

open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

SEPTEMBER 2024



City of Auburn



Sidewalks are for **pedestrians.**

As fall approaches and more and more people fill the sidewalks in downtown Auburn, remember that sidewalks are for pedestrians.

Per city and state code, sidewalks within Auburn's Downtown Business District are a scooter-free zone. This also applies to bikes, skateboards, skates and other similar devices. Their speed, coupled with dense pedestrian traffic, makes the combo a recipe for disaster.

Please keep our sidewalks and roadways safe for all this fall by following the rules of the road! And remember, violators can be ticketed.

The Downtown Business District's boundaries are Glenn Avenue on the north, Gay Street on the east, Thach Avenue on the south and College Street (from Thach to Magnolia) and Wright Street (from Magnolia to Glenn) on the east.

Labor Day closures & schedules

Most City facilities will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day. Public Safety services including police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling collection will be delayed by one day throughout the week.

The Auburn Public Library's book drops will remain open, and the online collection of e-books, e-audiobooks and digital magazines is always available at auburnalabama.org/library.

Downtown parking will be free except for the Wright Street Parking Deck.

All Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed except for Samford Pool and the Yarbrough Tennis Center, both of which will be open during regular hours.

Fall Sundown Concert Series

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for an evening of music and relaxation at the Fall Sundown Concert Series held at Kiesel Park. Mark your calendars for Thursday, Sept. 19, and Thursday, Sept. 26, from 6-7:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and unwind to the sounds of live music in the beautiful park setting. The Chill Spot food truck will be on-site offering a variety of dinner options and cool treats to enjoy.

Don't forget, dogs on leashes are welcome, making it a perfect outing for the whole family. This event is free and open to the public, so come out and enjoy the crisp fall evenings with friends, family, and neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there!



NOISE COMPLAINTS

Need to report a noise complaint? Contact the Auburn Police Division's non-emergency line, 334-501-3100, day or night. An officer will patrol the area to determine the source of the noise and take appropriate action as guided by state law. Callers have the option to meet with officers or remain anonymous — please do not call the Tip Line with noise complaints.



It's your average Saturday at Kiesel Park: the tennis balls and Frisbees are flying at the large- and small-dog runs, shady trails host plenty of runners, walkers and cyclists, and a 250-person wedding is getting underway at the pavilion.

Well, that may not be quite the average Saturday at the park, but the City of Auburn's 124-acre park at 520 Chadwick Lane is host to a growing number of weddings in the spring and fall. The southwest Auburn park is a favored spot for those looking for a beautiful, nature-focused venue without the fuss.

Kiesel Park has been host to about 12 weddings in 2024 as of mid-July, and it has hosted 43 weddings in the past two years. Rentals are busiest in the spring and pick up again in the fall.

Jennifer Burch, Auburn Parks and Recreation administrative technician, handles park reservations for the department and said on July 17 that reservations for May 2025 had begun to come in. Weekend rentals usually remain available for prime spring weather until about January or February, she said.

In addition to the greenspaces and mature trees that make it a great natural venue, Kiesel Park is a flexible spot for weddings. Guests have the option to rent (or not rent) the outdoor pavilion, the community building and the historic Nunn-Winston House during their celebrations.

"They can choose any or all of those for their event. The pavilion is a great location for the actual ceremony — that's what we see most often," Burch said. "The community building is indoor and has tables and chairs that can be used."

The community building and its catering kitchen makes for a convenient staging area for receptions. As a historic property, there is no food or drink allowed in the Nunn-Winston House, but bridal parties often use it to prepare for their ceremonies.

While the two buildings have capacity limits — 75 for the community building and 50 for the Nunn-Winston House — the outdoor area of the park itself is open and can

accommodate basically any size wedding. If Kiesel can host Auburn CityFest, it can accommodate your group.

Kiesel Park is the only City park where renters can stay after normal operating hours — until 9 p.m. on a weeknight or midnight during the weekend.

That flexibility also means there are some special considerations to make if you're planning a wedding at Kiesel Park. Guests are responsible for setup and breakdown of seating and tables, and tents, catering and other additions must be rented separately. Rental companies must be on the guest's permit for the event ahead of time.

Special additions and vendors must be cleared with Parks and Recreation staff at least 60 days before the ceremony. Alcohol is permitted for receptions at the park only with permission of City staff, liability insurance, potentially an ABC license depending on the event, and a member of the Auburn Police Department must be present during the event.

The other two things to remember when planning a wedding at Kiesel Park don't have much to do with rules or regulations: the weather and other people.

"Weather is often a consideration," Burch said. "In the case of rain, we do have concessions in place for that for the outdoor facility. We can cancel, if we need to, and reschedule."

And, of course, Kiesel Park remains open to the public during any special event at reserved areas. If you're planning photos at a beloved spot in the park, remember that your party may not be the only people there.

But after those I's are dotted and T's crossed, wedding parties are free to make their ceremonies what they will at the park.

"It's a beautiful venue. It's a great, affordable option for people," Burch said. "We welcome people to ask for our reservations, and sign up, and we wish them luck."

rental fees FIND MORE INFO AT **AUBURNAL.MYREC.COM**

	PAVILION \$100/day		TABLES \$5 each (up to 20)
	NUNN-WINSTON HOUSE \$75/hour, \$500/day		CHAIRS \$40 for 1-50 or \$80 for 51-100 (up to 100)
	COMMUNITY BUILDING \$75/hour, \$500/day	<i>(background photo credit: DV Foreman)</i>	

National Crime Prevention Week – Lock It or Lose It

Sept. 1-7 is National Crime Prevention Week, and the Auburn Police Department is encouraging everyone to Lock It or Lose It!

Did you know most thefts from vehicles are a result of unlocked car doors? You can help prevent these crimes by taking a few steps to keep your property safe. Through the Lock It or Lose It campaign, Auburn Police encourages everyone to:

- Remove all valuables from your vehicle each time you leave it.
- Lock your vehicle.
- Report any suspicious activity.

In an emergency, always call 911. For non-emergencies, you can call 334-501-3100 or submit an anonymous tip using the Auburn Public Safety App (available on Apple and Android devices).

Hidden Gems: Auburn's trails & small parks

Kiesel Park — it's home to some of our biggest events such as Auburn CityFest, the fall and spring Sundown Concert Series, Bark in the Park and Easter festivities. Many of our dog-loving residents know it well for its two fenced-in dog parks where your furry friends can run and play with abandon.

But did you know that among Kiesel's expansive acreage is a 2 ¼-mile trail that winds through fields, over streams, around ponds and under the trees? If you're a nature lover and haven't had a chance to walk the trail just yet, get ready for a treat. The landscape is beautiful year-round with wildflowers throughout spring and summer and pops of color on falling leaves in autumn.

Runners are welcome, too! It's a great spot to get away from the concrete (your knees will thank you) and take in some fresh air while getting your miles in. Our trails are even used by the Auburn High School cross country team and for the Tails and Trails 3K as part of Bark in the Park.

All of this to say, if you haven't been yet, come explore! Learn more about all Auburn Parks and Recreation has to offer by following @COAParksAndRec on Facebook and Instagram.

Each month, we're featuring a new small park or trail in celebration of this year's Park and Recreation Month theme: "Where You Belong." Check out upcoming issues for more features.



A better way to get rid of used cooking oil

Over the years, we've kept more than 18,400 gallons of used cooking oil and grease out of the City's sewer system through our Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Recycling program. And you can help us collect even more!

Our Water Resource Management Department began the FOG Recycling program in 2009 to bring awareness to and reduce the harmful effects of improper disposal of grease and used cooking oil. Remember — oil should never be poured down the drain. Even if it is poured slowly down the drain with hot water, this will eventually cause problems with your plumbing and the City's sewer system.

Through the program, you can responsibly recycle used grease and oil by picking up a free container from the Recycling Drop-Off Center at 365-A N. Donahue Drive. Once the container is full, bring it back to the drop-off center to be properly disposed. A grease renderer turns the recycled oils into raw materials that can be used in animal feeds, pet food and industrial formulations.

For more information, visit auburnalabama.org/water-resource-management/fog-recycling or contact the Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3060 or webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org.

Pom-Poms & Pumpkins Fall Learning Challenge

The Auburn Public Library is inviting the community to take the Pom-Poms and Pumpkins Fall Learning Challenge from Sept. 1 through Oct 31!

Read or listen for at least 1,000 minutes to complete the challenge and earn your choice of an APL T-shirt or hoodie (while supplies last). Register for the challenge via the Beanstack Tracker app or at auburnpl.beanstack.org. Happy reading!

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SEPTEMBER 2024 **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
1	2	<p>Preschool Story Time Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m.</p> <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>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p>	4	5	6	7
	Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.		<p>Baby's 1st Story Time Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Untidy Tales Wednesdays @ 1 p.m.</p> <p>Cultural Explorers (Grades 4-6) Wednesdays @ 4 p.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</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>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon	<p>Adults Create! @ 5:30 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>		<p>Adults Create! @ 2 p.m.</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		<p>Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Chapter Chats Book Club (for adults) 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p> <p>Youth & High School Basketball Registration Begins</p>		<p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Chemistry You Can Eat: Ice Cream Edition (Grades 7-12) 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Fall Sundown Concert Series @ Kiesel Park, 6-7:30 p.m.</p>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				<p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p> <p>Fall Sundown Concert Series @ Kiesel Park, 6-7:30 p.m.</p>		
29	30		<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>		

Background Photo:
Benches along a walking trail at Kiesel Park