

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

June 2013

City Council

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2013 Citizen Survey Results Released

The results of the 2013 Citizen Survey were presented to the Auburn City Council at the Tuesday, April 16, Council meeting, with residents giving high marks to City services, the overall value received for their tax dollar and the quality of life in Auburn.

"You're clearly setting the standard for other cities," said Chris Tatham, President of the ETC Institute. During the presentation, Tatham focused on satisfaction with the quality of city services (83% satisfied, 27 points above the national average) and satisfaction with the value received for taxes and fees (77% satisfied, 30 points above the national average) calling them two of the most important measures in gauging the "health of city government."



Tatham called satisfaction with the value received for taxes "tremendous," and "a new high" in ETC's city surveys. "In most communities, fewer than half the residents give positive ratings. Here in Auburn, 77% feel good about what they're paying for their taxes and fees given the value that they get. Only 8% are dissatisfied," said Tatham. "So for every person that complains that you're not providing good value for their taxes, there are 10 people out there that actually think the exact opposite."

The survey compares results to previous years and to the national average, showing that Auburn's ratings improved or stayed the same in 59 areas since 2006, improved or stayed the same in 50 areas over last year and exceeded the national average in 57 areas. Trend analysis showed no long-term, statistically significant declines in ratings since 2006.

This year's survey showed that city leaders should continue to prioritize traffic flow management and the maintenance of city streets and facilities. The survey also highlighted local concerns about the appearance of Opelika Road and the availability of downtown parking.

"I took a look at some of the plans you have upcoming, things with parking in downtown, improvements to Opelika Road, Parks and Recreation issues you're taking a look at, they resonate very closely with the needs and expectations you see in the survey," said Tatham.

On quality of life issues, 95% of residents indicated that they are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Auburn as a place to live and raise children. 94% were satisfied with the quality of local schools, placing satisfaction with Auburn City Schools 31 points above the national average.

This year marks the City of Auburn's 26th consecutive annual survey and the 10th administered by the ETC Institute, a Kansas based research firm. The results give city leaders a scientific measure of the priorities of the community as a whole and are used in the formulation of budget and project priorities.

To see the 2013 Citizen Survey results in full, please go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/survey>.

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City of Auburn



Auburn City Schools Student Artwork to Mark Storm Drains

Five Auburn City Schools students were recognized by Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. recently for contributing art designs selected to mark 1,000 storm drains in Auburn. Designs by Kathryn Duffield, Lindsay Evermon, Rachel Robinson, Kendal Black and Soojin Park were chosen from approximately 250 entries.

The work of Auburn City Schools students currently marks about 1,400 of more than 3,100 local storm drains. With messages like "Don't Dump!" and "Only Rain Goes Down the Drain," the storm drain markers remind residents that storm drains route water directly to rivers and streams, making it vital not to accidentally or purposefully allow chemicals or debris into the storm drain system.

The Storm Drain Marker program has been a true community effort. The City of Auburn has received assistance in installing the storm drain markers from the Auburn University Student Government Association, Auburn University Service Learning courses, Auburn City Schools JROTC, the Jr. Civitans and local residents.

Pictured from left to right: Kathryn Duffield, Lindsay Evermon, Rachel Robinson, Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., Kendal Black and Soojin Park.



Summer Outdoor Movie Series

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES ALL SUMMER!

Enjoy a FREE outdoor movie with your friends and family as Auburn Parks and Recreation presents the Summer Outdoor Movie Series at Duck Samford Park - Field 1 on select Friday evenings this summer. A wide assortment of movies will be offered to cater to a variety of audiences from children to adults! Moviegoers are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair, bring food for a picnic (no alcohol or glass containers) and relax with the whole family. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase on-site. Movies will begin 15 minutes after sunset or approximately 8:30 p.m.

All movies will be shown at Duck Samford Park, Field 1. Grab a lawn chair, pack a picnic basket, sit back and enjoy the show.

Outdoor Movie Schedule

Friday, June 7 | Friday, July 12

Friday, Aug. 2 | Friday, Aug. 9 | Friday, Aug. 16

Float-N-Movies

MOVIES AT THE POOL! Auburn Parks and Recreation will host three Float-N-Movies at Samford Pool this summer! Admission is \$2/person or FREE with a 2013 Splash Pass. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own floats and arrive early to find the perfect viewing spot in the pool. Please note: space is limited at Samford Pool. Attendees will be admitted on a first come, first serve basis while space is available.

Float-N-Movies Schedule

Friday, June 21 | Friday, July 19 | Friday, Aug. 23

Visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks for movie titles and schedules. Movie titles are subject to change; cancellations may occur due to weather conditions. Like the City of Auburn on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofauburnal or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/cityofauburnal to stay up-to-date on weather cancellations.



MEETING SCHEDULE

JUNE

- 3 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 4 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
- 5 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 7 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 11 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 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
- 13 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 18 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 20 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 25 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.

Building the Future Through the Past, Brick by Brick...

Honor the military service of a friend or loved one by etching their memory in stone through the City's Veterans Memorial Park Brick Program. For a \$100 tax-deductible contribution per brick, you can help honor the men and women who have dedicated service to protecting America's freedom.

The Veterans Memorial Park is located at the corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue and serves as the site of the City's Annual Veterans Day Celebration. The featured element of the memorial is a 15-foot high obelisk, positioned centrally in the park and surrounded by brick pavers bearing the names of veterans who have been either geographically or genealogically tied to Auburn or its residents, respectively.

Each brick ordered will be engraved to your specifications. The brick will include the name, rank, branch of service, and the dates of service by the honored or memorialized veteran.

To order bricks, please print and fill out the order form at www.auburnalabama.org/veterans. Order forms should be accompanied by a \$100 payment and should be received by mail or in person by June 28, 2013 at Auburn City Hall, 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 2, Auburn, AL 36830. Checks should be made payable to the Veterans Memorial Fund.

Once your brick order has been installed at the monument, it will be viewable online at www.auburnalabama.org/veterans by clicking on the brick archive tab located on the left side of the veterans webpage.



Teachers of the Year Recognized by Auburn City Council

The Auburn City Council recognized the Auburn City Schools (ACS) Teachers of the Year at its meeting on Tuesday, April 16 for excellence in providing Auburn students with an enriching and valuable education. Auburn City Schools has been nationally recognized for its quality with Auburn High School being named the #2 Best Public High School in Alabama by *Newsweek Magazine* in 2010. The ACS Teachers of the Year are Leah Shope of the Auburn Early Education Center, Sandra Beisel of Cary Woods Elementary School, Sherri Shriver of Dean Road Elementary School, Montasha Preston of Ogletree Elementary School, Amber DeBlanc of Richland Elementary School, Dotsy Carter of Wrights Mill Road Elementary School, Heather Taylor of Yarbrough Elementary School, Jenny Ferguson of Drake Middle School, Tabitha Geiger of Auburn Junior High School, and Matt York of Auburn High School. Auburn City Schools has named Amber DeBlanc of Richland Elementary as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Matt York of Auburn High School as Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Indian Pines Recreation Authority** was announced at the May 21, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the June 18, 2013 City Council meeting.



Two vacancies on the **Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority** will be announced at the June 18, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the July 16, 2013 City Council meeting.

One vacancy on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be announced at the June 18, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the July 16, 2013 City Council meeting.

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

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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 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.

Registration for the Summer Reading Program for ages 3 through rising high school seniors continues through June 30.

Baby Time - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages birth – 18 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages 18 months - 3 years and their caregivers.

Preschool Time - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

Salmagundi – Wednesdays from 2:00–3:00 p.m. for rising K-5th grades students.

Legomania – Join us every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for “free play” with Legos®.

SHOUT – Monday, June 3 and 17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Rising 6–7 grade students are invited to take part in activities and refreshments.

Teen Café – Monday, June 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Rising 8–12 grade students are invited to take part in activities and refreshments.



Parks and Recreation

For more information on any of the events listed, or to pre-register for a program, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks.

Now Showing...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions - 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 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, May 6 - June 12. Competitive show featuring works by area artists.

Summer Invitational 2013, June 24 - July 26. New works by Natalyn Havenick Rose and Po Wiese.



Open Daily...Auburn City Pools - Splash into summer at the Auburn City Pools! Pools open for daily swim hours on Saturday, May 25. Purchase your 2013 Splash Pass weekdays at the Auburn Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Splash Passes are good for unlimited admission to Auburn City Pools all summer. Passes are \$50 for individuals and \$125 for families. Family passes are good for immediate family members, including parents or guardians and children under the age of 19, residing in the same household only. For daily pool schedules, swim lesson offerings, special events, and more, pick up a copy of the Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure.

Register through May 28...Adult Summer Softball Leagues - Registration for adult softball leagues is going on now at the Auburn Softball Complex. Participants may register through Tuesday, May 28. The cost is \$450, due in full at registration. A mandatory coaches meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28 at 7 p.m. at the Auburn Softball Complex. The season begins Monday, June 3. Men's and co-ed leagues are available.

June 22...4th Annual Day in Clay - Join Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Dean Road Ceramic Studio for a Day in Clay on Saturday, June 22. During this one-day open house, we encourage the whole family to visit our fully-equipped studio, watch demonstrations by studio members, and enjoy refreshments. Visitors looking for hands-on experience may choose to work on an adult or kids project to create for just \$10/person. All projects are led by Dean Road Ceramics Studio instructors and will be taught at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Since your handmade clay creation must have time to dry and be fired, please plan to pick up your work July 15 - 31. Everyone is invited to attend; however, reservations are required to participate in the hands-on clay projects. **Reserve a spot by contacting Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 by Friday, June 14.**

SummerNight 2013 Downtown Art Walk

It's a block party with artistic flair! Join the City of Auburn, Auburn Arts Association, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and the Downtown Auburn Merchants for the 7th Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk on Friday, June 14 from 6 – 9:30 p.m. in downtown Auburn. This FREE community event has become a summertime tradition for citizens of all ages to enjoy. Take advantage of late night shopping hours and enjoy an evening of dining, art, music, and children's activities. Local artists will have their works on display throughout downtown and many downtown merchants will be offering SummerNight specials. New this year! SummerNight 2013 will be a downtown entertainment district event.

Interested in participating in SummerNight as an artist or merchant? Please visit our website at www.auburnalabama.org/arts to download an application.

For more information, including applications, visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

Downtown streets will be closed during the event. In the event of rain, join us on Saturday, June 15.

