

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

December 2016

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City of Auburn



### City Departments Recognized for Excellence Planning Department Receives Award for Downtown Master Plan

The Auburn Downtown Master Plan was awarded the Outstanding Plan Award for a Plan or Planning Program by the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association on September 15. This award is a testament not only to the work of the city's staff and members of the Planning Commission and Auburn City Council, but to the citizens who participated in the public input process.

The Downtown Master Plan was an intensive planning project guiding the future development of downtown Auburn. Its approach reflects the values and input of hundreds of participating residents.

The Downtown Master Plan followed CompPlan 2030 and Renew Opelika Road in terms of recent, major planning initiatives. Currently in the public input phase is the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan and the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan as Auburn continues to plan for the future guided by the input of residents.



### Information Technology - GIS Division Featured in ICMA Article

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) recently published a case study featuring the City of Auburn Information Technology Department's GIS Division. The feature focuses on how Auburn uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to improve city services and the local quality of life. Auburn is recognized by esri, the world leader in GIS technology, as a "Smart Community."

The article cites how Auburn uses GIS to establish the most efficient routes for Fire response, which played a role in improving the City's ISO score from a Class 3/9 to a Class 2/2X, which could enable property owners to receive lower insurance rates. GIS also played an important role in working with FEMA on recent updates to our floodplain maps, another project potentially impacting the insurance rates for local property owners.

The case study was featured at a recent ICMA conference and will be used by esri as a handout at their meetings and conferences.

### Information Technology in Print

Assistant City Manager/CIO James Buston was recently featured in StateTech Magazine in an article explaining how State and local governments use hybrid cloud solutions to meet organizational and constituent needs.

Buston also wrote an article for Public Management Magazine about all factors of a local government's investment in technology.



## Phase 1 Drought Watch: Voluntary Conservation

The Auburn Water Works Board passed a Phase 1 Drought Watch at their October meeting, asking residents to take voluntary water conservation measures. Water demands in early fall were well above normal due to persistent drought conditions and above-average temperatures in Lee County. The City of Auburn water supply is more than sufficient for public health and emergency purposes; however, the Board is asking customers to be responsible stewards of our natural resources to protect the water supply if drought continues.

The following water conservation measures are recommended:

If you water your lawn:

- Water between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.
- Check sprinkler heads and adjust them as needed to water your lawn, trees and shrubs without wasting water on concrete driveways, patios, sidewalks, streets, etc.
- Check your sprinkler system for leaks and make repairs to minimize water losses.
- For manual sprinklers, use a timer to remind you to turn off the water.
- Don't wash your house or paved surfaces except for health or safety reasons.

Customers are also reminded of the following steps to save water:

- Take shorter showers.
- Don't run water while brushing your teeth, washing your face or washing dishes by hand.
- Only run full loads of laundry or dishes.

The American Water Works Association defines water conservation as doing more with less, not doing without. By working together we can preserve the water supply and possibly prevent the need for mandatory restrictions if drought continues.

## Free Parking

The end of Auburn University's Fall semester brings free parking to Downtown Auburn. Free parking will be available Monday, December 12, 2016 through Tuesday, January 10, 2017. In addition to on-street parking available throughout downtown, parking can be found on and surrounding the first floor of the Auburn Municipal Parking Deck and in the Gay Street Parking lot.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Recycling your Christmas tree is as easy as placing it at the curb. The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department will collect and recycle Christmas trees placed at the curb with customers' weekly curbside collections. Trees should be placed at the curb for recycling on your regularly scheduled collection day.

## Recycle Your Holiday Boxes

And as long as you're recycling your tree, don't forget to recycle the boxes from your gifts this holiday season. Cardboard boxes and gift boxes are picked up curbside and may be recycled at the RecycleAuburn Drop-Off Center, located at 365-A North Donahue Drive. Please break down all boxes for recycling.



## MEETING SCHEDULE DECEMBER

- 2 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 5 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 6 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 11:45 a.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 7 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 8 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 13 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., DSB Conference Room, 171 North Ross Street
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 20 Library Board**, 4 p.m., Library Conference Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 22 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue

**Meeting times and places are subject to change.**

**For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/boards](http://www.auburnalabama.org/boards).**

## ShopAuburn This Holiday Season

Shop Auburn this holiday season and keep your sales tax dollars local. Enjoy free parking between December 12 and January 10 when you shop, dine or do business downtown. Auburn's sales tax revenue supports Auburn City Schools, funds the maintenance of roads and local infrastructure, and helps make possible community events such as Auburn CityFest.

## Ward 5 Public Meeting

Ward 5 Councilperson Lynda Tremaine will hold her monthly public meeting for Ward 5 residents on Monday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Meeting Room at 122 Tichenor Avenue (side entrance).

## Christmas and New Year's Holiday Schedules

City Hall will be closed on Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications will remain on their regular schedules.

### Week of December 26-30 Collection Schedule

Normal Collection Day	Holiday Pick-Up Schedule
Monday	HOLIDAY
Tuesday	Monday's Route
Wednesday	Tuesday's Route
Thursday	Wednesday's Route
Friday	Thursday's Route

### Week of January 2 – January 6 Collection Schedule

Normal Collection Day	Holiday Pick-Up Schedule
Monday	HOLIDAY
Tuesday	Monday's Route
Wednesday	Tuesday's Route
Thursday	Wednesday's Route
Friday	Thursday's Route

## Business License Renewals

Any business providing services or selling goods within the Auburn city limits is required to have a City of Auburn business license. City business licenses for 2016 expire on December 31 and must be renewed by Wednesday, February 15, 2017 to avoid a late fee. All current business license holders will receive renewal packets in late December. Any business that does not receive its renewal packet by December 31 should contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239 to verify its mailing address and request another packet. All questions regarding business licenses may be directed to this number as well.

The City Revenue Office is located in City Hall at 144 Tichenor Avenue. Business hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. except City holidays. For more information, please contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239.

## Public Safety 2016 Toy Drive

The City of Auburn Public Safety Department's 2016 Auburn Toy Drive is underway. This program is designed to assist families in the Auburn community by providing Christmas gifts to needy children ages 2-8. The deadline to register a child to receive a gift was November 9, but there is no deadline for donations. To donate, please bring a new toy to any Auburn Fire Station or the Auburn Police Division. Thanks to the generosity of Uncle Bob's Self Storage, two drop-off points are available at Uncle Bob's locations at 1231 Gatewood Drive and 2020 South College Street. Please do not wrap donations. Volunteers will place the gift into an age-appropriate category before gifts are delivered during the week before Christmas.

### Donation Locations:

Fire Station 1 359 East Magnolia Avenue	Fire Station 5 234 Technology Parkway
Fire Station 2 1520 Shug Jordan Parkway	Auburn Police Division 161 North Ross Street
Fire Station 3 685 Ogletree Road	Uncle Bob's Self Storage 1231 Gatewood Drive
Fire Station 4 1299 Stoker Street	Uncle Bob's Self Storage 2020 South College Street



## Board Vacancies

One vacancy for the **Public Park and Recreation Board** was announced at the November 1, 2016 City Council meeting and will be filled at the December 06, 2016 City Council meeting.

Two vacancies for the **Cemeteries Advisory Board** will be announced at the November 15, 2016 City Council meeting and will be filled at the December 20, 2016 City Council meeting.

Three vacancies for the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** will be announced at the December 20, 2016 City Council Meeting and will be filled at the January 24, 2017 City Council meeting.

One vacancy for the **Historic Preservation Commission** will be announced at the November 1, 2016 City Council Meeting, and will be filled at the December 06, 2016 meeting.

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



# City Management

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## Open Line Feedback

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share?

If so, please contact us at [ddorton@auburnalabama.org](mailto:ddorton@auburnalabama.org) or call 501-7266.

# upCOMING EVENTS

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

## Auburn Public Library

Engagement and Outreach: 334-501-3198 | [auburnalabama.org/library](http://auburnalabama.org/library)

**Letters to Santa** – The Thanksgiving leftovers are gone, and holiday decorations are springing up—it must be time to write to Santa! Join us on Thursday, December 1 from 3:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m. for some writing fun as kids learn how to structure a traditional letter. Families will enjoy festive stationery, markers, cookies, cider, and a little festive music as kids write to Santa with their holiday wishes. Parents, please join in the fun so that even the youngest new writers can clearly express themselves and librarians can get clear addresses for Santa and his elves!

### BOOK CLUBS

**Show and Tell**- Monday, December 19 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library- a book club where you can read any book!

**Literary Classics for Teens (13-18)**- Monday, December 5 at 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
**The Scarlet Letter** by Nathaniel Hawthorne

### PROGRAMS

**Gamer's Society**- an afternoon of gaming Thursdays at 4 p.m. for ages 10-18

**Open Mic Poetry Night**- Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. Calling all poets! Come read your work at the Auburn Public Library. Refreshments provided.

**Adult Coloring Club**- Join us Thursdays at 10 a.m. for a relaxing hour of adult coloring in the conference room.

**Auburn Adult Gamers**- Sunday, December 11 from 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Bring your favorite game to the Auburn Public Library and join us as we meet and mingle with other fun-loving adult gamers! Refreshments provided.

**Journal Making Class**- Tuesday, December 13 from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. for adults. Did you know that you could turn an ordinary composition notebook into a pretty journal? You can! Join us for this 2 hour class to make your very own journal. Supplies provided.

## Parks and Recreation

Auburn Parks and Recreation: 501-2930 | [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks).

**Save the Date!** Mark your calendar for these important upcoming dates from Auburn Parks & Recreation:

**2017 Calendars** available December 1.

**2017 Splash Passes** go on sale December 5.

**28th annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night tickets** go on sale December 5. Tickets may be purchased online only at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).

**ACTA First Friday Tennis Mixer** will be on Friday, December 2 at 6 p.m. at Yarborough Tennis Center. For more information, please email [auburncta@yahoo.com](mailto:auburncta@yahoo.com) or call 334.501.2920.

**Fit as a Fiddle: 50+ Health and Lifestyle Fair and Bark in the Park** vendor applications are now available. To download an application, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). For more information, please contact Gabby Meredith at [gmeredith@auburnalabama.org](mailto:gmeredith@auburnalabama.org) or 334.501.2946.

**17th annual Auburn CityFest: Peace, Love and CityFest** vendor applications are now available. Applications and information may be found at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com). Auburn CityFest 2017 will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park.

**10th annual Polar Express Holiday Event** – All aboard! Children ages 12 and under are invited to hop aboard the Polar Express on Saturday, December 3 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Children under the age of 2 are FREE with the purchase of an adult ticket. The "train" will depart at 9 a.m., noon and 2:30 p.m. Activities will include arts and crafts, sweet treats, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and much more! Holiday pajamas are encouraged! **Tickets for the event will be on sale Wednesday and Thursday, November 9 and 10, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.** For ticket prices and event details, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact the Arts Center at 334.501.2963.

**10th annual Holiday Art Sale** – Join the Auburn Arts Association, Auburn Parks & Recreation and Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for the 10th annual Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, December 10 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Local artists will be selling paintings, pottery, stained glass, photography, jewelry and much more! If you would like to sell your work, applications will be available beginning Monday, October 10. Apply early as space is limited. To download an application, please visit [www.auburnarts.org](http://www.auburnarts.org). For more information, please contact Cari Cleckler at [cleckler@auburnalabama.org](mailto:cleckler@auburnalabama.org).

**Holiday Double Feature at Boykin Community Center** – Kick back, relax and enjoy a holiday double feature at Boykin Community Center on Saturday, December 17. Our first movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, will begin at 4 p.m. The second movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966)*, will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).

**Coming Soon to the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Gallery** – Mark your calendar for The January Show exhibition at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from Wednesday, January 4 – Tuesday, January 31. The January Show is an invitational exhibition featuring works by local and regional artists based on an announced theme. Exhibitions are free and open to the public Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, please call the Arts Center at (334) 501 – 2963 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts).

**Parks and Recreation facility closures for holiday season** – All Auburn Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26. All facilities will reopen on Tuesday, December 27 for normal business hours. For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or call 334.501.2930.

**Special Olympics 2016 – 2017** – Practices for the 2016 – 2017 Special Olympics season begin in the month of December. A detailed list of practice dates and times, along with requirements for athletes, may be found [www.auburnalabama.org/specialolympics](http://www.auburnalabama.org/specialolympics) or in the Parks & Recreation Winter Quarter brochure. If you are interested in becoming a coach for Special Olympics, please contact Lee County Special Olympics Director Dana Stewart at [dstewart@auburnalabama.org](mailto:dstewart@auburnalabama.org) or 334.501.2950.