

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2020

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City of Auburn

Police chief to fill retiring public safety director's position



Bill James

Paul Register

Public Safety Director Bill James will retire on March 1 after 32 years of service with the City of Auburn. Auburn Police Chief Paul Register will succeed him as the City's next public safety director.

Register has been with the Auburn Police Division for 31 years. He has served in nine positions during his tenure, including assistant chief. He was appointed police chief in July 2013 after the retirement of former Chief Tommy Dawson.

"Paul has spent the last six years leading the Auburn Police Division to the highest

standards of excellence, and he has steadfastly and compassionately led our police force through challenges it has never before faced," said City Manager Jim Buston. "His professionalism and dedication to the safety of every Auburn resident is an invaluable asset. I look forward to the leadership he continues to bring to our team as he serves in this new position."

Register has a bachelor's and master's degree from Auburn University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. He is a member of the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police, the FBI National Academy Associates and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He also serves on the Law Enforcement Executive Board for the Middle District of Alabama, as well as the United Way and Child Advocacy Center boards.

"I have been blessed to have served the best citizens in the country for the last 31 years; the support this community has shown the Auburn Police Division during a difficult 2019 has been humbling," Register said. "I am thankful and honored to be given this additional opportunity to serve."

James began his career with the City of Auburn in 1987. He spent 16 years as the City's building official/codes enforcement division manager, and he has served as public safety director for the last 15 years.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my 32 years with the City of Auburn," James said. "I've been afforded so many opportunities to grow from the very beginning. It has been a very rewarding career, and I am thankful for the many great coworkers I have worked with over the years. I will miss those relationships but look forward to the next phase of my life."

"Bill is an exemplary model of a public servant, and I'm grateful to have served alongside him during his time with the City of Auburn," Buston said. "His leadership, guidance and expertise will be missed. I wish him all the best as he moves on to his next chapter."

To leash or not to leash?

Did you know that Auburn has a leash law? According to City Code, dog owners should keep their dogs “under restraint at all times” for the safety of both the dog and the community.

What exactly does that mean? A dog is considered “under restraint” when any one of the following conditions are in place:



1. The dog is confined in a building, fenced pen or fenced yard on its owner’s property or on the property of another person with their consent.
2. The dog is leashed.
3. The dog is tethered—in accordance with section 4-17—on its owner’s property or on the property of another person with the other person’s permission. The dog must be tethered so that it cannot access public property or other private property.
4. The dog, though not meeting any of the conditions above, is in a peaceful attitude on the property of its owner and is wearing rabies vaccination tags.

We have designated a couple dog parks in Auburn where well-behaved pups are allowed to be off-leash, including Kiesel Park and Town Creek Park. But, please note, dogs may only be allowed off leash if they are “under immediate and effective voice control” of their owners. Dogs who aren’t voice trained should be kept leashed for their safety and for the safety of those around it.

More details can be found at auburnalabama.org/environmental-services/animal-control. You can also review what the City Code says about the restraint and tethering of dogs at auburnalabama.org/city-code in Sections 4-16 and 4-17.

Trash Amnesty 2020

Ready to clear out the clutter in and around your home this spring? Trash Amnesty 2020 will take place March 16 through April 24, allowing Auburn residents to take care of spring cleaning without paying extra fees.

This will mark the 16th year the City of Auburn’s Environmental Services Department has provided a trash amnesty period. Three years ago, the City held the first Trash Amnesty Month as an extension of the weeklong amnesty period that the Auburn City Council had long-designated to waive collection fees for oversized yard debris and other bulky yard waste that exceeds five cubic yards.

Please follow these guidelines when taking advantage of Trash Amnesty 2020:

- Place debris at the curb no later than 6 a.m. on your regularly scheduled collection day.
- Place items at least 3 feet from mailboxes, utility boxes, poles or other fixed objects.
- All items should be contained or bundled so they do not fall into the street or down storm drains.
- The City will accept yard waste, appliances and bulky items for collection. Please do not include materials such as household garbage or hazardous waste.
- Limbs and other debris should be no longer than 5 feet.
- To facilitate recycling efforts, please separate all wood debris, including limbs and grass clippings, from metal items.

Because of the large volume of pickup expected during Trash Amnesty 2020, residents may experience a delay in their normal collection schedule. For questions, contact Environmental Services at (334) 501-3080 or webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org.



Author Visit: Patti Callahan Henry

Join us at the Auburn Public Library for an afternoon with Patti Callahan Henry. The author will discuss her book “Becoming Mrs. Lewis” as well as her other projects. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

Patti Callahan Henry is a New York Times best-selling author of 15 novels, including the historical fiction, “Becoming Mrs. Lewis—The Improbable Love Story of Joy Davidman and C.S. Lewis.” The book is now a USA TODAY, Publishers Weekly and The Globe and Mail bestseller.

Henry is also the host of the popular seven-part, original “Behind the Scenes of Becoming Mrs. Lewis Podcast Series” launched in October 2019.

A full-time author and mother of three children, she now resides in both Mountain Brook, Alabama, and Bluffton, South Carolina, with her husband.

APL no longer accepting physical donations



After careful consideration, the Auburn Public Library Board adopted a revision to its policies on gifts to the library. Beginning on Feb. 1, the library no longer accepts any donations of books, DVDs, CDs or other media.

Why a change?

While the library is grateful for all the donations it has received, the volume of donations has increased over the years in tandem with the community's growth. A considerable amount of staff time has gone into receiving, screening, sorting and boxing

these donations. The board believes the time spent processing donations could be better dedicated to assisting patrons, processing new materials or a number of other tasks that enhance the vitality of the library.

Many of the donations the library receives are in poor condition and are unsuitable for shelving or selling at the Friends of the Auburn Public Library's biannual BIG Book Sale. Additionally, the library has limited space for storage.

The BIG Book Sale

Most physical donations to the library have gone toward the Friends of the Auburn Public Library's BIG Book Sale. This spring, **the Friends will hold their final sale on March 28-30**. The Friends of the Auburn Public Library are now evaluating other fundraising opportunities to support the library that don't require the same intensive time and effort on the part of library staff and volunteers.

How can I support the library?

Patrons are still welcome to make monetary donations to the Friends of the Auburn Public Library or to make monetary gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones. For more information on how to support the Auburn Public Library, visit auburnalabama.org/library/support.

Bark in the Park to begin with Tails & Trails 3K

Grab your running shoes and your perfect running "pawtner" for a doggone good time at the first ever Tails & Trails 3K! Tails & Trails is the first annual 3K run where your dog can accompany you through the trails at Kiesel Park. The event will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 21.

Early bird registration will be open through Feb. 24 at auburnalabama.org/parks/register. Early bird registration is \$15 and guarantees runners a T-shirt. Day-of registration will also be available, but a limited number of T-shirts will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Those without a running "pawtner" of their own are invited to run with one of the Lee County Humane Society's adoptable dogs. Those interested must complete the humane society's Jog-a-Dog training before the race. Jog-a-Dog registration info is available at leecountyhumane.org/jog-a-dog, and adoptable dog running partners will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.


Tails & Trails will be followed by Bark in the Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. This FREE community event



is hosted by Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Lee County Humane Society and is open to all dog owners and their favorite four-legged friends. Visit a variety of educational booths, shop with local pet vendors and enjoy door prizes and dog-friendly activities all morning. Rescue dogs will be available for adoption as well. If you have a dog-related business or organization and are interested in being a vendor, please email gfilgo@auburnalabama.org.

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

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

1	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	<p>View our online edition of Open Line at auburnalabama.org/openline. Find an up-to-date meeting schedule at auburnalabama.org/boards- and-commissions/meeting-schedule.</p> <p>Auburn Public Library auburnalabama.org/library (334) 301-3198</p> <p>City Meeting Schedule auburnalabama.org (334) 301-7260</p> <p>Parks and Recreation auburnalabama.org/parks (334) 301-2930</p>  <p>City of Auburn</p>			

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