

GUIDE TO RETIREMENT IN NATIONAL VILLAGE

At Grand National In Opelika/Auburn, Alabama

BY DR. MARK FAGAN

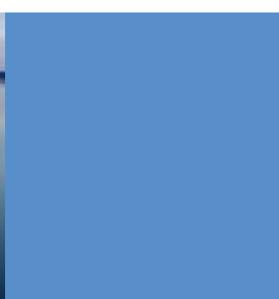


Table of Contents

Introduction	1	Other Leisure-time Activities	21
Overview of this Guide.....	1	Casino	21
National Village.....	2	Auburn University Wellness and Recreation Center.....	21
Auburn/Opelika Area.....	4	Southeastern Raptor Center.....	21
Auburn.....	4	Center for Aquatic Resource Management	22
Opelika	5	Auburn University Alumni Association	22
Auburn University.....	6	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute	23
Southern Union State Community College.....	7	Auburn University Professional and Continuing Education	23
Shopping.....	7	Auburn Heritage Association.....	24
Dining.....	7	Auburn Preservation League.....	24
Banks and Credit Unions	7	Theatres	24
Montgomery	8	Telfair B. Peet Theatre	24
Transportation	8	Auburn Area Community Theatre.....	24
Airports.....	8	Opelika Center for the Performing Arts.....	24
Shuttle Bus Service	9	The Montgomery Performing Arts Center.....	25
Religion	9	The Montgomery Ballet.....	25
Cost of Living.....	9	Alabama Dance Theatre.....	25
Cost of Living Index	9	The Alabama Shakespeare Theatre.....	25
Taxes.....	9	Movie Theaters.....	26
Healthcare.....	12	Carmike Tiger 13	26
East Alabama Medical Center	12	Carmike Wynnsong 14	26
Psychiatric Services	14	Museums	26
Comprehensive Cancer Center	14	Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.....	26
Diabetes and Nutrition Center	15	Auburn University Museum of Natural History ...	27
HealthPlus Fitness Center	15	Museum of East Alabama	27
Senior Living	15	Jonathan B. Lovelace Athletic Museum	27
Auburn University Medical Center.....	16	Lee County Historical Society Museum	27
Emergency Care	16	Columbus Museum.....	27
Montgomery Healthcare	16	Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts	27
Auburn University Veterinary Medicine Clinic	16	Art	28
Outdoor Recreation	16	Auburn Arts Association	28
Auburn Parks and Recreation	16	Opelika Arts Association.....	28
Opelika Parks and Recreation.....	16	Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center	28
Walking Trails.....	17	Music	28
Biking	17	Goodwin Music Building at Auburn University.....	28
Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve.....	17	Summer Concert Series.....	28
Davis Arboretum	17	Montgomery Symphony Orchestra	29
Spring Villa Park.....	17	Lectures	29
Opelika Grows.....	18	Libraries.....	29
Lee County Lake.....	18	Auburn Public Library	29
Lake Harding	18	Auburn University Libraries.....	29
The Tuskegee National Forest	18	Lewis Cooper Memorial Library	29
Chewacla State Park	18	Historic Sites in Opelika	30
Chattahoochee River	18	Resources for Military Retirees.....	30
West Point Lake	18	Links to Sites	31
Lake Martin	18	About the Author	Back Cover
The Montgomery Zoo.....	18		
The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill.....	19		
Professional Baseball.....	19		
Other Montgomery Attractions.....	19		
Auburn University Athletics.....	19		
Auburn University Football	20		

GUIDE TO RETIREMENT IN NATIONAL VILLAGE

at Grand National in Opelika / Auburn, Alabama

Introduction

Retirement in Alabama offers exceptional benefits and amenities such as mountains, vast lakes and streams, white sandy beaches, endless nature trails, and cultural attractions. Retirees find Alabama enticing because of the attractive housing at reasonable prices; the mild climate with four distinct seasons; the countless recreational outlets; the variety of arts, crafts, and entertainment events; the low crime rates; lower cost of living, and the easy access to military facilities.

The cost of living in Alabama is the national average. Alabama is one of five states with the lowest residential property tax burdens. Income tax rates for Alabama are lower than states near Alabama.

Alabama communities are among the safest in the nation. Alabama's crime rate is about 20% below the national average overall, and 25-30% below the national average in most categories. Auburn and Opelika have a trend toward decreasing crime rates that has been demonstrated over the last few years.

Some of Alabama's medical care facilities are regionally, as well as nationally, known to be on the leading edge of medical technology. There is access to physicians that provide care in a large number of medical specialties.

Alabama's winters are mild with very few cold snaps and the temperatures rarely drop below 30 degrees. Each of the four seasons is distinct. In spring, the colors of white, pink, and red flowering shrubs and flowers dominate the landscape. Lush green colors take over in summer as the vegetation flourishes. Late summer and fall bring a brilliant mosaic of yellow, oranges, and reds to the tree tops. In the winter, rare snowfalls sprinkle lightly across the land-

scape but never stay around longer than a day or two.

The Opelika/Auburn area is located in east central Alabama with terrain similar to a plateau with hills giving way to pine forest, rolling grassland, and low croplands. This area has beautiful lakes and rivers filled with bass, crappie, trout, walleye, shellcracker, and catfish, to name a few. There is a national forest along with state parks and city parks for recreation. Montgomery and Atlanta are the urban areas close to this area.

Auburn, in Lee County, is located between the Tuskegee National Forest and the Chattahoochee River and is the site of Auburn University. Auburn is just west of Opelika forming a metropolitan area that is the fastest growing in Alabama. Auburn University has some 25,000 students and offers the complete array of major college sports and cultural events.

Opelika is a small city with uncommon cultural entertainment and recreational attractions. The highly educated population supports excellent recreational and entertainment events. There is a regional medical center and a community college in Opelika. Grand National is a 54-hole Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail facility that is located between Opelika and Auburn.

This area is receiving recognition nationally as a great place to retire. Retirees that enjoy college towns, less crowded areas, mild winters, friendly people, exceptional services, and abundant recreation are finding fulfillment in this area.

Overview of This Guide

This Guide presents information on the lifestyle for retirees living in National Village in Opelika, Alabama. It contains information that retirees can use to determine if the



Grand National Golf Course has two scenic 18-hole championship courses—the Lake and the Links—and a challenging 18-hole Short Course.

retirement lifestyle in the Auburn-Opelika area can provide fulfillment to them during their retirement years.

This Guide describes the amenities at National Village, a general description of the area, cost-of-living (including taxes), transportation, crime rates, healthcare, outdoor attractions, cultural attractions, leisure-time activities, and resources for retired military. It can also serve as a resource for those already retired in the Auburn-Opelika area.

National Village

National Village is a resort located adjacent to The RTJ Golf Trail's Grand National golf complex. Grand National opened in 1993 as the 4th site on The RTJ Golf Trail. It was developed in cooperation with the City of Opelika. It is located 6 miles from Auburn University and is equidistant to downtown Opelika and downtown Auburn.

Grand National has 54 holes, including two regulation 18-hole courses (Lake Course and Links Course) and one 18-hole Short Course, built around the 600-acre Saugahatchee Lake. These courses were designed by Robert Trent Jones and Roger Rulewich. The Lake course will host the

PGA Barbasol Championship in 2015.

National Village is also adjacent to The Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National which has 114 guest rooms and 15 suites all overlooking the golf course. It also has 15,000 square feet of technology-equipped event space, a business center, and a 96-seat amphitheater. There is a new 4,200 square foot pool complex featuring three saltwater pools, a splash pad for kids, a splashpool bar, five private cabanas, whirlpools, two waterfalls, fire pits, and a nightly fog and light show. A new tennis complex is also on the Marriott site featuring 8 clay courts and 4 pickle ball courts. The pools and tennis facilities are amenities for National Village homeowners.

National Village is a 700-acre resort community. Approvals were granted for the construction of up to 1,400 quality homes and condominiums on the property. This leaves huge expanses of undeveloped land for use by the homeowners. It includes upscale homes and cottages and is divided into seven villages. When fully developed, it will include a village center, parks, green space, walking trails, fishing, and access to the amenities at the Marriott and the golf complex. The village center will have retail

shops, restaurants, and loft condos.

National Village has a Home Owners Association that helps to manage the property. The Marriott is the “clubhouse” of the community. Residents have access to the fitness center, indoor pool, dry sauna, and tennis complex. They get free range balls and free green fees for the Short Course at Grand National, as well as discounts at the Marriott and an RTJ trail card.

As members of the National Village Property Owners Association, residents get complete landscape maintenance for homes and grounds including: mowing, leaf removal, fertilizer, weed control, pruning, plant and pine straw replacement, master irrigation system, and garbage collection. They also get access to 300 acres of green space and ten miles of walking trails.

National Village opened in 2006 and as of April 2015, over 100 homes had sold. Two new phases are under development: Quail Ridge and Eagle Bend. Quail Ridge consists of lots across from Stone Lake and offers 34 Craftsman style homes ranging from 1,862 square feet to 2,145 square feet. Expansions have been customized to over 4,000 square feet. There will be 38 additional lots will be ready in the Summer of 2015. Eagle Bend offers smaller cottages. Phase III of the cottages began selling in 2014 bringing the total in that phase to 103 home sites and 198 overall to date.

The 3-bedroom Double Eagle Cottages



Pool and Tennis at National Village

at Eagle Bend feature Hardiplank siding, direct vent gas fireplaces, and granite counter tops in the kitchens and bathrooms. The Eagle Spirit model is one of eight plans offered in the Eagle Bend community with floor plans ranging from 1,500- 1,822 square feet. The single-story plans feature three bedrooms, two and one half bathrooms, an open floor plan with 9-foot ceilings, front and side porches, and patios. The interior plan includes features like a drop zone for keys, mail, and other items. This design, built by Conner Bros. Construction Co., Inc. of Auburn, the RSA's development partner, was selected by Professional Builder Magazine as the nation's best under 2,000 SF in 2013 .

A second cottage design won the silver award in 2014. Homes and Cottages are fully customizable for Universal Design or Aging in Place features.

The Stonelake Neighborhood has homes with floor plans ranging from 2,600 to 3,700 square feet. They have high ceilings, custom trim work, screened-in porches, decks, and outdoor kitchens.



Nature Area at National Village



Nature Trail at National Village



Downtown Auburn

Auburn/Opelika Area

Auburn and Opelika border each other and are located in eastern Alabama on Interstate 85, 55 miles northeast of Montgomery, and a 90-minute drive to Atlanta. Birmingham is two hours northwest and Columbus, GA is 30 minutes east. The area is located on the southeastern slope of the Piedmont plateau and surrounded by rangelike geography. It is a 3-4 hour drive to the Gulf of Mexico or to the Appalachian Mountains.

There is a moderate four-season climate. The average high in January is 55 and the average low is 34. The average high in July is 90 and the average low is 70. The average relative humidity is 70% and the average annual rainfall is 53 inches. There is less than one inch of snow annually.

Auburn

Auburn was officially founded in 1836 when Judge John Harper set out with his family and other settlers to build a town intended to serve as the religious and educational center of the area. In 1839, the legislature approved incorporating Auburn. The future wife of Judge Harper's son called Auburn "the loveliest village of the plain."

Auburn's downtown is centered near Toomer's Corner which includes the oldest store in town, Toomer's Drug Store. Toomer's Corner joins downtown with Auburn University.

U.S. CENSUS DATA FOR AUBURN				
	1990	2000	2010	CHANGE SINCE 1990
Population	33,830	42,987	53,380	+19,550
Housing Units (includes apts/dorms)	14,673	20,082	24,296	+9,623
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	4,972	7,531	10,035	+5,063
Housing Units Median Value	\$80,000	\$138,700	\$215,200	+135,200
Employed	11,043	19,077	24,497	+13,454
Emp. in Arts, Rec, Ent, Food Ser., and Accommodations		2,754	3,308	Since 2000 +554
Emp. in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate		785	916	Since 2000 +131
Mean Household Earnings			\$52,400	

Opelika

Downtown Opelika has some of the same buildings that were there in 1881. Opelika has been a railroad town for many years and the railroad was instrumental in the vibrant cotton industry. Some of the historic buildings in downtown are: Lee County Courthouse, Museum of East Alabama (on site of the old Clement Hotel), the old railroad depot, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, The Opera House, Haynie's Drug Store, The Hudman Building, Martin Theater, First Baptist Church, Lee County Confederate Monument, George Andrew's Federal Building, First Methodist Church, and the Whitfield-Duke-Searcy House.

Opelika's Main Street program began in 1987. Prior to its creation, the Downtown Redevelopment Authority worked to revitalize downtown. Opelika Main Street's accomplishments include removal of metal canopies so facade improvements would be possible, over 18 million dollars invested in building improvements during program's first 10 years, contributed to process of saving the depot and its restoration, created a facade enhancement program, created a low-interest loan program with area banks for building rehabilitation, and initiated a discount paint program for members.



Downtown Opelika

U.S. CENSUS DATA FOR OPELIKA				
	1990	2000	2010	CHANGE SINCE 1990
Population	22,122	23,498	26,477	+4,355
Housing Units (includes apts/dorms)	8,956	10,272	11,751	+2,795
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	5,041	5,925	6,586	+1,545
Housing Units Median Value	\$59,800	\$91,100	\$135,000	+\$75,200
Employed	8,788	10,302	12,461	+3,673
Emp. in Arts, Rec, Ent, Food Ser., and Accommodations		780	1,385	Since 2000 +605
Emp. in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate		534	532	Since 2000 -2
Mean Household Earnings			\$53,286	



Auburn University

In 1838, Auburn began vying for a Methodist male college. In 1856, the legislature incorporated the East Alabama Male College. In 1859, the college opened its doors as a private liberal arts institution. The college was forced to close its doors in 1861 when most students joined the Confederate Army, but reopened as a hospital from 1864-1866.

In 1866, East Alabama Male College opened once again, but struggled financially. In 1868, the Alabama Legislature decided to create a public land-grant college to offer specific training to help Alabama rebuild its war-torn state. On February 26, 1872, Lee County Legislator Sheldon Toomer wrote the bill making it the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama. The school became the first land-grant college in the South.

Women were admitted in 1892, making it the oldest four-year, coeducational school in the state and the second-oldest in the Southeast. In 1899, the name was again changed to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Finally, in 1960 the name of the school was changed to Auburn University. The institution has experienced its greatest growth since World War II.

Auburn University at Montgomery was established as a separately accredited campus in 1967. The institution has developed



rapidly, especially since moving to a 500-acre campus east of Montgomery in 1971. Current enrollment at AUM is about 5,200.

There are more than 140 degree options in 13 schools and colleges at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels. Auburn's current colleges and schools and dates of inception are: College of Agriculture, 1872; Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, 1872; Graduate School, 1872; James Harrison School of Pharmacy, 1885; College of Veterinary Medicine, 1907; College of Architecture, Design and Construction, 1907; College of Education, 1915; College of Human Sciences, 1916; College of Business, 1967; School of Nursing, 1979; School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 1984; College of Sciences and Mathematics, 1986; and College of Liberal Arts, 1986.

Auburn offers baccalaureate degrees across a broad spectrum of disciplines and provides the state's only publicly supported programs in many fields. These fields include: agriculture, architecture, building science, forestry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine.

Auburn provides master's level programs in 130 areas and awards the doctorate in nearly 100 fields, many of which are the state's only doctoral programs. Graduate programs are in agriculture, the biological and physical sciences, education, engineer-

ing, forestry, the human sciences, mathematics, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and the liberal arts and the social sciences.

The Auburn University campus has 92 major academic buildings (427 total buildings) on 1,843 acres, which makes it one of the largest universities in the South. Auburn has 1,192 full-time faculty members. The Fall 2014 semester enrollment was 25,912. There are now more than 250,000 graduates.

Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC)

SUSCC serves more than 5,000 students at three campuses in East Alabama in Opelika, Valley, and Wadley with an educational emphasis on academic programs for transferability, technical programs for specialized career competencies, and health sciences programs for specialized training in the health field. The main campus is located in Opelika.

Academic departments at SUSCC include Business; Child Development; Fine Arts; Language Arts; Mathematics; Science; Social Science; Health and Wellness and Therapeutic Massage. Health Sciences includes programs in Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Technician, Paramedic, Continuing Education, Nursing, Associate Degree Nursing (RN), Practical Nursing (LPN), Mobility-LPN to RN, Mobility - Paramedic to RN, Mobility - Paramedic to RN Fast Track, Home Health Aide, Nursing Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Surgical Technology, and Therapeutic Massage. Technical programs include Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Automotive Service Technology, Cosmetology, Industrial Electricity/Electronics, Manufacturing Technology, Machine Shop Technology, Welding

Technology, and Engineering Graphics and Design.

Shopping

Opelika has restored its downtown district which includes restaurants, clothing, antique, art and gift shops, and other specialty retail outlets. Downtown Opelika has many historic buildings. Downtown Auburn has many shops, restaurants, bars, and nightlife establishments. The center of Auburn is Toomer's Corner and it is located where the university campus meets the city. It was originally constructed in 1860.

Southeast Auburn has celebrated the opening of nearly 20 new shops and restaurants in the past two years. The Heart of Auburn development, directly across from campus on South College Street, opened in Spring 2014 with retailers and several new dining concepts. The recently developed area around Exit 57 near I-85 continues to add restaurants and retail outlets. The Village Mall and Shops on South College also have many retailers and restaurants close to the Auburn University campus. Other major shopping centers include The Shoppes at Cary Creek, Tiger Town, and Hamilton Place Shopping Center.

Dining

The Auburn-Opelika area has a wide variety of dining establishments, from cafés and coffeehouses to casual eateries, sports bars, and fine dining restaurants. The menus available are eclectic and include American classics, BBQ, fresh seafood, and ethnic dishes representing cuisine from Asia, Germany, Italy, and Mexico.

Banks and Credit Unions

Some of the banks in the area are: Aliant Bank, Amerifirst Bank, Auburn Bank,



Montgomery Riverfront

Bancorp South Bank, BB&T, BBVA Compass, Charter Bank, First South Farm Credit, Heritage Bank of the South, Keystone Bank, MidSouth Bank, National Bank of Commerce, PNC Bank, Regions Bank, Southern States Bank, Trustmark, and Wells Fargo. Credit Unions in the area include: Four Seasons Federal Credit Union, MAX Credit Union, and Alabama Ag Credit. Investment and mortgage companies are as follows: E. A. Investment Corporation, Hometown Lenders, New Penn Financial, Primary Residential Mortgage, and Supreme Lending.

Montgomery

Montgomery is located 40 minutes west of Auburn on I-85. Montgomery offers additional healthcare, shopping, recreation, and cultural attractions. There are many historical places including Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, and the Rosa Parks Museum which are associated with the national civil rights movement and the Confederacy.

The revived downtown and Riverfront District of Montgomery has restored storefronts, restaurants, warehouses, and antique shops. The riverfront area hosts many annual events including frequent specialty riverboat dinner cruises and boat races. Old Alabama Town has over 40



State Capitol in Montgomery

restored 19th and 20th century structures. These structures include a schoolhouse, house museums, tavern, cotton gin, and blacksmith shop.

Transportation

AIRPORTS

Five airports are located within 110 miles of Auburn including the Atlanta Airport, the busiest airport in the world with more than 2,500 daily flights. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta serves more than 150 U.S. destinations and more than 60 international cities in 50 countries.

Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport in Birmingham offers more than 120 daily flights to over 25 U.S. cities. It is home to five major airlines operating at 13 gates. These airlines are American, Delta, Southwest, United, and US Airways. They serve over 3 million passengers annually.

Montgomery Regional Airport in Montgomery serves 400,000 travelers each year. The airport covers 2,000 acres. In 2006, the airport completed a multi-year terminal upgrade project which included expanding the terminal building and adding new gates and facilities. Further upgrades included escalators and an elevator to the second floor rotunda and boarding area; new jetbridges; new flight infor-

mation displays; and conveniences such as new restrooms, concessions and free WiFi service throughout the terminal. American Eagle, Delta, and US Airways provide commercial flights.

Columbus Airport in Columbus, GA serves 100,000 passengers each year. The terminal complex measures 66,000 square feet and includes two terminal buildings and a total of 7 gates. American Eagle and Delta provide commercial flights.

Auburn University Regional Airport in Auburn serves as a public use facility and is owned and operated by Auburn University. In 2010, the airport opened a 26,000-square-foot terminal that includes a flight planning room, meeting space, board room, pilots' lounge, and offices. The airport improvement project also included the addition of several 12,000-square-foot hanger lots available for lease to private companies.

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES

Express 85 is a direct service to nearby airports. They provide first class shuttle service to the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Montgomery Regional Airport, and are available for chartered transportation services. They have spacious, late-model shuttles with professional drivers for 10 trips per day.

Religion

All major religions are represented among more than 150 places of worship in the county. Many social activities and natural support systems are associated with these religious organizations.

Cost of Living

COST OF LIVING INDEX

The Cost of Living Index by the US Census Bureau measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participat-

ing areas for a mid-management standard of living. The nationwide average equals 100, and each index is read as a percent of the national average. The index does not measure inflation, but compares prices at a single point in time. It excludes taxes.

The composite index is broken down as: groceries, 13%; housing, 29%; utilities, 10%; transportation, 12%; health care, 4%; and miscellaneous goods and services, 32%. The index scores for the Auburn-Opelika Area from the 2010 Annual Average were: composite index, 98.9; groceries, 104.6; housing 90.2; utilities, 101.3; transportation, 92.9; health care, 88.4; and miscellaneous, 106.5.

Taxes

SALES TAXES

The Total Sales Tax for state and county is 9%. There is a sales tax exemption for prescription drugs.

STATE INCOME TAXES

Tax rates for single persons, heads of families, and married persons filing separate returns are: 2% for first \$500 of taxable income; 4% of next \$2,500 of taxable income; and 5% of all taxable income over \$3,000. Tax rates for married persons filing a joint return are: 2% for First \$1,000 of taxable income; 4% of next \$5,000 of taxable income; and 5% of all taxable income over \$6,000.

Taxpayers using the Single and Married Filing Separately filing statuses are entitled to a \$1,500 personal exemption. Taxpayers using the Married Filing Jointly and Head of Family filing statuses are entitled to a \$3,000 personal exemption. Part year residents are entitled to the full exemption amount. A dependent or student may claim a personal exemption even if claimed by someone else.

The Alabama standard deduction is

based on the filing status used by the taxpayer. The 2006 Tax Reform Bill increased the standard deduction for lower income Alabama taxpayers, without reducing the standard deduction for other taxpayers. For tax years ending 12/31/2006 and prior, the standard deduction for taxpayers using the Single filing status, the Married Filing Separately filing status and the Head of Family filing status is the lesser of 20% of adjusted gross income or \$2,000. The standard deduction for taxpayers using the Married Filing Jointly filing status is the lesser of 20% of adjusted gross income or \$4,000.

The State of Alabama exempts many forms of income from state income taxes. Income exempt from Alabama income taxation includes: United States Civil Service Retirement System benefits; State of Alabama Teachers Retirement System benefits; State of Alabama Employees Retirement System benefits; State of Alabama Judicial Retirement System benefits; military retirement pay; Tennessee Valley Authority Pension System benefits; US Government Retirement Fund benefits; payments from a Defined Benefit Retirement Plan in accordance with IRC 414(j); Federal Railroad Retirement benefits; Federal Social Security benefits; state income tax refunds; Unemployment Compensation; welfare benefits; disability retirement payments (and other benefits) paid by the Veterans Administration; Workman's Compensation benefits, insurance damages, etc., for injury or sickness; child support; gifts, money, or other property was inherited or received through a will; dividends on veteran's life insurance; life insurance proceeds received because of a person's death; Interest on obligations of the State of Alabama or any county, city, or municipality of Alabama; interest on obligations of the United States or any of its possessions; amounts received from

insurance because of loss of the use of the home due to fire or other casualty to the extent the amounts were more than the cost of the normal expenses while living in the home; military allowances paid to active duty military, National Guard, and active reserves for quarters, subsistence, uniforms, and travel; subsistence allowance received by law enforcement and correction officers of the State of Alabama; all retirement compensation received by an eligible fire fighter or a designated beneficiary from any Alabama firefighting agency; all retirement compensation received by an eligible peace officer or a designated beneficiary from any Alabama police retirement system; Death Benefits received by a designated beneficiary of a peace officer or fireman killed in the line of duty; income earned while serving as a foreign missionary after first serving 24 months as a missionary in a foreign country; compensation received from the United States for active service as a member of the Armed Forces in a combat zone designated by the President of the United States; an amount up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) received as severance, Unemployment Compensation or Termination Pay, or as income from a supplemental income plan, or both, by an employee who, as a result of administrative downsizing, is terminated, laid-off, fired, or displaced from his or her employment; all tuition benefits received from the Alabama Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (PACT) program; and Alabama 529 Savings Plan.

PROPERTY TAXES

The Alabama Department of Revenue Property Tax Division sets the standards and procedures for equalization of property values in the counties, and ensures property is taxed uniformly throughout the state. Their purpose is to supervise and control the valuation, equalization, assess-

ment of property, and collection of all ad valorem taxes.

All taxable real and personal property, with the exception of public utility property, is assessed on the local level at the county courthouse with the county assessing official. The lien date for taxes is October 1 and taxes are due the following October 1.

The property tax rate is \$5.40 per \$100 of assessed value, with homes assessed at 10% of market value. Personal property taxes apply to vehicles, which are assessed at 15% of market value and taxed at the same rate that applies to homes.

Alabama taxes are calculated using the property's assessed value. This is determined by multiplying the appraised value by the corresponding property classification, which is also known as the assessment rate. Once the assessed value of the property has been determined, it is multiplied by the appropriate millage rate for the area. Millage is the tax rate expressed in decimal form. Millage rates are determined by the county commissions and other taxing agencies. A mill is one-tenth of one cent and 10 mills equals one penny.

The total state and county millage rates for Lee County are 20. Municipal millage rates for Auburn and Opelika are 26. School millage rates for Auburn and Opelika are 8. All agricultural, forest, and single-family owner occupied residential property is assessed at 10%. All private passenger vehicles are assessed at 15%.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

A homestead exemption is defined as a single-family owner-occupied dwelling and the land thereto, not exceeding 160 acres. The property owner may be entitled to a homestead exemption if he or she owns a single-family residence and occupies it as their primary residence on the first day of the tax year for which they are apply-

ing. Homestead exemptions are claimed through the county office.

Eligibility for Alabama Homestead Exemptions for those not over 65 years of age is not more than \$4,000 and not more than 160 acres. For those over 65, there is no maximum amount and not more than 160 acres. For those with a permanent and total disability, there is no maximum amount and not more than 160 acres. For those that are blind, there is no maximum amount and not more than 160 acres.

VEHICLE TAXES

The Vehicle Valuation Section is primarily responsible for providing market values to each county in Alabama. These values are used by the county tag offices to calculate the ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles. Ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles are assessed and collected forward on a current basis to coincide with the collection of motor vehicle registration fees. All accrued ad valorem tax on a motor vehicle must be collected prior to the vehicle registration.

Upon the sale, trade, total destruction, permanent removal from Alabama, theft without, the owner of such motor vehicle will be entitled to a pro rata credit for the ad valorem taxes paid for the remainder of the then current period for which such taxes have been paid. The owner has sixty (60) days to claim the credit voucher from the date the vehicle is sold, traded, totally destroyed, permanently removed from Alabama, stolen without recovery or transferred to claim the credit voucher in the county in which the taxes were originally paid. The credit voucher is valid for twelve (12) months from the date of issuance. The original credit voucher must be submitted to the tax collecting official at the time of registration or renewal to receive the credit.

Ad valorem tax is a property tax, not a use tax, and follows the property from

owner to owner. Therefore, unlike registration fees, taxes accumulate even when a vehicle is not used on the highway. To calculate the assessed value for a motor vehicle, multiply the market value by the appropriate assessment and the applicable millage rate.

The rate for Class IV Motor Vehicles is 15% and includes all private passenger motor vehicles, sport utility vehicles (regardless of weight), vans, and “pickup” trucks which weigh eight thousand (8,000) pounds gross vehicle weight or less that are owned and operated by an individual for personal or private use and not for hire, rent, or compensation.

The rate for Class II Motor Vehicles is 20%. This class includes motorcycles, utility trailers, recreational vehicles, leased vehicles not for private use, trucks weighing more than 8,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, and all vehicles used for commercial purposes.

OTHER TAX RATES

Alabama state tax rates are: consumer use auto, 2%; consumer use general, 4%; state lodging tax, 4%; auto rental tax, 1.5%; general rental tax, 4%; auto sales tax, 2%; general sales tax, 4%; vending food sales tax, 3%; and general sellers use tax, 4%. Opelika and Auburn tax rates are: consumer use general, 4%; lodging tax, 7%; general and auto rental tax, 2.5%; amusement sales tax, 4%; general sales tax, 4%; and general sellers use tax, 4%. There is no Alabama Estate Tax and Inheritance Tax.

Healthcare

EAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER (EAMC)

Founded as an 81-bed hospital in 1952, EAMC serves as the principal source of primary and referral services for the residents of Lee County and surrounding areas. The



East Alabama Medical Center Complex

hospital offers complete medical and surgical services on both an inpatient and outpatient basis and has continually been recognized for its quality care on both the state and national level. It is currently licensed for 340 beds. Ninety percent of all patient rooms are private.

EAMC is a fully accredited facility in Hospital and Laboratory programs under The Joint Commission (TJC) and has been continuously accredited since 1959. TJC names EAMC as one of the nation’s Top Performers on Key Quality Measures. EAMC was recognized for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for certain conditions. EAMC earned the distinction by attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measures performance. Specifically, EAMC was recognized for its success on the following measure sets: 1) heart attack; 2) heart failure; 3) pneumonia; and 4) surgical care.

In 2010, EAMC became the first hospital in Alabama to be certified in advanced inpatient diabetes care by TJC, and it has also been designated as a Blue Distinction Center® for Knee and Hip Replacement by BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama. It was recently named a top performer in the Premier healthcare alliance’s QUEST: High Performing Hospitals® Collaborative.

The Hospital Strength Index, a national ratings and analytics program developed by iVantage Health Analytics, ranks all 4,400+ U.S. general acute care hospitals based on eight performance pillars comprised of 56 different performance measures. EAMC earned recognition in 2013 as one of our country's Top 100 strongest hospitals.

Employees and physicians in the cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU) were conferred a silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The Beacon Award recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN's six standards for a healthy work environment.

There are 4,451 U.S. hospitals that are evaluated by Healthgrades for common inpatient procedures and conditions. There were 140 U.S. hospitals recognized by Healthgrades for Orthopedic Surgery Excellence in 2014. Two Alabama hospitals received an Orthopedic Surgery Excellence Award in 2014. The EAMC is the only Alabama hospital that has received the Orthopedic Surgery Excellence Award for 7 consecutive years.

EAMC has gone through a number of expansions over the years and the most recent expansion occurred in 2005-2006. It doubled the south bed tower from four floors to eight floors and included the addition of the West Pavilion, which houses the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU), 10 operating rooms, and Cardiac Rehab.

On average, more than 150,000 patients a year utilize the health care services, programs, and facilities at EAMC. There were 13,595 in-patients in FY 2013. In addition, each year, around 320 open-heart surgeries are performed and approximately 17,000 surgical procedures are successful-

ly conducted at the medical center. EAMC employs more than 2,600 people and has 294 volunteers.

The Emergency Department cared for more than 46,000 patients 2013, and 1,704 babies were born in the hospital's Women's and Children's Center. The hospital complex includes a cancer center, four assisted and independent living facilities, a nursing home, a 40,000-square-foot fitness center (the state's first certified medical fitness facility), and a wound treatment center.

EAMC provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment services. Among its services are: comprehensive cancer services; oncology wellness program, cardiology and cardiovascular surgery; neurosurgery; Orthopaedic Joint Center of Excellence; psychiatric services for child/adolescent, adults, and geriatric; The da Vinci Robotic Surgery System; imaging, including 64-slice CT, the 3T MRI (the world's strongest MRI approved for clinical use), PET scan, and calcium scoring; diabetes and nutrition center; rehabilitation services (pediatric and adult); Pain Clinic, Sleep Disorders Center; health and wellness center, and Wound Treatment Center.

There are more than 160 physicians practicing in 31 different specialties on the active medical staff. Physician specialties include: Allergy and Immunology, Anesthesiology, Arthritis, Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, Cardiology, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Hypertension, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Oral Surgery, Orthopaedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Pathology, Pediatrics, Plastic Surgery, Psychiatry, Pulmonary Medicine, Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Rheumatology, Surgery, Urology, and Wellness.

Collaborative Care (CC) is a patient care

model that guides inpatient care, promotes self-care, and supports transition of care into the home. The Collaborative Care model started with a redesign of the admission process. The revised process involves the physician, primary nurse, pharmacist, and care coordinator meeting together with the patient upon admission.

PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

There are 28 beds in Psychiatric Services, and this unit underwent major renovations before being completed in the early part of fiscal year 2013. The renovated unit has therapy rooms, an expanded activity room, and larger quiet spaces. The outdoor portion of the unit was also revamped and is protected by awnings to allow for shade.

This area has a larger, improved play therapy area, multiple classrooms, and a group room.

COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

The center has a lab and pathology testing, endoscopy procedures, and does surgical biopsies. Services include the following: Positron Emission Tomography/CT scanning; 64-slice and 16-slice CT scanners; 1.5T MRI scanners; 3T MRI; digital mammography; breast MRI biopsies; stereotactic breast biopsies; sentinel node biopsies; Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI); nuclear medicine; and chemotherapy.

Image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT) is provided and combines traditional radiation therapy with a simultaneous CT scan to allow physicians great precision and accuracy when targeting and treating cancer. Healthy tissue can be easily damaged if radiation is not delivered with a high degree of accuracy. Brachytherapy is used for some prostate, lung, and cervical cancer patients whereby tiny radioactive “seeds” are implanted to provide a concentrated dose of radiation to the cancerous area.

Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) allows physicians to “sculpt” radiation to the contours of a tumor, which spares the surrounding healthy tissue. This added precision and accuracy means fewer side effects and a higher cure rate.

Hematology/oncology services are provided by a board-certified hematology/oncology physician on staff. Hematology is the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of blood diseases (hematology) and cancer (oncology). Hematology-oncology includes such diseases as iron deficiency anemia, thalassemias, leukemias, and lymphomas.

Infusion services are provided by a team of registered nurses and certified oncology nurses who work collaboratively with patients, families, physicians and support staff to provide treatments and procedures. These infusion nurses are certified in chemotherapy administration and infusion patients have immediate access to an oncologist. Each patient receives individualized education regarding his/her treatment, possible side effects and adverse reactions, and expected outcomes. The patient may also receive a referral to an oncology social worker or dietitian if needed.

Cancer Center infusion services include chemotherapy and other anti-neoplastic agent administration, blood transfusions, therapeutic phlebotomy, portacath maintenance, hydration therapy, immune globulin therapy, iron replacement therapy, and injections.

The Infusion Center is equipped with 20 comfortable recliners, multiple triple infusion pumps, and a small number of ambulatory pumps in a communal area. There are portable DVD players, a DVD library, and free wireless internet access.

Technologically advanced surgical techniques are also available in the Cancer Center. Minimally Invasive Surgery through small incisions can be performed to diag-

nose and treat cancer. The da Vinci robotic surgical system provides less scarring, less blood loss, less risk of infection, and a quicker recovery overall. Reconstructive surgery is performed by plastic surgeons who reconstruct the area affected by surgical removal of cancer.

Stereotactic breast biopsy is a minimally invasive form of breast biopsy. This procedure is used to obtain tiny samples from an abnormal breast mass for examination by a pathologist. Sentinel Lymph Node (SLN) Biopsy involves removal and examination of the sentinel lymph node. This is the first lymph node to which cancer is likely to spread from the primary tumor.

Lymphedema therapy is provided. Lymphedema is most common in women after breast cancer treatment, including radiation, simple mastectomy, lumpectomy or radical mastectomy with removal of lymph nodes. It may also affect women and men who have been treated for other forms of cancer or who have suffered trauma to the lymph system.

The Robert and Marjorie Goodson Oncology Wellness Program is a collaborative effort between the Cancer Center of East Alabama, HealthPlus Fitness Center, and RehabWorks outpatient rehabilitation. This program is open to patients of the Cancer Center before, during, and after treatment. The services include exercise, massage therapy, nutritional counseling, stress management, and intimacy counseling. The patient receives an orientation by a Certified Cancer Exercise Specialist and an individual exercise plan based on their individual needs and goals. One-on-one, personalized training is provided until the patient is comfortable and confident that they can safely do the exercise on their own.

DIABETES AND NUTRITION CENTER (DANC)

DANC at EAMC has a team of certified professionals who specialize in diabetes. The team includes nurses, dietitians, and pharmacists, and they work with the physician to effectively manage diabetes. They also offer classes and counseling on healthy eating, and provide services to help with weight loss and weight management. In 2010, DANC became the first program in Alabama (one of less than 25 in the country), to achieve Advanced Certification in Inpatient Diabetes by TJC.

HEALTHPLUS FITNESS CENTER

This is a medically based technologically advanced fitness facility. It is supervised by a qualified staff in the exercise science field and provides user friendly, state-of-the-art equipment. The computerized FitLinxx™ training partner gives instant feedback concerning technique and allows the trainer to track progress toward achieving fitness goals. There is an indoor lap pool, state-of-the-art cardiovascular and strength training equipment, health screening and exercise prescription, group exercise studio, water aerobics classes, precision cycling, indoor track, steam room, and health resource library.

SENIOR LIVING

Senior Living of EAMC offers four communities that serve seniors; Azalea Place, Camellia Place, Magnolia Place, and Oak Park. All facilities are accredited by the Alabama Department of Public Health. In addition to independent retirement living apartments and cottages, there is a variety of assisted living options. Assisted living can range from simply being in an apartment within one of the facilities with help available if needed, to specialized care for Alzheimer's/dementia.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CLINIC

AUMC, created in 1996 as a partnership of EAMC and Collegiate Health Care, is a full-service primary care clinic whose function is to serve Auburn University students, faculty and staff, and the Auburn community. In addition to having physicians, nurse practitioners, and a full nursing staff, AUMC also has a full lab, x-ray facilities, pharmacy, and an optical clinic. The clinic handles all types of medical services, including immunizations and women's health care.

EMERGENCY CARE

The Auburn area is also home to several emergency care facilities with extended days and hours of operation. Two of these are Auburn Urgent Care and American Family Care.

MONTGOMERY HEALTHCARE

Montgomery County serves as a strong base for healthcare with six hospitals. Baptist Medical Center South and Baptist Medical Center East have over 600 beds combined. They are known for cardiovascular, orthopedic, neurology, and surgical services. The Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System serves veterans and is located five miles from downtown Montgomery on 52 acres. Jackson Hospital in Montgomery has 344 beds and covers 11 city blocks. They do advanced procedures in cardiology, orthopedics, neurosciences, cancer, and surgery.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY VETERINARY MEDICINE CLINIC

This has been a continuous program since 1892 and there have been more than 6,428 doctors of veterinary medicine that have graduated. There is a new Wilford and Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital and expanded Veterinary Education Center. This clinic has access to 3 Telsa and 7 Telsa MRI facilities.

Outdoor Recreation

AUBURN PARKS AND RECREATION

The city of Auburn operates the Community Arts Center. This contains an art gallery, two studio/classrooms, a children's gallery, a conference room, and a performance room. The center provides area residents with access to an active schedule of exhibitions, concerts, lectures, dance, theatre, and art classes. They also offer programs, classes, facilities, and special events. Activities include ceramics, adult softball leagues, camps, oil painting classes, youth athletics, vocal lessons, and Zumba or swing dance lessons. Several top-notch passive and recreational parks, athletic facilities, walking trails, and swimming pools are also available. Annual events include CityFest, Bike Bash, Bark in the Park, the Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July Celebration, Sundown Concert Series, Fishing Rodeo, and Downtown Trick-or-Treat.

The Young at Heart Club sponsors year-round activities, programs, and exciting trips. Past trips include the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Callaway Gardens, local and regional festivals, dinner theatre, and the Georgia Aquarium. On the first and third Tuesday of each month, there is bingo and a meal.

OPELIKA PARKS AND RECREATION

Opelika's Parks and Recreation Department operates several facilities and offers many recreational programs. The Opelika SportsPlex and Aquatic Center is considered a "Life Enhancement Center." This modern facility features basketball, racquetball, swimming pool, splash park, cardio machines, weights, indoor track, and outdoor track. The fitness center also offers group fitness, personal training, and massage therapy. Senior Memberships are offered and Opelika residents receive an

additional discount.

The Charter Foundation Adult Activity Center includes a 5,000 square-foot “Common Area” with tables, chairs, stage and AV capabilities, Computer Lab, Game Room, and Media Room. There are membership fees for this center only, or if individuals are members of the Sportsplex, they will not be charged an additional fee. Each month, there is a wide variety of group travel opportunities.

Group activities include line dancing, ballroom dancing, basketball, flag football, and classes on ceramics. Tennis is also available.

WALKING TRAILS

There are many structured walking trails in Auburn. The Auburn Floral Trail provides 14 miles of flowers, shrubs, and bushes.

BIKING

Biking is a popular pastime in Auburn and the city of Auburn has invested a great deal of effort and resources into becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community (as designated by the League of American Bicyclists). The area’s neighborhoods and parks lend themselves to biking and a number of cycling-centered events are held throughout the year, including the family-friendly Bike Bash.

LOUISE KREHER FOREST ECOLOGY PRESERVE

This preserve is located on North College Street and is an outreach program of the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. It features five miles of trails over 120 acres, an amphitheater, pavilion, fire pit, nature playground, restrooms, and several areas designed for nature exploration. Educational programs, hikes, camps, trail runs and other activities are scheduled throughout the year. It is open seven days a week from sunrise

until sunset with no pets, no bikes and no admission fee.

DAVIS ARBORETUM

The Donald E. Davis Arboretum at Auburn University showcases a living collection of native plants from the Southeastern U.S. and is situated on 14 acres of the university’s main campus. The Davis Arboretum, which has a strong focus on Alabama’s plants and natural habitats, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013.

The garden is open to the public year round, and features core collections of oaks, carnivorous plants, and native azaleas. There are representations of Alabama’s coastal dunes, prairies, longleaf pine savannahs, pitcher plant bogs, and the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. There are almost 900 trees, and the total collection of trees and woody plants includes examples of more than 300 different species. The oak tree collection includes examples of all 39 species native to the Southeastern U.S., and in 2010 the oak collection was accepted to the North American Plant Collection Consortium.

As a means of educating the public and Auburn University students on the plants found in the Davis Arboretum, three self-guided species tours have been installed – The Oaks; Large Trees; and Small Trees and Shrubs. The tours are open to the public and are guided by brochures containing maps of species locations in the garden.

SPRING VILLA PARK

Spring Villa Park is a 325-acre park in Opelika. It includes a 30-acre spring-fed lake, a picnic shelter, an outdoor volleyball court, horseshoe pit, walking trails, and a campground.

OPELIKA GROWS

In 2014, Opelika Grows broke ground for a Community Garden at the Cultural Arts Center. Opelika Grows is a partnership

of Auburn University, Food Bank of East Alabama, Keep Opelika Beautiful, and Opelika City Schools. The garden is divided into various size plots: large, medium, and small. For a nominal fee, residents of Lee County can lease areas on a first-come, first-serve basis. Lease holders may plant anything they wish in their plot.

Monthly workshops are held the second Saturday of every month. Topics discussed include pesticide management, plant spacing, and seed selection. After the workshop, leaseholders plant, weed, and water their plot.

LEE COUNTY LAKE

Lee County Lake is a 130-acre fishing lake owned by the State of Alabama. It is located nine miles from Auburn.

LAKE HARDING

Lake Harding is a 5,850-acre reservoir on the Chattahoochee River 10 miles from Auburn with portions of the lake located in Georgia and Alabama. The lake offers fishing, boating, and more.

THE TUSKEGEE NATIONAL FOREST

The Tuskegee National Forest includes camping facilities, bike trails, hiking trails, horseback riding trails, a shooting range, and wildlife viewing areas. It is located less than 30 minutes from Auburn.

CHEWACLA STATE PARK

Chewacla State Park is located minutes from downtown Auburn and has 696 acres of nature retreat and outdoor playground. It has a 26-acre lake, peaceful waterfalls, hiking trails, campsite areas, 15 miles of recently-added mountain biking trails, and newly renovated rustic cabins. It is the site of CAMP-SORBA's main biking trail system.

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

The Chattahoochee River is located approximately 10 miles from Opelika

on the Alabama-Georgia border. The Chattahoochee River flows from the mountains from north Georgia through the valleys of west Georgia and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. It is an ancient river and has had many economic and transportation functions throughout history. It is a great source of recreation including: fishing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and exploration of archaeological sites.

Nearby, Phenix City, AL is the site of one of the newest and largest urban white-water courses in the country racing along the Chattahoochee River between Phenix City and Columbus, GA. This course is two and a half miles long and there are class I to class V rapids. Phenix City is celebrating the project by bringing arts, retail and restaurants back to the city center.

WEST POINT LAKE

West Point Lake is a 26,000 acre lake that is located minutes from Auburn/Opelika near Lanett, AL and LaGrange, GA. It offers bass fishing and recreational opportunities.

LAKE MARTIN

Lake Martin is located 30 minutes west of Auburn near Alexander City and Dadeville, Alabama. It has 44,000 acres with over 750 miles of wooded shoreline with activities that include boating, fishing, skiing, swimming, and golfing. Fishing is for largemouth bass, striped bass, white bass, bream, crappie, and catfish. Dozens of fishing tournaments are held each year at Wind Creek State Park on Lake Martin. There are many marinas, cabin rentals, restaurants, and motels. The main attractions are Chimney Rock, Kowaliga Bridge, Willow Point Country Club, and Stillwaters Resort.

THE MONTGOMERY ZOO

The Montgomery Zoo and its Mann Wildlife Learning Museum provide over 40 landscaped acres. They have over 700 animals and people can learn about exotic and



Lake Martin

North American wildlife and endangered species.

THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT CAPITOL HILL

Prattville, just north of Montgomery on I-65, has a site on The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail with 54 championship holes of world-class golf. It also hosts an annual tournament for the LPGA Tour.



The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill in Prattville

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

The Montgomery Biscuits are a Class AA affiliate of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. They play at the Montgomery Riverwalk Stadium that has a capacity of 7,000.

MONTGOMERY OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS

Montgomery offers many outdoor attractions. Some of these include: the Alabama



Baseball in Montgomery

Nature Center, Blount Cultural Park, and Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum.

OTHER MONTGOMERY ATTRACTIONS

Other forms of entertainment in Montgomery include the Hank Williams Museum, Riverwalk Amphitheater, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum, Capri Theatre, Alabama Cattlemen’s Association “MOOseum,” Mann Wildlife Learning Museum, Harriott II Riverboat, and the W.A. Gayle Planetarium. The Alabama Department of Archives and History, Civil Rights Memorial, First White House of the Confederacy, Union Station, and Fort Toulouse/Jackson Park are also popular attractions.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Auburn University is a member of the Southeastern Conference and offers year-round athletic events. Auburn has 21 NCAA Division I-A athletic teams—nine men’s and 12 women’s. Athletic Teams at Auburn include: baseball at Plainsman Park, men’s and women’s basketball at Auburn Arena, equestrian, football at Jordan-Hare Stadium, men’s and women’s golf at Auburn University Club, gymnastics at Auburn Arena, soccer at Auburn Soccer Complex, softball at Jane B. Moore



Football Stadium at Auburn University

Field, swim and diving at James E. Martin Aquatics Center, men’s and women’s tennis at Yarbrough Tennis Center, track and field at Hutsell-Rosen Track, and volleyball at Auburn Arena.

AUBURN ARENA

The new Auburn Arena at Auburn University provides first-class, state-of-the-art facilities for athletic programs such as the men’s and women’s basketball teams and gymnastics. There is an estimated seating capacity of 9,000 with chair back seats along with bleacher seating for students. Other features of the arena include a HD video board, AU Team Store, the Lovelace Hall of Honor, and two food courts.

JORDAN-HARE STADIUM

Pat Dye Field at Jordan-Hare Stadium, the nation’s 10th-largest on-campus stadium, with a capacity of 87,451, has served as home of the Auburn Tigers since 1939. More than 75,000 season tickets have been sold to Auburn home games in each of the last 18 years. A variety of food and drink options are available throughout the inner concourses of Jordan-Hare Stadium. Café Jordan-Hare is a dining experience on the 50 yard line of Jordan-Hare Stadium.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

The history of Auburn football traces back to 1892 when George Petrie, a history and Latin professor, organized and coached the



Auburn University Campus

first team. The Tigers played their first football game against the University of Georgia at Piedmont Park in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ralph “Shug” Jordan, who coached from 1951 to 1975, won a total of 176 games, the most by any Auburn coach. Auburn officially claims two national championships (1957, 2011) and has produced three Heisman Trophy winners: quarterback Pat Sullivan in 1971, running back Bo Jackson in 1985, and quarterback Cam Newton in 2010.

FOOTBALL GAME DAY EVENTS

Friday Football Luncheons provide fans a preview of the game with the Head Football Coach or other members of the coaching staff. The War Eagle Girls and Plainsmen lead a free campus walking tour on Friday afternoons before home games. Football, Fans, and Feathers on game day Fridays is a raptor show, flight demonstration, and educational program at the Southeastern Raptor Center on campus.

Locker Room Tours at the stadium are free and allow fans to experience the pre-game locker room setup for the Auburn football team on Fridays prior to each home game. The Verizon Autograph Tent is where former Auburn football lettermen sign memorabilia and talk with fans. The tent is located beside the Red Diamond Tailgate Show in the parking lot of Plainsman Park and begins two hours prior to kickoff.

TAILGATING AT FOOTBALL GAMES

Tailgating is not allowed on campus until 4 p.m. on Friday. No one is allowed to reserve legal, paved parking spaces in the parking decks or university parking lots. Reserving tailgating spots in grass areas using stakes, ropes, ribbons, tape, chairs, tables, tents, vehicles or other items is allowed. The hayfields on Donahue Drive are open for free, public RV parking at 2 p.m. on Thursdays prior to home games.

There are 65 new tailgating spots on the perimeter of the Intramural Fields on Biggio Drive. They are free and fans may reserve spots on a first-come, first served basis beginning at 9 a.m. on Mondays before a home game.

A new free tailgating area has opened up behind the Forestry and Wildlife building at the corner of South Donahue and Lem Morrison Drive near the stadium. The wooded area has been partially cleared there for a longleaf pine tree reforestation project.

Parking packages are available at Ag Heritage Park and range from parking only to regular, deluxe, and ultimate tailgates. Fans can purchase packages featuring parking, tents, tables, and power. RV parking is still available at Ag Heritage Park.

Each game day, fans have the opportunity to unload their vehicles in one of six designated locations. At each location, staff are present to assist with the unloading process, monitor unloading times, and ensure the unload process does not disrupt normal game day traffic flow. Tents with stakes shorter than 12-inches may be set up after 4 p.m. on Fridays. Permits are required for any tent with stakes that are 12-inches or longer. Grills are not allowed within 50 feet of campus buildings or in other designated no-grill areas. Tailgating and grilling are not allowed in the parking decks.

Tailgate Guys provides a turn-key tailgating service for the game day fan at Campus Green near the stadium. All tail-

gate packages include tents, chairs, tables, and personalize signage with the option to add TV packages and catering.

ALUMNI HOSPITALITY TENT

The Auburn Alumni Association Hospitality Tent provides a tent on game days with food, a big-screen TV, the Auburn Cheerleaders, and more. The tent is on The Wallace Center lawn just steps from the stadium.

Other Leisure-time Activities

CASINO

The Creek Indians operate a casino just minutes from downtown Montgomery in Wetumpka. It features a 46,000-square-foot gaming floor with 2,100 games, a High-Limit Room, and casual dining. There is a hotel with 283 rooms and a pool.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY WELLNESS AND RECREATION CENTER

There is a new \$53 million Wellness and Recreation Center with 240,000 square feet. The amenities include: 1/3 mile indoor walking/running track, multi-purpose court, group fitness studios, outdoor recreation (canoes, kayaks, etc.), cardio/fitness training areas, weight training areas, locker rooms, multi-purpose/activity rooms, six regulation-size basketball courts, racquetball courts, outdoor activity/leisure pool, and a rock climbing wall.

SOUTHEASTERN RAPTOR CENTER

This center sponsors hundreds of shows throughout the state and region each year. Their staff conducts programs at the Edgar B. Carter Amphitheatre each Friday before home football games. The program is known as Football, Fans, and Feathers and features hawks, falcons, and eagles free-flown from flight towers. Guests can see the raptors up close.

CENTER FOR AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

This center features fish farming and is one of the country's top fisheries facilities. There is a visitor-friendly reception area the main facility houses a teaching lab; hatchery; an area where researchers sort, weigh and count fish; and a market for sales to the public.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This is a member-based 501(c) 3 organization funded by membership contributions, individual donations, and corporate sponsorships/affinity program partners. They have a staff of 25 employees and mentor student interns who work with their team. The membership base is one of the largest in the SEC with 43,000 members. In total, Auburn University has 200,000 living alumni with 190,000 mailable addresses. There are more than 4,000 non-graduate members.

Members by college are: Agriculture, 1,859; Business, 9,683; CADC, 1,846; COSAM, 2,634; Education, 6,204; Engineering, 8,992; Forestry, 494; Human Sciences, 1,603; Liberal Arts, 5,535; Nursing, 349; Pharmacy, 1,493; and Veterinary Medicine, 1,087. Members by class year are: 2010-2019, 1,467; 2000-2009, 4,214; 1990-1999, 7,588; 1980-1989, 9,213; 1970-1979, 9,707; and 1960-1969, 6,112.

The alumni programs include activities to engage and reunite the alumni. Programs include a travel program, reunions (Golden Eagles), game-day hospitality tent festivities, awards and recognition events for outstanding alumni, minority alumni events, a scholarship program, and business partner programs which offer financial savings and reward programs to alumni. They also manage a national Auburn Club program which allows alumni throughout the nation to network and socialize with other



Auburn University Alumni Center

graduates. Clubs raise scholarship dollars for students meeting criteria of the clubs choosing.

Academic support, a mission of the Association and its Clubs, is achieved by raising financial support for a wide variety of programs aimed at enhancing Auburn's academic reputation. A portion of contribution income from memberships, and a portion of corporate sponsorships/affinity partner programs, is awarded each year to scholarships, professorships, awards, and other areas of priority academic need. In the last 10 years, the Auburn Alumni Association has awarded 730 student scholarships.

Association members may access the Ralph Brown Draughon Library and James E. Martin Aquatics Center on campus. Library usage is restricted to checking out books and accessing certain public databases. The James E. Martin Aquatics Center offers \$20 off a 3 month pass or \$100 off an annual pass for Auburn Alumni Association members.

The Auburn Alumni Center houses the association and provides space for many functions. In 1986, a group of Auburn graduates asked to build a home on campus where they could reminisce with classmates, celebrate with family, and network with clients. The building was the result and it provides a series of conference rooms attached to a banquet hall. It has

more than 6,300 square feet of event and office space.

The Auburn Alumni Association sponsors a group-travel program. Members can choose from over 30 trips in 2015. Some of the destinations are: Cuba, Yellowstone National Park, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Polynesia, The Masters Golf Tournament, Greece, Iberia, Panama, Italian Riviera, Ireland, Europe, Switzerland, Alaska, Canadian Rockies, Iceland, and New Year's Eve in London. Some of these trips are cruises and some are bus tours.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

OLLI is a membership program for those 50 years and older. It was founded in 1990 and has grown to over 600 members. It is composed of people who participate in not for credit academic classes and other learning opportunities on an organized basis. Members plan the topics to be studied through a Curriculum Committee. OLLI is housed in the Auburn University Outreach Division. Activities include academic courses, health and exercise activities, and brown bag lunch lectures.

OLLI has courses in art, languages, literature, history, theology, sciences and an extensive array of other subjects. Retired university professors are hired to instruct and some members eventually teach courses themselves. Experts may be invited to speak to a group.

A course meets for one and one-half hours one day per week for six to eight weeks. Recent OLLI courses include 20th Century American Leaders, Advanced Microsoft Products, Alabama History: From Corn To Cotton To Cars, American Life Writing In The 17th And 18th Centuries, An Inside Look At The U.S. Intelligence Community And Special Operations, Lost World Of South America, Making It, Baby Boomers,

Barn Again, Chinese Brush Painting, Chinese Culture, The Concerto, Culinary Creations, Current Economic Topics, Doll Play: History of Dolls, Drawing in 2D, Spiders, French, Food: A Cultural Culinary History, Familiar Music Tunes, Great Decisions, Greatest European Painters, History of Jewish People, How to Save Money on Your Healthcare, Introduction to Microsoft Office Word, Knitting, Living Well with Hearing Loss, Cardio Fitness, Poetry Writing, Reeltime, Spanish, Tai Chi, The Rimland Wars, Mysterious Mushrooms, Troublesome Plants, The World's Greatest Structures, Writing Our Lives, and Yoga.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION (OPCE)

The goal of OPCE is to serve as the bridge between the university and the community and make the educational resources of Auburn University available for non-credit education programs and conferences designed to promote lifelong learning, regardless of age, interest, or location. Programs fall into four general categories: Professional Development, Personal Enrichment, Summer Youth Programs, and Conferences.

Each term, OPCE offers 50 - 75 short courses, specializing in a broad array of topics that include health and fitness, arts and crafts, financial planning, recreation and sportsman activities, language and communication studies, music, computers, life-saving skills, test preparation, and driver education. Some of the recent courses offered are: Watercolor Crash Course, General Reading Comprehension Workshop, Solar Photovoltaics, American Sign Language, Photography: Basic Digital, Photoshop: Getting the Picture You Want from the Picture You Took, Writing Short Stories / Creative Nonfiction, Water Workout : Low-Impact Conditioning, Fly Fishing, Ladies Kickboxing, Ladies Self

Defense/Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Investment Basics, Overall Financial Fitness, Floral Design and Holiday Decorations, China Travel Prep, and Ballroom and Swing Dancing.

AUBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The Auburn Heritage Association, dedicated to historic preservation in Alabama, was founded in 1974. Its purpose is to provide an organization dedicated to the identification and preservation of items and material of historical significance in Auburn and its surrounding environment.

AUBURN PRESERVATION LEAGUE

Auburn has an active preservation league. The purpose of the Auburn Preservation League is to foster historic preservation and to promote cooperation in combining the resources of local government, organizations, associations, businesses and citizens in order to enhance the quality and beauty of the Auburn community.

Theatres

TELFARE B. PEET THEATRE

Auburn University's Theatre provides classical to modern plays and musicals year-round, located at the corner of East Samford Avenue and Duncan Drive at Auburn University. They also sponsor summer dinner theatres and the annual autumn haunting of the theatre. Auditions and participation in theatre productions are open to the entire university community. Ensembles include the Radio Flyer Theatre Company, which features productions in the style of the Golden Age of Radio, and the Mosaic Theatre Company, which creates and performs original works of theatre around issues of diversity.

A recent \$3.9 million addition included a two-story, 10,471-square-foot production space that will accommodate up to 150

patrons and a dance studio that can double as an event space. A black box experimental theatre and a 1,500-square-foot dance studio are part of a newly constructed addition.

The addition boasts a completely digital lighting control system, engineered sprung flooring in both the theatre and studio, and a wire tension grid which allows safe access to lighting, cables, speakers, and effects. The grid is the first of its kind at a university in the state of Alabama and will safely hold up to 90,000 lbs. The new space also includes additional lobby and office space and a drop-off drive for patrons of music and theatre events, as well as dressing rooms for productions in the black box theatre.

COMMUNITY THEATRE

The Auburn Area Community Theatre offers citizens education and participation in theatre. In 2003, about 40 theatre enthusiasts, some from previous local groups including Lee County Community Theatre, Small-Time Outreach Productions (STOP), and AppelBell Productions, met and agreed to form the Auburn Area Community Theatre.

OPELIKA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

This center is a 1,200 seat hall that has operated for more than 25 years. It has hosted 22 international orchestras including The National Symphony Orchestra and the Alabama Symphony, 50 nationally touring Broadway productions, nine performances of the New York City Opera National Company, 21 major ballet and dance companies including Paul Taylor Dance Company and David Parsons Dance, and 21 jazz celebrities and popular entertainers including Shirley Horn, John Pizzarelli, Roseanne Cash, and Wynton Marsalis.



Opelika Center for the Performing Arts

THE MONTGOMERY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The MPAC is a level one theater and can accommodate first-run Broadway touring shows, which normally involve multiple trucks of equipment, props, cast, and crew. It includes 4,000 square feet of pre-function space for special events. There is a full orchestra pit. The audio system is comparable to that in elite performing theaters around the nation. The system is designed so that every seat has front-row quality. The fly space above the stage has 64 line sets, ensuring that the most complex of shows will run smoothly. In addition, a movie screen provides an additional option when needed.

Concerts are offered frequently throughout the year by major artists from many genres. Other professional productions occur at this facility.



Renaissance Hotel and Performing Arts Center in Montgomery

THE MONTGOMERY BALLET

The Montgomery Ballet is the official professional performing company and has a history of 53 years. They present two free outdoor performances annually. They also present “The Nutcracker” each December.

ALABAMA DANCE THEATRE

ADT is an award-winning ballet company in Montgomery that presents classical and contemporary ballets by nationally recognized guest choreographers. Some presentations occur on the banks of the Alabama River near downtown.

THE ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery is the sixth largest of its kind in the world. It attracts more than 300,000 annual visitors from all 50 states and over



Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery



View from Montgomery Renaissance Hotel

60 countries. Its season features 14 productions including Broadway musicals, children's productions, American classics, and world-premieres of brand-new works. The Carolyn Blount Theatre, houses two theatres (the 750-seat Festival Stage and the 225-seat Octagon), production shops, rehearsal halls, and administrative work spaces set in an English-style ground. The festival attracts visitors from all 50 states and over 50 countries each year.

Movie Theaters

CARMIKE TIGER 13

Carmike Cinema Tiger 13 in Opelika has 13 auditoriums with five 3-D auditoriums and approximately 2,800 seats total. Each auditorium has its own digital projector controlled by the server room. The digital movies are sent by satellite to the servers where they are distributed to the digital projectors. The largest auditorium with 598 seats, BigD Digital, has an amazing 80-foot Big D large format digital experience screen. The BigD screen is 3-stories high and has 8-foot state of the art QSC speakers in the front and back. Seats in BigD are plush leather with cup holders and comfortable armrests.

CARMIKE WYNNSONG 14

Carmike Wynnsong 14 Theater in Auburn has 14 auditoriums. The Ultimate Entertainment Experience features an auditorium with a wall to wall giant screen measuring 78 feet wide and 35 feet tall, custom luxury seating, the latest in 7.1 surround sound, and DIGITAL projection for both 2D and 3D features. They run the latest movies in a comfortable environment with a fully stocked concession counter.

Museums

JULE COLLINS SMITH MUSEUM OF FINE ART

This museum is an American Alliance of Museums accredited museum. Very few museums in the United States are in this highly regarded category, including professional peers such as The Smithsonian in Washington DC, the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and the Art Institute of Chicago. Accreditation means that the museum has demonstrated best practices in collection stewardship, operations, and educational programming.

The building is a 40,000 square foot structure made up of travertine stone imported from Tivoli, Italy. The museum sits on 10 acres with landscaped gardens complete with walking paths and a lake. Inside the museum, the lobby opens onto a central rotunda with a Chihuly. There is a growing collection of approximately 2,000 works of art ranging from traditional to contemporary.

Seven changing galleries house exhibitions from the permanent collections and traveling exhibitions. Most programming takes place in the 127-seat auditorium, which features the mural Alma Mater by Auburn University alumnus William Baggett. Visitors can enjoy lunch in the café and visit the gift shop that features unique gifts for every budget.

The permanent collection includes work by such noted artists as Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe, Marc Chagall, and John James Audubon. Traveling exhibitions have featured the work of Auguste Rodin from the Cantor Foundation and internationally recognized designer Eva Zeisel. Alabama native artists whose work has been displayed at the JCSM are the Quilters of Gee's Bend; Chicago Imagist, Roger Brown; self-taught artist, Mose Tolliver; and photographer, Jerry Siegel.



Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

The museum also has special collections. These include: The Helen and Dwight Carlisle Collection of Irish Belleek Porcelain, The Louise Hauss and David Brent Miller Audubon Collection, *Imprinting the South* by Lynn Barstis Katz, The Robert B. Ekelund Jr. and Mark Thornton Collection, The Bill L. Harbert Collection, The Dana King Gatchell Collection, Outsider Art, Works by Andy Warhol, The Dunlop Family Endowed Acquisition Fund, and Legacy of the Oaks.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The mission of the Auburn University Museum of Natural History is to conduct biodiversity research, preserve and document our region and planet's biodiversity, and to lead and promote activities related to natural history education and outreach for Auburn University and all citizens of the state of Alabama. The vision is to emerge as the primary repository for all natural history collections currently maintained at Auburn University and to function as a center of excellence for biodiversity research, education, and outreach.

They preserve and document the rich natural heritage of Alabama while concurrently creating opportunities for students and teachers from regional schools,

the general public, students at Auburn University, and researchers to explore the planet's biodiversity. Included in the museum is the John D. Freeman Herbarium, a large collection of insects, and more than 450,000 preserved fish specimens.

MUSEUM OF EAST ALABAMA

Museum of East Alabama is located adjacent to the Lee County Courthouse square in the heart of Opelika's downtown historic district on the old Clement Hotel site. It first opened in August 1989 and houses over 5,000 artifacts including both 19th- and 20th-century local, state, and general history items. Each year, more than 2,000 visitors have enjoyed being educated about the East Alabama area, Opelika, and Alabama history.

JONATHAN B. LOVELACE ATHLETIC MUSEUM

Auburn University Jonathan B. Lovelace Athletic Museum and Hall of Honor displays and honors the history of collegiate athletics at Auburn University. It is located at the Auburn University Arena.

LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Almost everything in this museum has been donated by local community members throughout history. As the oldest commercial building in Lee County and the site of the annual Lee County Historical Fair, it attracts more than 10,000 people to the area in October of every year.

COLUMBUS MUSEUM

Columbus Museum has a unique focus on American art and regional history. One of the Southeast's largest museums is located in Columbus, Georgia.

MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts has collections of historical objects, archeo-



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

logical artifacts, and art. There are thousands of works of art that represent cultures from all over the world. Permanent collections include paintings, sculpture, and works on paper. Other small galleries around Montgomery, such as The Dauber Gallery, SAC's Gallery, Stonehenge Gallery and Gallery East, showcase local and regional artists.

Art

AUBURN ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Auburn Arts Association provides quality arts experiences for young persons, professional opportunities for area artists and performers, technical assistance and financial support for community-based arts initiatives, scholarships for talented community members, cooperative arts education projects, an exhibition program, and a variety of arts services and social activities. Membership is open to anyone. The association works hand-in-hand with the Jan Dempsey Community Art Center, providing instruction and classes in the visual and performing arts. The association maintains a gallery in the center, providing the community with exhibition space for regional artists.

OPELIKA ARTS ASSOCIATION

Regular programs include the Art Exhibit and Permanent Collection in the Arts Center Gallery of Lewis Cooper Jr. Memorial Library and Arts Gallery. This features regularly scheduled art exhibits showcas-

ing works by area artists and a permanent collection of more than 75 pieces. The OAA Performance Series offers a variety of performances each year in the Opelika Center for the Performing Arts. The Opelika Arts Festival is an annual festival that provides a showcase for more than 100 artists and craftsmen from around the Southeast.

JAN DEMPSEY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

This center was constructed to better serve the artistic needs of the Auburn-Opelika area and provide residents and visitors with access to scheduled exhibitions, musical concerts, lectures, art classes, and special events. Community Theatre, Ballroom Dancing, Featured Regional Artists, and Traveling Exhibitions are some of the events at the center. The Arts Center also provides artists, dancers, and actors the opportunity to offer programs and instructional art classes to area citizens.

Music

GOODWIN MUSIC BUILDING AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Each year the Department of Music at Auburn offers numerous musical performances and events featuring faculty members, guest artists and students. Performances include solo recitals, chamber recitals and performances by ensembles such as the Auburn University Symphonic Band, the Auburn University Community Orchestra, and the Auburn University Chamber Choir. Auburn Community Orchestra presents orchestral concerts to area residents throughout each year.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Opelika also has a free summer concert series called Summer Swing. It takes place in Municipal Park on Tuesday nights.



AU Campus and Map

MONTGOMERY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Montgomery Symphony Orchestra has existed for over 30 years and provides concerts by its world-class violin fellows and all-volunteer orchestra. The free Broadway Under the Stars and the Holiday Pops Concert draw thousands. ClefWorks promotes chamber music in a casual, relaxed environment.

Lectures

The Auburn University lecture series invites visiting scholars to address a variety of current topics. These lectures are open to the public. Many academic departments bring in lecturers that make presentation that are open to the public. Each Friday prior to home football games at 3 p.m. at the Auburn Alumni Association there are specific lecturers held.

Libraries

AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Auburn Public Library is a \$3.2 million, 25,000 square-foot facility with a recently added building designed to house its Youth Services division and a program room. The addition also allows for expanded elec-



AU Campus

tronic services and computers for public use. It offers a number of adult and youth programs as well as small group instruction in beginner computer skills.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Ralph Brown Draughon Library at Auburn University, the state's largest. It has 3.2 million volumes, 19,000 journals, and 256 electronic databases. There are two branch libraries at Auburn University to the main library. These are the Architecture, Design, and Construction Library and the Charles Cary Veterinary Medical Library.

LEWIS COOPER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The mission of the Lewis Cooper Memorial Library in Opelika is to provide free programs, activities, information, and technological access. These services include, but are not limited to, educational search-



Ralph Brown Draughon Library at AU

es, leisure reading, computer access and classes, and various programs meeting the needs of the community.

Historic Sites in Opelika

Brownfield House is an 1850s Victorian cottage with period furnishings. It is operated by the Opelika Historic Preservation Society and open for tours and events.

Darden House is a former home of East Alabama's first African-American Doctor. It has been newly renovated and now this home serves as a wellness center.

Lee County Courthouse was built in 1896. This working courthouse in Historic Downtown Opelika across from Courthouse Square is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Whitfield Searcy House is a Queen Anne Victorian home built in 1895 that now serves as the Opelika Chamber of Commerce.

The Opelika Train Depot was built around 1920 and restored to its original style. It houses the East Alabama Arts and Opelika Mainstreet.

Salem-Shotwell Covered Bridge was restored and relocated to Opelika Municipal Park. The 75-foot town truss-style bridge across Wacoochee Creek was built at the turn of the century by Mr. Otto Puls.

Resources for Military Retirees

Opelika is located less than one hour from two VA medical centers. One is in Montgomery and one is in Tuskegee, AL. Opelika is the home of an Army Reserve Center and a National Guard Armory. The Lee County office of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is located in Opelika. It is a state agency created to assist all former, present, and future mem-

bers of the Armed Forces and their dependents. Fort Benning and Maxwell Air Force Base are also nearby.

MAXWELL-GUNTER AIR FORCE BASE

This historic base is in Montgomery and has been an important part of military aviation education and training for many years. It includes Gunter Annex, Air University, the 42nd Air Base Wing, and the 908th Airlift Wing. The Standard Systems Group, located at the Gunter Annex, acquires, develops, integrates, implements, and sustains secure combat support information systems and networks for the Air Force and Department of Defense to provide war fighters with combat information.

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

Fort Benning is located about 30 minutes from Auburn/Opelika. Since 1918, it has served as the Home of the Infantry. The Maneuver Center of Excellence transformation began as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's decision to consolidate a number of schools and installations to create "centers of excellence." Included in this transformation was the move of the Armor School from Fort Knox to Fort Benning. Fort Benning and The Maneuver Center provide trained, adaptive, and ready soldiers and leaders for the Army at war.

It is estimated that more than 120,000 soldiers, family members, military retirees, civilians and contractors live, work, and use services on Fort Benning daily. Fort Benning's average daily student training load is estimated at 12,000 service members. Their highly trained instructors teach more than 180 courses. In 2014, they are resourced to train approximately 96,000 service members.

Links to Sites Including Detailed Information for Topics in This Guide

Aotourism.com
Opelikacenterforperformingarts.com
Opelikamainstreet.org
Auburnheritage.org
Auburnpreservationleague.org
Auburn.edu/arboretum
Alapark.com/parks
Auburn.edu/preserve
Auburnchamber.com
Eamc.org
Auburn.edu/aumc
Auairport.com
Julecollinssmithmuseum.com
Auburnalabama.org/arts
Cla.auburn.edu/theatre/
Auburnart.org
Ollieatauburn.org
Coli.org
Suscc.edu
Opelikachamber.com
Eastalabamaliving.com
Russelllandsonlakemartin.com
Aualum.org
Auburnbeautification.org
Leecountyhistoricalsociety.org
Eastalabama.org
Auburnuniversitytheatre.org
Opelika.org
Alabamaadvantage.com
Theoaksplantation.com
Visitmontgomery.com
Windcreekwetumpka.com
Lakemartin.com
Campsorba.org
Alabamadancetheatre.com
Funontheriver.net
Thehankwilliamsmuseum.com
Fitzgeraldmuseum.net
Capritheatre.org
Bamabeef.org
Mannmuseum.com
Oldalabamatown.com
Mmfa.org
Montgomerysymphony.org
Clefworks.org
Montgomerychorale.org
Montgomerychambermusic.org
Asf.net
Mpaonline.org
Montgomeryballet.org

About The Author

Dr. Mark Fagan, author of *Retirement Development: A How-To Guidebook* and *The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: History and Impact* (in print), is Department Head Emeritus at Jacksonville State University in Alabama where he taught from 1981-2014. He received his doctorate in Social Policy, Planning, and Administration at The University of Alabama in 1981. Go to http://www.jsu.edu/socialwork/Fagan_home.html for his detailed background information.

Dr. Fagan's primary focus for doctoral education was in community development. His basic research areas include: the economic impact of retirees; how retirees can be attracted; and the development of planned and naturally occurring retirement communities. Most of his 111 publications, media articles, and technical writings since 1981 have focused on the economic impact of retirees.

He served as a consultant to The Retirement Systems of Alabama on the development of The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. He was a program developer for the Alabama Advantage for Retirees program at the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs from 1988 to 1992, where 94 local communities received assistance to attract retirees. He has coordinated four Governor's Conferences, made 55 major presentations, and 93 minor presentations around Alabama and the nation on the subject of retirees and program development to attract retirees. He served as a consultant to the West Virginia Development Office and the Virginia Tobacco Commission on retirement development and to the Arizona Department of Commerce, Office of Senior Industries Development. He has worked with eight different states on their efforts to attract retirees.

He has been consulted by CBS News, NBC News, CNN News, ABC News, "Good Morning America," *The AARP Bulletin*, *Time Magazine*, *Governing Magazine*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *New Choices for Retirement Living* magazine, *Kiplinger Personal Finance Magazine*, *Money* magazine, *Business Week*, *Golf Digest* magazine, *Smart Money Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and National Public Radio for news stories on retirement. He has been quoted and appeared in the following media concerning retirement and retirees: 27 television programs, 262 newspaper articles, and 84 magazines and periodicals.