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25 cents

Buc-ee's eyeing Auburn location off Exit 50

Brian Woodham
Editor

Buc-ee's, the popular Texas-based gas station, convenience store and travel center, is eyeing a new location in Auburn at Exit 50 off of I-85.

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, the

Auburn City Council is set to consider a development agreement between the city and Buc-ee's Auburn LLC, which was formed in Alabama in late April, according to a legal notice that ran in the *Opelika-Auburn News* on Monday, May 10, and Alabama Secretary of State business entity records.

The project, which would be roughly located on the northeast corner of Cox Road at Exit 50 off of I-85, corresponds with another project recommended for conditional-use approval by the Planning Commission at its April meeting, allowing for a large 55,000 square-foot gas station with about 116

fuel pumps and more than 470 parking spaces, according to meeting materials.

Jeff Nadalo, general counsel for Buc-ee's, confirmed on Tuesday that the company is indeed looking to build a location at I-85 and Cox Road.

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Building up students through construction

Madasyn Lee
Associate Editor

Jessica Bowlin is giving her students the opportunity to build their futures. Literally.

As instructor of Auburn High School's Building Construction CTE Program, Bowlin has spent the last four years helping students design and build large-scale construction projects from the ground up—including a fully functioning tiny house with working plumbing and electricity.

"It had a toilet, drain lines, bathroom, kitchen sink, bathroom sink, shower, water heater ... basically everything you have in a typical house,"

Bowlin said. "It took about 18 months (to build)."

Bowlin's four-course program is designed to teach students the technical and critical thinking skills that are needed to pursue a career in the construction industry. It also gives them experience working in teams and collaborating.

The students start out in an introductory level course that teaches basic construction skills, such as how to use hand and power tools, before moving into more advanced courses that teach more specialized skills, such as how to install windows and doors. The introductory course serves as a prerequisite for those advanced courses.



MADASYN LEE/THE VILLAGER

Jacob Bailey, 16, and Tucker Roberts, 15, put the finishing touches on a children's Playhouse

This school year, the students built two children's playhouses designed to look like a barn and a castle. They designed the playhouses based on photos of other playhouses they saw online.

"They drew from a lot of different resources to come up with what you see out there," Bowlin said of the playhouses,

which will eventually be auctioned off to pay for future building construction program projects.

The students also built a storage building for Auburn Opelika Habitat for Humanity, which will accompany a house the nonprofit built at 864 Foster St. The local Habitat builds one to three homes for people in need of

housing per year.

The building construction program is partnering with the nonprofit to build storage buildings for each Habitat-built home.

"A common problem that they have is that they'll build a house for a family ... but then the

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Unique scents abound at Auburn Candle Co.

Madasyn Lee
Associate Editor

Not all candles smell like sweet red roses. Some smell pretty nasty.

Outback Steakhouse once asked Quentin Bowden and Tifani Hedrick to make a candle that smelled like a steak. They did, and no one liked it.

"None of us thought it smelled good at all," Bowden said. "We tried to mix it with everything: rosemary, peppercorn, things that typically would go with a steak. But, it just, it never (smelled) right."

The restaurant company agreed.

"They had the same reaction we did," Bowden said. "They're like, 'Yeah, it smells like a steak, but I don't know if I really want that in a candle.' We were like, 'Well, ask and you shall receive.'"

Bowden and Hedrick are the owners of Auburn Candle Company on North Gay Street.

Other odd scent requests they've received have been onion, Pine-Sol



and ice box — which smells "like you just opened your freezer."

One customer wanted a candle that smelled like their cat. That one surprisingly didn't smell that bad.

"They said (the cat) smelled like lavender and honey and something else," Bowden said. "We did attempt to

make it."

The couple opened their candle company last March, a week before the coronavirus pandemic shut everything down.

It managed to survive — and thrive — thanks to TikTok, which was responsible for about 70 to 80

Auburn Candle Company

Address: 166 N Gay St, Suite 1
Phone: (334) 209-2955
Website: <https://auburncandle.com/>
On TikTok: @auburncandlecompany

percent of the company's sales last year. TikTok is a video-sharing social networking service.

"We have multiple videos that have gone viral with well over 1 million views," Bowden said of the company's TikTok account. "We've got a following of just shy of 50,000 followers ... which is pretty nice for a candle company."

The couple didn't know much about TikTok at first. But one of their employees did.

She convinced them to try to recreate a popular candle that allegedly smelled like English singer-

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ACS names new elementary school

Madasyn Lee
Associate Editor

The new elementary school in the works for north Auburn has an official name: Woodland Pines Elementary School.

The Auburn City Schools Board of Education unanimously approved the name recommendation at its Tuesday

meeting.

Superintendent Cristen Herring said a committee of stakeholders was brought together to decide on a name for the new elementary school, as per district policy.

"After thoughtful consideration of the geographical references on the north side of town, important names in our community and other factors, the committee reached an agreement

and presented this recommendation," Herring said before the 5-0 vote.

The new elementary school will be located at 1565 W. Farmville Road.

It will be the tenth elementary school in Auburn's school system, and teach up to 600 students in kindergarten through second grade.

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