

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

December 2010

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## A Guided Tour to a World of Information at Your Fingertips

### The City of Auburn's Award Winning Website

Whether you have a desktop in your home office, a laptop near the couch, or a smartphone in your pocket, if you are an Auburn resident you are probably "connected". According to our latest Annual Citizen Survey, 88% of Auburn residents have Internet service in their homes. Of those, 95% use high-speed or broadband Internet. To serve such a connected community, the City of Auburn provides easily accessible, online access to the information that Auburn citizens want and need.

The City of Auburn's website at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org) is always available for citizens; a virtual annex to City Hall providing information at the click of a mouse. By making crucially important government documents available to all, the transparency of Auburn's government is enhanced. From the budget document to the zoning ordinance, and with information from every City department, the City's website houses 670 pages of information available to anyone with an Internet connection. The entire City Council packet, not just the agenda and minutes, is available online for citizen review days before the City Council meeting. Through Auburn's website, citizens can receive press releases as quickly as the media.

#### [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org)

The front page, or home page, of the City's award winning website is a dynamic, go-to destination for the most current information about Auburn. The content on this page provides timely information on items of interest to citizens, including traffic announcements, holiday pickup schedules for trash and recycling, program announcements for Parks and Recreation and the Public Library and breaking news and events related to the City. Additionally, this page offers glimpses of life in "the loveliest village" portrayed through a series of photos which scroll along the top of the page.

The front page of the City's web site is a portal to all of the information available online. With a color scheme that's true to Auburn, the orange buttons on the left help you navigate the section of the site that you're in, while the blue buttons at the top provide drop-down menus to take you anywhere on the web site. The right side of every webpage contains icons which link to key areas of interest. Just a click away from the front page are links to City Council and City Department contact information, links to information about the City's various boards and commissions, links to the current and archived Open Lines, links to job vacancies with the City, links to the Annual Citizen Survey results and much more.

#### [www.auburnalabama.org/cams](http://www.auburnalabama.org/cams)

Of special interest to Auburn's citizens and visitors are the City's six web cams, which include a camera pointed squarely at the century old Live Oak trees on the University side of Toomer's Corner. These cameras let you watch what is happening in downtown Auburn. You can catch the post-game celebrations at Toomer's Corner, monitor downtown traffic conditions and enjoy the activity during downtown events. These cameras are available for viewing 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



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City of Auburn

Printed on  
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continued on page 2

## [www.auburnalabama.org/tv](http://www.auburnalabama.org/tv)

The City of Auburn requires local cable operators to set aside a channel for government use. Locally, Channel 16 is set aside for use by the City of Auburn. In support of the Auburn community's commitment to education, the City of Auburn currently makes this channel available for programming originating from Auburn City Schools. This programming is broadcast simultaneously to Auburn's website and can be found online at [www.auburnalabama.org/tv](http://www.auburnalabama.org/tv). So when you are away from a TV but still want to watch what is happening on Channel 16, look no further than the City's website.

## [www.auburnalabama.org/maps](http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps)

The City's award winning GIS Division continues to enhance the mapping services offered online. In 2010, the Veterans Memorial Brick Archive application was launched. This is an interactive map showing the location of every brick installed around the Veteran's Memorial monument in honor of veterans with connections to Auburn. A similar application will soon be launched mapping the downtown Tiger Trail, which honors the greats in Auburn athletics. Be among the first group to know when this application is released by subscribing to the City's e-Notifier (described below).

In early 2011, the City of Auburn will take new aerial photography of the area. These photographs will be integrated with the general interactive map currently on the maps website. It is on this map that citizens can view aerial photography (current aerials are from the 2008, 2005, 2002 and 1997 projects), parcel lines, property ownership, property tax information, school zones, voting wards, zoning information and more.

The Maps section of the website also includes the new Street Routing Map, which can help plan the best route by car or by bicycle in and around Auburn, taking into account the most current information on local road closings and construction. The Public Service map on this site provides garbage collection days, voting locations, the school district, fire stations, and the fire station(s) that would respond to an address in case of emergency. Keep an eye on the City's Maps page as the GIS Division continues to innovate to find practical tools to help citizens and visitors.

## [www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier](http://www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier)

For those who wish to learn about what's happening in Auburn as it happens, the website houses an email notification system called the e-Notifier. Citizens can go to [www.auburnalabama.org/enotifier](http://www.auburnalabama.org/enotifier) and sign up to receive immediate updates on news, traffic detours, and various educational and recreational events from Parks and Recreation and the Auburn Public Library. E-Notifier subscribers choose which categories to follow, allowing emails you receive to be tailored to your individual interests.

## [Facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL)

## [Twitter.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://twitter.com/CityofAuburnAL)

In response to the public's growing interest in social media, the City launched its own Facebook and Twitter social media pages in 2009. In 2010, for the first time ever, Municipal Election results were posted live simultaneously on the City's website,

## Dog Tag Renewal

All dogs over 3 months old kept within the City of Auburn are required to have a City license. The annual fee for all spayed or neutered dogs is \$5.00; the license fee for all other dogs is \$15.00. Dog licenses are renewed each calendar year, due January 3, 2011. To avoid a late penalty, renewals should be completed by January 31, 2011. For additional information on purchasing a dog license, contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239.

Facebook and Twitter. If you are among the millions using social media, you can keep up to date with the news and announcements at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org) by following the City on Facebook ([facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://twitter.com/CityofAuburnAL)).

## Summary

The City of Auburn Information Technology Department strives to use technology to provide Auburn's citizens the information they need. We encourage every resident to take advantage of the wealth of information delivered through this cutting edge technology that's simply a click away. For more information, or if you have suggestions about the City's website, contact Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer Jim Buston at 501-7201 or by email at [webit@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webit@auburnalabama.org).

## Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Public Park & Recreation** will be filled at the December 7, 2010 City Council meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** will be announced at the December 15, 2010 meeting and will be filled at the January 18, 2011 City Council meeting.



*Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact one of their City Council members or notify the City Manager's Office.*

## 2011 Daddy-Daughter Date Night Tickets on Sale December 13

Girls, grab your dads and get ready for Daddy-Daughter Date Night (DDDN) 2011! Tickets for this annual event go on sale Monday, December 13 at the Dean Road Recreation Center and will be available from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays while supplies last. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. This event sells out quickly, so purchase your tickets early.

DDDN will be held February 10 – 12, 2011, at the Lexington Hotel on South College Street. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

### 2011 Daddy-Daughter Date Night

Thursday, February 10	5:30 – 8 p.m.
Friday, February 11	6:30 – 9 p.m.
Saturday, February 12	6:30 – 9 p.m.



## Auburn Public Safety Kicks Off Annual Toys for Tots Drive

The City of Auburn Department of Public Safety kicked off the 2010 Toys for Tots drive on October 5. The program is designed to assist families in the Auburn community by providing Christmas gifts to needy children ages one through ten.

Anyone wishing to register a child to receive a gift can do so no later than November 30 at the Auburn Police Division at 141 North Ross Street on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. To be eligible, a parent or legal guardian must provide a picture ID, the child's social security card or birth certificate, and two of the following three documents: current light bill; water bill; or lease agreement.

Anyone wishing to donate to Toys for Tots can drop off a gift at any Auburn Fire station or the Auburn Police Division. Thanks to the generosity of Uncle Bob's Self-Storage, two remote drop off points have also been established at their stores located at 1231 Gatewood Drive and 2020 South College Street.

The gifts must be new but do not need to be wrapped. Helpers will place the gifts into age appropriate categories before delivery, which is scheduled during the week before Christmas. During these tough economic times all donations are extremely important. Remember, no gift is too small.

Questions regarding the Toys for Tots drive can be directed to Debra Hoyett, Auburn Police Division, at 501-3129.



## MEETING SCHEDULE DECEMBER

- 1 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 3 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 7 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 7 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 9 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 14 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room, 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
- 16 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 21 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/boards).

## City's Community Development Division

The Community Development Division of the City of Auburn's Economic Development Department works to aid low to moderate income citizens by administering a variety of programs, including the Affordable Housing Program. One of the continuing initiatives of Community Development is to assist low to moderate income citizens with housing repairs and general or emergency home maintenance. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For more information, please contact Todd White at 501-7277 or via email at [tmwhite@auburnalabama.org](mailto:tmwhite@auburnalabama.org).

## Holiday Schedule

City Hall will be closed on Friday, December 24 for the Christmas Holiday and Friday, December 31 for the New Years Holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their normal schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will remain on the same schedule throughout the Holidays.

## Shop Auburn for the Holidays!

The holidays are here and citizens are reminded to ShopAuburn! for the holidays and keep sales tax dollars local. Revenue from Auburn's sales tax dollars funds Auburn City Schools; paving and maintaining roads; providing public services such as police and fire protection; and sponsoring community events such as Bike Bash, Downtown Trick-or-Treat, and CityFest.

Enjoy meter-free parking in downtown Auburn beginning Monday, December 13 through Friday, January 7. For more information on the ShopAuburn! Campaign, please contact the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at 887-7011. For more information on sales tax and revenue, please contact the City of Auburn Revenue Office at 501-7239.

## City of Auburn Makes Major Road Improvements

A number of road construction projects have been underway this Fall to improve the traffic infrastructure in Auburn:

- A left turn lane, an additional thru lane, and a right turn lane have been added to East University Drive at Shelton Mill Road. Motorists traveling eastbound on EUD now have the benefit of a dedicated left turn lane, right turn lane, and two thru lanes. The same improvements have been made to the westbound portion of East University Drive at Shelton Mill Road. A dedicated turn lane has also been added at Dekalb Street, a right turn lane has been added at Dean Road, and a right turn lane has been installed at Stoker Avenue.
- Turn signal changes have been made to improve traffic flow at the intersection of East University Drive and Opelika Road. Previously, vehicles could only make left turn movements during the green arrow signal for a protected turn. Vehicles will still have a protected left turn available, but are also able to turn left on green when traffic conditions permit.
- The segment of Glenn Avenue from Dean Road to East University Drive has received a new asphalt surface and temporary striping. Permanent striping has been delayed due to a national shortage of the chemical material used to manufacture thermoplastic traffic markings, and will be installed as soon as possible.
- A traffic signal was added to North College Street at Shelton Mill Road, with portions of North College Street and Shelton Mill Road receiving new asphalt surfaces and temporary striping.

The joint City/County project to replace the Donahue Road Bridge continues, with an estimated completion date of Spring 2011.

# City Management

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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](mailto: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.*



**Tuesdays in December...Baby Time** – Mothers are invited to bring their babies ages 6-18 months on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for Baby Time. The program features music, fingerplays, and books. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Preschool Story Time...Every Wednesday** – Preschoolers ages 3-5 years old are invited every Wednesday in December at 10:00 a.m. for Story Time. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Every Week in December...Toddler Time** – Toddlers ages 18 months – 3 years are invited every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. for Toddler Time. The program features music, visual aids and simple crafts. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

**Every Thursday in December...Home School Chess Club** – Open to children ages 5-13 years old each Thursday at 2:00 p.m. for Home School Chess Club. Bring your chess board and play a round of chess. A limited number of chess boards are provided by the library. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

**December 1...Magic Tree House** - Children in grades Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited on Wednesday, December 1 at 3:30 to participate in the Magic Tree House. The program features reading and a craft. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



**December 2...Teen Cafe'** – Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to Teen Cafe' on Thursday, December 2 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

**December 7...Puppet Show** – Children ages 3-11, are invited to a puppet show on Tuesday, December 7 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

**December 16...American Girl's Club** – Children in grades Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited on Thursday, December 16 at 3:30 to learn about girls who grew up in various times in history. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

**December 9...Children's Annual Holiday Party** – Children in grades 3-11 are invited to a Holiday Musical featuring the band students of Janet Sanders on Thursday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Now Showing...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition** – Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition. The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **ArTrees**, December 3 - 23. An exhibition of artistically-themed holiday trees.

**November 30...Auburn Community Orchestra Concert** – The Auburn Community Orchestra will present a free concert on Tuesday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Julie and Hal Moore Center for Excellence at Auburn High School. The public is invited to attend. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

**December 3...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer** – Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on December 3 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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/tennis) or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

**December 5...5<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Express Holiday Celebration** - Join the Auburn Arts Association and the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for the 5th Annual Polar Express Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 5 at 1 p.m. Children ages 12 years and younger are invited to join us as the Polar Express makes a stop in Auburn at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The train will depart at 1 p.m. Activities include arts & crafts, sweets & treats, holiday games, a trackless train, and much more! Children are encouraged to wear their favorite holiday pajamas. Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be available for sale Wednesday, November 10 and Friday, November 12 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

**Through December 8...Adult Basketball Registration** – Adult basketball registration will be held at the Dean Road Recreation Center Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday, November 12 - Wednesday, December 8. The cost is \$405/team. The season runs January 3 – March 11. A mandatory manager meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

**December 11...2010 Holiday Art Sale** – The Auburn Arts Association and Auburn Parks & Recreation will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, December 11 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Local artists will be selling paintings, pottery, stained glass, photography, cards, jewelry, hats, scarves and much more! Vendor applications are available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/ceramics](http://www.auburnalabama.org/ceramics) and at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963 or email us at [webparksrec@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webparksrec@auburnalabama.org).

**Register by December 16...Holiday Field Trip to the Montgomery Zoo** – Hey kids, beat those winter blues! Grab your friends and join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a holiday field trip to the Montgomery Zoo on Tuesday, December 21 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch and we'll picnic with the giraffes. This trip is open to youth in grades 3 – 6. The cost is \$15, payable in cash on the day of the trip. Don't delay – you must be registered by December 16. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

**Register by December 21...Holiday Field Trip Bowling and to the Movie** – Youth in grades 3 – 6 are invited to join Auburn Parks and Recreation for some indoor fun on Tuesday, December 28 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. We'll start the day with bowling, followed by a brown bag lunch, then take in a movie at the local theatre. Participants must wear tennis shoes and socks. The cost of the trip is \$15, payable in cash on the day of the trip. Don't miss the fun - register by December 21. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

**Sign Up Today...Auburn Parks and Recreation's Weekly Online Newsletter** – Looking for a way to stay up-to-date on Auburn Parks and Recreation news, announcements, programs and events? Sign up for LeisureLink, your weekly online newsletter from the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department. This FREE publication comes directly to your inbox each week with news and information on anything and everything related to Parks and Recreation. Sign up today at [www.auburnalabama.org/leisure](http://www.auburnalabama.org/leisure). For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/leisure](http://www.auburnalabama.org/leisure) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.