

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens
January 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
carmat@prodigy.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



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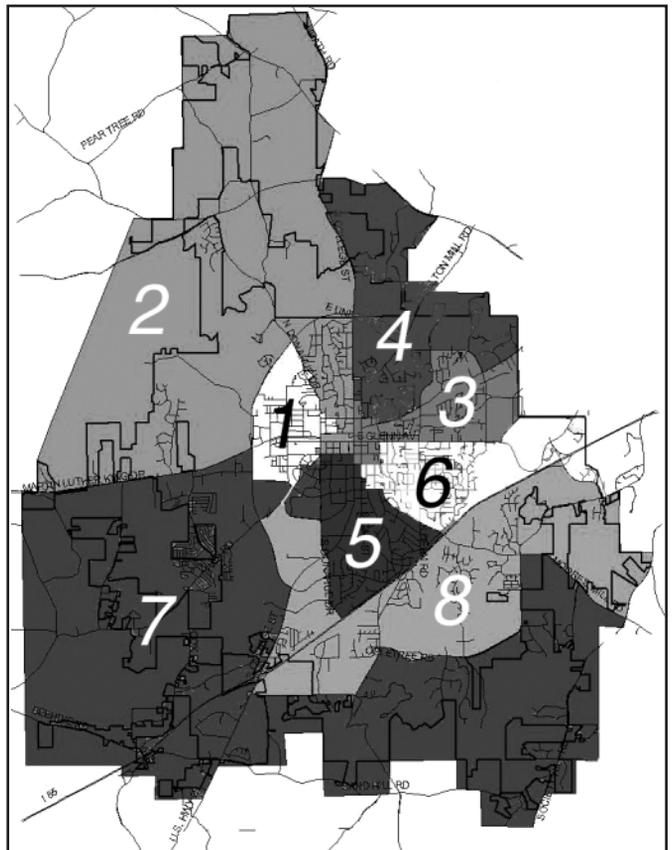
Proposed Single Member Wards

The City Council is currently considering a proposal that would change the way Auburn citizens elect their Council members. Currently, the City is divided into four wards. Each ward has two places. Ward one is geographically divided into two places, and residents vote in either place one or place two. Wards two, three, and four are not geographically divided and residents elect two council members from each of those wards.

After the 2002 municipal election, City Council members received inquiries and complaints about the current voting structure. At the request of the City Council, the City staff has developed a plan that separates wards two, three, and four in the same manner as ward one. The proposal will create eight single member wards in the City of Auburn, with each ward electing one City Council member. Ward one will remain unchanged.

Since the dual member ward system, in use since 1964, is based on State law, the State Legislature will have to authorize a change if it is approved by City Council. The US Department of Justice normally requires each voting district to include equal numbers of people based on the 2000 Census population, with a maximum 5% variance. If the City Council approves the changes, it must ultimately be approved by the Department of Justice. If the plan is approved by the Department of Justice, then the changes will be effective with the 2006 municipal election.

A public hearing will be held on this proposal at the January 21st City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. All citizens are invited to attend and voice their opinions on this proposed change.



ASA Award

The Amateur Softball Association recently awarded the City of Auburn the "James Farrell ASA Award of Excellence" for hosting three of the highest rated ASA National Tournaments of 2002. The Auburn Softball Complex hosted the 2002 Women's Major Slow Pitch, Women's C Fast Pitch, and Women's B Slow Pitch East tournaments. All of these tournaments brought softball players and fans from across the United States to Auburn.



Robby Carter, Auburn Softball Complex Manager, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Auburn at the ASA convention recently held in Reno, Nevada. The Auburn Softball Complex will be the site of the 2003 Women's Major Slow Pitch and the prestigious 2004 Women's Major Fast Pitch National Championship.

Are You Visible?



With dusk coming earlier during the winter months, Auburn walkers, joggers, and bicyclists are urged to wear reflective materials in compliance with City Ordinance 1272. This Ordinance requires reflective material to be worn from one-half hour before sunset until one-half hour before sunrise. This reflective material should be worn between the waist and shoulders on the front and back. In addition, all bicyclists must have an operating headlight on the front of their bicycles and reflectors on the front and rear spokes of the wheels and pedals. Reflective material and light colored clothing gives automobile drivers an indicator of the presence of a walker, bicyclist, or jogger. It is very difficult to spot a jogger wearing dark clothing at night, thus increasing the chances of a tragic, yet preventable accident. Please take the proper precautions when jogging, walking, or bicycling at night and make Auburn's roadways safer places for everyone.

Parking Fines Have Increased



Fines for parking in leased spaces or continuous parking with an expired meter have increased. These changes come in response to a number of requests from individuals who lease parking spaces from the City. The City Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2095 in November 2002, changing two aspects of the old parking fines structure.

Individuals illegally parked in clearly marked leased spaces will be subject to a \$50.00 fine. Fines for expired meters will remain at \$5.00 for the first violation. The second violation will carry a \$20.00 fine, and the third violation will rise to \$40.00. No more than three citations will be issued in any one day (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) for continuous violation by the same vehicle in the same parking space. All fines double unless paid in full to the City within 48 hours following the issuance of the parking citation.

Parking meters are enforced on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Leased spaces are always reserved and enforced.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Hall will be closed on New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will not be changed for those on Monday or Tuesday's route. However, Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, January 2. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, January 3.

City Hall will also be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 20. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be changed for that week. Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday, January 21. Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday, January 22. Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, January 23. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, January 24.

Reading Programs for Children



Toddler Time for children ages 18 months to 3 years is held every Thursday morning from

10:00-10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. January's themes are: 1/9-Nursery Rhymes, 1/16-Snowy Days, 1/23-Winter Animals, 1/30-ABCs and 123s.



Preschool Storytime for children ages 3-5 is held every Tuesday from 1:30-2:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 10:00-10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. The themes for January are: 1/7&8-Fairy Tales, 1/14&15-Snowy Days, 1/21&22-

Winter Animals, 1/28&29-Blankets and Quilts.

To avoid a late penalty, **dog license renewals** should be completed before January 31.

For more information on dog licenses, contact the Finance Department at 501-7220

RecycleAuburn Introduces Computer Recycling

As part of the 5th annual Auburn Recycles Day, the City unveiled a new program to recycle used computer equipment. Auburn is one of the few communities in Alabama that recycles computers. Computer equipment is accepted by appointment only because the equipment must be stored in a dry area. Please call the Environmental Services Department at 501-3080 to schedule an appointment. Items accepted include:



COMPUTER RECYCLING

- Computer Equipment
- Connectors/Cords/Wire
- Modems
- Circuit Boards
- Fax Machines
- Printers
- Communication Systems
- Mainframes
- Cell Phones
- Audio/Visual Equipment (excluding TVs)



Other items accepted at the RecycleAuburn Drop-Off Center on North Donahue Drive include aluminum, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, steel & tin, office paper, magazines, telephone books, batteries, glass, plastics, and wood waste.

City Finances Award Winning



The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001 has received an award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The GFOA Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



Auburn's CAFR was judged by an impartial panel and was found to meet the program's high standards including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users to read the CAFR. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 14,000 government finance professionals. This is the sixteenth consecutive year the City of Auburn has been recognized for its CAFR.

Fireplace Safety Tips

The fireplace season is upon us. Your fireplace should be inspected and cleaned to prevent fires. The chimney damper should be open at all times when using a wood or gas fireplace. Place a screen in front of the fireplace to prevent hot embers from getting on the floor.



MEETING SCHEDULE

Cemetery Advisory Board-

January 6, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation

Advisory Board - January 6, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council - January 7, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Board of Zoning

Adjustment - January 8, 4:30 PM, Development Service Building Conference Room.

Tree Commission - January 9, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

Water Works Board -

January 13, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory

Board - January 14, 12:30 PM, City Hall Annex.

Historic Preservation

Committee - January 14, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education -

January 14, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

City Council - January 21, 7:30 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

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

up COMING EVENTS

Contemporary Art Quilts II, a collection of new works by members of the Southeast Eclectic Quilt Guild, will be on display in the gallery of the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from January 7 until February 7. A reception will be held January 19 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. to honor work in the exhibit by local quilters. Admission is free to the exhibit and reception. For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.



Salmagundi, offered to children in grades K-5th, will meet on January 8 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. January's theme is Animal Helpers. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3196.

First Fridays for Homeschoolers will be held on January 10 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This event is for all ages, and the theme is Fairy Tales. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3196.

The **Annual PTA Reflections Exhibition**, a collection of artwork, photography, musical compositions, and literary works by Auburn City school children, will be on display in the Children's Art Gallery during January 13 - 26. The awards reception will be held on January 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. For more information, please contact Geri Looney at 826-2693.

The **RPG Book Club** will meet January 14 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. January's topic is "Conan: the Series." Contact the Auburn Public Library at 501-3190 for more information.

Young Adult Coffeehouse, a program for students in grades 6th – 12th, will meet January 16 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. January's program will feature ESL (English as a Second Language) stories. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3196.



The Second Annual **Discover Dance!** will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center January 18 from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. This free event will showcase a variety of dance styles taught at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Following the performance, guests are invited to try some of the dance moves. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Beth Cline at 887-4938.

Spring 2003 Youth Soccer Walk-in Registration will be held at the Dean Road Recreation Center on February 1 from 9:00 a.m.-noon and on February 6 from 5:30- 7:30 p.m.. For more information, please call 887-4930.

A **Public Hearing on the Village Centers Plan** will be held on February 15 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Ballroom A at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Representatives from KPS Consulting will be available to present their recommendations and answer questions. For more information, contact the Planning Department at 501-3040.



The Fourteenth Annual **Daddy-Daughter Date Night** will be held on February 8 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Space is limited, so make reservations as early as possible at Dean Road Recreation Center. Cost is \$30.00 per couple and \$5.00 for each additional child. For additional information, contact Melissa Weldon at 887-4930.

Auburn CityFest 2003, an all-day festival bringing music, arts & crafts, great food, and exciting children's activities to Kiesel Park, will be held April 26. Applications are now being considered for volunteers, corporate sponsors, vendors, artists, and craftspersons. To access the appropriate applications or to find out more about the festival, visit www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest or contact Ali Lloyd-Wallace or Sandy Estes at 887-4930.

