

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2020

City Council

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

Connie Fitch Taylor, Ward 1
(334) 704-3970
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) 707-3091
sdixon@auburnalabama.org

Bob Parsons, Ward 6
(334) 704-3657
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



@CityofAuburnAL

web:
www.auburnalabama.org

email:
openline@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn

Veggie Trails: Public Works brings garden to community center



What was once an empty stretch of grass on the Boykin Community Center campus is now an area full of life. Recently converted into a garden for tenants at the center, the former lawn now boasts a path lined with 10 raised garden beds sprouting tomatoes, summer squash and bell peppers, among other vegetables and fruit.

The garden, affectionately named "Veggie Trails," will be nurtured by the tenants of Boykin, including Auburn Day Care Centers, Joyland Child Development Center, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County-Auburn Unit and the Auburn Senior Center. Tenants will use the produce harvested to serve their individual purposes and missions, and the raised beds will be used as teaching gardens for the children attending day care.

The idea for the gardens started when Community Services Director Al Davis saw an untapped resource in four large rainwater collection cisterns that we received as part of a grant from Auburn University. The cisterns weren't in use, and Al saw an opportunity to utilize them to supply an irrigation system so



that little to no external water is needed for the plants.

"It just made sense that we should take advantage of them, and we had been talking with the tenants about how we can create more opportunities for outdoor classroom activities," he said.

Our Public Works Department then got to work on designing, planning and custom-building each aspect of the garden, with the project being managed by the Landscape and Sustainability Division. The division soon involved staff from the Traffic Engineering Division of the Engineering Services Department and the Construction Division of the Public Works Department. Together, employees used sustainable practices and innovative designs to create a 10-bed garden.

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Veggie Trails (continued)

The project is one that showcases the many talents of City employees. Teams worked to reduce material waste and increase the durability of the beds by modifying them from their original design. An irrigation system was created to optimize the use of the collected rainwater. Staff also built a one-of-a-kind entry gate, saving money and allowing employees to tap into their creative skills. Surrounding the garden's perimeter is a custom 4-foot-tall split rail fence, which employees designed and constructed to increase the durability of the fence post and facilitate future maintenance and access.

"I am most impressed with the crew's creativity and adaptive solutions to problem solving," said Dan Ballard, Landscape and Sustainability Division manager. "They were able to operate with very limited guidance and construction details and have created a space that is nearly identical to the project vision that was described to them. Not only did they create a unique, functional space, they did so using sustainable solutions and design alterations that made for efficient use of materials and resulted in material costs savings."

A grand-opening event will be planned to celebrate the new garden at a later date. To learn more about the Boykin Community Center and the Community Services Department, visit auburnalabama.org/community-development.

Holiday closures & schedules

Most City facilities will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. Police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. There will be no changes to garbage, trash and recycling pickup routes.

The Auburn Public Library will be closed on July 3 and 4. Book drops will remain open, and the online collection of e-books, e-audiobooks and digital magazines are always available at auburnalabama.org/library.



WE'RE OPEN.

Most city facilities have reopened and resumed their regular services.

FIND DETAILS AT
AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/CORONAVIRUS

Water Consumer Confidence Report

Each year, the Water Works Board of the City of Auburn (AWWB) distributes its Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report to notify customers about the quality and safety of their drinking water. This year's report is now available online at auburnalabama.org/water-resource-management/water-operations.

The report provides information about the contaminants that may be found in the City's drinking water and how these contaminants may affect customers' health. It is also an opportunity for you to learn about where your water comes from, how we treat it and how we get it to you, all while ensuring that we're in compliance with State and Federal laws.

A copy of the report has been mailed to all customers. Along with the digital copy available online, print copies will be available at the Bailey Alexander Water and Sewer Complex and various other public facilities in Auburn.

Those with questions may contact the Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3060 or webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org.



July CreativeBug Instagram Challenge

The Auburn Public Library is announcing the July CreativeBug Instagram Challenge! Did you know that the Auburn Public Library offers over 1,000 online art and crafting classes through CreativeBug? This July, we want to challenge you to learn to draw something new every day and to show off our progress on Instagram!

Every single day in the month of July, the Auburn Public Library will feature art created from the 31 Days of Drawing with Lisa Congdon CreativeBug Class. Follow along with us on Instagram @ CityofAuburnAL and post your drawings using #APLCreativeBugChallenge. In just one month, you will have 31 drawings under your belt and a community supporting your artistic endeavors. Happy Drawing!



Board vacancies

Two vacancies on the Auburn Planning Commission were announced at the May 19 Auburn City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 21 meeting. Applications will close on June 22 at 5 p.m. One vacancy on the Greenspace Advisory Board will be announced at the June 16 Auburn City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 21 meeting. Applications will close on July 13 at 5 p.m.

Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or to find more information about volunteering for one of our boards and commissions.

Back to School Sales Tax Holiday

The 2020 Back to School Sales Tax Holiday is set for July 17-19, allowing shoppers the chance to purchase certain items free of state and local sales tax. On May 19, the Auburn City Council approved an ordinance exempting specific items from the City's 4% sales tax, including: clothing, computers and computer software, school supplies and books.

For more information, view the tax holiday brochure at revenue.alabama.gov/sales-use/sales-tax-holidays or contact the City of Auburn Revenue Office at (334) 501-7239 or revenue@auburnalabama.org.

A new look for Workforce Development info

Technology is ever-changing. And that impacts more than just the latest trends in cell phones or entertainment. Technological shifts change the way that workplaces function, including those of our local industries. Because of this, our Workforce Development Division is adapting the way it operates to equip those looking for jobs and to connect industries with the highly trained workers they need.

Our Workforce Development Division is now guided by three primary goals:

- 1. Coordinated Efforts** - We're streamlining the planning and management of workforce development programs in our community.
- 2. Market Possibilities** - We're creating an understanding and awareness of the opportunities available in our industrial and business community.
- 3. Skilled Employee Development** - We're developing career pathways and training options to help members of our community move from a position of underemployment to having the skills and training they need to propel them further.

One realization of these strategies is the Auburn Training Connection, which provides a connection to our local industry base. Another is the partnerships we've cultivated with Auburn City Schools, Auburn University and Southern Union State Community College to create programs that match local businesses' needs. These partnerships have become a source for training, grant and hiring opportunities. We also established the Auburn Advanced Manufacturing Center. The center's goal is to develop advanced machining, metrology and industry 4.0 skills through a partnership with Auburn University and other training entities.

Beyond that, our Workforce Development Division has stood ready to help in the face of crises. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, staff developed the Workforce Action Center to help members of the workforce navigate changes in employment. The center also coordinated the Auburn Healthy Manufacturing Initiative for the City of Auburn Industrial Development Board.

During these busy times, staff realized it was hard to find information about programs and demographics about our local workforce. So, they overhauled the Workforce Development Division's area of the City of Auburn's website. The new look features areas for industrial employers to post available jobs, a training calendar, a list of state and local resources for workforce development, demographic information about Auburn's local workforce and information about our local companies.

As we continue to improve our capabilities and expand our reach, we invite you to check out auburnalabama.org/workforce today and see what you learn about our local workforce.

JULY UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Programs and events are subject to change. Please visit auburnalabama.org/coronavirus for up-to-date information on program and event cancellations.

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commerices Advisory Board 4 p.m. Ward 4 Meeting 5:30 p.m. @ Auburn Public Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m. Committee of the Whole 120 City Council 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Commission 11:30 a.m. 	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Commission 5 p.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Cook Park
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Works Board 4 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Council Agenda Review 4 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Town Cook Park
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GreenSpace Advisory Board 10 a.m. Library Board 5 p.m. Committee of the Whole 120 City Council 7 p.m. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Council Agenda Review 11 a.m. 	

MANAGEMENT TEAM

James C. Buston, III City Manager 501-3170 jbuston@auburnalabama.org	Inspection Services John Hoar, Director 501-3170 jhoar@auburnalabama.org
Megan McGowen Crouch Assistant City Manager, COO 501-7262 mmcgowen@auburnalabama.org	Auburn Public Library Chris Warren, Director 501-3190 cwarren@auburnalabama.org
Community Services Alfred Davis, Director 501-7280 adavis@auburnalabama.org	Municipal Court Jim McLaughlin, Judge 501-3180 jmclaughlin@auburnalabama.org
Development Services Scott Cummings Executive Director 501-7380 scummings@auburnalabama.org	Parks and Recreation Rebecca O. Richardson, Director 501-2930 brichardson@auburnalabama.org
Economic Development Phillip Dunlap, Director 501-7270 pdunlap@auburnalabama.org	Planning Forrest E. Cotten, Director 501-3040 fcotten@auburnalabama.org
Engineering Services Alison Frazier, Director 501-7390 afrazier@auburnalabama.org	Public Safety Paul Register, Director 501-3110 pregister@auburnalabama.org
Environmental Services Catrina Cook, Director 501-3080 ccook@auburnalabama.org	Public Works Timothy L. Woody, Director 501-3000 twoody@auburnalabama.org
Finance Allison Edge, Director 501-7233 aedge@auburnalabama.org	Water Resource Management Eric A. Carson, Director 501-3060 ecarson@auburnalabama.org
Human Resources Kristen Reeder, Director 501-7240 kreeder@auburnalabama.org	Public Affairs David D.orton, Director 501-7266 ddorton@auburnalabama.org
Information Technology Greg Nelson, CIO 501-7208 gnelson@auburnalabama.org	

