

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

June 2019

City Council

Ron Anders, Jr., Mayor
(334) 703-9000
randers@auburnalabama.org

Connie Fitch Taylor, Ward 1
(334) 704-3970
ctaylor@auburnalabama.org

Kelley Griswold, Ward 2
(256) 975-8183
kgriswold@auburnalabama.org

Beth Witten, Ward 3
(334) 740-8575
bwitten@auburnalabama.org

Brett Smith, Ward 4
(334) 740-8847
basmith@auburnalabama.org

Steven Dixon, Ward 5
(334) 707-3091
sdixon@auburnalabama.org

Bob Parsons, Ward 6
(334) 704-3657
bparsons@auburnalabama.org

Jay Hovey, Ward 7
(334) 319-6654
jhovey@auburnalabama.org

Tommy Dawson, Ward 8
(334) 559-3021
tdawson@auburnalabama.org

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
(334) 501-7260



web:
www.auburnalabama.org
email:
openline@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn

Reeves retires after 32 years of service



Sitting in a meeting, Human Resources Director Steve Reeves looked through the conference room windowpane. A local daycare is across the street, which means little ones are never far from sight. This particular day, a group of children were on a field trip and walked by the window. Reeves paused.

"That's why we do this," he said to his staff. "It's for all these little kids that are having a great place to grow up."

Having dedicated 32 years of his life to making the Auburn community a better place to live, work and play, Reeves retired from the City of Auburn at the end of March leaving behind a legacy of influence.

Reeves began his career with the City in 1983 as an intern while pursuing a bachelor's in public administration from Auburn University. He then began Auburn University's political science master's program and received Auburn University's first master's degree in public administration in 1986. During that time, Reeves completed another internship with former Auburn City Manager Doug Watson.

During graduate school and after graduation, Reeves worked at Auburn University's Center for Governmental Services, now the Government & Economic Development Institute. Watson recruited Reeves to establish the City's risk management program, and Reeves began his first full-time position with the City in 1987. He spent six years building the program during an era of "burgeoning municipal liability," he remembered. The liability insurance market was shrinking, increasing the cost of liability coverage and causing municipalities across the nation to cut back services. Reeves established a program that persists today to protect the City of Auburn and its employees, creating better stewardship of tax dollars.

Reeves was promoted to human resources director six years into his career and served as such for 26 years.

"Steve played a major role in developing excellent policies and programs that enticed outstanding men and women to apply for job openings with the City," Watson said. "He advocated for competitive pay and benefits, fair and equal treatment policies, excellent working conditions and comprehensive



Steve Reeves with HR Director Kristen Reeder

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training and educational opportunities.”

The drive behind all of this? Building a workforce that is dedicated to ethical public service.

“Over the years, we have made employment with the City of Auburn far more attractive,” Reeves said. “Because of that, we are able to recruit and retain very good employees that contribute to high-quality, cost-effective City services.”

The City’s employment numbers are proof: 48% of employees have been with the City for 10+ years, and 21 percent are eligible to retire now or within the next five years.

“Steve created a department that is renowned throughout the southeast and beyond for its excellence,” City Manager Jim Buston said. “Our organization and our community are all the better because of his work. His achievements live on through the excellent staff he developed.”

Beyond the numbers, Reeves has cherished witnessing the impact that stable employment can have.

“I’ve seen a lot of employees change the trajectory of their families—probably forever—because of their employment with the City and the opportunities that created for them and their children,” Reeves said.

Reeves has been part of creating a culture of professional development within the City. He established numerous training programs including a supervisor certification program, a crew leader development program, a customer service certification program and an ethics training program that was recently showcased in a book about transformative government.

“One of the strengths of our organization is the ability to develop employees to take on higher level responsibilities,” Reeves said. “This is demonstrated by the excellent leadership provided by former City Manager Charlie Duggan, current City Manager Jim Buston and Kristen Reeder’s recent promotion to human resources director. I’m confident that the investments we are making in employee development today will continue to pay big dividends for the City in the future.”

“Evidence of Steve’s good work is the professionalism of the City workforce,” Watson said. “He retired from the City leaving his department and the City workforce in excellent shape. I am proud of his accomplishments and proud to have hired and promoted him. Even though most of his work was not reported in the media, his mark on the City of Auburn is significant.”

Reeves credited his success to the mentorship of Watson, the vision and leadership of many appointed and elected officials, Auburn University professors and the support, hard work and friendship of the Human Resources Department’s employees.

“It has been a distinct honor to be associated with such an exceptional organization and to work with many talented and dedicated leaders and employees over the years,” Reeves said.

13th Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk



Enjoy works by local artists, live musical entertainment, children’s activities and a Strawberry Showdown culinary contest at the 13th Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk on Friday, June 7, from 6-10 p.m. in downtown Auburn.

SummerNight will feature a Starting Line Party and Parade beginning at Pebble Hill at 5 p.m. Community members are invited to decorate bikes, strollers, wagons, etc., then march in the parade.

SummerNight is FREE to the public and will take place rain or shine. This event is hosted by the Auburn Arts Association, the City of Auburn and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities. For more information, visit auburnsummernight.org or contact the SummerNight Headquarters at (334) 501-2963.

BIG Book Sale breaks fundraising record



The Friends of the Auburn Public Library’s BIG Book Sale raised a total of \$9,450.77 over three days in April, making it the most successful book sale in the history of the Friends.

The Friends would like to thank everyone who turned out to shop for books, as well as the approximately 30 volunteers who made the BIG Book Sale possible. All of the money raised will support library programs, including the Summer Learning Challenge, the Third Grade Reading Dragons and various workshops, classes and other activities throughout the year. The Friends also distributed free books to more than 250 children, helping to support the library’s vision of an engaged, literate and informed community.

The BIG Book Sale was made possible through the support of the Friends of the Auburn Public Library, the Auburn Public Library staff and the City of Auburn. The Friends of the Auburn Public Library are already making plans for a special children’s book sale later this spring, as well as the next BIG Book Sale, tentatively scheduled for a weekend in fall 2019.

City of Auburn on Nextdoor app

We're excited to announce that the City of Auburn is now on the Nextdoor App! Nextdoor is a free, private social network that connects neighbors. Now you can connect with your local government, too! We're using Nextdoor as another way to let you know what's going on in your neighborhood and community at large. We also want to hear from you on how to connect with neighborhoods and make them stronger.

All Nextdoor users within Auburn city limits will automatically receive our updates, and you have the option to unsubscribe. The City of Auburn can't see the content on any neighborhood groups, so please respond to our posts or message us with any questions and information you may need us to know. Not on Nextdoor? You can sign up at nextdoor.com or find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter @CityofAuburnAL for regular updates about your City.

GE Aviation to boost 3D printing in Auburn with milestone expansion



GE Aviation is investing \$50 million to expand the additive manufacturing operation at its Auburn facility, the aerospace industry's first site to mass produce a jet engine component using 3-D printing technologies.

As part of the project, GE Aviation will create 60 jobs and install advanced new additive production machines in Auburn, allowing the factory to launch high volume production of a second engine part using the additive process.

"GE Aviation is at the leading edge of advanced aerospace additive manufacturing, and the company's expansion plans at the Auburn facility will strengthen its technology leadership position," Governor Ivey said in a press release in March. "We look forward to seeing where the great partnership between Alabama and GE Aviation will take us both in an exciting future."

GE has already invested well over \$100 million in the landmark Auburn site, which in 2015 began producing a fuel nozzle tip using additive technologies. Last October, the Auburn manufacturing team celebrated production of the 30,000th 3-D printed fuel nozzle tip for the LEAP jet engine. With the expansion, the Auburn facility will begin mass production of a 3-D printed bracket for the GEnx-2B engine program.

"We're very excited for this new investment in our additive manufacturing operation here in Auburn," GE Aviation's Auburn Plant Leader Ricardo Acevedo said. "Our success thus far is a testament to all the hard-working folks at this facility who are leading the way in advanced manufacturing. The future here is bright, and we're glad to have such great support from the Auburn community and the state of Alabama."

Unlike traditional manufacturing methods that mill a slab of metal to produce a part, additive manufacturing grows parts directly from a CAD file using layers of fine metal powder and an electron beam or laser. The technology allows rapid production of highly complex parts, without waste.

At the Auburn facility, GE's additive processes reduced the number of parts in a single fuel nozzle tip from about 20 pieces previously welded and brazed together to one whole piece. The nozzle tip's weight was cut by 25%.

The Auburn facility today employs around 230 people, with projections for employment to increase to 300 in 2019, before the expansion announcement.

"We're grateful for GE's continued investment in our community, and we are proud to be the home of GE Aviation's leading additive manufacturing facility," said Auburn Mayor Ron Anders. "For years, Auburn has sought after technology-based industries, and this expansion is evidence of the value in that. Thanks to the team at GE, Governor Kay Ivey and her staff and all of those involved in bringing about this expansion. We look forward to GE's further success, fueled in part by a workforce educated right here in Auburn."

Summer Learning Challenge Kickoff



Join us at the Auburn Public Library for the Summer Learning Challenge Kickoff Celebration on Tuesday, June 4 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. You'll be able to register for the Summer Learning Challenge, which encourages the

community to read for 20 minutes a day throughout the summer. Stick around to enjoy games, crafts and more! The first 500 visitors will receive a cup of Kona Ice.

Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the Indian Pines Recreation Authority will be announced at the May 7 Auburn City Council meeting and filled at the June 4 meeting. Applications will be due at 5 p.m. on May 27. Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or find more information about volunteering for one of our boards and commissions.



JUNE UPCOMING EVENTS

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



City of Auburn

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.

Auburn Public Library
auburnalabama.org/library
 (334) 501-3198

City Meeting Schedule
auburnalabama.org
 (334) 501-7260

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

STEM Storytime 10am

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MANAGEMENT TEAM

James C. Buxton, III
 City Manager
 501-7261
jbuxton@auburnalabama.org

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

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

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

Development Services
 Megan McGowen Crouch,
 Executive Director
 501-7380
mmgowen@auburnalabama.org

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

Economic Development
 Phillip Durlap, Director
 501-7270
pdurlap@auburnalabama.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Works
 Scott Cummings, Director
 501-3000
scummings@auburnalabama.org

Human Resources
 Kristen Reeder, Director
 501-7240
kreeeder@auburnalabama.org

Water Resource Management
 Eric A. Carson, Director
 501-3000
ecarson@auburnalabama.org

Information Technology
 Greg Nelson, CIO
 501-7208
gnelson@auburnalabama.org

Public Affairs
 David D. Dorton, Director
 501-7266
ddorton@auburnalabama.org

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>Monday Movie 7pm & 6pm</p> <p>Gameplay Advisory Board 1pm</p> <p>Head of Marketing \$500 pm @ Auburn Public Library</p> <p>Session 11 Swim Lessons Begin</p> <p>Therapeutic Summer Camp Begins</p>	<p>Baby Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Summer Learning Challenge Kickoff</p> <p>Park & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 am</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 810</p> <p>City Council 7 pm</p>	<p>Toddler Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Gender Bug Class 9:30 am</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 9:30 pm</p>	<p>Toddler Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Letters to Dad 7 pm</p> <p>APPD Sports Camp 1 Registration Deadline</p>	<p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Teen Writers Program 2 pm</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4:45 pm</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 pm</p>	<p>Pasta Adorno Author Visit 10:30 am</p> <p>Town Commission 11:30 am</p> <p>Summer Reading Starting Line Party & Tour 5 pm @ Babbs Hill</p> <p>Summer Reading Downtown Art Walk 5-10 pm</p>	<p>STEM Storytime 10am</p> <p>Sunday Movie 7pm</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>Planning Commission Packed Meeting 10am</p> <p>Monday Movie 7 pm & 6 pm</p> <p>Session 11 Swim Lessons Registration Ends</p>	<p>Baby Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Alligator Center 2 pm</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 pm</p> <p>Board of Education 5 pm</p>	<p>Toddler Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Letters to Dad 7 pm</p> <p>APPD Sports Camp 1 Registration Deadline</p>	<p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Teen Writers Program 2 pm</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4:45 pm</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 pm</p>	<p>City Council Agenda Review 4 pm</p> <p>Thunder Plus Camp 1 Registration Deadline</p>	<p>STEM Storytime 10am</p>	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Talk to the Dad - Billboard Storytime 9 pm</p>	<p>Monday Movie 7 pm & 6 pm</p> <p>Session 11 Swim Lessons Begins</p>	<p>Baby Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Dr. Magical Balloons 7 pm</p> <p>Library Board 4 pm</p> <p>GreenSpace Advisory Board 10am</p> <p>City Council 7 pm</p>	<p>Toddler Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Creative Bug Class 9:30 pm</p>	<p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Teen Writers Program 2 pm</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4:45 pm</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 pm</p>	<p>City Council Agenda Review 4 pm</p> <p>Thunder Plus Camp 1 Registration Deadline</p>	<p>STEM Storytime 10am</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>Monday Movie 7 pm & 6 pm</p>	<p>Baby Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4:45 pm</p>	<p>Toddler Time 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Creative Bug Class 9:30 pm</p>	<p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm</p> <p>Teen Writers Program 2 pm</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4:45 pm</p>	<p>Friday Night Splash @ Sandbar bar</p>	<p>STEM Storytime 10am</p>	
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