

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2017

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City of Auburn



### City Manager Retires after 28 years of Service

Auburn City Manager Charles M. Duggan, Jr. recently announced his retirement, effective March 1, 2017.

Duggan began his career with the City of Auburn in 1989 as a part-time employee in the Parks and Recreation Department. There, he worked his way up to Director of Special Programs before transferring to the Information Technology Department in 1998. As a member of the IT staff, Duggan served as Network Administrator, Assistant Director and Deputy Director before being promoted to Assistant City Manager in August of 2005. Duggan became Auburn's City Manager in February of 2006.

During Duggan's tenure as City Manager, over 4,400 new jobs have been announced with 22 new companies locating in Auburn and 69 companies expanding. Duggan took early action to counter the effect of the "great recession" locally by constraining operational and personnel expenses. As a result, there was no reduction in basic city services provided to residents during the recession. In 2015, due to this focus on fiscal responsibility, the City was able to increase its financial commitment to Auburn City Schools to aid with unprecedented enrollment growth. In 2016, the Annual Citizen Survey indicated high levels of citizen satisfaction, with the "overall quality of city services" ranking 31 points above the national average and the "value received for tax dollars" ranking 30 points above the national average.

Duggan will close his career with the City of Auburn with 28 years of service to Auburn's citizens.

In December, the Auburn City Council appointed Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer (ACMCIO) James C. Buston, III to take over as Interim City Manager on March 1. Buston created the City's Information Technology Department in 1996 and has since served as its first and only Director. Buston's focus as ACMCIO has been to guide the City's use of technology to improve operational efficiency, effectiveness and fiscal responsibility. Buston is a graduate of both Oregon State University and Auburn University. He has received the Certified Government CIO designation from the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Buston does not seek the permanent position, but will provide excellent continuity in the interim.

One of Buston's immediate responsibilities is to assist the Auburn City Council with the selection of a recruitment firm, which will conduct a nationwide search for Auburn's next City Manager. It is expected that the City Council will select the firm at a March Council Meeting and that it will work with that firm over the next six months to choose the most qualified candidate to lead City staff.



*Charles M. Duggan, Jr.*



*James C. Buston, III*

# City of Auburn 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 does not own or live on property in a floodplain, the program benefits the community by protecting the environment, making people safer, and saving everyone money. The City received a Class 7 score for our CRS application which gave the citizens' of Auburn a 15% 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 regarding 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 rain events. During the last ten years our biggest rain events occurred in March 2006, November 2006, February 2009, November 2009, July 2011, February 2012, February 2013, August 2013, and December 2015. During major rain events flash flooding can occur when drainage courses, such as stormwater systems and natural ditches, overflow and flood. Areas subject to flooding include:

**Local Water Bodies:** Choctafaula Creek, Parkerson Mill Creek, Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, Lake Chewacla, Lake Ogletree, Saugahatchee Creek, and Little Loblockee Creek.

**Roadways:** North Donahue Drive Bridge, Water Crest Drive Bridge, East University Drive Bridge at Summertrees Drive, Moores Mill Rd Bridge at Forestdale Drive, Windway Road Bridge, and Ogletree Road Bridge north of Oak Knoll Circle.

## Flood Warning

The City of Auburn, in conjunction with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency, work together to give citizens ample warning in cases of a flooding event. Emergency messages are broadcasted through local radio and TV stations including:

**Radio:** 93.9 FM WTGZ, 95.9 FM WQSI, 97.7 FM WKKR, 1400 AM WANI, 94.3 FM WGZZ, 1230 AM WAUD, 104.5 FM WAUF-LP, 91.1 FM WEGE, 1520 AM WTLM

**TV:** WRBL Channel 3, FOX 54 News Channel 8, WTVM Channel 9, WSFA Channel 12, and The Weather Channel (channel number may vary based on service provider)

In the event of heavy rains, it is essential to monitor television 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.

## 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:

- **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.**

## Property Protection Measures

During the past 100 years, flooding has been the number one cause of property damage in North America each year. Property owners can apply permanent retrofitting techniques that can help to eliminate or reduce flood damage:

- **Elevating your house 1 ft. above the base flood elevation.**
- **Flood proofing your house to make the walls and flooring watertight so that 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 Public Works Department are available for site visits to review flooding, drainage and sewage issues and provide one-on-one advice to the property owner on appropriate flood protection measures. They are also available to assist you with reviewing and critiquing retrofit plans for flood-prone residences and buildings.

## Are You Insured?

The City of Auburn is an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Even if your property is not located in a high risk flood area it is a good idea to buy flood insurance, because almost 25% of all flood insurance claims come from areas with minimal flood risk. Two important facts that citizens should know are:

- **Homeowner's insurance policies MAY NOT cover flood damages or losses.**
- **Insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period BEFORE coverage goes into effect.**

There are two types of Flood Insurance Coverage offered: 1. Building Property, up to \$250,000, and 2. Personal Property (Contents), up to \$100,000. The NFIP encourages people to purchase both types of coverage. Your

## Auburn Water Works Board Lifts Drought Restrictions

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn (AWWB) has lifted water restrictions after Auburn experienced over six inches of rainfall during the New Year's Holiday weekend. Water levels at Lake Ogletree (the City's primary drinking water supply) rose over eight feet during that timeframe. Overall, Auburn has received over ten inches of rainfall in January. In accordance with the AWWB's Drought Management Plan, the Phase II Drought Warning and associated water restrictions and excess usage fees have been rescinded.

The AWWB appreciates the cooperation of its customers during this recent drought and encourages its customers to continue to be water conscious moving forward. The AWWB will monitor our water resources and weather conditions over the next several months to ensure that water levels continue to recover sufficiently to meet the increased water demands of spring and summer.

mortgage company may also require that you purchase a certain amount of flood insurance.

## **Floodplain Development Permit Requirements**

To ensure the highest degree of safety, the Public Safety Codes Enforcement Division enforces the Building Code for the City of Auburn. A permit is required for ALL construction in the City of Auburn. Any development without a permit is non-compliant and may result in fines. If you know of any development taking place without the required permits or would like to verify a contractor's license, please contact the City of Auburn Codes Enforcement Division at 334-501-3170. They are located at 171 North Ross Street Suite 100.

## **Substantial Improvement Requirements**

The importance of permit requirements plays an important part in this requirement. In order 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 not only to new structures, but also to existing structures which are "substantially improved (SI)" or "substantially damaged (SD)."

**"Substantially Damaged"** means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to it's 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 which have incurred "substantial damage" regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The City of Auburn requires an elevation of 1 ft. above the base flood elevation for new construction and for existing structures before they are repaired.

## **Do You Live In Or Around a Special Flood Hazard Area?**

The City of Auburn Public Works Department is available to assist in providing more information on whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Upon request, the following Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information will be provided: The community number, the map panel number and suffix, the date of the FIRM's Index, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE)

shown on the FIRM, the elevation datum used on the FIRM, and the availability of Elevation Certificates (EC's) for review. For more general information, you can view your property in relation to the local floodplains online using the City's interactive mapping system at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps>.

## **Drainage System Maintenance**

The City of Auburn's Public Works Department maintains the storm drainage system and helps to keep the creeks and streams in the City of Auburn clean and free of debris and pollutants. In order for the drainage system to operate efficiently the ditches, streams, and channels must be kept clean. Debris, even leaves and grass clippings, can obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and yards. Citizens can play a huge role in this effort by maintaining ditches and streams on their properties and by notifying the City when maintenance is needed on the right of way. City Code 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.

## **Natural and Beneficial Functions of the Local Floodplain**

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 are the two most important aspects of our local floodplain. 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 reaching our waterways. The City of Auburn is home to several identified undeveloped floodplain areas which are VITAL for several endangered or threatened species unique to this area, as well as provide recreation, education, and research important to our local economy. The City of Auburn has implemented several successful projects to protect our local wetlands: Town Creek Park Stream Restoration, Pocket Wetland at County Dumpster/Compactor Site, Wrights Mill Road Elementary School wetlands, and Parkerson Mill Creek Restorations.

**For more information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, please contact the Public Works Department at 171 North Ross Street Suite 200, 334-501-3000 Or visit our website at [www.auburnalabama.org/pw](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pw)**

## **Board Vacancies**

**Commercial Development Authority (1 vacancy)**

**Apply by:** February 27, 2017, **Appoint:** March 7, 2017

**East Alabama Mental Health – Mental Retardation Board (2 vacancies)**

**Apply by:** March 13, 2017, **Appoint:** March 21, 2017

**Library Board (1 vacancy)**

**Apply by:** March 27, 2017, **Appoint:** April 4, 2017

**Historic Preservation Commission (3 vacancies)**

**Apply by:** March 27, 2017, **Appoint:** April 4, 2017

*To apply for a vacancy on any board or commission visit [auburnalabama.org/boards](http://auburnalabama.org/boards) and fill out an application form. E-mail your completed form with a résumé to [boards@auburnalabama.org](mailto:boards@auburnalabama.org) or mail/deliver to City Hall: 144 Tichenor Avenue, Auburn, AL, 36830.*

# City Management

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## Open Line Feedback

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share?

If so, please contact us at [ddorton@auburnalabama.org](mailto:ddorton@auburnalabama.org) or call 501-7266.

# upCOMING EVENTS

Due to space considerations, we are unable to publicize events that are not directly affiliated with a City department.

## Auburn Public Library

Engagement and Outreach: 334-501-3198 | [auburnalabama.org/library](http://auburnalabama.org/library)

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Auburn Author Festival- Saturday, March 11 at 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Join us for a morning with local authors sharing their books with our community. Each author will do a short reading and will be available for book signing.

**Plain Chicken at the Auburn Public Library- Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.**

Food and travel blogger, Stephanie Parker, of Plain Chicken, will be speaking at the Auburn Public Library. Join us for an evening of stories, recipes, and fun. Plain Chicken has been featured in *Southern Living*, *People*, and *The New York Times*.

**Open Mic Night- Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

Calling all artists! Are you a writer, comedian, or songwriter looking for a place to showcase your work in a safe environment? Join us at the Auburn Public Library for a chance to share. Refreshments provided

### STORYTIMES

**Baby Time-** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Babies and their favorite adults enjoy 20 minutes of interactive stories and songs.

**Toddler Time-** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Toddlers and their favorite adults enjoy 30 minutes of interactive stories and songs.

**Preschool Storytime-** Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Preschoolers and their favorite adults enjoy 30 minutes of interactive stories and songs.

**Saturday STEM Storytime-** Saturdays at 10 a.m. Preschoolers and their favorite adults learn all about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics at this special storytime.

### BOOK CLUBS

**Business Book Club-** Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. Join us for this new book club which will focus on the latest business titles. March's selection is *Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time* by Keith Ferrazzi.

**Literary Classics for Teens (13-18) -** Monday, February 6 at 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger.

**Show and Tell-** Monday, March 20 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library- a book club where you can read any book!

**Read & Reflect-** Tuesday, March 28 at 10 a.m. at the Harris Senior Center, featuring *Imagine Me Gone* by Adam Haslett.

## Parks and Recreation

Auburn Parks and Recreation: 501-2930 | [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks).

**Special Olympic Events –** Come out and support Lee County Special Olympics for our special events during the month of March!

- **Regional Aquatics Meet** Friday March 4 at Opelika SportsPlex
- **Bowling Tournament** Monday and Tuesday March 6 and 7 at AMF Bowling
- **Basketball Tournament** in Dothan, Alabama on Thursday and Friday March 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>

For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/specialolympics](http://www.auburnalabama.org/specialolympics) or follow on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/specialolympicsalleco](http://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsalleco).

**Fit as a Fiddle Health and Lifestyle Fair –** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fit as Fiddle: 50+ Health and Lifestyle Fair will be held on Saturday March 4 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Harris Center. This free event offers members of the 50+ community an opportunity to visit with doctors, fitness experts, senior communities and volunteer organizations offering products and services tailor made especially for them. Businesses and organizations interested in participating may contact Gabby Meredith, Community Programs Coordinator, at (334) 501 - 2946 for an application. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks).

**Bark In The Park –** Sit, stay, roll over! Dog lovers are invited to join Auburn Parks and Recreation on Saturday, March 25 at Kiesel Park from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. for Bark in the Park, a celebration of our canine companions and responsible dog ownership. This is a FREE community event open to all dog owners and their four-legged friends. For more information about the event or information about becoming a vendor, please contact Gabby Meredith at [gmeredith@auburnalabama.org](mailto:gmeredith@auburnalabama.org) or call 334.501.2930.

**Coming soon.... Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions –** Exhibitions are free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, please call the Arts Center at (334)501-2963 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts).

- March 6-10 Annual Graphic Design Juried Exhibition. A competitive show of graphic design projects by Auburn University students.
- March 22 through April 28 Fiber Arts: Curves and Edges. New fiber works by current members of Studio 222.

**Countdown to CityFest 2017!** Mark your calendars for Auburn CityFest 2017: *Peace, Love and CityFest* on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. We are throwing back to days of flower power with bands, beads and bohemian fun. We want to invite you out to the park for day filled with delicious food and treats, children's activities, fantastic music and a variety of arts & crafts from local and regional artists and craftspeople. Interested in participating in CityFest as a vendor? Spaces are available for non-profits, food, and arts & crafts and fine arts, as well as for the Juried Art Show, held on Thursday, April 27. Download an application today at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com). Auburn CityFest is Auburn's largest, free outdoor arts and crafts festival. For more information, please visit [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com).

### Save the Date: March!

- **Swim Lesson Registration** will begin Monday, March 6. Auburn City Pools swim lessons program serves ages 6 months and up. Additional information regarding swim lessons is available in the 2017 spring brochure and online at [www.auburnalabama.org/pools](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pools).
- **ACTA First Friday Night Mixer** will be on Friday, March 3 at Yarbrough Tennis Center at 6p.m. for details, call (334)501-2920 or email [auburncta@yahoo.com](mailto:auburncta@yahoo.com).
- **Youth Online Track Registration** ends Friday, March 10. A one day walk-in registration will be held on Wednesday March 8 at Dean Road Recreation Center
- **AACT Young Performers production of "Cheaper by the Dozen":** Come enjoy the hilarity of two families becoming one big family of 12! Performances will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center on March 3 and 4 and 9, 10 and 11. Matinée performances will be held on the following Saturdays, March 4 and 11.