

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

April 2005

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City of Auburn

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Auburn City Fest 2005

CityFest, Auburn's largest free, outdoor arts and crafts festival, is set for Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. The City of Auburn invites the entire community to take part in this all-day event. Last year, more than 35,000 people came out to Kiesel Park to participate in the day's events. This year's 5th anniversary festivities will feature something for everyone, including arts and crafts, children's activities, delicious food, live entertainment, and special appearances.



One of the main attractions at CityFest 2005 will be the arts and crafts and fine arts exhibitors. Handmade arts and crafts and artwork from around the Southeast will fill the grounds at Kiesel Park as part of the Children's Art Exhibition, ArtFest Tent, Arts and Crafts Exhibitor Showcase, and Fine Art Exhibitor Showcase. In addition, the Juried Art Show, new to this year's CityFest, is open to artists 18 years and older who reside in Alabama and contiguous states. Six cash awards will be presented, including a \$500 best of show award. All works entered into the show will be on display in the historical Nunn Winston House on the park grounds. A preview reception for the Juried Art Show will be held in the early evening on Thursday, April 28 at Greystone Mansion. The reception is free and open to the public. All works on display will be for sale.

In addition to arts and crafts, CityFest will feature many exciting activities for children and adults, including a hot air balloon display, the Auburn University Southeastern Raptor Center, Gamma Phi Beta carnival games, more than ten whimsical interactive inflatables, The StoryMaker, an opportunity to meet and greet Auburn University sports teams, special appearances by Aubie and Smoky Bear, a non-profit vendor showcase, an Eats & Treats Alley, and many other activities and special guests.

Live musical entertainment will be presented throughout the day, featuring Nashville Star, Brad Cotter. Other performances include Mountain Hollow Band, singer/songwriter Dave Potts, Kidd Blue, mini performances by local dance studios, and a performance by the Auburn Unicycle Club.

CityFest 2005 is hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department and presented by McQuick Printing Company and the Opelika-Auburn News. The Parks and Recreation Department works with local and regional businesses throughout the year to provide sponsorships necessary to make Auburn CityFest possible.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30. CityFest is a rain or shine event. For additional information about Auburn CityFest, visit www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest or call the Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.



Ongoing Utility Mapping and Aerial Photography Projects

The City of Auburn is currently contracting with two private companies, McKim & Creed and 3001 Inc., to map the City's utility infrastructure and perform aerial photography services. All field workers have company identification with them at all times and all vehicles are appropriately marked as belonging to either the City of Auburn or their respective company.

If you have any questions about either of these projects or the crews you see in the field, please contact the Information Technology Department at 501-7200.



City's Excellent Bond Ratings Affirmed

Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, two of the national credit rating agencies, have affirmed the City's bond ratings of AA- and Aa3, respectively. The City requested a rating review in anticipation of the issuance of \$5 million of general obligation bonds to fund projects Auburn voters approved in the August 2004 Five Mill Tax Referendum. The projects include road reconstruction, the installation of traffic signals, and construction of sidewalks and bikeways throughout the City.

Both rating agencies cited Auburn's diversified revenue base, strong revenue growth, and low overall debt burden as the basis for the affirmation of the ratings. Standard & Poor's reports that "compared to other Alabama municipalities, Auburn relies on a diversified revenue stream, led by sales taxes. With only 50% of its budget dedicated to wages, and a stable municipal workforce, the City has sound expenditure flexibility. Strong revenue growth and expenditure control have allowed the City to maintain strong reserve levels."

All Auburn taxpayers benefit from this good news in the form of less interest paid on the City's bonds. For more information, contact the Finance Department at 501-7220.

Reporting Street Light Outages

To report a street light outage with Alabama Power, please call 1-800-245-2244. All outages reported to this number will be properly logged and a work order will be generated from the report. For more information, please contact Alabama Power customer service at 1-800-245-2244.

Board Vacancies

The following vacancies will be announced at upcoming City Council meetings:

- One vacancy on the **Board of Education** will be announced at the April 5 City Council meeting and will be filled at the May 3 City Council meeting. The incumbent is not eligible for reappointment.
- One vacancy on the **Indian Pines Recreation Authority** will be announced at the May 3 City Council meeting and will be filled at the June 7 City Council meeting. The 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.



Job Vacancies

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:

- **Revenue Accountant**
(**\$3,001.34-3,583.76/month**)
- **GIS Programmer/Analyst**
(**\$3,001.34-3,583.76/month**)

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.



Make a home escape plan now. Have at least two exits from every room and a designated place to meet outside. Make sure there are no locks that require a key from the inside on your exit doors or windows.

Meeting Schedule

- Cemetery Advisory Board** - April 4, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - April 5, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- City Council** - April 5, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Tree Commission** - April 6, 4:30 PM, City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - April 6, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Water Works Board** - April 11, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.
- Greenspace Advisory Board** - April 12, 11:30 AM, City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.
- Historic Preservation Commission** - April 12, 4:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.
- Board of Education** - April 12, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
- Planning Commission** - April 14, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
- City Council** - April 19, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Auburn Bicycle Committee** - April 26, 7:00 PM, Development Services Building Conference Room, 171 North Ross Street.
- Cemetery Advisory Board** - May 2, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - May 3, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- City Council** - May 3, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Tree Commission** - May 4, 4:30 PM, City Hall Conference Room.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - May 4, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Water Works Board** - May 9, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

In conjunction with the City of Auburn's celebration of Earth Week, the Environmental Services Department will host the City's 3rd Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Environmental Services Building at 365-A North Donahue Drive. This special event offers Auburn residents the opportunity to safely dispose of hazardous household chemicals, which may otherwise give rise to the potential dangers of personal exposure, fire, and contamination of the environment. The City has contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. to manage the collection and disposal of hazardous waste collected during the event.

Participation is limited to Auburn residential solid waste service customers only. Residents are asked to bring a recent water bill to demonstrate proof of residency. No farmers, commercial businesses, or industry please.

Participants are asked to limit the amount of material they submit for disposal to 20 pounds per household, with individual containers limited to 5 gallons. Larger amounts must be pre-approved. The City will also receive computer equipment for recycling during the event.

Household Hazardous Waste Day is a rain or shine event. For more information, contact the Environmental Services Department at 501-3080.

Acceptable items include:

Drain cleaners	Arts & crafts supplies
Metal polish	Floor cleaners
Photo chemicals	Radiator cleaners
Rust preventatives	Oil based paint
Wood strippers	Latex paints
Paint thinner	Solvents
Sealants	Antifreeze
Engine & radiator flushes	Transmission fluid
Old chemistry sets	Pesticides
Herbicides	Insect sprays
Brake fluids	Used engine oil
Pool chemicals	Rodent killers
Creosote	Muriatic acid (HCl)
Mothballs	Bleach
Ammonia	Cesspool cleaners
Oven cleaners	

The following items will not be accepted:

Large quantities of unknown materials	Unstable wastes
Radioactive waste, including smoke detectors	Pressurized fire extinguishers
Explosives, gunpowder, flares, and ammunition	Unknown gas cylinders
	Substances regulated by the Drug Enforcement Agency

The City of Auburn cordially invites you to a community-wide reception honoring

Mr. Forrest E. Cotten
Planning Director

Tuesday, April 5, 2005
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Auburn City Hall Lobby
144 Tichenor Avenue

Earth Week 2005

The City of Auburn will host its 3rd Annual Earth Week April 11-17. This year's theme will be in keeping with "Peace, Love, and Green, Keep Auburn Clean!" Departments throughout the City will host a variety of activities for citizens of all ages to enjoy, including a proclamation from Mayor Bill Ham, programs for children, environmental education sessions, and the City's annual Household Hazardous Waste Day. For more information about Earth Week 2005, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.



Monday, April 11 - 10:00 a.m.

The Auburn Public Library will host a puppet show, *My Friend the Earth: Stories About a Nurturing Planet*, for children ages 3-5 years.

Tuesday, April 12

Mayor Ham will sign the Earth Week Proclamation.

Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15

Auburn City School 2nd graders will create art projects at Kiesel Park incorporating the birds of Alabama. Children will learn about birds that are indigenous to Alabama and create a bird drinking fountain. The project will be administered by the staff of the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center and assisted by the Auburn Environmental Awareness Organization. Environmental Services will also conduct recycling and animal care/control education programs.

Saturday, April 16 - 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The Environmental Services Department will host the 3rd Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day. For more information, see this month's article in *Open Line*.

Sunday, April 17

The Auburn Junior High jazz band will perform at Kiesel Park.

Saturday, April 23

A local Boy Scout group is scheduled to participate in a creek clean up activity.

Auburn Beautification Council Announces "Loveliest Village Awards"

The Auburn Beautification Council is a private group of citizens dedicated to helping promote and maintain landscape excellence in Auburn area homes, businesses, and industrial sites. The Council is pleased to announce the establishment of three new awards designed to recognize citizens, businesses, and organizations that contribute to the beautification of Auburn. The two categories for the "Loveliest Village" award will include the "Loveliest Village" Inspiration Award and the "Loveliest Village" Revitalization Award. The Inspiration Award was designed to recognize landscaping that serves as an inspiration to the community at large, while the Revitalization Award was created to recognize the revitalization effort of a home, business, industrial site, or other entity that has been sustained for at least a year. In addition to these awards, the "Pat on the Back Award" is a certificate of recognition for individuals or organizations that have contributed to the beautification of Auburn through their deeds and service.

For more information on the Auburn Beautification Council or to nominate someone for an award, visit www.auburnbeautification.org or call 821-9666.



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up COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the following **Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions**. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, call 501-2963.

- **Auburn City Schools Art Exhibition:** April 4-April 13, showcase of works submitted by Auburn City Schools
- **7th Annual Juried Art Exhibition:** April 5-May 14, open to Lee County artists and craftsperson

The City of Auburn cordially invites you to a **community-wide reception** honoring Mr. Forrest E. Cotten, Planning Director, on Tuesday, April 5 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Lobby. For more information, see the invitation in this month's *Open Line* or contact City Hall at 501-7260.



Salmagundi®, offered to children in grades K-5, will meet April 6 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This month will feature *A Poetry Sampler*. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

Young Adult Coffeehouse, for students in grades 6-12, will meet April 7 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library for the *Annual Poetry Slam*. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

First Friday for Homeschoolers will meet on the second Friday this month, April 8, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This event is open to homeschoolers ages 4-11. The theme for the month is writing poetry. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



The **American Girls Club** will meet from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on April 8 at the Auburn Public Library. This meeting will feature "Kit and the 1930s." All ages are invited to attend. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

National Library Week will be held the week of April 10-16 at the Auburn Public Library. Be sure to stop by the Library to visit the displays and receive free materials throughout the week. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

A **puppet show** entitled *The Silly Poet* will be performed on April 13 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. All ages are invited to attend. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

The **Spring 2005 Mini Soccer Camp Programs** will provide instruction on the technical and tactical fundamentals of soccer to youth ages 5-16. The staff will include coaches with a variety of playing and coaching backgrounds at the high school and college levels. Each age group will train separately with a licensed ASA Staff Coach. Mini camps will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on April 15 and May 13 at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road. The cost is \$10 per mini camp, payable to the Auburn Soccer Association. Registration is Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Enrollment is limited. For more information, contact Louis Richard at 501-2943.



The **Library Book Club** will meet at the Auburn Public Library on April 19 at 6:30 p.m. Participants may read either a fiction or non-fiction book on gardening. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.

The **Auburn Community Orchestra** will present their spring concert, "Go for Baroque," on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Gallery of the Jule Collins Museum of Fine Art. Admission is free to the public. Reservations are required and seating is limited. For more information, contact Ali Wilson at 501-2936.



The Auburn Arts Association's **Annual Auction for the Arts** will be April 23 at the Auburn University Alumni Center. For more information, please call 887-2832.



Mark your calendar for **Auburn CityFest 2005** on April 30 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For more information, see this month's *Open Line*, visit the official CityFest 2005 web site at www.auburnlabama.org/cityfest, or contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.

The **Parks and Recreation Summer Quarterly Brochure** will be available on Monday, May 7 at all City facilities and online at www.auburnlabama.org/parks. Be sure to pick up an issue to learn about classes, programs, day camps, and special events offered throughout the summer. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Want to learn more about bicycling? City of Auburn traffic engineer Brandy Ezelle will discuss **bicycling for beginners** at the Auburn Public Library on May 9 at 6:30 p.m. Come learn about what to look for when buying a bike, different types of safety equipment, and basic traffic rules. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.



The **7th Annual Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast** will be held on May 30 at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center at 8:00 a.m. Tickets for this event will be on sale throughout April at City Hall or from a Veterans Committee Member for \$20 each. A memorial wreath laying service will be held immediately following the breakfast at the Veterans Monument. For additional information, contact the Economic Development Department at 501-7270.

The **13th Annual Fishing Rodeo** for children 12 years and younger will be held on June 11 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Auburn Technology Park-South Lake. All children must be accompanied by a parent. Bring your lucky fishing pole and Parks and Recreation will provide the bait. Prizes will be given for the smallest, largest, and most fish caught in the following age groups: 3-5 years, 6-8 years, 9-11 years, and 12-15 years. Don't miss out on your chance to reel in the biggest catch of the year. There is a limit of five fish per child. Registration is \$5 per child, payable to the City of Auburn. Registration and payment will be accepted the morning of the event. For more information, contact Alison Hall at 501-2940.

