

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2017

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### Council Appoints Verlinda White to City Council

Former Councilperson Verlinda White was appointed by the Auburn City Council at the June 20, 2017 regular Council meeting to serve as a replacement official while Ward 1 Councilperson Clemon Byrd is deployed on active military duty. Councilman Byrd recommended Ms. White upon announcing that he had been called to active duty and would be deployed for around a year.

According to state law, the Council should appoint a replacement official to serve as Councilperson when a regular official is called away to active military service. State law includes provisions allowing the regular official to resume service upon return.

Councilperson White previously served as the Ward 1 representative during the 2002 to 2006 Council term.



### Single-Stream Recycling Coming Soon

Thanks to an Alabama Recycling Grant, the City of Auburn is moving to "single-stream" recycling. Grant funds of \$288,896 will allow the City to purchase 5,600 new, 95-gallon carts for residents to use at the curb for single-stream recycling.

Single-stream recycling, also known as commingled recycling, allows residents to combine recyclables without sorting or separating them. Items eligible for single-stream recycling include aluminum cans, cardboard and paper. Residents will also once again be able to recycle plastic drink bottles and plastic food containers. Recycling of plastics was previously suspended on July 1, 2017 as plastics were no longer accepted by Waste Recycling, Inc., but will return as part of single-stream recycling.

Unfortunately, glass cannot be recycled at the curb as part of single-stream recycling, but will still be accepted at the City's recycling center at 365-A North Donahue Drive.

The City of Auburn was the first community in Alabama to offer curbside recycling services. With this grant, the City will be able to improve that service while responding to the desire long expressed by residents for single-stream recycling. Environmental Services Director Tim Woody hopes to begin Auburn's single-stream recycling this fall.

### Annual Citizen Survey: 2017 Results

The results of the 2017 Citizen Survey were presented to the Auburn City Council at the May 16 Committee of the Whole meeting. The presentation was made 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 four major findings:

- Residents continue to have a very positive perception of the City.
  - Although the results varied slightly in 2017 vs. 2016, Auburn is still setting the standard for
- continued on next page*

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the delivery of City services – the City’s ratings are among the highest in the nation.

- The City is equitably serving the needs of residents regardless of where they are located in the City of Auburn.
- Traffic flow and maintenance of city infrastructure remain the top priorities for improvement.

### Top Ratings

In the citizen survey, residents are asked to rank the quality of life and city services in Auburn on a scale from “very satisfied” to “very dis-satisfied.” Some of Auburn residents’ highest rankings speak to the quality of life in the community and city services, including:

- 96.9% feel safe in their neighborhoods during the day.
- 95% are satisfied with Auburn as a place to live and raise children.
- 93.2% are satisfied with the quality of the police, fire, and ambulance services.
- 92.3% are satisfied with yard waste removal services.
- 91.4% are satisfied with the quality of the school system.
- 90.5% are satisfied with their overall feeling of safety in Auburn.
- 90% are satisfied with the cleanliness of downtown areas.

### Auburn vs. the National Average:

The City of Auburn rated at or above the national average in fifty-eight areas, fifty-six of which were significantly above the national average (5 or more points above the national average):

- Cleanup of debris and litter: 41 points above the national average
- Quality of the City’s school system: 36 points above the national average
- Value received for city tax dollars and fees: 35 points above the national average
- Level of public involvement in decision making: 35 points above the national average
- Overall quality of City services: 33 points above the national average
- Quality of the City’s customer service: 26 points above the national average

### Trends

Long-term trends showed that the City of Auburn improved or held its own in fifty-seven areas measured in both 2006 and 2017. Forty-six areas showed improvements that were statistically significant (increases of 4 points or more), including:

- Maintenance of community recreation centers: up 26 points
- Level of public involvement in decision making: up 25 points
- Street maintenance: up 16 points
- Ease of pedestrian travel: up 15 points
- Enforcement of traffic laws: up 14 points

Curbside recycling service was one of 5 areas that showed a decrease over time. In response, the City will begin a “single-stream” recycling service this fall to simplify curbside recycling.

### Priorities

Traffic flow and maintenance of city infrastructure remain top priorities for improvement, with the management of traffic flow and congestion ranking below the national average at forty percent satisfaction. In recent years, traffic flow and congestion were heavily impacted by a number of traffic enhancement projects at several of Auburn’s major thoroughfares including Toomer’s corner, Opelika Road, the intersection of Shug Jordan Parkway and South College Street and the Moores Mill Bridge. These projects were designed to improve both traffic flow and safety, but necessitated traffic disruptions while construction was underway.

Traffic flow and infrastructure projects continue this year, with construction taking place throughout downtown as we improve underground water and sewer infrastructure as well as enhance traffic signaling and add street lights. Improvements are slated for the intersections of South College Street and Samford as well as South Gay Street and Samford.

Previous traffic improvement projects have shown measurable results:

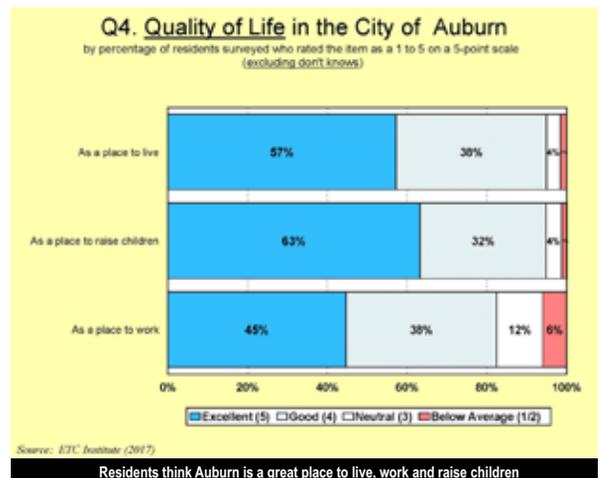
- Shelton Mill Road @ East University Drive: 80% reduction in accidents | traffic wait time per car reduced from 37 seconds to 26 seconds
- Opelika Road @ East University Drive: 47% reduction in accidents | traffic wait time per car reduced from 94 seconds to 15 seconds
- South College Street @ Shug Jordan drive: 41% reduction in accidents | traffic wait time per car reduced from 102 seconds to 20 seconds

### 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.

### How Accurate are the Survey Results?

Participants in the Citizen Survey are selected at random



to provide a scientifically valid measure of public opinion. The 2017 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.

## Downtown Projects Update

**East Glenn Avenue Parking Lot:** Earlier this year, the Auburn City Council authorized the City to purchase the Carolyn Apartments property at 338 East Glenn Avenue. As part of the City's plan to improve parking, a new, free parking lot is under construction to serve the Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Felton Little Park and downtown Auburn. The parking lot is approximately an eleven-minute walk from Toomer's Corner.

**East Glenn Avenue and North College Street (191 College):** As part of their development agreement, contractors for the 191 College student housing development are required to provide infrastructure improvements surrounding the development. Improvements to water and sewer infrastructure will require work along Wright Street, West Glenn Avenue and North College Street.

As this issue of Open Line hits mailboxes, work will be underway, requiring extensive lane closures on Glenn Avenue. Throughout July, West Glenn Avenue between Toomer Street and College Street will be closed to eastbound through-traffic. Local traffic will still be able to access businesses including Auburn Realty, Island Wing Co., Tropical Smoothie Cafe, u&i Boutique, Eddies Calzones, Rock n Roll Sushi and adjacent businesses. Through-traffic will be detoured via Toomer Street to Magnolia Avenue.

West Glenn Avenue will remain open to westbound traffic. Waffle House customers will need to visit that restaurant by traveling westbound on Glenn Avenue from College Street.

North College Street near the intersection with Glenn Avenue will also experience lane closures for utility infrastructure work. During this work, North College Street will be reduced to two lanes of traffic.

**Glenn Avenue and Ross Street Resurfacing:** Resurfacing on Glenn Avenue between Ross Street and Dean Road, and including the Intersection of Glenn Avenue and Ross Street, will necessitate temporary lane closures on both streets.

**Wright Street Improvement Project Phase 1:** Work on the Wright Street Improvement Project continues, with on-street parking and sidewalks closed in the area where work is underway. This project will result in Wright Street becoming a two-way street with reconfigured parking and improved pedestrian lighting and sidewalks.

**Logistics and Advertising:** Please note that all dates are dependent upon weather and other factors and are subject to change. The City's goal is for construction to take place during the lighter traffic of summer, with city streets open by the beginning of fall semester. For more detailed announcements for each project including time-specific announcements of lane, street and intersection closures, please subscribe to the City's "News and Announcements" eNotifier at [auburnalabama.org/](http://auburnalabama.org/) eNotifier, visit the City of Auburn at [auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org/) or follow @CityofAuburnAL on Facebook and Twitter.

## How do we use the survey?

The survey results are one of many points of citizen input that help guide the City Council 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 Citizen Survey results since 2006, please go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/survey>.



## Free Parking

Downtown parking is free between Auburn University semesters. As summer semester ends, parking will be free beginning August 4 through August 20, 2017.

In addition to on-street parking available throughout downtown, parking can be found on and surrounding the first floor of the Auburn Municipal Parking Deck, including the Gay Street parking lot and the parking lot accessible from Tichenor Avenue.

Enjoy free parking as you shop, dine and enjoy all that downtown Auburn has to offer.

## Voluntary Water Restrictions

Despite spring rains, the water level in Lake Ogletree continues to be lower than normal as a result of the lake being artificially drawn down to facilitate the ongoing construction of the Lake Ogletree Spillway. The City of Auburn remains under a Phase I Drought Watch while construction continues. Once the project is complete, Lake Ogletree will have an increased water storage capacity, further strengthening the resiliency of our water supply against drought.

The Phase I Drought Watch includes voluntary water restrictions including:

- Only irrigate between 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM.
- Even numbered addresses should only water on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.
- Odd numbered addresses should only water on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday.

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

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

For more information on meetings and events listed here, please visit [auburnalabama.org/openline](http://auburnalabama.org/openline)

	<p>City Meeting Schedule <a href="http://auburnalabama.org">auburnalabama.org</a> (334) 501-7260</p> <p>Auburn Public Library <a href="http://auburnalabama.org/library">auburnalabama.org/library</a> (334) 501-3198</p> <p>Parks and Recreation <a href="http://auburnalabama.org/parks">auburnalabama.org/parks</a> (334) 501-2930</p>	<p>Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 6:55 p.m.</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p> <p>Walk-In Fall Baseball, Softball, Flag &amp; Tackle Football, Soccer Registration – DRRC 6-7 p.m.</p>	2	<p>Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Online Registration ends – Tackle &amp; Flag Football, Soccer, Cheer, Baseball, Softball</p>	4	<p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	5	<p>Legomania 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p> <p>Back-to-School Party, Samford Pool 10 a.m.-6 p.m.</p>		
6	<p>Back-to-School Party, Drake Pool 1-6 p.m.</p> <p>Samford Pool Fall Hours Begin 4-7 p.m.</p>	7	<p>Cemeteries Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Fall Private Swim Lessons/Stroke Clinics Begin 4-6 p.m.</p>	<p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Education 6 p.m.</p> <p>Fall Recreation Night Swim Begins 4-7 p.m.</p>	9	<p>Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	10	<p>Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p>	12	<p>Legomania 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p>	
13		14		15	<p>Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</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>	16	<p>Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	17	<p>Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p>	19	<p>Legomania 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p>
20	<p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p>	21	<p>Show and Tell Book Club 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.</p>	22	<p>Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Forgotten Alabama 6:30 p.m.</p>	23	<p>Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	24	<p>Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p>	26	<p>Legomania 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>STEM Storytime 10 a.m.</p>
27		28		29	<p>Read &amp; Reflect 10 a.m.</p> <p>Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p> <p>Literary Classics Club 1-2 p.m.</p> <p>Starting a Business 5:30 p.m.</p>	30	<p>Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.</p>	31	<p>Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m.</p> <p>Gamer's Society 4 p.m.</p> <p>Registration for Fall Programs ends</p>		

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