

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

September 2017

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City of Auburn

Plastic recycling to return for Auburn customers this fall

The City of Auburn was informed in June by our current recycler, Waste Recycling, Inc., that they would no longer accept plastics for recycling. The City was given no forewarning that the company would stop accepting plastics.

Fortunately, the City of Auburn's Environmental Services Department was already planning the transition to Pratt Recycling, which will allow us to provide a single-stream recycling program that includes plastics recycling. Auburn University and the City of Opelika both utilize Pratt Recycling in their recycling programs.

Single-stream recycling will allow residents to place recyclables into one container for collection at the curb, greatly reducing the need to sort different types of recyclable material. The move to single-stream is the result of significant input from Auburn residents over the years expressing the desire for this type of co-mingled recycling program.

Though the single-stream program was initially set to launch in early 2018, Auburn's Environmental Services Department has accelerated the schedule in response to this situation. Plastic recycling will return with the single-stream program, now tentatively slated to begin by Dec. 1.

Current funding will bring 5,600 recycling carts for Auburn customers in the first phase. Those who are not part of the first phase will be able to recycle plastic at the Recycling Center on Donahue Drive once the single-stream program begins and will still have curbside service for cans and paper. The City of Auburn will expand the program, with the goal of providing single-stream carts and services to every customer as quickly as possible. Materials accepted in the single-stream program will be paper, cardboard, tin cans, aluminum cans and plastics (#1 - #7). Glass will still be accepted for recycling at the recycling center at 365-A N. Donahue Drive.

Since the temporary halt in plastic recycling began, some residents have asked if there is another company that could take Auburn's plastics until the transition to single-stream is complete. Unfortunately, there are limited options for recycling in the region, and the transition currently underway is the fastest route to renewed plastic recycling in Auburn. Other residents have asked if they could take their plastics elsewhere, but no community could reasonably process and afford the volumes that would be involved if they accepted recycling from another community.

The City of Auburn was the first community in Alabama to offer curbside recycling, starting in 1987. We are proud of our recycling program and are as disappointed as our residents that our current recycling company will longer accept plastic. We appreciate the community's passion for recycling and ask residents for patience as we accelerate the rollout of single-stream to bring back plastic recycling and to better serve the community's recycling needs.

Auburn lays out multi-year plan for downtown trees and streetscape

A vital part of the City of Auburn's vision for downtown is the Downtown Street Tree Replacement project that will bring a healthier, revitalized tree canopy to downtown Auburn.

A portion of the project began in 2015 when 11 new Princeton American elm trees were planted at Toomer's Corner following the Corner Construction project. The trees were planted using silva-cell technology, which uses an underground system of blocks filled with loosely compacted soil to improve

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root growth and allow trees to grow faster and healthier.

Moving forward, the City plans to replace approximately 32 other street trees on North College Street from Magnolia Avenue to Glenn Avenue and on Magnolia Avenue from Gay Street to Wright Street with Princeton American elms and other tree species using silva-cell technology.

The new trees will replace crepe myrtle, holly, magnolia, green vase zalkova and weeping yaupon trees. Remaining landscape beds around existing trees will be removed and replaced with tree grates, increasing the amount of usable sidewalk.

Several of the existing trees have been removed in recent years because of poor health, and several more will likely need to be removed in the near future. One example is the crepe myrtles along Magnolia Avenue that have grown around the decorative wrought iron fencing that was installed when the trees were first planted.

New trees

The Princeton American elm was chosen to be one of downtown's primary street trees after deliberation by a team of local experts from the City of Auburn, Auburn University and Auburn's Tree Commission. The team recommended the City plant various types of trees downtown to keep one disease or complication from wiping out all trees in the area.

Several other species have been planted in association with development in and around downtown Auburn including live oaks on Opelika Road, everclear elms on Glenn Avenue and Wright Street, willow oaks on Glenn Avenue and Ross Street and Chinese pistaches on Gay Street.

Reason for new trees

During the planning process, the team of experts analyzed ways to preserve existing street trees, including those along East Magnolia Avenue, but found that replacing them was the best option for long-term healthy downtown trees. The Downtown Street Tree Replacement Project is part of a number of efforts to improve the downtown streetscape including sidewalk repairs, the replacement of mechanical parking meters with electronic parking kiosks and improved lighting and street furniture.



The sidewalk on the north side of East Magnolia Avenue between Gay Street and Little Italy restaurant currently slopes from building fronts to the curb, which is not in keeping with ADA standards. Once work begins on street light replacement and parking kiosk in-



stallation, the City will bring portions of sidewalks affected by construction into compliance with ADA standards, improving accessibility for all downtown visitors.

The City plans to make sidewalks compliant with ADA accessibility standards by creating two levels of sidewalk on Magnolia Avenue between Gay Street and Little Italy restaurant. In order to have a required 5-foot unobstructed pathway on the sidewalk, trees in this area must be removed.

Commercial developments have assisted with the sidewalk plans and have covered the cost of the enhancements in front of their establishments. Taco Mama installed a two-level sidewalk during its construction, and the soon-to-be Skyline Café plans to do the same, reducing costs to be incurred by the City.

Though trees have been and will be removed in the process, new trees will be planted in the future. All recent and future commercial developments along East Magnolia Avenue have and will accommodate space for future trees.

More work to be done

As existing trees grow, the City will continue to work with the Tree Commission and Auburn University to monitor their condition and the effectiveness of the silva-cell technology. Overall, healthy trees throughout Auburn are an important part of the quality of life for Auburn residents.

Downtown is the central location for shopping, entertainment, activities and celebration in Auburn. The Downtown Street Tree Replacement Project is part of a larger mission to improve the downtown streetscape for all to enjoy.

Board Vacancies

One vacancy for the **Lee County Youth Development Center** will be announced at the Aug. 15 City Council meeting and will be filled at the Sept. 19 meeting.

To apply for a vacancy on any board or commission visit auburnalabama.org/boards for an application form. E-mail your completed form to boards@auburnalabama.org or you can send it via mail or in person to City Hall: 144 Tichenor Avenue, Auburn, AL, 36830. Additional materials, such as a résumé or letter of interest, may be attached to the application form. Please note: Incumbents may be eligible for reappointment. Appointment dates may be subject to change at the Council's discretion.

Welcome back students! A reminder of the City of Auburn's residential occupancy regulations

Auburn welcomes thousands of new and returning students each fall. Those who are new to the area or venturing off campus for the first time should be aware of residential occupancy rules regulating how many unrelated individuals may live in one residence in Auburn's different zones.

Traditional residential neighborhoods are typically zoned to allow for no more than two unrelated people to live at an address. Apartment complexes, mobile home parks and other multi-family housing units are zoned to allow for more than two unrelated tenants.

Such limitations are not unique to Auburn. Many communities use these limitations to reduce overcrowding and concerns that can accompany it. Occupancy limits help preserve neighborhood character and quality of life for Auburn citizens.

Residents in violation of residential occupancy regulations may be subject to eviction by property owners. Property owners found to be in violation of occupancy regulations are subject to penalties that can include fines and even arrest.

Citizens may submit occupancy related complaints to the Planning Department. A complaint form is available on the City's website that can be downloaded, completed and faxed or mailed to Planning staff who will begin the enforcement process.

Anyone unsure of what zone he or she lives in may call the Planning Department at (334) 501-3040. Visit auburnalabama.org for more information.

Labor Day holiday schedules

City Hall will be closed Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day. Public Safety services including police, fire, and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the week of Sept. 4-8 as listed below:

Monday, Sept. 4	Holiday
Tuesday, Sept. 5	Monday's Route
Wednesday, Sept. 6	Tuesday's Route
Thursday, Sept. 7	Wednesday's Route
Friday, Sept. 8	Thursday's Route



Moores Mill bridge replacement project update

The completion date for the Moores Mill Bridge Replacement Project has been extended past its original September target. The project is now expected to finish by the end of 2017. Left turns will remain restricted throughout the last stretch of construction.

2017 Citizen's Planning Academy this month

The City of Auburn Planning Department will begin its sixth offering of the Citizens' Planning Academy on Sept. 21. The class will consist of six sessions held on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Classes will be held from Sept. 21 through Nov. 2, including a Planning Commission meeting and a mock Planning Commission meeting, with no class on Oct. 19.

Over the training period, participants will learn the basics of planning and how different departments, developers, and individuals interact in the planning process. Participants will also learn about the City of Auburn's Comprehensive Plan and other ongoing projects.

Other topics discussed will include requirements and responsibilities of the Planning Department, roles and responsibilities of Auburn's Boards and Commissions, long-range planning and Auburn University Campus Planning.

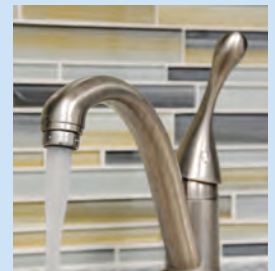
Citizens interested in participating in the academy are encouraged to apply early due to limited seating. The program is free to all participants. For more information, including registration, please contact Kaleb Kirkpatrick at (334) 501-3040 or kkirkpatrick@auburnalabama.org.

Notice to Auburn Water Works Board customers

On September 22, 2016, Auburn Water Works Board approved a 5% rate increase for water services effective for the bills sent to customers beginning in October 2017. For most residential customers (using 3/4" meters), rates will change as follows:

Per 1,000 Gallons	Current Rate	Rate Effective October 1, 2017	Increase per 1,000 Gallons
First 3,000 gallons	\$4.63	\$4.86	\$0.23
Over 3,000 gallons	\$3.68	\$3.86	\$0.18

The average residential water usage is 5,000 gallons per month; the charge for water on the average bill will increase from \$21.25 to \$22.30, an increase of \$1.05. Additional information about water rates is available on the City of Auburn's website, www.auburnalabama.org/wro or by calling the Utility Billing Office/Finance Department at 334-501-3050.



SEPTEMBER ^{up}COMING EVENTS

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

For more information on meetings and events listed here, please visit auburnalabama.org/openline

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

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

Parks and Recreation
auburnalabama.org/parks
 (334) 501-2930



City of Auburn

					1	2
					Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.	STEM Storytime 10 a.m. Samford Pool closed on AU home football games
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Cometeries Advisory Board 4 p.m.	Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m. 50+ Bingo & Lunch Fall Recreation Night Swim begins 4-6 p.m.	Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m. Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.	Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m. Gamer's Society 4 p.m.		STEM Storytime 10 a.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Greenspace Advisory Board Noon Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m. Board of Education 6 p.m. One Book One Auburn - Auburn University 7 p.m.	Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m. Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m. Gamer's Society 4 p.m. Planning Commission 5 p.m. Fall Sundown Concert 6-7:30 p.m.	Kids Night Out at Samford Pool	Samford Pool closed on AU home football games
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. 50+ Bingo & Lunch Library Board 4 p.m. Fake News and Social Media Panel 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole 6:55 p.m. City Council 7 p.m.	Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m. Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m. Gamer's Society 4 p.m. Water Works Board 4 p.m. Fall Sundown Concert 6-7:30 p.m.		STEM Storytime 10 a.m. Fall Family Fun Day 10 a.m.-2p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Baby Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bike Committee 7 p.m. APRD Monthly Market 4:30-6:30 p.m.	Fiber Friends 9:30 a.m. Toddler Time 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Preschool Storytime 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Adult Coloring Club 10 a.m. Gamer's Society 4 p.m. Fall Sundown Concert 6-7:30 p.m.		STEM Storytime 10 a.m. Samford Pool closed on AU home football games

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