

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2003

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
501-7260
bham@auburnalabama.org

Verlinda J. White, Ward 1
887-3112
VERRAC55@aol.com

Sheila H. Eckman, Ward 1
821-9666
ecko@mindspring.com

Roberta Jackel, Ward 2
887-6233
821-8221
robertajackel@bellsouth.net

Logan B. Gray, Ward 2
887-5126

K. Ted Wilson, Ward 3
887-9901
ted@wilsoninvestmentgroup.com

Dick Phelan, Ward 3
887-2071
dickphelan@yahoo.com

Carolyn G. Mathews, Ward 4
821-0161
carmat44@bellsouth.net

Gene Dulaney, Ward 4
887-7908
887-2721
gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Open Line

Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7260
fax: 334-501-7299

web:
www.auburnalabama.org
email:
dwatson@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn



Printed on
Recycled Paper

CDBG Put To Good Use

The City of Auburn was awarded over \$800,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the 2003 annual CDBG allocation. Auburn is one of thirteen cities in Alabama that is eligible to receive the CDBG funds directly from the federal government, and has received these allocations since 2000. HUD uses a formula to determine the funds provided to each eligible city that are specifically targeted to benefit low-and-moderate income residents.



Installation of the Foster Street sidewalk was funded with CDBG money.

Eligible expenditure categories include public facilities, infrastructure and public improvements, residential housing, public services, and economic development activities. In 2000, the City created a five-year Consolidated Plan, outlining the City's needs, goals, and projects to be accomplished with the block grant funds.

Projects that have been funded through block grants include the Boykin Community Center addition and renovations projects; the Westview Basketball Court project; various street resurfacing projects (Clark Avenue, Foster Street, and others); sidewalk construction (Bragg Avenue, Foster Street, Boykin Street, and others); a utility assistance program; and housing rehabilitation projects. Related activities done in conjunction with other community agencies include the Emergency Housing Rehabilitation Program, Elderly Food Services Program, Re-Cycle Bike Program, Emergency Homeless Program, and HIV/AIDS Homeless Assistance.

In 2003, CDBG projects include street resurfacing, sidewalk projects, Sam Harris Park improvements, Felton Little Park improvements, and housing, rental and utility assistance. For more information on the CDBG entitlement cities program, visit <http://www.hud.gov/progdesc/cdbgent.cfm> or contact the Economic Development Department at 501-7280.

Holiday Closure

City Hall will be closed on Friday, July 4, in honor of Independence Day. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will remain on regular schedule.





Bicycling in Auburn

In coordination with the League of American Bicyclists, the Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign has recently awarded the City an honorable mention acknowledging Auburn as a municipality that actively supports bicycling.

For a number of years, the City of Auburn has taken steps to become more bicycle friendly. In 1998, the City Council formed a Bicycle Committee to develop a Bike Plan for the City of Auburn. The Plan, adopted as part of Auburn 2020, calls for the addition of bike lanes and bike paths throughout the City. Since that time, improvements have been made to the City's bike network and a number of projects are or will soon be underway. These bike-related improvements are helping to reduce traffic congestion, safeguard air quality, and make bicycling a safer and more enjoyable mode of transportation.



Bike racks have been installed throughout the downtown area.

- Currently, six-foot bike lanes on both sides of Wright's Mill Road are nearing completion. These lanes will connect the Shell Toomer Bike Path to Binford Drive and Ogletree bike lanes.
- The proposed bike path on Wire Road from Cox Road to Chadwick Lane is now in the design process.
- The bike path proposed along Grove Hill Road will extend from Windway Drive to Moore's Mill Road and will continue on Moore's Mill Road to Rock Fence Road.
- A bike-related project will be soon be under construction at the intersection of Thach Avenue and Ross Street to complete the existing bike lane through this intersection.
- A bike lane is also planned along Martin Luther King as part of a multi-stage project to extend a bike lane from North Donahue Drive to Chadwick Lane.
- "Bikes on Roadway" signs have been installed along streets that do not have separate lanes for bicycle traffic.
- The City is also installing additional bike racks at many of the municipal complexes in order to accommodate Auburn's growing number of cyclists. Bike racks are already available at City Hall, Felton Little Park, downtown Auburn, and a number of other popular destinations in the City.
- The City staff and the Bicycle Committee are instrumental in a number of community education bicycling efforts including planning and promoting the 4th grade Bike Education program and organizing the Annual Bike Bash.



New "Bikes on Roadway" signage has been installed.



Cyclists begin Bike Bash 2002 at Ogletree Elementary School.

Anyone interested in learning more about the League of American Bicyclists, which promotes cycling for pleasure and health, should visit its website at <http://www.bikeleague.org>. Auburn also welcomes public comment at meetings of the Auburn Bicycle Committee, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Development Services Building. For more information about cycling in Auburn, visit www.auburnalabama.org/cycle/ or contact Brandy Ezelle at 887-4942.

**League of
American
Bicyclists**

Safety Tips

The dryer vent hose should be removed once a year to clean the lint from the hose. This prevents possible dryer fires and makes the dryer work more efficiently.

Looking for a Job?

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:

- Heavy Equipment Operator-Water Distribution (\$11.95-13.85/Hour)
- Sweeper Operator-Environmental Services (\$9.87-11.44/Hour)

For updated job opportunities, visit the City's website at 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.



Auburn Public Library Receives Grants

& Expands Services!

Because of two grants from the Library Services and Technology Act, Auburn Public Library now offers expanded services to users learning English as a Second Language (ESL) and to those with visual impairments. Funds from a collection development grant were used to purchase educational materials for both teachers and students of ESL, including books, videotapes, audiotapes, and software. Further, a grant to improve services to persons with disabilities funded the purchase of two computers equipped with large screen monitors and featuring WindowEyes software, which reads text aloud to users, and a video magnifier, which enlarges text and images from printed materials. The library staff hopes that the new ESL collection will be of great value to non-native speakers of English and that the new equipment in Electronic Services will help those suffering from macular degeneration and other low vision conditions to continue enjoying all the library has to offer. With so many new services now available, there has never been a better time to discover your library.



Auburn's Sales and Use Tax is Changing

As of August 1, 2003 the City's general rate for both sales and use tax will increase to 3%. This means that the total tax collected on each sale will be 8%. The State of Alabama sales tax of 4%, and the Lee County sales tax of 1%, will not change on August 1. The tax rate has increased to provide additional funding to the City school system.

For any inquiries regarding the tax change, please contact the City of Auburn Revenue Office located at 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 6, Auburn, AL 36830 or by calling 501-7227.



MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council - July 1, 7:30 PM,
Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - July 2,
4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

**Board of Zoning
Adjustment** - July 2, 4:30 PM,
Council Chamber.

Water Works Board -
July 7, 4:00 PM, Water and
Sewer Conference Room,
214 N. Donahue Drive.

**Greenspace Advisory
Board** - July 8, 11:00 AM,
City Hall Annex.

**Historic Preservation
Committee** - July 8, 3:00 PM,
Jan Dempsey Community Arts
Center.

Board of Education - July 8,
6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media
Room.

Planning Commission -
July 10, 5:00 PM, Council
Chamber.

City Council - July 15,
7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Bike Committee - July 22,
7:00 PM, Development Services
Building.

Library Board - July 24, 10:00
AM, Library Board Room.

**Cemetery Advisory
Board** - August 4, 4:00 PM, Dean
Road Recreation Center.

**Park & Recreation
Advisory Board** - August 4,
5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation
Center.

City Council - August 5,
7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - August 6,
4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

**Board of Zoning
Adjustment** - August 6,
4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

- Meeting times and places are
subject to change -

City Management

Douglas J. Watson
501-7261
City Manager
dwatson@auburnalabama.org

Wendy L. Hassett
501-7262
Assistant City Manager
whassett@auburnalabama.org

Andrea E. Jackson
501-7220
Director of Finance
ajackson@auburnalabama.org

Jeffery L. Ramsey
501-3000
Director of Public Works
jramsey@auburnalabama.org

Phillip Dunlap
501-7270
Director of Economic
Development
pdunlap@auburnalabama.org

Steven A. Reeves
501-7240
Director of Human
Resources
sreeves@auburnalabama.org

O. Clyde Prather
501-3110
Director of Public Safety
cprather@auburnalabama.org

Robert J. Juster
501-3040
Director of Planning
bjuster@auburnalabama.org

Rebecca O. Richardson
887-4930
Director of Parks and
Recreation
brichardson@auburnalabama.org

Margie B. Huffman
501-3190
Director of City Library
mhuffman@auburnalabama.org

Alfred J. Davis
501-3080
Director of Environmental
Services
adavis@auburnalabama.org

James C. Buston, III
501-7200
Director of Information
Technology
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

Rex B. Griffin, Jr.
501-3060
Director of Water
and Sewer
rgriffin@auburnalabama.org

Joe S. Bailey
501-3180
Municipal Judge
jbailey@auburnalabama.org

• • • • •

Terry Jenkins
887-2100
Auburn City Schools
Superintendent
tjenkins@auburnschools.org

up COMING EVENTS

The Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration will be held at Duck Samford Stadium on July 4. Live entertainment will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the fireworks display will begin at 9:00 p.m.

The Summer Invitational Exhibit at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will be open to the public during July 7 - August 15. The exhibit will include story boxes by Joe Dyer and quilts by Flavin Glover. Admission is free. For more information, call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4930



Young Adult Coffeehouse meets at the Auburn Public Library on Thursdays from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to participate. Topics for July are as follows: July 3 - No Program; July 10 - Survival on the Water; July 17 - Showboats; July 24 - Annual Murder Mystery Night; July 31 - Pirates and Buccaneers (and Miss Eve's Birthday Party!) For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

Visual Art Workshops for Children ages 7 and older are organized by Chi Chi Lovett and co-sponsored by the Auburn Arts Association and the Auburn University Department of Art. Session III will be held July 7-11, and Session IV will be held July 21 - 25. The workshops cost \$35. The times of both workshops are 9:30 am - 12:30 pm each day. For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

Afternoon Art for Young Children for ages 4, 5, and 6 will give pre-school children the opportunity to explore a variety of age appropriate art materials such as clay, paint, and fabric. Session II will be held July 14, 16, and 17 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25. Call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for more information at 887-4938.



Registration for an **Advanced Soccer Camp** will be accepted until July 18 at the Dean Road Recreation Center. The camp for children ages 10-18 will be held July 28-31 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Auburn Soccer Fields. A Division I college coach will direct this camp that focuses on technical refinement, combination play, and the principles of attack and defense. The fee is \$95. For more information, please contact Louis Richard at 887-4930.

Auburn Parks and Recreation **X-Cell Club Trip** to Atlanta Braves vs. New York Mets Baseball Game will be on July 19 for children ages 12 - 14. Participants leave from the Dean Road Recreation Center at 9:00 a.m. and return at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 for transportation, tickets, and chaperones. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch. Spaces are limited, so early registration is recommended. The X-Cell Club is a program designed to provide middle school youth opportunities for fellowship through activities and field trips. Contact Melissa Weldon at 887-4930 for more information.



The **Saturday Studio Workshops** presented by the Auburn Arts Association will be July 19 and August 9. Participants will work on two projects per workshop. Projects will include gourd painting, stained glass and mosaic stepping stones. Pre-registration required. The cost is \$40 per session. For more information, call Faith Nance at 826-8346 or the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

Auburn Summer Ballet Workshop, sponsored by the Auburn Arts Association and the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, will be July 21 - August 3. The Auburn Ballet Summer Workshop returns this year with "Dance in America II" celebrating our country's dance heritage. Workshop is open to children ages, 8-11 (mornings 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.) and ages, 12-18 (afternoons 1:00-5:00 p.m.) A placement class will be given on the first day. A performance showcasing the workshop students will be held August 2 and 3. For more information, call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4930.



The ASA Hot Times Classic will be held during July 25-27. Five divisions for Girls Fast Pitch will be offered: Ages 10 & under, 12 & under, 14 & under, 16 & under, and 18 & under. Ticket prices are \$6 per day and \$15 for a weekend pass. For more information, please contact Robby Carter at 887-4927.

ShopAuburn Days will be on August 1 and 2. Remember to shop locally when buying back-to-school items. A number of Auburn businesses will be offering special discounts during those days. Keep your tax dollars working for your City and your schools.



The 2003 Independent Softball Association (ISA) Women's World Championship will be held at the Auburn Softball Complex during August 15-17. Make plans now to attend this exciting tournament.