

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2019

City Council

Ron Anders, Jr., Mayor
(334) 703-9000
randers@auburnalabama.org

Connie Fitch Taylor, Ward 1
(334) 704-3970
ctaylor@auburnalabama.org

Kelley Griswold, Ward 2
(256) 975-8183
kgriswold@auburnalabama.org

Beth Witten, Ward 3
(334) 740-8575
bwitten@auburnalabama.org

Brett Smith, Ward 4
(334) 740-8847
basmith@auburnalabama.org

Steven Dixon, Ward 5
(334) 707-3091
sdixon@auburnalabama.org

Bob Parsons, Ward 6
(334) 704-3657
bparsons@auburnalabama.org

Jay Hovey, Ward 7
(334) 319-6654
jhovey@auburnalabama.org

Tommy Dawson, Ward 8
(334) 559-3021
tdawson@auburnalabama.org

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



@CityofAuburnAL

web:
www.auburnalabama.org

email:
openline@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn

Giving back: Auburn's boards and commissions



Did you know that community involvement is a huge part of how your local government operates? We rely on you for guidance, whether through the Citizen Survey or through an input meeting to help us plan our future. Another vital piece of this puzzle is the 22 boards and commissions comprised of 122 individuals that serve in a variety of roles from advisors to decision makers to members of independent boards that serve Auburn or even the larger Lee County community.

As the policy-making body, the Auburn City Council is more well-known to most residents, but each board and commission plays a key role in guiding the community. Bodies like the Board of Education and the Auburn Water Works Board are independent from the City Council. The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the Auburn City Council on some matters and is the final authority on others. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board works with the Parks and Recreation director, the city manager and the council to shape, oversee and promote recreation programs throughout Auburn. Others deal with the look and feel of Auburn's neighborhoods through City planning efforts, like the Historic Preservation Commission that ensures Auburn's historic resources are maintained. Then there are also multi-governmental agencies independent from the City, like the Auburn Housing Authority, to which the mayor has the exclusive purview to appoint members.

What do all of these bodies have in common? You. Our residents, with their diverse educational backgrounds, life experiences and talents, serve on these boards and commission and help guide the way many areas of your local government operate. You have a chance to play a part in making Auburn an even better place. You live here, and you can serve here.

So how do you take a step toward investing in your community? Upcoming vacancies are announced at City Council meetings, here in Open Line, through our eNotifier email and text alert system, on our social media accounts and online at auburnalabama.org/boards.

If there's a specific board on your mind, you can find information for each board/commission including the names of current members and when their terms expire. Keep in mind that most bodies have some requirements for their members, which are outlined in the comprehensive list at auburnalabama.org/boards. Once there's an opening that matches your interests, you can fill out an application through our online portal at auburnalabama.org/boards.

New appointment procedures

In January, the City Council adopted new procedures for appointing members to the City's boards. These changes include:

- **Evaluating candidates differently.** The City Council developed a matrix to evaluate applicants for each board and commission, and Board of Education and Planning Commission candidates will now be interviewed.
- **Announcing vacancies earlier.** Vacancies will be formally announced at least four weeks before the appointment date, with the exception of vacancies on the Board of Education and Planning Commission that must be announced at least eight weeks before the appointment date.

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- **Establishing application deadlines.** Applications must now be submitted by 5 p.m. eight calendar days before the City Council meeting when an appointment will be made. Applications for the Planning Commission and Board of Education must be submitted by 5 p.m. 29 calendar days before the City Council meeting when an appointment will be made.

You can read the full resolution at auburnalabama.org/boards.

Have questions about the application process or just want to learn more about our boards and commissions? Email boards@auburnalabama.org or give us a call at City Hall, (334) 501-7260. We look forward to helping you find somewhere to serve!

Bark in the Park

Celebrating Responsible Dog Ownership



Enjoy a day of doggone good fun with your four-legged friend! Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Lee County Humane Society will host Bark in the Park at Kiesel Park on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Attendees can visit a variety of educational booths, shop with local pet vendors and enjoy prizes and dog-friendly activities. Rescue dogs will be available for adoption, as well! Dog-related business owners interested in being a vendor at the event can email webparksrec@auburnalabama.org or visit auburnalabama.org/parks for an application.

Please hold tight—your recycling cart is coming!



Because of continued weather delays, single-stream recycling carts are still being distributed to those who were interested in participating in the single-stream recycling program as this issue of Open Line is being written. Environmental Services is hopeful that remaining carts will be delivered by the end of February. If you have any questions, please contact Environmental Services at (334)

501-3080 or webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org.

The BIG Event Registration

The BIG Event, an annual student-run service project sponsored by Auburn University's Office of Student Involvement, will take place on March 23. If your business, church, household or organization would like to request student volunteers, visit aub.ie/thebigevent and click on "Request Jobsite." Applications are due March 1.

Water Works Board, billing office relocate during construction



The Utility Billing Office and the Auburn Water Works Board (AWWB) will temporarily relocate to the Auburn Center for Developing Industries (ACDI) at 1500 Pumphrey Ave., Suite A, during work to renovate the

Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex. ACDI is conveniently located less than half a mile from the complex's current location at 1501 W. Samford Ave.

The relocation will begin in early March and will last approximately four to five months. Renovations will largely focus on making the facility more accessible for all visitors. These will include reworking the Utility Billing Office's service counter to include a wheelchair-accessible window, creating accessible restrooms, sound proofing and other associated renovations to the look and feel of the lobby.

A drive through will be unavailable during the construction. However, customers will continue to have the option to pay by phone, online, through the mail, in person or by night drop on Tichenor Avenue across from City Hall. As always, the AWWB will make every effort to accommodate its customers.

Hours of operation and mailing address will remain the same:

- Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 1501 W. Samford Ave., Auburn, AL, 36832

Please contact the Utility Billing Office at (334) 501-3050 or serviceorders@auburnalabama.org with any questions. Visit auburnalabama.org/UBO for updates.

2019 Trash Amnesty Month



Ready to clear out the clutter in and around your home this spring? Trash Amnesty Month will take place March 18 through April 26, allowing Auburn residents to take care of spring cleaning without paying extra fees.

This will mark the 15th year the City of Auburn's Environmental Services Department has provided a trash amnesty period. Two years ago, the City held the first Trash Amnesty Month as an extension of the weeklong amnesty period that the Auburn City Council had long-designated to waive collection fees for oversized yard debris and other bulky yard waste that exceeds five cubic yards.

Please follow these guidelines when taking advantage of Trash Amnesty Month:

- Place debris at the curb no later than 6 a.m. on your regularly scheduled collection day. Place items at least 3 feet from mailboxes, utility boxes, poles or other fixed objects. All items should be contained or bundled so they do not fall into the street or down storm drains.
- The City will accept yard waste, appliances and bulky items for collection. Please do not include materials such as household garbage or hazardous waste.
- Limbs and other debris should be no longer than 5 feet.
- To facilitate recycling efforts, please separate all wood debris, including limbs and grass clippings, from metal items.

Because of the large volume of pickup expected during Trash Amnesty Month, residents may experience a delay in their normal collection schedule. For questions, contact Environmental Services at (334) 501-3080 or webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org.

New drive-up book return at Auburn Public Library



The Auburn Public Library is happy to announce the addition of a drive-up book return at the front entrance of the library. The new return provides a way for patrons to return library materials without having to step out of their vehicles, adding yet another convenient and

welcoming feature to the library's front entrance.

Please note that patrons will no longer be able to park in the driveway between the front entrance and the book return to ensure the book return is as accessible as possible. For more information about the Auburn Public Library, please visit auburnalabama.org/library, call (334) 501-3190 or email weblibrary@auburnalabama.org.

CreativeBug Class: Watercolor Cards

Using a variety of techniques, learn how to make simple watercolor cards that you'll enjoy making just as much as your friends and family will enjoy receiving! Join us at the Auburn Public Library on Sunday, March 17, at 3 p.m. to participate in this CreativeBug Class. Learn how to personalize your cards with a family photo and make photocopies to create an entire set of handmade cards. Finally, add that same personal touch to your envelopes by making an envelope liner using the same photocopied watercolor technique. This course is free and open to the public.

Special Election set for Feb. 19

Lee County will hold a special election on Feb. 19 to renew special ad valorem/property taxes benefitting local schools and the Lee County Youth Development Center (LCYDC). These are NOT new taxes. These are renewals of existing taxes. Auburn residents will consider renewing four taxes:

- 1 mill countywide (or 10 cents on each \$100), which is divided between the three school districts in Lee County—Auburn City Schools, Opelika City Schools and the Lee County School Board.
- 4 mill countywide (or 40 cents on each \$100), which is divided between the three school districts in Lee County—Auburn City Schools, Opelika City Schools and the Lee County School Board.
- 3 mill District 2 (or 30 cents on each \$100), which benefits Auburn City Schools.
- 1 ½ mill Juvenile Law Enforcement (or 15 cents on each \$100), which benefits neglected, delinquent and dependent children through supporting the efforts of the LCYDC.

No new taxes are contemplated in this election. The vote simply renews the existing appropriation of funds that go toward our school systems and the LCYDC, and voting yes on Feb. 19 will ensure these funds continue to be allocated.

Since this is a county election, not a City election, you can find information about your polling place at myinfo.alabamavotes.gov. Please note that Auburn residents may have different polling places for this county election than for your local municipal election last fall.

South College Street lane closures

Auburn University began work in January to construct new landscaped medians and electrical lighting as part of improvements associated with the Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center. During construction, the inside north and southbound lanes will be temporarily closed. Work is expected to last through June 2019. Please be careful when navigating the area.

Board Vacancies

Three vacancies on the Commercial Development Authority will be announced at the Feb. 19 Auburn City Council meeting and appointed at the March 5 meeting. One vacancy on the Board of Education was announced at the Jan. 8 City Council meeting and will be appointed at the March 5 meeting. Applications for the Commercial Development Authority will be due Feb. 25, and applications for the Board of Education were due Feb. 4. Visit auburnalabama.org/boards 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.



City of Auburn

Auburn Public Library
auburnalabama.org/library
(334) 501-3198

City Meeting Schedule
aubschedule.com
(334) 501-7280

Parks and Recreation
auburnalabama.org/parks
(334) 501-2930

View our online edition of
Open Line at auburnalabama.org/openline.
Find an up-to-date meeting schedule at
auburnalabama.org/boards-and-commissions/meeting-schedule.

Free Commission 11:30 a.m.

STEM Storytime
10 a.m.
Kewee de Tigis
Mardi Gras Parade

MANAGEMENT TEAM

James C. Buxton, III
City Manager
501-7261
jbxustor@auburnalabama.org

Kevin A. Cowper
Assistant City Manager, COO
501-7262
kcowper@auburnalabama.org

Community Services
Alfred Davis, Director
501-7280
adavis@auburnalabama.org

Development Services
Megan McGowen-Crouch,
Executive Director
501-7380
mmcgowen@auburnalabama.org

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

Engineering Services
Alison Frazier, Director
501-7390
afrazier@auburnalabama.org

Environmental Services
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3080
twoody@auburnalabama.org

Finance
Penny Smith, Director
501-7221
psmith@auburnalabama.org

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

Information Technology
Greg Nelson, Director
501-7208
gnelson@auburnalabama.org

Inspection Services
John Hoar, Director
501-3170
jhoar@auburnalabama.org

Auburn Public Library
Chris Warren, Director
501-3190
cwarren@auburnalabama.org

Municipal Court
Jim McLaughlin, Judge
501-3180
jmcLaughlin@auburnalabama.org

Parks and Recreation
Rebecca O. Richardson, Director
501-2930
brohudson@auburnalabama.org

Planning
Forrest E. Cotten, Director
501-3040
fcotten@auburnalabama.org

Public Safety
William H. James, Director
501-3110
bjames@auburnalabama.org

Public Works
Scott Cummings, Director
501-3000
scummings@auburnalabama.org

Water Resource Management
Eric A. Carson, Director
501-3000
ecarson@auburnalabama.org

Public Affairs
David D. Dorton, Director
501-7266
ddorton@auburnalabama.org

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Health/Bug Class
3 p.m.

Baby Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Hands-on Nutrition
5:30 p.m. @ Harris Center
Blue Committee 7 p.m.

Baby Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Library Board 4 p.m.
Committee of the Whole 10 p.m.
City Council 7 p.m.

Toddler Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Toddler Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Auburn Regional Alabama Landscape Fine Art

Preschool Storytime
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Maker+Puppet 3:30 p.m.
Maker's Society 4-6:30 p.m.
Water Works Board 4 p.m.

STEM Storytime
10 a.m.
STEM Storytime
10 a.m.
STEM Storytime
10 a.m.
STEM Storytime
10 a.m.

Spring Break Double Feature
10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Planning Commission
Facilities Meeting 10 a.m.
Auburn Ford Fuel Begins

Baby Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
GreenSpace Advisory Board 10 a.m.
Harris Preservation Commission 4 p.m.
Board of Education 6 p.m.

Toddler Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Preschool Storytime
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Maker's Society 4-6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission 5 p.m.

City Council Agenda Review
4 p.m.
STEM Storytime
10 a.m.

Design a Valentine
3:30 p.m.
Middle School Book Club 1:30 p.m.

Development Services
Megan McGowen-Crouch,
Executive Director
501-7380
mmcgowen@auburnalabama.org

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

Engineering Services
Alison Frazier, Director
501-7390
afrazier@auburnalabama.org

Environmental Services
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3080
twoody@auburnalabama.org

Finance
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501-7221
psmith@auburnalabama.org

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sreeves@auburnalabama.org

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ecarson@auburnalabama.org

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