auburn University's Birthday Bash...

The City of Auburn will host a celebration on Saturday, February 4 in honor of Auburn University's 150th Birthday. The Auburn University and City of Auburn celebration at Toomer's Corner signifies the close ties between the City and the University and is just part of a year long celebration.

For the past year, Auburn's Sesquicentennial Committee has been planning for a year long calendar of events to mark this milestone. "Auburn has a lot to celebrate for all that has been accomplished in 150 years," said John Hachtel, Assistant Vice-President for Communications and Marketing and co-chair of the Sesquicentennial Committee. "The entire Auburn family will be proud of the events that we have planned to honor this occasion."

Sesquicentennial events will kick off on February 1 with Founders Day on the Samford Hall Lawn. This luncheon ceremony will include a presidential presentation, proclamations, ringing of the Samford Hall bells, and refreshments.

The City of Auburn will join the festivities on Saturday, February 4 as the City partners with Auburn University, the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, and the Auburn-Opelika Convention and Visitors Bureau for a Birthday Bash and Block Party. A ceremony commemorating Auburn's 150 years will be held at 2:00 p.m., followed by a concert by the Alabama Blues Brothers at Toomer's Corner, children's activities, inflatables, and birthday cake and favors. Auburn University groups will set up booths downtown to give away items, offer opportunities for Auburn University athletes' autographs, or to just show off items of interest. The culmination of the event will be a fireworks show at 5:30 p.m. from the library parking deck. The show will be visible throughout the downtown area.

"The City of Auburn and Auburn University are tied together in so many ways. It is only fitting that the City join in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Auburn University," said Mayor Bill Ham. "Toomer's Corner has always been considered the connecting point of the City and the University. It has been the site of many celebrations of our City's and the University's great achievements and I cannot think of a more appropriate place to celebrate Auburn University's past and future."

Other events during the Sesquicentennial Year will include a lecture series sponsored by Pebble Hill, various historic document and memorabilia displays, and activities planned by the various colleges and schools. A photo book titled *Neath the Sun-Kissed Sky* views Auburn University through the camera lens and captures the essence of the Auburn spirit. A calendar will also be available for purchase. For more information on Auburn University's Sesquicentennial Celebration, visit [www.auburn.edu/150](http://www.auburn.edu/150).



## 2006 Holiday Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Schedule

### January

#### New Year's Day Holiday

Monday, January 2	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, January 3	Monday's route
Wednesday, January 4	Tuesday's route
Thursday, January 5	Wednesday's route
Friday, January 6	Thursday's route

#### Martin Luther King Holiday

Monday, January 16	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, January 17	Monday's route
Wednesday, January 18	Tuesday's route
Thursday, January 19	Wednesday's route
Friday, January 20	Thursday's route

### May

#### Memorial Day Holiday

Monday, May 29	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, May 30	Monday's route
Wednesday, May 31	Tuesday's route
Thursday, June 1	Wednesday's route
Friday, June 2	Thursday's route

### July

#### Independence Day Holiday

Monday, July 3	Monday's route
Tuesday, July 4	HOLIDAY
Wednesday, July 5	Tuesday's route
Thursday, July 6	Wednesday's route
Friday, July 7	Thursday's route

### September

#### Labor Day Holiday

Monday, September 4	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, September 5	Monday's route
Wednesday, September 6	Tuesday's route
Thursday, September 7	Wednesday's route
Friday, September 8	Thursday's route

### November

#### Veterans Day Holiday

Normal Collection Routes

#### Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, November 20	Monday and Tuesday's routes
Tuesday, November 21	Wednesday's route
Wednesday, November 22	Thursday's route
Thursday, November 23	HOLIDAY
Friday, November 24	HOLIDAY

### December

#### Christmas Holiday

Monday, December 25	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, December 26	Monday's route
Wednesday, December 27	Tuesday's route
Thursday, December 28	Wednesday's route
Friday, December 29	Thursday's route

## Job Vacancies

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

- **Utility Engineer**  
(\$3,957.23-4,724.14/month)
- **Plan Review Coordinator**  
(\$4,368.04-5,215.67/month)



For updated job opportunities, visit the City's website at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://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.

## Meeting Schedule

**City Council** - January 3, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

**Tree Commission** - January 4, 4:30 p.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue

**Board of Zoning Adjustment** - January 4, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

**Cemeteries Advisory Board** - January 9, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

**Water Works Board** - January 9, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue

**Greenspace Advisory Board** - January 10, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue

**Historic Preservation Commission** - January 10, 4:00 p.m., Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center

**Board of Education** - January 10, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room

**Planning Commission** - January 12, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

**City Council** - January 17, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

**Bicycle Committee** - January 24, 7:00 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street

**Library Board** - January 26, 1:15 p.m., Library Conference Room

**Tree Commission** - February 1, 4:30 p.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue

**Board of Zoning Adjustment** - February 1, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

**Cemetery Advisory Board** - February 6, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

**Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - February 7, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

**City Council** - Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

**Planning Commission** - February 9, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

- Meeting times and places are subject to change -



## Time to Renew Dog Licenses

To avoid a late penalty, dog license renewals should be completed by Tuesday, January 31. For more information on dog licenses, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/finance/forms.html](http://www.auburnalabama.org/finance/forms.html) and click on "Dog License" or contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239.

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# up COMING EVENTS

The **2006 Parks and Recreation Calendar** is now available. This free, 12-month calendar lists special events, program quarters, brochure release dates, Auburn City School holidays, facility closings, athletic registration dates, City holidays and events, and much, much more. Calendars are available



at various City facilities, including the Dean Road Recreation Center, City Hall, the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and the Auburn Public Library. For more information, contact Ali Wilson at 501-2936.

The Auburn Public Library presents **Preschool Story Time** for children ages 3-5 each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Toddlers ages 18 months-3 years and their caregivers are invited to join **Toddler Time** at the Auburn Public Library each Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Mark your calendar for the following **Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions**. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



- **Is it ART?:** January 4-31, exhibit featuring problematic objects and works from local establishments and collections. The exhibit is rescheduled from September 2005.
- **Emerging Artists-Gallery II:** February 3-25, works in paper by Natalya Kochak.
- **Winter Invitational 2006:** February 3-March 4, exhibit featuring still life images in a variety of media by regional artists.

**Young Adult Coffeehouse**, for students in grades 6-10, will meet on January 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library to discuss "Who was Emmett Till?" For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

**First Friday for Homeschoolers** will meet on January 6 at 10:00 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This program is open to homeschoolers ages 5-11. This month's topic will cover penguins. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

The **Library Ambassadors** will meet on January 6 at 3:45 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

The **American Girls Club** will meet on January 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. The program is open to ages 4-11. This month's featured doll is Kirsten. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Snow skiing in Alabama? You bet! Come enjoy a day of winter fun with the **X-Cell Club** at Alabama's only alpine ski resort on January 21. This event is open to youth ages 12-15. Cloudmont Ski Resort, located in Mentone, AL has two different 1,000 ft ski slope challenges. Participants will leave at 6:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$40.00, payable in cash on the day of the trip, and includes admission, lift tickets, a beginner lesson, and all equipment. Please bring a brown bag lunch. **All participants must be registered by January 17.** For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



The **LifeSouth Blood Drive** will be held on Tuesday, January 17 from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the City Meeting Room, located at 122 Tichenor Avenue. Citizens are invited to participate. For more information, contact Stephanie King at 501-7240.



The **Library Book Club** will meet on January 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This month's topic features books by Paul Hemphill. Participants are encouraged to read any book by Paul Hemphill that interests them. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/library](http://www.auburnalabama.org/library).

The Auburn Public Library will hold a **puppet show** entitled *The Blacksmith and the Magic Eye* on January 18 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. All ages are invited to attend. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Critically acclaimed **author Paul Hemphill** will be at Auburn Public Library on January 18 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss his latest book, *Lovesick Blues: the Life of Hank Williams*. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190 or go to [www.auburnalabama.org/library](http://www.auburnalabama.org/library).

Mark your calendars for the **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night** on Friday, February 10 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Best Western University Convention Center. This special night will include dancing with DJ Ozz, refreshments, pictures, door prizes, dance contests, and much more. Registration is now open at the Dean Road Recreation Center, Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. A limited number of tickets are available. This event is for girls 12 years and younger. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



**SIXTH ANNUAL 2006 CITY FEST AUBURN** applications and sponsorships are now available. Are you interested in participating in Auburn CityFest 2006 presented by the Opelika-Auburn News as a food, arts and crafts, or non-profit exhibitor? If so, applications are currently available online at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com). CityFest 2006 will be held Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For more information or to find out about sponsorship opportunities, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

