

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

January 2021

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City of Auburn

### Introducing Auburn's next city manager



**Megan McGowen Crouch**

After more than 23 years of serving Auburn's residents, Megan McGowen Crouch has been selected to lead the City of Auburn as city manager.

Crouch has served as the City's assistant city manager and chief operating officer since May 2019. She will step into her new role as Auburn's first female city manager on Feb. 1, 2021, upon current City Manager Jim Buston's retirement on Jan. 31, 2021.

Crouch began her career as an intern in the City's Planning Department in 1997. Since then, she has served as a city planner, economic development officer, deputy economic development director and executive director for the Development Services Business Unit.

#### **Economic Development efforts**

During her time in Economic Development, Crouch was heavily involved in industrial recruitment and commercial development. She was instrumental in bringing Auburn

Technology Parks North and West and the Auburn Research Park to fruition and played a key role in recruitment efforts. She was the lead project manager for several industrial projects, including GE Aviation, Donaldson Company and Northrop Grumman. Over her 18 years in the Economic Development department, Crouch was involved in the recruitment of 50 industrial projects that generated more than \$1.1 billion of capital investment and created 4,460 jobs.

Crouch collaborated in creating the Commercial Development Incentive Program and led efforts to create a one-stop permitting process for all industrial and commercial projects. These initiatives aided in the location of Sam's Club, both Publix supermarkets, both Wal-Mart Neighborhood Markets, Academy Sports + Outdoors, the Heart of Auburn redevelopment, The Depot redevelopment, renovations to the Corner Village Shopping Center and expansions and renovations to the Auburn Mall, among many other projects. As deputy economic development director, Crouch was responsible for the recruitment of commercial projects that generated more than \$150 million of capital investment and created more than 1,000 jobs.

#### **A wide impact**

Outside of Economic Development, Crouch worked closely with other departments to help formulate and implement plans that help guide Auburn's growth and redevelopment to this day, including CompPlan 2030, Renew Opelika Road, the Downtown Master Plan and Northwest Auburn Plan.

Crouch's impact reaches beyond the City of Auburn. She has also worked with the International City/County Management Association and the Urban Institute to provide economic development and strategic planning training and technical assistance in

*Continued on Page 2...*

## Introducing Auburn's next city manager, continued.

Bulgaria, Serbia and Kosovo. Crouch has also served on the Auburn Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors and the Economic Development Association of Alabama's Board of Directors.

Crouch holds a bachelor's in urban studies from California State University – Northridge and a master's in community planning from Auburn University. She is certified by the International Economic Development Council (Certified Economic Developer – CECD), the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and Economic Development Finance Professionals (EDFP). She is also a graduate of the Leading, Educating, and Developing Program (LEAD) through

the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, which focuses on creating high performing organizations through empowering employees at all levels of the organization.

"No one will work harder for Auburn than Megan McGowen Crouch," said City Manager Buston. "Her work ethic combined with her education, certifications and years of experience in planning, economic development and city operations make her uniquely qualified for this position. I couldn't be more comfortable than to leave the city's administration in her hands because I know that she loves Auburn and is passionate about doing what's best for Auburn."

## Adjusting to shorter days



As the days grow shorter, many of us are out more after daylight hours. Help keep yourself and fellow residents safe this season by reporting street light outages and wearing appropriate reflective gear when walking or biking.

**Street lights:** Most street lights in Auburn are maintained by Alabama Power. To report an outage, you can:

1. Call Alabama Power at 1-800-245-2244 or visit [alabamapower.com](http://alabamapower.com).
2. Use the Auburn FixIt app ([auburnalabama.org/fixit](http://auburnalabama.org/fixit)).
3. Contact our Engineering Services Department at (334) 501-7390 or [webengineering@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webengineering@auburnalabama.org).

**Reflective material:** Everyone walking or running after dark must wear reflective material between the waist and shoulders on both front and back. All bicyclists are required to have an operating headlight on the front of their bicycles and reflectors on the front and rear spokes of the wheels and pedals of their bicycles.

Make sure your reflectors reflect light from a car's headlights from a minimum of 500 feet. Remember—just because you can see a car's headlights does not mean the driver can see you. Find more about how you can be safe when traveling around town at [travelwithcareauburn.com](http://travelwithcareauburn.com).

## 2020 Polar Plunge

Sign up, dive in and raise money for a great cause! Brave the cold at the ninth annual Polar Plunge on Saturday, Jan. 30. The plunge will begin at 9 a.m. at Samford Pool. You're invited to recruit sponsors to support you as you take the plunge. All the money you raise will go to the Lee County Special Olympics. Individual and group costumes are encouraged

**\*COVID-19 note:** This year's event will not allow spectators, and jumpers will be socially distanced via "waves." Pre-registration on [Active.com](http://Active.com) is REQUIRED. [Active.com](http://Active.com) registration will be available beginning Monday, Dec. 7, at 8 a.m. Find more information at [auburnalabama.org/parks/programs/polar-plunge](http://auburnalabama.org/parks/programs/polar-plunge).

## House check for the holidays

Heading out of town for a while and need someone to keep an eye on your home? Our Auburn Police Division can help.

Auburn Police offer periodic house checks at no cost to Auburn residents. If you're going to be away from your home for an extended amount of time, you can fill out a form at [auburnalabama.org/police/house-check](http://auburnalabama.org/police/house-check) or call (334) 501-3150 to sign up for the service. Please include helpful information like if you'll be leaving vehicles parked at the residence, if lights will be left on or if you expect any authorized visitors. Also, be sure to leave us your local emergency contacts. And before you leave, make sure to lock your doors and secure all windows.

This is just one way that we're working to keep our community safe during the holiday season.

## Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the Board of Zoning Adjustment will be announced at the Dec. 1 Auburn City Council meeting and will be filled at the Jan. 5, 2021 meeting. Applications will close on Dec. 28 at 5 p.m. Visit [auburnalabama.org/boards](http://auburnalabama.org/boards) to apply or to find more information about volunteering for one of our 22 boards and commissions.

## A place of respite: Dinius Park coming spring 2021



Soon you'll be able to find respite along shaded paths at a new park in Auburn. Work began in November on the construction of the roughly 13-acre passive park, named Dinius Park in honor of the family whose donations of land and funding made the park possible. A grand opening for the park will likely occur in the spring or summer of 2021.



Located at 1435 E. Glenn Ave. between North Dean Road and East University Drive, the park will provide a slice of the outdoors in the middle of the city. Tree clearing has been minimized, leaving as many trees as possible on the property to preserve the property's woods, which contribute to the park's secluded, peaceful atmosphere. Dinius Park will feature about a half mile of walking trails that weave through the woods and around a small pond. Two dog parks — one for small dogs and one for large dogs — will be included on the property.

A restroom building and parking lot will finish out the first phase of the park. Future phases will include a nature playground that promotes creative play and uses materials like wood, rocks, berms and other components. A pavilion area will be added as well as a dock and overlook areas near the property's pond.

The property was donated in 2013 by Sarah (Sally) and Robert Dinius. The Dinius family also donated funding to help with completion of the first phase of the park. This passive park will be a culmination of the dreams the Dinius family had for the land. Check out a video with a sneak peak of the park at [auburnalabama.org/parks/facilities/dinius-park](http://auburnalabama.org/parks/facilities/dinius-park).

Dinius Park is just one piece of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Master Plan that was adopted by the Auburn City Council in May 2018. This is the third project under construction since the plan's adoption.

## January holiday schedule

City Hall and most City facilities will close on Friday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day and Monday, Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Public Safety services including police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. The Auburn Public Library's book drops will remain open, and the online collection of ebooks, e-audiobooks, and digital magazines are available 24/7. Keep an eye on news. [auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org) for Parks and Recreation facility hours during the holidays.

## 2021 Holiday collection schedule

The New Year brings a new garbage, trash and recycling pickup schedule. Keep this list to refer to throughout the year and avoid missing your garbage pickup day. You can also find the schedule online at [auburnalabama.org/garbage-and-recycling](http://auburnalabama.org/garbage-and-recycling).

### JANUARY - New Year's Day

Friday, January 1 CITY HOLIDAY  
No schedule changes

### JANUARY - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 18 HOLIDAY  
Tuesday, January 19 Monday's Route  
Wednesday, January 20 Tuesday's Route  
Thursday, January 21 Wednesday's Route  
Friday, January 22 Thursday's Route

### MAY - Memorial Day

Monday, May 31 HOLIDAY  
Tuesday, June 1 Monday's Route  
Wednesday, June 2 Tuesday's Route  
Thursday, June 3 Wednesday's Route  
Friday, June 4 Thursday's Route

### JULY - Independence Day

Monday, July 5 CITY HOLIDAY  
No schedule changes

### SEPTEMBER - Labor Day

Monday, September 6 HOLIDAY  
Tuesday, September 7 Monday's Route  
Wednesday, September 8 Tuesday's Route  
Thursday, September 9 Wednesday's Route  
Friday, September 10 Thursday's Route

### NOVEMBER - Veteran's Day

Monday, November 8 Monday's Route  
Tuesday, November 9 Tuesday's Route  
Wednesday, November 10 Wednesday's Route  
Thursday, November 11 HOLIDAY  
Friday, November 12 Thursday's Route

### NOVEMBER - Thanksgiving

Monday, November 22 Monday's Route  
Tuesday, November 23 Tuesday's Route  
Wednesday, November 24 Wednesday's & Thursday's route  
Thursday, November 25 HOLIDAY  
Friday, November 26 HOLIDAY

### DECEMBER - Christmas Day

Friday, December 24 CITY HOLIDAY  
No schedule changes

### JANUARY 2022 - New Year's Day

Friday, December 31 CITY HOLIDAY  
No schedule changes



# JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

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



City of Auburn

Programs and events are subject to change. Please visit [auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org) for up-to-date information on program and event cancellations.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Comeries Advisory Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Word 4 Meeting 5:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>2021 Spring Brochure available online</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Online Youth Volleyball Registration Begins</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Online Youth Volleyball Registration Begins</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Online Youth Baseball, Football and Soccer Registration Begins</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Library Board 10 a.m. - 10 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Online Youth Baseball, Football and Soccer Registration Ends</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting TBD</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Public Safety</p> <p>Paul Register 501-3110</p> <p>pregrister@auburnalabama.org</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Library Board 10 a.m. - 10 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Online Youth Baseball, Football and Soccer Registration Ends</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Online Youth Baseball, Football and Soccer Registration Ends</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting TBD</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Public Safety</p> <p>Paul Register 501-3110</p> <p>pregrister@auburnalabama.org</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Library Board 10 a.m. - 10 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 7 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Online Youth Baseball, Football and Soccer Registration Ends</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Water Works Board 4 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Online Youth Baseball, Football and Soccer Registration Ends</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting TBD</p>	<p>Story Time in the Outdoor Classroom 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Virtual Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>
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