

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

May 2015

### City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor  
(334) 559-8804  
bham@auburnalabama.org

Clemon Byrd, Ward 1  
(334) 332-8283  
clemonbyrd2014@yahoo.com

Ron Anders Jr., Ward 2  
(334) 703-9000  
ronanders2020@gmail.com

Beth Witten, Ward 3  
(334) 740-8575  
blueturtlebeth@gmail.com

Brent Beard, Ward 4  
(334) 821-4302  
brent@alabamacontractsales.com

Lynda Tremaine, Ward 5  
(334) 329-8878  
ltremaine@charter.net

Dick Phelan, Ward 6  
(334) 887-2071  
dickphelan@yahoo.com

Gene Dulaney, Ward 7  
(334) 887-7908  
(334) 466-3191  
gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Tommy Dawson, Ward 8  
(334) 703-9528  
tdawson65@outlook.com

### Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

**Open Line** is produced by  
Office of the  
City Manager  
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1  
Auburn, AL 36830  
phone: 334-501-7261  
fax: 334-501-7299

web:  
[www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org)

email:  
[cduggan@auburnalabama.org](mailto:cduggan@auburnalabama.org)



City of Auburn



### Corner Construction:

### The Loveliest Village is Getting Lovelier

Auburn's most iconic corner is about to be renewed. After the loss of the Auburn Oaks in 2013, Auburn University renovated the campus portion of the Toomer's Corner intersection in preparation for the planting of the new Auburn Oaks earlier this year. But the renovation isn't over just because the new trees are in place. On campus, Auburn University will continue to work on Samford Park, with new landscaping and a new path from the Auburn Oaks to Samford Hall. Off campus, even more changes are in the works as the City of Auburn prepares to perform a major reconstruction of the Toomer's Corner intersection, renewing downtown Auburn for generations to come.

Renovating downtown Auburn is the result of years of planning, public input, and collaboration with residents, downtown stakeholders and Auburn University. Through the Downtown Master Plan process, the city found that residents were interested in a revitalization of Toomer's Corner. Those who attended public meetings for the Downtown Master Plan helped contribute ideas, drawings and designs for what the corner could become. Those ideas are about to be realized.

Designs are in place for a new Toomer's Corner intersection, and the city opened bids in early April to choose a contractor to perform the work. Construction is scheduled to begin after Auburn University's downtown block party, scheduled for A-Day in April, with all work on the intersection scheduled to be completed by August 17.

Construction includes the raising of the Toomer's Corner intersection so that it will be level with the sidewalks to create a larger, level plaza for downtown events. The sidewalks on the corners will be expanded to include new trees and new seating to give downtown visitors a place to relax, even to charge their phones. The new intersection will use pervious pavers to compliment the new look of the campus corner and to allow rainwater to penetrate the road and enter the groundwater. Visually, environmentally and technologically, it will be a Toomer's Corner for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At a date to be determined in late spring or summer, the intersection of College Street and Magnolia Avenue will close to traffic for several weeks, perhaps for up to two months. During this time, all College Street and Magnolia Avenue traffic will have to detour around the Toomer's Corner intersection. We'll provide real time construction updates to the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Merchants Association and all downtown stakeholders and work with them to minimize the impact on downtown businesses. Street closures, detour routes, available parking areas and more will be posted online at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/cornerconstruction> with links on the city's social media channels (#cornerconstruction). Perhaps most importantly, we'll get the word out in the media and online to let everyone know that despite the inconvenience, downtown Auburn will be open for business throughout construction. Please continue to visit downtown businesses and restaurants as you check out the progress of the corner construction.



## Funding Auburn City Schools: The 2015 Special Election

On April 28, Auburn voters will head to the polls for a special election to approve funding for construction of a new Auburn High School. If approved, bonds will be issued to finance the new high school, and will be repaid through the Special Five Mill Tax Fund. **There are no new or increased taxes proposed on the ballot.**

Voter approval on April 28 will provide the funding needed to move forward with the construction of the new high school. The new Auburn High School will be constructed on the extension of East Samford Avenue connecting East University Drive and East Glenn Avenue. The school will cost approximately \$72 million and will be able to accommodate 2,200 students in an approximately 348,000 square foot facility. The new Auburn High School will have a planned opening date of fall 2017.

Auburn City Schools is the fastest growing school district in Alabama, with over 4,500 new students projected over the next decade. Construction of a new high school is a key component of Auburn City Schools' plan to manage enrollment growth, and will enable a school re-alignment plan to make the most efficient use possible of all facilities. Under this plan, the current Auburn High School will become an 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade center, Auburn Junior High will become a 7<sup>th</sup> grade center and Drake Middle School will become a 6<sup>th</sup> grade center.

Last year, Mayor Ham announced plans to increase City of Auburn funding to Auburn City Schools and to make the Special Five Mill Tax Fund available to help construct the new high school. The Special Five Mill Tax Fund has previously been used for voter approved projects like the Yarbrough Tennis Center, the Harris Center and renovation of the Frank Brown Recreation Center. Both the city's funding plan and the school's facility plan follow intensive analysis of enrollment growth and facility use, as well as significant public input from well-attended public meetings held last year.

For more information on the special election, please visit <http://www.auburnalabama.org/election> or call (334) 501-7260.

## Free Downtown Parking

Downtown Parking is free between Auburn University Semesters. Free parking between Spring and Summer semesters begins May 11, 2015 and runs through Friday, May 15, 2015.

During the corner construction, some parking will still be available on-street downtown. Additional parking can be found on and surrounding the first floor of the Auburn Municipal Parking Deck and in the new municipal parking lot on Gay Street.

Enjoy free parking as you shop, dine and enjoy all that downtown Auburn has to offer.

## Chief Frank deGraffenried

The Auburn community recently suffered the loss of former Auburn Police Chief Frank M. "Buddy" deGraffenried, who died on March 5, 2015. Chief deGraffenried served in the Auburn Police Division for more than 33 years, serving as Chief of Police for 7 years before retiring in 2010. Chief deGraffenried was a graduate of Auburn University and of the FBI National Academy in Quantico. He served both law enforcement and the community on many state and local boards, with a special passion for the United Way of Lee County. "Buddy was a joy to work with and you could always count on his smile and laughter to light up a room," commented Public Safety Director Bill James on Chief deGraffenried's impact to all who knew him.



## Chief Lee Lamar

The City of Auburn family was deeply saddened by the passing of Auburn Fire Chief Lee Lamar, who died on February 18, 2015 at the East Alabama Medical Center after an extended illness. Lee was born in Tuskegee, Alabama on April 25, 1960 and lived his entire life in Lee County. Lee served the City of Auburn for 33 years, and had led the Auburn Fire Division since July, 2008. Lee was a dedicated professional who cared deeply about the Auburn community and the men and women with whom he served in the Auburn Fire Division. Throughout his illness, he maintained a positive outlook, his sense of humor and his commitment to public service.



## May Concert Series – Every Thursday in May!

Join the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department every Thursday in May from 6 – 7:30 p.m. as we present the May Concert Series at Town Creek Park. Bring a blanket, chairs, a picnic and your four-legged friends to enjoy the sounds of local and regional artists. Performances will be held weather-permitting. For more information visit [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks) or call 334-501-2930.

- May 7: Electric Rangers • May 14: Soul Co
- May 21: Joseph Young • May 28: Cross Roads

## Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Indian Pines Recreation Authority** will be announced at the May 5, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the June 2, 2015 City Council Meeting.



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

## Auburn CityFest 2015

### Presented by the Opelika-Auburn News and Four Seasons Federal Credit Union

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for Auburn CityFest 2015, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News and Four Seasons Federal Credit Union, on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. CityFest is Auburn's largest, FREE, outdoor arts and crafts festival featuring live music, children's activities and much more – rain or shine. Volunteers are needed – the Auburn CityFest Committee is recruiting energetic individuals, organizations and service groups to help make this year's event a success. For volunteer applications or more information, visit [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com).

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### MAY

- 1 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 4 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 5 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 6 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 12 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
- 14 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 19 Library Board**, 2:00 p.m., Library Conference Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 21 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).

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast

Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. and the Auburn Veterans Committee cordially invites citizens to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. at the Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. This annual event is held to honor the United States Military and those soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice. Tickets for the breakfast will be available starting April 27<sup>th</sup> at City Hall for \$25 each or \$250 for a table of 10. Proceeds from ticket sales go to the Auburn Veterans Memorial Fund.

Retired Captain Kenneth "Husky" Kirkwood will be the guest of honor and recipient of the 2015 City of Auburn Distinguished Veteran Award. This year will be the fourth year the Auburn Heroes Remembered Award will be presented to the family of a local distinguished veteran who has passed way. This year's Auburn Heroes Remembered Award will go to Lieutenant Colonel Harold "Hal" Decker.

Immediately following the breakfast, at 10 a.m., the City of Auburn will hold a memorial wreath laying ceremony at the Auburn Veterans Memorial Monument, located at the northeast corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. For more information, please visit [auburnalabama.org/veterans](http://auburnalabama.org/veterans) or call 501-7270.



## Memorial Day Schedule

On Monday, May 25, Auburn City Hall will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. Police, Fire, and Communications will remain on their regular schedules. Collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of May 25-29 will change as follows:

### May

Monday, May 25  
Tuesday, May 26  
Wednesday, May 27  
Thursday, May 28  
Friday, May 29

### Memorial Day Holiday

**HOLIDAY**  
Monday's route  
Tuesday's route  
Wednesday's route  
Thursday's route

## Trash Amnesty Week – May 11-15

During the spring, many Auburn residents work to beautify homes and yards. During the week of May 11-15, 2015, fees normally assessed to Auburn residents for the collection of oversized yard debris and other bulky waste will be waived to accommodate these "spring cleaning" needs. Residents are asked to abide by the following guidelines when placing items out for collection:

Debris should be placed at the curb no later than 6:00 a.m. on your regularly scheduled collection day. Please avoid placing items on or near mailboxes, utility boxes or poles, or other fixed objects. All items should be properly contained or bundled so they do not fall into the street or down storm drains.

The City will accept yard waste, appliances, and bulky items for collection. No other waste materials, including household garbage or hazardous waste, should be placed out for collection with debris.

Limbs and other debris should be no longer than 5 feet in length.

To facilitate recycling efforts, please separate all wood debris, including limbs and grass clippings, from metal items.

## City Management

Charles M. Duggan, Jr.  
501-7261  
City Manager  
cduggan@auburnalabama.org

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

James C. Buston, III  
501-7201  
Assistant City Manager/CIO  
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Works Department  
Jeffery L. Ramsey, Director  
501-3000  
jramsey@auburnalabama.org

Water Resource Management Dept.  
Eric A. Carson, Director  
501-3060  
ecarson@auburnalabama.org

• • • • •  
Auburn City Schools  
Karen DeLano, Superintendent  
887-2100  
ktdelano@auburnschools.org

### Open Line Feedback

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

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

# up COMING EVENTS

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

## Auburn Public Library

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

**Summer Reading Program Kickoff** – Saturday, May 30. It's time to sign up for Summer Reading! Join us for our first annual Summer Reading Program Kickoff! This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story." We'll have children's entertainers, animals, games, activities and more, and we'll have goody bags for every baby, toddler, kid and teen that registers. We hope to see you there!

**STORYTIMES** \*Please note that we won't have any Storytime programs from May 17 through May 29.\*

**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages birth – 18 months and their caregivers.

**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages 18 months - 3 years and their caregivers.

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

**For more information call Youth Services at 501-3196.**

**Pajama Time** – Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. for the whole family. Wear pajamas, grab a blanket, bring a favorite bedtime "lovey" and join us for cozy stories, music, and family fun!

**Spectrum Storytime** – Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. Spectrum Storytime (SST) is an educational and interactive program designed for children with sensory integration challenges and their caregivers. For cognitive ages 4 – 7. Registration is required. For more information or to register please call Youth Services at 501-3196.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

**LitWits** – Tuesdays, May 5 & 19 at 4:30 p.m. for ages 13 to 18.

5/5 – "Read Along: *The Iron Trial*. (Be sure to pick up a copy at the library to read ahead!)

5/19 – "World Traveler: books set in another country".

**Gamer's Club** – Thursdays, 5/7 & 5/14 at 4:00 p.m. for ages 10 – 18.

**Legomania** – Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for "free play" with Legos®. \*Please note that we won't have Legomania on 5/23 & 5/30.\*

**Theatre Improv Workshop for Teens** – Thursday, May 14, 6:30 p.m. for ages 13 – 18. The Auburn Area Community Theatre will lead this fun free acting workshop for teens. No prior acting experience is necessary.

**GENEALOGY 101** – Thursday, May 21 at 3:00 p.m. - Mary K. Rudd, Regent of the Martha Wayles Jefferson Chapter NSDAR of Lee County, Alabama, will explain the place of historical societies in genealogical research. Ms. Rudd will also talk about what is necessary to belong to a historical society and describe some of our local historical societies, as well as the more well-known national societies. Join us for an insightful presentation, light refreshments, and the chance to visit with friends and exchange ideas and answers. This event is open to the public.

## Parks and Recreation

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

### SummerNight 2015 Date Change and Applications Information

Due to the Toomer's Corner Revitalization Project, the SummerNight Downtown Art Walk will now be held this fall. The City of Auburn, Auburn Arts Association, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and Downtown Auburn Merchants will host An Indian SummerNight Friday, October 9 from 6 – 9:30 p.m. in downtown Auburn. In the event of rain, An Indian SummerNight will be held on Saturday, October 10. This annual event is for local artists and musicians to display their talents, while offering the community a chance to enjoy an evening in the downtown area.

Downtown merchants and restaurants will remain open after regular business hours. Citizens are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and shop, dine and enjoy the downtown atmosphere. Local artists will have their work on display and local musicians will entertain the public on the newly renovated Toomer's Corner. This event will also include children's activities earlier in the evening.

An Indian SummerNight is free to the public. Artists, downtown businesses, and restaurants are encouraged to participate in this wonderful event. All applications for An Indian SummerNight will be available online May 1. For more information or to fill out an application, please visit [www.auburnsummernight.org](http://www.auburnsummernight.org) or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

### Registration for Summer Camps and Programs

Register for summer camps and programs begins Monday, May 4 at 8 a.m. For a complete listing of camps, programs, and summer events, be sure to pick up a copy of the Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure, available now at City facilities and online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). Registration will be held weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Harris Center, 425 Perry St. Summer camps fill quickly, so be sure to sign up early.

**May 15 – 17 & 21 – 24...AACT Presents "39 Steps"** - Join us for the Auburn Area Community Theatre's production of "39 Steps" written by Patrick Barlow May 15 & 16 and 21 – 23 at 7 p.m. and May 17 & 24 at 2 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.