

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 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



@CityofAuburnAL

web:
www.auburnalabama.org

email:
openline@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn

Irrigation, water conservation tips



As we enter the summer season, the Auburn Water Works Board recommends that its customers implement efficient practices when using irrigation systems and outdoor watering. Using these good practices helps make sure that our water resources are used wisely. This summer, try following these tips when watering your yard and gardens:

- **Do not over-water your lawn.** As a general rule of thumb, lawns only need watering every five to seven days during the summer. Watering your grass too frequently can make the root system of your lawn too shallow, damaging your lawn.
- **Do not water sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas.** Position sprinklers so that most if not all water lands on your lawn or plants.
- When watering your lawn, we recommend doing so **after 8 p.m. and before 8 a.m.** to avoid unnecessary water loss because of evaporation.
- **Water gardens and plants early in the morning** when plants aren't stressed and little water is lost from evaporation. Irrigating at midday can waste as much as 40 to 60% of the water to evaporation.
- **Check irrigation system on a regular basis** to ensure the system's parts (pipes, sprinkler heads, etc.) are not damaged or broken.
- **Install rain sensors** and/or moisture sensors on irrigation systems to eliminate unnecessary watering during rainfall events.
- **Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended.** Use a timer to remind you to turn the water off.
- **Use xeriscaping**, or landscaping and horticultural practices that minimize water usage. You can get more info about xeriscaping from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service's website, aces.edu. You can also consult with your local nursery for advice on plants that need less water or are more drought tolerant.
- **Increase your lawn mower blade height.** A higher-cut lawn will encourage deeper-growing roots and will result in better soil moisture retention.
- **Mulch effectively** around all plants, trees and shrubs. Mulching results in better soil moisture retention and weed control.

2019 Citizens' Planning Academy

Want to know more about what goes into planning in Auburn? The seventh Citizens' Planning Academy will begin in September!

Join our Planning Services Department for six sessions that focus on the basics of planning and how different City departments, developers and individuals interact in the

Continued on page 2

planning process. You'll also learn about the City's Comprehensive Plan and other ongoing projects. Topics include:

- Planning in Auburn (Requirements and responsibilities of the Planning Services Department)
- The Roles and Responsibilities of Auburn's Boards and Commissions
- Long-Range Planning
- The Role of Other City Departments in Planning
- A Professional Engineer's View on Planning in Auburn
- Auburn University Campus Planning
- Historic Preservation
- Issues in Housing
- Online Resources

Classes will be held on the following Thursdays from 5:30–7 p.m.: Sept. 19, Sept. 26, Oct. 10 (Planning Commission Meeting), Oct. 17 (Mock Planning Commission Meeting), Oct. 24 and Oct. 31.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to apply early due to limited seating. The program is free to all participants. Applications are available at news.auburnalabama.org.

Recycling oils, grease in Auburn



This year marks the 10th anniversary of our Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Recycling Program. Our Water Resource Management Department began the program in 2009 to help increase awareness about the harmful effects of the improper disposal of grease and used cooking oil. Since the program's inception, more than 10,300 gallons of used cooking oil and grease have been collected and recycled.

Did you know that used cooking oil should never be poured down the drain? Even if the oil is poured slowly with hot water, it will eventually cause problems with your home plumbing and the City's sewer system as a whole.

Instead of pouring these oils down the drain, the FOG program offers a responsible means of recycling. FREE plastic containers in which to store your used oil and grease are available at the Recycling Drop-Off Center at 365-A N. Donahue Drive. When the container is full, simply bring it back to the drop-off center for disposal. A grease renderer turns the recycled oil and grease into raw materials that can be used in animal feeds, pet food and industrial formulations.

Want more information? Visit auburnalabama.org/water-resource-management/fog-recycling or contact the Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3060 or webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org.

July Sales Tax Holiday

The 2019 Back to School Sales Tax Holiday is set for July 19-21, allowing shoppers the chance to purchase certain items free of state and local sales tax.

On June 4, the Auburn City Council approved an ordinance exempting specific items from the City's 4% sales tax, including:

- **Clothing:** All apparel suitable for general use is exempt unless it otherwise appears on the taxable list; clothing items must cost \$100 or less per article of clothing to be exempt.
- **Computers and Computer Software:** A single purchase with a sales price of \$750 or less will be exempt. Items exempt include computers, computer software, and school computer supplies.
- **School Supplies:** Any items of \$50 or less per item commonly used by a student in a course of study will be exempt. Supplies may include art supplies, reference maps and globes, textbooks on an official school book list with a sales price of more than \$30 but less than \$50, and books with a sales price of \$30 or less per book.

For more information, view the tax holiday brochure at revenue.alabama.gov/sales-use/sales-tax-holidays or contact the City of Auburn Revenue Office at (334) 501-7239 or revenue@auburnalabama.org.

End-of-Summer Movie



Join us on Saturday, Aug. 3, for the End-of-Summer Movie! We will be showing the G-rated film, "Bugsy Malone," at Duck Samford Park Field 10.

Gates will open at 7 p.m., and the movie will begin at 8 p.m. Bring your lawn chair, blanket and kick back and enjoy the movie. Food concessions will be on site for purchase. This event is FREE and open to the public.

WHO SHOULD I CALL?

Whether you have a question about your water bill, want to know more about our library collection or have an emergency, here are the best places to start. Keep this on your fridge for easy reference!



City of Auburn

CITY SERVICES



GARBAGE, TRASH & RECYCLING

Environmental Services
334-501-3080
webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org



UTILITY BILLING

Finance, Utility Billing Office
334-501-3050
serviceorders@auburnalabama.org



WATER SERVICE

Water Resource Management
334-501-3050
After Hours: 334-501-3100
webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org



ANIMAL CONTROL

Environmental Services
334-501-3090
After Hours: 334-501-3100
webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org



REPORT RIGHT-OF-WAY ISSUES

Public Works
334-501-3000
webpw@auburnalabama.org



REQUEST SIDEWALK OR TRAFFIC CALMING

Engineering Services
334-501-7390
webeng@auburnalabama.org



REPORT A STREET LIGHT OUTAGE

Alabama Power
1-800-245-2244
customerservice2.southerncompany.com/
Outages/Report



PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergencies: 911
Non-emergency: (334) 501-3100
Anonymous Tip Line: (334) 246-1391
webpubsfty@auburnalabama.org



CEMETERIES

Parks & Recreation
Sari Card, 334-501-2933
scard@auburnalabama.org

RECREATION & CULTURE



LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Auburn Public Library
334-501-3190
weblibrary@auburnalabama.org



RENT A PARKS & REC FACILITY

Parks & Recreation
Sarah Derrick, 334-501-2934
sderrick@auburnalabama.org



ATHLETICS

Parks & Recreation
Houston Manning, 334-501-2942
hmanning@auburnalabama.org



RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Parks & Recreation
Ann Bergman, 334-501-2936
abergman@auburnalabama.org

CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?



CITY HALL

334-501-7260
webocm@auburnalabama.org
144 Tichenor Avenue
Auburn, AL 36830

AUGUST 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
auburnpubliclibrary.org/library
(334) 501-3198

City Meeting Schedule
City Meeting: 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
(334) 501-7260

Parks and Recreation
auburnpubliclibrary.org/parks
(334) 501-2950

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.

Preschool Storytime
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Gamer's Society 4-6:30 p.m.
Summer Learning Challenge ends
Try Bicyc Auburn
Scavenger Hunt Begins

Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.
City Council Agenda Review 10 a.m.

STEM Storytime 10 a.m.
End-of-Summer Movie @ Sanford Park

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

Megan McGowen Crouch
Assistant City Manager, COO
501-7262
mmcgowen@auburnalabama.org

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

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

4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Planning Commission Packet Meeting 10 a.m.
Gamer's Advisory Board 4 p.m.
Word 4 Meeting 5:30 p.m.
@ Auburn Public Library

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

Toddler Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Water Works Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 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.

STEM Storytime 10 a.m.

Development Services
Scott Cummings
Executive Director
501-7380
scummings@auburnalabama.org

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

11
12
13
14
15
16
17

Samford Pool Fall Hours Begin

Body Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.
Board of Education 6 p.m.

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.

STEM Storytime 10 a.m.

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

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

18
19
20
21
22
23
24

Body Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Genesis Advisory Board 11 a.m.
Literary Board 4 p.m.
Committee of the Whole 1:00
City Council 7 p.m.

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.
Water Works Board 4 p.m.

STEM Storytime 10 a.m.

Engineering Services
Alison Frazer, Director
501-7390
afrazer@auburnalabama.org

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

25
26
27
28
29
30
31

Body Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Love, Latham Author Visit 4 p.m.

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.

STEM Storytime 10 a.m.

Environmental Services
Caitrina Cook, Director
501-3080
ccook@auburnalabama.org

Public Works
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3000
twoody@auburnalabama.org

MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

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

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

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

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