

# open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

AUGUST 2021



City of Auburn

## Learn & engage at Auburn's first Neighborhood Conference



### City of Auburn **NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE**

You're invited to a new event geared toward neighborhood groups and all residents interested in the quality of life in Auburn's neighborhoods — the 2021 City of Auburn Neighborhood Conference.

The Neighborhood Conference is a free event that will take place on Saturday, Aug. 21, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Harris Center and Frank Brown Recreation Center. It will include work sessions and a keynote speech along with opportunities to meet fellow neighbors who work to make Auburn safer, friendlier and lovelier every day.

The conference will begin with City Manager Megan McGowen Crouch who will speak on Auburn's council-manager form of government and how to be an informed and engaged citizen.

Each participant will have the opportunity to attend three work sessions during the conference. Preregistration is required to attend, and attendees will select their work sessions during the sign-up

process. Registration is FREE and will be open July 6–Aug. 10. Space is limited.

The work sessions will provide valuable information about City services and resources for neighborhoods. They will tackle topics like neighborhood safety and neighborhood engagement as well as information and tips from different City departments on things like water quality, recycling and property maintenance. For the full work session list, visit [auburnalabama.org/neighborhood-conference](http://auburnalabama.org/neighborhood-conference).

"For our first year hosting this event, we wanted to bring work sessions to the public that were designed with our neighborhoods in mind. The sessions will provide information to help neighborhoods understand a little more about what certain departments do and how we can work together for a better Auburn," said Allison Blankenship, neighborhood specialist and event coordinator.

A keynote speech will conclude the Neighborhood Conference. Through storytelling and practical tips, City of Auburn Human Resources Director Kristen Reeder and Our House Director Rene Waldrop will speak on the value of being a good neighbor and how everyone has the ability to make a difference in their community. Find more information about the keynote speakers on the conference website.

"We hope people leave the conference having learned something new, and we hope they leave empowered and inspired, knowing the influence they have on their community," Blankenship said. "I also hope they feel more connected to City staff. For some, the work session content may be the start of a larger conversation, and we hope people feel comfortable reaching out to us."

Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided at the conference. To learn more, visit [auburnalabama.org/neighborhood-conference](http://auburnalabama.org/neighborhood-conference).

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ALLISON BLANKENSHIP, EVENT COORDINATOR





## TWENTY ON TICHENOR

### CITY HALL REACHES MILESTONE ON TICHENOR AVENUE

Twenty years ago, City Hall opened for business at its new location on the corner of Tichenor Avenue and Gay Street. While it was the new hub of local government in Auburn, the brick, starved-classical style building in the heart of Auburn was far from new.

In 1931, the City of Auburn donated the land to become the home of a larger post office. The building was constructed with a \$90,000 grant from Congress, and the post office opened its doors in 1933 under the leadership of postmaster Levi A. Knapp. The building was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

The building served as the post office until 1991 when the post office moved to its current location on Opelika Road. The City bought the building back in 1992 and partnered with the Food Bank of East Alabama to use the building until October 1997 when the Food Bank moved to Pumphrey Avenue. The building was then renovated and became City Hall in August 2001.

Despite renovations over the years, many of the building's historic elements are still present. The Spanish clay tile roof sits over the large arches that mark the entrance. Once you step inside, you'll see the same natural mahogany wainscoting with decorative trim lining the front portion of the lobby. The mahogany flows into the front stairway leading to the basement, which also has a Compania Light Rose Tennessee marble wainscoting. And the old mahogany postmaster door frame with decorative broken pediment at the top is only a few feet from where it once stood.

The decision to bring City Hall downtown from its former location at the corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue — now the Development Services Building — reflected the importance the City placed on supporting and developing a vibrant downtown at the turn of the century. Since then, downtown has seen widespread redevelopment and development, transforming it into a thriving hub of commercial activity and a place for the community to gather for events, celebrations or just an evening out.

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Historical photos credit: National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

## StoryWalk at the Auburn Public Library

Take a stroll through the Auburn Public Library grounds while diving into a new story! StoryWalk signs will be up along the front of the library and in the Literacy Theater throughout August, allowing library visitors to explore a picture book story as they walk by. StoryWalk is a wonderful activity for families to enjoy, combining literacy and healthy exercise.



## Itty Bitty Auburn Scavenger Hunt

It's time to break out the thinking caps and magnifying glasses for Itty Bitty Auburn! Beginning Monday, Aug. 2, participants can pick up a worksheet for the scavenger hunt at any Parks and Recreation facility or find it on the City of Auburn website, printed in select newspapers and on Facebook.

The worksheet features 25 itty-bitty sites in various Auburn locations, along with four bonus sites. Participants will find these sites and write the location on the worksheet. Completed worksheets should be turned in to the Harris Center by Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m. Winners will be announced on Friday, Sept. 3.

To stay up-to-date and find more information on the Itty-Bitty Auburn scavenger hunt, join the Facebook event group at [facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL). Hints for each of the sites will be published to the City's Facebook event group and on the City of Auburn's Instagram page (@CityofAuburnAL).



## SAVING WATER THIS SUMMER

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn recommends that customers follow efficient practices for irrigation and outdoor watering. Try the tips below to help you conserve water, ensuring that our water resources are used wisely:

- **Don't overwater your lawn.** Generally, 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.
- **Don't water sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas.** Position sprinklers so that all water lands on your lawn or plants.
- **Avoid watering during the middle of the day** to avoid unnecessary water loss because of evaporation. Irrigating in the middle of the day can result in losing as much as 40-60% of the water to evaporation. Water before 8 a.m. As a general rule, the earlier, the better!
- **Check irrigation systems** on a regular basis to ensure the system's parts (pipes, sprinkler heads, etc.) are not damaged or broken. Many irrigation systems use about 1,000 gallons of water an hour!
- **Install rain sensors** and/or moisture sensors on irrigation systems to eliminate unnecessary watering during rainy periods.
- **Don't 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. Get more info about xeriscaping from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service's website, [aces.edu](https://aces.edu).
- **Consider rainwater harvesting.** Consider collecting rain using rain barrels, etc. that can be used for outdoor watering. Note that rain barrels can collect pollutants and bacteria from roofs, animals, etc. This should be considered when using rain barrels for edible plants. Water from rain barrels should never be used for human consumption. Find more info at [adem.alabama.gov/programs/water/waterforms/LIDHandbook.pdf](https://adem.alabama.gov/programs/water/waterforms/LIDHandbook.pdf).
- **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 helps soil retain moisture and controls weeds.

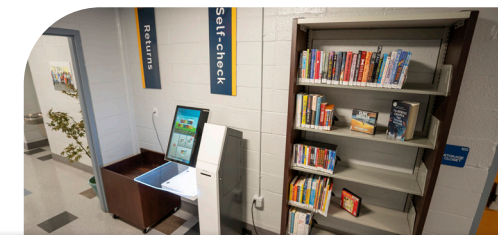
## New resources at Boykin Community Center

The Boykin Community Center now has even more to offer with the addition of a resource center and micro library.

Equipped with four computers, a printer and a scanner, the resource center provides a place to browse the Internet, print and place holds on items in the library collection. You can visit the center 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

APL@Boykin, an extension of the Auburn Public Library, is a micro library powered by a self-checkout kiosk just outside the senior activity room. APL@Boykin is available during the Boykin Community Center's regular hours and on Saturdays and Sundays for those with access to the Boykin Fitness Center. The micro library features a browsing shelf with a variety of titles that rotate regularly and a bin to return library items. You can also put items on hold for pickup via phone, email or the library's online catalog.

Sign up for a library card and find more details at [auburnalabama.org/library](https://auburnalabama.org/library).



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# AUGUST 2021 **upcoming events**

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager  
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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<p>Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Ward 4 Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Fall Program Registration Begins</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Story Time (virtual) Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Story Time (virtual) Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Story Time (virtual) Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Puppet Shows (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 10:30 a.m. &amp; 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>City Market Town Creek Park @ 8-11 a.m.</p> <p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p>Story Time (virtual) Saturdays @ 10:30 a.m.</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon</p> <p>Samford Pool Fall Hours Begin</p>	<p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p>		<p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p>	<p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting Noon</p>	<p>City Market Town Creek Park @ 8-11 a.m.</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		<p>Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Reader's Review Virtual Adult Book Club 5 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p>		<p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p>		<p>City Market Town Creek Park @ 8-11 a.m.</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			<p>Fall Program Registration Ends</p>			<p>Final City Market of the Summer Town Creek Park @ 8-11 a.m.</p>
29	30	31				
		<p>Auburn Public Library <a href="http://auburnlabama.org/library">auburnlabama.org/library</a></p> <p>City Meetings <a href="http://auburnlabama.org/boards">auburnlabama.org/boards</a></p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation <a href="http://auburnlabama.org/parks">auburnlabama.org/parks</a></p>	<p>Programs &amp; events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at <a href="http://auburnlabama.org">auburnlabama.org</a>.</p>			

Background Photo:  
Vegetables at City Market