

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

September 2013

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### Open Line

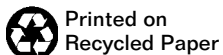
A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

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City of Auburn



### Special School Tax Election

**What:** In December of 2012, the Auburn City Board of Education formally requested that an election be held for Auburn voters to consider a 9-mill property tax increase to fund the construction of a new high school in Auburn. The Alabama State Legislature authorized the election in the 2013 regular legislative session, and the Auburn City Council has set September 24, 2013 as the election date.

**Why:** Auburn City Schools has seen continuous growth for 17 years, and has been the fastest growing school district in Alabama for the last 5 years. Analysis of enrollment growth and available classroom space has shown the need for new facilities.

To keep pace with enrollment, Auburn City Schools has built four new elementary schools since 1998. The new school year will see the opening of the latest new school (Pick Elementary School) and a planned realignment of grades K – 5 to maximize classroom space.

Current projections show that classroom capacities will be exceeded for secondary schools in the 2015-2016 school year. Auburn City Schools has proposed a plan to realign grades 6 – 12 and build a new High School to provide adequate classroom and facility space to address this growth. This long-term plan also includes the renovation of aging facilities, including several of the elementary schools built in the 1950's and the Auburn Junior High School, built in 1930.

To provide adequate classroom space for secondary students, additional local revenue is needed. Auburn City Schools is funded by a mix of Federal, State and local funding, with local funding derived from property taxes, supplemented by a \$9.5 million annual allocation from the City of Auburn municipal government's general fund. To construct and operate a new high school, Auburn City Schools needs an additional \$8.5 million in annual revenue.

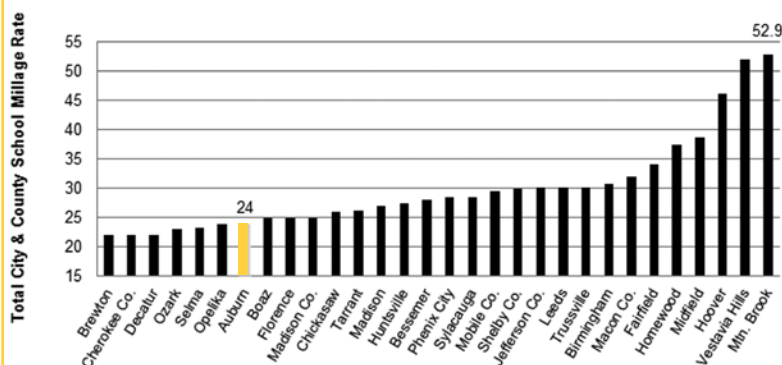
**Cost | Benefit:** According to the Alabama Department of Education, the City of Auburn is currently 24th in the state in school district millage rates and school expenditures per pupil are 45th in the state. Numerous studies, including a recent USA Today analysis, show that Alabama property taxes are among the lowest in the nation. A 9-mill property tax increase would cost the average Auburn homeowner approximately \$16 a month, or \$193 a year, based on the 2012 average home price in Auburn of \$214,673.

100% of the funding provided by the proposed tax increase would go directly to Auburn City Schools to allow them to implement their plan to maintain adequate classroom and facility space for Auburn's current and future school-age children.

### School Quality:

Auburn City Schools is accredited by the Alabama State Department of Education, the Southern Association of Colleges and schools, the Council on Accreditation and School Improvement and AdvancED, and has been recognized among the nation's top public school systems. More than 68% of teachers

### FY2012 Top 30 School District Millage Rates



Source: Alabama Department of Education

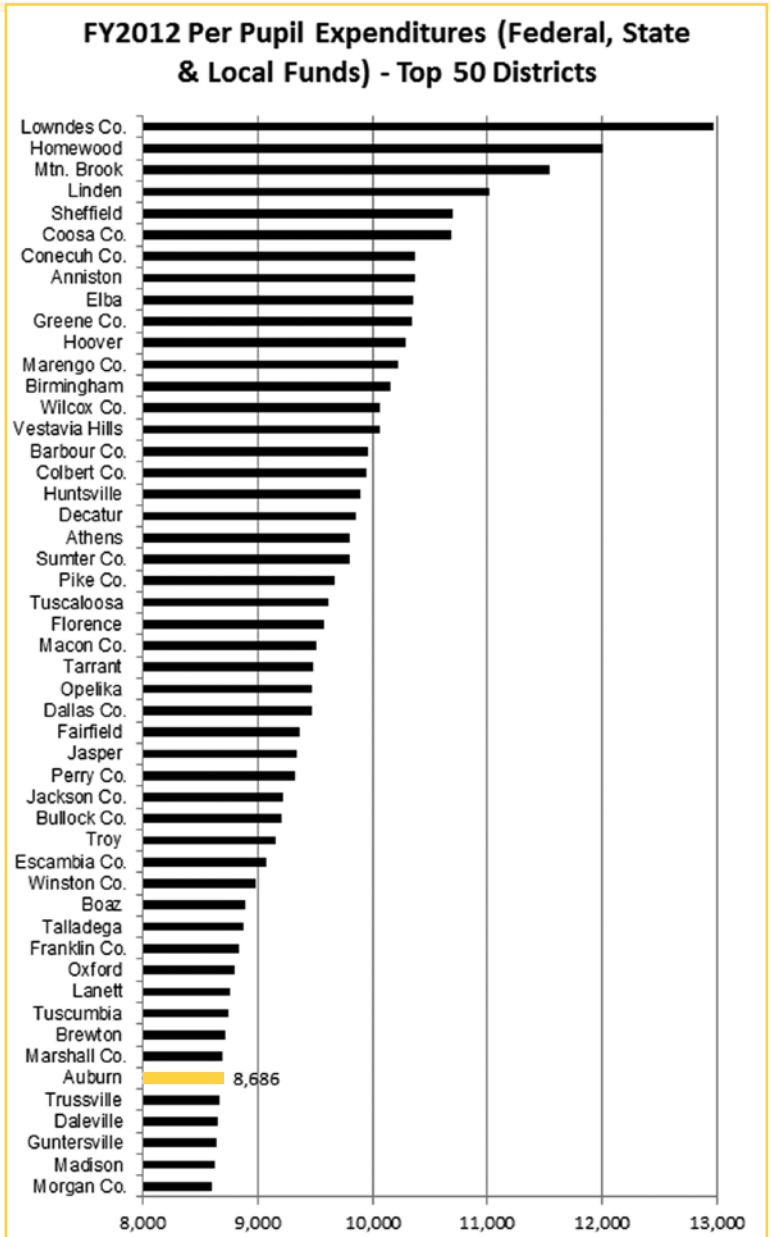
and administrators in Auburn City Schools hold advanced degrees, including 16 doctorates.

Auburn High School offers 20 Advanced Placement, college level courses and has been an International Baccalaureate World School since 1997. Auburn High School students consistently score above the state and national averages on the SAT and ACT. Auburn City Schools' class of 2013 included 9 National Merit Finalists, 16 National Merit Scholars and earned \$18.1 million in scholarships. In 2013, U.S. News & World Report named Auburn High School the #4 public high school in the state. Other nationally recognized local schools include Wrights Mill Road Elementary School, the Auburn Early Education Center and Auburn Junior High School.

**Absentee Voting**

If you are unable to vote at the polls on election day, you may apply for an absentee ballot: (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 September 19. Applications may be obtained by calling (334) 501-7260 or by visiting Auburn City Hall at 144 Tichenor Avenue in Auburn. Completed applications must be made in writing and either delivered in person or mailed to Auburn City Hall at 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 1, Auburn, Alabama 36830. The application form must be signed by the applicant. Application information includes 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. An absentee ballot will be mailed to applicants after a proper application is submitted and verified. The completed ballots may be filed with the City Manager up to the day before Election Day, September 23. For more information, please visit [www.auburn-alabama.org/elections](http://www.auburn-alabama.org/elections).



Source: Alabama Department of Education

**2013 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATES**

- Voters may apply for Absentee Ballots .....June 28-September 19
- Voters may cast Absentee Ballots.....July 10-September 23
- Last Day to Register to Vote .....September 14
- Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballots .....September 19
- Last Day to Return Absentee Ballots.....September 23
- ELECTION DAY .....September 24**
- Canvass Election Results ..... October 1

## Woofstock 2013

Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Lee County Humane Society (LCHS) invite you to Woofstock 2013 on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Woofstock is LCHS's annual celebration for people and canine companions. Be sure to join them for adoptions, live entertainment, a children's fun area, canine demonstrations, and activities for you and your four-legged friend. Admission is FREE. There is a small fee for some activities in the park. All proceeds benefit adoption programs for the animals at LCHS. All dogs are welcome, but must remain on a leash at all times. If you've adopted a dog from LCHS, be sure to pick up your "LCHS Alumni" bandana at the welcome tent. For more information, visit [www.leecounty-humane.org](http://www.leecounty-humane.org).



## MEETING SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

- 3 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
- 4 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 6 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Auburn Chamber Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 9 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 10 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
- 12 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 17 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
- 19 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 24 Library Board**, 2 p.m., Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road

**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 **Lee County Youth Development Center** will be announced at the August 20, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the September 17, 2013 City Council meeting.



Two vacancies on the **Industrial Development Board** will be announced at the September 3, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the October 1, 2013 City Council meeting.

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

## Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for FREE fall entertainment on Thursdays in September and October at 6 p.m.! The Fall Concert Series at Kiesel Park will offer live musical entertainment from a variety of genres. Bring the family, a picnic, lawn chairs, or a blanket and join us for an evening of entertainment. Don't forget – dogs are always welcome! Ample parking is available! Shake up your weekly routine and make your next Bunco night or organizational meeting a social event at the Fall Concert Series! Join us for the following performances:

- Sept. 5** Distant Kin  
**Sept. 12** Dave Potts  
**Sept. 19** Spoonful James  
**Sept. 26** Crossroads  
**Oct. 3** The Lonely Wolves  
**Oct. 10** Damaged Goods  
**Oct. 17** Kate and Corey  
**Oct. 24** JW Young



## Auburn City Services

### Schedule for Labor Day 2013

City Hall will be closed Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, remain on their regular schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be delayed by one day during the week of September 2-6, as listed below:

**Normal Collection Day...Holiday Collection Schedule**

Monday.....	Tuesday, September 3
Tuesday.....	Wednesday, September 4
Wednesday.....	Thursday, September 5
Thursday.....	Friday, September 6

As a reminder, collection carts and recycled materials must be placed at the curb by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. Please avoid placing items on or near mailboxes, utility boxes, 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 contact Auburn City Hall at 501-7260 or Environmental Services at 501-3080.

## City Management

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Finance Department  
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Human Resources Department  
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Library  
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Public Safety Department  
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Water Resource Management Dept.  
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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.

## Auburn Beautification Council Plant Sale

The Auburn Beautification Council will host a pansy and mum sale on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 8 a.m. - Noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road. Don't miss your chance to purchase flowers for fall planting! Prices range from \$6 - 20. All proceeds from the sale go to support Auburn Beautification Council projects, including the downtown hanging baskets and plantings, Spring Azalea Trail, gardens at Kiesel Park, and beautification awards presented to Auburn homes and businesses. Pre-orders are encouraged and are due by Wednesday, Sept. 18. Pre-orders receive a 10% discount.

For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

## 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.

**The Summer Reading Program ends August 10th. Final prizes may be picked up in Youth Services from August 10 - September 7.**

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

**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** - Join us every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for "free play" with Legos®.



### Parks and Recreation

For more information on any of the events listed, or to pre-register for a program, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).

**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. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



**The September Show, Sept. 6 - Oct. 4.** An invitational exhibition of selected works by area artists and craftspersons.

**Sept. 2...Samford Pool Closes for the Season** - Samford Pool will close for the season at the end of the day on Monday, Sept. 2. Join us for all day swimming from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. as we say our final farewell until next season!

**Register through Sept. 3...Adult Fall Softball Leagues** - Registration for adult softball leagues is going on now at the Auburn Softball Complex. Participants may register through Tuesday, Sept. 3. The cost is \$450, due in full at registration. A mandatory coaches meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Auburn Softball Complex. The season begins Monday, Sept. 9. Men's and co-ed leagues are available.

**Oct. 12...Teen Scene Field Trip to US Space & Rocket Center** - Youth ages 12 - 15 are invited to join us as we blast off to the US Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. We will explore the Spacedome Theater, Rocket Park, the Education Training Center, and more. Bring your friends and explore the integral role Alabama has played in space exploration. The cost of the trip is \$25, payable in cash on the day of the trip. Participants must be registered by Tuesday, Oct. 1.

### Adventures in Art 2013: The Art of Motion

The Adventures in Art program will be held Sept. 9 - 12 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Adventures in Art is a field trip component of a community-based, art education program for all fourth and fifth grade students from Auburn City Schools. The program, in its fourteenth year, is sponsored by the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and the Junior League of Lee County.

This year's program will focus on dance education. The program will begin with a performance by dance educators. Students will then split into groups and attend four workshops that will focus on a visual arts project, a gallery discussion with a local artist, a theatre based performance art workshop, and a performance workshop on dance choreography. Each component will seek to educate and provide creative experiences through dance, exploration, and hands-on activities.

For more information, please contact Cari Philen, Art Education Specialist, at 501-2944.