

# open line

a monthly newsletter for you, our residents.

FEBRUARY 2022



City of Auburn

## *protecting our streams* why Auburn has a stream buffer ordinance and what it means

Is your home or property located within a stream buffer? Since Auburn has over 450 miles of streams within its city limits, it is very likely that your home or property is near a stream. Because Auburn is situated on a natural plateau, most of our local streams are smaller "headwater" tributaries that form the beginning of larger, more well-known waterbodies like the Tallapoosa River, the Alabama River and eventually the Mobile Bay.

While our local streams are relatively small, they play a vital role in our ecosystems and provide habitat for fish, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates and other wildlife. In addition, these small local streams are a source of high-quality drinking water as they enter Chewacla Creek and form Lake Ogletree, the City of Auburn's principal drinking water source. Due to the important nature of these local waters, the Auburn City Council adopted a Stream Buffer Ordinance in 2006 to provide protection for our streams.

### **WHAT IS A STREAM BUFFER AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Stream buffers are natural areas adjacent to streams that remain free of development to protect water quality and prevent property loss caused by erosion. Vegetated stream buffers filter many contaminants

found in stormwater that are carried along the ground surface during storms. Trees, shrubs and grasses within these buffers slow down stormwater runoff and promote infiltration. Infiltration replenishes groundwater levels and reduces the amount of stormwater that makes it to the stream channel. Less water in the stream channel during storms helps reduce bank erosion and subsequent property loss.

### **HOW IS THE SIZE OF A STREAM BUFFER DETERMINED?**

The width of the stream buffer depends on the drainage area at the point of interest. For example, larger streams that drain areas greater than 1 square mile are provided a buffer width up to 100 feet from the top of the bank on each side of the stream. Smaller streams that drain 100 acres or less are provided 35 feet of buffer width on each side of the stream. While the nearest 25 feet adjacent to all streams must remain undisturbed, the ordinance does allow for some uses within the outer buffer zones. The complete ordinance with buffer widths and zones can be found in Article IV, Section 413 of the City of Auburn's Zoning Ordinance ([auburnalabama.org/planning/development-services/zoning-ordinance](http://auburnalabama.org/planning/development-services/zoning-ordinance)).

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**(CONTINUED) WHAT IS REGULATED BY THE STREAM BUFFER ORDINANCE?**

All new developments, both residential and commercial, located within the City of Auburn are required to adhere to the Stream Buffer Ordinance. Homeowners must abide by the ordinance if their property's survey plat was filed and recorded on or after May 2, 2006. The ordinance allows for waivers and mitigation in exceptional situations, and a Stream Buffer Encroachment Application ([auburnalabama.org/water-resource-management/standard-development-forms](http://auburnalabama.org/water-resource-management/standard-development-forms)) can be submitted to the Water Resource Management Department for review.

To learn more about the Stream Buffer Ordinance, visit [auburnalabama.org/water-resource-management/watershed](http://auburnalabama.org/water-resource-management/watershed) and click on "Stream Buffer Ordinance" at the bottom of the page. If you have questions about whether your property is located within a stream buffer, contact the Watershed Division at 334-501-3060 or [webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org).



**Zumbathon 2022 Mardi Gras Party**

**FEBRUARY 26 • 8:30 A.M.**

It's time to move your body, Auburn! Ninety minutes of fun-filled dancing designed to get you in shape — check! Awesome instructors who can get you dancing and will take turns leading in various styles and levels of Zumba moves — check! A Mardi Gras-themed costume contest — check! Join us for Zumbathon 2022 on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Boykin Community Center gymnasium from 8:30-10 a.m. Come dressed in your Mardi Gras colors and be ready to dance (and sweat)!

Zumba is a Latin dance-based exercise program that combines dancing with an aerobic workout. It might just become your new favorite workout! Instructors hail from Auburn, Opelika and the surrounding area. This event is FREE and open to the public. Children ages 8 and older are welcome with parent participation. Find more info and a link to register at [auburnalabama.org/parks](http://auburnalabama.org/parks).

**Renew your business license by Feb. 15**

If you own a business in Auburn, remember that your 2021 City of Auburn business license expired Dec. 31, 2021. Business licenses are renewable online beginning Jan. 1, 2022, by visiting [auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org) and clicking the PAY icon.

If this is the first time you are using our Citizen Self Service portal, you must first register your account and contact the Revenue Office to link your business license account to your registered username (instructions are available online). If you cannot renew online, contact the Revenue Office at [revenue@auburnalabama.org](mailto:revenue@auburnalabama.org) or (334) 501-7239 for further assistance.

Please note, the last day to renew the 2022 business license on time is Tuesday, Feb. 15.

**Book club visitor: An evening with Jamie Clevenger**

Award-winning author, Jaime Clevenger, will join the Reader's Review Virtual Book Club on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 5:30 p.m. for fun discussion about books, writing and romance! Jaime writes LGBTQ+ Contemporary Romance fiction. She loves to hear a good tale and is often running late because she's convinced someone to share their life story. Bonus points are given if they include a good romance — whether or not there's a happy ending.

The event will be held via Zoom, and registration is required. Find more details at [auburnalabama.org/library](http://auburnalabama.org/library).



**Follow the Auburn Public Library on social media**

The Auburn Public Library now has its own Facebook and Instagram accounts! We're excited to welcome them to the City's family of social media channels, allowing you to better connect with the library and the expanse of resources and programs it has to offer. Follow along to learn about upcoming library events, the latest additions to the library's collection and a variety of tips to help match you with the resources you need.

Check out the new accounts @COALibrary on Instagram and search "Auburn Public Library" on Facebook. Library staff are excited to connect and engage with you through social media, and as always, you can call 334-501-3190 to speak with library staff, text 334-500-4075 for curbside pickup, or email [weblibrary@auburnalabama.org](mailto:weblibrary@auburnalabama.org). Happy reading!

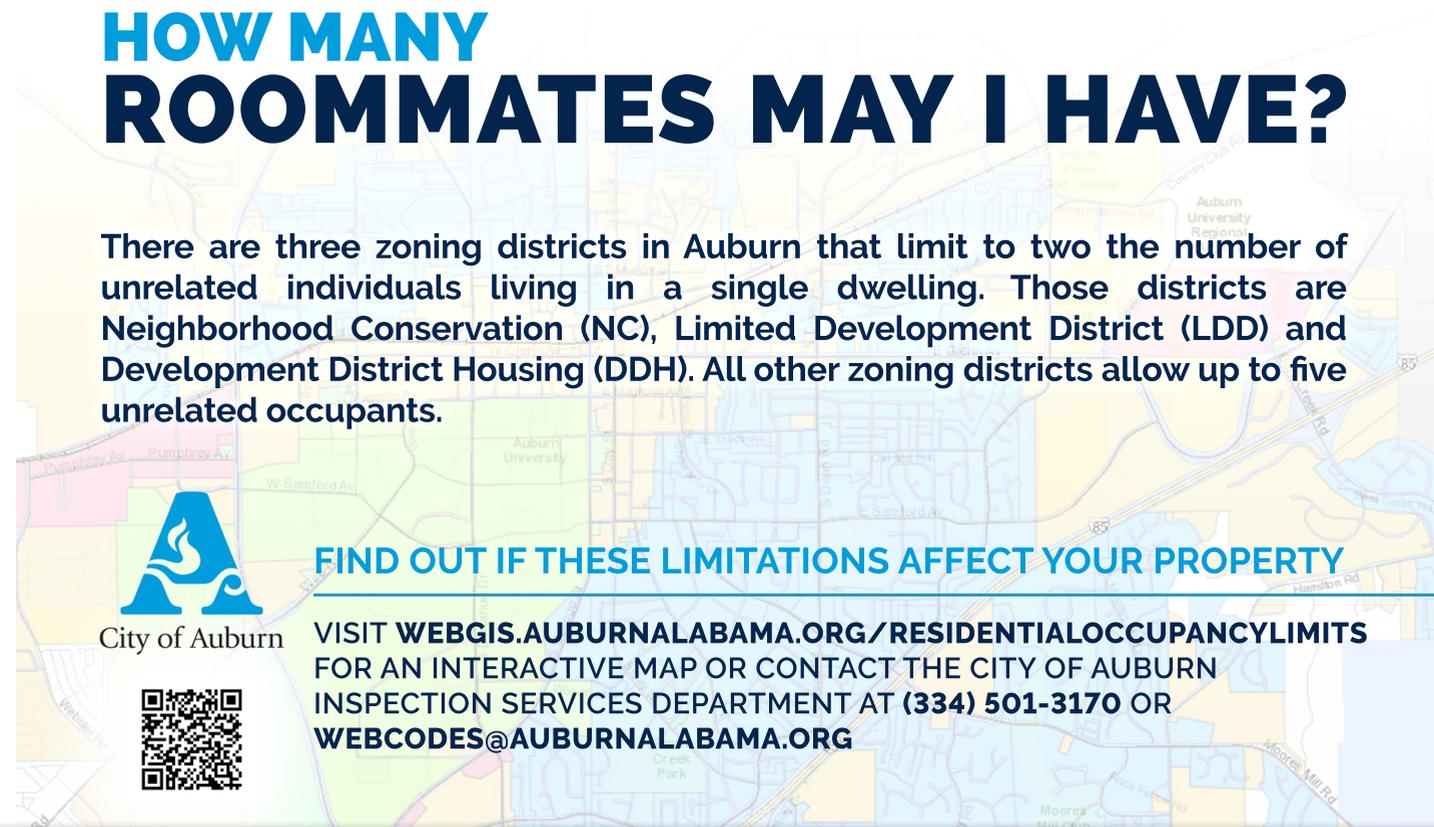


Did you know you can reach Auburn 911 by text on your cell phone if you're unable to call?

While we always prefer a voice call, Auburn Police and Auburn Fire can be dispatched to you by texting 911. This is especially useful for those with hearing and speech impairments. And remember, our non-emergency line is always available at 334-501-3100 for when you need us but there isn't an emergency.

**HOW MANY ROOMMATES MAY I HAVE?**

There are three zoning districts in Auburn that limit to two the number of unrelated individuals living 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) FOR AN INTERACTIVE MAP OR CONTACT THE CITY OF AUBURN INSPECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT (334) 501-3170 OR [WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG](mailto:WEBCODES@AUBURNALABAMA.ORG)

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# FEBRUARY 2022

## upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager  
334.501.7268 | [openline@auburnalabama.org](mailto:openline@auburnalabama.org)

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- Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon
- Family Movie 3:30 p.m.
- Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.
- Ward 4 Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- Spring Program Registration Begins

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20

27

1

- Story Time (in person/virtual) Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.
- Committee of the Whole TBD
- City Council 7 p.m.
- Camp Kaleidoscope Registration Opens

8

- Design a Valentine 3:30 p.m.
- Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.
- Track Registration Begins

14

- Multilingual Storytime 3:30 p.m.
- Therapeutics Camp Registration Opens

15

- Library Board 10 a.m.
- Greenspace Advisory Board Noon
- Reader's Review Book Club 5:30 p.m.
- Committee of the Whole TBD
- City Council 7 p.m.

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2

- Story Time (in person/virtual) Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.

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- [Auburn Public Library](http://auburnalabama.org/library)
- [City Meetings](http://auburnalabama.org/boards)
- [Parks & Recreation](http://auburnalabama.org/parks)
- [Citywide Events](http://auburnalabama.org)

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- Story Time (in person/virtual) Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- Daddy Daughter Date Night

10

- City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.
- Planning Commission 5 p.m.
- Daddy Daughter Date Night

17

- Water Works Board 4 p.m.

24

- City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.

Programs & events are subject to change.  
Find up-to-date information at [auburnalabama.org](http://auburnalabama.org).

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- Puppet Shows (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 10:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.
- Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.
- Daddy Daughter Date Night

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- Daddy Daughter Date Night

18

25

Background Photo: Pottery from Empty Bowls

5

- Story Time (in person/virtual) Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- Daddy Daughter Date Night

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- Empty Bowls

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- Mardi Gras Zumbathon