

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

December 2019

## City Council

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City of Auburn

## Inaugural State of the City Address



On Oct. 28, Mayor Ron Anders delivered his inaugural State of the City Address at the Gogue Performing Arts Center. You can find an excerpt from the speech below, and the full address is available at [youtube.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://youtube.com/CityofAuburnAL).

“In my first year as Mayor, we’ve hit the ground running to listen and provide the transparency you’ve asked for. Our Council meetings have always been transparent – open to all who wish to come. This council has made that process even more open with live-streamed and live-captioned council meetings on YouTube, Facebook, [auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org) and the radio. That live-streaming is just one part of upping the ante on being more intentional about our communication through our web site, eNotifier and Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Our increased social media presence has included the Mayor’s Minutes, a short video after every council

meeting that gives me a chance to summarize the meeting for you and to share what I think are the most important takeaways from each meeting.

All of this gives you a number of ways to hear from me, the Council and the City. But we also want to hear from you. Toward that end, we’ve doubled the opportunities for citizens’ communications at council meetings – once to talk about items on the agenda and then again to talk about whatever’s on your mind. We know that having access to your elected officials is important, and we’ve done this to give you a direct line of communication in a public forum. We value your voice, and we want to hear what you have to say about our community. My door at City Hall is always open for you, and my phone number and email address, and that of every council member, are available on the city’s website.

...Early on in my tenure as your Mayor, I identified four areas where I felt this community needed to have a conversation: Boards and Commissions, Diversity and Inclusion, Short-Term Rentals and Student Housing. To that end, I appointed four task forces to address these important issues that I heard about from you during my campaign for Mayor. Our Boards and Commissions task force was first to the finish line with a new advertisement and application process to help the council recruit and vet applicants for our 22 boards and commissions. ... The Short-Term Rental task force evaluated and provided feedback on two different draft ordinances based on input from public hearings and discussions at publicly held task force meetings. While the mission of the task force is complete, the work on this issue continues with the Planning Commission considering an appropriate ordinance to forward to the City Council in the near future. The Student Housing task force has conducted focus groups and held numerous meetings on the future of student housing in our community. We’ve worked with the university to understand their future enrollment strategy, and we’ve assembled a comprehensive inventory of student housing. Now we must decide how our community should

*Continued on page 2*

determine student housing development for the future. Our Diversity and Inclusion task force has held multiple meetings to discuss diversity in Auburn. As a team, we've been through diversity training, and we've visited the Legacy Museum in Montgomery. Both of those experiences, and the team-building they brought, will guide our work as a task force. This has been personally meaningful for me as I've made new friendships that I never would have without this task force.

The City has some tough decisions ahead. Growth isn't an easy thing to manage, but I promise you that we as a City Council are going to continue to wrestle with these hard topics. We're not going to shy away when controversy or differing opinions present themselves. We're going to keep debating, keep working through options and keep working together to ensure that we make what we believe to be the best decisions for you and for our entire community.

... In the late 90s, more than 200 residents came together to work on a vision for what we wanted Auburn to be as we looked into the distant future—to 2020. Seven committees worked on key local issues with the slogan "imagining a better community" in mind. Those hundreds of citizens held public meetings and worked to formulate a 161-page plan to guide us onward to 2020.

...When we reach 2040, Auburn will have reached the 200th birthday of its founding in 1836. Our computer

models estimate that in Auburn 2040 we will live in a community of 100,000 people. In 2040 the outer loop road will be more than a plan and could be substantially complete, providing more and better ways to travel in Auburn and relieving traffic in the core. Our Environmental Services and Public Works departments will have relocated to provide not only more room for their operations, but space for an expanded Boykin Community Center campus, with more amenities including a model Rosenwald School that includes a tribute to Rosa Parks and the history of Auburn's African American community. That campus will house one of several potential branches of the Auburn Public Library that will be located throughout our town by 2040. Our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Master Plan is already helping us look to the future in terms of urban parks, trails, greenspaces and recreational opportunities.

As with Auburn 2020, it will take hundreds of residents to help us form this vision of our community in 2040. We'll look candidly at the issues and opportunities we must pursue proactively to be successful. We'll develop a vision addressing how we want to grow and develop and how we can maintain and improve our city services. We'll look at how we can be even more business friendly. I look forward to working with our Council and our staff and as many of you as will participate in this endeavor. Because we're all in this together."

## **Auburn Toy Drive donations accepted through Dec. 6**

Want to be part of making a child's Christmas brighter? Remember to donate a gift to Auburn Public Safety's annual toy drive! Bring an unwrapped toy to any Auburn Fire Division station or Auburn Police Division precinct by Dec. 6. Thanks to the generosity of Life Storage, donations can also be dropped off at their two locations at 2020 S. College St. and 1231 Gatewood Dr.

Donations will be placed into age-appropriate categories with delivery scheduled for the week before Christmas. No monetary donations can be accepted, but any purchased gift is greatly appreciated. Let's help make a difference in the lives of these children! Call (334) 501-3117 for more information.



## **Holiday Recycling Tips**

As you clean up after this holiday season, keep in mind the many ways the City of Auburn can help you make less of an impact on our environment.

1) Recycling your Christmas tree is as easy as placing it at the curb. The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department will collect and recycle Christmas trees during customers' weekly curbside collections.

2) Don't forget to recycle the boxes from your gifts this holiday season. Cardboard boxes and gift boxes are included in our curbside recycling program and may be recycled at the Recycling Drop-Off Center at 365-A N. Donahue Drive. Please break down all boxes before placing them for recycling.

3) Before frying or baking those hams and turkeys this season, pick up a free container from the Recycling Drop-Off Center to recycle the used cooking oil rather than pouring it down the drain. Though it may seem harmless, letting grease and cooking oil run down the drain is the main cause of sewer back-ups. Instead, simply pour any used, cooled cooking oil into a leak-proof container and bring it to the Drop-off Center or place it by the curb for recycling. To schedule a free, curbside grease recycling pickup, call the Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3069.



## 13th Annual Holiday Art Sale

The Auburn Arts Association and Auburn Parks & Recreation will host the 13th annual Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Local artists will be selling paintings, pottery, stained glass, photography, cards, jewelry, hats, scarves and much more! If you would like to sell your work, applications are available at [auburnarts.org](http://auburnarts.org). A limited number of exhibition spaces are available, so be sure to download your application soon! For more information, contact the Arts Center at (334) 501-2963 or [webparksrec@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webparksrec@auburnalabama.org).

## Business license renewals

Any business providing services or selling goods within Auburn city limits, including a home-based business, is required to have a City of Auburn business license. City business licenses for 2019 expire on Dec. 31 and must be renewed by Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, to avoid late fees.

Renewal packets are mailed out in late December. Any business that does not receive a renewal packet by Jan. 10, 2020, should contact the Revenue Office to verify the mailing address and request another packet. The City Revenue Office is located in City Hall at 144 Tichenor Ave. Business hours are Monday-Friday, 8

a.m.-5 p.m. except City holidays. For more information, visit [auburnalabama.org/revenue/business-licenses](http://auburnalabama.org/revenue/business-licenses) or contact the Revenue Office at (334) 501-7239 or [revenue@auburnalabama.org](mailto:revenue@auburnalabama.org).

## Holiday Schedules

City Hall and most City facilities will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas Day and Wednesday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Public Safety services including police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling pickup routes will be adjusted during both weeks as follows:

### Week of Dec. 23-27

Monday, Dec. 23	Monday's route
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Tuesday's route
Wednesday, Dec. 25	HOLIDAY
Thursday, Dec. 26	Wednesday's route
Friday, Dec. 27	Thursday's route

### Week of Dec. 30-Jan. 3

Monday, Dec. 30	Monday's route
Tuesday, Dec. 31	Tuesday's route
Wednesday, Jan. 1	HOLIDAY
Thursday, Jan. 2	Wednesday's route
Friday, Jan. 3	Thursday's route

The Auburn Public Library will close at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 31 and will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Book drops will remain open, and the online collection of e-books, e-audiobooks and digital magazines are always available. Parks and Recreation facility hours will be adjusted during the holidays, so keep an eye on [auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org) for more details.

# HOW MANY ROOMMATES MAY I HAVE?

*Certain areas of Auburn, or zoning districts, limit the number of unrelated people at an address to help reduce overcrowding and preserve neighborhood character.*

**There are three zoning districts in Auburn which limit to two the number of unrelated occupants living in a dwelling in those zones. Those districts are Neighborhood Conservation (NC), Limited Development District (LDD) and Development District Housing (DDH).**



City of Auburn



**FIND OUT IF THESE LIMITATIONS AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY**

VISIT [WEBGIS.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/UNRELATEDOCCUPANCYLIMITS](http://WEBGIS.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/UNRELATEDOCCUPANCYLIMITS) FOR AN INTERACTIVE MAP OR CONTACT THE CITY OF AUBURN INSPECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT (334) 501-3170 OR [WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG](mailto:WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG)



# DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<p><b>Booky Doughnut Donut Night</b> Tickets starts begin 8 am.</p> <p><b>Centennial Advisory Board</b> 11:45 am</p> <p><b>Ward 4 Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. at Auburn Public Library</p>	<p><b>Baby Time</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p> <p><b>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</b> 11:45 am</p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> 1:00</p> <p><b>City Council</b> 7 pm</p>	<p><b>Toddler Time</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm. 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Board of Zoning Adjustment</b> 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Preschool Storytime</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p> <p><b>9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</b></p> <p><b>Gamer's Society</b> 4-6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Tree Commission</b> 11:30 am</p> <p><b>Lanterns to Santa</b> 3:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Jingle Log</b> 7:30 am</p> <p><b>Pink Pages</b> 8 am, 10:30 am and 1:30 pm</p> <p><b>STEM Storytime</b> 10 am</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		<p><b>Baby Time</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p> <p><b>Historic Preservation Commission</b> 4 pm</p> <p><b>Board of Education</b> 6 pm</p>	<p><b>Toddler Time</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p>	<p><b>Preschool Storytime</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p> <p><b>Gamer's Society</b> 4-6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Planning Commission</b> 5 pm</p> <p><b>City Council Agenda Review</b> 4 pm</p>	<p><b>Popper Shows</b> 10:30 am, 5:30 pm</p> <p><b>City Council Agenda Review</b> 4 pm</p>	<p><b>Holiday Art Sale</b> 7 am-1 pm</p> <p><b>STEM Storytime</b> 10 am</p> <p><b>Every Child Ready to Read Parent Workshop</b> 2 pm</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	<p><b>2020 OIG Action Plan Process Public Meeting</b> 9 am</p>	<p><b>Baby Time</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p> <p><b>Greenspace Advisory Board</b> 11:00 am</p> <p><b>Library Board</b> 4 pm</p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> 1:00</p> <p><b>City Council</b> 7 pm</p>	<p><b>Toddler Time</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p>	<p><b>Preschool Storytime</b> 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm.</p> <p><b>Gamer's Society</b> 4-6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Water Works Board</b> 4 pm</p>	<p><b>Frozen Sing-a-long</b> 10:30 am &amp; 3:30 pm</p>	<p><b>STEM Storytime</b> 10 am</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

View our online edition of  
[auburnalabama.org/online](http://auburnalabama.org/online).  
 Find an up-to-date meeting schedule at  
[auburnalabama.org/boards-and-commissions/meeting-schedule](http://auburnalabama.org/boards-and-commissions/meeting-schedule).

**Auburn Public Library**  
[auburnalabama.org/library](http://auburnalabama.org/library)  
 (334) 501-3198

**City Meeting Schedule**  
[auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org)  
 (334) 501-7280

**Parks and Recreation**  
[auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks)  
 (334) 501-2930



City of Auburn

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- |   |  |
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