

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

December 2003

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Open Line

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Dedication of Buildings and Farewell to City Manager Doug Watson

City Manager Douglas J. Watson will retire effective December 31st after 21 years as Auburn's City Manager to take a position of tenured professor at the University of Texas at Dallas. At its October 21st meeting, the Auburn City Council passed a resolution naming the buildings on Ross Street housing the Planning Department, the Public Safety Department, the Municipal Court, the Public Works Department, and the Water Works Board the "Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex" in recognition of Dr. Watson's years of dedicated service to the City of Auburn.



The dedication of the municipal complex will be held in front of the Public Safety Administration Building on Ross Street at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10. The City of Auburn, along with Auburn University and the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, will host a community-wide reception for Doug Watson at City Hall immediately following the dedication ceremony. The public is invited to attend both events.

For additional information about the dedication ceremony or the reception, please contact Auburn City Hall at 501-7260.

Auburn's Finances are Award Winning

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the City of Auburn, Alabama for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2002. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. In order to receive the Award, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.



The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is a short (four page) report providing condensed information from the City's audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The PAFR includes the most significant financial information about the City's finances for the fiscal year. Much of this information is presented with charts and graphs to help the readers understand the City's significant financial trends. The goal of the popular report is to provide basic financial information about the City in a short, easy-to-read format.

The City's popular report can be viewed via the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/cafr/pafr.htm. Copies are also available from the receptionist at City Hall.

David F. Watkins, Auburn's Next City Manager

David F. Watkins of Lenexa, Kansas was appointed to the position of city manager by the Auburn City Council on October 21. Watkins, an Auburn graduate with a master's degree from Kansas University, will begin work on December 15. Open Line will feature a story on Mr. Watkins in the January edition.

Holiday Schedules

The Auburn Public Library will be closing at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6.

City Hall will close at noon on **Christmas Eve**, Wednesday, December 24th and will re-open on December 29th. The Auburn Public Library will close at noon on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th and will be closed on December 25 and 26. Public Safety services will be on normal schedule. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will not be changed for those on Monday's route. Tuesday's route will be picked up on Monday. Wednesday's route will be picked up on Tuesday. Thursday's route will be collected on Wednesday.



City Hall will also be closed on **New Year's Day**, Thursday, January 1. The Auburn Public Library will close at 7:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31 and will be closed on Thursday, January 1. Public Safety services will be on normal schedule. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will not be changed for those on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday's routes. However, Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, January 2.

Auburn Skateboarding Clinic... at the Skate Park



Come join Auburn Parks & Recreation and Velocity Skate Shop for a free skateboarding clinic! Come show off your moves or learn new ones from the best skaters in our area! Helmets are mandatory and skaters under 18 years of age must have a liability waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Auburn Skate Park is located at 222 E. Drake Avenue. Clinic schedule is as follows:

December 06, 2:00-3:00 p.m.- Beginners
December 06, 3:30-4:30 p.m.- Advanced
December 20, 2:00-3:00 p.m.- Beginners
December 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.- Advanced

BOARD VACANCIES



Two vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** will be announced at the December 2 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 6, 2004 City Council meeting. The incumbents are eligible for reappointment.

Two vacancies on the **Cemetery Advisory Board** will be announced at the December 16 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 20, 2004 City Council meeting. One incumbent is eligible for reappointment.

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

Meeting Schedule

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - December 2, 5:30 PM,
Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council - December 2, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - December 3, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - December 3, 4:30 PM,
Council Chamber.

Water Works Board - December 8, 4:00 PM, Water and
Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory Board - December 9, 11:00 AM, City
Hall Annex.

Historic Preservation Commission - December 9, 3:00 PM,
Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education - December 9, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-
Media Room.

Planning Commission - December 11, 5:00 PM, Council
Chamber.

City Council - December 16, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Cemetery Advisory Board - January 5, 2004, 4:00 PM,
Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - January 6, 2004, 5:30
PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council - January 6, 2004, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - January 7, 2004, 4:00 PM, City Hall
Annex.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - January 7, 2004, 4:30 PM,
Council Chamber.

Planning Commission - January 8, 2004, 5:00 PM, Council
Chamber.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

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 ongoing installation of sidewalks and bike lanes and the upcoming upgrades to crosswalks in the downtown.

However, drivers are often not alert to pedestrians or bicyclists using crosswalks. 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 being seriously injured or killed from a collision rises rapidly with increasing speeds.



By being watchful for pedestrians and being considerate drivers, we can make sure that pedestrians are safe in Auburn.

Going out of Town?

If your holiday plans include travel, a few simple precautions will help ensure the safety of your home while you are out of town.

- Have newspaper delivery temporarily stopped while you are out of town. Piles of papers on the front door step are signs the homeowner is away.
- Go to the post office and fill out a hold order for your mail.
- Put your indoor lighting on a timer so would-be burglars think the home is occupied and install outdoor

lighting with motion sensors.

- Rather than completely turning off the heat, turn it down to ensure your pipes do not freeze.
- Do not leave descriptive answering machine messages saying you are out of town.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to periodically check the house to make sure everything is safe.
- Contact the Auburn Police Division and ask that your home be placed on a "House Check" list for extra patrol. Call 501-3150 during regular business hours or the non-emergency number at 501-3100 on weekends and nights.



Safety Tips

Check all of your smoke detectors to make sure they are working properly. Replace the batteries if they are weak or dead. There should be a smoke detector outside each bedroom area and on each floor of the house. It is also a good idea to install one in each bedroom. It is a simple thing to do that could save your life and the lives of those in your family.

GreenFACTS

In an effort to educate and raise awareness in our community about the need to protect local streams, **ALOA** (the regional stream water partnership consisting of the City of **Auburn**, **Lee County**, **Opelika**, and **Auburn University**), **Save our Saugahatchee**, and **Auburn City Schools** joined together to provide streamside classroom activities. Students from **Drake Middle School** combined classroom instruction with hands on field activities to conduct water chemistry and biological assessments of a local stream.



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up COMING EVENTS



"Reading with the Tigers" reading program at the Auburn Public Library, which began in November, will continue through December. Call the Youth Services desk at 501-3196 for more information.

The **Fall Invitational 2003** at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will continue to be open to the public through December 19. The exhibit features ceramics by Stephen Cappelli and drawings and works on paper by selected regional artists. Admission is free. Please contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for more information at 887-4938.



The **Auburn Christmas Parade** will be held on Saturday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, call the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at 887-7011.



The **Dedication of the Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex** will be held on December 10 at 5:00 p.m. A reception for Dr. Watson in the lobby of City Hall will be open to the public immediately following the dedication.

The **Auburn Area Community Theater** will present scenes from Neil Simon's "Rumors" and "The Curious Savage" by John Patrick in the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 6:00 p.m. on December 6. This event is open to the public and will give the Auburn community a chance to get a taste of its newest theatre group and say goodbye to Applebell Productions. Call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for more information at 887-4938.



Please mark your calendars for the Annual **Daddy-Daughter Date Night** which will be held February 6 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Best Western. Registration begins December 8 at Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, please contact Alison Hall at 887-4930.



The results of the Mayor's Child Care Task Force telephone survey can be viewed at www.auburnalabama.org/childsurvey.