

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2001

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City of Auburn



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The New Auburn City Hall

The doors to the new City Hall opened to the public in late July. The offices of the Mayor and City Manager along with the departments of Finance, Economic Development, Information Technology, and Human Resource Management are now located at 144 Tichenor Avenue.

In the early 1930s, the City donated the property where the City Hall is located for the construction of a United States Post Office. The Post Office building was built in 1933 and continued

its operations until 1991 when it relocated to its current location on Opelika Road. The City of Auburn purchased the Post Office in February 1992 for \$375,000 and allowed East Alabama Food Bank to use the building for its operations until October 1997 when it moved into its new facility on Pumphrey Avenue.

The City Council approved the renovation of this building in April 1999 for use as the new City Hall. The Council's decision to relocate City offices to the downtown reflects the importance the City Council has placed on supporting the vibrancy of the downtown and preserving Auburn's unique history. As City Hall, this building returns to its roots as a vibrant center of public activity and a cornerstone of the City.

The former City Hall, located at the corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue, will soon function as the "Development Building" housing the Planning Department, Water Board Revenue office, Codes Enforcement Division of the Public Safety Department, and the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. The former library building will provide additional space for Public Safety Department functions.

All citizens are welcome and encouraged to attend the dedication ceremony of the new Auburn City Hall and tour the building on Saturday, August 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.



You are cordially invited to attend

the Dedication of the

New Auburn City Hall

on Saturday, August 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.

144 Tichenor Avenue

Diversifying Auburn's Economy

Last month, two German companies announced their intentions to locate new manufacturing facilities in Auburn. Hoerbiger Hydraulics and Stahlschmidt & Maiworm plan to begin their operations in Auburn over the next two years. These companies are a part of the on-going effort by the City to diversify Auburn's economic base.



The decision to recruit an industrial base was made in the 1970s and has been affirmed as a legitimate part of the City's mission numerous times since then. For example, Auburn citizens through the Auburn 2000/Auburn 2020 plans stated that bringing quality industrial jobs to Auburn was important for the stability and improvement of the community. With a well-rounded economic base, Auburn can ensure that it has funding for adequate infrastructure and schools.

The University community also benefits from new industry. Practically every industry that has come to Auburn over the past 20 years has a relationship with Auburn University, whether it is in research or in student employment programs. The Nursing School's unique arrangement with Briggs & Stratton has been highly successful for both Auburn University and Briggs & Stratton. Auburn University College of Engineering has been very much a part of the recruitment of the new industries.



Industries contribute vast sums directly and indirectly to the City treasury that pay for public programs and infrastructure. For example, no educational, hospital, or children's home taxes are abated. Most of the industries do not claim the abatements for the other taxes to which they are entitled under State law. Furthermore, if they do claim them, they can only get them for ten years and then the valuable property they own goes on

Cart Service Option Still Available

Auburn residents have the option to change from backdoor garbage collection to cart collection and enjoy a \$4.50 monthly savings. Almost 5000 carts are now in service in the City. The 96-gallon roll-out carts are free of charge and will be delivered to your residence. The monthly charge for roll-out garbage collection is \$15.50 per month. The current rate for backdoor collection is \$20 per month. As of October 1, the rate for backdoor collection increases to \$22. The monthly charge for the roll-out cart will remain \$15.50.



If you wish to change to a roll-out cart, it is not too late. Contact the Environmental Services Department at 887-4941 and request a Garbage Service Option Card be mailed to you. Simply fill out this card and mail it back to switch your service.

the tax rolls completely. Briggs & Stratton is the single largest property taxpayer in the City of Auburn. That amount does not include the millions of dollars of payroll paid in property taxes spent in Auburn or the dollars the company spends directly with local merchants and suppliers

Approximately 20 percent of the people who work in Auburn's industries live in Auburn. A large share of the 20 percent have lived in Auburn all their lives and sought jobs at the industries as a way to improve their lives. Very few new families move to Auburn with a new industry. Most industrial workers prefer to live in their hometowns in the five surrounding counties. They all pay the one percent occupational license fee that is used to pay for City schools and the other services provided to Auburn residents.

Three decades ago, many people who lived in Auburn not associated with Auburn University had very little money, lived in poor housing, and had minimum wage jobs. They had no benefits to pay for medical or dental needs and had no retirement saving plans. Since then, the industries that have come to Auburn pay decent wages, provide benefits, and have extensive training (many with tuition reimbursement programs). Because these jobs are now available, residents of Auburn and East Alabama have a chance for a better quality of life.



Meeting Schedule

- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - Wednesday, August 1, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Cemeteries Advisory Board** - Monday, August 6, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - Monday, August 6, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- City Council** - Tuesday, August 7, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Tree Commission** - Thursday, August 9, 4:00 PM, Development Building Conference Room.
- Planning Commission** - Thursday, August 9, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
- Water Works Board** - Monday, August 13, 4:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.
- Board of Education** - Tuesday, August 14, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
- City Council** - Tuesday, August 21, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Historic Preservation** - Tuesday, August 28, 3:00 PM, Development Building Conference Room.
- City Council Mid-Biennium Budget Review** - Tuesday, August 28, 5:00 PM, City Hall.
- Bicycle Committee** - Tuesday, August 28, 7:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.

Hey Batter . . . S-W-I-N-G!

The City of Auburn will be the proud host of three Amateur Softball Association (ASA) national softball championships during August and September.



The ASA Women's A Fast Pitch and Major Slow Pitch National Softball Championships will be held August 10 – 12. The ASA Women's A Fast Pitch tournament is the best women's tournament in the United States and attracts talented softball players from many division one colleges, former Olympic softball players, and current Olympic softball players from across the nation. This tournament features some of the

best players in the world and gives local softball fans the opportunity to watch top-level softball.

The City of Auburn will also host the ASA Coed Major National Softball Tournament on September 14 –

16. The ASA Coed Major division is the highest level of competition in coed softball.

The Auburn Softball Complex is located on South College Street behind the Hampton Inn just off Interstate 85 at Exit 51 on U.S. Highway 29. Built in 1992, the Auburn Softball Complex provides citizens a state-of-the-art recreational softball facility. The Complex has been recognized as one of the premier complexes in the nation by USA Softball magazine and was awarded the 1999 ISA & Alabama ASA Complex of the year award.

The public is encouraged to attend these exciting national softball tournaments. Adult day passes are \$4.00, student passes are \$3.00, and admission is free for children age seven and under. For additional information, please call the Auburn Softball Complex at 887-4927.



Yield for Pedestrians in the Crosswalk

Since Auburn is a community with a large number of pedestrians, the City has made several efforts to make Auburn pedestrian-friendly. These efforts are shown in the City's on-going installation of sidewalks and bike lanes. However, drivers are often not alert to pedestrians or bicyclists using crosswalks. The faster a motorist drives, the more likely he or she will be involved in a collision with a pedestrian or bicyclist. In order to keep pedestrians safe, all residents need to obey the posted speed limit and drive with caution when approaching crosswalks.

Section 32-5A-211 of the Alabama state law on pedestrians' right-of-way in crosswalks states:

"When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian



Board Vacancies

Appointments to fill the following vacancies will be made at the August 7th City Council meeting:

- **Greenspace Advisory Board** – (new board) seven vacancies
- **Tree Commission** – one vacancy
- **Historic Preservation Commission** – one vacancy

Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact one of their City Council members or notify the City Manager's Office prior to the August 7th meeting.

is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger."

Drivers should slow down when approaching a crosswalk, yield to pedestrians, and not attempt to pass in front of or around pedestrians while they are in a crosswalk. Most importantly, obey the posted speed limit. The risk of a pedestrian dying or being seriously injured from a collision rises rapidly with increasing speeds.

According to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, "In 1999, there were 4,906 pedestrian fatalities and 85,000 pedestrian injuries resulting from traffic crashes. On average, a pedestrian is injured in a traffic crash every 6 minutes and killed in one every 107 minutes." This is because motorist compliance with crosswalk right-of-way laws is often poor.

Please make note of our new contact numbers at City Hall...
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up
COMING EVENTS

ary Quilters Group. Admission is free.

Walk-in Fall Soccer Registration will be held on August 4 and again on August 11. For additional information, please call Auburn Parks and Recreation at 887-4930.

The **Auburn Softball Complex** will be the site for several national softball tournaments during August. The ASA Women's A Fast Pitch and Women's Major Slow Pitch National Championships will be played August 10-12. Opening ceremonies will be held on August 10 at 6:30 p.m. The ISA Men's A World Championship will be played August 24-26. Opening ceremonies will be held on August 24 at 6:30 p.m. Daily tickets for both tournaments are \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students, and admission is free for children age 7 and younger.

Free Recreation Swim will be held every Tuesday at Drake Pool from 1:15-5:00 p.m. until the end of summer.

Auditions for **AppleBell Productions' Fall Production** will be held August 25-26 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Art Center. Auditions are open for ages 18 years and up.

Invitational Exhibition: Realism will be open on August 29 – September 29, at the Jan Dempsey Community Art Center. This exhibition includes works by four nationally recognized artists. Admission is free.

A Contemporary Art Quilt Exhibition will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Art Center through August 24. The exhibit will display quilted works by members of the Southeast Eclectic Contemporary

Longer Water Cycle Reflected in Some Bills

The Water Works Board has been conducting an on-going water meter replacement program since April 2001 to replace existing water meters. As a result of this program, some residents will be billed on a 6-7 week cycle instead of a normal, 4-week cycle. This may result in some residents seeing slightly higher water bills during one billing cycle only sometime during the transition. During August, subdivisions that may be affected include Cloverleaf, Harmon Estates, Mill Creek, and Timberwood. Other areas may be affected in future months. A normal billing-cycle will result during the following month.



The Water Board apologizes for any inconvenience the meter replacement project might cause and asks residents to be patient during the transition. For additional information please call LaTrice Mose at 887-4911 ext. 225

Look for the Fall Parks and Recreation Brochure at Dean Road Recreation Center and City Hall on Monday, August 6.

Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn currently has vacant full-time and part-time positions in a wide range of areas. City job vacancies are listed on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org and are posted at the Alabama State Employment Office. The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.

Some of the current full-time job openings include:

- Crew Leader Streets (\$1,774.71-2,057.38/month)
- Police Officer (\$2,147.40-2,489.43/month)
- City Planner I (\$2,598.35-3,012.21/month)

For updated job opportunities, call the City of Auburn Job Line at 501-7250. Come join a winning team of employees at the City of Auburn!

Join Us at the Library

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

Toddler time is offered at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays for children ages 18 months - 3 years.

- Themes in August:
- August 6-10: Beach Week
 - August 13-17: Pioneer Week
 - August 20-24: Tooth Fairy Week
 - August 27-31: Kindness Week