

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2015

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City of Auburn



Summer Construction

Corner Construction. Renew Opelika Road. South College Street. There's a lot going on this summer. Here's your guide to construction underway and forthcoming.

Corner Construction

The Corner Construction project is a historic opportunity to recreate the Toomer's Corner intersection for the 21st century. Toomer's Corner changed forever when the original Auburn Oaks were poisoned. With the removal of the Oaks, Auburn University undertook an improvement project to renovate the corner before the new trees were installed.

Now, with aging water and sewer infrastructure in need of replacement under the intersection, the City of Auburn has committed to renovation of the rest of the Toomer's Corner. The city has worked closely with Auburn University so that the end result of both projects will have a similar look and feel. The city has also solicited significant public input for the Corner Construction project through the Downtown Master Plan public meeting process.

Bailey-Harris Construction Company is now hard at work on the Corner Construction, with plans to have the intersection re-opened to traffic as early as possible in August, but no later than August 17. While the corner is closed, downtown businesses, shops and restaurants are open for business. Free parking is available on all three levels of the Municipal Parking Deck on Gay Street, in the Gay Street parking lot and on street on Gay Street, Magnolia Avenue, College Street, Tichenor Avenue and Wright Street. Parking and detour information is available online at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/cornerconstruction>.

As this Open Line is being written, the alleyway improvements project is still underway for the Magnolia Avenue and College Street alleyways connecting downtown business with the parking deck and Gay Street parking lot. As with the Corner Construction, this project allows the city to replace decades-old water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure underground while making significant improvements to lighting, walkability and the sense of safety for downtown pedestrians. Alleyway improvements are scheduled to be complete in July.



Downtown

North of the Corner Construction, improvements will be made on North College near the train tracks and on Mitcham Avenue near the old Train Depot. As the Depot's new owners work to open a new restaurant for the fall, the city will improve the streetscape on Mitcham to improve conditions for increased pedestrian traffic in the area. The work will also tie downtown improvements in with the Renew Opelika Road project underway at and near the intersection of Gay Street and Opelika Road.

Renew Opelika Road

The Renew Opelika Road plan will guide the future development and redevelopment of one of Auburn's most important commercial corridors. Auburn residents provided input for the Renew

Summer Construction (From page 1)

Opelika Road plan during a series of public meetings that took place as the plan was being developed.

Implementation of the Renew Opelika Road plan is currently underway, with construction work affecting Opelika Road from Gay Street to Ross Street. This phase of the project includes new sidewalks along Opelika Road, new landscaping along the street and new medians on Opelika Road.

On the other end of Opelika Road, near the Auburn Mall, construction crews are at work improving the intersection of East University Drive (EUD) and Opelika Road. This intersection improvement project consists of widening Opelika Road and East University Drive to add dual left turn lanes on both sides of Opelika Road and southbound on East University Drive as well as landscaping and pedestrian improvements in the rights of way.

When you pass through the Opelika Road/EUD area, you may also notice construction activity related to the demolition and reconstruction of the old K-Mart property. That property is under new ownership with plans to bring new grocery and retail opportunities to this vital commercial location.



South College Street

The City of Auburn is currently working on a project to improve traffic flow at the intersection of South College Street and Longleaf Avenue. As those improvements are completed, the Alabama Department of Transportation has scheduled South College Street to be resurfaced from the Interstate to Shug Jordan Parkway/East University Drive.

Upcoming

Upcoming projects include:

- A new traffic signal at the intersection of Opelika Road and Commerce Drive at the City limits. This is a joint project with the City of Opelika
- A new traffic signal at the intersection of Cox Road and Longleaf Drive
- Woodfield Drive Resurfacing and Traffic Light Replacement
- Gay Street Resurfacing from Reese Avenue to Camellia Drive
- Donahue Drive Resurfacing from Cary Drive to Shug Jordan Parkway
- Wire Road Widening and Turn Lanes
- Moores Mill Bridge Replacement
- Duck Samford Parking Lot resurfacing

For more information on construction, detour routes and downtown parking please subscribe to the city's e-Notifier email system at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/enotifier>, read our press releases at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/news>, or follow CityofAuburnAL on Facebook and Twitter.

Ward 3 Public Meeting

Councilwoman Beth Witten will hold a public meeting for Ward 3 residents on Monday, June 22 at 5 p.m. at the Auburn Chamber of Commerce.

Ward 5 Public Meeting

Councilwoman Lynda Tremaine will hold her monthly public meeting for Ward 5 residents on Monday, July 6 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in downtown Auburn.

All Auburn residents are welcome at these meetings, but the meetings will focus on issues of interest primarily to residents of the ward. To find out what voting ward you live in and who represents you on the Auburn City Council, go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps/voting-ward>

Water Works Board Consumer Confidence Report

Each year, the Water Works Board of the City of Auburn (AWWB) distributes its annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The purpose of this report is to inform all water customers about contaminants that may be found in their drinking water and how these contaminants may affect their health. The CCR is also an opportunity to educate customers about drinking water sources, treatment techniques and delivery methods used to ensure compliance with State and Federal laws.

In the past, a paper copy of the CCR was delivered to every water customer. This year the AWWB is providing a digital copy of the CCR that may be viewed online at this address: <http://www.auburnalabama.org/wrm/ccr/2014>.

Hardcopies are available at the Bailey Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue. Hardcopies may also be requested by calling (334) 501-3060, by submitting a request with your regular monthly water bill payment or by emailing webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org.

Water Quality Monitoring Public Viewer

The Watershed Division and the GIS Division of the City of Auburn are proud to announce the release of the City's Water Quality Monitoring Public Viewer Application. This web-based application allows the public to view water quality data from forty (40) monitoring locations on streams throughout the city. These stations are monitored weekly by Watershed Division staff using modern water quality monitoring equipment.

Although no single measure reported in the app gives a complete picture of "quality" of water in our local streams, and other water resources, these data help water resource managers better understand the general physical-chemical conditions of our waters, identify potential causes for concern and help to select and prioritize management strategies and protective measures. This application also helps provide transparency in our monitoring operations by providing an additional tool for citizens to become aware and involved in helping to preserve and protect our local water resources. To use the Water Quality Monitoring Public Viewer, please visit <http://webgis.auburnalabama.org/waterqualitypublic/>

Fourth of July Celebration Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton

Celebrate our nation's birthday with Auburn Parks and Recreation Saturday, July 4th behind the home side of Duck Samford Stadium! Bring the whole family for the best Independence Day celebration in the area. Gates open at 6 p.m. Residents can enjoy food from local vendors, door prizes and giveaways. Live music begins at 7 p.m. followed by a fantastic fireworks show starting at 9 p.m. The Fourth of July Celebration is FREE to the public. Parking will be available at the lot off of East University Drive, next to the Old Duck Fields. The parking lot off of Airport Road will be CLOSED to the public to accommodate the fireworks shoot site.

The Fourth of July Celebration rain date will be Sunday, July 5 beginning at 9 p.m. For more information, please contact Alison Hall at ahall@auburnalabama.org or call 334.501.2930.

MEETING SCHEDULE JULY

- 1 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 7 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 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
- 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**, 2:00 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.

City Hosts ADA Conference

On April 27 and 28, the City of Auburn hosted the 2015 Auburn Accessibility Conference in partnership with the Auburn University Office of AA/EEOC/ADA and the Auburn Chamber of Commerce. This event, held at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center, featured instructors and speakers from the United States Access Board and the Governor's Office of Accessibility. The conference was attended by 116 participants, including over 50 attendees from surrounding jurisdictions and other states. The conference materials were designed to provide participants with a better understanding of the design and construction requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its amendments and guidelines.

The event was also a very cost effective way to provide appropriate city staff with needed additional training. Through collaboration with the Auburn University College of Architecture and the Southeast Alabama Codes Officials Association, the event was approved for continuing education units (CEUs) for many professional staff, allowing the training opportunity to be used to meet annual licensing and recertification requirements without additional expense to the city.

The city has received very positive feedback from both the participants and the speakers, many of whom remarked about not only the quality of the event, but the level of understanding of ADA requirements exhibited by the participants. The city sponsored the event to help local design professionals have the knowledge they need to comply with Federal ADA regulations as they provide services to local businesses and residents.



Board Vacancies

Three vacancies on the **Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority** were announced at the June 2, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the July 7, 2015 City Council Meeting.



Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** were announced at the June 23, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the July 21, 2015 City Council Meeting.

One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** was announced at the June 23, 2015 meeting and will be filled at the July 21, 2015 City Council Meeting.

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

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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 openline@auburnalabama.org or call 501-7266.

up COMING EVENTS

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

Auburn Public Library

For information on library programs for children, please call 501-3196.

Summer Reading Program – It's time to sign up for Summer Reading! This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story." Babies through teens may register through July 29. Read and win this summer!

STORYTIME PROGRAMS

Baby Time - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages birth – 24 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages 18 months – 36 months and their caregivers.

Preschool Time - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

Family Storytime – Sunday, July 26 at 4:00 p.m. Bring the whole family and join us for stories, songs, games and family fun!

Spectrum Storytime – Saturday, July 25 at 10:00 a.m. Spectrum Storytime is an educational and interactive program designed for children with sensory integration challenges and their caregivers. For cognitive ages 4 – 7. Registration is required. For more information or to register please call Youth Services at 501-3196.

LEGOMANIA – Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for "free play" with Legos®.

WEDNESDAY SUMMER PROGRAMS – Join us every Wednesday in July for these special activities:

July 1 – "The Lego Movie" (PG) movie and a snack, 2:00p.m. for all ages.

July 8 – Southeastern Raptor Center, 2:00 p.m. for all ages.

July 15 – City of Auburn Firefighters, 2:00 p.m. for all ages.

July 22 – The McWane Science Center presents "Superhero Science!", 2:00 p.m. for all ages.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

LitWits – Tuesday, July 14 (Sherlock vs. Superman) & Tuesday, July 28 (Fan Fiction Fandom) at 4:30 p.m. for ages 13 to 18. LitWits is a book club all about themes. Read any book that fits the theme and bring it with you for group discussions and activities.

Gamers Society – Thursdays, July 9 & July 23 at 4:00 p.m. for ages 10 – 18.

Teen Movie Night – "Man of Steel" (PG-13), Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. for ages 13 – 18.

Mask-erade Night – Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. for ages 13 – 18. Participants will enjoy a night of dancing, revelry, and of course, mask-making. Dress to impress, but it is not required to attend. Prizes will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers for best mask! Refreshments will be provided.

Parks and Recreation

For more information on any of the events listed, or to register for a program, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks.

Pick up your copy of the fall brochure beginning this month. The Fall Brochure will be available at all Parks and Recreation facilities this month or online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. Registration for fall programs also begins in July on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Harris Center. For more information, please contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 334.501.2930.

Online Registration for Fall Sports begins July 13 – Online registration for all fall sports opens on Monday, July 13. For a listing of all sports offered during the fall quarter, please view our Fall Brochure at www.auburnalabama.org/parks or pick up a brochure at any Parks and Recreation facility. To begin the registration process, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/athletics.

Friday Night Splash – Soak the night away at Friday Night Splash, Friday, July 31 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Samford Pool. Auburn Parks and Recreation Aquatics Staff will host an evening of swimming, games, music, a cookout, and much more! This event is free to Splash Pass holders or \$2/person. For more information please contact Samford Pool at 334.501.2957 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools.

Drake Pool Closes on July 31.

Summer Outdoor Movie Series – It will be cooler in summer at July's Summer Outdoor Movie presentation of Disney's "Frozen." Saturday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. at Duck Samford Park Field 8. Bring your chairs, popcorn and candy for some cool family fun! Please be advised that no alcohol or glass containers are allowed at the event. All Summer Outdoor Movies are FREE and open to the public! Follow the City of Auburn on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL for the latest weather updates and event changes.

Float-N-Movie – Bring your float and enjoy a summer flick! Auburn Parks and Recreation presents the July Float-N-Movie Series with a showing of "Paddington" at Samford Pool on Thursday, July 9. Bring your floats and inner tubes while you soak in a movie! Doors open at 8:15 p.m. and concessions will be open throughout the evening. This event is FREE to Splash Pass holders or \$2/person. For more information, please contact Samford Pool at 334.501.2957 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools.

