

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2020

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City of Auburn

2020 Census Deadline: It's not too late

There's a little more time left to make sure that all Auburn residents are counted in the 2020 Census. The self-response phase for the census will end on Sept. 30. If you haven't completed your Census questionnaire, STOP reading this and visit 2020census.gov now. Don't worry, we'll be here when you get back.

Through the end of September, Census workers will visit households that have not completed a form. Field staff can be identified by their Census Photo Identification and one or more of the following items:

- Laptop computer with a Census Bureau logo
- iPad with a Census Bureau logo
- iPhone with a Census Bureau logo
- A black canvass bag with a Census Bureau logo

(Please note, U.S. Census workers in the City of Auburn are not subject to the same requirements as other solicitors, which are listed in the "Door-to-door soliciting in Auburn" article later in this issue.)

The U.S. Census occurs once a decade to count the population, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats and redistricting and distributing more than \$674 billion in federal funds annually to support vital state, county and city programs. For each person who is counted, Alabama will receive \$1,567 per year for 10 years. This money goes toward programs that impact housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy. If the 2020 numbers are too low, Alabama could lose one of its seats in the U.S. Congress. This would mean less representation for Alabamians when it comes to nationwide policy decisions.

Please note that your data are confidential. Federal law protects your census responses, and your answers will only be used to produce statistics. By law, your information will not be shared with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies or be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.



Introducing the new Auburn Public Library director

After nearly 20 years with the City of Auburn, Assistant Library Director Tyler Whitten became the director of the Auburn Public Library on Sept. 1. Whitten took the place of former director Chris Warren who moved to serve as the library director for the Dothan Houston County Library System.

"The Auburn Public Library is a pillar in our community, and Tyler has played a large role in its success over the last 19 years," said City Manager Jim Buston. "I look forward to seeing him lead the Auburn Public Library into even more success as he steps into this new role."

Whitten holds a bachelor's degree in history from Jacksonville State University. He also has two master's degrees, one in history from Jacksonville State University and one in library and information studies from the University of Alabama.

Whitten began his career in libraries at the City of Auburn in 2001. He started out as a reference librarian where he assisted patrons and supervised the library on evenings and weekends. He also helped former director Margie Huffman move the library from its former location on Ross Street to its current home on Thach Avenue.

Three years into his time at the Auburn Public Library, Whitten was promoted to technical services coordinator. In this role, he supervised the migration from the library's previous automation system to its



current one, which gave patrons access to search the library's collections, place holds and renew items online for the first time. He also led the team that added eBooks to the library's offerings.

"Auburn quickly became my home, and serving this community that has meant so much to me, both professionally and personally, has become a lifelong passion," Whitten said.

Whitten served as assistant library director for the last 12 years, overseeing the daily operations of the library. He tackled everything from scheduling and resolving patron concerns to supervising and coaching library staff. Whitten also implemented the library's digital downloads service and wrote and secured competitive grants.

Looking forward, Whitten hopes to continue pushing the limits of library services, finding new ways to achieve excellence and responsiveness for the community.

"I'm looking forward to a future of firsts," Whitten said. "As the world changes and adapts to new circumstances, we must ensure that the library is available to our patrons in the ways that are meaningful and practical for them, whether that's through an email exchange or a conversation in the facility. My hope is that the Auburn Public Library and its staff will always be the resource our residents reach for when they need information, help with technology or inspiration in their learning and recreational adventures."

Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Our Environmental Services Department will host its biannual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Oct. 24. Auburn residents are invited to drop off materials from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Environmental Services Complex at 365-A N. Donahue Drive.

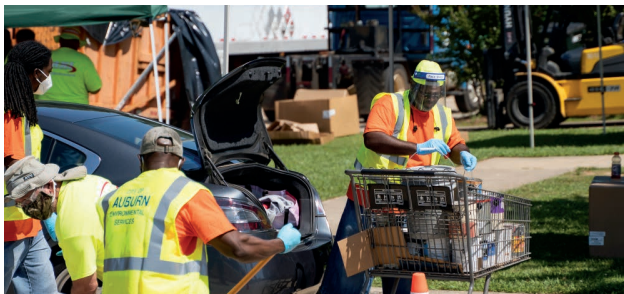
During the event, the department will accept hazardous waste not accepted in regular garbage and trash collection. Computers and electronics will be accepted as well as paper documents for secure, on-site shredding. Residents may bring up to 20 pounds

of material per household for disposal at no charge.

To help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, those participating in the event are asked to register ahead of time by filling out the form at auburnalabama.org/HHW. On the day of the event, participants should load the materials they wish to drop off in the trunk or rear of their vehicle. Participants should enter the Environmental Services Complex via North Donahue Drive.

Once participants have arrived, workers will remove the materials from vehicles. Participants are asked to stay in their vehicle and leave windows rolled up until instructed to do otherwise. Workers will be equipped with face masks and face shields, gloves and other gear to ensure all are protected during this time.

Participation is limited to Auburn residents, and proof of residency can be shown by bringing a recent water bill. A list of acceptable materials can be found at auburnalabama.org/environmental-services/household-hazardous-waste-collection-day.



Deputy Economic Development director appointed to Governor's commission



Our very own Deputy Economic Development Director Arndt Siepmann has been appointed to Gov. Kay Ivey's Alabama Innovation Commission. Arndt is one of 15 commission members that were handpicked to serve on Alabama's first statewide commission on entrepreneurship and innovation.

"Through the establishment of the Alabama Innovation Commission, I look forward to collaborating with our state's leading innovators to develop a long-term strategy to create a more resilient, inclusive and robust economy," Governor Ivey said. "Alabama has always had a rich tradition of developing technologies to move our state forward. Now more than ever, we must capitalize on future opportunities by engaging our state's trailblazers to discuss new ideas and policies that support entrepreneurship, economic development and jobs."

As deputy economic development director, Arndt has a long history of fostering innovation here in our community through efforts such as the Auburn Regional Launchpad competition and partnerships with the Auburn University Harbert College of Business. Arndt also started the City's Entrepreneurship and Technology program.

The commission will examine policies to increase entrepreneurship, spur innovation and enhance technology accelerators in Alabama. They also will produce and present a comprehensive innovation policy agenda to the Office of the Governor and the Alabama Legislature. We're grateful for the work Arndt has done for our community, and we look forward to the great work he will do for our state.

Fright Night at the Arboretum

Join our Parks and Recreation team and the Donald E. Davis Arboretum for Fright Night at the Arboretum on Friday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m.! The evening will begin with classic cartoons followed by the first feature, "Little Shop of Horrors" at 7 p.m. We'll finish the evening with "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at 9 p.m.

Patrons are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs, and concessions will be available for purchase. Parking will be available along Lem Morrison Drive, in the Poultry Science parking lot, along Garden Drive and in the Arboretum parking lot off of Garden Drive. Patrons are encouraged to carpool or walk. The event is FREE and open to the public. Please note, seating areas will be clearly marked to ensure social distancing.

Door-to-door soliciting in Auburn

Do you ever wonder if that door-to-door salesperson is legitimate? Under section 16-29 of the Auburn City Code, a solicitor must be registered with the City of Auburn prior to going door-to-door. Each registered solicitor must have a photo ID permit badge as evidence of having registered with the City's Revenue Office.

Solicitors are given the following guidelines by which to abide while they are conducting business in Auburn:

- If any home or neighborhood displays a "No Soliciting" placard, solicitors must discontinue any efforts to solicit and may not leave any literature concerning the solicitation at that residence or in that neighborhood.
- Any solicitor who is asked to leave any residence by the occupant shall immediately and peacefully depart.
- Every solicitor shall carry a permit in plain sight while soliciting within City limits. The same shall be visible about the body of said solicitor so as to be seen by any police officer or by any person who is solicited.

Solicitation is permitted during the following hours only:

- September through May: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- June through August: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays year-round: Noon to 6 p.m.

No door-to-door solicitation shall be conducted on City holidays. Please note, U.S. Census workers in the City of Auburn are not subject to the same requirements as other solicitors.

Board Vacancies

Three vacancies for the Tree Commission will be announced at the Sept. 15 Auburn City Council meeting and will be filled at the Oct. 20 meeting. Applications will close on Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or to find more information about volunteering for one of our 22 boards and commissions.



OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

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



City of Auburn

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

<p>1</p> <p>Auburn Public Library auburnalabama.org/library (334) 501-3198</p> <p>City Meeting Schedule auburnalabama.org (334) 501-7260</p> <p>Parks and Recreation auburnalabama.org/parks (334) 501-2930</p> <p>Fall Sandown Concert Series 5 p.m. @ Lewis Park</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Tree Commisation 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review floor</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Planning Commission Public Meeting floor</p> <p>Cometries Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 6 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 120</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p> <p>Fall Sandown Concert Series 6 p.m. @ Lewis Park</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review 4 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Planning Commission Public Meeting floor</p> <p>Cometries Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 6 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board floor</p> <p>Library Board 8 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole 120</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Fright Night 6 p.m. @ Auburn</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review floor</p> <p>Drive-In Trick or Treat 6-8 p.m. @ Irbis Center, Frank Brown Rec Center, Jon Dwyer Community Arts Center</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Harvest City Market 8-11 a.m. @ Irbis Creek Park</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Haunted Zumba 8 a.m. @ Frank Brown Rec Center</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.</p>

MANAGEMENT TEAM

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