

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2015

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City of Auburn



### Your Guide to the New Toomer's Corner Intersection

The fences are down and traffic is once more flowing through the Toomer's Corner intersection. Things are almost back to normal in the heart of downtown Auburn. It's all familiar. But it's also all new.

Once again, there are Auburn Oaks on the campus corner. New trees arrived in February with a crowd gathered to watch as they were planted. In a small setback, the tree on Magnolia Avenue struggled to become established, and ultimately was replaced with a new, healthy tree in July. The new Auburn Oaks will spend their freshman year getting acclimated to their new home on the plains. Until then, Auburn University asks that we refrain from rolling the trees until the 2017 football season.

Over the summer, Auburn University continued renovations affecting campus from the Corner all the way to Samford Hall. As this issue of Open Line is being written, there is still construction scaffolding around Samford Hall as necessary building maintenance finishes on Auburn University's most recognizable landmark.

Meanwhile, residents are rediscovering the City's most iconic corner. Many factors led to the new look and feel downtown. When the Auburn Oaks were removed, Auburn University began working on plans to recreate that area of campus to accommodate new trees. With years of Toomer's Corner celebrations in the books, AU had some ideas on how to improve their corner. Similarly, the City of Auburn has been analyzing downtown events and parking and listening to related public input for years. The results of those studies and related planning efforts led us to recent downtown parking and alleyway improvements. Intensive public input during the Downtown Master Plan process included comment and design suggestions to improve this vital area where town meets gown.

Important in the decision making process was the fact that there was aging water and sewer infrastructure under the Corner, under downtown sidewalks and under the parking area behind downtown businesses that needed to be replaced or improved. Downtown parking areas and sidewalks were old enough that they weren't built to ADA accessibility specifications. And it was evident to anyone who saw our downtown alleyways that they needed serious help. By using in-house expertise to design the elements and by addressing all of these issues in tandem, they were



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## New Toomer's Corner

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achieved in a more affordable and efficient way.

### The Corner Intersection

The most obvious difference downtown is the intersection itself. Brick pavers have replaced asphalt with the entire intersection elevated so that it is even with the curb. The end result is an open plaza for downtown celebrations and events without the curbs and fencing that previously presented obstacles and trip hazards.

Wider sidewalks near the intersection allow for seat walls for downtown visitors to stop, rest and enjoy downtown. New LED lighting on light poles, under seat walls and along the curbs can be used to add a splash of color to add to the atmosphere of game day celebrations and community events. Crosswalks are now consistent with the look and feel of crosswalks along Magnolia Avenue and the renovated areas of Opelika Road, as well as complementing the campus corner.

"It's all about a sense of place," said Auburn's Assistant City Manager Kevin Cowper. "We wanted to make sure that downtown Auburn provided the sense of place that Auburn deserves, especially at this iconic location. We wanted residents and visitors alike to have a sense of arrival when they reach a place that reflects the unique history and traditions of downtown Auburn."

### The Tiger Paw

According to Jeremy Henderson at The War Eagle Reader ([thewareaglereader.com](http://thewareaglereader.com)), the origin of the Tiger Paw at Toomer's Corner goes back to 1989, when the Auburn University Student Government Association (SGA) Spirit Committee took it upon themselves to give Toomer's Corner its very own Tiger Paw. After a brief encounter with law enforcement, City government and ALDOT, the SGA committee found that the Tiger Paw was officially sanctioned and supported by all parties by the next year and has been an Auburn landmark and tradition ever since.

But gone is the need for the SGA to gather in the Corner once or twice a year with paint rollers and leaf blowers to renew the Tiger Paw. Now, the paw is part of the corner, built into the brick paver structure of the intersection.

Some have asked us why the paw is color matched to the crosswalks instead of being an AU orange. Our project designers worked carefully with the manufacturers of the brick pavers to try to find orange pavers that would work, but found that none of the orange bricks available matched Auburn orange. Darker or more reddish oranges didn't work well in contrast to the red bricks surrounding the paw. The AU symbol previously painted into the tiger paw posed another logistical challenge for a physical version of the paw. Ultimately, the design team kept things basic, matching the paw to the crosswalks, keeping with the color scheme of the Corner intersection and campus corner, and making permanent the 26 year old Auburn tradition of a Tiger Paw in the Corner intersection.

Next Month: Learn about Auburn's refurbished alleyways  
• Find out when trees will return to the Corner



## City Of Auburn's Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance:

Properly designed, installed and maintained erosion and sediment control on construction sites is critical for protecting private and public property from damage. Unmitigated construction stormwater runoff can harm our local water resources with sediment that can cause ecological degradation, increased water treatment cost and loss of valuable recreational uses.

Good erosion and sediment control is as much about being a good neighbor, being a responsible citizen, and protecting our community as it is about protecting the environment. Please contact the City of Auburn's Watershed Division at (334) 501-7367 or email [dballard@auburnalabama.org](mailto:dballard@auburnalabama.org) if you have any questions about the City's Erosion and Sediment Control Program or to notify us of any concerns you may have.

### Board Vacancies

Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the September 15, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the October 20, 2015 City Council Meeting.



One vacancy on the **Educational Building Authority** will be announced at the September 15, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the October 20, 2015 City Council Meeting.

Three vacancies on the **Building Board of Adjustments** were announced at the September 15, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the October 20, 2015 City Council Meeting.

Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 20, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the November 7, 2015 City Council Meeting.

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

## 15th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat is on October 29

Get ready for the Monster Mash! Bring your monsters, warriors, clowns and cuties to the best Halloween party in town – the 15th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat! Join the City of Auburn for this spooktacular alternative to door-to-door trick-or-treating on Thursday, October 29 from 6 – 8 p.m. in downtown Auburn. Downtown merchants will provide treats for the children and DJ Ozz will return as our musical entertainment to have you feeling “ghouly”. Everyone is invited to dress up and come in costume. You could be the Pick of the Patch in our costume contest! Parents must accompany children to this event. FREE to the public. For more information, please visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).



## Neighborhood Trick or Treat

Due to Auburn High School and Auburn University home football games on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31, neighborhood trick-or-treating in the City of Auburn will be held on Thursday, October 29. This move better allows Auburn Police Division to provide extra patrols throughout the City during trick-or-treat.

## An Indian SummerNight Art Walk

Get ready for a block party with artistic flair! Join the City of Auburn's Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, Auburn Arts Association and the Downtown Merchant Association for An Indian SummerNight Downtown Art Walk on Friday, Oct. 9 from 6 – 9:30 p.m. in downtown Auburn. An Indian SummerNight is a downtown entertainment district event.

Take advantage of late night shopping and enjoy an evening of dining, art, music by the Bama Gamblers, children's activities and our culinary theme of BBQ. Local artists will have their work on display throughout downtown and merchants will be offering specials. Culinary artists are invited to enter our BBQ sauce contest and cornbread cook-off! Prewett Insurance Group's "You're in Good Hams" Barbeque Team will be selling BBQ sandwiches from which all proceeds will benefit the Auburn Arts Association. Be sure to add the winning sauces and cornbread to your BBQ plate!

Interested in participating in An Indian SummerNight as an artist, merchant, volunteer or culinary artist? Please visit [www.auburnsummernight.org](http://www.auburnsummernight.org) to download an application. Applications are due Friday, Oct. 2. Sponsorships are also available.

For more information, including applications, visit [www.auburnsummernight.org](http://www.auburnsummernight.org) or contact An Indian SummerNight Headquarters at 501-2963.

*Downtown streets will be closed during the event. In the event of rain, join us Saturday, Oct. 10.*



## Ward 5 Public Meeting

Ward 5 Councilperson Lynda Tremaine will hold her monthly public meeting for Ward 5 residents on Monday, October 5 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in downtown Auburn.

All Auburn residents are welcome, but the meeting will focus on issues of interest to Ward 5 residents. To find out what voting ward you live in and who represents you on the Auburn City Council, go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps/Voting-Ward>.

## MEETING SCHEDULE OCTOBER

- 2 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce, 714 E Glenn Avenue
- 5 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 6 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
- 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**, 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
- 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).**

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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 [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.

**FAMILY HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL** – Tuesday, October 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for ages birth – 12 and their caregivers. Dress up in your Halloween costumes and bring the whole family to the Auburn Public Library to enjoy a variety of fun fall activities! This year, our pumpkin-themed festival will include: Bobbing for pumpkins, pumpkin-patch scavenger hunt, boo-bag toss, door prizes, pumpkin weight-guessing contest, cupcakes, and 'spooktacular' storytelling by Carol Cain!

**HAUNTED CARNIVAL** – Thursday, October 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for ages 13 – 18. You are invited to APL's Haunted Carnival! Special Guest: **Street Magician Arthur Atsma**. Carnival games, sideshow photo booth, door prizes, and refreshments will complete your night of revelry! Dress to impress, but it is not a requirement.

### STORYTIME

**Baby Time** – Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages birth – 24 months and their caregivers.

**Toddler Time** – Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages 18 months – 36 months and their caregivers.

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

**Fractured Fairy Tales** – Wednesday, October 14 at 3:30 p.m. for ages 4 – 7, featuring *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig* by Eugene Trivizas

### BOOK CLUBS

**Show & Tell** – Monday, October 19 at 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library

**Forever Young Adult** – Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m., at the Auburn Public Library, featuring *Shutter* by Courtney Alameda

**Read & Reflect** – Tuesday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Harris Senior Center, featuring *The Moviegoer* by Walker Percy

## Parks and Recreation

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

**AACT Fall Jr Show "Dick Whittington and His Amazing Cat"** Mark your calendars! The AACT Fall Jr. Show, "Dick Whittington and His Amazing Cat," will be showing October 1 – 3 at 6:30p.m., with a matinee performance on October 3 at 4:30 p.m. This is an energetic, musical retelling of an old English rags-to-riches folktale. Join Dick, a poor orphan, on his journey as he befriends an amazing cat and makes some wonderful friends and, quite unexpectedly, a fortune on the way. The play will be directed by Melanie Brown. Tickets at \$10 for adults and \$8 for children, seniors and students and may be purchased or reserved at [www.auburnact.org](http://www.auburnact.org). For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts), [www.auburnact.org](http://www.auburnact.org) or contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at (334) 501-2963.

**Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center October Gallery Events** Mark your calendar for The September Show 2015, which ends on October 9, and the Photo XVII Juried Exhibition on display at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center beginning October 14 through November 20. This is competitive exhibition features works by local and regional artists. The exhibit is FREE and open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Kreher Preserve and Nature Center October Events:** During the month of October, the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center will play host to some "spooktacular" fall-themed events. Mark your calendars and don't miss out on all of the fun:

- **"Spiders!" Nature Walk and Discovery Hike:** Learn about creepy-crawly spiders! Discover how they make their webs, search for them in the forest and learn about the 2 venomous spiders in Alabama. The Nature Walk will be Thursday, October 8 at 8:30 a.m. and the Discovery Hike will be Tuesday, October 13 at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is not required and walks are free to the public.
- **Creepy Wonderful Critters – "Spiders!":** Learn to appreciate arachnids and the beautiful webs they weave with Dr. Gary Mullen on Saturday, October 24 at 10 a.m. Admission is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members pre-registration is not required.
- **Elements, Art in Nature Series:** Get in touch with nature and learn new creative techniques from local artist and instructor, Cindy Mask. The "Elements, Art in Nature" series will incorporate natural elements found at the Preserve using different mediums, including: pencil, collage and watercolor painting. Classes will begin on October 14. Registration is required and space is limited.
- **Ausome Amphibians and Reptiles:** Get up close and personal with some ausome amphibians and reptiles in this hands-on, educational experience for families and children! The event will be held on Friday, October 30 at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, with children under 3 admitted free, and pre-registration is not required.

For more information on any of these events or to register for a class, please email [preserve@auburn.edu](mailto:preserve@auburn.edu) or call (334) 844-8091.

**Artist applications for the Holiday Art Sale are available beginning October 12.** Artist applications for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Art Sale, held on December 12 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. will be available beginning October 12. Please be advised that artists are asked to contribute 10% of their total sales to the Auburn Arts Association in exchange for a FREE booth space. Proceeds from the Holiday Art Sale will go toward funding future AAA events and programs and held in conjunction with Auburn Parks and Recreation. Details and applications may be found at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or you may call Cari Cleckler at (334) 501-2944.

**Auburn Beautification Council Plant Sale.** On Saturday, September 19 from 8 a.m. – noon at Dean Road Recreation Center the Auburn Beautification Council (ABC) will host its annual Plant Sale. The proceeds from the sale support ABC projects, such as downtown hanging baskets, Spring Azalea Trail, gardens at Kiesel Park, and beautification awards to Auburn homes and businesses. Select plants are available for pre-order at a 10% discount. Pre-orders are due by Wednesday, Sept. 9 and must be picked up the day of the sale. Order forms can be found online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). For more information, please call (334) 501-2930.