

open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

FEBRUARY 2023



City of Auburn

SOCCER COMPLEX ROUNDBABOUT

now under construction

Construction of a new roundabout is underway at the entrance to the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road. The new roundabout will help improve access to and from the Auburn Soccer Complex and will improve the efficiency and safety of all traffic flow on Wire Road. The project is expected to last through March 2023.

Lane closures are expected throughout the project, and traffic control measures will be in place to help drivers navigate the closures. Please use caution if you're traveling in the area during work.

Keep these tips in mind when using a roundabout:

- Slow down.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Yield to circulating traffic when entering.
- Use turn signal to indicate intent to exit.

Why a roundabout? Roundabouts reduce serious injury and loss of life crashes as well as traffic congestion. According to the Federal Highway Administration, roundabouts typically reduce all collisions by 37% and reduce crashes with injuries by 75%.

Please note, unforeseen circumstances and weather could cause construction delays. Thank you for your patience as we complete this needed upgrade to the infrastructure in this area!



Get a free tree this Arbor Day

Celebrate Arbor Day by contributing to Auburn's tree canopy! The Auburn Tree Commission and Auburn Public Works will hold their annual Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 25. Swing by the Kroger on Dean Road, Publix at Moore's Mill or Publix at Cary Creek to pick up a free Eastern Redbud or White Oak seedling — free while supplies last! Planting instructions will be included with each seedling.

The Tree Commission is made up of Auburn residents who are appointed by the Auburn City Council. The commission advises the City on proper tree care and planting and is committed to the growth and preservation of the urban tree canopy.

The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Auburn as a Tree City USA for the last 38 years. In addition, the City of Auburn received the Tree City USA Growth Award for the fifth-consecutive year, highlighting innovative programs and an increased commitment to urban forestry.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 334-501-3000 or webpw@auburnalabama.org.

City links university research with local manufacturer to further innovation

From concept to production, the City of Auburn's Economic Development team helps foster, develop and expand Auburn companies. This often involves connecting them with the resources they need to take the next step.

The department recently did just that, linking a researcher with a longstanding Auburn company to turn an idea into a reality.

A few years ago, Dr. John Beckmann with Auburn University received a grant to develop a textile knit that could block mosquitoes' ability to bite through clothing. The City's Economic Development team offered Beckmann space in the City's incubator system for him and his research team to work.

"To take Dr. Beckmann's innovative research a step further, we introduced him to STRAEHLE+HESS, a German textile manufacturer in our Auburn Technology Park South that could help support the research team's commercialization efforts," said Arndt Siepmann, deputy director of the City's Economic Development Department.

This introduction quickly turned into a fruitful collaboration.

"Having STRAEHLE+HESS share their knowledge and experience with textiles, their supplier base and their help in repairing and operating machines has been pivotal for our research team," Beckmann said. "With their help, we've been able to develop a production-ready material."

Together, they have made significant progress in developing a life-changing knit pattern that keeps mosquitoes out. This development could help prevent the spread of deadly diseases such as malaria, zika, dengue and others.

STRAEHLE+HESS also helped the research team create a plan for commercialization, helping move the product out of research labs and into the marketplace.



Researchers test the ability of a textile knit to withstand a bite from a mosquito.

"This project is a perfect example of the collaboration between university research and commercial expertise," said Corinna Luz, chief sales officer at STRAEHLE+HESS. "As a manufacturer, we're always looking for projects that fit our business model and offer opportunities for growth. We're pleased to be part of a project that gives us a chance to work with the university while developing a new innovative product."

Beckmann's production line is now graduating out of the City's incubator after three years and moving into STRAEHLE+HESS's facility, creating an environment where students and faculty can work alongside industry experts to develop the product. This move will allow researchers to analyze textiles and test their product's effectiveness on site. The City's Economic Development team hopes this collaboration will be another example of the successful commercialization of a research idea here in Auburn.

Learn more about the City's Economic Development efforts and opportunities available for startups and industries at auburnalabama.org/economic-development.



This February, Auburn Fire is teaming up with the American Burn Association to help spread awareness about burns and how we can all take steps to avoid them. Feb. 5-11 is National Burn Awareness Week, and this year's theme is scald injuries.

Scald burns can happen at any age, but children, older adults and people with disabilities are at a higher risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

So how can you be proactive and prevent these burns?

- Teach children that hot things can burn.
- Consider installing anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- Always supervise children in or near a bathtub.
- Test water at the faucet to make sure it's below 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and test the water before placing a child in the bath.
- Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter to prevent spills.
- Have a 3-foot kid-free zone around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Open microwaved food slowly and away from your face.
- Don't hold a child while cooking, drinking a hot liquid or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Never heat baby bottles in a microwave — use warm water from the faucet instead.
- Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.

If you are ever burned by a scalding liquid, treat the burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for three to five minutes then cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed. Always dial 911 in an emergency.

Explore City projects online

The latest information about the City of Auburn's major capital projects is now available online at auburnalabama.org/cip. This new webpage includes project overviews, budgets, anticipated completion dates, photos and more important project information.

"We as a City are committed to investing in projects that help maintain and improve the quality of life for all of Auburn," City Manager Megan McGowen Crouch said. "This new resource highlights the exciting work underway and is available 24/7 to anyone with an internet connection. We look forward to giving residents another tool to keep up with what's happening in their community."

The site includes a list of the City's current projects and dedicated pages for each project. Project pages include a status bar, project manager and contractor information, photos and more.

Interested in diving even deeper? You can find our five-year Capital Improvement Plan in the current biennial budget document available at auburnalabama.org/budget.



Zumbathon 2023 Mardi Gras Party

FEBRUARY 18 • 9 A.M.

It's time to move your body, Auburn! Ninety minutes of fun-filled dancing designed to get you in shape — check! Awesome instructors who can get you dancing and will take turns leading in various styles and levels of Zumba moves — check! A Mardi Gras-themed costume contest — check!

Join us for the 2023 Mardi Gras Zumbathon on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Boykin Community Center gymnasium from 9-10:30 a.m. Come dressed in your Mardi Gras colors for the costume contest from 8:45-9 a.m., and be ready to dance (and sweat)!

Zumba is a Latin dance-based exercise program that combines dancing with an aerobic workout. It might just become your new favorite workout! Instructors hail from Auburn, Opelika and the surrounding areas. This event is FREE and open to the public. Children ages 8 and older are welcome with parent participation.

REMINDER: Renew your business license by Feb. 15

If you own a business in Auburn, remember that your 2022 City of Auburn business license expired Dec. 31, 2022. Business licenses are renewable online beginning Jan. 1, 2023, 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.

Please note, the last day to renew the 2023 business license on time is **Wednesday, Feb. 15**.

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

TYLER ADAMS, WARD 4
334.748.3198
tadams@auburnalabama.org

SONNY MOREMAN, WARD 5
334.748.3075
smoreman@auburnalabama.org

BOB PARSONS, WARD 6
334.704.3657
bparsons@auburnalabama.org

MAX COBLENTZ, WARD 7
334.748.2920
mcoblentz@auburnalabama.org

TOMMY DAWSON, WARD 8
334.559.3021
tdawson@auburnalabama.org

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
webcondev@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

FEBRUARY 2023 upcoming events

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<p>Auburn Public Library auburnlabama.org/library</p> <p>City Meetings auburnlabama.org/boards</p> <p>Parks & Recreation auburnlabama.org/parks</p> <p>Citywide Events auburnlabama.org</p>	<p>Programs & events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at auburnlabama.org.</p>	1	2	3	4
			<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>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p> <p>Volleyball Registration Ends</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>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon</p> <p>Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Registration Opens for Camp Kaleidoscope</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>Track Online Registration Begins</p>		<p>Author Talk: Edith Powell 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Daddy Daughter Date Night 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Daddy Daughter Date Night 6:30 p.m.</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<p>Registration Opens for Therapeutics Camp</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>Mardi Gras Zumbathon 9 a.m. @ Frank Brown Rec Center</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		<p>Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Reader's Review Virtual 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>Multilingual Family Story Time 10:30 a.m.</p>
26	27	28	<p><i>Background Photo: Daddy Daughter Date Night</i></p>			