

open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

NOVEMBER 2022



City of Auburn

Improving water quality & expanding outreach

City receives grant to improve water quality at Parkerson Mill Creek

Our Public Works and Water Resource Management departments are teaming up to improve water quality in one of our local creeks while engaging residents in maintaining Auburn's natural resources — all thanks to a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

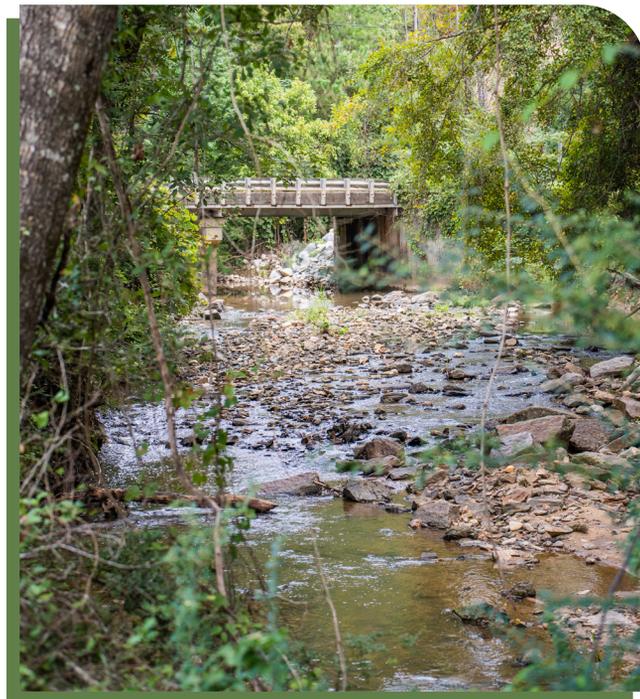
In early September, the foundation announced the winners of its 2022 Five Star and Urban Waters grant that "seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources." The program focuses on improving water quality, watersheds and habitats through local partnerships and outreach.

The City of Auburn was the sole Alabama recipient, receiving \$45,200 toward a project at the H.C. Morgan Water Pollution Control Facility. The treatment facility is located in the Parkerson Mill Creek Watershed, and stormwater from the property flows into Parkerson Mill Creek. In 2019, we began planting landscape buffers to help filter the runoff water before it reaches the creek, reducing pollution and lowering property maintenance costs.

The grant-funded project will include expanding the landscape buffer and building bioretention cells at four strategic points where stormwater leaves the facility. More than three acres of native plants will be planted, filtering stormwater and providing habitat for native pollinators and birds while reducing maintenance costs at the facility.

A key element of the project will be community involvement. We're partnering with Auburn University's Water Resources Center and Bee Lab as well as Westervelt Ecological Resources to design and install the landscaping and provide workshops for the public about bioretention, stormwater management, water quality monitoring and more. Local Girl Scouts will lend a hand in planting over 2,000 longleaf pine seedlings at the site as they contribute to the Girl Scouts' Million Tree Challenge, and other volunteer opportunities will be available for the community to pitch in.

Work is expected to begin this winter. For more info, contact Water Resource Management's Watershed Division at 334-501-3060 or webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org.



November holiday closures & schedules

Most City facilities will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Downtown parking will be free on both holidays. Public Safety services, including police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling pickup routes will run as usual during the week of Veterans Day but will be adjusted as follows during Thanksgiving week:

Monday, Nov. 21	No change
Tuesday, Nov. 22	No change
Wednesday, Nov. 23	No change
Thursday, Nov. 24	HOLIDAY
Friday, Nov. 25	Thursday's route

The Auburn Public Library will be closed on Nov. 11, 24 and 25 and will close at 6 p.m. on Nov. 23. Book drops will remain open, and the online collection of e-books, e-audiobooks and digital magazines are always available.

2022 VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

You're invited to honor those who have served our country at the 2022 Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial located at the northeast corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. Find more details as the event draws near at auburnalabama.org.

New City Council takes office Nov. 7

On Aug. 23, 3,541 Auburn residents went to the polls to select their 2022-2026 City Council representatives. With three new faces and six returning members, the following individuals will be sworn in on Nov. 7:

Mayor: Ron Anders
 Ward 1: Connie Fitch-Taylor
 Ward 2: Kelley Griswold
 Ward 3: Beth Witten
 Ward 4: Tyler Adams
 Ward 5: Sonny Moreman
 Ward 6: Bob Parsons
 Ward 7: Max Coblentz
 Ward 8: Tommy Dawson

A full breakdown of the election results is available at auburnalabama.org/elections/results.

HOW DOES AUBURN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK?

Here in Auburn, the City Council's role is set by Alabama's Council-Manager law. Under the Council-Manager form of government, the Mayor represents the City at large and is a voting member of the City Council. The Mayor and the other eight Council members set policy for the City, approve Auburn's two-year budget and pass local laws. The Council also appoints residents to serve on the City's boards and commissions like the Auburn City School Board, the Auburn Water Works Board and the Auburn Planning Commission. The City Council appoints the City Manager who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City.

HOLIDAY ART SALE NOV 19 9AM-4PM

Support local artists while marking names off your holiday shopping list at the 16th-annual Holiday Art Sale! Peruse a wide selection of handmade gifts on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Auburn Parks and Recreation Complex on Opelika Road. Local artists will be selling paintings, pottery, stained glass, photography, cards, jewelry, hats, scarves and much more.

Are you a local artist looking to sell your work? Applications will be available beginning Oct. 3 at auburnalabama.org/arts. A limited number of exhibition spaces are available, so applicants are encouraged to apply quickly.

This annual holiday event is hosted by the Auburn Arts Association, Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at (334) 501-2930 or webparksrec@auburnalabama.org.

YOUR ROLE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

An active, involved citizenry is a key component of our local government, and Auburn's City Councils have had a long history of seeking the community's input in decision making. Auburn residents have an opportunity to address the Council as a body at any of the 24 City Council meetings held each year and to take part in public meetings that characterize major city initiatives. One of the most important ways the Council receives citizen input is through the biennial Citizen Survey. City staff use these results to help set the City's project priorities in the City's budget.

You can contact council members directly for questions and input about big-picture policy issues considered at City Council meetings. Contact information for the new Council will be published in the next issue of Open Line and online when they are sworn in on Nov. 7. If you're not sure which council member represents you, enter your address in the Civic Services bar at the bottom of auburnalabama.org.

For day-to-day issues or questions — about potholes, parking meters or any number of things — contact City management and departments directly so we can help you quickly. The guide to the right will help you get started.

Board and commission vacancies

One vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be announced at the Oct. 18 Auburn City Council meeting and will be filled at the Nov. 15 meeting.

Applications will close at 5 p.m. on Nov. 7. Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or to find more information about volunteering for one of the City's boards and commissions.

WHO SHOULD I CALL?

Whether you have a question about your water bill, want to know more about our library collection or have an emergency, here are the best places to start. Keep this on your fridge for easy reference!



CITY SERVICES



GARBAGE, TRASH & RECYCLING

Environmental Services
 334-501-3080
webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org



UTILITY BILLING

Finance, Utility Billing Office
 334-501-3050
serviceorders@auburnalabama.org



WATER SERVICE

Water Resource Management
 334-501-3060
 After Hours: 334-501-3100
webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org



ANIMAL CONTROL

Environmental Services
 334-501-3090
 After Hours: 334-501-3100
webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org



LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Auburn Public Library
 334-501-3190
weblibrary@auburnalabama.org



RENT A PARKS & REC FACILITY

Parks & Recreation
 334-501-2930
webparksrec@auburnalabama.org



ATHLETICS

Parks & Recreation
 334-501-2930
webparksrec@auburnalabama.org



RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Parks & Recreation
 334-501-2930
webparksrec@auburnalabama.org



REPORT RIGHT-OF-WAY ISSUES

Public Works
 334-501-3000
webpw@auburnalabama.org



REQUEST SIDEWALK OR TRAFFIC CALMING

Engineering Services
 334-501-7390
webengineering@auburnalabama.org



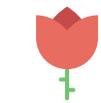
REPORT A STREET LIGHT OUTAGE

Alabama Power
 1-800-245-2244
customerservice2.southerncompany.com/Outages/Report



PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergencies: 911
 Non-emergency: (334) 501-3100
 Anonymous Tip Line: (334) 246-1391
webpubsfty@auburnalabama.org



CEMETERIES

Parks & Recreation
 334-501-2930
webparksrec@auburnalabama.org

RECREATION & CULTURE

AUBURNFIXIT

You can also request City services and report issues through the Auburn Fixit app. Once you make a report, you can track its progress from beginning to resolution.



AUBURN ALABAMA.ORG/FIXIT



city council

RON ANDERS, JR., MAYOR
 334.703.9000
randers@auburnalabama.org

CONNIE TAYLOR, WARD 1
 334.704.3970
ctaylor@auburnalabama.org

KELLEY GRISWOLD, WARD 2
 256.975.8183
kgriswold@auburnalabama.org

BETH WITTEN, WARD 3
 334.740.8575
bwitten@auburnalabama.org

JENNIFER STEPHENS, WARD 4
 334.744.9707
jstephens@auburnalabama.org

STEVEN DIXON, WARD 5
 334.707.3091
sdixon@auburnalabama.org

BOB PARSONS, WARD 6
 334.704.3657
bparsons@auburnalabama.org

JAY HOVEY, WARD 7
 334.707.5684
jhovey@auburnalabama.org

TOMMY DAWSON, WARD 8
 334.559.3021
tdawson@auburnalabama.org

departments

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
 Megan McGowen Crouch - 334.501.7261
mmcgowen@auburnalabama.org

COMMUNITY SERVICES
 334.501.7280
communityservices@auburnalabama.org

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 334.501.7270
webecondev@auburnalabama.org

ENGINEERING SERVICES
 334.501.7390
webengineering@auburnalabama.org

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 334.501.3080
webenvirsvc@auburnalabama.org

FINANCE
 334.501.7233
webfinance@auburnalabama.org

HUMAN RESOURCES
 334.501.7240
webhr@auburnalabama.org

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 334.501.7200
webit@auburnalabama.org

INSPECTION SERVICES
 334.501.3170
webcodes@auburnalabama.org

AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY
 334.501.3190
weblibrary@auburnalabama.org

MUNICIPAL COURT
 334.501.3180
webjudicial@auburnalabama.org

PARKS AND RECREATION
 334.501.2930
webparksrec@auburnalabama.org

PLANNING
 334.501.3040
webplanning@auburnalabama.org

PUBLIC SAFETY (POLICE & FIRE)
 334.501.3110
webpubsfty@auburnalabama.org

PUBLIC WORKS
 334.501.3000
webpw@auburnalabama.org

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 334.501.3060
webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org

NOVEMBER 2022 **upcoming events**

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager
334.501.7268 | openline@auburnalabama.org

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<p>Auburn Public Library auburnalabama.org/library</p> <p>City Meetings auburnalabama.org/boards</p> <p>Parks & Recreation auburnalabama.org/parks</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p> <p>Writer's Workshop 6 p.m.</p> <p>Community English Classes 7-8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Puppet Shows (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Story Time (in person/virtual) Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p>
6	<p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon</p> <p>Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Bark in the Park Vendor Applications Open</p>	<p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p> <p>Community English Classes 7-8 p.m. via Zoom</p>		<p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Most City Facilities Closed for Veterans Day</p>	
13	<p>City Market Vendor Applications Open</p>	<p>Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Reader's Review Virtual Adult 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>Holiday Art Sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ Parks & Rec Complex</p>
20				<p>Most City Facilities Closed for Thanksgiving</p>	<p>Most City Facilities Closed for Thanksgiving</p>	
27						<p>Programs & events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at auburnalabama.org.</p>

Background photo:
Auburn Veterans
Memorial Monument

special to
open line



FLOOD PROTECTION & PREPARATION INFORMATION

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 8 score for our CRS application, giving the citizens of Auburn a 10% discount on their flood insurance for those in the Special Flood Hazard Area and a 5% discount for those in the Non-Special Flood Hazard Area. 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 February 2012, February 2013, August 2013 and December 2015, May 2017, June 2017, May 2018, December 2018, February 2020, April 2020 and August 2021. 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, Saugahatchee Creek and Little Loblockee Creek

Roadways: Watercrest Drive Bridge, East University Drive Bridge at Summertrees Drive, Moores Mill Road Bridge at Forestdale Drive, Windway Road Bridge and Ogletree Road Bridge north of Oak Knoll Circle

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 auburnalabama.org/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 auburnalabama.org/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

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.

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

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

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@auburnalabama.org 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@auburnalabama.org.

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

