

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2018

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City of Auburn

### Animal Control: ensuring the health and safety of Auburn residents and companion animals

Here at the City of Auburn, our employees work diligently to keep you and your family safe—even the four-legged and furry members.

Our Animal Control Division, housed within the Environmental Services Department, exists to ensure the health and safety of City of Auburn residents and their companion animals. Whether your dog digs its way out of the backyard or you're a first-time pet owner looking for tips to ensure your animal is happy and healthy while you're away, the Animal Control Division is available to help.

Chelsea Warner, Krista Weldon and Michele Aultman—the City's three Animal Control officers—responded to more than 1,400 service requests in 2017. If they spot a loose pup while patrolling a neighborhood or responding to a call, officers work to return the dog to its owner using its identification tag or chip. Once the dog is returned, they talk with the owner to explore ways to secure the area to keep the dog from escaping.

During animal welfare calls, our Animal Control officers' first course of action is often to work with pet owners to find solutions to provide adequate care for their animals. They follow up with the owners to make sure that improvements have been made.

Animal Control officers make schools visits and attend community events year round to talk about the City's animal-related ordinances, including the three things owners must provide for their animals: shelter, food and water. They remind residents to have their pets vaccinated for rabies, remind them of leash laws, tell them what to do if a stray dog approaches and give other tips focused on keeping everyone safe.

As Auburn's city limits expand, Assistant Director of Environmental Services Catrina Cook has helped Animal Control officers gain experience beyond cats and dogs. Outreach now includes information about animals found in rural settings, such as chickens, goats, cattle and horses.

Though Animal Control does not capture wildlife,

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Continued from page 1

our Animal Control employees serve as a referral service, helping to connect residents with pest management companies. Animal Control also partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to resolve wildlife conflicts.

Animal Control is a resource for Auburn residents. Whether you need advice in caring for your own animals, are worried about a stray in a high-traffic area or have a nuisance animal in your neighborhood, contact Animal Control at (334) 501-3090 during regular business hours or at the Public Safety Non-Emergency line, (334) 501-3100, after hours. You may also email [webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org).

For more information, visit [auburnalabama.org/environmental-services/animal-control](http://auburnalabama.org/environmental-services/animal-control).



## Animal Control FAQ

### What do I do if my animal is missing?

Contact Animal Control at (334) 501-3090 or the Lee County Humane Society at (334) 821-3222.

### What do I do if an animal bites me?

Contact the Public Safety Non-Emergency line at (334) 501-3100, and seek medical attention.

### Does Auburn have a leash law for dogs?

Yes; an owner must keep his or her dog under restraint at all times. It is unlawful for a dog to be off its leash when not on its owner's property. This includes if the animal is on another's property without the property owner's permission or on public streets or rights-of-way.

Unleashed dogs are allowed in public parks designated as dog parks, such as Kiesel Park and Town Creek Park, if the dog is under immediate and effective voice control of the owner.

### Does Auburn have rules regarding barking?

Yes; no owner shall permit a dog to habitually bark or yelp in such a loud and frequent manner as to annoy and disturb the public in the vicinity.

### What do I do if I witness someone abusing animals?

Contact Animal Control during business hours at (334) 501-3090 or [webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org). For immediate attention, contact the Public Safety Non-Emergency line at (334) 501-3100.

## Public Works Director Jeff Ramsey retires after 32 years with City

When reflecting on his career with the City of Auburn, the memories that stick with Public Works Director Jeff Ramsey revolve around the people connected to each sidewalk, bike lane and strip of pavement he helped repair or create.

"One of the great things about my job is I've really had the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives," said Ramsey. "When you see kids walking in the street to school then you build a sidewalk and they're safe—that's a big difference. Those are the things we've been able to do."

After 32 years' worth of infrastructure and park and facility projects designed to better the lives of Auburn residents, Ramsey will retire at the end of January.

Ramsey began his tenure at the City of Auburn in 1985 as an assistant engineer an academic quarter before he graduated from Auburn University with a degree in civil engineering. Ramsey became the City of Auburn's city engineer in 1996 and added public works director to his title in 1997. He has served as Auburn's city engineer and public works director for over 20 years.

One of Ramsey's first major projects with the City was the expansion of Glenn Avenue from a two-lane road to a four- and five-lane road. Over the last 32 years, he has overseen major parking projects, worked to make Auburn a Bicycle Friendly Community (designated by the League of American Bicyclists) and improved the City's floodplain and storm drainage management systems, just to name a few.

During the summer of 2015, Ramsey implemented the Corner Construction project, revitalizing the intersection of College Street and Magnolia Avenue (Toomer's Corner). With a tight construction window, he oversaw every detail to ensure the project remained on schedule.

Ramsey has worked to maintain quality traffic flow as Auburn has grown. He has helped cast a vision for the future of Auburn and has implemented plans to bring them to fruition.

"Jeff has had a fabulous career with Auburn and has made a huge impact on our community," said Assistant City Manager Kevin Cowper. "He has spearheaded dozens of infrastructure projects and has a keen ability to take projects from vision to reality. During his time as city engineer, he has developed a top class engineering and public works program, and the many lives he has touched is his real legacy."



## New spillway at Lake Ogletree ensures safe, reliable water

Construction of a new spillway at Lake Ogletree, the City of Auburn's primary drinking water source, was completed in November 2017.

Lake Ogletree was created in the early 1940s with the construction of the original dam and spillway. The previous spillway was modified twice, once in 1971 and once in 1991. Over the last 15 years, the spillway began to show signs of age, and construction began on the new \$16 million spillway in November 2015.

The new spillway sits at a slightly higher elevation than the previous one, increasing the storage capacity of the lake by approximately 50 million gallons. The new spillway is a 5.5 cycle, 4-stage labyrinth weir with a total effective length of over one quarter of a mile. It consists of approximately 14,000 cubic yards of concrete and 70,000 cubic yards of soil and aggregate material.

This project is another example of the Auburn Water Works Board's commitment to ensure the residents in the City of Auburn are supplied with safe, reliable drinking water.



## 2018 Zumbathon set for Feb. 24

It's time to move your body, Auburn! Join us for the 2018 Zumbathon on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Boykin Community Center gymnasium from 8-10:30 a.m.

We have everything you need to get a great work out and have fun at the same time: 120 minutes of fun-filled dancing designed to get you in shape – check! Awesome instructors who can keep you motivated and will take turns leading in various styles and levels of Zumba moves – check! An '80s-themed costume contest – check!

We will kick off at 8 a.m. with our "Best Dressed Dancer" costume contest. Zumba will begin at 8:30 a.m., so come dressed in your best duds, and get ready to dance (and sweat).

Zumba is a Latin dance-based exercise program that combines dancing with an aerobic workout. The 2018 Zumbathon will be held in conjunction with Scale Back Alabama – Lee County. All instructors hail from Auburn, Opelika and the surrounding areas.

This event is FREE to the public. Children ages 8 and older are welcome with parent participation.



## City of Auburn receives financial reporting certificate for 30<sup>th</sup> year

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently awarded the City of Auburn the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This marks the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the City of Auburn has received this designation.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. To receive the certificate, a government organization must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) that satisfies generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

The program, which was established in 1945, is now recognized by financial institutions and rating agencies as the standard for governmental reporting.

Along with the help of auditors and other participating City staff members, the Finance Department works to perfect this document year after year. This recurring achievement is an example of the City of Auburn Finance Department's commitment to excellence in financial reporting and accountability to those it serves.

To view this year's CAFR, visit [auburnalabama.org/finance/city-information](http://auburnalabama.org/finance/city-information).

## Rosa Parks Storyteller to speak on Feb. 20

Join us at the Auburn Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 20, to celebrate Black History Month and learn about legendary Alabama Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks with African American Storyteller Roz Thomas. The event will begin at 3:30 p.m.

## Business License Reminder

Did you know? The City of Auburn requires every person, firm, corporation, etc., that conducts business of any nature in Auburn to have an Auburn business license.

Before engaging in a business transaction with a local contractor, vendor or service, please ask to see their 2018 Auburn business license. All Auburn brick and mortar businesses should have their 2018 Auburn business license prominently displayed. Each business has to renew its license by Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018.

If you would like to check if a business has a license, contact the Revenue Office at (334) 501-7239 or [revenue@auburnalabama.org](mailto:revenue@auburnalabama.org).

# FEBRUARY <sup>up</sup>COMING EVENTS

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

<p><b>City Meeting Schedule</b> auburnalabama.org (334) 501-7266</p> <p><b>Auburn Public Library</b> auburnalabama.org/library (334) 501-3198</p> <p><b>Parks and Recreation</b> auburnalabama.org/parks (334) 501-2930</p>	 City of Auburn	<p>View our online edition of Open Line at auburnalabama.org/openline</p>		<h1>1</h1>	<h1>2</h1> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	<h1>3</h1>
<h1>4</h1>	<h1>5</h1> <p>Cemeteries Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Baby Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</b> 11:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> 6:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>City Council</b> 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>50+ Bingo &amp; Lunch</b></p>	<h1>7</h1> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Toddler Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Board of Zoning Adjustment</b> 4:30 p.m.</p>	<h1>8</h1> <p><b>Preschool Storytime</b> 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Gamer's Society</b> 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>Planning Commission</b> 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Youth Volleyball Registration Ends</b></p>	<h1>9</h1>	<h1>10</h1> <p><b>Krewe de Tigris Mardi Gras Parade in Downtown Auburn</b></p> <p><b>Empty Bowls at Denson Drive Recreation Center in Opelika</b></p>
<h1>11</h1>	<h1>12</h1>	<p><b>Baby Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Greenspace Advisory Board</b> Noon</p> <p><b>Historic Preservation Commission</b> 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>Board of Education</b> 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Youth Track Online Registration Begins</b></p>	<h1>14</h1> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Toddler Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	<h1>15</h1> <p><b>Preschool Storytime</b> 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Gamer's Society</b> 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>Adult Soccer Registration Ends</b></p>	<h1>16</h1>	<h1>17</h1>
<h1>18</h1> <p><b>Loving Film</b> 2:30 P.M.</p>	<h1>19</h1> <p><b>Show And Tell Book Club</b> 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Baby Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Rosa Parks Storyteller</b> 3:30 P.M.</p> <p><b>Library Board</b> 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> 6:55 p.m.</p> <p><b>City Council</b> 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>50+ Bingo &amp; Lunch</b></p>	<h1>21</h1> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Toddler Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	<h1>22</h1> <p><b>Preschool Storytime</b> 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Gamer's Society</b> 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>Water Works Board</b> 4 p.m.</p>	<h1>23</h1>	<h1>24</h1> <p><b>Active Auburn Zumbathon</b> 8:30 A.M. at Boykin Community Center</p>
<h1>25</h1>	<h1>26</h1> <p><b>Online Swim Lesson Registration Begins</b></p>	<h1>27</h1> <p><b>Baby Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Monthly Market at Harris Center</b> 4:30 p.m.</p>	<h1>28</h1> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Toddler Time</b> 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>			

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