

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2008

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Auburn City Schools Receives Quality School System Designation



Auburn City Schools was recently awarded District Accreditation as a Quality School System by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) and AdvancED. As one of only 200 schools districts nationwide to receive district accreditation, Auburn City Schools joins an elite class of school systems that has demonstrated a systemic and sustainable commitment to continuous improvement in both instruction and learning. Comments from the agency's report on Auburn City Schools commended school officials for establishing and maintaining meaningful and positive

relationships with the City of Auburn, Auburn University, community agencies, and local businesses. In addition, the report noted strong parental support throughout the system.

"We are extremely proud of Auburn City Schools achieving District Accreditation. This is a tremendous honor and further proves what we have known all along: that our schools are some of the best not only in the Southeast, but across the nation," said Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. "If you want to find out what a community values, look no further than their public schools. In Auburn, our residents have made it abundantly clear that quality public schools are of the utmost importance."

The City of Auburn's 2007 Citizen Survey reported that 91% of residents were satisfied with the quality of Auburn City Schools. The quality of Auburn's public schools remains the number one priority of the City Council. Over the last 10 years, the City Council has allocated \$50 million to Auburn City Schools. This year, the City Council has appropriated \$6,795,523 of the City's General Fund for the Auburn school system.

The City of Auburn wishes to congratulate the Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents of Auburn City Schools for District Accreditation as a Quality School System.

Northwest Village Subdivision Receives Award

The City of Auburn has been notified that the Northwest Village Subdivision is the recipient of the Alabama League of Municipalities' 2008 Municipal Achievement Award in the Economic Development category. City officials will accept the award at the League's Annual Convention later this year.

The Municipal Achievement Awards program recognizes outstanding projects in local government. In 2006, the City of Auburn and the North Auburn Housing Development Corporation partnered to construct the Northwest Village Subdivision, Auburn's newest affordable housing subdivision.

To date, two families have moved into new homes in the neighborhood. Construction is underway on two additional houses. The City will allocate additional funds to the project to construct more homes in the coming months. Applications are being accepted for the Phase II construction. For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Community Development Division at 501-7280.



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Open Line is produced by

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City of Auburn



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The Digital Television (DTV) Changeover and TV Recycling



The face of television will change dramatically in the next year as large, digital, flat-panel, and high-definition televisions continue to become more popular and affordable. On February 17, 2009, federal law mandates that television providers stop broadcasting analog signals and begin to air television signals only in a digital format. According

to the FCC, this change will free up frequencies for public safety communications and wireless services while providing the broadcast infrastructure needed for digital television's improved quality and features. The switch to digital television should also open up new possibilities for television delivery to consumers in the future, which will increase the prospects for competition in our market.

After the switch to digital, analog televisions will no longer be able to receive "over-the-air" broadcast programming (television programs you would receive via antenna) without a converter box. Auburn citizens who subscribe to Charter Communication's basic cable services, however, will still be able to receive programming without replacing their television or obtaining a converter.

The City of Auburn is anticipating that many citizens will replace and recycle their analog televisions in the coming year. Citizens who plan on replacing their analog televisions are encouraged to properly dispose of their old televisions by making an appointment to bring them to the City's RecycleAuburn Drop-Off Center, located at 365-A North Donahue Drive. The City's recycling program has been accepting televisions, computers, and other electronics since November 15, 2004, and has recycled more than 42,732 pounds of electronics. In order to ensure proper handling, televisions (19" or less) and computers are accepted by appointment only and cannot be collected at the curb. Televisions larger than 19" may be left on the curb for collection and recycling.

By utilizing the City's recycling program, you can be sure that your television and other electronics do not end up in a landfill, but are properly recycled. Of the electronic components processed through the recycling center, 99% are recycled with the remaining 1% disposed of in accordance with EPA regulations.

There are no additional fees involved with recycling televisions or any other electronics. This feature is included in the garbage, trash, and recycling collection services City of Auburn citizens already enjoy.

For more information on the City's recycling program, please visit the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department online at www.auburnalabama.org/es or contact them at 501-3080.

For more information on the switch to digital television, please visit the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov/dtv.

City of Auburn Political Sign Regulation Reminder

Section 8-5 of the Auburn Municipal Code states that political signs may not be placed earlier than thirty days prior to the election date and must be removed no later than seven days following the election. Signs for the 2008 Alabama Presidential Primary must be removed by Tuesday, February 12.

For more information regarding sign enforcement regulations, please contact Katie Ray in the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3038.

Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Library Board** will be announced at the March 4 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 1 meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Cemeteries Advisory Board** will be announced at the March 4 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 1 meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission** will be announced at the March 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 15 meeting.



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

Meeting Schedule

Tree Commission

February 1, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Cemeteries Advisory Board

February 4, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

February 5, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council

February 5, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Board of Zoning Adjustment

February 6, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Water Works Board

February 11, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room

Greenspace Advisory Board

February 12, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room

Historic Preservation Commission

February 12, 4:00 p.m., Development Services Building

Board of Education

February 12, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room

Planning Commission

February 14, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

City Council

February 19, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Bicycle Committee

February 26, 7:00 p.m., Development Services Building

Cemeteries Advisory Board

March 3, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

March 4, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council

March 4, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Board of Zoning Adjustment

March 5, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Tree Commission

March 7, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Before You Sign Your Lease...

A Reminder of the City of Auburn's Residential Occupancy Regulations

Residents are reminded that the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance sets forth limitations regarding residential occupancy in the City limits. Traditional residential neighborhoods are typically zoned to allow for no more than two unrelated persons to reside at an address. Apartment complexes, mobile home parks, and other multi-family housing units are properly zoned to allow for more than two unrelated tenants.



Before you sign your lease, be sure you are in compliance with the City's Zoning Ordinance. A brochure highlighting specific information on the City's occupancy limitations may be found on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org. Click on the Residents tab at the top of the site and then select the Residential Occupancy PDF link. Brochures are also available at the City of Auburn

Planning Department, located at 171 North Ross Street, Suite 100.

Residents in violation of the City's residential occupancy regulations are subject to eviction. Property owners found to be in violation of occupancy regulations are subject to fines and possible jail time, as set forth in the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance.

For questions concerning where your particular property lies within the zoning regulations, visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/maps and click on the Occupancy Limitations Map PDF link. Zoning information may also be found on the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) site at www.auburnalabama.org/gis.

For more information on residential occupancy, please contact the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3040.

 clip out and save

Because Every Drop Counts... Water Conservation Tip For February

Check your home for leaking faucets. A faucet leaking one drip per second can waste 200 to 240 gallons of water per month. Leaking faucets can often be repaired inexpensively by replacing worn washers and valve seals.

The City of Auburn is committed to protecting our water resources. One of the easiest and most inexpensive ways to preserve our water resources is through conservation. The American Water Works Association defines water conservation as doing more with less, not doing without. By making water conservation a year-round commitment, and not just a practice reserved for periods of rainfall deficits, we can help ensure that our water resources will sustain us.

Everyone can make a difference through water conservation. Beginning with this issue of Open Line, be sure to look for individual and household water conservation tips each month. Many times, water saving tips involve little to no monetary investment, but can help lead to significant decreases in water usage.

For more information regarding water conservation, please contact Matt Dunn with the City of Auburn Water Resource Management Department at 501-3060.



City of Auburn

Business License Renewals Due This Month

City of Auburn business license renewals are due no later than Friday, February 15. You must renew your business license by that date to avoid late fees. For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Revenue Office at 501-7239.

Love Your Heart Run & Crank Your Heart Ride

Join the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department and the Exceptional Outreach Organization on Saturday, February 9 for the 19th Annual Love Your Heart Run. This annual event benefits individuals with special needs and supports Special Olympics of Lee County, Best Buddies of Auburn University, and other therapeutic programs. Participants may choose to run or walk either a 1-mile course or the Love Your Heart 10K (6.4-mile) course. New this year is the Crank Your Heart Ride, consisting of a 3.5-mile, 11-mile, or 22-mile bike ride. All routes begin and end at Chewacla State Park.

Individuals wishing to participate in the Love Your Heart Run or Crank Your Heart Ride may visit www.loveyourheartrun.com for more information. Applications are also available at the Dean Road Recreation Center and local gyms. For more information, please visit www.loveyourheartrun.com or contact Alison Hall, City of Auburn Community Programs Director, at 501-2940.



Love Your Heart Run

Pre-Registration \$16
Registration Day-of-Run \$20

Crank Your Heart Ride

Pre-Registration \$20
Registration Day-of-Ride \$25

Love Your Heart Run & Crank Your Heart Ride

Pre-Registration \$25
Registration Day-of-Run & Ride \$30

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up COMING EVENTS



Open Line Feedback

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share? If so, please contact us at openline@auburnalabama.org or call 501-7255.



Now Available...2008 Parks and Recreation Calendar - The 2008 Parks and Recreation Calendar is now available at various City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. This free calendar lists Parks and Recreation special events, program quarters, brochure release dates, Auburn City School holidays, facility closings, athletic registration dates, City holidays and events, and much more. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Now Showing...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition - Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition. The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **Fabrications**, February 4 - 29. An exhibition featuring new works by members of Studio 222.



Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays in February...Auburn Stride Walkers Club - Citizens of all ages are invited to join the Auburn Stride Walkers Club. This club meets at various City walking trails on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. Schedules will be posted bi-monthly on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org. This program is free to the public. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.



Register by February 8...X-Cell Field Trip to Cloudmont Ski Resort - Snow skiing in Alabama? You bet! Come enjoy a day of winter fun at Alabama's only alpine ski resort on February 16 from 5 a.m. - 6 p.m. Cloudmont Ski Resort, located at Mentone, AL, has two 1,000 foot ski slopes to challenge you. This event is open to youth ages 12 - 15 years. Participants must be registered by February 8. The cost is \$50, payable in cash on the day of the trip. Cost includes admission, lift tickets, a beginner lesson, and all equipment. For more information or to register, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



Available February 11...Parks and Recreation Spring Brochure - The Parks and Recreation Spring 2008 Brochure will be available on February 11 at all City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. Be sure to pick up your copy to learn about all of the classes, programs, and special events going on in the City of Auburn this spring. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



February 24...Auburn Dog Club Fun Walk - Calling all dogs and dog owners! Join the Parks and Recreation Department for a fun walk on February 24 at 2 p.m. at Town Creek Park. Participants will meet at the Town Creek Park Pavilion. All ages are welcome; however, children 12 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Each walk will begin with a brief educational segment conducted by a representative from the Auburn University Small Animal Teaching Hospital. Walks will be at your own pace. Donations of dog food and toys will be collected for the Lee County Humane Society. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



April 26...CityFest 2008 - The Auburn CityFest Committee is now accepting applications for fine arts and arts & crafts exhibitors for CityFest 2008, presented by the *Opelika-Auburn News*. Applications are available online at www.auburncityfest.com. A limited number of spaces are available for exhibitors, so be sure to apply early. All food and non-profit vendor slots have been filled. CityFest 2008 will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For more information, visit www.auburncityfest.com or contact CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930.

Spring 2008 Parks and Recreation Registration

Youth Soccer

Online Registration will be held through February 8. Register at www.auburnalabama.org/soccer.

Walk-in Registration will be held on Wednesday, February 6 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road.

Adult Soccer

Walk-in Registration will be held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. through February 8 at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

Youth Baseball • Youth Softball • Youth T-Ball

Online Registration will be held February 1 - 10. Register at www.auburnalabama.org/baseball.

Walk-In Registration will be held on Saturday, February 9 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

Registration Reminders

- A birth certificate is required to register for any sport.
- Registration fee assistance is available through the City of Auburn Community Development Division. In order to qualify for assistance, a household must meet the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) income requirements. Funds are available for a limited time. For more information, contact the City of Auburn Community Development Division at 501-7280

For more information on registration, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.