

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2016

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City of Auburn



### Annual Fourth of July Celebration

Celebrate Independence Day with the Auburn Community, Auburn Parks and Recreation and Briggs and Stratton at our Annual Fourth of July Celebration, held on Monday, July 4. Enjoy great food, live music, free goodies, and the BEST fireworks display in the area courtesy of Briggs and Stratton! So grab your picnic basket, blankets or chairs and the family and join us for a fabulous night of entertainment with a patriotic flair! Gates will open at 6 p.m.; entertainment begins at 7 p.m.; and fireworks begin at 9 p.m. In the event of rain, fireworks will be held on Tuesday, July 5 at 9 p.m. This FREE celebration is held behind the Home side of the Duck Samford Football Stadium. Please remember that the parking lot off of Airport Road will be CLOSED to the public during the event to accommodate the fireworks shoot site. The parking lot off of E. University Drive, next to the Old Duck fields will be OPEN to the public for parking. For more information, please call 334.501.2930 or visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks)



### Citizen Survey 2016

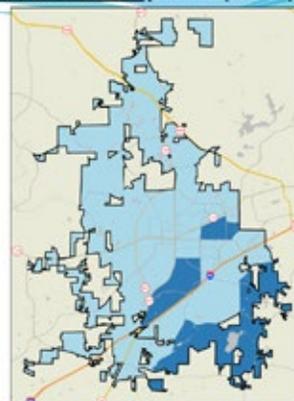
The results of the 2016 Citizen Survey are in and Auburn is setting the bar when it comes to our citizens' satisfaction with the services they are receiving. Since 2006 the City's rankings have significantly improved in 50 areas. This year's survey results showed Auburn ranking above the national average in 61 of 62 areas, with 53 of those areas significantly above average, and 44 areas beating the national average by double digits. Auburn's rating for the quality of city services ranked 31 points above the national average.

Results were presented to the City Council at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee of the Whole by Chris Tatham, President of the ETC Institute, a Kansas based research firm. Tatham began his presentation by summarizing the results of this year's survey with five major findings:

- Residents have very positive perceptions of the city
- The city is equitably serving residents in all areas of the city
- The city is moving in the right direction
- The City of Auburn is setting the standard for delivery of city services
- Traffic flow and maintenance of city infrastructure are the top priorities for improvement over the next two years

#### Satisfaction with the OVERALL quality of services provided by the City

Overall Satisfaction With City Services is the Same in Most Parts of the City



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# Citizen Survey 2016

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## Top Ratings

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of residents, rated the City as an excellent or good place to live and to raise children. Most residents (92%) generally feel safe in the City and even more (96%) feel safe in their own neighborhoods.

Eighty-six percent (86%) of residents gave positive ratings to overall city services, matching the City's all-time high for that measure. Police, fire and ambulance services led in the services category, with 93% satisfaction. Auburn City Schools also earned high marks, with 90% satisfaction. Especially notable was the ranking for value received for tax dollars and fees, with 75% of residents satisfied or very satisfied, up seven points since 2006 and ranking 30 points above the national average.

*Chris Tatham from the ETC Institute presents survey results to the City Council.*



## Leadership

Auburn's elected officials were ranked 15 points above the national average, and the City Manager was ranked 13 points above the national average. Residents ranked the effectiveness of our various Boards and Commissions 5 points higher than the national average.

## Priorities

Traffic flow and maintenance of city infrastructure are top priorities for improvement, with the management of traffic flow and congestion ranking at 45% satisfaction. In 2015, traffic flow and congestion was heavily impacted by a number of traffic enhancement projects at several of Auburn's major intersections including Toomer's Corner, Opelika Road and East University Drive and the intersection of Shug Jordan Parkway and South College Street. These projects were designed to improve both traffic flow and safety at these key Auburn intersections.

Infrastructure projects continue this year, with the replacement of the Moores Mill Bridge over Interstate 85. This project will greatly improve traffic flow in the area when complete, but the construction process will impede traffic for many months to come. Residents are advised to cross the Interstate at Bent Creek Road and Wrights Mill Road during construction.

Residents are already responding favorably to the infrastructure improvements stemming from the Renew Opelika Road initiative. Satisfaction with the appearance of Opelika Road is up 20 points after the completion of streetscape improvements near the post office and intersection and streetscape improvements near the Auburn Mall.

## Why do we do it?

The City of Auburn is committed to strong citizen participation in local government. The Annual Citizen Survey, first conducted in 1986, has been administered every year since 1988. The Survey allows City leaders to hear from the community as a whole on the city's performance and priorities. It provides a statistically valid measure of how people rank city services across categories and departments, and benchmarks Auburn against other cities around the nation.

## Who Receives a Citizen Survey?

To be scientifically valid, participants in the Citizen Survey are selected at random. The random sample must be large enough to accurately represent the community. Each year, the ETC Institute mails the survey to a random sample of 2,500 households within the City of Auburn. That sample size provides a large enough response for the survey to be statistically valid, as explained below.

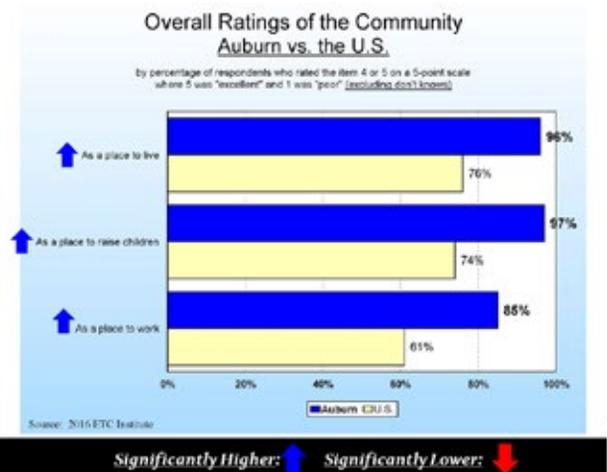
## How Accurate are the Survey Results?

Since the survey is conducted using scientific survey principles, it provides a statistically valid measure of public opinion. The 2016 Citizen Survey provided a 95% level of confidence with a precision of plus or minus 3.5%. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times using 100 different random samples, it would show the same results (plus or minus 3.5%) 95 out of 100 times. By following these scientific principles, we can be confident that the survey accurately measures the feelings and opinions of the Auburn citizenry. The Citizen Survey is conducted by an independent third party, the ETC Institute, to protect the survey from bias and to provide an independent analysis of the results.

## How do we use the survey?

The survey results guide the City Council and staff in setting budget, project and policy priorities for each biennial budget. It is crucial to city officials that the voice and opinions of citizens are actively sought out.

To view full Citizen Survey results since 2006, please go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/survey>



## Moores Mill Bridge Update

Work is underway on the Moores Mill Bridge replacement project. The project is managed by the Alabama Department of Transportation. During construction, left turns are limited at the intersection of East University Drive and Moores Mill Road. Detour signs are posted at appropriate locations.

As this update is written, the project is in "Phase 2," and the contractor has shifted traffic lanes to work on water lines, storm sewer pipes and storm sewer structures. Part of this phase of the project will include widening Moores Mill Road from east of Grove Hill Road and widening and restriping Grove Hill Road leading up to its intersection with Moores Mill Road. Phase 2 also includes construction on the west (Montgomery) side of the new bridge, including the multi-use path connecting to Moores Mill Park. This phase of construction will be underway for the rest of 2016, if not into 2017.

For updates throughout the project, please visit the City of Auburn on the web ([auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org)) and on social media (CityofAuburnAL on Facebook and Twitter).

## Fourth of July Holiday Schedule



City Hall will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications will remain on their regular schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling the week of July 4th-8th will change as follows:

### Normal Collection Day Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

Monday, July 4th	HOLIDAY
Tuesday, July 5th	Monday's route
Wednesday, July 6th	Tuesday's route
Thursday, July 7th	Wednesday's route
Friday, July 8th	Thursday's route

Collection carts and recycled materials must be placed on the curb by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. Please avoid placing items on or near storm drains, mailboxes, utility 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. All carts and collection bins must be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the following day. The garbage collection schedule for all holidays in 2016 is posted online at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org).

## Board Vacancies

Two vacancies for the **Planning Commission** were announced at the June 21, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the July 19, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Two vacancies for the **Greenspace Advisory Board** were announced at the June 21, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the July 19, 2016 City Council Meeting.

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



## MEETING SCHEDULE

# JULY

- 1 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 5 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
- 6 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 11 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry 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**, 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
- 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).**

**Due to the Independence Day Holiday, the July 4th Ward 5 Public Meeting will not be held.**

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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.

# upCOMING 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, please call 501-3198.

**Summer Reading is here! Please stop by the library to register for the Summer Reading any time. Summer Reading will conclude on July 27.**

**Celebrate Summer Reading each Wednesday at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.:**

**Wednesday, July 6** – Movie: The Peanuts Movie. Join us for a movie and refreshments.

**Wednesday, July 13** – Arthur Atsma: Street Magician

**Wednesday, July 20** – Russell Davis: Magician

**Wednesday, July 27** – Carol Cain: Storyteller

**STORYTIMES**

**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Preschool Storytime** - Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Fractured Fairytales** - Tuesday, July 5 at 3:30 p.m.

### SPECIAL CLASS

**Beginner Crochet Class**- the Auburn Public Library will be hosting a free beginner crochet class. Join us Tuesday mornings in July from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. or Tuesday evenings 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please bring a skein of light colored yarn and a size G crochet hook. Ages 10 and up. The class is capped at 6 students, so please call the library at 334-501-3198 or email [ajbrown@auburnalabama.org](mailto:ajbrown@auburnalabama.org) to register.

### ORGANIZING WORKSHOPS

Organizing is a valuable skill that can be learned, practiced, and perfected. This series of two workshops will focus on helping families get ready for the busy time right before the new school year begins. We will be offering tips and tricks and snacks!

**Thursday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.** - Organizing Your Grocery List and Meals

**Thursday, July 28 at 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.** - Starting the School Year Off with an Organized Bang!

### BOOK CLUBS

**Show and Tell** - Monday, July 18 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library

**Forever Young Adult** - Tuesday, July 19 at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread on Opelika Road featuring Carry On by Rainbow Rowell

**Read & Reflect** - Tuesday, July 26 at 10 a.m. at the Harris Senior Center, featuring The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

## 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 [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks).

**National Parks and Recreation Month** – Did you know that July is National Parks and Recreation Month? Auburn Parks and Recreation wants to invite all Auburn residents to take advantage of this month-long event to explore our local Auburn facilities, parks and greenspaces, as well as get to know the Auburn Parks and Recreation department through our events and social media. Follow the City of Auburn on any of our social media accounts for up-to-date information about special events, athletics and happenings in our area! Join our e-newsletter, LeisureLink, mailing list so you always know what we are up to each week; or simply pick up a copy of our latest brochure at any Parks and Recreation facility, or online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks), today! There's always something happening with Auburn Parks and Recreation! Have questions about our programs or upcoming events? Visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or call the Harris Center at 334.501.2930. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL). Twitter: @CityofAuburnAL. Instagram: @cityofauburnal

**Save the Date!** – Be sure to save the date for these important days with Auburn Parks and Recreation!

- **Friday, July 1:** Fall Brochure is available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or at any Auburn Parks and Recreation facility.
- **Friday, July 1:** ACTA First Friday Tennis Mixer will be held at the Yarborough Tennis Center at 6 p.m. For more information, please email [auburncta@yahoo.com](mailto:auburncta@yahoo.com) or call 334.501.2920.
- **Monday, July 4:** All Auburn Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day, with the exception of the Drake and Samford Pools. All facilities will reopen for normal hours of operation on Tuesday, July 5.
- **Saturday, July 9:** Celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month with Zumba Powerthon at Frank Brown Recreation Center beginning at 9 a.m.! Dress in your favorite superhero-inspired workout clothes or costume and enjoy 100 FREE minutes of super powered Zumba moves, led by your favorite Zumba instructors from the Auburn – Opelika area. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume, so please dress up! For more information, please contact Alison Hall at [ahall@auburnalabama.org](mailto:ahall@auburnalabama.org) or call 334.501.2930.
- **Friday, July 15:** Join us for TR Game Night at Dean Road Recreation Center from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. With board games, cards, coloring and refreshments, there's something for everyone! For more information, please contact Dana Stewart at [dstewart@auburnalabama.org](mailto:dstewart@auburnalabama.org) or call 334.501.2939.

**July Pool Events** – Join us for our second Float-N-Movie at Samford Pool: Minions! Bring your favorite inflatable from home, as none will be provided, and join us for a family movie under the stars while relaxing and floating in the pool, or hanging out on the pool deck, as we go on an adventure with Kevin, Stuart and Bob! Doors open at 8:15 p.m.; the movie will begin at 8:30; and doors will close at 8:45 p.m. Also, don't forget to join us on Friday, July 29 for our second Friday Night Splash at Samford Pool from 6 – 8 p.m.! Enjoy free swim, gator in the diving well, a cookout, music and more! Admission for all special events is FREE with Splash Pass or \$2 per person. Samford Pool recreation swim hours will change on Sunday, July 31 and Drake Pool will close for the 2016 season on Sunday, July 31. For more information about any of our special events, or about the 2016 Pool Season, please visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/pools](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pools) or call (334) 501 – 2957.

**Summer Sports Dates** – Mark the following dates on your calendar! You don't want to miss out on any of Auburn Parks and Recreation's fall youth sports or summer camps:

- **Monday, July 11:** online registration begins for all fall youth sports, including: flag football, baseball, softball, soccer, cheerleading, Start Smart Soccer, Fall Instructional League and tackle football.
  - **Friday, July 15:** registration deadline for Soccer Advance and Goalkeeper camps.
  - **Friday, July 29:** Fall Instructional Baseball/Softball registration ends.
- For more information please visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/athletics](http://www.auburnalabama.org/athletics) or call 334.501.2930.

**JDCAC presents...** Mark your calendar! Beginning July 8 and continuing through August 19, the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will host the **2016 Summer Invitational**, an exhibition of two and three-dimensional mixed-media works from local and regional artists. Exhibitions are free and open to the public weekdays 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).