

# open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

MARCH 2023



City of Auburn



## Apply for the 2023 Public Safety Academy

The City's Public Safety Academy is returning in 2023! Auburn residents are invited to take a deeper look inside all the City's Public Safety services including Police, Fire and Emergency Management & Communications.

The academy will include eight classes taking place from mid-March to late April. Each session will include presentations that cover a variety of topics ranging from crime scenes to fire prevention. The final session will include a graduation and a presentation from the Public Safety Academy Alumni Association.

Applications for the Public Safety Academy as well as the Citizens' Academy will be available Feb. 1 through 15 at [auburnalabama.org/academies](http://auburnalabama.org/academies). Questions? Contact Sidney Hancock at [shancock@auburnalabama.org](mailto:shancock@auburnalabama.org).

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

MARCH 25 • 9 AM-1 PM

Our Environmental Services team will host the biannual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, March 25. Auburn residents are invited to drop off materials from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Environmental Services Complex, 365-A N. Donahue Drive.

During the event, we will accept hazardous waste not accepted in regular garbage and trash collection. Computers and electronics will be accepted as well as documents for secure, on-site paper shredding. Each household may bring up to 20 pounds of material for disposal at no charge.

Participation is limited to Auburn residents, and proof of residency can be shown by bringing a recent water bill. Those participating in the event are asked to register ahead of time. Find a list of acceptable materials and a link to register at [auburnalabama.org/HHW](http://auburnalabama.org/HHW).

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

Interested in serving our community? The Auburn City Council will make appointments to the Commercial Development Authority and the East Alabama Mental Health Board in March.

Find applications and more info at

[auburnalabama.org/boards](http://auburnalabama.org/boards)



[auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org)

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## Happy Birthday, Auburn FixIt!

Celebrating three years with streetlight outage reporting enhancement



The Auburn FixIt app is celebrating its third year! Since its inception, you've used the app to report issues and make requests about everything from potholes to missing pets, helping us make Auburn an even better place. Our 2,364 users have made thousands of requests since the app launched in February 2020.

Haven't downloaded the app yet? Now is the perfect time! This anniversary, we're excited to roll out an enhancement to the way you can report streetlight outages. Now, just select the "Streetlights" option under the report type, and you'll see a map of all the streetlights in Auburn. Select which streetlight you'd like to report and let us know what's wrong! This will help us serve you better by making sure we have all the info needed to pass along your requests to Alabama Power and the other entities that maintain Auburn's streetlights.

Create an account online or download the app on your smart device at [auburnalabama.org/fixit](http://auburnalabama.org/fixit).



Think the library is just a house for books? Think again! Visit the Auburn Public Library to discover the many experiences that await you.

- The entire family is invited to join our **Spring Learning Challenge!** Simply read or listen for at least 1,000 minutes from March 1-April 30. To register, download the Beanstack Tracker app or visit [auburnpl.beanstack.org](http://auburnpl.beanstack.org). Complete the challenge and earn your choice of an APL T-shirt or hoodie (while supplies last). You'll also be entered into the grand-prize drawing.
- Spring Break at the Library** will feature "The Lego Movie" and Lego Build on March 6 at 2 p.m., Kids Crafternoon (grades pre-K-4) on March 8 at 2 p.m., Tween Crafternoon (grades 5-7) on March 9 at 2 p.m. and Teen Crafternoon (grades 8-12) on March 10 at 2 p.m.
- Come celebrate **Spring Break at APL@Boykin** on Tuesday, March 7, from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Boykin Community Center (400 Boykin St.). Kona Ice will serve FREE treats while attendees make their own puppets (supplies provided). The Auburn Public Library Puppet Troupe will perform a puppet show at 5:30 p.m.
- Follow the library on Facebook and Instagram (@COALibrary) and join **March Madness Battle of the Books**. Vote on daily book brackets from March 15-30 for a chance to win prizes!

Questions? Email [libraryevents@auburnalabama.org](mailto:libraryevents@auburnalabama.org) or call (334) 501-3296.

## HOW MANY ROOMMATES MAY I HAVE?

There are three zoning districts in Auburn that only allow up to two unrelated people to live in a single dwelling. Those districts are Neighborhood Conservation (NC), Limited Development District (LDD) and Development District Housing (DDH). All other zoning districts allow up to five unrelated occupants.

FIND OUT IF THESE LIMITATIONS AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY



VISIT [WEBGIS.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/RESIDENTIALOCCUPANCYLIMITS](http://WEBGIS.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/RESIDENTIALOCCUPANCYLIMITS) OR CONTACT INSPECTION SERVICES AT (334) 501-3170 OR [WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG](mailto:WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG)

## Bark in the Park

MARCH 18 • 9 AM

Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Lee County Humane Society will host the 11th annual Bark in the Park event celebrating responsible dog ownership on Saturday, March 18. The event will take place from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Kiesel Park.

This FREE community event is open to all dog owners and their favorite four-legged friends. Visit a variety of educational booths, shop with local pet vendors and enjoy door prizes and dog-friendly activities all morning. Looking to expand your canine family? Rescue dogs will be available for adoption as well!

Kick off the morning with Active Auburn's Tails and Trails 3K! Grab your running shoes and your running pawtner for a dog-gone good time. The third annual Tails and Trails 3K will begin at 8:30 a.m. on March 18 at Kiesel Park. Participants must register by Tuesday, Feb. 28, to be guaranteed a T-shirt. Registration is \$25 from Feb. 1-28 and \$35 from March 1-18.

Find more info about this event and the Tails & Trails 3K at [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks).



## Public Works director settles into new role

Dan Ballard's foray into public service began in 2000 when he joined the Auburn Fire Department's student firefighter program. A teen from the Atlanta area, the program gave Dan a way to pay for college while instilling a desire to give back to his community.

Twenty-three years later, that drive to serve Auburn's residents is still front-of-mind for Dan, the City's new Public Works director.

Dan took over as Public Works director in October 2022, filling a vacancy left by former director Tim Woody's retirement. Previously the department's Landscape and Sustainability Division manager, Dan took over as interim director in February 2022.



After graduating from Auburn University in 2004 with a

degree in zoology, Dan and his wife, Amy, moved back to the Atlanta area where Dan worked with a private environmental consulting firm. He worked across the Southeast on everything from erosion and sediment control to stream restoration and forestry management.

Two years into his career, the newly formed Watershed Division within the City of Auburn's Water Resource Management Department was looking for a coordinator, requiring many of the skills Dan had been honing with the consulting firm. Dan interviewed, and he and his wife came back to the Loveliest Village on the Plains.

During his first years back with the City, Dan juggled raising a young family and pursuing a Master of Landscape Architecture. He graduated from Auburn University a second time in 2011 and received his license in 2014.

Dan continued to advance with the City of Auburn and was promoted to Watershed Division manager in 2012. Over the next six years, he played a key role in projects like the Toomer's Corner intersection improvements and improvements to the Gay Street Parking Lot. Pulling from his master's degree, Dan helped design green infrastructure

elements that improved the flow of runoff and helped control flooding in the downtown area — all while improving the look and feel of Auburn's most iconic landmark and one of its most highly trafficked areas.

In 2018, Dan made the move to the Public Works Department as the Landscape and Sustainability Division manager, giving him an opportunity to use his skills as a landscape architect. He designed new sidewalks, sidewalk extensions and planned out the landscaping at City facilities, incorporating native plants where possible to help reduce overall cost, maintenance and water demand.

One of his favorite projects over the years has been Boykin Veggie Trails, a raised-bed community garden at the Boykin Community Center that serves as a teaching and food resource for daycare and senior center tenants at the facility.

"I love these small projects that have a big impact," Dan said. "Sometimes it's the low-budget projects that will make a world of difference for a citizen."

Now, as Public Works director, Dan is looking for more ways to help improve the way his department serves Auburn's residents. Moving forward, one of his main goals

is to be more proactive in preventative maintenance of the City's infrastructure. That includes maintaining the City's generators, storm-sewer system and, of course, roadways.

"Roadway maintenance is top of our list," Dan said, adding that the department's purpose is to help extend the life of Auburn's streets. Through pothole repairs, crack sealing and base repair, Public Works keeps roads up to par before they reach the point of needing to be fully resurfaced.

Dan said he most enjoys the variety of each day. After 17 consecutive years (and 21 total) with the City, Auburn's quality of life and level of service are what have kept him around.

"I fell in love with Auburn; I fell in love with the model," Dan said. "The City has always said that the citizen comes first. You will do a good job because it's the right thing to do, and it's what our citizens demand and deserve."

"I love the mission, and I love the people who do it."

 You can reach Dan at (334) 501-3000 or [dballard@auburnalabama.org](mailto:dballard@auburnalabama.org).

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# MARCH 2023 **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><b>Auburn Public Library</b> <a href="http://auburnlabama.org/library">auburnlabama.org/library</a></p> <p><b>City Meetings</b> <a href="http://auburnlabama.org/boards">auburnlabama.org/boards</a></p> <p><b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b> <a href="http://auburnlabama.org/parks">auburnlabama.org/parks</a></p> <p><b>Citywide Events</b> <a href="http://auburnlabama.org">auburnlabama.org</a></p>	<p>Programs &amp; events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at <b><a href="http://auburnlabama.org">auburnlabama.org</a></b>.</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>Story Time (in person/virtual)</b> Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Board of Zoning Adjustment</b> 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Registration Opens for Easter Events</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Story Time (in person/virtual)</b> Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>City Council Agenda Review Meeting</b> 4 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Puppet Shows (in person/virtual)</b> Fridays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 3:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Tree Commission</b> 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>Story Time (in person/virtual)</b> Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p>
5	<p>6</p> <p><b>Planning Commission Packet Meeting</b> Noon</p> <p><b>Lego Movie &amp; Lego Build</b> 2 p.m.</p> <p><b>Cemetery Advisory Board</b> 4 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>Story Time (in person/virtual)</b> Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</b> 11:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> TBD</p> <p><b>City Council</b> 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Spring Break at APL@ Boykin</b> 4:30-6 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>Crafternoon (Pre-K-4th Graders)</b> 2 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>Crafternoon (5th-7th Graders)</b> 2 p.m.</p> <p><b>Planning Commission</b> 5 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>Crafternoon (8th-12th Graders)</b> 2 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		<p><b>Historic Preservation Commission</b> 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>March Madness Battle of the Books Begins</b> @COALibrary on Facebook &amp; Instagram</p>	<p><b>Celtic Traditions Irish Dance Performance</b> 3:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>City Council Agenda Review Meeting</b> 4 p.m.</p>		<p><b>Tails &amp; Trails 3K</b> 8:30 a.m. @ Kiesel Park</p> <p><b>Bark in the Park</b> 9 a.m. @ Kiesel Park</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		<p><b>Library Board</b> 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Greenspace Advisory Board</b> Noon</p> <p><b>Reader's Review Virtual Book Club</b> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> TBD</p> <p><b>City Council</b> 6 p.m.</p>		<p><b>Author Talk: Marie Martello</b> 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Water Works Board</b> 4 p.m.</p>		<p><b>Empty Bowls</b> 5-7 p.m. @ Kiesel Park</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	
				<p><b>City Council Agenda Review Meeting</b> 4 p.m.</p>		<p><i>Background Photo: Pottery from Empty Bowls</i></p>