

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2021

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City of Auburn

Leading the Way Award

In November, the City of Auburn was named one of the inaugural winners of the ETC Institute's Leading the Way Award, which recognizes local governments for delivering outstanding services to their communities.

Since 2004, the ETC Institute has conducted our Citizen Survey that provides an assessment of resident satisfaction with City services. We've used these results as a tool for strategic planning and benchmarking over the years. While ETC has administered their DirectionFinder Survey to nearly two million residents in all 50 states since 1999, this is the first year the institute has recognized top performers with an award.

As a recipient of the Leading the Way Award, the City of Auburn has ranked in the top 10% of all cities and counties surveyed in the United States in three core areas:

- Satisfaction with the overall quality of services
- Satisfaction with customer service provided by employees
- Satisfaction with the value residents think they receive for local taxes and fees

In addition to ranking in the top 10%, we had the highest satisfaction rating in trash/garbage collection services among more than 200 communities that participated in the DirectionFinder Survey between August 2019 and July 2020. Auburn also rated in the top 10% of all cities in several other areas, including:

- City as a good place to work
- City's use of social media
- Curbside recycling services
- Enforcement of trash and debris clean-up from private property



- Enforcement of traffic laws
- Feeling of safety in City's neighborhoods
- Speed of fire services response to emergencies
- Police services
- Quality of public schools
- Visibility of police in commercial and retail areas
- Wastewater/Sanitary sewer services

"As I've said over the years, the City of Auburn has some of the finest employees you'll find anywhere in the nation," said Auburn City Manager Jim Buston. "This award and the excellent scores we receive each time we conduct the Citizen Survey are evidence that I'm not alone in recognizing this. Along with being a testament of the hard work and dedication our employees display every day, this award shows that we have amazing residents who love living here and who help make Auburn the remarkable community that it is."

Find more information about the ETC Institute and the Leading the Way Award at etcinstitute.com/ltw.

IDB, University collaborate for design-build student competition



When the Industrial Development Board of the City of Auburn (IDB) was looking for ways to expand office space in an existing incubator building, they enlisted the support of Auburn University's College of Architecture, Design and Construction (CADC). All parties quickly recognized this as an opportunity for a design-build student competition.

The competition was realized in a matter of weeks. Students were recruited with the help of Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) advisors and Auburn University professors Alan Bugg and Alyssa Kuhns, as well as Anthony Spafford, president of Auburn's student chapter of DBIA. They formed teams, each containing two architecture students and three building science students.

The students' task was to prepare a proposal, design and presentation for construction of a 2,500-square-foot expansion of office space added to the existing Auburn Incubator for Manufacturing building.

"We didn't want a design for an ordinary expansion," said Arndt Siepmann, deputy director of the City's Economic Development Department. "We wanted one that would appeal to and attract young innovators and startups. Who better to come up with a design like that than the CADC students? This was a chance for us to work with the university; to afford the students an exciting, practical application of their knowledge; and to give us creative design ideas for any potential construction."

Students were judged by a panel that included representatives from the City of Auburn, DBIA and the construction industry. Awards were given to Best Design and Best Overall.

"With little time or guidance, the students assembled impressive designs and presentations," said Richard Burt, Auburn University McWhorter School of Building Science's endowed chair and school head. "They showed real ingenuity and creativity. We are proud of their work and thank the IDB and the City for their partnership to bring about this competition, an important aspect of the student experience."

Renew your business license by Feb. 16

If you own a business in Auburn, remember that your 2020 City of Auburn business license expired Dec. 31, 2020. Business licenses may be renewed online beginning Jan. 1, 2021, by visiting auburnalabama.org and clicking the PAY icon.

If this is the first time you are using our Citizen Self Service portal, you must first register your account and contact the Revenue Office to link your business license account to your registered username (instructions are available online). If you cannot renew online, a renewal notice can be emailed, faxed or mailed to you by contacting the Revenue Office at revenue@auburnalabama.org or (334) 501-7239.

Please note, the last day to renew the 2021 business license on time is Feb. 16.

Reader's Review Book Club special guest

Join the Auburn Public Library's Reader's Review Book Club in February with special guest author Rachel Hawkins! She is the author of February's selection, "The Wife Upstairs," a new release that will be available on Jan. 5. Reader's Review meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. on Zoom. Book Club selections are available for checkout via CloudLibrary or curbside pick-up. Register using the link at auburnalabama.org/library/events-and-programs or by emailing libraryevents@auburnalabama.org.

Zumbathon 2021: Valentine's Day Party

It's time to move your body, Auburn! Ninety minutes of fun-filled dancing designed to get you in shape? Check! Awesome instructors who can get you dancing and will take turns leading in various styles and levels of Zumba moves? Check! A Valentine's Day-themed costume contest? Check!

Join us for Zumbathon 2020 on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Boykin Community Center gymnasium from 8:45-10:30 a.m. Zumba will take place in two waves, 8-9 a.m. and 9:30-10:30 a.m. Come dressed in red, pink and white and be ready to dance (and sweat)! Zumba is a Latin dance-based exercise program that combines dancing with an aerobic workout. Instructors hail from Auburn, Opelika and the surrounding areas. This event is FREE and open to the public. Children ages 8 and older are welcome with parent participation.

*COVID-19 note: Each wave will have 15 participants, and all participants must pre-register at the Harris Center by Friday, Feb. 12, at 5 p.m. Physical distancing of six feet is to be maintained at all times. Spots will be marked.

Cold weather safety tips for pets

It's important to remember your pets as the colder temperatures come to our area! Our Animal Control Division reminds you of the following tips to keep your pet healthy and comfortable in colder weather:

Provide Shelter: A well-constructed dog house insulated with clean, dry bedding, such as straw, wood shavings or a blanket, will help keep your dog warm. Face the dog house opening away from the direction that the wind normally blows to help hold in warmth and prevent rain from blowing in. It's also a good idea to add a weather-resistant door flap. A flap can be purchased or, in a pinch, a heavy duty fabric, old vehicle mud flap or a piece of linoleum flooring will do.

Water: Make sure your pet always has access to fresh, clean water. Proper hydration is important to help your dog stay warm. It's also important to check water bowls often to make sure the water doesn't freeze over. To prevent lightweight bowls from tipping over, you can secure a bucket to a post or a tree, place the bucket inside of an old tire or dig a hole in the ground and place the bucket inside of it.

Food: Monitor your pet's diet. Animals expend more calories in colder months than warmer times of year to keep warm. You may need to increase your pet's daily amount of food to compensate.

Cold Sensitive Pets: Remember that colder temperatures may be harder on some pets than others. Short hair breeds, smaller breeds and dogs that are young or old are more susceptible to the cold and should be closely monitored while outdoors. If your dog is sensitive to the cold because of age, illness or breed, adjust winter care accommodations accordingly.



Hypothermia: Know the warning signs! Hypothermia is a potentially deadly condition where the body temperature falls below normal. Signs include shivering, lethargy and lack of coordination. If you notice any of these symptoms in your pet, immediately move the animal to a warm location and wrap it in a blanket. Contact a veterinarian while warming your pet.

If you have a concern about an animal, document what you see including the date, time, exact location, type of animal and as many other details as possible. Then contact the City of Auburn Animal Control Division at (334) 501-3090. After hours, please contact the Auburn Police Division at (334) 501-3100.

Lock It or Lose It

The Auburn Police Division wants to remind you to lock your vehicles at all times during the day and night and keep valuables out of sight. Many car break-ins happen to unlocked vehicles, so make sure to take every precaution you can to avoid becoming a target.

Have questions or concerns? The Community Services Section of the Auburn Police Division wants to help! Connect with them and learn more about what they do at auburnalabama.org/police/community-services. Be safe, Auburn!



CALL
(334) 501-3100
OR 911
TO REPORT
SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY



REMOVE
Valuables from Vehicles



LOCK
Your Vehicles



REPORT
Any Suspicious Activity

FEBRUARY UP COMING 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comeries Advisory Board 4 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m. Committee of the Whole 120 1 p.m. City Council 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Virtual Parent Lunch & Learn 11 a.m. Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Volleyball Online Registration Ends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Tree Commission 11:30 a.m. Virtual Puppet Shows 3:30 p.m. Daddy Daughter Date Night Virtual Dance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Daddy Daughter Date Night Virtual Dance
7	8	9	10	11	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Commission Packet Meeting 11 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m. Virtual Gate Business Review 5 p.m. Track Online Registration Begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Virtual Parent Lunch & Learn 11 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Planning Commission 5 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Virtual Puppet Shows 3:30 p.m. City Council Agenda Review Meeting 11 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Virtual Every Child Ready to Read Parent TotSchool 2 p.m. Zombicon Valentine's Day Party
14	15	16	17	18	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Library Board 10 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Greenspace Advisory Board 11 a.m. Reader's Review Virtual Book Club - "The Wife Upstairs" 5 p.m. Committee of the Whole 120 7 p.m. City Council 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Virtual Parent Lunch & Learn 11 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Water Works Board 4 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Virtual Puppet Shows 3:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. Virtual Puppet Shows 3:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Story Time 9:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26
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Programs and events are subject to change. Please visit auburnalabama.org for up-to-date information on program and event cancellations.

Auburn Public Library
auburnalabama.org/library
 (334) 501-3198

City Meeting Schedule
auburnalabama.org
 (334) 501-7260

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

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