

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2017

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Auburn a Best Performing Small City

Auburn once again ended the year on a high note in the news media. In December, a front page story in the print edition of the Wall Street Journal heavily featured Auburn and our Economic Development efforts, including some of Auburn's major industrial recruitment successes, such as GE Aviation. The article touches on the City of Auburn's long-term economic development strategy of recruiting a diversity of small to mid-size, technology based, value-added companies to enhance economic stability.

Further demonstrating the success of that strategy, the City of Auburn moved up four spots to number 6 on the Milken Institute's 2016 list of Best Performing Small Cities. According to the Milken Institute, their annual Best Performing Cities report provides "an objective benchmark for examining the underlying factors and identifying unique characteristics of economic growth in metropolitan areas." Milken's criteria include job creation, wage gains and technology developments.

AL.com did a December story on Wallethub's ranking of the best college towns in America. This ranking was based on the local economy, social amenities such as local nightlife and restaurant choices and academic and career opportunities. Auburn ranked 45th among all college towns and 32nd among small college towns, "with its highest marks for economic and job opportunities."



Drought Warning, Water Restrictions Continue

November and December brought rain back to Auburn after almost a month without a drop. Despite the much needed rainfall, the City of Auburn continues to be in a Phase II Drought Warning with mandatory water restrictions in effect. The City of Auburn Water Works Board (AWWB) escalated the existing Phase I Drought Watch to a Phase II Drought Warning on November 3, 2016, due to the effect of drought on the available water supply and a long range forecast that continued to predict below normal rainfall. By November 28, Auburn had endured a 42 day stretch with only trace amounts of rain.

While the City of Auburn received significant rainfall in November and December, the AWWB estimates that approximately 10 to 15 inches of additional rainfall is needed over the next 3 to 4 months to recover from the drought. The AWWB will continue to monitor our water resources and weather conditions over the next few months to ensure that water levels recover to a point that they're ready to provide for the increased water demands of spring and summer.

The U.S. Drought monitor provides weekly updates on drought levels throughout the nation. After Auburn's Fall showers, most of Lee County was reduced from "Exceptional Drought," which is the most severe category, to "Extreme Drought."

To follow the status of drought and water restrictions, stay tuned to Open Line and the City of Auburn's resources online at auburnalabama.org and @auburnAL on Facebook and Twitter.

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City of Auburn



Help Wanted: Auburn Boards and Commissions

There are many ways to serve the community, from volunteering at a non-profit to serving on one of the City's Boards and Commissions. Currently there are 117 residents serving on Auburn's 21 Boards and Commissions.

These boards serve a variety of purposes. Some are independent authorities, such as the Water Board, Industrial Development Board and Board of Education. Others serve in an advisory capacity to city officials such as the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Tree Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Greenspace Advisory Board. In some cases, the City Council appoints members to boards of multi-governmental agencies, including the East Alabama Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board, the Indian Pines Recreation Authority, the Lee County Youth Development Center and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Each time there is an upcoming appointment on a board or commission, the city manager announces the vacancy at a City Council meeting approximately one month prior to the appointment being made. Vacancies are also announced each month in this newsletter. The full membership of every board and commission, including the expiration date of each member's term of service, is listed online at auburnalabama.org/boards.

In 2017, in response to the City Council's desire to make sure that every resident who wants to serve knows about available vacancies, we'll expand our advertising of announcements to include the City's social media and eNotifier, in addition to Open Line and the City's web site. There will also be an application form available by request and posted on the City's website at auburnalabama.org/boards.

Board Vacancies

Three vacancies for the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** were announced at the December 6, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the January 17, 2017 City Council Meeting.



Five vacancies for the **Metropolitan Planning Organization** will be announced at the January 24, 2017 meeting and will be filled at the February 21, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Two vacancies for the **Commercial Development Authority** will be announced at the February 7, 2017 meeting and will be filled at the March 7, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Two vacancies for the **Mental Health - Mental Retardation Board of East Alabama** will be announced at the February 21, 2017 meeting and will be filled at the March 21, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact their City Council member or notify the City Manager's Office.

Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan Public Meeting #3

The final public meeting for the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Boykin Community Center, 400 Boykin Street.

The goal of this planning initiative is to develop a Neighborhood Plan that encourages redevelopment where appropriate, improves the streetscape along Bragg Avenue and MLK Drive, provides for increased pedestrian connectivity throughout the plan area and protects the single family fabric of the neighborhood from encroachment by student housing developments.

The plan will likely yield strategic land use and zoning amendments, as well as projects to improve landscaping, sidewalks, lighting and other amenities. Ultimately, the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan will be a guide for enhancing the neighborhood's attractiveness and vitality while maintaining its heritage and character.

For more information and to see slides from presentations made at the previous public meetings and educational sessions, visit auburnalabama.org/northwestauburn.



Love Your Heart Run and Crank Your Heart Ride

Join A.O.R.T.A., the Exceptional Outreach Organization and Auburn Parks and Recreation on Saturday, February 25 for the 27th annual Love Your Heart Run benefiting individuals with special needs and supporting the annual Therapeutic Summer Camp, Special Olympics of Lee County, Best Buddies of Auburn University and other therapeutic programs. Participants may choose from a one-mile fun-walk course or the Love Your Heart 10K (6.2 mile) course. Back for the ninth year is the Crank Your Heart Ride, which will consist of a 3.5, 11, and 22-mile bike ride. All routes begin and end at Chewacla State Park. Individuals wishing to participate can register online by visiting LoveYourHeartRun.com. The early bird registration deadline is Monday, January 30 to guarantee a t-shirt. For more information about the Run or Ride, please visit the website mentioned.

Ward 5 Public Meeting

Ward 5 Councilperson Lynda Tremaine will hold her monthly public meeting for Ward 5 residents on Monday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Meeting Room at 122 Tichenor Avenue (side entrance). To find out what voting ward you live in and who represents you on the Auburn City Council, go to auburnalabama.org/cc and click "Wards."

Reporting Street Light Outages

Most street lights in Auburn are maintained by Alabama Power. To report a street light outage to Alabama Power, please call 1-800-245-2244 or visit alabamapower.com. You may also call the City of Auburn Public Works Department at (334) 501-3000 and we will report the outage.

MEETING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

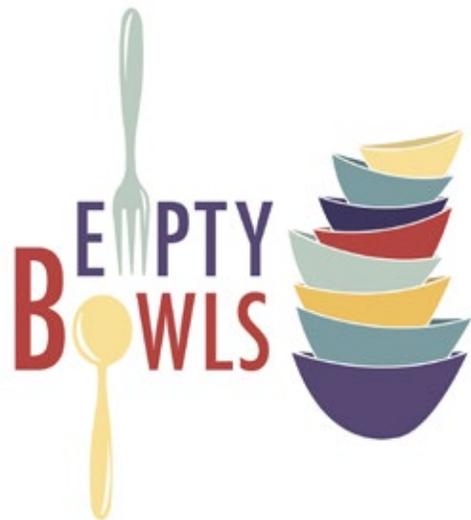
- 1 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 3 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 7 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 11:45 a.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 9 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 14 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., DSB Conference Room, 171 North Ross Street
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 21 Library Board**, 4 p.m., Library Conference Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 23 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/boards.

Empty Bowls

Join Auburn Parks & Recreation and the Denson Drive Recreation Center on Saturday, February 25 for the 4th annual Empty Bowls. The event alternates between Auburn and Opelika each year. This year, Empty Bowls will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from 5 – 7 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at either Dean Road Ceramics Studio or the Denson Drive Recreation Center beginning Monday, January 9. All proceeds directly benefit the Food Bank of East Alabama. Each ticketholder receives his or her choice of a handmade bowl, created by local artists, that will be filled with soup provided by local restaurants. For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks.



Auburn City Pools 2017 Season

Auburn City Pools 2017 season kicks off in just a few months – so why not be prepared! 2017 Splash Passes are currently on sale at the Harris Center. Splash Passes offer free, unlimited admission to both city pools during normal recreation and lap swim hours, as well as free admission to all special events – plus a few new perks this year, such as discounted concessions! To purchase a 2017 Splash Pass, please visit the Harris Center, which is open weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., or call 334.501.2930 for more information.

Parents, mark your calendars! Swim lesson registration for this summer will begin on Monday, March 6 for ALL sessions and classes. A complete schedule may be found at auburnalabama.org/pools.

Auburn City Pools will also be accepting applications for aquatics staff positions beginning Tuesday, January 3. Positions include: Pool Manager, Assistant Pool Manager, Aquatic Programs Specialist, Lifeguard and Cashier. To view position descriptions or apply, please log on to www.auburnalabama.org/jobs. To learn more about Auburn City Pools, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools. For more information on Red Cross lifeguard certification or renewal, please contact Whitney Morris at wmorris@auburnalabama.org.

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Open Line Feedback

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share?

If so, please contact us at ddorton@auburnalabama.org or call 501-7266.

upCOMING EVENTS

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

Auburn Public Library

Engagement and Outreach: 334-501-3198 | auburnalabama.org/library

Star Wars Imperial Gala- Thursday, February 19 at 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.- Dress up as your favorite Star Wars character and join us for a night of games, snacks, and fun. Costume contest for all ages!

STORYTIMES

Baby Time- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Babies and their favorite adults enjoy 20 minutes of interactive stories and songs.

Toddler Time- Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Toddlers and their favorite adults enjoy 20 minutes of interactive stories and songs.

Preschool Storytime- Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Preschoolers and their favorite adults enjoy 20 minutes of interactive stories and songs.

Saturday STEM Storytime- Saturdays at 10 a.m. Preschoolers and their favorite adults learn all about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics at this special storytime.

PROGRAMS

Open Mic Night- Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. Calling all artists! Are you a writer, comedian, or songwriter looking for a place to showcase your work in a safe environment? Join us at the Auburn Public Library for a chance to share. Refreshments provided.

Improv Workshop for Adults! - Tuesday, February 21 at 6 p.m. Join Auburn University theater professor, Chris Qualls for a night of improv fun. Learn how to say, "Yes, and..." and much more! Refreshments will be served.

Auburn Adult Gamers- Monday, February 20- 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.-Bring your favorite game to the Auburn Public Library, and join us as we meet and mingle with other fun-loving adult gamers! Refreshments provided.

BOOK CLUBS

Business Book Club- Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. Join us for this new book club which will focus on the latest business titles. **Love is the Killer App** by Time Sanders.

Literary Classics for Teens (13-18) - Monday, February 6 at 1 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. **Romeo and Juliet** by William Shakespeare.

Show and Tell- Monday, February 20 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library- a book club where you can read any book!

Read & Reflect- Tuesday, February 1 22 at 10 a.m. at the Harris Senior Center, featuring **I Contain Multitudes** by Ed Yong.

Parks and Recreation

Auburn Parks and Recreation: 501-2930 | auburnalabama.org/parks.

Save the Date! - Be sure to mark your calendar for these upcoming events and important dates with Auburn Parks and Recreation:

- **5th annual Polar Plunge**, presented by Auburn Parks & Recreation and Lee County Special Olympics is Saturday, January 28 at Samford Pool beginning at 9 a.m. Recruit sponsors to support you as you brave the cold and take the plunge to benefit Lee County Special Olympics. To register, or for more information, please visit auburnalabama.org/specialolympics.
- **Therapeutic Community Fair** will be held on Thursday, January 12 at the Harris Center from 6 – 8 p.m. Join us to meet new people and visit with different organizations in the Lee County area that provide services to those with intellectual and physical disabilities. Visit auburnalabama.org/parks for more information.
- **Spring Youth Sports Online Registration** closes on Thursday, January 26. Visit auburnalabama.org/athletics to register or for more information about our youth athletics programs.
- **2017 Spring Quarter registration** begins on Monday, February 6 at the Harris Center. For all Auburn Parks & Recreation Spring Quarter programs, please view our **2017 Spring Quarter Brochure** at www.auburnalabama.org/parks or pick up a copy at any Parks & Recreation facility. The Harris Center is open weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **ACTA First Friday Tennis Mixer** will be held on Friday, February 3 at Yarbrough Tennis Center at 6 p.m. For details, call (334) 501 – 2920 or email auburncta@yahoo.com.

JDCAC presents.... Mark your calendars for the presentation of **The Winter Invitational**: which begins on Tuesday, February 28 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The exhibit will feature works in a variety of art mediums by selected Alabama artists and craft persons and is FREE and open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts or call 334.501.2963.

Calling all artists, craftspersons and businesses! – Attention all area artists, craftsmen and businesses! Mark your calendars and get your vendor applications in for these upcoming events in Auburn. The following events are accepting applications now for vendors, volunteers and sponsors:

- **Fit as a Fiddle: 50+ Health and Lifestyle Fair** provides members of the Auburn 50+ community the chance to visit with doctors, senior communities, volunteer organizations and more! If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Gabby Meredith at gmeredith@auburnalabama.org or call 334.501.2946.
- **Bark in the Park** brings dog lovers together for a fun day in the park with their pooches to celebrate responsible dog ownership! To become a vendor, please contact Gabby Meredith at gmeredith@auburnalabama.org or call 334.501.2946.
- The Auburn CityFest Committee is now accepting applications for vendors, volunteers and sponsors for **Auburn CityFest 2017: Peace, Love & CityFest** to be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Applications for vendors and volunteers may be found at www.auburn-cityfest.com. To become a sponsor, please contact Auburn CityFest Co-Coordinator Ann Bergman at abergman@auburnalabama.org or 334.501.2936.

Walk With Ease Program – No matter if you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, the Arthritis Foundation's six-week Walk With Ease program can teach you how to safely make physical activity part of your everyday life. Session I will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. at Health Plus beginning Monday, January 23. Session II will meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at the Opelika Sportsplex and will begin on Monday, February 6. Participants may attend as few or as many sessions as they would like. For details regarding location and class activities, please visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks or call 334.501.2930. **FREE to the public.**

Kreher Preserve and Nature Center February Programming

Join the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center during the month of February for some fun in the woods! There will be plenty of activities for nature enthusiasts of all ages. For more information about any KPNC programs, please visit www.auburn.edu/preserve.