

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

December 2018

City Council

Ron Anders, Jr., Mayor
(334) 703-9000
randers@auburnalabama.org

Connie Fitch Taylor, Ward 1
(334) 734-2777
ctaylor@auburnalabama.org

Kelley Griswold, Ward 2
(256) 975-8183
kgriswold@auburnalabama.org

Beth Witten, Ward 3
(334) 740-8575
bwitten@auburnalabama.org

Brett Smith, Ward 4
(334) 740-8847
basmith@auburnalabama.org

Steven Dixon, Ward 5
(334) 444-6238
sdixon@auburnalabama.org

Bob Parsons, Ward 6
(334) 559-9015
bparsons@auburnalabama.org

Jay Hovey, Ward 7
(334) 319-6654
jhovey@auburnalabama.org

Tommy Dawson, Ward 8
(334) 559-3021
tdawson@auburnalabama.org

Open Line is produced by the

Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
(334) 501-7260



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City of Auburn

Introducing your new Auburn City Council

In October, 8,362 Auburn residents turned out to choose their next representatives on the Auburn City Council in the 2018 Municipal Runoff Election. Ron Anders, Jr. was sworn in as Auburn's new mayor on Nov. 5 along with eight other elected council members, two of which were incumbents. The following individuals will serve as Auburn's 2018-2022 City Council:

Mayor: Ron Anders, Jr.

Ward 1: Connie Fitch Taylor

Ward 2: Kelley Griswold

Ward 3: Beth Witten (uncontested incumbent)

Ward 4: Brett Smith

Ward 5: Steven Dixon

Ward 6: Bob Parsons

Ward 7: Jay Hovey

Ward 8: Tommy Dawson (incumbent)



More information about your new council members will follow in future editions of Open Line. There are many ways to communicate with your City Council. Contact information for each council person is listed in the sidebar on the left and on the City's website at auburnalabama.org/CC. If you're not sure which council member represents you, find out by entering your address in the City Services bar at the bottom of auburnalabama.org and clicking "Search."

Upcoming holiday schedules

City Hall and most City facilities will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, in observance of Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas Day and Tuesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. **Public Safety services** including police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. **Garbage, trash and recycling pickup** routes will be adjusted during both weeks as follows:

Week of Dec. 24-28

Monday, Dec. 24	Monday's route
Tuesday, Dec. 25	HOLIDAY
Wednesday, Dec. 26	Tuesday's route
Thursday, Dec. 27	Wednesday's route
Friday, Dec. 28	Thursday's route

Week of Dec. 31-Jan. 4

Monday, Dec. 31	Monday's route
Tuesday, Jan. 1	HOLIDAY
Wednesday, Jan. 2	Tuesday's route
Thursday, Jan. 3	Wednesday's route
Friday, Jan. 4	Thursday's route

The **Auburn Public Library** will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 and will be closed on Dec. 24, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Book drops will remain open, and the online collection of e-books, e-audiobooks and digital magazines are always available.

The **Yarbrough Tennis Center** will be open from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Dec. 26 and 31 and will be closed on Dec. 24, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The **Dean Road Recreation Center** will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1. The **Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center** will be closed on Dec. 24-28 for the holiday and building maintenance and will be closed on Jan. 1.

Renew your business license by February

Any business providing services or selling goods within Auburn city limits, including a home-based business, is required to have a City of Auburn business license. City business licenses for 2018 expire on Dec. 31 and must be renewed by Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, to avoid late fees.

All current business license holders will receive renewal packets in late December. Any business that does not receive its renewal packet by Dec. 31 should contact the Revenue Office to verify its mailing address and request another packet. The City Revenue Office is located in City Hall at 144 Tichenor Ave. Business hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. except City holidays. For more information, visit auburnalabama.org/revenue/business-licenses or contact the Revenue Office at (334) 501-7239 or revenue@auburnalabama.org.

Water services rate to increase in January

On Oct. 18, 2018, Auburn Water Works Board approved a slight rate increase for water services effective for bills sent to customers beginning in January 2019. For most residential customers (3/4" meters), the change is as follows:

Per 1K Gals	Current Rate	Rate Eff. Jan. 1, 2019	Increase per 1K Gals
First 3K gals	\$4.86	\$5.25	\$0.39
Over 3K gals	\$3.86	\$4.17	\$0.31

The average residential water usage is 5,000 gallons per month. The charge for water on the average bill will increase from \$22.30 to \$24.09, an increase of \$1.79. Additional information about water rates is available on the City of Auburn's website at auburnalabama.org/wro or by calling the Utility Billing Office at (334) 501-3050.

Donations for Auburn Toy Drive accepted through Dec. 7



Want to be part of making a child's Christmas brighter? Remember to donate a gift to Auburn Public Safety's annual toy drive! Bring an unwrapped toy to any Auburn

Fire Division station or either Auburn Police Division precinct by Dec. 7. Thanks to the generosity of Life Storage, donations can also be dropped off at their two locations at 2020 S. College St. and 1231 Gatewood Drive.

Donations will be placed into age-appropriate categories with delivery scheduled for the week before Christmas. No monetary donations can be accepted, but any purchased gift is greatly appreciated. Let's help make a difference in the lives of these children! Call (334) 501-3117 for more information.

Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan receives award



The City of Auburn Planning Department has been awarded the Outstanding Planning Award for a Plan or Planning Program for the Northwest

Auburn Neighborhood Plan by the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association. The City was recognized for this achievement at the State Chapter's 2018 Annual Conference on Oct. 11 in Oxford, Mississippi. The newest member of the Planning Department staff, Jay Howell, also received the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Planning Student at the conference, having been nominated by the Planning Program faculty at Auburn University.

This is the fifth major award the Planning Department has received in the last 10 years and is a testament to the thorough and persistent work of Planning Department staff members. The department collaborated with area residents, business owners and organizations to develop a plan that fits the needs of the community and provides a clear roadmap for revitalization.

Find more about the plan at auburnalabama.org/future/northwest-auburn-neighborhood-plan and auburnalabama.org/facts/northwest-auburn-plan.

Recycling tips for the holiday season

As you clean up after this holiday season, keep in mind the many ways the City of Auburn can help you make less of an impact on our environment.

1) Recycling your Christmas tree is as easy as placing it at the curb. The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department will collect and recycle Christmas trees during customers' weekly curbside collections.

2) Don't forget to recycle the boxes from your gifts this holiday season. Cardboard boxes and gift boxes are included in our curbside recycling program and may be recycled at the Recycling Drop-Off Center at 365-A N. Donahue Drive. Please break down all boxes before placing them for recycling.

3) Before frying or baking those hams and turkeys this season, pick up a free container from the Recycling Drop-Off Center to recycle the used cooking oil rather than pouring it down the drain. Though it may seem harmless, letting grease and cooking oil run down the drain is the main cause of sewer back-ups. Instead, simply pour any used, cooled cooking oil into a leak-proof container and bring it to the Drop-off Center or place it by the curb for recycling. To schedule a free, curbside grease recycling pickup, call the Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3069.

Alfred J. Davis, Sr. leads new Community Services Department



In July, Alfred J. Davis, Sr. was appointed as the City of Auburn's first Community Services director. Though he is new to the position, Davis isn't new to the City or its community development efforts.

Davis returned to the City after a substantial career in local government and economic development that has its roots in Auburn. Davis became acquainted with the City's operations during his time as a master's student in political science at Auburn University. He interned with the City and completed his thesis on Auburn's wastewater treatment systems. During his last summer at Auburn University, he interned with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington D.C. and accepted a position as a program analyst with the EPA after graduation.

A year later in 1987, Davis returned to Alabama when he accepted an opportunity to become the City of Auburn's first assistant to the Public Safety director. Soon after, he transferred to the City's Economic Development Department as a community development officer where he managed the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Four years later, he became the City's first Environmental Services director. After 12 years of building the new department, Davis moved to North Carolina to become the City of Durham's Solid Waste Management director.

Davis became the City of Tuskegee's first city manager following the city's transition to a council-manager form of government in 2005. He went on to serve as the executive director of Central Alabamaworks in 2013. He became the director of workforce development for Southern Union in 2017 and served there until returning to the City in July.

"I wouldn't have left Southern Union for any other reason," Davis said of his opportunity to return to the City. "We've always had a strong council here, but in addition to that, we've always had an excellent management team. Very professional, very skilled and it's unique. I've been in a number of organizations that had good people, but this one is clearly outstanding in terms of its management team."

As Community Services director, Davis is responsible for the operation of the City's CDBG program, including housing rehabilitation, construction of new affordable housing, reconstructing substandard houses and demolishing dilapidated structures. Davis also administers the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, micro-loans and manages the Minority Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise activities.

Previously a division within the Economic Development Department, Auburn's City Manager created the Community Services Department in early 2018 to help enhance the City's neighborhood development and improvement program and further the impact of the CDBG program.

"Our work is a critical part of what the City of Auburn does," Davis said. "What we do directly impacts people's daily lives. By Community Services having its own identity and place, we're able to put that much more focus on what we do and the services we provide."

Along with the organizational move, Community Services relocated to and now manages the Boykin Community Center at 400 Boykin St. With the new fitness center and the upcoming addition of Auburn University Health Care Clinic and Education Center, the center is transforming from a recreation center into a true community center with a variety of resources for residents of Auburn.

Moving forward, the department will be a vital part in implementing the Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan and overseeing the second phase of renovations to the Boykin Community Center in addition to its annual CDBG duties. In 2019, Davis and his team plan to engage residents in a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities and HUD funding priorities.

In the meantime, Davis invited the community to stop by Community Services and visit the new Boykin Community Center. He can be contacted at (334) 501-7280 or adavis@auburnalabama.org.



DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

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



City of Auburn

Auburn Public Library
auburnalabama.org/ill
(334) 501-3178

City Meeting Schedule
auburnalabama.org
(334) 501-7269

Parks and Recreation
auburnalabama.org/parks
(334) 501-7230

View our online edition of
Open Line at
auburnalabama.org/
openline

STEM Storytime
10am

Polar Express Holiday Celebration
9am, 10am and 2:30 pm

James C. Buxton, III
City Manager
501-7261
jbuxton@auburnalabama.org

Inspection Services
John Hoar, Director
501-3170
jhoar@auburnalabama.org

Kevin A. Cowper
Assistant City Manager, COO
501-7262
kcowper@auburnalabama.org

Auburn Public Library
Chris Warren, Director
501-3190
cwarren@auburnalabama.org

STEM Storytime
10am

Jingle Jox 5k and Santa Stroll Fun Run
7am-4 pm,
7am-2:30 pm.

Community Services
Alfred Davis, Director
501-7280
adavis@auburnalabama.org

Municipal Court
Jim McLaughlin, Judge
501-3180
jmcLaughlin@auburnalabama.org

Puppet Shows
10:30 A.M. & 3:30 pm
Tue-Competition 1:30 a.m.

Development Services
Megan McGowen-Crouch,
Executive Director
501-7380
mmcgowen@auburnalabama.org

Parks and Recreation
Rebecca O. Richardson, Director
501-2930
broharrison@auburnalabama.org

STEM Storytime
10am

Economic Development
Phillip Dunlap, Director
501-7270
pdunlap@auburnalabama.org

Planning
Forrest E. Cotten, Director
501-3040
fcotten@auburnalabama.org

STEM Storytime
10am

Engineering Services
Alison Frazier, Director
501-7390
afrazier@auburnalabama.org

Public Safety
William H. James, Director
501-3110
bjames@auburnalabama.org

STEM Storytime
10am

Environmental Services
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3080
twoody@auburnalabama.org

Public Works
Scott Cummings, Director
501-3000
scummings@auburnalabama.org

STEM Storytime
10am

Finance
Penny Smith, Director
501-7221
psmith@auburnalabama.org

Water Resource Management
Eric A. Carson, Director
501-3060
ecarson@auburnalabama.org

STEM Storytime
10am

Human Resources
Steven A. Reeves, Director
501-7240
sreeves@auburnalabama.org

Public Affairs
David D. Dorton, Director
501-7266
ddorton@auburnalabama.org

STEM Storytime
10am

Information Technology
Greg Nelson, Director
501-7208
gnelson@auburnalabama.org

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501-7208
gnelson@auburnalabama.org

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MANAGEMENT TEAM

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Daddy Daughter Date Night
Tickets go on sale online at 8 a.m.

Baby Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board 1:45 a.m.
Committee of the Whole 6:55 a.m.
City Council 7 p.m.

Toddler Time
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Board of Fostering Adjustment 4:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime
9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Gamer's Society 4-6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission 5 p.m.

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