

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

November 2011

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City of Auburn



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### Veterans Day 2011

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." The eloquent words of Elmer Davis (news reporter, author and Director of the US Office of War Information during WWII) couldn't be more appropriate as we approach Veterans Day on November 11, 2011. Each year when the wreath is laid during the Veterans Day ceremony held at the Auburn Veterans Memorial, citizens are given the chance to pay on their debt of gratitude to those brave men and women who have fought and continue to fight for our freedom.

This Veterans Day, citizens are invited to honor our service men and women by attending a special wreath laying ceremony at 10:00 a.m. which will include performances by the Drake Middle School Mixed Choir directed by Allyson Petrone and musical selections performed by bagpiper Dan Drummond. Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. will officiate. Immediately following the ceremony, a reception will be held at the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, located at 714 East Glenn Avenue.

Attendees are encouraged to park at Felton-Little Park and the Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex. Parking for the disabled will be available on Ross Street, between Glenn Avenue and Harper Avenue, which will be closed to through traffic during the ceremony. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the City Council Chambers at 141 North Ross Street.

Surrounding the monument are brick pavers in honor of individual veterans with ties to members of our community. This year, 19 new bricks honoring individual Veterans will be installed in time for the Veteran's Day Ceremony. If you would like to honor a loved one who served, new bricks are available for immediate purchase to be installed in time for Veterans Day 2012. To see all of the bricks that have been installed to date, along with information on each honoree, a photograph of each brick in the park and a map of each brick's location, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/Veterans](http://www.auburnalabama.org/Veterans).

Please join citizens in communities throughout the country on Thursday, November 11, 2011 to honor our nation's heroes. For more information on the Veterans Day Ceremony, please visit the City's website at [www.auburnalabama.org/veterans](http://www.auburnalabama.org/veterans) or contact the Economic Development Department at 501-7270.



### Audiobooks and eBooks Offered at Auburn Public Library

The Auburn Public Library is bringing more of the world to your fingertips. Auburn residents can now download audiobooks & eBooks from the library's website anytime, anywhere. Browse the collection, and download to PC, Mac®, or a mobile device. Some audio titles can also be burned to CD for listening on-the-go. To get started, you will need to install free software on your computer, such as the OverDrive® Media Console™ for audiobooks and Adobe® Digital Editions for eBooks. Downloaded titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period, so there are no late fees!

The library's new digital collection is guaranteed to have something for everyone, including best-selling novels, well-known classics, self-improvement guides, and much more. This new service is free to Auburn residents who possess a current library card. To get started downloading, visit <http://www.auburnalabama.org/library> or <http://ebooks.auburnalabama.org>.

## Safe Driving After Dark

As the sun begins to set earlier in the evenings this Fall, transportation safety becomes even more critical. According to the Alabama Department of Public Safety, approximately half of the fatal motor vehicle crashes in Alabama occur after dark.

Most of the contributing factors in night-time crashes are directly or indirectly involved with vision. Over-driving your headlights is a common and dangerous practice. You should never drive so fast that you cannot stop within the distance you can see ahead with your lights. Headlights on high beam normally illuminate the roadway about 350 feet under normal conditions. Dimming headlights when meeting or following traffic is required by law, as well as being a sensible driving practice. You must dim your headlights when within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle and within 200 feet when following another vehicle.

In most instances, when you dim your headlights, the oncoming driver will do likewise. If, after you dim your lights, the other driver fails to act likewise, do not reengage your high beams. In addition to ensuring that all lights are operating properly, keep the lenses clean. Keep all glass on your vehicle free of defects and make sure your windows are clean.

According to state law, headlights (not parking lights only) must be turned on from a half-hour after sunset to a half-hour before sunrise and during other periods of limited visibility when you cannot see clearly for at least 500 feet. At night, be especially watchful for highway signs, pedestrians, bicycles, slow-moving vehicles and animals on the road. By practicing safe driving, you can help keep Auburn's roads and streets safe for everyone.



## Toys for Tots Toy Drive Kicks Off

The Auburn Department of Public Safety may be well south of the North Pole, but that never stops the Auburn Police and Fire Divisions from an annual effort to collect toys for hundreds of Auburn families in need. The department kicked off the 2011 Toys for Tots drive on Tuesday, October 4.

Registration began at the Auburn Police Division at 161 North Ross Street on October 4. Anyone can register a child ages one through ten to receive a gift. Registration days will be each Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. with the last day to register being November 30. To be eligible a parent or legal guardian must provide a picture ID, the child's social security card or birth certificate, and two of the following three documents: current light bill; water bill; or lease/rental agreement.

Anyone wishing to donate to Toys for Tots can drop off a gift at any Auburn Fire station or the Auburn Police building at 141 Ross Street. Thanks to the generosity of Uncle Bob's Self-Storage, two remote drop off points have been established at stores located at 1231 Gatewood Drive and 2020 South College Street.

The gifts must be new but do not need to be wrapped. Helpers will place the gifts into age-appropriate categories before delivery which is scheduled during the week before Christmas. Citizens are encouraged to help make this holiday season a little brighter for families facing difficult times. All donations are greatly valued and no gift is too small.

Questions regarding the Toys for Tots drive can be directed to Debra Hoyett at the Auburn Police Division at 501-3129.

## Revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Approved by Council

At its September 20, 2011 meeting the City Council acted to adopt a revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The revision was required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of a six year project to update base flood elevations nationwide. The City of Auburn worked in conjunction with Lee County and FEMA on the initiative, which includes an updated flood insurance rate map and revised floodplain management measures. The effective date of the revised ordinance is October 27, 2011.

During the project, the City of Auburn Public Works Department made contact with property owners affected by the new floodplains. Affected property owners are encouraged to contact their insurance agent as soon as possible if they have not already done so to obtain or modify flood insurance as necessary. Property owners should be advised that the flood insurance application process starts with your local insurance agent, but must go through FEMA and could take as long as 30 days to process.

If you are not sure whether you are affected, or if you have any questions about the revised ordinance, please call the Public Works Department at 501-3000. You can visit the City's web site at [www.auburnalabama.org/maps](http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps) and use the General Interactive Map to view the new Flood Plain boundaries.

## MEETING SCHEDULE NOVEMBER

- 1 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road  
**City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 2 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 4 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 7 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 8 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 122 Tichenor Avenue  
**Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street  
**Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 10 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 15 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street  
**Library Board**, 2 p.m., Auburn Public Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- 17 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 29 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street

### Meeting times and places are subject to change.

For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/boards](http://www.auburnalabama.org/boards).

## All Aboard the Polar Express! Tickets on Sale Nov. 9 & 10

All aboard the Polar Express! Children ages 5 and up are invited to hop aboard the Polar Express on Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The "train" will depart at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Activities include arts & crafts, sweets & treats, and much more. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite holiday pajamas. Tickets for the event will be on sale Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 9 & 10, only from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The cost is \$8/person. A limited number of tickets are available and last year's event SOLD OUT. Be sure to purchase your tickets in advance! For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



## Change your clock and batteries

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6. Remember to move your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

The Auburn Fire Division encourages citizens to use the end of Daylight Saving Time as a reminder to change the batteries in smoke detectors throughout your home. A working smoke detector should be placed on every level of your home, in the kitchen, and in every bedroom.

## November Holiday Schedules

City Hall will be closed on Friday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25, in observance of Thanksgiving. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules during the holidays. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling during the week of Thanksgiving will change as follows:

### Thanksgiving Week of November 21-25

Normal Collection Day	Holiday Pick-Up Schedule
Monday	Monday, November 21
Tuesday	Tuesday, November 22
Wednesday	Wednesday, November 23
Thursday	Wednesday, November 23

Collection carts and recycled materials must be placed on the curb by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. Please avoid placing items on or near storm drains, mailboxes, utility poles, or other fixed objects. All items should be properly contained or banded so they do not fall into the street or down storm drains. All carts and collection bins must be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the following day.

## Document Shredding and Electronics Recycling Event Saturday, November 12, 2011

The City of Auburn's Environmental Services Department - Recycling Division will host a FREE Secure Document Shredding and Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Auburn Chamber of Commerce parking lot, located at 714 East Glenn Avenue. The event will be held in conjunction with America Recycles Day and in partnership with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, East Alabama Shredding and Security, Waste Recycling, Inc., and CompuPoint USA LLC.

Citizens, businesses, and non-profits will be given the opportunity to properly dispose of outdated, unwanted or broken electronics and the opportunity to safely destroy documents in a secure manner. Businesses will be limited to four archive size boxes of documents for the shredding event. Shredding contractors will only be accepting electronics for recycling and paper documents for shredding. NO HAZARDOUS WASTE will be accepted. This is a rain or shine event. For more information, please contact Environmental Services at 501-3080.

Auburn residents may recycle their electronics year-round at the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department's main office, located at 365-A North Donahue Drive. Computer-related equipment and televisions smaller than 19" are accepted by appointment only. Televisions 19" and larger may be left at curbside for collection. To make an appointment, contact the Environmental Services Department by phone at 334-501-3080 or by email at [webenvirsvvc@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webenvirsvvc@auburnalabama.org).

For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/es](http://www.auburnalabama.org/es) and click on the announcements button or contact André Richardson in the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department at 501-3084.

## Children's Garden at Auburn Public Library

Auburn Public Library patrons are encouraged to visit the Children's Garden at the library. The garden, established in March, 2011, is nestled between the Youth Services building and the Adult Services building and was created as a living science lab for children to observe and study. It is supported and maintained by the Friends of the Library and the Youth Services Librarian. Students at Auburn City Schools have also contributed time and effort to maintain it.



## Board Vacancies

- Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be filled at the November 1, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be filled at the November 15, 2011 City Council meeting.



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

# City Management

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## 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](mailto:openline@auburnalabama.org) or call 501-7255.

# up COMING EVENTS

Due to space considerations, we are unable to publicize any events that are not directly affiliated with a City department.

## Auburn Public Library

For more information, contact Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.

There are no programs the week of 11/21 – 11/26 (Thanksgiving Holiday Week)



**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10:00am for babies ages 6 – 18 months and their caregivers.

**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10:00am for toddlers ages 18 months – 3 years and their caregivers.



**Preschool Time** - Thursdays at 10:00am for preschoolers ages 3 – 5 years and their caregivers.

**Magic Tree House** - Wednesday, November 2 @ 3:30pm for students in grades K-5<sup>th</sup>.

**Tween Read** - Friday, November 4 @ 3:30pm for students in grades 4 – 7.

**Lego Play All Day** - Saturday, November 5 from 9:00am – 4:30pm for students ages 4 - 12.

**Puppet Show** - Tuesday, November 8 @ 3:30pm for ages 3-11.

**Homeschool Book Club** - Friday, November 18 @ 1:30pm for grades 6 – 12.

**Wii Play All Day** - Saturday, November 19 for students in grades 8 – 12.

**Muggle Book Club** - Tuesday, November 29 @ 4:00pm for students in grades 8 – 12.



## Parks and Recreation

For more information, contact Auburn 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, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **Photo XIII, Oct. 14 - Dec. 12.** Annual photography competition featuring works by regional artists and photographers.



The Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will be closed to the public Nov. 21 - 25 for building maintenance.

**Now Available...Applications for 5th Annual Holiday Art Sale** – Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Auburn Arts Association will host the 5th Annual Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Purchase paintings, pottery, stained glass, photography, cards, jewelry, hats, scarves, and much more from local artists! Applications for vendors are now available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts). Don't delay - only 40 vendor spaces are available. Applications may also be picked up at the Arts Center. For more information, visit us online or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



**Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in November...Auburn Stride Walkers** – Get moving with the Auburn Stride Walkers Club! Citizens of all ages are invited to join the club for walks at various City walking trails every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11 a.m. Participation is free. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.

**November 4...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer** – Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center. Citizens ages 19 and up are encouraged to play. All levels of play are welcome. No partner is necessary. The event will be held rain or shine. Yarbrough Tennis Center non-member court fees apply. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/tennis](http://www.auburnalabama.org/tennis) or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.



**November 4 - 13...AACT Fall Production: "Hairspray!"** – The Auburn Area Community Theatre (AACT) opens their fall season with the production of "Hairspray!" at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Set in the 1960's, "Hairspray!" tells the story of teenager Tracy Turnblad and her friends as they dance their way onto the "Corny Collins Show." Performances will be held Nov. 4, 5, & 9 - 12 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 6 & 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door 30 minutes prior to curtain time; however, reservations are recommended. Admission is \$15/person. For more information, or reservations, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

**Beginning December 12...Daddy-Daughter Date Night 2012 Tickets on Sale** - Tickets to Daddy-Daughter Date Night (DDDN) 2012 go on sale Monday, Dec. 12 at 8 a.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. DDDN 2012 will be held Feb. 9 - 11 at the Lexington Hotel and University Convention Center on South College Street. Last year's event SOLD OUT, so be sure to purchase your tickets early! Tickets are \$30/couple and \$5 for each additional child. Participants must live or work in Auburn to purchase tickets. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



**April 28, 2012...Auburn CityFest 2012** – Save the date! Auburn CityFest 2012, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News, is set for Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Applications for fine arts, arts & crafts, food, and non-profit exhibitors are now available online at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com). Log on today to get your application in early. Spaces fill quickly! Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact the Auburn CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930 for more information. Mark your calendars...we'll see YOU at Auburn CityFest 2012!