

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2011

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City of Auburn



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Auburn City Hall's 10th Anniversary

August 18, 2011 marked the tenth anniversary of City Hall at the corner of North Gay Street and Tichenor Avenue. For ten years, the center of Auburn's government has rested at the hub of Auburn's lively downtown; at the core of Auburn's identity. A block away is Toomer's Corner, where town and gown meet and the ailing, but stately, Toomer's Oaks still stand. Entrances to scores of businesses, restaurants, stores, apartments and churches, as well as 350 public parking spaces, can be found within walking distance of City Hall.

The building, listed in the National Register in 1983, is unquestionably a part of Auburn's history as the property on which it sits can be traced back to Auburn's beginnings. In 1846, Auburn Founder Judge John J. Harper deeded the property to Simeon Perry. It was the same Perry who laid out the original 2 square miles of Auburn's boundaries, incorporated in 1839.

In 1931, the City of Auburn donated the land to be used for a post office. Completed in 1933, the building served the citizens of Auburn in that capacity until 1991 when Auburn's current post office opened for business on Opelika Road.

The property came full circle when the City purchased it in 1992. From 1992 to 1997 the building functioned as the base of operations for the East Alabama Food Bank. In 1999, the Auburn City Council approved the renovation of the building for use as a new City Hall. Also in 1999, the Auburn City Council passed an ordinance establishing Auburn's Historic Preservation Commission.

These Council actions in 1999 both reflected the commitment of Mayor Bill Ham Jr., the Auburn City Council and then City Manager Dr. Douglas J. Watson to support a vibrant downtown and to preserve this important piece of Auburn's unique history. The dedication for Auburn City Hall was held on August 18, 2001, returning the building to its roots as a center of public activity and a cornerstone of the City.



Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard Secures \$20,000 for Public Safety Equipment

Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard has secured a \$10,000 grant for the Auburn Police Division, which will be used to purchase four multi-purpose night vision monoculars. This high performance equipment will enable the patrol section of the Auburn Police Division to help investigate on-going criminal activity, track down fleeing suspects and assist in search and rescue. "Speaker Hubbard has always been a strong supporter of law enforcement and our agency," said Auburn Police Chief Tommy Dawson. "This is equipment we would probably not be able to purchase if it were not for Speaker Hubbard's hard work for which we are very thankful."

Speaker Hubbard has also secured a \$10,000 grant for the Auburn Fire Division, which will be used to purchase Holmatro extrication equipment. "This hydraulic rescue tool and power pack equipment will allow firefighters to use the equipment when responding to motor vehicle collisions in which rapid extrication is needed," said Fire Chief Lee Lamar. The equipment is capable of cutting metals to allow quick access to individuals pinned in the metal framework of a vehicle, allowing for faster and safer extrication. "Again thanks to Speaker Hubbard for his grant to the City of Auburn and his commitment to the safety of our citizens," Lamar added.

Maintaining the Loveliest Village

Frequent visitors to downtown Auburn will often find Colleen Jennings caring for the downtown floral baskets, her wagon with tools and supplies not far behind. Downtown merchants, workers and residents will tell you that when you meet her, she'll greet you with a hello and a smile as she tends to the flowers that decorate College Street and Magnolia Avenue.

Auburn's beautification is truly a family affair. Colleen's husband, James Jennings, is a horticulturist and is currently the Beautification and Urban Forestry Superintendent for Auburn Parks and Recreation. Colleen and James met while students at AU. The Auburn Beautification Council (ABC) is also closely tied to the City of Auburn family. Assistant Environmental Services Director Catrina Cook is the Immediate Past President of ABC. Alvin Willis, a City of Auburn employee, works with Colleen and ABC volunteers on downtown planting in the spring and fall.

About 9 years ago the Auburn Beautification Council established funding for the lamppost hanging baskets which are replanted twice a year. When the baskets were established, the cost was \$500 per basket, and yearly maintenance costs \$250. The ABC, currently led by Kay Recknor, is a volunteer, non-profit organization which reaches out for financial support from local families, clubs, organizations, merchants and basket sponsors to maintain the baskets and other beautification projects throughout the city. "The downtown baskets have become so popular with the merchants that they would be missed if they were removed," remarked Darcie Rogers, owner of the University Barber Shop.

The downtown baskets project is not the only city project coordinated by ABC. They sponsor the Auburn Floral Trail each spring; bestow Loveliest Village awards and publicize winners in area newspapers; maintain the Rouse-Corley Garden in Kiesel Park; participate in Auburn's annual CityFest outdoor festival; assist in maintaining the historic Nunn-Winston House gardens at Kiesel Park and have planted flowers at Town Creek Cemetery. For more information on the ABC, including nomination forms for their beautification awards, visit their website at www.auburnbeautification.org.

As you visit downtown Auburn and enjoy the baskets and blooming crepe myrtles that add to the downtown atmosphere, think of those who help keep Auburn beautiful. The Auburn community is made up of individuals that are passionate about their community and are willing to give of themselves to make Auburn an even better place to live. Colleen and those who give their time to the Auburn Beautification Council personify the Auburn spirit, and it shows in downtown Auburn.



Board Vacancies

- Three vacancies (Architect, Places 1 and 2, and Engineer, Place 2) on the **Building Board of Adjustments** will be filled at the October 18, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the October 4, 2011 meeting and will be filled at the November 1, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 18, 2011 meeting and 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.



11th Annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat Monday, Oct. 31

Bring your monsters, rock stars, princesses, and superheroes to the 11th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat on Monday, Oct. 31 from 6 – 8 p.m. in downtown Auburn. This FREE, family-friendly event features giveaways from downtown "Monster Merchants" and live music from "Caterpillars of the Community." Special mystery judges will be walking around throughout the evening selecting participants for the Best Costume Contest. Even your favorite four-legged friend can be entered for a chance to win the Best Pet Costume Contest!

Help Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Downtown Merchants carve a bite out of hunger by bringing non-perishable food items with you to Downtown Trick or Treat. Collection bins will be placed throughout downtown to accept your donations. Items collected will benefit the Food Bank of East Alabama.

Downtown Trick-or-Treat is for children ages 12 years and under. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Downtown streets are subject to closing during the event. Please visit our website at www.auburnalabama.org for the latest information on street closings. For more information, or if your business or organization would like to participate, please contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Fall Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park

The Fall Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park continues on Thursdays at 6 p.m. this month. Enjoy live performances by local and regional musicians under the shade trees at one of Auburn's favorite parks. Bring the family, a picnic, lawn chairs, or a blanket and join us for an evening of entertainment. Don't forget – dogs are always welcome! Catch the remaining performances in the series:

October 6	Dave Potts
October 13	Auburn Knights Orchestra
October 20	Muse
October 27	Tony Brook Band

The Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park is a free, family-friendly event. No alcohol, please. For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

12th Annual Adventures in Art a Success Junior League of Lee County Grant Supports Efforts

The 12th Annual Adventures in Art program, hosted by Auburn Parks and Recreation and partially funded through a Community Assistance Grant from the Junior League of Lee County (JLLC), was an outstanding success. The JLLC established the Community Assistance Grant Fund to allocate resources to support community programs in the areas of literacy and the arts. According to the organization, this grant allows the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department to provide educational programs that promote the arts and give opportunities to children for intellectual, physical and emotional development which will improve self-esteem and build better citizens. The JLLC builds partnerships and seeks solutions that make a lasting impact on the community and has been instrumental in providing volunteer, leadership and funding opportunities to the Adventures in Art program. Adventures in Art is a community-based art education program that involves all fourth and fifth grade students from Auburn City Schools. This year's program focused on the preservation of Alabama blues music as a traditional and contemporary art form. Auburn Parks and Recreation would like to extend their gratitude to the JLLC for their continued support of Adventures in Art.



Auburn Beautification Council Plant Sale

The Auburn Beautification Council will host a pansy and mum sale on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 8 a.m. - Noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 S Dean Rd. Don't miss your chance to purchase flowers for fall planting! Prices range from \$6 - \$14. All proceeds from the sale go to support Auburn Beautification Council projects, including the downtown hanging baskets and plantings, Spring Azalea Trail, gardens at Kiesel Park, and beautification awards presented to Auburn homes and businesses. Individuals and businesses are encouraged to pre-order plants by Wednesday, Sept. 21. Pre-orders receive a 10% discount.

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

MEETING SCHEDULE OCTOBER

- 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**, 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
- 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.

City Employees Passionate About Meeting Community Needs

There's no doubt that City of Auburn employees are invested in their community. Not only do employees serve the public on a daily basis, but for the past three years, City employees have generously contributed more than \$30,000 annually to the United Way. "We talk about being in public service and our job is trying to assist citizens every day of the week so it's no surprise to me that our employees are willing to donate their own money," said Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager.

More than 250 employees pledged monetary contributions out of their own pockets in the City's August United Way Campaign in an effort to support 32 organizations in the Lee County area. The dollars pledged are distributed to organizations like the Auburn-based East Alabama Food Bank, which feeds 900 families each month, and the Lee County Youth Development Center, an organization who has helped hundreds of troubled teens get back on track.

In conjunction with employee pledges, the City of Auburn also hosts a Day of Caring. On this day each year, City employees donate time serving the community. Whether employees sort clothes at the local Salvation Army or landscape the playground at the Boykin Community Center, employees give back to the community. While the City of Auburn maintains a no-solicitation policy, the City has chosen to partner with the annual United Way Campaign due to its wide-spread impact in the Auburn community. The City of Auburn believes in the mission of the United Way, because it lines up closely with the mission of city government.

Whether it's through careers in public service or philanthropic contributions to the United Way, City of Auburn employees look forward to helping meet the needs of the Auburn community now and for years to come.



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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.



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.

Lego Play All Day – Wednesday, October 5 for ages 4-12 from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Magic Tree House - Wednesday, October 5 for students in grades K-5th at 3:30 p.m.



Teen Cafe – Thursday, October 6 for students in grades 8-12 at 6:30 p.m.

Tween Read – Friday, October 7 for students in grades 4-7 at 3:30 p.m.

Puppet Show - Tuesday, October 11 for ages 3-11 at 3:30 p.m. Special guest Dr. Magical Balloons.

Homeschool Book Club – Friday, October 14 for students in grades 6-12 at 1:30 p.m.

Wii Play All Day – Saturday, October 15 for ages 13-17 from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Muggle Book Club – Tuesday, October 25 for grades 8-12 at 4:00 p.m.

Teen Read Week

Bestselling Author Britney Holmes – Sunday, October 16 for grades 8-12 at 2:30 p.m., Jan Dempsey Arts Center.

Annual Hex Hall Ball – Thursday, October 20 for grades 8-12 at 6:30 p.m. Music and refreshments. Wear your best Halloween costumes! Prizes for best costumes and a King and Queen of the Ball will be crowned.



Annual Childrens' Halloween Party – Thursday, October 27 for ages 3-11 at 6:00 p.m. Wear your Halloween costumes and join us for games, crafts and fun!

Parks and Recreation

For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

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, visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **Fall Invitational**, through Oct. 7. A variety of works by regional craft persons.

• **Photo XIII Juried Exhibition**, Oct. 14 - Nov. 30. Annual photography competition featuring works by regional artists and photographers.



Now Available...Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure – Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of the Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure, available now at City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parksbrochure. The brochure is your guide to fall programs and special events, including the Fall Concert Series at Kiesel Park and Downtown Trick or Treat. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parksbrochure or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Register by September 23...Teen Scene Trip to Six Flags – Teens ages 12 - 15 are invited to grab their friends and join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a trip to Six Flags on Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. We'll see the shows, eat the treats, and ride the rides. The cost is \$30, payable in cash on the day of the trip. Participants must pre-register by Sept 23. For more information, or to register, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in October...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 9 a.m. Participation is free. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.

October 3 - 28...Youth Winter Basketball Registration – Register for youth winter basketball Oct. 3 - 28. Registration will be held weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Youth basketball is for participants ages 6 - 13 years. Players on school teams are not eligible to play. Tryouts will be held the week following registration. Players must be registered to attend tryouts. The season begins in December and continues through February. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

October 7...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer – Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on Oct. 7 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 or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

October 9...Tiger Trekkers Hiking Club Trip – Hikers ages 16 and up, join the Tiger Trekkers Hiking Club as they explore the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail on Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Don't forget to bring a day pack with water and snacks and make sure you have your hiking boots. This trip is FREE, just be sure to pre-register by Oct. 3. For more information, or to register, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

