Is your home or property located within a stream buffer? Since Auburn has over 450 miles of streams within its city limits, it is very likely that your home or property is near a stream. Because Auburn is situated on a natural plateau, most of our local streams are smaller “headwater” tributaries that form the beginning of larger, more well-known waterbodies like the Tallapoosa River, the Alabama River and eventually the Mobile Bay.

While our local streams are relatively small, they play a vital role in our ecosystems and provide habitat for fish, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates and other wildlife. In addition, these small local streams are a source of high-quality drinking water as they enter Chewacla Creek and form Lake Ogletree, the City of Auburn’s principal drinking water source. Due to the important nature of these local waters, the Auburn City Council adopted a Stream Buffer Ordinance in 2006 to provide protection for our streams.

WHAT IS A STREAM BUFFER AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
Stream buffers are natural areas adjacent to streams that remain free of development to protect water quality and prevent property loss caused by erosion. Vegetated stream buffers filter many contaminants found in stormwater that are carried along the ground surface during storms. Trees, shrubs and grasses within these buffers slow down stormwater runoff and promote infiltration. Infiltration replenishes groundwater levels and reduces the amount of stormwater that makes it to the stream channel. Less water in the stream channel during storms helps reduce bank erosion and subsequent property loss.

HOW IS THE SIZE OF A STREAM BUFFER DETERMINED?
The width of the stream buffer depends on the drainage area at the point of interest. For example, larger streams that drain areas greater than 1 square mile are provided a buffer width up to 100 feet from the top of the bank on each side of the stream. Smaller streams that drain 100 acres or less are provided 35 feet of buffer width on each side of the stream. While the nearest 25 feet adjacent to all streams must remain undisturbed, the ordinance does allow for some uses within the outer buffer zones. The complete ordinance with buffer widths and zones can be found in Article IV, Section 413 of the City of Auburn’s Zoning Ordinance (auburnalabama.org/planning/development-services/zoning-ordination).

CONTINUED ON PG. 2
Participants are welcome with parent or guardian. This event is FREE and open to the public.

Zumba is a Latin dance-based exercise program that combines dancing with an aerobic workout. It might become your new favorite workout! Instructors will take turns leading in various styles - check! Awesome instructors who can get you dancing and will take turns leading in various styles and levels of Zumba moves - check! Join us for Zumbathon 2022 on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Boykin Community Center gymnasium from 8:30-10 a.m. Come dressed in your Mardi Gras colors and be ready to dance (and sweat)!

The event will be held via Zoom, and registration is required. Find more details at auburnalabama.org/library.

Renew your business license by Feb. 15

If you own a business in Auburn, remember that your 2021 City of Auburn business license expired Dec. 31, 2021. Business licenses are renewable online beginning Jan. 1, 2022, by visiting auburnalabama.org and clicking the PAY icon.

If this is the first time you are using our Citizen Self Service portal, you must first register your account and contact the Revenue Office to link your business license account to your registered username (instructions are available online). If you cannot renew online, contact the Revenue Office at revenue@auburnalabama.org or (334) 501-7239 for further assistance.

Please note, the last day to renew the 2022 business license is on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Book club visitor: An evening with Jamie Clevenger

Award-winning author, Jamie Clevenger, will join the Reader’s Review Virtual Book Club on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 5:30 p.m. for fun discussion about books, writing and romance! Jaime writes LGBTQ+ Contemporary Romance fiction. She loves to hear a good tale and is often running late because she’s convinced someone to share their life story. Bonus points if you happen to be living in a small town where everyone knows everyone.

The event will be held via Zoom, and registration is required. Find more details at auburnalabama.org/library.

Follow the Auburn Public Library on social media

The Auburn Public Library now has its own Facebook and Instagram accounts! We’re excited to welcome them to the City’s family of social media channels, allowing you to better connect with the library and the expansion of resources and programs it has to offer. Follow along to learn about upcoming library events, the latest additions to the library’s collection and a variety of tips to help match you with the resources you need.

Check out the new accounts @COALibrary on Instagram and search “Auburn Public Library” on Facebook. Library staff are excited to connect and engage with you through social media, and as always, you can call 334-501-3190 to speak with library staff, text 334-500-4075 for curbside pickup, or email weblibrary@auburnalabama.org. Happy reading!

HOW MANY ROOMMATES MAY I HAVE?

There are three zoning districts in Auburn that limit to two the number of unrelated individuals living in a single dwelling. Those districts are Neighborhood Conservation (NC), Limited Development District (LDD) and Development District Housing (DDH). All other zoning districts allow up to five unrelated occupants.

FIND OUT IF THESE LIMITATIONS AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY

VISIT WEBGIS.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/RESIDENTIALOCCUPANCYLIMITS FOR AN INTERACTIVE MAP OR CONTACT THE CITY OF AUBURN INSPECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT (334) 501-3170 OR WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG
Programs & events are subject to change. Find up-to-date information at auburnalabama.org.