



Open Line

a newsletter for you, our residents



2026 SummerNight Downtown Art Walk

The SummerNight Downtown Art Walk returns on Friday, June 5 from 6-10 p.m. in downtown Auburn!

This free, family-friendly event highlights the many talented artists in the Auburn community while supporting our unique downtown area.

SummerNight is hosted by the City of Auburn/Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, Auburn Arts Association, Downtown Merchants Association, and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church.

During SummerNight, downtown Auburn will transform into a lively arts district featuring local and regional artists, live music, children's activities and a Yacht Rock-themed culinary contest. Shops and restaurants will stay open late, giving visitors the chance to stroll, dine and enjoy the creative energy throughout the evening. This is a rain or shine event.

Find more information about SummerNight at auburnsummernight.org.

City receives prestigious GFOA Triple Crown Award

The City of Auburn's Finance team was recently awarded the Government Finance Officers Association, or GFOA, Triple Crown Award, which recognizes governments that have received the following three prestigious financial awards within the same year: the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The City was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report; the PAFR award for its Fiscal Year 2024 PAFR; and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Years 2026 & 2027 Biennial Budget document.

"This is a significant achievement that points directly to the caliber of City staff, in this case within the Finance, Budget and Strategic Planning and Human Resources teams," said Mayor Ron Anders. "They put extraordinary effort into perfecting these documents year after year, reaffirming the City's commitment to transparency, accountability to the public, excellence in financial reporting and operating a

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More summer fun with Parks & Rec

Step into June with a vibrant mix of family-friendly activities and summertime traditions from Parks and Recreation!

Families can cool off at **Family Splash Day** at both Samford Pool and Lake Wilmore Park Pool on June 6. This event is a great chance to enjoy refreshing fun with family, friends and neighbors at the pool.

Guests can visit Water Safety stations throughout the event for a chance to win a special souvenir while learning important skills for a safe summer.

June evenings bring back a favorite Auburn tradition with **Float in Movies**. Guests are invited to bring their favorite

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Prevent water pollution by picking up pet waste

Leaving pet waste on the ground may seem harmless, like compost, but it has an impact on Auburn's waterways. Stormwater runoff may pick up the waste and wash it into the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This ends up polluting our local water bodies.

Animal waste contaminates water by carrying bacteria (E. Coli), viruses and parasites that threaten the health of humans and wildlife. Animal waste also contains nutrients that can feed algae, leading to cloudy water. As the increased algae decays, it reduces the oxygen level within the water and harms aquatic life. You can help prevent this by picking up and properly disposing of pet waste.

Here are some ways you can help keep our waterbodies clean:

- **Carry plastic bags** when taking your pet for a walk, run or stroll in the park.
- **Pick up your pet's waste** using a plastic bag, scoop or disposable gloves. Seal the waste inside a plastic bag (or two) and throw it in the garbage. Remember to wash your hands afterward.
- **Pick up after your pet in your yard** every few days or more often if you have small children who play there.
- **Utilize pet waste stations** located at dog parks, apartment complexes or within neighborhoods.
- **Bury pet waste in your yard** at least 12 inches deep and cover with at least eight inches of soil to let it decompose slowly. Bury the waste in several different locations and keep it away from vegetable gardens.
- **Share with others** how easy and important it is to protect our waterways by picking up after our pets. Let's all do our part!



(AWARD, CONT.) fiscally sound local government while providing high quality public services that our residents desire and expect.”

This is the 39th year the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, which was established by GFOA to encourage state and local governments to go above and beyond the minimum requirements to prepare reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

“Our goal is for Auburn citizens to have the information they need to assess the financial health of their city,” said City Manager Megan Crouch. “This is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting, and I could not be prouder of our staff and the hard work of our auditors. This recognition is meaningful to us because it underscores the purpose of our financial work — to ensure long-term financial stability of our city while providing quality public services and clear financial reporting to those we serve.”

This is the sixth time the City has received the PAFR Award, which recognizes governments for producing this report to be easily understandable to the general public without a background in finance. Judges review the PAFRs based on reader appeal, understandability,



creativity, notable achievements and overall quality and usefulness of the report.

This is the 31st year the City has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which recognizes high quality budget documents that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on state and local budgeting as well as GFOA's best practices on budgeting. Learn more about the City's budget at auburnal.gov/budget.

Join us for Summer Learning Challenge Kickoff!

Join us this summer for fun under the sun as the Auburn Public Library celebrates all things dinosaur with the 2026 Summer Learning Challenge theme: "Unearth a Story!"

Our Summer Learning Challenge will kick off with



a DJ dance party, games and lots of activities for all ages at the Auburn Public Library on June 2 from 5:30-7 p.m.

At the event, you can sign up for our tricera-top-notch Learning Challenge or pick up your registration prize if you're already ahead of the pack and registered!

Did you know that reading just 20 minutes a day can help you maintain literacy skills? The Summer Learning Challenge is a program that encourages reading all summer long! All you have to do is read or listen for at least 1,000 minutes during the period of June 1 to July 31.

Register at auburnpl.beanstack.org or download the Beanstack Tracker app. Pick up your registration prize at the library, while supplies last. Don't forget to log all minutes you spend reading or listening!

Those who complete the Summer Learning Challenge by July 31 will earn an Auburn Public Library shirt, while supplies last.

And remember, the challenge is not just for kids! Everyone can participate, and you do not need a library card to participate.

For more information, email libraryevents@auburnal.gov or call 334-501-3296. The Auburn Public Library is located at 749 E. Thach Ave.

Happy learning and happy reading!

Juneteenth holiday schedules

Auburn City Hall and most City facilities will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on Friday, June 19. Police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling will run their normal collection schedules. Keep an eye on auburnal.gov/parks for Parks and Recreation facility closures.

Boards & commission vacancies

Interested in serving our community? This June, the Auburn City Council will accept applications for two vacancies on the Greenspace Advisory Board. Applications will be accepted June 17 through July 13. Appointments will be made at the July 21 City Council Meeting. Find a link to apply and more info at auburnal.gov/boards.

(PARKS, CONT.) float and enjoy a movie under the stars. Doors open at 7:45 p.m. and movies begin at 8 pm. Admission is \$5 per person or free with a pool membership. This month's screenings will take place on June 13 and June 25.

Inside the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, visitors can enjoy **The Summer Invitational**, which will be on display June 22 through July 31. This special exhibition features two- and three-dimensional works created around an assigned theme and showcases the imagination and skill of artists from across the region. From gallery exhibitions to open-air movies, June offers a full lineup of ways to enjoy summer with Parks and Recreation!

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JUNE 2026

upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the
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1

Cemetery Advisory Board | 4 p.m.

2

Summer Learning Kickoff | 5:30 p.m.
Preschool Time | Tuesdays | 9:30 a.m.
Committee of the Whole
TBD
City Council | 6 p.m.
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board | 11:45 a.m.

3

Summer Crafternoon | Wednesdays | 2 p.m.
Untidy Tales | Wednesdays | 1 p.m.
Lunch & Learn | Wednesdays | Noon
Baby's First Story Time | Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.
Board of Zoning Adjustment | 4:30 p.m.

4

Crochet Class | Thursdays | 6 p.m.
Chess Mates | Thursdays | 4:30 p.m.
AP Lay Day | Thursdays | 2 p.m.
Lullabies for Little Ones | Thursdays | 1 p.m.
Toddler Tales | Thursdays | 9:30 a.m.

5

Summer Night Downtown Art Walk | Downtown Auburn
Puppet Show | Fridays | 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.
Tree Commission | 11:30 a.m.

6

Family Splash | Samford Pool
Movie, Craft, and Tea Time | 2 p.m.
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

7

AU Women's Camp | Yarbrough Tennis Center

8

Monday Movie Matinee | Mondays | 2 p.m.
Toon Time | Mondays | 10 a.m.
Puppetry Camp | 9 a.m.
Planning Commission Packet Meeting | Noon

9

Bedtime Buddies | Tuesdays | 6 p.m.
Adults Create! | 5:30 p.m.
Summer Serendipity | Tuesdays | 2 p.m.
American History and You | Tuesdays | 1 p.m.
Preschool Time | Tuesdays | 9:30 a.m.
Puppetry Camp | 9 a.m.
Historic Preservation Commission | 4 p.m.

10

Summer Crafternoon | Wednesdays | 2 p.m.
Untidy Tales | Wednesdays | 1 p.m.
Lunch & Learn | Wednesdays | Noon
Baby's First Story Time | Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.
Puppetry Camp | 9 a.m.

11

Crochet Class | 6 p.m.
Chess Mates | 4:30 p.m.
AP Lay Day | 2 p.m.
Lullabies for Little Ones | 1 p.m.
Toddler Tales | 9:30 a.m.
Puppetry Camp | 9 a.m.
Planning Commission | 5 p.m.
City Council Agenda Review Meeting | 4 p.m.

12

USTA League Championship | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Float in Movie | Samford Pool
Adults Create! Tie Dye | 2 p.m.
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

13

USTA League Championship | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Float in Movie | Samford Pool
Adults Create! Tie Dye | 2 p.m.
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

14

USTA League Championship | Yarbrough Tennis Center

15

Monday Movie Matinee | Mondays | 2 p.m.
Toon Time | Mondays | 10 a.m.

16

Bedtime Buddies | 6 p.m.
Summer Serendipity | 2 p.m.
Preschool Time | 9:30 a.m.
Committee of the Whole | TBD
City Council | 6 p.m.
Greenspace Advisory Board | Noon
Auburn Public Library Board | 10 a.m.

17

Summer Crafternoon | Wednesdays | 2 p.m.
Untidy Tales | Wednesdays | 1 p.m.
Lunch & Learn | Wednesdays | Noon
Baby's First Story Time | Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.

18

Crochet Class | 6 p.m.
Chess Mates | 4:30 p.m.
AP Lay Day | 2 p.m.
Lullabies for Little Ones | 1 p.m.
Toddler Tales | 9:30 a.m.
Water Works Board | 4 p.m.

19

Women's ITA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

20

Women's ITA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

21

Women's ITA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center

22

AU Men's Camp | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Monday Movie Matinee | Mondays | 2 p.m.
Toon Time | Mondays | 10 a.m.

23

AU Men's Camp | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Bedtime Buddies | 6 p.m.
Summer Serendipity | 2 p.m.
American History and You | 1 p.m.
Preschool Time | 9:30 a.m.

24

AU Men's Camp | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Summer Crafternoon | Wednesdays | 2 p.m.
Untidy Tales | Wednesdays | 1 p.m.
Lunch & Learn | Wednesdays | Noon
Baby's First Story Time | Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m.

25

USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
AU Men's Camp | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Crochet Class | 6 p.m.
Chess Mates | 4:30 p.m.
AP Lay Day | 2 p.m.
Lullabies for Little Ones | 1 p.m.
Toddler Tales | 9:30 a.m.

26

USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Float in Movie | Samford Pool
USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Puzzle Swap | 1 p.m.
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

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USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Float in Movie | Samford Pool
USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Puzzle Swap | 1 p.m.
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

28

USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center

29

Monday Movie Matinee | Mondays | 2 p.m.
Toon Time | Mondays | 10 a.m.

30

Bedtime Buddies | 6 p.m.
Summer Serendipity | 2 p.m.
American History and You | 1 p.m.
Preschool Time | 9:30 a.m.

31

USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Float in Movie | Samford Pool
USTA Tournament | Yarbrough Tennis Center
Puzzle Swap | 1 p.m.
Movers & Shakers | Saturdays | 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime | Saturdays | 9:30 a.m.
City Market | Town Creek Park | 8 a.m.

Parks & Recreation | auburnal.gov/parks
Auburn Public Library | auburnal.gov/library
City Meetings | auburnal.gov/boards
Citywide Events | auburnal.gov

Programs and events are subject to change.

Find up-to-date information at auburnal.gov.

Background Photo: Summer Night

Open Line

Special Edition: Flood Protection & Preparation Info

In May 2014, the City of Auburn was accepted into the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). Even though everyone doesn't own or live on property in a floodplain, this program benefits the community by protecting the environment, making people safer and saving everyone money.

The City has received a Class 7 score for our CRS application, giving the citizens of Auburn a 15% discount on their flood insurance. The 15% discount is applied uniformly to all CRS eligible NFIP policies in the community regardless of flood zone. Below is some information you might find helpful about floodplains in the City of Auburn.

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

The City of Auburn has an annual precipitation of 52.6 inches and has a history of major rainstorm events.

Over the last 10 years, our biggest rain events occurred in May 2017, June 2017, May 2018, December 2018, February 2020, April 2020, August 2021, December 2021, April 2022, July 2022, January 2023, June 2023, May 2024, September 2024, April 2025 and May 2025. During these major storm events, flooding can occur when drainage courses — such as stormwater systems and natural ditches — overflow. Local bodies of water and roadways subject to flooding include:

Local Water Bodies: Choctaufaula Creek, Parkerson Mill Creek, Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, Lake Chewacla, Lake Ogletree, Sougahatchee Creek and Little Loblockee Creek

Roadways: Watercrest Drive Bridge, East University Drive Bridge at Summertrees Drive, Moores Mill Road Bridge at Forestdale Drive, and Windway Road Bridge

KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

Our staff is available to provide more information on whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Find out if your property is in the regulated floodplain by calling Engineering Services at (334) 501-7390.

For more general information, you can view your property in relation to the regulated floodplain online using the City's interactive map at auburnal.gov/maps. Select the COA Map then turn on the "Natural Features" layer and the "Floodplain" sublayer.

The following Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information can also be provided upon request: the community number, the map panel number and suffix, the date of the FIRM's Index, the Base Flood Elevation shown on the FIRM, the elevation datum used on the FIRM and the availability of Elevation Certificates for review.

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY FOR YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

The City encourages all citizens to purchase flood insurance. Even if your property is not located in a high-risk flood area, it's a good idea to buy flood insurance because almost 25% of all flood insurance claims come from areas with minimal flood risk. Here are some important facts you should know:

- Homeowner's insurance policies DO NOT cover flood damages or losses.
- Flood insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.
- Renters are able to buy flood insurance for the contents of their homes.

Contact your insurance agent to see if your property is covered for flood damage. Additional information on flood insurance can be found at auburnal.gov/engineering-services/flood-protection.



Water rushes through Moores Mill Creek after a heavy rainfall.

FLOOD SAFETY

Safety is a must when it comes to possible flooding in our area. The following tips can keep you and your family from harm during flooding:

- Do not walk through flowing waters.
- Do not drive through a flooded area.
- Stay away from power and electrical lines.
- Shut off all gas and water valves.
- Have a departure plan in case of emergency.

FLOOD WARNING FLOOD SAFETY

The City of Auburn works with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency to give citizens ample warning in cases of a flooding event. Emergency messages are broadcast through local radio and TV stations. In the event of heavy rains, it is essential to monitor TV and/or radio weather broadcasts for up-to-date forecasts on tornadoes, hurricanes or flash floods. Please call 911 for any emergencies and (334) 501-3100 for any non-emergencies.

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PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

Flooding remains the country's number one disaster and can potentially affect everyone and every property. If you own property, you can apply these permanent retrofitting techniques that can help to eliminate or reduce flood damage:

- Elevating your house one foot above the base flood elevation.
- Flood proofing your house to make the walls and flooring watertight so water cannot enter.
- If you know you are in the flood prone area, flood vent the crawl space under your home so that water can flow through.

Employees from the City of Auburn are available for site visits to review flooding and drainage issues and provide one-on-one advice to property owners on appropriate flood protection measures. We are also available to help you with reviewing and critiquing retrofit plans for flood-prone residences and buildings.

Contact our Inspection Services Department at (334) 501-3170 or webcodes@auburnal.gov about protecting your home or business from flooding.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

To ensure the highest degree of safety and to protect your property from flood damage, the Inspection Services Department enforces the Building Code for the City of Auburn. Check with them before you build on, alter, grade or fill on your property. A permit is required for all construction in the City of Auburn to ensure that a project is compliant with all regulations.

Substantial Improvement Requirements

For the City of Auburn to participate in the NFIP, we adopted regulations and codes that apply to new developments in the floodplains. Local floodplain management regulations and codes contain minimum NFIP requirements that apply to new and existing structures that are "substantially improved" or "substantially damaged."

"Substantially damaged" means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before damage occurred.

"Substantially improved" means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvements of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of

the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures that have incurred "substantial damage" regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The City of Auburn requires an elevation of one foot above the base flood elevation for new construction and for existing structures before they are repaired.

PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

Floodplain areas and wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. Wetlands in and around the City of Auburn are a valuable asset, flood control and water quality being the two most important aspects of our local floodplain.

One of the ways you can help prevent flooding is to make sure you don't dump pollutants or debris into our storm drains. These debris drain into our natural drainage systems and wetlands. For the natural drainage system to operate efficiently, our ditches, streams and channels must remain clean. Debris, even leaves and grass clippings, can obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and yards.

Wetlands absorb water during heavy rainfall or flooding and slowly release the waters downstream, reducing flood damage. Wetlands and wetland plants help to absorb and filter potentially harmful chemicals and pollutants before they get into our waterways.

The City of Auburn is home to several identified undeveloped floodplain areas that are vital for several endangered or threatened species unique to this area. These areas also provide recreation, education and research opportunities important to our local economy.

Residents, businesses and property owners play a huge role in maintaining the ditches and streams on their property. They should notify the City when maintenance is needed on the right of way. City Code, Section 7-1, prohibits taking any action that can impede the flow of water in ditches and waterways. If you know of any illegal dumping of debris or any action that could affect the drainage system, please contact the Public Works Department at (334) 501-3000 or webpw@auburnal.gov.

For more information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, please contact the Engineering Services Department at 161 N. Ross St., webengineering@auburnal.gov or visit auburnal.gov/engineering-services.

