

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2014

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City of Auburn



### Citizens Rate Auburn at an All-Time High

The results of the 2014 Citizen Survey were presented to the Auburn City Council at the Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, with residents giving high marks to City leadership, City services, Auburn City Schools and the value received for their tax dollars.

"Results this year are among the best they've ever been," said Chris Tatham, President of the ETC Institute, a Kansas based research firm. "Overall satisfaction with city services is at an all-time high."

Tatham began the presentation by summarizing the results of this year's survey with five major findings:

- Residents have a very positive perception of the City
- The City of Auburn is moving in the right direction
- The City of Auburn is equitably serving the needs of residents in all areas of the City
- Auburn is setting the standard for the delivery of City services, with satisfaction measures among the highest nationally
- Residents are more satisfied with local traffic flow and infrastructure, with further improvements no longer rated a "very high" priority.

*"You're now clearly setting the standard in a number of areas."*

– Chris Tatham

### Quality and Direction

Ninety-two percent (92%) of residents ranked the overall quality of life in the City as "good" or "excellent," with 96% ranking Auburn as a "good" or "excellent" place to live. Tatham remarked that the ranking for Auburn as a place to work (82% good or excellent - 22 points above the national average) "suggests that you'll continue to thrive economically in the years ahead."

Eighty-six percent (86%) of residents gave positive ratings to City services, an all-time high for that measure. "One in three give you a five on a five-point scale and only 2% give you negative ratings. So for every person that doesn't like what you're doing, there are 43 out there that actually feel pretty good about the City's progress," said Tatham.

The ranking for value received for tax dollars and fees tells a similar story. "Only 5% of residents gave negative ratings, yet 76% gave positive ratings and you are at the national high," Tatham said. "Of hundreds of communities in our database, you are giving the most value to your residents."

Since 2006, the City's rankings have significantly improved in 53 areas measured, with no statistically significant decreases in the same time frame. "A number of areas, over half, have improved by 10% or more." Similarly, since 2013, ratings significantly improved in 51 areas, with only two statistically significant decreases.

Auburn rated above the national average in 58 of 60 areas, with 49 areas significantly above the national average, and 42 areas beating the national average by 10 points or more. "You're now clearly setting the standard in a number of areas," said Tatham.

### Traffic and Infrastructure

According to Tatham, one of the most notable outcomes of this year's survey is the satisfaction level with local traffic flow and city infrastructure. This is the first of the 11 citizen surveys conducted by ETC in which residents' overall satisfaction with traffic flow has resulted in further improvement being ranked a "high" priority, instead of a "very high" priority. Similarly, the priority level of infrastructure

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improvements dropped to "medium." "Two of your biggest issues have seen gradual improvement over many years, and I think that's one reason residents feel so good about the direction in which the City is heading" said Tatham.

Rankings for traffic flow have increased from 43% positive in 2006, which was significantly below the national average, to 63% positive this year, now significantly above the national average. Similarly, city infrastructure has improved from 60% positive in 2006 to 75% positive this year. "This is also the first year you have more people giving you a rating of 5 for traffic flow, which means very satisfied, vs. [people who give you a rating of] dissatisfied, so the investments you've made over many years have clearly paid off."

*"It's clearly evident in the data that you're making decisions based on what residents needs are."*

— Chris Tatham

### Leadership

Residents' rank the effectiveness of the City Manager at 71% positive, compared to the national average of 55%. Elected officials are also ranked positively by 68% of residents, 12 points above the national average. Residents also rank the effectiveness of appointed boards and commissions at 12 points above the national average. Satisfaction with the level of public involvement in decision-making comes in at 7 points above the national average.

"There's only a handful of cities that I work with that I really get excited about their survey results because I see that they're actually using it over time. It's clearly evident in the data that you're making decisions based on what residents needs are," said Tatham.

### Survey

This year marks the City of Auburn's 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual survey and the 11<sup>th</sup> administered by the ETC Institute. The results give city leaders a scientifically valid measure of the priorities of the community as a whole, and are used in the formulation of budget and project priorities.

To see the 2014 Citizen Survey results in full, please go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/survey>.

## Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the **Planning Commission** will be announced at the June 17, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the July 15, 2014 City Council meeting.

Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be announced at the July 1, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the August 5, 2014 City Council meeting.

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



## Annual Fourth of July Celebration Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton

Friday, July 4, behind the home field side of the Duck Sanford Football Stadium, celebrate Independence Day with the entire Auburn Community, Auburn Parks and Recreation, and Briggs and Stratton. Enjoy great food, LIVE music, free goodies courtesy of Briggs and Stratton, and THE best fireworks display in the entire area!

Grab your picnic basket, blanket, and the family and join us for a fabulous night of entertainment and a chance to show your patriotic spirit! Gates open at 6 p.m. Purchase an all American picnic-style dinner of barbecue with all of the fixings, enjoy tasty ice cream treats, and enjoy FREE balloon animals for the kids! Live music begins at 7 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9 p.m.

**REMINDER:** The parking lot off of Airport Road will be closed to the public during the event to accommodate our fireworks shoot site. The parking lot off of East University Drive (across from the daycare) will be OPEN to the public for parking.

In case of rain, join us for the fireworks only on Saturday, July 5 at 9 p.m. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) and follow the City of Auburn on Facebook or Twitter for weather updates.



## City of Auburn Holiday Schedule for the Week of July 4th

**Auburn, Ala.** - Auburn City Hall will be closed on Friday, July 4th in recognition of Independence Day.

**Public Safety Department:** Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules during the holiday.

**Environmental Services Department:** Collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of July 2-6 will not change during the holiday week.

Normal Collection Day	Holiday Collection Schedule
Monday	No Change
Tuesday	No Change
Wednesday	No Change
Thursday	No Change

Collection carts and recycled materials should be placed at the curb by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. Please avoid placing items on or near storm drains, mailboxes, utility poles, or other fixed objects. All items should be properly contained or bundled so they do not fall into the street or down storm drains. All carts and collection bins must be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the following day.

For more information, please call Auburn City Hall at 501-7260.



## Auburn Public Library Genealogy 101

In celebration of Family Reunion Month in July, the Auburn Public Library (APL) will present "Genealogy 101." Join us in the library's board room on the following Thursday afternoons beginning at 2:00 p.m.:

July 10 – Getting Started in Genealogy

July 17 – Using Ancestry.com and other online resources

July 24 – Tips on researching African-American Ancestors

July 31 – Making the most of Census Records

Registration is not required. Beginners are the target audience for these classes. Please call the Auburn Public Library at (334) 501-3194 for more information.

**"Fizz, Boom, Read!"** The Auburn Public Library announces "Fizz, Boom, Read!, our 2014 Summer Reading Program! Registration begins Friday, May 23, and will continue until June 30. Kids ages 2-6 may register for the Early Literacy Reading Program. Children ages 6-11 who read on their own may register for the Juvenile Reading Program. All kids who reach their goal by August 1 will receive an invitation to our end-of-the-summer Ice Cream Party and earn one entry into our grand prize drawing. Our prizes for 2014 include a LeapPad2 for the Early Literacy Program participants and a Kindle Fire for the Juvenile Reading Program participants! For more information please contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

**"Spark a Reaction!" at the Auburn Public Library.** The Auburn Public Library will begin registration for the 2014 Summer Reading Program "Spark a Reaction!" on Friday, May 23. Registration will continue until June 30. Students in rising grades 6-12 may participate. Those who meet a goal of 18 books by August 1 will be eligible for entry in our grand prize drawing for an Amazon Kindle! For more information, please contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

**Library Storytimes: Now Twice the Fun!** The Auburn Public Library is happy to announce additional storytimes! Beginning June 2, library staff will offer the ever popular storytime programs at both 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Join us at the Auburn Public Library for stories and fun on Tuesdays for Baby Time, Wednesdays for Toddler Time, and Thursdays for Preschool Time. For more information, please contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

## Outstanding Planning Award

The City of Auburn Planning Department received the "2014 Outstanding Planning Award for a Plan or Planning Program" for the "Renew Opelika Road" plan at the American Planning Association - Alabama Chapter's (ALAPA) 2014 awards luncheon on Friday, May 16th in Prattville, Alabama.

During the CompPlan 2030 process, the Opelika Road area was identified as one of the City's most important commercial corridors and a prime candidate for revitalization and reinvestment. The resulting initiative, "Renew Opelika Road," was unanimously passed by the Auburn City Council and is now in the implementation stage. Both plans were characterized by significant public and stakeholder input as they developed.

According to ALAPA, criteria for the Outstanding Planning Award includes innovation, comprehensiveness, public participation and transferability as a plan that could be adapted for use by other cities.



## MEETING SCHEDULE

### JULY

- 1 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 2 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 7 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 8 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 10 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 15 Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 17 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 22 Library Board**, 2 p.m., Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue

**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).**

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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 501-7266.

# 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 Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.

There will be no programs the week of June 29 – July 5. The library is closed on Friday, July 4.

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS

**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00p.m. for ages birth – 18 months and their caregivers.

**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00p.m. for ages 18 months - 3 years and their caregivers.

**Preschool Time** - Thursdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00p.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

**Legomania** – Join us every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for “free play” with Legos®.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**LitWits Reading Club** Tuesdays 7/8 & 7/22 @ 3:30p.m. for ages 13 and up. For more information call Youth Services, 501-3196.

**SHOUT!** Thursdays @ 3:30 for rising grades 5 - 7

**Teen Café**, Thursdays @ 6:30 for rising grades 8 - 12

**Salmagundi**, Wednesdays @ 2:00 for rising grades K – 5

**Batman Day**, Saturday, 7/26 – join us to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Caped Crusader with crafts, activities, and more! For more information call Youth Services, 501-3196.

## Parks and Recreation

**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.

**Summer Invitational 2014**, July 7 - 31. Recent works by area artists and craftpersons.

**Open Daily...Auburn City Pools** - The Auburn City Pools are open for daily swim hours! Purchase your 2014 Splash Pass at the Harris Center, 425 Perry Street, weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Splash Passes are good for unlimited admission to Auburn City Pools all summer. Passes are \$50 for individuals and \$125 for families. Family passes are good for immediate family members, including parents or guardians and children under the age of 19, residing in the same household only. For daily pool schedules, swim lesson offerings, special events, and more, pick up a copy of the Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure and be sure to visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/pools](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pools).

**Register by July 10...Sports Camp** - Join us for an exciting five-day camp aimed at providing boys and girls with a wide range of sports activities July 14 - 18 from 9 a.m. - Noon. Campers will have the opportunity to participate in a different sport each day. Sports include baseball, soccer, tennis, swimming, and basketball. Camp will be held at a different Parks and Recreation facility each day. The cost is \$50/camper. Pre-registration is required by July 10. Register online at [www.auburnalabama.org/athletics](http://www.auburnalabama.org/athletics).

**Register by July 3...Rising Tiger, Junior, and Senior Soccer Camps** - The Auburn Soccer Association will host Rising Tiger (ages 4 - 7), Junior (ages 8 - 12), and Senior (ages 13 - 15) soccer camps July 7 - 10 at the Auburn Soccer Complex. These camps offer youth an opportunity to receive instruction from college and high school coaches and players. Rising Tiger camp is from 5 - 7:30 p.m. each day and the cost is \$70/camper. Junior and Senior camp is from 5 - 8 p.m. each day and the cost is \$85/camper. Participants must be registered by July 3.

**July 11...Outdoor Movie Series - Let's go to the movies!** Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a FREE outdoor movie on Field 1 at Duck Samford Park on Friday, July 11 at 8:30 p.m. Join us for an EXCLUSIVE outdoor movie showing of “Frozen Sing-Along!” Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and chairs.

**July 18...Float-N-Movie** - Grab your floats and join us at Samford Pool for a poolside movie featuring “Happy Feet” on Friday, July 18 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is FREE with a 2014 Splash Pass or \$2/person.

**July 25...Friday Night Splash** - Join the staff from the Auburn City Pools for freestyle swim, games, a cookout, music, and fun on Friday, July 25 from 6 - 8 p.m. It's fun for all ages! Admission is FREE with a 2014 Splash Pass or \$2/person.

## Sign Up for Summer Art Camps

Registration for summer art camps is going on now at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. These camps are created using a curriculum that will leave your child more knowledgeable about various aspects of art. Don't miss these great camps, including:

**Art for Young Children** – Ages 4 - 6 • 7/22 – 7/24 • 10 a.m. - noon • \$50; \$45/additional child

**Visual Art Workshops for Children** – Ages 7 & up • 7/7 – 7/11, 7/14 – 7/18 • 9 a.m. – noon or 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. • \$70; \$65/additional child

**A Summer Series in the Visual Arts for Teenagers** – This camp is held in conjunction with the Julie Collins Smith Museum. • Ages 13 - 18  
7/21 – 7/25, 7/28 – 8/1 • 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. • \$100

Camp participants should register at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center weekdays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Camp fees are payable in full at the time of registration to the Auburn Arts Association. Pricing is per child, per session. A limited number of needs-based scholarships are available.

