

open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

FEBRUARY 2025



City of Auburn



APPLY TO BE A PART OF THE 2025 Citizens' Academy

You're invited to get a closer look at how your local government operates during the 2025 Auburn Citizens' Academy. Connect with fellow community members while getting a behind-the-scenes view of things like the water treatment process, the ins and outs of our municipal court, our traffic control center and so much more!

Citizens' Academy is a program that gives Auburn residents the opportunity to learn about each of the City's departments through tours, presentations and conversations with those who help make Auburn the vibrant community you know it to be.

Applications and a program schedule will be available starting Feb. 3. The program will last from March to September with one session a month. Those who apply should be able to commit to attending the majority, if not all, of the sessions.

Find more information and apply at auburnalabama.org/academies.

Reminder: Business license renewals due Feb. 18

City business licenses must be renewed by Feb. 18, 2025, to avoid late fees.

Any business providing services or selling goods within Auburn city limits is required to have a City of Auburn business license, including home-based businesses and short-term rentals.

You can renew your business licenses by visiting auburnalabama.org and clicking the PAY icon.

If this is the first time you are using our Citizen Self Service portal, you must first register your account and contact the Revenue Office to link your business license account to your registered username (instructions are available online).

If you cannot renew online, contact the Revenue Office at revenue@auburnalabama.org or (334) 501-7239 for further assistance.

For more information, visit auburnalabama.org/revenue/business-licenses.

cold weather SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS



It's important to take care of your pets as the colder temperatures come to our area. Animal Control reminds you of the following tips to keep your pet healthy and comfortable in colder weather:

Provide Shelter: A well-constructed doghouse insulated with clean, dry bedding (such as straw, wood shavings or a blanket) will help keep your dog warm. Face the doghouse opening away from the direction that the wind normally blows to help hold in warmth and prevent rain infiltration. It's also a good idea to add a weather-resistant door flap. A flap can be purchased, or, in a pinch, a heavy-duty fabric, old vehicle mud flap or a piece of linoleum flooring will do.

Water: Make sure your pet always has access to fresh, clean water. Proper

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hydration is important to help your dog stay warm. It's also important to check water bowls often to make sure the water doesn't freeze over.

Food: Monitor your pet's diet. Animals expend more calories in colder months than warmer times of year to keep warm. You may need to increase your pet's daily amount of food to compensate.

Cold Sensitive Pets: Remember that colder temperatures may be harder on some pets than others. Short hair breeds, smaller breeds and dogs that are young or old are more susceptible to the cold and should be closely monitored while outdoors.

Hypothermia: Know the warning signs! Hypothermia is a potentially deadly condition where the body temperature falls below normal. Signs include shivering, lethargy and lack of coordination. If you notice any of these symptoms in your pet, immediately move the animal to a warm location and wrap it in a blanket. Contact a veterinarian while warming your pet.

If you have a concern about an animal, document what you see including the date, time, exact location, type of animal and as many other details as possible. Then contact the City of Auburn Animal Control Division at (334) 501-3090. After hours, please contact the Auburn Police Department at (334) 501-3100.

Small cell structure regulations

Wireless network providers are currently constructing small cell wireless facilities in public rights of way throughout the city to improve cell coverage in densely populated areas. These structures look like poles with antennas or small equipment boxes on them, rather than large-scale cell towers.

The Alabama state legislature gave providers the ability to construct such structures within the public right of way, allowing cities a limited time frame to establish related regulations locally. In response, the City of Auburn adopted local standards in 2020 to both facilitate the improvement of wireless communications infrastructure and protect safety and aesthetics in local rights of way.

If you see small cell equipment being installed, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Small cell wireless facilities are typically installed in the right of way, which is publicly owned property encompassing roadways and sidewalks. It extends beyond those roads and sidewalks for a number of

Daddy Daughter Date Night & Spring Programs registration

Auburn Parks and Recreation is bringing the fun this February! Mark your calendars for the 35th annual Daddy Daughter Date Night on Feb. 7 and 8 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. This year's theme is the Black and White Ball, a special evening for dads and daughters (12 and under). The event will take place at the new Lake Wilmore Community Center, with an alternate location at the Wire Road Soccer Complex indoor facility, if needed. Visit auburnal.myrec.com to check ticket availability — tickets must be purchased by Feb. 6.

February is also the month to register for spring programs! Registration for programs, summer youth camps and Therapeutics Camp will open on Feb. 3. Adult softball and kickball registration begins Feb. 4, youth volleyball registration starts on Feb. 6 and youth track registration opens Feb. 11. Don't miss your chance to be part of Auburn's vibrant recreational community—secure your spot in these exciting programs and activities today!



feet before private property lines begin. The exact measurement of the right of way depends on where you live within town. Small cell infrastructure is typically located in the back of the right of way, nearest to the actual property line where your yard or property begins.

- After installing a small cell structure, a provider is required to return the right of way to the condition it was in before any damage was done during work.
- To better fit into the aesthetic of our streets, these structures are not allowed to be more than 50 feet above the ground or more than 10% taller than adjacent structures.
- Only authorized companies — those with franchise agreements with the City of Auburn — are allowed to construct such structures, and before construction, a franchise must have an approved permit from the City.

If you notice one being installed near you and have any issues, please report it via Auburn FixIt! Learn more at auburnalabama.org/fixit.



From key infrastructure projects to grassroots planning initiatives, **2024 has given us a lot to celebrate.**

Here are **10 highlights** from the year...

1. Welcoming new leaders. Three new department heads started in 2024, including Parks and Recreation Director Alison Hall, HR Director Elinda Dannar and Auburn Public Library Director Cynthia Ledbetter.

2. Auburn's industries continue to thrive. Six companies in our technology parks expanded in 2024, and we've had three new companies come to Auburn. Together, Auburn industries have invested nearly \$182 million in our community and brought in over 350 jobs this year.

3. Will Buechner Parkway opens. Named in honor of Auburn's only fallen police officer, Will Buechner Parkway opened in January. The new road connects Martin Luther King Drive and Richland Road, enhancing connectivity in north Auburn. The project included a new traffic signal at Martin Luther King Drive and another at the intersection of Webster Road and Martin Luther King Drive.

4. Environmental Services and Public Works move to Wire Road. In January, Environmental Services and Public Works moved out of their old facilities on Donahue Drive to their new campus on Wire Road. Both departments had outgrown their former spaces, and the new facilities now give them room to grow.

5. Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center reopens. In March, we celebrated the reopening of the center after a major renovation and expansion project. The existing

building was reconfigured to maximize space, and an addition was constructed. The finished product includes a new home for our ceramics studio, a new art gallery and more.

6. East University Drive gets an upgrade near Saughatchee Road and Annaloe Drive. We wrapped up work on traffic flow and safety improvements in the area in April. This project included new turn lanes, new traffic signal poles and a median at the intersection of Saughatchee and East University.

7. Martin Luther King Drive Streetscape improvements finish. Work to enhance the streetscape along MLK Drive between Donahue Drive and Shug Jordan Parkway finished in April. The project included the addition of a 10-foot-wide multiuse path, pedestrian lighting, medians, landscaping and a new water main.

8. Lake Wilmore Community Center nearing completion. The City's newest recreation center is expected to open within the new few months on Ogletree Road.

It will include two full-sized basketball courts, activity rooms, a fitness room, an indoor walking track, 18 covered pickleball courts, a zero-entry pool and a lap pool. Work

is also underway on four multi-purpose fields. The center will open in phases, beginning with the community center in early 2025. Keep an eye on auburnalabama.org/parks for updates.

9. Work continues on the Public Safety Training Center. Construction is wrapping up on a 12,000-square-foot multiuse classroom building. The building joins other elements of the new Public Safety Training Center located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 280 and North College Street, including the classroom building and a drill tower. A search and rescue maze simulator and a burn building are under construction and are expected to finish in early 2025.

10. Construction of Ann Pearson Park begins. Named in honor of an Auburn native and historian, Ann Pearson Park will include trails, a pavilion and a play area on about 40 acres. The passive park is located on Shelton Mill Road between East University Drive and U.S. Highway 280 and is expected to open in spring 2025.

Boards & commissions vacancies

Interested in serving your community? Applications for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee will be open Jan. 22 through Feb. 10, and applications for the Commercial Development Authority will be open Feb. 5-24.

Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or to find more information about these and the City's other boards and commissions.

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FEBRUARY 2025 upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager
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S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	<p>Programs & events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at auburnalabama.org.</p>		<p>Auburn Public Library auburnalabama.org/library</p> <p>City Meetings auburnalabama.org/boards</p> <p>Parks & Recreation auburnalabama.org/parks</p> <p>Citywide Events auburnalabama.org</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Family Story Time Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Untidy Tales Saturdays @ 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Movers & Shakers Saturdays @ 1 p.m.</p> <p>Local Authors in the Library 2 p.m.</p>
2	3	<p>Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>PreK in PJs Tuesdays @ 1 p.m.</p> <p>S.T.E.A.M Lab (Grades K-3) Tuesdays @ 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Adults Create! Friendship Bracelets 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Baby's 1st Story Time Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Untidy Tales Wednesdays @ 1 p.m.</p> <p>Culture Explorers Club (Grades 4-6) Wednesdays @ 4 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>Puppet Shows Fridays @ 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Daddy Daughter Date Night 6:30 p.m. @ Lake Wilmore Community Center</p>	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	<p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon</p>	<p>Be My Valentine Crafternoon 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p>		<p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p>			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
		<p>Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Chapter Chats Book Club 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p>		<p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Teen Program: Friendship Bracelets 4:30 p.m.</p>			
23	24	25	26	27	28		
				<p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p> <p>Day in Clay Juried Ceramics Exhibition & Reception 5:30 p.m. @ Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center</p>			

Background Photo:
Daddy Daughter Date
Night 2024