

open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

MARCH 2022



City of Auburn

CITIZEN SURVEY

coming to a
mailbox near you



More than 35 years ago, we conducted our very first Citizen Survey to gauge how you, our residents, feel about the services we provide, how we operate and what we should work on. Since its inception in 1985, the Citizen Survey has been a regular part of our planning processes. Its long history gives us trend data that helps us measure where we have improved or where we need to do better. This feedback and data inform how we prioritize our budget and shape the City's policy decisions.

Formerly an annual survey, the now biennial survey aligns with the City's two-year budget. To ensure survey results are statistically valid, the survey is conducted according to best practices by ETC Institute, a leading firm in the citizen survey field.

If you've participated in the survey before, some questions will seem familiar, reflecting core questions that stand the test of time and help us track public opinion. You will also see new questions designed to gather your thoughts on current initiatives. The feedback you give us is vital.

The 2022 Citizen Survey will be mailed in February to a random selection of Auburn residents. If you're one of this year's recipients, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and return it in the included, postage-paid envelope, or complete the survey online at the link provided. Online participants will be required to enter their address at the end of the survey to make sure only those originally selected for the random sample are counted in the study. ETC Institute will follow up on these mailings by email to encourage participation.

The survey is completely confidential. All data will be reported to the City by census block — we will not receive any name or address information. We truly value your input and look forward to hearing how we can better serve the Auburn community. To see past Annual Citizen Survey results, visit auburnalabama.org/survey. Have questions? Reach out at (334) 501-7260 or webocm@auburnalabama.org.



Arbor Day celebration, tree giveaway

The Auburn Tree Commission will host its annual Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 8:30 a.m.-noon at the TCBY on Dean Road, Publix at Moore's Mill and Publix at Cary Creek. The Tree Commission will hand out American Fringetree and Tulip Poplar seedlings to citizens free of charge while supplies last. Planting instructions will be included.

In honor of the Tree Commission's efforts and the Arbor Day Celebration, Mayor Ron Anders has declared Feb. 26, 2022, to be "Arbor Day" in the City of Auburn.

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 third consecutive year, highlighting innovative programs and an increased commitment to urban forestry. For more info, contact the Landscape and Sustainability Division at 334-501-3000.

auburnalabama.org






 @CITYOFAUBURNAL

City launches inaugural Citizens' Academy

You're invited to go behind the scenes of City operations and engage with staff as a member of the inaugural class of the City of Auburn Citizens' Academy.

The annual Citizens' Academy is a new, free program that will allow Auburn residents to get a glimpse into the work done by all 19 City departments through tours, presentations and conversations with the staff members who help make Auburn the vibrant community you know it to be. Participants will graduate from this program with knowledge of day-to-day operations, the tools to get more involved and a deeper relationship with fellow community members and City staff.

"The Academy is a program designed for Auburn residents who desire to be more engaged, informed and involved with their community," said Allison Blankenship, Citizens' Academy coordinator.

Sessions will occur on weekdays, and applicants should receive approval from their employers to participate in the program. A full schedule will be announced when applications go live on Feb. 14. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28. Space is extremely limited. For more information, visit auburnalabama.org/neighborhoods.



Longtime director retires after 35 years of service

Whether coordinating the repair of a sinkhole downtown or putting out a landfill fire with a bulldozer in the middle of the night, Tim Woody was always up for a challenge during his 35 years with the City of Auburn. The longtime Environmental Services director and current Public Works director traded in those challenges for retirement in January.

A CAREER OF CHANGE

During his career, Tim has helped implement countless changes that have allowed the City to serve Auburn residents with excellence and efficiency.

"It's really Cadillac service," Tim joked.

The City launched curbside recycling during Tim's first year as a full-time employee — the first Alabama municipality to offer the service. He was one of the first to collect the sorted plastic, glass, paper and other recyclables from the four customers

who were signed up on the first day. Thirty years later, Tim was head of the Environmental Services Department and implemented the next phase of recycling in Auburn, single-stream recycling, in 2017. The department was able to implement the program, which allows residents to place all recyclables in one bin, when a sorting facility opened nearby in Columbus. The recycling program has now grown to service more than 14,600 customers.



When it comes to garbage and trash collection, Tim had a hand in nearly every change since the '80s. He and the other refuse collectors worked a very labor-intensive job in the '80s and '90s. The City provided backdoor service at that time, and collectors would walk up each driveway in the City, drag garbage cans to the road then lift and dump each can into collection trucks — all manually.

In '97, the City bought its first semi-

automated truck that had an automated lever to dump carts into the truck, greatly reducing the workload on the collectors. The first fully automated truck was introduced in 2000. Later that year, the City introduced cart service and began transitioning customers from backdoor service to curbside service.

Each of these steps made collection routes more efficient and allowed the Environmental Services Department to reduce injuries on the job. For Tim, improving the working conditions for the collectors was one of his proudest accomplishments. Throughout his tenure as department head, Environmental Services was able to maintain the same number of collectors while accommodating thousands of new customers and maintaining exemplary customer service. For years, the Citizen Survey has shown residents are 90% or more satisfied with garbage services.

THE EARLY DAYS

Tim started with the City in 1986 as a temporary laborer doing maintenance work with the Public Works

Bark in the Park & Tails and Trails Run

MARCH 19 • 9 A.M. & 8 A.M.

Calling all dog lovers! Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Lee County Humane Society will host Bark in the Park, an event celebrating responsible dog ownership, on Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. The 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!

The second annual Tails and Trails 3K will also take place on March 19 at 8 a.m. Visit auburnalabama.org/parks/register to sign up for the run.

Board & commission vacancies

One vacancy on the Auburn Public Library Board will be announced at the Feb. 15 Auburn City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 15 meeting. Applications will close at 5 p.m. on March 7. Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or to find more information about volunteering for one of 22 boards and commissions.

to the citizenry."

Tim was solid waste division manager for eight years and was promoted to assistant director of the department in 2000. While in that position — and with four children and a wife at home — Tim went back to school with the help of the City's tuition reimbursement program. He graduated with a bachelor's in public administration in December 2003 then began his 15-year stint as Environmental Services director in January 2004.

Thirty-three years into his career with retirement on the horizon, former City Manager Jim Buston asked Tim to take over as the Public Works Director in 2019. The decision wasn't hard — Tim was excited to accept the new challenge. He had always enjoyed working for the City of Auburn.

"It really is a great place to work," Tim said. He touted the City's support of its employees and the educational and training opportunities it provides. He added that the dedicated supervisors and division heads that he has worked with have made his job as director even better.



MARCH 14-APRIL 9

put out oversized yard debris and other bulky items without fees

One of those people was Catrina Cook, current Environmental Services director, who worked with Tim for more than 20 years.

"Working with Tim has been a pleasure," Cook said. "His graciousness with the people he worked with, his understanding of public service and his ability to encourage others has always impressed me. His achievements with the City made quite an impact."

As he prepares to spend more time with his nine grandchildren and travel with his wife, Tim's advice for the next Public Works director is to continue to develop employees with education and training. He encouraged them to "be firm but fair, be kind, be responsive, be compassionate and understanding, and be as humble as you can be."

"Tim's dedication, kindness and hard work have contributed to the success of not only the departments he has managed but also the success of the employees around him," City Manager Megan McGowan Crouch said. "He has served Auburn with expertise, humility and strong leadership, and he leaves a legacy of excellent public service."

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

BRETT SMITH, WARD 4
334.740.8847
basmith@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

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
334.501.3110
webpubsfty@auburnalabama.org

PUBLIC WORKS
334.501.3000
webpw@auburnalabama.org

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
334.501.3060
webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org

MARCH 2022 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>	1	2	3	4	5
		<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 7 p.m.</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>Online Track Registration Begins</p>	<p>Puppet Shows (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 10:30 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	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon</p> <p>Family Movie 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Ward 4 Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Breakfast with the Bunny, Easter Egg Hunt Registration</p>	<p>Family Movie 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Family Movie 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Family Movie 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p>		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		<p>Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Reader's Review Book Club 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m.</p>		<p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p>	<p>No Puppet Show</p>	<p>Bark in the Park & Tails and Trails Fun Run</p>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<p>Programs & events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at auburnlabama.org.</p>	
			<p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p>		<p><i>Background Photo: Bark in the Park</i></p>	