

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2018

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City of Auburn

## East Alabama Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony set for March 29

Auburn High School will host the East Alabama Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony in conjunction with National Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29.

The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. at Auburn High School and will include a choral performance and an address from Vietnam military reporter and "We Were Soldiers" co-author Joe Galloway. Medal of Honor recipients retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins, an Opelika resident, and retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James Livingston, an Auburn University graduate, will share their reflections on service in the Vietnam War.



In partnership with the Twin Cities Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, participating Vietnam and Vietnam period veterans who have not already been recognized will receive the official 50th anniversary commemoration lapel pin provided by the Department of Defense. Vietnam-era military vehicles will be on display, and a reception with light refreshments will follow. Vietnam and Vietnam-period veterans and their families are invited to attend, and Gold Star families are encouraged to participate in memory of their fallen family members.

This event is being held with the support of the Auburn Veterans Committee. For more information or to RSVP, email Dr. Blake Busbin at [wbbusbin@auburnschools.org](mailto:wbbusbin@auburnschools.org) or call Auburn High School at (334) 887-2120.

## What's the News?

The new City of Auburn website is one of many ways to stay informed about the latest City of Auburn news and announcements. Via the website and eNotifier, press releases are available to the media and the general public at the same time. The agendas for Council meetings are posted as soon as they're on their way to the Council.

Press releases have long been front and center on the web page, and the new design expands their availability. For a news journal experience that is optimized for whatever device you use, go to [news.auburnalabama.org](http://news.auburnalabama.org). Here, news stories are the priority. An elegant layout gives quick and easy access to the stories you're looking for while navigation and menus are kept to a minimum.

Swipe through articles on touch-enabled devices like flipping newspaper pages.

Like a newspaper, stories are divided into sections. Find details about upcoming Parks and Recreation events, learn about construction that may affect your morning commute and find out more about the many ways the City of Auburn is working to serve you.



For email, text or social media notifications of City news and information releases, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @CityofAuburnAL and subscribe to the City's eNotifier at [auburnalabama.org/enotifier](http://auburnalabama.org/enotifier). Connect with us today at [news.auburnalabama.org](http://news.auburnalabama.org).

# City of Auburn Flood Protection & Preparation Information

In May 2014, the City of Auburn was accepted into the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). Even though everyone does not own or live on property in a floodplain, this program benefits the community by protecting the environment, making people safer and saving everyone money. The City received a Class 7 score for our CRS application, giving the citizens' of Auburn a 15 percent discount on their flood insurance for those in the Special Flood Hazard Area and a 5 percent discount for those in the Non-Special Flood Hazard Area. Below is some information you might find helpful regarding floodplains in the City of Auburn.

## Local Flood Hazard

The City of Auburn has an annual precipitation of 52.6 inches and has a history of major rainstorm events. During the last 10 years, our biggest rain events occurred in February 2009, November 2009, July 2011, February 2012, February 2013, August 2013 and December 2015. During these major storm events, flooding can occur when drainage courses, such as stormwater systems and natural ditches, overflow. Local bodies of water and roadways subject to flooding include:

- **Local Water Bodies:** Choctafaula Creek, Parkerson Mill Creek, Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, Lake Chewacla, Lake Ogletree, Saugahatchee Creek and Little Loblockee Creek.
- **Roadways:** North Donahue Drive Bridge, Water Crest Drive Bridge, East University Drive Bridge at Summer-trees Drive, Moores Mill Road Bridge at Forestdale Drive, Windway Road Bridge and Ogletree Road Bridge north of Oak Knoll Circle.

## Flood Warning

The City of Auburn works in conjunction with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency to give citizens ample warning in cases of a flooding event. Emergency messages are broadcasted through local radio and TV stations including:

- **Radio:** 93.9 FM WTGZ, 95.9 FM WQSI, 97.7 FM WKKR, 1400 AM WANI, 94.3 FM WGZZ, 1230 AM WAUD, 104.5 FM WAUF-LP, 91.1 FM WEGL and 1520 AM WTLM



- **TV:** WRBL Channel 3, FOX 54 News Channel 8, WTVM Channel 9, WSFA Channel 12, WLTZ and The Weather Channel (channel number may vary based on service provider)

In the event of heavy rains, it is essential to monitor TV and/or radio weather broadcasts for up-to-date forecasts on tornadoes, hurricanes or flash floods. Please call 911 for any emergencies and (334) 501-3100 for any non-emergencies.

## Flood Safety

Safety is a must when it comes to possible flooding in our area. The following tips can keep you and your family from harm during flooding:

- **Do not walk through flowing waters.**
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.**
- **Stay away from power and electrical lines.**
- **Shut off all gas and water valves.**
- **Have a departure plan in case of emergency.**

Additional emergency preparedness tips can be found in the Real Yellow Pages Telephone book.

## Property Protection Measures

In the past 100 years, flooding has been the number one cause of property damage in North America each year. Property owners can apply permanent retrofitting techniques that can help to eliminate or reduce flood damage:

- Elevating your house 1 foot above the base flood elevation.
- Flood proofing your house to make the walls and flooring watertight so that water cannot enter.
- If you know you are in the flood prone area, flood vent the crawl space under your home so that water can flow through.

Employees from the City of Auburn Public Works Department are available for site visits to review flooding, drainage and sewage issues and provide one-on-one advice to property owners on appropriate flood protection measures. We are also available to assist you with reviewing and critiquing retrofit plans for flood-prone residences and buildings.

## Are you insured?

The City of Auburn is an active participant in the NFIP. We have an important job in keeping citizens informed about our area's floodplain and how it can affect your property. Even if your property is not located in a high-risk flood area, it is a good idea to buy flood insurance because almost 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from areas with minimal flood risk. Two important facts that citizens should know are:

- Homeowner's insurance policies DO NOT cover flood damages or losses.
- Insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.

There are two types of Flood Insurance Coverage offered: Building Property, up to \$250,000, and Personal Property (Contents), up to \$100,000. The NFIP encourages people to purchase both types of coverage. Your mortgage company may also require that you purchase a certain amount of flood insurance.

## Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

To ensure the highest degree of safety, the Public Safety Codes Enforcement Division enforces the Building Code for the City of Auburn. A permit is required for all construction in the City of Auburn. Any development without a permit is non-compliant and may result in fines. If you know of any development taking place without the required permits or would like to verify a contractor's license, please contact the City of Auburn Inspection Services Department at (334) 501-3170. They are located at 171 N. Ross St., Suite 100.

### Substantial Improvement Requirements

In order for the City of Auburn to participate in the NFIP, we adopted regulations and codes that apply to new developments in the floodplains. Local floodplain management regulations and codes contain minimum NFIP requirements that apply not only to new structures, but also to existing structures that are "substantially improved" or "substantially damaged."

**"Substantially damaged"** means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before damage occurred.

**"Substantially improved"** means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvements of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures that have incurred "substantial damage" regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The City of Auburn requires an elevation of 1 ft. above the base flood elevation for new construction and for existing structures before they are repaired.

### Do you live in or around a Special Flood Hazard Area?

The City of Auburn Public Works Department is available to assist in providing more information on whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area. The following Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information will be provided upon request: the community number, the map panel number and suffix, the date of the FIRM's Index, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) shown on the FIRM, the elevation datum used on the FIRM and the availability of Elevation Certificates (EC's) for review. For more general information, you can view your property in relation to the local floodplains online using the City's interactive mapping system at [auburnalabama.org/maps](http://auburnalabama.org/maps). Select the COA map then turn on the "Natural Features" layer and the "Flood Plain" sublayer.

### Drainage System Maintenance

The City of Auburn's Public Works Department maintains the storm drainage system and helps to keep the creeks and streams in the City of Auburn clean and free of debris and pollutants. In order for the drainage system to operate efficiently, our ditches, streams and channels must remain clean. Debris, even leaves and grass clippings, can obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and yards. Residents, business and property owners play



a huge role in maintaining the ditches and streams on their property. They should notify the City when maintenance is needed on the right of way. City Code prohibits taking any action that can impede the flow of water in ditches and waterways. If you know of any illegal dumping of debris or any action that could affect the drainage system, please contact the Public Works Department at (334) 501-3000 or by email at [webpw@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webpw@auburnalabama.org).

### Natural and Beneficial Functions of the Local Floodplain

Floodplain areas and wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. Wetlands in and around the City of Auburn are a valuable asset, flood control and water quality being the two most important aspects of our local floodplain.

Wetlands absorb water during heavy rainfall or flooding and slowly release the waters downstream, reducing flood damage. Wetlands and wetland plants help to absorb and filter potentially harmful chemicals and pollutants before they get into our waterways. The City of Auburn is home to several identified undeveloped floodplain areas that are vital for several endangered or threatened species unique to this area. These areas also provide recreation, education and research opportunities important to our local economy. The City of Auburn has implemented several successful projects to protect our local wetlands: Town Creek Park Stream Restoration, Pocket Wetland at County Dumpster/Compactor Site, Wrights Mill Road Elementary School Wetlands and Parkerson Mill Creek Restorations in 2013 and 2015.

For more information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, please contact the Public Works Department at 171 N. Ross St., Suite 200, (334) 501-3000, [webpw@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webpw@auburnalabama.org) or visit our website at [auburnalabama.org/pw](http://auburnalabama.org/pw).

### Board Vacancies

One vacancy for the **Water Works Board** and one vacancy for the **Library Board** will be announced at the Feb. 20 Auburn City Council Meeting and will be filled at the March 20 meeting.

Visit [auburnalabama.org/boards-and-commissions](http://auburnalabama.org/boards-and-commissions) for more information about volunteering for one of our boards and commissions.



# MARCH **up**COMING EVENTS

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

<p><b>City Meeting Schedule</b> auburnalabama.org (334) 501-7260</p> <p><b>Auburn Public Library</b> auburnalabama.org/library (334) 501-3198</p> <p><b>Parks and Recreation</b> auburnalabama.org/parks (334) 501-2930</p>	 <p>City of Auburn</p>	<p>View our online edition of Open Line at auburnalabama.org/openline</p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>AACT Younger Performers present "Animal Fables by Aesop" 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>AACT Younger Performers present "Animal Fables by Aesop" 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p> <p>Fit as a Fiddle: 50+ &amp; Special Populations Health Fair 9 a.m. at Dean Road Rec Center</p> <p>AACT Younger Performers present "Animal Fables by Aesop" 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Young Writers Club 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cemeteries Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Auditions for AACT "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" 6 p.m. at JDCAC</p> <p>AACT Younger Performers present "Animal Fables by Aesop" 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 6:55 p.m.</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p> <p>Auditions for AACT "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" 6 p.m. at JDCAC</p>	<p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Lee County Special Olympics Bowling Tournament at Auburn Lanes</p>	<p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p> <p>Track Online Registration ends</p> <p>AACT Younger Performers present "Animal Fables by Aesop" 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>AACT Younger Performers present "Animal Fables by Aesop" 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p> <p>AACT Younger Performers present "Animal Fables by Aesop" 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Young Writers Club 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Education 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Puppet Shows 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Special Olympics Regional Aquatics Meet at Opelika SportsPlex</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>Young Writers Club 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Show And Tell Book Club 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Library Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 6:55 p.m.</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p> <p>50+ Bingo &amp; Lunch</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p> <p>Active Auburn Eggcercise Egg Hunt 2 p.m. at Sam Harris Park</p>
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>Young Writers Club 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Bike Committee 7 p.m.</p> <p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Monthly Market/ Hands on Nutrition 4:30 P.M. at Harris Center</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p> <p>37th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Kiesel Park</p>

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