

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

September 2003

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
501-7260
bham@auburnalabama.org

Verlinda J. White, Ward 1
887-3112
VERRAC55@aol.com

Sheila H. Eckman, Ward 1
821-9666
ecko@mindspring.com

Roberta Jackel, Ward 2
887-6233
821-8221
robertajackel@bellsouth.net

Logan B. Gray, Ward 2
887-5126

K. Ted Wilson, Ward 3
887-9901
kted@wilsoninvestmentgroup.com

Dick Phelan, Ward 3
887-2071
dickphelan@yahoo.com

Carolyn G. Mathews, Ward 4
821-0161
carmat44@bellsouth.net

Gene Dulaney, Ward 4
887-7908
887-2721
gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Citizen Survey Results Are In



For seventeen years, the City of Auburn has conducted an annual telephone opinion survey to determine how Auburn residents feel about City services, major projects, and other initiatives. The City Council has found the survey to be of great help in monitoring the quality of City services and in establishing budget priorities for future years. The 2003 survey has recently been completed and results are posted on the City's web site, www.auburnalabama.org. Copies are also available at City Hall for review.

Planning Department staff, in conjunction with the Office of the City Manager, develops the survey and provides the training and oversight of the interviewers. Telephone numbers of citizens called are randomly selected from all of the Water Board accounts and directories. From the pool of randomly selected citizens, 3,812 calls were placed which resulted in 638 completed interviews conducted over a two-week period.

The responses indicate that the citizens of Auburn are generally satisfied with City services. One question asked in the survey was, "Overall, how would you rate the services provided by the City of Auburn." Over 96 percent of those surveyed rated the services either 'excellent' or 'good.'

Ninety-six percent of those surveyed rated the quality of life in Auburn as either good (44.7%) or excellent (51.4%). Those surveyed also reported that they believe Auburn is a safe community. Ninety-eight percent of the respondents said they 'always' or 'most of the time' feel safe in the City and ninety-nine percent said they feel safe in their neighborhoods.

We thank all the citizens who participated in this year's survey.

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Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7260
fax: 334-501-7299

web:
www.auburnalabama.org
email:
dwatson@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn



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Safety Tips

Each home should have a 5 lb. multi-purpose fire extinguisher located in the kitchen or laundry area. It should be inspected on a yearly basis to ensure it is properly charged.

Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn has vacant positions in several areas. Starting salary ranges are listed below. Some of the current job openings include:

- **GIS Coordinator**
(Regular/Full-time, \$3,335.48-
\$3,866.74/month)
- **Administrative Finance Specialist**
(Temporary/Full-time, \$2,071.07 -
2,400.94/month)



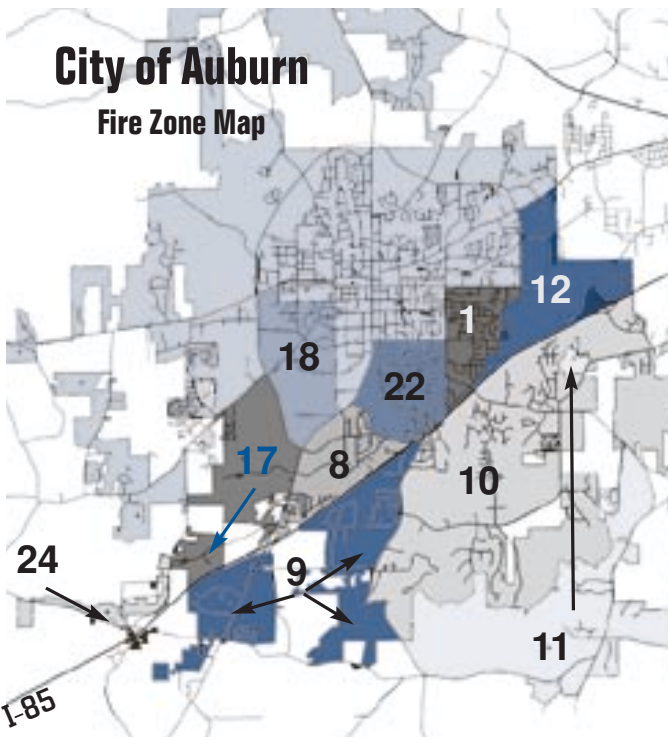
To find out about more job opportunities with the City of Auburn, visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org, contact the Alabama State Employment Office, or call the City's job line at 501-7250. The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.

Fire Hydrant Testing

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) is the entity that determines fire insurance ratings for municipalities. These ratings, in turn, determine homeowners' insurance rates. The better the ISO rating, the lower the insurance costs of those living inside the City limits.

In order to maintain the City of Auburn's excellent ISO rating of Class 2, the Auburn Fire Division must comply with certain ISO regulations. One such regulation requires the Fire Division to test the flow capacity by opening all fire hydrants in the City. This flow testing allows the City to get a static pressure reading that measures the water pressure in the system before water flows through the hydrant and a flow pressure reading that measures the gallons of water flowing through the hydrant each minute.

The hydrant testing may cause some discoloration in the water system for a brief period. The discoloration is sediment that has settled in the water line and is not harmful. However, if you realize that your water is discolored, simply let the water flow until it clears up.



During September, the Auburn Fire Division Station 3, located at 685 Ogletree Road, will be flowing fire hydrants in fire zones 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 22, and 24.

Labor Day Holiday

The City of Auburn will celebrate Labor Day on Monday, September 1. City Hall will be closed. Public Safety services will be on a normal schedule. Solid waste collection services will be as follows:

Day	Garbage, Trash & Recycling Collection
Monday (9/1/03)	Holiday
Tuesday (9/2/03)	Monday's route
Wednesday (9/3/03)	Tuesday's route
Thursday (9/4/03)	Wednesday's route
Friday (9/5/03)	Thursday's route

Meeting Schedule

- Tree Commission** - September 3, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - September 3, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Mid-Biennium Budget Meeting** - September 4, 6:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room.
- Cemetery Advisory Board** - September 8, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - September 8, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Greenspace Advisory Board** - September 9, 11:00 AM, City Hall Annex.
- Historic Preservation Commission** - September 9, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.
- Mid-Biennium Budget Meeting** - September 9, 5:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room.
- Board of Education** - September 9, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
- City Council** - September 9, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber (Rescheduled from September 2).
- Planning Commission** - September 11, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
- City Council** - September 23, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber. (Rescheduled from September 16).
- Library Board** - September 25, 10:00 AM, Library Board Room.
- Bicycle Committee** - September 30, 7:00 PM, Public Works Conference Room - Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street.
- Tree Commission** - October 1, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - October 1, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Cemetery Advisory Board** - October 6, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - October 6, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center
- City Council** - October 7, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Planning Commission** - October 9, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

– Meeting times and places are subject to change –

Single Member Election Plan Approved

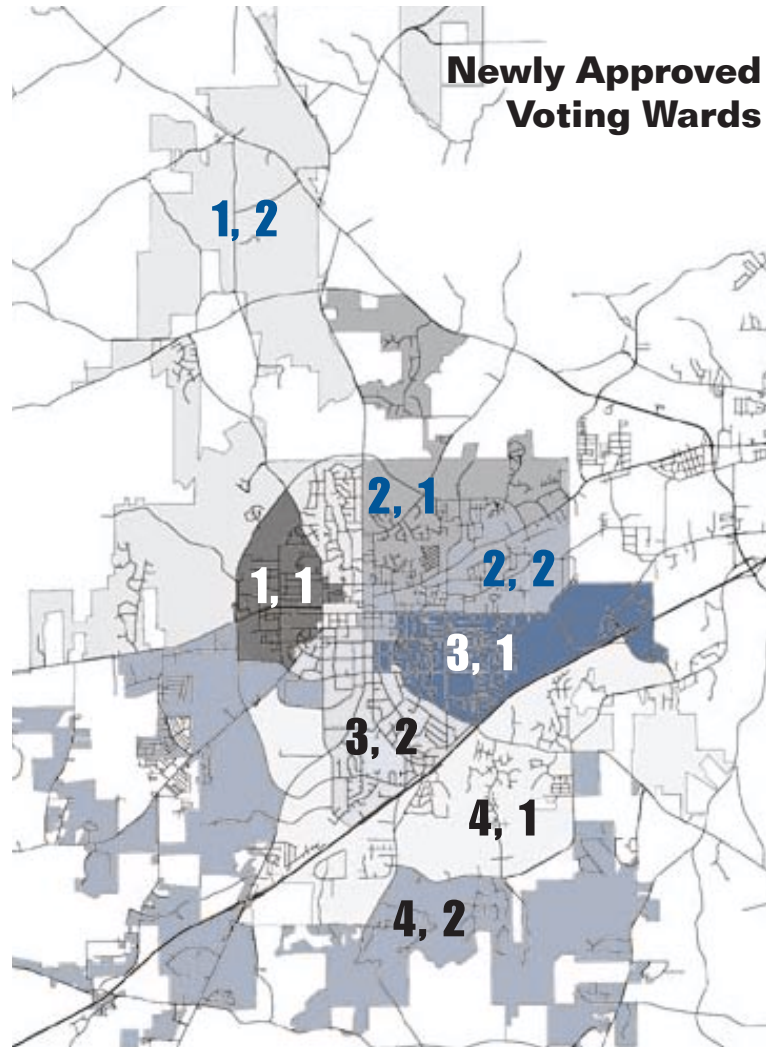
The plan for eight separate single member districts in the City of Auburn has been approved by the U.S. Justice Department. The redistricting plan for eight voting districts, approved by the Auburn City Council at its meeting on January 21, 2003, was accepted in a letter from U.S. Department of Justice Voting Section Chief Joseph Rich to City Manager Doug Watson. The new ward plan will be used by the City of Auburn for the City's August 2006 election for Mayor and Council.

This change will alter the way Auburn citizens elect their City Council members from wards 2, 3, and 4. Currently, the City is divided into four wards. Ward one is geographically divided into two places, and residents vote in either place one or place two. Wards two, three, and four are not geographically divided and residents elect two council members from each of these wards.

Following the 2002 municipal election, the City Council closely examined the current voting structure. At the request of Council, the staff developed a plan that geographically separates wards two, three, and four in the same manner as ward one. Ward one remains unchanged.

"We are very pleased that the City's redistricting plan has been approved by the Justice Department. We felt that we submitted a plan that ensured that all of Auburn's citizens are adequately and accurately represented in elections," stated City Manager Doug Watson.

The population is based on block data from the 2000 Census. The average population per ward is 5,373, and each voting district must be within five percent of that number.



Newly Approved Voting Wards

The new voting ward map is available at Auburn City Hall and at the City's website: www.auburnalabama.org.

New Single Member Districts

WARD AND PLACE	2000 POPULATION
Ward 1 Place 1	4,954
Ward 1 Place 2	5,412
Ward 2 Place 1	5,390
Ward 2 Place 2	5,347
Ward 3 Place 1	5,335
Ward 3 Place 2	5,455
Ward 4 Place 1	5,400
Ward 4 Place 2	5,694
Total Population	42,987

City Management

Douglas J. Watson
501-7261
City Manager
dwatson@auburnalabama.org

Wendy L. Hassett
501-7262
Assistant City Manager
whassett@auburnalabama.org

Andrea E. Jackson
501-7220
Director of Finance
ajackson@auburnalabama.org

Jeffery L. Ramsey
501-3000
Director of Public Works
jramsey@auburnalabama.org

Phillip Dunlap
501-7270
Director of Economic Development
pdunlap@auburnalabama.org

Steven A. Reeves
501-7240
Director of Human Resources
sreeves@auburnalabama.org

O. Clyde Prather
501-3110
Director of Public Safety
cprather@auburnalabama.org

Robert J. Juster
501-3040
Director of Planning
bjuster@auburnalabama.org

Rebecca O. Richardson
887-4930
Director of Parks and Recreation
brichardson@auburnalabama.org

Margie B. Huffman
501-3190
Director of City Library
mhuffman@auburnalabama.org

Alfred J. Davis
501-3080
Director of Environmental Services
adavis@auburnalabama.org

James C. Buston, III
501-7200
Director of Information Technology
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

Rex B. Griffin, Jr.
501-3060
Director of Water and Sewer
rgriffin@auburnalabama.org

Joe S. Bailey
501-3180
Municipal Judge
jbailey@auburnalabama.org

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Terry Jenkins
887-2100
Auburn City Schools Superintendent
jtjenkins@auburnschools.org

up COMING EVENTS

An **End of Summer Pool Party**, sponsored by the X-Cell Club, will take place at the Samford Avenue Pool on September 5, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Enjoy one last evening pool side with your friends, rockin' tunes, and great food. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 887-4930.



The 2003 Amateur Softball Association Women's Open Slow Pitch East National Tournament will take place September 18-21 at the Auburn Softball Complex. For more information, contact Robbie Carter at 887-4927.

As a part of the Fall Concert series, the Auburn Community Orchestra will present a **Pops Concert at Kiesel Park** on September 23 at 6:00 p.m. Meet your friends and enjoy an evening under the stars. Bring a blanket, your lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner. Mark your calendar for the other Fall concerts at Kiesel: October 2 – Auburn University Steel Drum Band; October 9 – Auburn University Jazz Band; October 16 – Highway 280 Bluegrass Band; October 23 – The Auburn Knights. All concerts will begin at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Alison Hall at 887-4930.



A Puppet Show will be held at the Auburn Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on September 17. For more information, call 501-3196.

Research Mysteries @ Your Library for grades 5-8 will be held on Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This class is an introduction to reference materials and the Internet. Registration is required. Call 501-3196 for registration or to find out more information



Downtown Trick-or-Treat will be held this year on October 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Parents must accompany children to this fun trick-or-treat alternative in downtown Auburn. Merchants will provide treats for the children and live music will be provided. For more information, call Alison Hall at 887-4930.



BOARD VACANCIES

Three vacancies on the **Building Board of Adjustments** and three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the September 23 City Council meeting and will be filled at the October 21 City Council meeting. Building Board of Adjustments incumbents are not eligible for appointment. Tree Commission incumbents are eligible for reappointment.

Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact one of their City Council members or notify the City Manager's Office at 501-7260.