

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

September 2020

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City of Auburn

## Keep Auburn Open

We're partnering with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce to encourage each of you to take personal responsibility and help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our community. Out of concern for the Auburn community, the Chamber has launched the Keep Auburn Open program. How can you do your part to ensure the health of yourself, fellow community members and our local businesses?

1. Wear a face covering in public.
2. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly.
3. Keep six feet between you and others outside of your household.

Following these simple recommendations from local, state and national health officials

## KEEP AUBURN OPEN

BE RESPONSIBLE:  
WEAR A MASK • WASH YOUR HANDS • PROVIDE 6 FEET



A PROGRAM OF THE AUBURN CHAMBER

will help slow communitywide transmission and provide relief for our hospital and healthcare workers. For information about current regulations and the local impact of COVID-19, visit [auburnalabama.org/coronavirus](http://auburnalabama.org/coronavirus).

## Celebrating #50YearsofPlay



Throughout 2020, we're celebrating #50YearsofPlay in honor of the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department's 50th anniversary. Part of our mission is to encourage people to venture outside and enjoy our local parks—there are so many to enjoy. Recently, Sam Harris Park received a great addition, a connection path from the pavilion to the bathrooms complete with a bridge. A new pavilion was also built that's now available for you to get a reprieve from the sun or to reserve for your next celebration. Hickory Dickory Park's playground underwent power washing and sealant treatment in July, and the playground equipment is getting a fresh coat of paint.

We have 10 wonderful parks and walking trails located across the city for your enjoyment. Especially during this difficult time, our parks are the perfect place to soak up some nature and exercise. Find a list of our parks and their addresses at [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks).

## Welcome back to Storytime!



We're excited to welcome our Storytime friends back to the Auburn Public Library. We've missed you, and we thank you for your patience as we've held off on classes for your safety. Beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 8, we'll resume storytimes in the Outdoor Classroom. This new, beautiful addition to the library has an amphitheater and plenty of room to space out as we learn and grow through reading, songs, crafts and more. Storytimes are available for children ages 0-5. Not ready to come back just yet? We understand. You can find virtual storytime videos that you can enjoy whenever, wherever at [youtube.com/CityofAuburnAL](https://www.youtube.com/CityofAuburnAL). Check out the last page of this issue for a calendar of upcoming storytimes, and happy reading!

## Labor Day holiday schedules

Most City facilities will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. Public Safety services including police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling collection will be delayed by one day during the week of Sept. 7-11 as listed below:

Monday, Sept. 7	Holiday
Tuesday, Sept. 8	Monday's Route
Wednesday, Sept. 9	Tuesday's Route
Thursday, Sept. 10	Wednesday's Route
Friday, Sept. 11	Thursday's Route

The Auburn Public Library's book drops will remain open, and the online collection of e-books, e-audiobooks and digital magazines is always available.

All Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Sept. 7 with the exception of Samford Pool and the Yarbrough Tennis Center. Samford Pool will be open 6 a.m.-6 p.m., and this will be the last day the pool is open for the season. The Yarbrough Tennis Center will be open 8 a.m.-noon. All City of Auburn parks, playgrounds and cemeteries will be open sun up to sundown throughout the holiday weekend.

## Campaign sign reminders

Here in Auburn, we have certain regulations for signage within city limits. Some of those rules apply to yard signs, including those for political campaigns. Here are a few reminders you can follow to help keep Auburn beautiful:

- Political signs should only be placed out within 30 days before the election. The upcoming election date is Nov. 3, 2020, which means that signs may be placed out beginning Oct. 4, 2020.
- Signs should be no more than 32 square feet.
- All signs must be on private property and cannot be placed on City right of ways, utility poles or traffic signs. In most neighborhoods, the right of way is typically between the water meter and the road. Signs placed in the right of way will be removed.
- Signs for all candidates must be removed within seven days of the election.

For more info, contact the Inspection Services Department at 334-501-3170 or [webcodes@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webcodes@auburnalabama.org).

## Renting your home

Thinking of renting or leasing your home for an Auburn University sporting event or another occasion? Whether you're considering using an online company or doing it yourself, there are some things you should know:

- Renting or leasing your single-family home for less than six continuous months is considered a short-term rental and may constitute a use violation or an unrelated occupancy violation in accordance with the City of Auburn's Zoning Ordinance. If you are considering renting or leasing your single-family residence for a weekend or any other short-term rental period, please contact the City's Planning Department at 334-501-3040 or [webplanning@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webplanning@auburnalabama.org) to find out if the property is zoned to allow short term rentals.
- Renting or leasing your home, condo or apartment for less than six continuous months in an approved zone requires collection and remittance of State, County and City lodging taxes and City license fees.
- Renting or leasing your primary home could negatively affect your homestead exemption status with Lee County.

## Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the Lee County Youth Development Center Board of Directors and two vacancies on the Industrial Development Board will be announced at the Aug. 18 City Council meeting and filled at the Sept. 15 meeting. Applications will close on Sept. 7 at 5 p.m. Visit [auburnalabama.org/boards](https://www.auburnalabama.org/boards) to apply or to find more information about volunteering for one of our boards and commissions.

## Veggie Trails garden additions

While construction on the new Veggie Trails garden at our Boykin Community Center wrapped up earlier this spring, several new features have been added to the ever-growing project. In July, our Public Works crews designed and constructed a downspout rock and herb garden with annual herbs to compliment the vegetables growing nearby. A water gage has been added that allows staff to monitor how much water remains in the rain-collecting cisterns. They've also installed a produce scale for the tenants to measure how much produce they collect each day.

Tenants at the Boykin Community Center—including Auburn Day Care Centers, Joyland Child Development Center, the Boys and Girls Club and the Auburn Senior Center—each have designated raised-bed gardens that they tend. These gardens are filled with tomatoes, squash, eggplant, bell peppers and more. So far this summer, the gardens have yielded more than 200 pounds of produce. Constructed in-house by our Publics Work crews, the gardens have proven to be a great teaching tool and resource for the tenants at the community center.



## Reducing the spread of invasive trees

You're invited to play a part in stopping the spread of invasive tree species in our community by chopping them down. To foster awareness about how invasive species harm the environment and economy, we've partnered with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Invasive Plan Council to provide free, native trees for property owners who remove invasive tree species.

### Why should we remove invasive plants?

Invasives are non-native plants that cause economic or environmental harm. They compete with native species, often degrading wildlife habitats as they eliminate sources of food and shelter. According to the U.S. Forest Service, invasive plants have contributed to the decline of 42% of the United States' endangered and threatened species. They also cost billions of dollars every year in the U.S., negatively affecting property values, agricultural productivity, outdoor recreation and infrastructure. Invasive plants spread rapidly through massive quantities of seed, aggressive roots or animals. For that reason, it takes a community effort to stop their spread.

### How can I participate?

Property owners in the City of Auburn can apply to receive up to five native trees for each invasive tree

they remove. The following non-native invasive tree species will be included in the exchange:

- Callery pear
- Chinaberry
- Golden Raintree
- Mimosa
- Popcorn tree
- Princess tree
- Privet (2" caliper or greater)
- Sawtooth oak
- Tree of Heaven
- Chinese elm

Once you apply, our urban forester will review your application to determine eligibility. If your application is approved, you'll be asked to submit a photo of the cut down trees. Replacement trees will include crabapples, hawthorns, black tupelos and cherrybark oaks. Trees will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Applications will be accepted through Oct. 30 at 4 p.m. Complete guidelines, information on how to identify invasive trees and an application can be found at [auburnalabama.org/invasive-species](http://auburnalabama.org/invasive-species).

# SEPTEMBER 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
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m. Committee of the Whole 120 City Council 7 p.m.	Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.		Free Commission 11:30 p.m.	
6	7	8	9	10
	Cemeteries Advisory Board 4 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. City Council Agenda Review 4 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15
		Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. Greenspace Advisory Board 11am Library Board 3 p.m. Committee of the Whole 120 City Council 7 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. Planning Commission 5 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. City Meeting & Auburn Beautification Council Plant Sale 8-11 a.m. @ Town Creek Park
16	17	18	19	20
	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Water Works Board 4 p.m. Fall Swabson Concert Series 6-7:30 p.m. @ Royal Park	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. City Council 7 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. City Council Agenda Review 4 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25
Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 6 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. Fall Swabson Concert Series 6-7:30 p.m. @ Royal Park	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30
	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 6 p.m.	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.	Auburn Public Library auburnalabama.org/library (334) 501-3198 City Meeting Schedule auburnalabama.org (334) 501-7266 Parks and Recreation auburnalabama.org/parks (334) 501-2930	Storytime in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m.

Programs and events are subject to change. Please visit [auburnalabama.org/coronavirus](http://auburnalabama.org/coronavirus) for up-to-date information on program and event cancellations.

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