

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

April 2013

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City of Auburn



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### Auburn CityFest 2013

#### Presented by the Opelika-Auburn News

It's time for one of Auburn's favorite spring traditions - Auburn CityFest 2013, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News. Join Auburn Parks and Recreation as we host this annual event on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. CityFest is Auburn's largest, FREE, outdoor festival featuring live music, children's activities, arts & crafts and fine arts exhibitors, food, non-profit booths, and much more! CityFest is FREE to the public and is a rain or shine event.

Enjoy a CityFest with Caribbean flair as the Auburn CityFest Committee welcomes its headlining entertainment, A1A, the official and original Jimmy Buffett tribute show. Enjoy other live musical entertainment by the UAB Steel Drum Band and local favorite, Martha's Trouble!

Prepare yourself for sharks in the park as the Children's Imagination Station welcomes the Live Shark Encounter – the only traveling shark show in the United States! This educational encounter brings you up close and personal with several live species of sharks in a 7,000 gallon tank.

Don't miss CityFest favorites such as inflatables, face painting, an ArtFest tent, and visits with Aubie for the kids; shopping with over 80 unique arts & crafts and fine arts vendors; a non-profit showcase; Juried Art Exhibition; booths from our community sponsors; and much more!

Interested in becoming a part of the excitement? Arts & crafts, fine arts, and volunteer applications are available online at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com).

For more information, visit [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com), or contact the Auburn City-Fest Headquarters at 501-2930.

### 9th Annual Auburn CityFest Juried Art Exhibition and Preview Reception

The 9th Annual Juried Art Show will be held in conjunction with Auburn CityFest. The show features pieces submitted by artists from across the Southeast. The day of the festival, Artwork will be on display at the Historic Nunn-Winston House located at Kiesel Park. A preview reception honoring the artists will be held on Thursday, April 25 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Nunn-Winston House. The event is free and open to the public.

The Auburn Arts Association is currently accepting pieces for the show, due by Tuesday, April 16. To participate, download an application at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com).

### 2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Environmental Services will host its 9th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Environmental Services Complex, located at 365-A North Donahue Drive. Last year's event was a success with the participation of 251 Auburn citizens who disposed of varied hazardous chemicals, materials, computers and related equipment for recycling and/or disposal.

Citizens may bring up to 20 pounds of materials per household for disposal. Participation is limited to Auburn residents. Proof of residency can be shown by bringing a recent water bill. No farm, commercial, or industrial waste is permitted. Below are items that are acceptable as well as those items that will not be accepted:

**Acceptable Items:** adhesives, glues, resins, aerosol cans, ammonia, antifreeze, bleach, brake fluid, car batteries, dry cell batteries, hearing aid batteries, NiCad batteries, cesspool cleaners, creosote, drain cleaners, engine de-greasers, engine & radiator flushes, transmission fluid, radiator cleaners, floor cleaners, gasoline, herbicides, insect sprays, kerosene, latex paints, metal, polishes, mothballs, muriatic acid (HCl), oil based paints, old chemistry sets, oven cleaners, paint thinners, pesticides, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, rodent killers, rust preventatives, sealants, solvents, spot removers, used engine oil, varnishes, weed killers, wood preservatives, wood stains, wood strippers

**Unacceptable Items:** ammunition, explosives, fire extinguishers, flares, gunpowder, radioactive waste, smoke detectors, substances regulated by the DEA, unknown gas cylinders, unknown materials, unstable wastes

Please contact Environmental Services at 501-3080 or email us at [webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org) if you have further questions.

## City of Auburn Flood Protection & Preparation Information

The City of Auburn completed its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Assistance Visit on June 5, 2012. Finding a proficient and well organized floodplain management system within the City of Auburn, the NFIP has recommended to the City that it participate in the Community Rating System (CRS), which could help residents with their flood insurance premiums, as well as benefiting the entire community through awareness. In the spirit of the CRS program, this Open Line feature is dedicated to information for residents regarding floodplains in the City of Auburn.

### Local Flood Hazard

The City of Auburn has an annual precipitation of 52.6 inches. During the last ten years the largest local rain events occurred in May 2003, March 2005, June 2005, November 2006, December 2009, July 2011, and November 2011. During major storm events flash flooding can occur when drainage courses overflow and flood. Local water bodies and roadways subject to flooding include:

**Local Water Bodies:** Choctafaula Creek, Parkerson Mill Creek, Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, Lake Chewacla, Lake Ogletree, Saugahatchee Creek, and Little Loblockee Creek.

**Roadways:** North Donahue Drive Bridge, Water Crest Drive Bridge, East University Drive Bridge (at Summertrees Drive), Moores Mill Road Bridge (at Forestdale Drive), Wind Way Road Bridge, and Ogletree Road Bridge (north of Oak Knoll Circle).

### Flood Warning

The City of Auburn works with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency to give citizens ample warning in cases of emergency. Emergency messages are broadcasted through local radio and TV stations including:

Radio: 95.9 FM WTGZ, 95.9 FM WQSI, 97.7 FM WKKR, 98.7 FM WANI, 94.3 FM WGZZ

TV: WRBL 3, FOX 54, WTVM 9, WSFA 12, and The Weather Channel (channel numbers vary based on service provider)

In the event of heavy rains, it is essential to monitor television and/or radio weather broadcasts for up-to-date forecasts on tornadoes, hurricanes, or flash floods. Please contact the City of Auburn Public Safety Department at 911 for any emergencies and 334-501-3100 for any non-emergencies.

### Flood Safety

Safety is a **must** when it comes to possible flooding in our area. The following tips can keep you and your family from harm:

- **Do not walk through flowing waters.**
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.**
- **Stay away from power and electrical lines.**
- **Shut off all gas and water valves.**
- **Have a departure plan in case of emergency.**

Additional emergency preparedness tips can be found on page 14 of the 2012-2013 Auburn-Opelika Real Yellow Pages Telephone book.

### Property Protection Measures

During the past 100 years, flooding has been the number one cause of property damage in North America each year. Property owners can apply permanent retrofitting techniques that can help to eliminate or reduce flood damage:

- **Elevating your house 1 ft. above the base flood elevation.**
- **Flood proofing your house to make the walls and flooring watertight so that water cannot enter.**

- **If you know you are in a flood prone area, flood-vent the crawl space under your home so that water can flow through.**

The City of Auburn Public Works Department is available for site visits to review flooding, drainage and sewage issues and to provide one-on-one advice to the property owner on appropriate flood protection measures. We are also available to assist in reviewing and critiquing retrofit plans for flood-prone residences and buildings.

### Are You Insured?

The City of Auburn is an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and plays a leading role in keeping citizens informed regarding the local floodplain and how it can affect their property. Even if your property is not located in a high risk flood area it is a good idea to buy flood insurance, as 25% of all flood insurance claims come from areas with minimal flood risk. Two important facts that citizens should know are:

- **Homeowner's insurance policies DO NOT cover flood damages or losses.**
- **Insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period BEFORE coverage goes into effect.**

There are two types of Flood Insurance Coverage offered: 1. Building Property, up to \$250,000, and 2. Personal Property (Contents), up to \$100,000. The NFIP encourages people to purchase both types of coverage. Your mortgage company can also require that you purchase a certain amount of flood insurance.

### Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

To ensure the highest degree of safety, the Public Safety Codes Enforcement Division enforces all adopted building, fire and related codes in the City of Auburn. Please be advised that a permit is required for ALL construction in the City of Auburn. Any development without a permit is non-compliant and may result in fines. If you know of any development taking place without the required permits or would like to verify a contractor's license, please contact the City of Auburn Codes Enforcement Division, located at 171 North Ross Street (Suite 100), at 334-501-3170.

### Substantial Improvement Requirements

In order to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the City of Auburn has adopted regulations and codes that apply to new developments in floodplains. Local floodplain management regulations and codes contain minimum NFIP requirements that apply not only to new structures, but also to existing structures which are "substantially improved (SI)" or "substantially damaged (SD)."

**"Substantially Damaged"** means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before damage occurred.

**"Substantially Improved"** means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure

before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage," regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The City of Auburn requires an elevation of 1 ft. above the base flood elevation for new construction and for existing structures before they are repaired.

## Do You Live In Or Around a Special Flood Hazard Area?

The City of Auburn Public Works Department is available to assist in providing more information on whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Upon request, the following Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information will be provided: The community number, the map panel number and suffix, the date of the FIRM's Index, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) shown on the FIRM, the elevation datum used on the FIRM, and the availability of Elevation Certificates (EC's) for review. For more general information, you can view your property in relation to local floodplains online using the City's interactive mapping system at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps>.

## Drainage System Maintenance

The City of Auburn's Public Works Department maintains the storm drainage system, helping to keep the creeks and streams in the City of Auburn clean and free of debris and pollutants. In order for the drainage system to operate efficiently, ditches, streams,

and channels must be kept clean. Debris, including leaves and grass clippings, can obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and yards. Residents and business and property owners can play a huge role in this effort by maintaining ditches and streams on their property and by notifying the City when maintenance is needed in the right of way.

The City Code prohibits taking any action that can impede the flow of water in ditches and waterways. If you know of any illegal dumping of debris or any action that could affect the drainage system, please contact the Public Works Department at 334-501-3000.

## Natural and Beneficial Functions of the Local Floodplain

Floodplain areas and wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. Flood control and water quality are the two most important aspects of our local floodplain. Wetlands absorb water during heavy rainfall or flooding and slowly release the waters downstream, reducing flood damage. Wetlands and wetland plants help to absorb and filter potentially harmful chemicals and pollutants. The City of Auburn is home to several identified, undeveloped floodplain areas which provide recreation, education, and research important to our local economy. Several successful projects have been implemented to protect the City of Auburn's valuable wetlands including: the Town Creek Park Stream Restoration, a Pocket Wetland at the County Dumpster/Compactor Site, Parkerson Mill Creek Clean-Ups, and the wetlands located at Wrights Mill Road Elementary School.

For more information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, please contact the Public Works Department at 171 North Ross Street Suite 200, 334-501-3000

Or visit our website at [www.auburnalabama.org/pw](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pw).

## MEETING SCHEDULE APRIL

- 1 **Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 2 **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
- 3 **Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 5 **Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 9 **Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 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
- 11 **Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 16 **City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 18 **Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 30 **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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/boards).

## Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Library Board** was announced at the March 5, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the April 2, 2013 City Council meeting.



Two vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission** were announced at the March 19, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the April 2, 2013 City Council meeting.

One vacancy on the **Board of Education** will be announced at the April 2 2013 meeting and will be filled at the May 7, 2013 City Council meeting.

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

## Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale

The Friends of Auburn Public Library will hold their spring book sale on Saturday, March 23, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on the lawn of the Auburn Public Library, located at 749 East Thach Avenue. The sale is open to the public, and hundreds of gently used books will be offered for sale, including bestsellers, classics, fiction, nonfiction, textbooks, and children's books. All proceeds benefit the Auburn Public Library. If you would like more information about the book sale, or if you're interested in volunteering or joining the Friends of the Auburn Public Library, please call 334-501-3190.

# 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.*

## Auburn Public Library

For more information, contact the Auburn Public Library Youth Services Division at 501-3196.

**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages birth – 18 months and their caregivers.

**First Steps Storytime** – Beginning January, First Steps and Baby Lapsit will be discontinued. Please join us for baby Time or Toddler time.

**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages 18 months - 3 years and their caregivers.

**Preschool Time** - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

**Legomania** – Every Saturday in April from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for students ages 4-12. Join us every Saturday of the month all day for “free play” with Legos®.

**Magic Tree House Club** – Wednesday, April 3 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

**Puppet Show** - Tuesday, April 9 at 3:30 p.m. for children ages 3-10.

**American Girl's Club** - Thursday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

### Programs for Tweens and Teens

**SHOUT: Lights! Camera! Action! Mini Movie Project** – Monday, April 8 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. for students in grades 6-7. Prepare for lots of laughs as you direct, act in, and create your own short movie based on your favorite book!

**SHOUT: Project Dig! T&T Herb Garden** – Monday, April 22 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. for students in grades 6-7. Prepare to get your hands dirty, learn from an expert gardener and have fun helping create an amazing tween garden.

**Teen Cafe'** - Thursdays, April 4 and April 18 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Students in grades 8 – 12 are invited for fun activities and refreshments including a constructing a herb garden on April 4 and making fun crafts on April 18.



## Bike Bash 2013

The City of Auburn and the Auburn Bicycle Committee will host Bike Bash 2013 on Saturday, April 13 at Chewacla State Park. This annual event encourages biking activities, endorses bicycle safety, promotes the health benefits of this great leisure sport, and emphasizes local bike-friendly trails and areas. Route distances of 3 - 30 miles through a variety of Auburn neighborhoods will be offered for riders of all skill levels. New this year – riders can take advantage of the new mountain biking trails at Chewacla and ride distances of 1 – 15 miles.

### Registration

Pre-registration is going on now. Visit [www.auburnalabama.org/cycle](http://www.auburnalabama.org/cycle) and follow the links to register. Registration forms are also available at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Day-of registration will be accepted beginning at 8 a.m. Registration fees include the ride, t-shirt, and a goody bag.

	Pre-Registration	Day-of Registration
Ages 13 & up	\$14	\$16
Ages 12 & under	\$12	\$14
Family Rate *	\$32	\$37

\*Family Rate: Three or more individuals living in one household. Limit of four t-shirts/family.

### Rides and Start Times

Extended Ride (appx 30 miles/15 miles Mountain Bike)	8:45 a.m.
Long Ride (appx 24 miles/10 miles Mountain Bike)	9 a.m.
Medium Ride (appx 9 miles/4 miles Mountain Bike)	9:30 a.m.
Short Ride (appx 3 miles/1 mile Mountain Bike)	10 a.m.

In addition to information booths, refreshments, and musical entertainment, door prizes will be awarded at 11 a.m.!

Don't miss your chance to pull your bicycles out of storage, pump up the tires, grab your helmet, and explore Auburn's bicycling community on Saturday, April 13! See you there!