

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

June 2016

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
(334) 559-8804
bham@auburnalabama.org

Clemon Byrd, Ward 1
(334) 332-8283
clemonbyrd2014@yahoo.com

Ron Anders Jr., Ward 2
(334) 703-9000
ronanders2020@gmail.com

Beth Witten, Ward 3
(334) 740-8575
blueturtlebeth@gmail.com

Brent Beard, Ward 4
(334) 821-4302
brent@alabamacontractsales.com

Lynda Tremaine, Ward 5
(334) 329-8878
ltremaine@charter.net

Dick Phelan, Ward 6
(334) 887-2071
dickphelan@yahoo.com

Gene Dulaney, Ward 7
(334) 887-7908
(334) 466-3191
gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Tommy Dawson, Ward 8
(334) 559-3021
tdawson65@outlook.com

Open Line
A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7260
fax: 334-501-7299

web:
www.auburnalabama.org

email:
openline@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn



Auburn's ISO Fire Rating Improves

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) recently released a new Public Protection Classification (PPC) for the City of Auburn, rating the effectiveness of local fire protection. The new report improves the City's rating from a Class 3/9, assigned in 2008, to a Class 2/2X.

The first part of the rating (Class 2) applies to structures within 5 miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a water source, such as a fire hydrant. The second part of the rating (2X) applies to structures within 5 miles of a fire station, but farther than 1,000 feet from a water source. The Class 2 designation puts the City of Auburn in the top 2.4% of the nation for fire protection.

In addition to providing information on the quality of our Fire service, an important role the ISO rating plays is to help insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates. According to the ISO:

"a community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Statistical data ... bears out the relationship between excellent fire protection - as measured by the PPC program - and low fire losses. So, insurance companies use PPC information for marketing, underwriting, and to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC grade is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC grade."

ISO looks at many factors when assigning a rating, including distribution of fire stations, manpower, water supply and communications capabilities. The Auburn Fire Division seeks to reduce fire losses in a number of additional ways not measured by the ISO including strong code enforcement and routine fire inspections of existing buildings. Losses are also minimized through excellent response times. In 2015, the Auburn Fire Division had an average response time of less than four minutes for 4,959 calls.

Staff from the Fire Division and the Information Technology Department's GIS Division have worked together to develop and maintain a system of response zones and "fastest route" calculations to assist in responding to calls efficiently. Similarly, the Auburn Interactive Growth Model is used to estimate Auburn's growth to help plan for future fire stations and maintain Auburn's excellent ISO rating. Finally, the Water Resource Management department manages a well-maintained, high-quality water infrastructure that is a crucial part of fire protection.

Of the rating improvement, Auburn Fire Chief John Lankford made the following statement:

"The Fire Division's goal is to continually improve the level of response to the citizens we serve."

"I am proud to announce that the Auburn Fire Division has improved its ISO rating. This rating was improved through several very important factors. First was the City Council's support by committing to the purchase of new apparatus and equipment. Our entire staff is dedicated to the mission of providing quality emergency services, and much of the criteria

for this rating is directly related to the great work and dedication the firefighters have to daily training, quick and efficient response times, and to providing the best service possible. Additionally our Communications Division score improved and the Water Resource Management Department was vital in their role in fire protection. The Fire Division's goal is to continually improve the level of response to the citizens we serve."

"In 2015, the Auburn Fire Division had an average response time of less than four minutes for 4,959 calls."

Educational Kiosk installed at Auburn Public Library

The Alabama Clean Water Partnership, a statewide non-profit organization focused on stormwater education, has teamed up with the Auburn Public Library to place an educational, touch screen computer kiosk programmed with fun, water-related educational games at the Library. The Water Cycle, Watersheds, Stormwater Pollution, and Nutrient Enrichment are topics highlighted through kiosk games, meant to educate all ages.

Sabrina Clark Wood, Tallapoosa River Basin Facilitator for the Alabama Clean Water Partnership said, "We are excited to partner with the Library! This is a great opportunity for the Clean Water Partnership to be involved with local youth to help share the importance of water quality and specifically pollutants that can be harmful. Drop by the library, bring your children or grandchildren and visit the kiosk soon."

The kiosk was installed by the Alabama Clean Water Partnership in partnership with the Auburn Public Library, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, and Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education, St. Paul, MN. To learn more about our watersheds, visit www.CleanWaterPartnership.org.



2016 Summer Pool Season

Splash into summer at Auburn City Pools! We've got an action-packed summer of fun for everyone during this 2016 Summer Pool Season. There are numerous classes and special events offered on a weekly basis all summer for any water enthusiast!

Learning to swim is made simple with our two-week classes for ages six months to 15 years. Our instructors work with small classes to ensure plenty of one-on-one time with students, as well as a safe environment. We also offer adult classes for ages 16 and older. If you have always wanted to learn to swim, but never had the time, now is your chance! Interested in taking private lessons? Our Aquatics Program Specialist will match you with a swim instructor no matter your level of ability. In addition to swimming lessons, Auburn City Pools offer Scuba, Learn to Dive and Water Workout for Women. For more information about any of our classes, including details on fees and class schedules, please visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/pools.

Our special events calendar for the summer kicks off at Samford Pool with the first Float-N-Movie of the season: Inside Out! Bring your favorite inflatable from home, as none will be provided, and join us for a family movie under the stars while relaxing and floating in the pool or hanging out on the pool deck! Doors open at 8:15 p.m.; the movie will begin at 8:30; and doors will close at 8:45 p.m. Join us on Friday, June 24 for our first Friday Night Splash at Samford Pool from 6 – 8 p.m.! Enjoy free swim, gator in the diving well, a cookout, music and more! Admission for all special events is FREE with Splash Pass or \$2 per person. For more information about any of our special events, or about the 2016 Pool Season, please visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/pools or call (334) 501 – 2957.



911 Facts and Tidbits

Did You Know?

- The first 9-1-1 call made in the United States was in Haleyville, AL in 1968.
- The City of Auburn 9-1-1 Center handled almost 140,000 total phone calls in 2015.
- Auburn 9-1-1 operators use devices called TTY/TDD to communicate with callers who may be deaf or speech impaired.
- You should never make prank calls to 9-1-1. Not only is it against the law, you could be tying up the line for someone who has an actual emergency.
- The City of Auburn adopted 9-1-1 as the emergency number in 1988.
- Always be able to tell the operator your exact location when dialing 9-1-1, especially when using a cellphone.
- A deactivated cellphone can still be used to dial 9-1-1. Young children should be supervised when allowed to play with old cellphones to avoid accidentally dialing 9-1-1.
- Auburn 9-1-1 uses a service called LanguageLine to assist operators with interpretation of over 200 foreign languages during 9-1-1 phone calls.
- Citizens that subscribe to a VOIP service are encouraged to keep the home address of the account up to date to ensure 9-1-1 calls are routed to the proper authorities.
- If you dial 9-1-1 by mistake, please stay on the line to inform the operator it was an accident. This will avoid an unnecessary response of emergency personnel to your address.



10th Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk

Chocolate chip and peanut butter, snickerdoodles and sugar! Cookies of all shapes and sizes, colors and flavors, are welcome at the 10th Annual SummerNight Downtown Art Walk. Hosted by the Auburn Arts Association, City of Auburn / Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities and Auburn Downtown Merchants Association, SummerNight will be held on Friday, June 10 in downtown Auburn from 6 – 10 p.m. In celebration of its tenth year, the SummerNight Committee invites all local culinary artists to submit their best and tastiest cookies for our Cookie Contest!

Festivities will begin at 5 p.m. at the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities with crafts for our first ever kick-off parade – the Cookie Walk! Participants are encouraged to dress in your best cookie-related attire and bring bikes, strollers, wagons to decorate, along with plenty of other crafts to carry in our parade. The Cookie Walk will begin at 6 p.m. and we will make our way from the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities to Toomer's Corner to officially begin SummerNight 2016!

Come early and stay late! SummerNight features favorites like children's activities, live musical entertainment, street performers and food and drink vendors. Local and regional artists will be exhibiting and selling their work and downtown merchants and restaurants will also be open throughout this Downtown Entertainment District Event. This event is free and open to the public and will be held rain or shine. Streets will close at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please visit us online at www.auburnsummernight.org or call the SummerNight Headquarters at (334) 501 – 2963.



Board Vacancies

Two vacancies for the **Planning Commission** will be announced at the June 21, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the July 19, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Two vacancies for the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be announced at the June 21, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the July 19, 2016 City Council Meeting.

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



American Society of Civil Engineers Service Project Award

A group of Auburn University Civil Engineering students won first place in a service project competition at a recent American Society of Civil Engineers Southeast Student Chapter conference in Tuscaloosa. The project involved the construction of a wetlands area for storm water control on the property that the City recently purchased on North Donahue Drive at Saughatchee Creek. The project also included an educational component for the public. Congratulations to our student partners and to Watershed Manager Dan Ballard for his efforts in mentoring them on this project.



MEETING SCHEDULE JUNE

- 1 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 3 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 7 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
- 9 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 14 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
- 21 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
- 23 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.

City Management

Charles M. Duggan, Jr.
501-7261
City Manager
cduggan@auburnalabama.org

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

James C. Buston, III
501-7201
Assistant City Manager/CIO
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Works Department
Jeffery L. Ramsey, Director
501-3000
jramsey@auburnalabama.org

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

Auburn City Schools
Karen DeLano, Superintendent
887-2100
ktdelano@auburnschools.org

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 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

For information on library programs, please call 501-3198.

Summer Reading is here! Please stop by the library to register for the Summer Reading Program beginning May 21.

To celebrate Summer Reading, we will be hosting programs each Wednesday at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.:

Wednesday, June 1 - Movie: Inside Out. Join us for a movie and refreshments.

Wednesday, June 8 - Get in the Game! Get-in-the-Game! - This outdoor event will support the sports theme with special guests, games, and crafts.

Wednesday, June 15 - Animal Tales, LLC, featuring "Nature's Olympians" - Baby Red Kangaroo, Saker Falcon, Egyptian Fruit Bat, Brazilian Rainbow Boa, Norway Rat

Wednesday, June 22 - Southeastern Raptor Center; War Eagle!

Wednesday, June 29 - Get-in-the-Game! - This outdoor event will support the sports theme with special guests, games, and crafts.

STORYTIME

Baby Time - Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Fractured Fairytales - Tuesday, June 6 at 3:30 p.m.

SPECIAL CLASS

Starting a Business in Lee County, Alabama - Tuesday, June 13 at 12 noon until 3 p.m. - An interactive three hour course on how to start your own business in Lee County, Alabama and the State of Alabama as a whole. The course will be presented by Brett A. Smith, MPA, JD, LLM, a partner with Huff Smith Law, LLC.

BOOK CLUBS

Show and Tell - Monday, June 20 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library

Forever Young Adult - Tuesday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread on Opelika Road featuring Dimplin' by Julie Murphy

Read & Reflect - Tuesday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at the Harris Senior Center, featuring All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Parks and Recreation

For more information on any of the events listed, or to register for a program, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 or visit auburnalabama.org/parks.

Save the Date! - Mark your calendar and don't miss out on these important dates with Auburn Parks and Recreation during the month of June:

• **Summer Quarter Registration** ends on Tuesday, May 31.

• **ACTA First Friday Mixer** will be Friday, June 3 at 6 p.m. at the Yarbrough Tennis Center. For more information, please email auburncta@yahoo.com.

• **Auburn Thunder Soccer Camp/Tryouts/Registration** will begin on Monday, May 2. Registration for **Soccer Rising Tiger** ends on Friday, May 27. **Advanced Tryout Registration** will be from April 25 - June 3 at the Harris Center. **Auburn Thunder Advanced Tryouts** will be June 6 - June 8, with a make-up day on Monday, June 13. For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/athletics.

• **Adult Summer Kickball League** registration will end on Tuesday, June 7. A coaches meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at the Auburn Softball Complex. The season begins on Wednesday, June 15. For registration information, including details on fees and game schedules, please visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/athletics.

• **Adult Summer Softball League** registration will end on Tuesday, June 7. A coaches meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at the Auburn Softball Complex and the season will begin on Tuesday, June 14. For registration information, including details on fees and game schedules, please visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/athletics.

• **Annual Fourth of July Celebration**, sponsored by Briggs and Stratton and Auburn Parks and Recreation, will be Monday, July 4 from 6 - 9 p.m. at Duck Samford Park. Join us for great food, live music, free goodies, courtesy of Briggs and Stratton, the best fireworks display in the Auburn area! For more information, including details on parking and a schedule of events, please visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks or call (334) 501 - 2930.

7th Annual Day in Clay - Spend the afternoon at the Dean Road Ceramics Studio during the 7th Annual Day in Clay on Saturday, June 25 from 1 - 4 p.m. Bring the whole family, explore the studio and enjoy beverages and refreshments, all while watching demonstrations from studio members. Visitors who want to have the experience of working in clay can pay \$10 per person and participate in either an adult or kids project. All projects are taught by Dean Road Ceramics Studio instructors and will be held at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Space is limited for those interested in creating with clay, so please stop by the Harris Center weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. to reserve your spot! For more information, please contact Cari Cleckler, Art Education Specialist, at (334) 501 - 2944 or cleckler@auburnalabama.org.

JDCAC presents... Mark your calendar! Beginning May 16 through June 30, the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will host the 18th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, a competitive exhibition open to regional artists and craftspersons. Exhibitions are free and open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, please call the Arts Center at (334) 501 - 2963 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts.