

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2016

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City of Auburn



### Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan Kicks Off

The City of Auburn held the first public meeting for the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan in August. Over two-hundred Auburn residents participated in the event, providing valuable input through hands-on visioning exercises and individual comments.

Northwest Auburn provides one of the primary corridors into Auburn, including key routes into both downtown Auburn and the Auburn University campus. The Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan is an initiative to maintain and improve this key corridor to better serve area residents and businesses. The planning process will be similar to the recent Renew Opelika Road and Downtown Master Plan initiatives in engaging residents to create a plan to guide the future growth and development of each of these important Auburn neighborhoods.

The goal of the process is to develop a plan that encourages redevelopment and improves the streetscape within the plan area. The need for infrastructure and streetscape enhancements in the area, and especially along Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Bragg Avenue, has been identified by residents in recent Annual Citizen Surveys. Improvements to be discussed include enhanced landscaping, sidewalks, lighting and more. Ultimately, the Plan will provide a guide to enhance Northwest Auburn's attractiveness, walkability and vitality while maintaining the heritage and character of the neighborhood.



### Zika Update

The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department continues to monitor mosquito and Zika issues, and to consult with local experts to ensure the most effective possible measures are taken. As of this writing, AL.com recently reported that there are cases of Zika in Alabama, including Lee County, but that they are believed to be the result of travel rather than being caused by mosquitos.

As the next step in the City's mosquito defense, the Environmental Services Department began truck spraying/fogging for mosquito control in August as a supplement to mosquito control measures already underway. The decision was made after consulting with Auburn University's Dr. Derrick Mathias, who advised that spraying around the area was warranted. Spraying focused on public spaces where people gather between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. (schools, parks, ball fields).

The active ingredient in the pesticide used by the City in the truck-mounted sprayer/fogger is permethrin, which is widely used across the U.S. to control mosquitoes. The effect of permethrin is expected to last up to four weeks.



## Auburn Featured in Where to Retire Magazine

Auburn has been selected as a top retirement destination by Where to Retire magazine. The City is profiled in the September/October issue.

Auburn was also named a "Top Place to Retire in the U.S." by Where to Retire in 2015, and a "Top 25 City for Retirement in the U.S." by Forbes in 2014. In 2009, Auburn was named in the "Top 10 Best Places to Live in the U.S." by U.S. News and World Report.



## 2016 Safest Places in Alabama

Auburn was ranked as one of the top ten safest "large cities" in Alabama in a report by ValuePenguin. Their analysis of FBI data on crime statistics for 83 Alabama cities includes violent and property crime.

## Outstanding Planning Award

The Auburn Downtown Master Plan has received the Outstanding Plan Award for a Plan or Planning Program by the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association. This award is a credit to the work of the City staff, Planning Commission, City Council and citizens who participated in the public input process.

The award will be presented at the 2016 joint Alabama-Mississippi Conference in mid-September. The Downtown Master Plan was an intensive planning project to guide downtown Auburn in and for the future. Its approach reflects the values and inputs of the hundreds of residents who participated.

## City of Auburn's Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance

Properly designed, installed and maintained erosion and sediment control on construction sites is critical for protecting private and public property from damage. Unmitigated construction stormwater runoff can harm our local water resources with sediment that can cause ecological degradation, increased water treatment cost and loss of valuable recreational uses.

Good erosion and sediment control is as much about being a good neighbor, being a responsible citizen, and protecting our community as it is about protecting the environment. Please contact the City of Auburn's Watershed Division at (334) 501-7367 or email [dballard@auburnalabama.org](mailto:dballard@auburnalabama.org) if you have any questions about the City's Erosion and Sediment Control Program.

## Upcoming Elections

If you are in House District 79, which includes much of Auburn, you will have an opportunity to vote for your next District 79 Representative on September 13, 2016. Please note that this is not a municipal election, and your voting place could be different from your municipal voting location.

To look up your voting location, visit [albamavotes.gov](http://albamavotes.gov) online and click "My Polling Place."

The next Auburn Municipal Election is scheduled for August 28, 2018.



## MEETING SCHEDULE OCTOBER

- 3 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 4 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 11:45 a.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
- 5 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 7 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 11 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
- 13 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 18 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
- 20 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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/boards).**



## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Trick or Treat is on October 31<sup>st</sup>

Get ready for the Monster Mash! Bring out your monsters, warriors, clowns and cuties to the best Halloween party in town – the 16th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat! Join the City of Auburn for this spooktacular alternative to door-to-door trick-or-treating on Monday, October 31st from 6 – 8 p.m. in downtown Auburn. Downtown merchants will provide treats for the children and DJ Ozz will return as our musical entertainment to have you feeling “ghouly.” Everyone is invited to dress up and come in costume. You could be the Pick of the Patch in our costume contest. Parents must accompany children to this event, which is FREE to the public. For more information, please visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).

## Neighborhood Trick or Treat

Can't attend Downtown Trick or Treat? Door-to-door trick or treating is also scheduled for Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 8 p.m.



## Ward 5 Public Meeting Moves to New Location

Ward 5 Councilperson Lynda Tremaine will hold her monthly public meeting for Ward 5 residents on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the City Meeting Room at 122 Tichenor Avenue. Library Director Chris Warren will be her guest to discuss the various programs available through the Auburn Public Library.

## Auburn Public Library to Offer Self-Checkout

The Auburn Public Library will offer self-checkout to library patrons beginning May 2017, made possible by a \$50,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant. The grant will also fund the implementation of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to streamline circulation services and collection management. Grant funds are awarded through the Alabama Public Library Service, which uses a competitive evaluation program to award funds based on library usage and community needs. Library staff began the grant application process in December 2015, and work on the project will begin in October 2016.

These grant-funded technology improvements will assist in handling the library's almost 50% increase in circulation over the past two years. In FY 2015, cardholders borrowed 338,187 books, audiobooks, DVDs, eBooks and digital magazines, up 40% from the previous year. Circulation is up an additional 20% in the current fiscal year. Self-checkout and RFID technology will address this increased demand, and allow library staff to dedicate more time to one-on-one, in-depth customer assistance, library programming and technology instruction.

The Auburn Public Library was established in 1947 to serve the residents of Auburn, Alabama by helping them explore new ideas, pursue dreams, and change lives. The library provides the community with a collection that reflects the dynamic interests of residents, with access to reliable information services, resources and programs that contribute to an active, engaged, and informed society and public technology resources.

The Library Services and Technology Act is the only federal program dedicated exclusively to libraries and is administered nationwide by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## Board Vacancies

One vacancy for the **Lee County Youth Development Center** were announced at the August 16, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the September 20, 2016 City Council Meeting.



Three vacancies for the **Industrial Development Board** were announced at the August 16, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the September 20, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Three vacancies for the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the September 20, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the October 18, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Two vacancies for the **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 18, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the November 15, 2016 City Council Meeting.

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



# City Management

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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](mailto:openline@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](http://auburnalabama.org/library)

**One Book One Village: Auburn's Shared Reading Experience Finale Program** - Join us for an evening with National Book Award Winner Jacqueline Woodson at the Auburn High School Auditorium on Monday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Woodson will be signing books at the conclusion of the program. One Book One Village is made possible by the Auburn Public Library, the Friends of the Auburn Public Library, the Auburn City Schools, the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, and the Auburn University Bookstore.

**The Friends of the Auburn Public Library Fall Book Sale - Saturday, October 8 at 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center** - The Friends of the Auburn Public Library's Fall Book Sale will include books for all ages and interests. Paperbacks will \$0.50 and hardbacks will be \$1.00.

**Ghoulish Gala: A Halloween event for the whole family - Thursday, October 27 at 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

- Dress up in your Halloween costumes and bring the whole family to the Auburn Public Library to enjoy a variety of fun Halloween activities! This year, we'll open up the terrifying, spine-tingling, shriek-inducing, haunted wing of the library to willing adventurers. We'll also have carnival games, candy, music, and a spooky photo booth.

### BOOK CLUBS

**Show and Tell** - Monday, October 24 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, October 25 at 10 a.m. at the Harris Senior Center, featuring *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

**Lit Wits** - a book club for teens - Tuesday, October 4 at 4:30 p.m. featuring *Vampires and Zombies* - Tuesday, October 18 at 4:30 p.m. featuring *Shutter* by C. Alameda

**Gamer's Society** - an afternoon of gaming every Thursday at 4 p.m. for ages 10-18

**Open Mic Poetry Night** - Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. Calling all poets! Come read your work at the Auburn Public Library. Refreshments provided.

**Adult Coloring Club** - Join us Thursdays at 10 a.m. (New Time!) for a relaxing hour of adult coloring in the conference room.

**Auburn Adult Gamers** - Monday, October 10 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.

## Parks and Recreation

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

**Auburn Beautification Council Plant Sale Sat. Oct. 8th at the DRRC** - Saturday, October 8th from 8 a.m. - noon at Dean Road Recreation Center the Auburn Beautification Council (ABC) will host its annual Plant Sale. The proceeds from the sale support ABC projects, such as downtown hanging baskets, Spring Azalea Trail, gardens at Kiesel Park, and beautification awards to Auburn homes and businesses. Select plants are available for pre-order at a 10% discount. Pre-orders are due by Wednesday, Sept. 21 and must be picked up the day of the sale. Order forms can be found online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). For more information, please call (334) 501-2930.

**Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center October Gallery Events** - Mark your calendar for the September Show on display at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from August 26-October 27. This is an invitational exhibition of new and recent works by selected regional artists with this year's theme being Australia. This exhibit is FREE and open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call the JDCAC at (334) 501-2963

**Auburn Area Community Theatre (AACT) Fall Jr. Production "Tut-Tut"** - The Auburn Area Community Theatre will present the production of the musical Tut-Tut Thursday through Monday October 6-8 & 10 at 6:30 p.m. also a 4 p.m. matinee on Saturday October 8. Entry will be \$8 for seniors and children and \$10 for adults. The play is inspired by the life of young Egyptian King Tut with a touch of Mark Twain's "The Prince and the Pauper." To make reservations, purchase tickets or for more information please visit [www.auburnact.org](http://www.auburnact.org) or contact Melanie Brown at (334) 502-9326.

**Fall Family Fun Day at the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center Sat. Oct. 8th** - Bring the entire Family out to the Kreher Preserve for a day of fun in the woods! Saturday October 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. enjoy family fun activities like face painting, crafts for the kids, music, storytelling and more. This event is FREE to the public. Visit [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks) for more details.

**Artist applications for the Holiday Art Sale are available beginning October 10th** - The Auburn Arts Association and Auburn Parks and Recreation will begin accepting artist applications on Monday, October 10 for the 10th Annual Holiday Art Sale to be held on Saturday, December 10 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center and the Harris Center. Applications will be available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks). For more information about becoming a vendor or the Holiday Art Sale, please visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Cari Cleckler at (334) 501-2944.

### HAPPENINGS AT THE KREHER PRESERVE

**"Honey Bees" for the monthly Nature Walk and Discovery Hike** - The "Honey Bees" Nature Walk will be held on Saturday, October 8 at 8:30 a.m. and is designed for adults. The "Honey Bees" Discovery Hike will be on Thursday, October 13 at 3:30 p.m. and is designed for families with children ages 5 to 12. No pre-registration is required for either track and walks are free to the public. Groups will meet at the pavilion prior to heading out on their hike. Walks are cancelled in the event of rain.

For more information on any of these events or to register for a class, please email [preserve@auburn.edu](mailto:preserve@auburn.edu) or call (334) 844 - 8091.

