

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

May 2018

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City of Auburn

20th Annual Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast on May 28



Auburn Mayor Bill Ham Jr. and the Auburn Veterans Committee invite you to join us as we honor the U.S. Military and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice at the 20th Annual Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast on Monday, May 28.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. The Auburn University Naval ROTC will present the colors, and the Auburn University Concert Choir, directed by Dr. William Powell, will perform the National Anthem and the Medley of Service Songs.

Retired Lt. Col. Fred Lacy will be the guest of honor and the recipient of the 2018

Distinguished Veteran Award. For the seventh year, the Auburn Heroes Remembered Award will be presented to the family of a local distinguished veteran who has passed away. This year's award will be in honor of former City of Auburn police officer, Sgt. Frank M. DeGraffenried, father of former Auburn police chief, Buddy DeGraffenried.

A memorial wreath laying ceremony will follow the breakfast and award presentations at 10 a.m. at the Auburn Veterans Memorial Monument, located at the northeast corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to park at the Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex and Felton Little Park. Ross Street between Glenn and Harper avenues and Glenn Avenue between Burton and North Debardeleben

streets will be closed during the ceremony to provide room for on-street accessible parking.

Tickets are \$25 a person or \$250 for a table of 10 and will be available at City Hall beginning April 23. Ticket proceeds will go to the Auburn Veterans Memorial Fund.

Please join us as we honor the men and women who have courageously risked their lives and those who have given their lives in service of our country. Visit auburnalabama.org/veterans or contact City Hall at (334) 501-7260 for more information.

City Holiday Schedule

Auburn City Hall and most City facilities will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 28. Police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the week of May 28 - June 1 as listed below:

May

Monday, May 28
Tuesday, May 29
Wednesday, May 30
Thursday, May 31
Friday, June 1

Memorial Day Holiday

HOLIDAY
Monday's route
Tuesday's route
Wednesday's route
Thursday's route

Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan aims to foster preservation, revitalization

Can you picture it?

A neighborhood restored with its rich history preserved. A neighborhood nurtured to ensure it is the strong, thriving and unique part of town residents want it to be. A safe, clean, active and friendly neighborhood with affordable housing options, ample sidewalks, indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, and shops and restaurants in renovated and new buildings—all adding to the value and historic character of the area.

The Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan is an opportunity to bring this about.

The plan began over a year ago with a collaborative effort to form a community-driven roadmap for the 1.4-square-mile neighborhood in northwest Auburn. Although full of history and character, northwest Auburn has suffered over time from inadequate housing, neglected or abandoned properties and economic decline.

The vision of the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan is to revitalize the neighborhood through further investment in infrastructure, planning that encourages redevelopment and affordable housing and incentives to attract business opportunities.

Where we've been.

Residents, property owners and other stakeholders kick-started the process at public meetings held in August and October 2016. About 200 people came to the first meeting, identifying areas they wanted changed and areas they wanted preserved.

Surveys helped residents pinpoint which aspects of the neighborhood were most important and deserved the most attention. Parks and recreation facilities and programs topped the list, and affordable housing opportunities and preserving existing neighborhoods came in second. More sidewalks, lighting and other infrastructure improvements were close behind in third. Many residents also expressed concerns about student housing encroaching into the area.

Smaller educational meetings were held at the request of residents in the area in November and December 2016 to explain the proposed zoning changes that were based on input from the first two public meetings. Another public meeting was held in January 2017 to overview the proposed plan, and the City Council and Planning Commission met in November 2017 to review the plan.



Since the first meetings, Planning Department staff have listened to residents' input to create a plan that preserves the heritage of the area while providing opportunities for enhancements. Whether it's new sidewalks, more walking paths and recreation centers or zoning changes to pave the way for more affordable housing options, the goal of this plan is to spur improvement.

What we're doing.

While the plan has been in the works, the City of Auburn has continued investing in northwest Auburn. Renovations to the Boykin Community Center are wrapping up, and improvements and upgrades have been made to Martin Luther King Park, Westview Cemetery and Sam Harris Park, making these facilities more attractive and accessible. We're also in the final stages of a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Master Plan that will bring several new recreational opportunities to northwest Auburn.

A number of deteriorated buildings have been removed, and repairs and improvements have been made to neighborhood sidewalks and street lighting. Bedell Avenue will be resurfaced soon, and speed humps will be installed on Foster Avenue to solve a long-standing speeding issue. A left turn lane from Martin Luther King Drive to Richland Road will also be added.



Over the years, the City has brought 288 substandard houses up to codes standards and built 143 new houses for first-time homeowners. In February, the Council approved the purchase of 2.2 acres at the corner of Byrd and Tucker that will soon house six to eight new, affordable homes for low- to moderate-income families.

Improvements to Donahue Drive have included widening, resurfacing and installing sidewalk from Cary Drive to Shug Jordan Parkway. The Council recently engaged a planning and urban design firm to envision improvements for Martin Luther King Drive from Shug Jordan Parkway to North Donahue Drive. We expect sidewalk, landscaping and lighting improvements to come out of this plan, adding to the several projects that are already planned to improve infrastructure in the area.

Where we hope to go.

The Planning Department has specifically designed the proposed development regulation changes in the area to preserve the neighborhood while encouraging development of affordable housing, economic growth and restoration of existing historic structures. These changes, along with those implemented with the Downtown Master Plan, also ensure that dedicated student housing developments are not permitted and that families are the focus of most residential areas in the neighborhood.

The Auburn City Council approved future land use amendments to implement this vision in March, and zoning amendments will likely go before the Planning Commission in May and appear before the Council at its June 19 meeting.

Similar to Renew Opelika Road, the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan seeks to bring about revitalization through investment in infrastructure, incentives to draw in business and

zoning to encourage appropriate development. Opelika Road has seen significant improvements since changes were adopted, and we hope the same for the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan study area.

For more information about the plan and presentations from the six public meetings, visit auburnalabama.org/future.

Auburn Public Library receives Alabama Library Association award

The Auburn Public Library recently received a 2018 Silver Level Standard Award given by the Public Library Division of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA). This award reflects the library's effort to meet and surpass core standards for public libraries in Alabama.

Alabama Standards Achievement Awards recognize excellence attained by exceptional public libraries in Alabama. To receive the award, public libraries are evaluated on criteria in several categories, including administration and governance, strategic planning, budgeting and finance and the quality of the library's collections, programs and services. Libraries that meet or exceed these criteria are awarded bronze, silver or gold level awards. This is the first time that the Auburn Public Library has received the Silver Level Standard Award.

The Auburn Public Library will be recognized for its accomplishment during the Association Awards and President's Bash on April 12, 2018, at the ALLA Annual Convention in Florence.

Spring Sundown Concert Series

Thursdays are now concert days throughout the month of May! Enjoy performances from local and regional musicians at the Spring Sundown Concert Series at Town Creek Park every Thursday night from 6-7:30 p.m. Bring the family, a picnic and a lawn chair to enjoy a free, relaxing evening of entertainment. Four-legged friends are invited as well, but please make sure they are on a leash.

The band line-up for the 2018 Spring Sundown Concert Series is as follows:

May 3- Alabama Ave.	May 24- Graham Harper
May 10- Established	May 31- Shana Franshá featuring No Comment
May 17- H2O	



John Hoar appointed director of Inspection Services Department



After 15 years of reviewing plans for Auburn developments, large and small, John Hoar has been selected to lead the new Inspection Services Department.

Hoar came to Auburn from Birmingham and began working in construction to help pay for his education. Hoar first began his career with the City of Auburn in 2003 as a codes enforcement officer. Eight years later, Hoar was promoted to plan reviewer

where he was exposed to "more of the overall picture" of the inspections process. He became the City of Auburn's building official in 2017.

Hoar was appointed as the Inspection Services Department's first director when it was created in February. Formerly the Codes Enforcement Division, the Inspection Services Department is now part of the Development Services Business Unit. The business unit pulls together departments involved in the development process, helping each department work closer together to promote sustainable growth by protecting neighborhoods and encouraging quality development.

Whether it has been a backyard storage building or a new industrial development, Hoar enjoys working with the Auburn community to ensure their projects are the best they can be. Hoar is looking forward to furthering this investment by working on all aspects of the project from beginning to end through the new department's link with all involved in the development process.

"In the former Codes Enforcement Division, we typically saw things at the very end, right before they were built," Hoar said. "Now we're able to give more input on the overall project and find issues on paper before they get built."

Hoar added that a key improvement for the department will be the addition of neighborhood inspectors who will work closely with the community to help resolve situations rather than simply issuing reminders or warnings.

Hoar reminded the community that questions are always welcome at (334) 501-3170 or webcodes@auburnalabama.org.

Summer Learning Challenge kickoff on May 31

The Auburn Public Library will host the Summer Learning Challenge kickoff on Thursday, May 31! Stop by the Library during regular hours to play games, grab some popcorn and register to take the Summer Learning Challenge.

The challenge is simple—just set a goal, and read all summer. If you read for 18 hours or just 20 minutes a day, you will earn a Summer Learning Challenge T-shirt at the end of the summer!



MAY

upCOMING EVENTS

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



	<p>City Meeting Schedule auburnalabama.org (334) 501-7260</p> <p>Auburn Public Library auburnalabama.org/library (334) 501-3198</p> <p>Parks and Recreation auburnalabama.org/parks (334) 501-2930</p>	<p>50+ Bingo 10:30 a.m. at Harris Center</p> <p>Parks & Rec. Advisory Bd. 11-45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 6:55 p.m.</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p> <p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Boarding of Zoning Adjustments 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Sundown Concert Series 6 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>ARC Lifeguard Certification Renewal 8 a.m.</p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Swim Team Practice Begins</p> <p>Young Writers Club 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cemeteries Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p> <p>Letters to Mom 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Education 6 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>AACT presents "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" JDCAC</p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p> <p>Sundown Concert Series 6 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AACT presents "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" JDCAC</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bark in the Park and Play in th Park Day 9 a.m. at Kiesel Park</p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p> <p>AACT presents "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" JDCAC</p>
<p>13</p> <p>AACT presents "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" JDCAC</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Young Writer's Club 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Sundown Concert Series 6-7:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p> <p>50+ Bingo 10:30 a.m. at Harris Center</p> <p>Auburn City Pools open for Early Bird Season</p> <p>Library Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 6:55 p.m.</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p> <p>Stories from the Children's Theater</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Auburn High School Civil Rights Symposium 6 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Sundown Concert Series 6-7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Puppet Shows 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p> <p>Special Olympics State Games in Troy</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Fishing Rodeo 8 a.m. @ Auburn Technology Park South</p> <p>ARC Lifeguard Certification Renewal 8 a.m. @ Samford Pool</p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>ARC Lifeguard Certification Renewal 8 a.m. @ Samford Pool</p> <p>Special Olympics State Games in Troy</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Young Writer's Club 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Baby Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Auburn Public Library Studio 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p> <p>ARC Lifeguard Certification Renewal 8 a.m. @ Samford Pool</p>	<p>24</p> <p>ARC Lifeguard Certification Renewal 8 a.m. @ Samford Pool</p> <p>Preschool Storytime 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Sundown Concert Series 6:30 p.m. @ Town Creek Park</p>	<p>25</p> <p>ARC Lifeguard Certification Renewal 8 a.m. @ Samford Pool</p> <p>Registration deadline for Rising Tiger & Jr. Soccer Camp</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Summer Season opens at Samford Pool</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bike Committee 7 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Summer Learning Challenge Kickoff</p>		

View our online edition of Open Line at auburnalabama.org/openline

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