

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2019

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Open Line is produced by the

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City of Auburn

MONEY names Auburn best place to live in Alabama



MONEY magazine named Auburn the best place to live in Alabama in 2018, highlighting the city's award-winning restaurants and low cost of living.

"Sports fans will feel right at home in this quintessential college town," stated the article. "Auburn University, named MONEY's best college in Alabama, is the city's largest employer and home to historic NCAA Division I sports teams. (Notable alumni include Apple CEO Tim Cook and NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley.) Known as 'The Loveliest Village on the Plains,'

Auburn is also home to incredible food: Head to Acre for award-winning farm-to-table fare, or get your fingers dirty at Moe's Original Bar B Que. Best of all is the relatively low cost of living. Median home sale prices are among the lowest in Alabama cities, and family incomes are about \$2,000 higher than the state median."

To develop the list, MONEY evaluates cities with 50,000 people or more based on economic health, cost of living, diversity, public education, income, crime, ease of living and amenities. Read more about the rankings at time.com/money/5479244/this-is-the-best-place-to-live-in-every-state.

Other 2018 Rankings and Recognitions

- The Milken Institute ranked the Auburn-Opelika MSA No. 10 on its list of the Top 10 Best-Performing Small Cities in 2017.
- Auburn came in at No. 6 on Niche.com's 2018 Best Places to Live in Alabama list with an overall grade of A+.
- Auburn ranked No. 5 on Niche.com's list of the best public schools in Alabama.
- Auburn ranked No. 8 on Niche.com's list of the best places to raise a family.
- Six of the top 15 schools on Niche.com's list of 2018's Best Public Elementary Schools in Alabama were in the City of Auburn, including Dean Road, Cary Woods, Richland, Wrights Mill, Ogletree and Yarbrough elementary schools.
- Four Auburn schools made Niche.com's list of Alabama schools with the best teachers, including Ogletree, Yarbrough, Wrights Mill and Dean Road elementary schools.
- Business Facilities Magazine ranked the Auburn-Opelika MSA No. 1 in Economic Growth Potential and No. 3 in Job Growth for small metro areas in its 2018 Metro Rankings Report.
- Auburn was included on Southern Living's list of The South's Best College Towns of 2018.
- ListsForAll.com ranked Auburn among the Top 20 Cities to Retire In.
- Security Choice ranked Auburn No. 82 on its list of the top 100 safest cities to retire.
- Livability ranked Auburn No. 93 on its list of 2018 Top 100 Best Places to Live.
- Insurify named Auburn the most educated city in Alabama.

Recycling in Auburn

Single-Stream

The single-stream recycling rollout is almost complete! Since December, Environmental Services has worked to distribute 7,000 new blue bins to the rest of Auburn residents who were interested in participating in the single-stream recycling program. All carts should be distributed by the end of January, weather permitting.

Whether you're new to the area, new to recycling or a recycling pro, here are some tips to make sure your recyclables are repurposed and not left at the landfill. Only the following materials can be accepted in the City of Auburn's single-stream curbside recycling program:

- Plastics #1-#7. This includes things like plastic bottles and food containers. No plastic bags or toys are accepted.
- Aluminum, steel/tin cans. Please remember to rinse out your cans before placing them in bins.
- All types of paper.
- Flattened cardboard, no larger than 4 by 2 feet.

Remember that things like glass and Styrofoam DO NOT belong in single-stream recycling carts. These materials break easily and contaminate the rest of the materials in a load, which means the entire contaminated portion ends up at the landfill rather than the recycling facility. All types of glass are still accepted at the Recycling Drop-Off Center at 365-A North Donahue Drive, so help us out by bringing your glass there instead of tossing it in your cart.

When you place your cart out for pickup, please remember to place it at least 3 feet from the curb, garbage carts, mailboxes, vehicles and any other nearby obstacles.

Recycling Drop-Off Center

Did you know that you can recycle 24 hours a day, year round in Auburn? The Recycling Drop-Off Center at 365-A North Donahue Drive was created in 1999 for just that.

While our single-stream curbside recycling program is limited to residential solid waste customers, the drop-off center is open to all Auburn residents. There, you'll find separate bins for everything that we accept in our single-stream curbside recycling program, including cans, flattened cardboard, paper, and plastics #1-7. You'll also find a place to recycle transistor batteries up to size D, cell phones, cooking grease and oil and glass.

For more information about recycling in Auburn, visit auburnalabama.org/garbage-and-recycling. Thanks for helping Auburn leave a smaller footprint on our world!



Did You Know?

Did you know the City of Auburn became the first municipality in Alabama to introduce curbside recycling services for residents in 1987?



Cold weather safety tips for pets



It's important to be aware of the risks that can come with colder temperatures to keep your pets safe! The City of Auburn Animal Control Division offers the following tips to keep your pet healthy and comfortable in colder weather:

Provide Shelter: A well-constructed dog house insulated with clean, dry bedding, such as straw, wood shavings or a blanket, will help keep your dog warm. Face the dog house opening away from the direction that the wind normally blows to help hold in warmth and prevent rain from blowing in. It's also a good idea to add a weather-resistant door flap. A flap can be purchased or, in a pinch, a heavy duty fabric, old vehicle mud flap or a piece of linoleum flooring will do.

Water: Make sure your pet always has access to fresh, clean water. Proper hydration is important to help your dog stay warm. It's also important to check water bowls often to make sure the water doesn't freeze over. To prevent lightweight bowls from tipping over, you can secure a bucket to a post or a tree, place the bucket inside of an old tire or dig a hole in the ground and place the bucket inside of it.

Food: Monitor your pet's diet. Animals may expend more calories in colder months than warmer times of year to keep warm. You may need to increase your pet's daily amount of food to compensate.

Cold Sensitive Pets: Remember that colder temperatures may be harder on some pets than others. Short hair breeds, smaller breeds and dogs that are young or old are more susceptible to the cold and should be closely monitored while outdoors. If your dog is sensitive to the cold because of age, illness or breed type, winter care accommodations should be adjusted accordingly.

Hypothermia: Know the warning signs! Hypothermia is a potentially deadly condition where the body temperature falls below normal. Signs include shivering, lethargy and lack of coordination. If you notice any of these symptoms, immediately move the animal to a warm location and wrap it in a blanket. Contact a veterinarian while warming your pet.

If you notice a pet that you are concerned about, document what you see including the date, time, exact location, type of animal and as many other details as possible. Then contact the City of Auburn Animal Control Division at (334) 501-3090. After hours, please contact the Auburn Police Division at (334) 501-3100.

Renew your business license by February

Any business providing services or selling goods within Auburn city limits, including a home-based business, is required to have a City of Auburn business license. City business licenses for 2018 expired on Dec. 31 and must be renewed by Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, to avoid late fees.

All current business license holders should have received renewal packets in late December. Any business that did not receive its renewal packet by Dec. 31 should contact the Revenue Office to verify its mailing address and request another packet. The City Revenue Office is located in City Hall at 144 Tichenor Ave. Business hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. except City holidays. For more information, visit auburnalabama.org/revenue/business-licenses or contact the Revenue Office at (334) 501-7239 or revenue@auburnalabama.org.

Monthly ward meetings

Ward 4 Councilperson Brett Smith will hold monthly ward meetings on the first Monday of each month. Meetings will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. All residents are invited to attend, however most meetings will cover topics relevant to Ward 4 residents.

The Auburn Public Library is located at 749 E. Thach Ave. Don't know your ward? Enter your address at the bottom of the City's homepage at auburnalabama.org and select "Search" to find out.

Don't live in Ward 4? Keep an eye on auburnalabama.org/boards-and-commissions/meeting-schedule for information about upcoming ward meetings and other public meetings.

CreativeBug Class: Marble Totes

Own a lot of tote bags? How many of them have your creative stamp on them? On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the Auburn Public Library will show you how to add it! With just shaving cream and Tulip fabric paints, you can make a fun, decorative design on a canvas tote bag. We'll provide the materials; you provide the creativity! This course will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the program room and is free and open to the public.

Empty Bowls 2019



The Dean Road Ceramics Studio and the Denson Drive Recreation Center will host the 6th annual Auburn-Opelika Empty Bowls event on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 5-7 p.m. This year's

event will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center in Auburn. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at either the Dean Road Ceramics Studio in Auburn or the Denson Drive Recreation Center in Opelika beginning in January.

All proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank of East Alabama. Each ticketholder gets his or her choice of a handmade bowl created by local artists that will be filled with soup on Feb. 23. For more information, visit auburnalabama.org/empty-bowls.

HOW MANY ROOMMATES MAY I HAVE?

Certain areas of Auburn, or zoning districts, limit the number of unrelated people at an address to help reduce overcrowding and preserve neighborhood character.

There are three zoning districts in Auburn which limit to two the number of unrelated occupants living in a dwelling in those zones. Those districts are Neighborhood Conservation (NC), Limited Development District (LDD) and Development District Housing (DDH).



City of Auburn



FIND OUT IF THESE LIMITATIONS AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY

VISIT WEBGIS.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/UNRELATEDOCCUPANCYLIMITS FOR AN INTERACTIVE MAP OR CONTACT THE CITY OF AUBURN INSPECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT (334) 501-3170 OR WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG

FEBRUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

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



City of Auburn

Auburn Public Library
auburnalabama.org/atlbr
(334) 501-3178

City Meeting Schedule
auburnalabama.org
(334) 501-2750

Parks and Recreation
auburnalabama.org/parks
(334) 501-2930

Free Commission 11:30 a.m.
Daddy Daughter Date Night 6:30 p.m.
@ Children Inn & Suites

STEM Storytime 10 a.m.
Daddy Daughter Date Night 6:30 p.m.
@ Children Inn & Suites

James C. Buston, III
City Manager
501-7261
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

Inspection Services
John Hoar, Director
501-3170
jhoar@auburnalabama.org

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

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

Community Services
Alfred Davis, Director
501-7280
adavis@auburnalabama.org

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

Development Services
Megan McGowen-Crouth,
Executive Director
501-7380
mmcgowen@auburnalabama.org

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

Cemeteries Advisory Board 4 p.m.
Spring Registration Begins
@ Harts Center

Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.
Committee of the Whole 1:00 p.m.
City Council 7 p.m.

Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Board of zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.
Sheri Winston author 5:16 to 6 p.m.

Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Gamer's Society 4-6:30 p.m.
Volleyball Registration ends
Daddy Daughter Date Night 5:30 p.m.
@ Children Inn & Suites

Design a Valentine 3:30 p.m.
Daddy Daughter Date Night 6:30 p.m.
@ Children Inn & Suites

Active Auburn Zumba 8:30 a.m. @ Baylan Community Center Gym
STEM Storytime 10 a.m.
Daddy Daughter Date Night 6:30 p.m.
@ Children Inn & Suites

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

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

Engineering Services
Alison Frazier, Director
501-7390
afrazier@auburnalabama.org

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

Planning Commission
Fiscal Meeting 10 a.m.

Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Greenspace Advisory Board 11 a.m.
Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.
Starting a Business in Lee County 5:30 p.m.
Board of Education 6 p.m.
Track Online Registration begins

Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Gamer's Society 4-6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission 5 p.m.

Puppet Shows 10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.
Adult Soccer ends

STEM Storytime 10 a.m.

Environmental Services
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3080
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Public Works
Scott Cummings, Director
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scummings@auburnalabama.org

Finance
Penny Smith, Director
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Water Resource Management
Eric A. Carson, Director
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Human Resources
Steven A. Reeves, Director
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Public Affairs
David D. Dorton, Director
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View our online edition of
Open Line at auburnalabama.org/openline.
Find an up-to-date meeting schedule at
auburnalabama.org/boards-and-commissions/meeting-schedule.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		