

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

September 2015

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City of Auburn



Forbes names Auburn a "Best Small City for Jobs"

Forbes recently ranked the Auburn-Opelika metro area number 7 nationally on its list of the best small cities for jobs. Forbes ranked 258 metropolitan statistical areas with less than 150,000 jobs, considering employment growth over short-, medium- and long-terms, growth trends and momentum. The report sites diversification of the economy as potentially "the best guide to future smaller city growth." Auburn's economic development strategy for industrial jobs has long been diversification by recruiting and maintaining a variety of small- to mid-size technology based industries.

The report cites 60,700 jobs in the area, with a short-term job growth of 3.5% in 2014, and a longer-term job growth of 16.1% from 2009 to 2014. The Forbes ranking follows 2014 census estimates which place Auburn as the 20th fastest growing city in the nation. Other rankings in recent years' have included a 2009 U.S. News and World Report list ranking Auburn as one of its top ten "Best Places to Live."

Auburn a "Best Town to Raise a Family"

Auburn was recently named the third "Best Town to Raise a Family" in Alabama by Niche.com, a website that uses feedback from local residents to help people make informed choices about choosing places to live and go to school. Auburn is ranked at number three, just behind Hoover and Oneonta for best Alabama towns to raise a family (including cities under 100,000 in population). Auburn ranks at number one on its overall list of "Best Towns in Alabama."

Corner Construction Update

The Corner Construction is on schedule and entering its final stages as this issue of Open Line goes to press. Work is scheduled to end by the beginning of Auburn University classes on August 17th.

Downtown parking will continue to be free until classes begin. Downtown businesses, shops and restaurants remain open throughout the project, so please continue to shop, dine and do business as we work to improve downtown Auburn for the future.



Touchstone Precision Incorporated Celebrates Expansion in Auburn

In June, Touchstone Precision Incorporated (TPI) celebrated the Grand Opening of the latest expansion of its Auburn Alabama operation. The new production facility of approximately 67,000 square feet will allow the company to better serve its customers in the automotive industry.

TPI originally opened its doors in Auburn in 2000 with an announcement of 40 jobs. The company currently employs 90 people at its operation in the Auburn Technology Park South. The expansion represents an investment of \$9.55 million creating an estimated 27 additional jobs over the next two years. As an injection molding and stamping company, Touchstone Precision specializes in small precision overmolded parts, striving for "perfection in precision." Parent company Dai-ichi Seiko Co. Ltd. was established in Japan in 1963 serving the automotive, electronics connectors and semiconductor industries. The group employs about 6,200 and globally generates sales of over \$400 million.



Italian Casting Company 2a S.p.A. Celebrates Grand Opening of Alabama Operation

Italian casting company 2a S.p.A. celebrated the Grand Opening of its Auburn operation in June. Several members of the Ilotte family, owners of 2a, traveled from Italy to join local employees and Auburn community leaders for a ribbon cutting. 2a S.p.A. joins the Auburn family following the company's recent acquisition of Aluminum Technology Schmid North America.

Through the investment of 2a S.p.A. the Auburn operation is now part of a much larger casting company from Turin, Italy. The company's long tradition of casting and tooling industries in Northern Italy goes back to the 1960s when it made zippers and zipper machinery for the apparel industry. The company began to serve the automotive and heavy duty trucking industries with large engine and transmission housing castings in the 1980s.

Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. said: "Today we celebrate the beginning of a new partnership between Auburn and the 2a company which will retain 95 jobs in Auburn", and added, "We are very grateful for the decision by the Ilotte family to choose Auburn as the location to serve the Northern American market and wish their team success."



Fire Station 1 wins Auburn Beautification Council Award

Fire Station 1 was recently presented an award from the Auburn Beautification Council recognizing its landscaping improvements. Fire Division employees actively participated in both the design and labor for the station's new look, which includes improved accessibility, improved environmental practices and improved walkability.

Features include a fountain that will be dedicated to the late Chief Lee Lamar, a system to collect and re-use rainwater on-site and a brand new look and feel for visitors. Fire Station 1 sees significant visitor traffic on game days, with visitors interested in the station, trucks and equipment. This work was a collaborative effort of personnel from the Office of the City Manager, Planning, Water Resource Management, Public Works and the Fire Division.

Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center** was announced at the August 18, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the September 15, 2015 City Council Meeting.



Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the September 15, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the October 20, 2015 City Council Meeting.

One vacancy on the **Educational Building Authority** will be announced at the September 15, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the October 20, 2015 City Council Meeting.

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

Labor Day Schedule

City Hall will be closed Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be delayed by one day during the week of September 7-11, as listed below.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, September 7 | Holiday |
| Tuesday, September 8 | Monday's Route |
| Wednesday, September 9 | Tuesday's Route |
| Thursday, September 10 | Wednesday's Route |
| Friday, September 11 | Thursday's Route |

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.

MEETING SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

- 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
- 4 Tree Commission,** 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce, 714 E Glenn Avenue
- 8 Greenspace Advisory Board,** Noon, Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
Historic Preservation Commission, 4 p.m., DSB Conference Room, 171 North Ross Street
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
- 14 Cemeteries Advisory Board,** 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 15 Library Board,** 2:00 p.m., Library Conference Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
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

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/boards.

Ward 5 Public Meeting

Ward 5 Councilperson Lynda Tremaine will hold her monthly public meeting for Ward 5 residents on Monday, September 7 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in downtown Auburn.

All Auburn residents are welcome, but the meeting will focus on issues of interest to Ward 5 residents. To find out what voting ward you live in and who represents you on the Auburn City Council, go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps/Voting-Ward>.

Auburn Area Community Theatre (AACT) Fall Show "The Love Cycle" and Fall Jr. Show "Dick Wittington and His Amazing Cat"

The Auburn Area Community Theatre (AACT) will hold auditions for its fall production of "The Love Cycle," a series of short plays chronicling the steps of marriage (from puppy love to the comedy of spending a lifetime together), on September 14 and 15 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., with call-backs on September 17. Rehearsals will be throughout the month of October and the production will be held on November 6 - 8. For ticket sales and reservations, please visit www.auburnact.org.

The AACT Fall Jr Show, "Dick Wittington and His Amazing Cat," will be held on October 1 – 3, with ticket sales conducted throughout the month of September. The entire family will love this energetic and musical retelling of an old English rag to riches folktale. Join Dick, a poor orphan, who befriends an amazing cat and several other wonderful characters on his amazing journey! For ticket sales and reservations, please visit www.auburnact.org.

Applications are Still Available for An Indian SummerNight

The SummerNight Committee is accepting applications for An Indian SummerNight until Friday, October 2. Applications may be found online at www.auburnsummernight.org for the following categories: Artist, BBQ Contest, Corn Bread Cook-Off, Merchant, Sponsor and Volunteer.

An Indian SummerNight will be held on Friday, October 9 and this event will showcase all that downtown Auburn has to offer. If you are interested in participating in An Indian SummerNight, please visit us at www.auburnsummernight.org or call SummerNight Headquarters at (334) 501-2963. SummerNight is a downtown entertainment district event and downtown streets will be closed during the event. In the event of rain, join us on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 6 – 9:30 p.m.

Did you know?

To report street light outages, call 800-245-2244 or go to alabamapower.com and click "Report an Outage."

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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 or call 501-7266.

up COMING EVENTS

Due to space considerations, we are unable to publicize events that are not directly affiliated with a City department.

Auburn Public Library

For information on library programs for children, please call 501-3196.

STORYTIME

Please note, Storytimes will not be held August 30 through September 11.

Baby Time - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages birth – 24 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages 18 months – 36 months and their caregivers.

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

FOR CHILDREN

Puppet Show – “Coyote and the Wet Blanket”, Wednesday, September 2, at 3:30 p.m. for ages 3 – 7.

Fractured Fairytales – “Snow White and the 77 Dwarfs”, Wednesday, September 9, at 3:30 p.m. for ages 4 – 7.

Spectrum Storytime – Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m. Spectrum Storytime is an educational and interactive program designed for children with sensory integration challenges and their caregivers. For cognitive ages 4 – 7. Registration is required. For more information or to register, please call Youth Services at 501-3196.

Family Storytime – Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. Bring the whole family and join us for stories, songs, parachute games, and family fun!

FOR LEGO® FANS

Lego® Club – Tuesday, September 15 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. for ages 4 – 12. Join us for an afternoon of fun building dinosaurs.

Legomania – Join us every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for “free play” with Legos®.

FOR TEENS

Gamer’s Society - Thursdays, at 4:00 p.m. for ages 10 – 18. For more information call Youth Services at 501-3196.

LitWits – Tuesdays, September 8 & 22 at 4:30 p.m. for ages 13 to 18. This month we will discuss titles with pretty and ugly book covers.

PSAT Prep Class – Mondays, September 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. for ages 13 – 18. Join members of Auburn University’s Honors Serves Organization as they guide students preparing for the new PSAT test. For more information, please call Youth Services at 501-3196.

Parks and Recreation

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

Labor Day Closings – All Auburn Parks and Recreation facilities, except Samford Pool, will be closed on Monday, September 7. Samford Pool will maintain normal business hours. All facilities will reopen on Tuesday, September 8 for normal hours of operation.

Last day of Pool Season! Samford Pool will close for the season on Monday, September 7. Admission will be \$1 per person all day or FREE with your Splash Pass. For more information, please contact the Samford Pool at (334) 501-2957.

Fall Adult Softball and Kickball Leagues – Don’t miss out on all the fall fun with adult softball or kickball! Sign-ups will end on September 15. A league coaches meeting will take place that evening at Auburn Softball Complex at 7 p.m. League games will begin on Monday, September 21. For more information about signing up, rules, and league information, please visit us at www.auburnalabama.org/athletics or call the Auburn Softball Complex at (334) 501-2976.

Youth Basketball – Online Registration for youth basketball will open on September 28 at www.auburnalabama.org/athletics. Walk-in registration for youth basketball will not take place until October 20. For more information, please visit us at www.auburnalabama.org/athletics or call Dean Road Recreation Center at (334) 501-2950.

Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center September Show – Mark your calendar for the September Show on display at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from September 1 – 30. This is an invitational exhibition of new and recent works by selected regional artists. The exhibit is FREE and open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Adventures in Art – The Adventures in Art program will be held September 8-11 at the Jan Dempsey Community Art Center. Adventures in Art is a field trip component of a community-based art education program and involves all fifth grade students from Auburn City Schools. The program, in its fifteenth year, will focus on the rich tradition of metal art and music in Alabama and is sponsored by the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center and the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

If you have any questions, please contact Cari Cleckler, Art Education Specialist at (334) 501-2944, by email at cleckler@auburnalabama.org, or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at (334) 501-2963.

Fall has arrived and that means the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center fall programs are finally here! Beginning September 8, and throughout the month, the Preserve will be offering many opportunities for outdoor fun for the entire family! For more information about these events or about the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center, please visit www.auburn.edu/preserve, contact via email at preserve@auburn.edu, or call (334) 707-6712.