

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

June 2006

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Traffic Circles

In November 2002, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy to aid citizens in resolving traffic problems in residential areas by encouraging citizen involvement in neighborhood traffic management activities. Since that time, the City has been working to aggressively address concerns regarding neighborhood traffic and speed. To date, the City has installed thirteen traffic calming devices in 6 neighborhoods.



One of the traffic calming devices that has been installed in Auburn neighborhoods is the traffic circle. Currently, traffic circles are at the intersections of Windway Road and Kentwood Drive, Azalea Drive and Peachtree Lane, Boulder Lane and Bedrock Drive, and Asheton Lane and Ashe Court.

Traffic calming circles, functioning as miniature roundabouts, redirect cut-through traffic, reduce speed, and reduce the number and severity of accidents. The devices have effectively reduced speeds in each of the locations. The newest traffic circles in Auburn can be found in Asheton Park. Since installation, each location with a traffic circle has seen a 9-10 mph reduction in speed. Working with the City, Asheton Park residents were able to come up with a viable solution to their neighborhood traffic concerns that was efficient, effective, and aesthetically pleasing.

While traffic circles are an effective means of slowing down vehicular traffic, there are several rules for maneuvering around them that drivers should keep in mind so that they are utilized to their fullest extent:

- All roads approaching the circle are marked with yield signs. Drivers approaching the circle should yield to traffic already in the circle.
- If two vehicles arrive at the circle at the same time, the vehicle to the right goes first.
- The recommended speed for a traffic circle is 15 mph. This speed is recommended because it allows motorists to maneuver the intersection slowly enough to yield to the vehicles already in the circle.
- When making a left turn, drivers must go all the way around the circle before turning left.

Traffic circles are a safe and effective means for slowing traffic in residential neighborhoods when drivers understand the rules to maneuver the device. For more information on traffic calming devices, please contact the City's Traffic Engineer, Brandy Ezelle, at 501-3029.



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Open Line is produced by
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City to Hold General Municipal Election on August 22

The City of Auburn's General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, August 22. Voters will elect a Mayor and eight Council members, one from each of the City's eight single-member wards.

If you are unable to vote at the polls on Election Day, you may apply for an absentee ballot under one of the following conditions:

1. If you will be out of the county or the state on election day;
2. If you have a physical illness, infirmity, or handicap which prevents you from getting to the polls;
3. If you are enrolled as a student at an educational institution located outside Lee County and cannot get to the polls on election day
4. If you are a member, spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States in which case you may apply under the provision of "The Federal Voting Assistance Act;" and
5. If you are appointed as an election officer or named as a poll watcher at a polling place other than your regular polling place.

Applications for absentee ballots will be accepted through August 17. Applications must be made in writing to the Acting City Manager and either hand delivered or mailed to:

Auburn City Hall
Attn: Absentee Ballots
144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 1
Auburn, AL 36830

The application form must be signed by the applicant. Applications may be obtained from City Hall and must state the applicant's name, residence address, and other information necessary to verify the applicant as a registered voter, and the address to which the ballot should be mailed. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those persons who have made a proper application as soon as the ballots are printed. The completed ballots may be filed with the Acting City Manager up to and including Election Day on August 22.

Candidates who wish to qualify for the positions of Mayor and/or Councilmember for the eight-single member wards may do so Thursday, July 6 through Tuesday, July 18 at 5:00 p.m.

2006 Municipal Election Dates

Voters Apply for Absentee Ballots.....	June 5-August 17
Candidates May Qualify.....	July 6-18
Voters Cast Absentee Ballots.....	July 23-August 22
Last Day to Register to Vote.....	August 11
Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballots	August 17
Election Day	August 22
Run-Off Election Day (if required).....	September 19

How Do I Register to Vote?

To become a registered voter in Auburn or to update your voter registration information, Auburn residents may utilize any of the following governmental offices:

Auburn City Hall

144 Tichenor Avenue
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Telephone: 501-7260

Lee County Board of Registrars

Lee County Courthouse
Opelika
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Telephone: 737-3635

Lee County Judge of Probate

Lee County Courthouse
Opelika
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Telephone: 737-3670



Save Time! Pay Online!

Looking for a convenient way to pay your water bill? Try paying your bill online. Visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org and click on the **Pay Water Bill Online** link. Using your customer number and pin number located on the top right portion of your monthly water bill, log in to pay your bill. Online payments require the use of a Visa® or MasterCard® credit or debit card.

For more information, contact the Water Revenue Office of the Water Works Board of the City of Auburn at 501-3050.



Holiday Schedule

City Hall will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will be on their normal schedule. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of July 3-7 will change as follows:

Normal Collection Day

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday

Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

Monday, July 3
Wednesday, July 5
Thursday, July 6
Friday, July 7

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share? If so, please contact us at openline@auburnalabama.org.



Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Public Park & Recreation Board** was announced at the May 16 City Council meeting and will be filled at the June 20 meeting. The incumbent has resigned.
- Three vacancies on the **Planning Commission** will be announced at the June 20 City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 18 meeting. The incumbents are eligible for reappointment.
- Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be announced at the July 5 City Council meeting and will be filled at the August 1 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.

Summer Reading at the Auburn Public Library

Auburn youth can register for summer reading at the Auburn Public Library through July 10. "Once Upon a Time" is the theme of the 2006 Alabama Summer Library Program for children. Preschool Story Time will be held Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Toddler Time will be held on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Salmagundi for incoming kindergarten through fifth grade students will meet every Wednesday afternoon in June and July from 2:00-3:00 p.m. and will feature special guests Peter Huggins, author of *Trosclair and the Alligator*, "DrMagic", The Alabama Children's Educational Theater, and ventriloquist puppeteer Doug Long and Company. Other guests include Auburn University mascot "Aubie" and Kelly Cochran from the Alabama School of Fine Arts.



Children who register for the "Read to Me" and juvenile reading programs set a goal for the summer. They will also receive a prize for every 5 titles they read and a grand prize at the end of the 10 week program if they meet their goal. All participants will receive a certificate of completion. The library will host a "Harry Potter Birthday Bash" on Friday, July 28 to celebrate the end of the program.

For teens the theme for the summer is "X-treme". Young Adult Coffeehouse will meet every Thursday evening in June and July beginning at 6:30p.m. Programs will include "X-treme Living" and "Xtreme Careers".



For more information on the summer reading program, visit www.auburnalabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at the Auburn Public Library at 501-3190.

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14th Annual Fishing Rodeo



Join the Parks and Recreation Department for the 14th Annual Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, June 10 from 8:00 a.m. - noon at the Auburn Technology Park-South Lake. This event is open to children 12 years and younger and 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. Don't miss out on your chance to reel in

the biggest catfish of the year. The cost is \$5 per child, payable to the City of Auburn, and there is a limit of 5 fish per child. Registration and payment will be accepted the morning of the event. For more information, contact Alison Hall, Community Programs Director, at 501-2940.



Protect Yourself from Urban Wildlife

The City of Auburn's Environmental Services Department and its Animal Control Division work to keep Auburn citizens safe from wildlife such as foxes and coyotes in residential areas. Citizens can take steps to ensure their safety and the safety of their families in a number of ways, including eliminating food and shelter sources for the animals. The Animal Control Division suggests the following steps to help keep wildlife away from your home:

- Keep pet food and water dishes indoors, especially at night.
- Securely fasten all garbage containers.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Never feed squirrels, raccoons, or other species that may become a problem.

Urban wildlife tends to like cool, dry, dark places. Take a look around your property to make sure that such places do not exist. Openings under houses, porches, and sheds are very popular places. If you find such places during your check around your property, make sure no animals are actually using these places and then seal them off.

Citizens should never attempt to interact with or remove wildlife from any area. If you are experiencing problems with these animals, contact the Animal Control Division immediately at 501-3090. For after-hours situations, please contact the City's non-emergency after-hours number at 501-3100.

Meeting Schedule

Tree Commission - June 2, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

Cemetery Advisory Board - June 5, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - June 6, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council - June 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Planning Commission - June 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Water Works Board - June 12, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue

Greenspace Advisory Board - June 13, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue

Historic Preservation Commission - June 13, 4:00 p.m., Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center

Board of Education - June 13, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room

City Council - June 20, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Bicycle Committee - June 27, 7:00 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 N. Ross Street

Board of Zoning Adjustment - July 5, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

***City Council - July 5, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber**

Tree Commission - July 7, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

- Meeting times and places are subject to change -

***Please note that due to the 4th of July Holiday, the first regularly scheduled City Council meeting of July has been changed to Wednesday, July 5.**

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up COMING EVENTS

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



Complex Cloth: through June 16, new fabric works by members of Studio 222

This month's **Visual Arts Workshops for Children** will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center June 5-9 and June 26-30 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Youth ages 7 years and older will take part in a variety of age appropriate classes taught by area artists and art educators. The cost is \$40 per week, per child. Each additional child is \$35. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963. For more information, contact the Auburn Arts Association at 887-2832.

Art for Young Children will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center June 13-15 (*more classes will be offered in July and August*) from 10:00 a.m.-noon for children ages 4-6 years. Participants will explore a variety of art materials, including clay, paint, and fabric. The cost is \$30, payable to the Auburn Arts Association. For more information or to register, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

Grab your friends and join the staff of Parks and Recreation for an afternoon of **water skiing, tubing, and wake boarding** at Camp Chandler on beautiful Lake Jordan on June 17 from noon-5:00 p.m. This event is open to youth ages 12-15. All safety equipment will be supplied and all activities will be supervised by certified lifeguards. **Registration is required by June 8.** Participants will meet at the Dean Road Recreation Center. The cost is \$20, payable in cash on the day of the trip. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



Join us for a week of song, dance, and acting at the **Auburn Area Community Theatre's Musical Theatre Camp** June 19-23 from 9:00 a.m.-noon at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. This year's camp includes instruction in music, staging, and choreography for numbers from Applause!, The Sound of Music, Fame, and The Lion King. Two week-end performances are scheduled for June 25. The cost is \$130, payable to the instructor. For more information, contact Tricia Oliver at 704-0270.



The **Young Artist Atelier** is a pilot program that will offer studio and museum experiences to young artists June 20-22 (*more classes will be offered in July and August*) from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. This experience includes lectures, videos, slides, gallery talks, and art activities at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center and the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. The cost is \$45 per child and \$35 for each additional child, payable to the Auburn Arts Association. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

The **Auburn Public Library Book Group** will meet on June 20 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.



Celtic harpist Kelly Stewart will perform at the Auburn Public Library on June 25 at 3:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.



Celebrate Independence Day at the City's **Annual Fourth of July Celebration**, sponsored by Briggs and Stratton, on Tuesday, July 4 behind the home side of Duck Samford Stadium. Enjoy great food, live music from the Alabama Blues Brothers, and fireworks. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. and entertainment begins at 7:00 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9:00 p.m. Admission is free. Bring your blanket, picnic basket, family, and friends and enjoy an evening of celebration. The rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Be sure to visit Parks and Recreation's online newsletter, *Leisure Link*, at www.auburnalabama.org/leisure to find out the latest information on day camps, summer programs, and special events in the City of Auburn throughout the summer. Also, don't forget to pick up your copy of the **Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure** available now at City facilities as well as online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. For more information on Leisure Link or the summer brochure, please contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.