

OWLS Luncheon
 (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
Wednesday, February 21, 2018—11:30 am
JD Withers Building
 This monthly luncheon is the “don’t miss”
 event for those age 50 and better. Bring a side
 dish or dessert to share!
**This month: Trip Planning &
 Games**


AUBURN
 1369 Fourth Avenue
 P.O. Box 1059
 Auburn, GA 30011
 770-963-4002
 www.cityofauburn-ga.org



**February Tennis Program Sessions Available
 City of Auburn Tennis Courts!**

Join us at the Auburn Tennis Courts for **Group Lessons!** *Group Tennis Classes available All Ability Levels*

MONDAYS: February 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 lessons—Only \$10 per Lesson!) - \$40

(Professional Tennis Registry) Certified Professional Instructor Josh Honea
 5:00pm-6:00pm **Little Champs Tennis** (4-8 yrs, youth)
 6:00pm-7:00pm **Future Champs Tennis—Junior Development I** (9-12 yrs, old)
 7:00pm-8:00pm **Competitive Champs Tennis—Junior Development II** (For players 13-18 of all abilities, striving toward a higher level of play through competition)

To register for Group Tennis Lessons or to request more information, please contact:
 Josh Honea: tenniswithjosh@gmail.com - 770-547-8647

Progress: Auburn Center

The City of Auburn was awarded a \$500,000 for Redevelopment Fund (RDF) grant to complete Phase I of the rehabilitation of the former Perry Rainey Institute dormitory at 16 College Street. This historic building is a treasure to our City. Our partnership with the Georgia Department of Corrections has allowed us to complete a lot of the interior work for a minimal outlay of funding. Once completed, the building will be capable of hosting events and will offer rental opportunities. We are really excited by the progress—the building will be available for rental beginning in March.

Now known as the Auburn Center, this will be a multi-function community facility. The upper floor will be used as a wedding and event venue. The 1st floor will have modular rooms that can accommodate small meetings or larger conferences. A commercial warming kitchen will be available for catered events. The center will also be home for Lanier Technical College’s adult education classes and ESOL classes.

We look forward to the completion and opening of the new Auburn Center.



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February 2018 Volume 10, Issue 2

Auburn Messenger

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PEOPLE PASSION PROGRESS

The Mayor's Corner



Mayor Linda Blechinger

Welcome to February! What a January we had with the cold weather and snow. We hope that everyone was able to stay safe and warm! Our Public Works crew and the Police Department did an excellent job of getting our roads passable and keeping our citizens safe. Thank you to everyone for heeding the warnings about staying off the roads. It makes everyone’s job easier in this type of situation and keeps you and your family safe.

As I mentioned in our January newsletter, we are currently working on the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Auburn. We will be forming a steering committee that represents a cross-section of our community, including members of our Boards, volunteers and community leaders. The steering committee will help us plan the “roadmap” for Auburn. Five elements of our future will be considered. The first step is to evaluate and prioritize our future needs and opportunities. Each of the needs or opportunities that the steering committee identifies will then be followed up with recommendations on how to address the issue.

The second element to be considered are our Community Goals. This will include a vision statement, community goals (long and medium term) that the City wishes to achieve, and community policies. The community policies are intended to provide ongoing guidance and direction to local officials making decisions on reaching community goals.

Land Use is the third element that we have to consider. We will need to evaluate our current land use maps and look to the future. Are we using our lands to their highest potential—are we keeping within our vision statement with the maps as they currently exist?

The fourth element—and a very crucial one—is Transportation. We need to identify any significant issues with the road network including connectivity, signalized intersections or inadequate signage. Alternate modes of transportation need to be looked at. Are there opportunities to improve our connectivity and access to transportation? Is the parking adequate? Railroads and trucking are also under this element. What is the impact of these on our community and transportation network?

The last element to look at is our Community Work Program. This element lays out specific activities the community plans to undertake during the next 5 years to address the priorities identified in the other elements.

The amazing thing about a Comprehensive Work Plan is how all these elements fit together to plan our future as a community! Your help is needed. We need YOU to provide your input on this future roadmap. Want to volunteer to be part of the steering committee? Drop by City Hall and ask to speak to City Planner Jay Miller or Community Development Director Alex Mitchem or send an email to cityplanner@cityofauburn-ga.org. You will be amazed at how much we as a community can accomplish.

As always, I am continually gratified to see our community step up and help each other. I love our City and look forward to working together to plan our future.

February 2018

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Know the past, shape the future.

Happy Valentine's Day

Auburn Library Programs & Events

February 1 at 11:30AM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club
 February 1, 8, 15, 22 at 5PM: Teen Nights
 February 1 at 5:30PM: Auburn Coding Club
 February 2, 9, 16, 23 at 11AM: Adult Coloring
 February 3 at 3PM: Lego Club
 February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time
 February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 1PM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
 February 6 at 5PM: Harry Potter Party
 February 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11:30AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time— up to 2 years
 February 10 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon
 February 12 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club
 February 13, 27 at 5PM: Teen Writing Club
 February 19 at 5PM: Friends of the Library Meeting
 February 24 at 11AM: Family Storytime
 February 24 at 4PM: Bookworms Book Club for Tweens
 February 26 at 5PM: Maker Monday

Auburn Public Library
 24 Fifth Street, Auburn,
 770-513-2925
www.prlib.org



MEETINGS CALENDAR

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 1361 4th Avenue (next to the Police Station) unless otherwise noted—meeting times, locations & dates are subject to change

02/01 at 6PM: City Council Business Meeting
 02/08 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
 02/14 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
 02/15 at 6PM: City Council Workshop
 02/21 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning

Free GED Classes In Auburn

If you're among the 39 or more million adults in the U.S. who never graduated from high school, then you've probably considered getting your GED® certificate, the adult learner's alternative to a high school diploma. The GED certificate is worth considering, and it's a credential worth getting. The City of Auburn has a successful partnership with Lanier Technical Institute to offer free GED Classes to anyone 16 or over that needs to earn it.

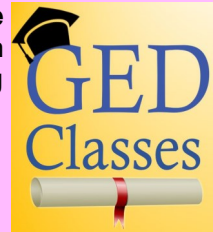
Having the GED certificate opens up a lot of doors for advanced training. Most specialized training programs require either a high school diploma or a GED. Also with GED certificate, you'll be eligible for most workplace or on-the-job training programs, along with higher educational opportunities.

Consider the impact on your family. Your family benefits because a GED certificate is a way to increase financial security. Research also shows that once parents get a GED certificate, they're more likely to encourage their children to seek educational opportunities and complete educational milestones.

Classes are held morning and evenings in Auburn at the J.D. Withers building near Auburn Elementary. These will move to the new Auburn Center in early 2018. There is no cost to attend classes, and there are scholarships available to pay for the GED test.

English as a Second Language courses will also be available at the Auburn location. The Winder Campus will offering Citizenship Classes too.

For more information call 770/531-3361—
 Start today!



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Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission

is devoted to bringing the best in leisure programming to Auburn. From Auburn Youth Athletics Baseball Programs and the Tennis program to the Auburn OWLS (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors) to green space parks—there is something for everyone.

February 21—OWLS Valentine Luncheon—11:30 am—OWLS Luncheon
 February 14—Parks & Leisure Commission

A Pollinator-Friendly Garden Can Be Created in the Shade

Pollinators are an important natural resource in Georgia, providing an estimated value of \$360 million in pollination services. Agricultural crops and native plants need pollinators to successfully produce fruit and seeds. Unfortunately, pollinators face a growing number of challenges, like parasites, diseases, habitat loss, weather extremes and misuse of pesticides. Providing flowers is one way to help local pollinators. Thoughts of pollinator habitats conjure up images of wildflower meadows or cottage gardens blooming in the full sunlight.

For homeowners surrounded by shade, pollinator-friendly landscapes can seem unattainable, but they don't have to be. Landscapes featuring trees and an abundance of shade can be great resources for pollinators, too. Existing flowering trees, shrubs and shade-tolerant herbaceous plants in shaded landscapes are beneficial resources for pollinators, and they can easily be added to a landscape to provide "trees for the bees."

Not all trees with eye-catching blooms are beneficial to pollinators but planting a variety of trees can ensure a year-round supply of blooms to help provide nourishment for pollinators. Eastern redbuds are covered with purplish-pink flowers in the early spring. The handsome white flowers of dogwoods follow about a month later. Tulip poplars grow to be large trees that provide shade to a landscape and feature greenish-yellow flowers in late spring. The white flowers of a catalpa tree brighten yards in the early summer, while crape myrtles and bottlebrush buckeyes provide bursts of color during the heat of summer. Witch hazel trees provide a splash of yellow to complement fall foliage. Some other trees that can be used by pollinators include American plum, red maple, sugar maple, red buckeye, white fringetree, persimmon, American holly, yaupon holly, chastetree and black locust.

Shrubs provide floral resources for pollinators starting with whitish-yellow flowers on paperbush in February, rounding out the year with white, wispy groundsel bush blooms in October. Spring bloomers include painted buckeye, sparkleberry, mayberry and blueberry. Pink abelia, lavender American beautyberry, white buttonbush, and white oakleaf hydrangea flowers can liven up landscapes in the summertime.

It's not just a slogan Clean water IS the clean choice - Don't Litter!

Litter and debris continue to plague our waterways.

Trash is a highly visible form of pollution that has harmful effects on our waterway, wildlife and human health. We've seen it from cigarette butts piled on our street corners to television sets dumped in the stream, litter is everywhere! Yard waste, paint can, furniture, old tires and household trash are dumped on the roadside and in other areas across our City.

All of this litter leads to major problems in our waterways. Yard waste caused excess nutrients to form in streams which remove the necessary oxygen from the water causing fish to die. Litter and trash can cause storm drains and pipe to become blocked which causes flooding. Plastics entangle wildlife and cause animals to die.

What can you do to prevent water pollution from trash and debris?

Proper disposal: dispose of trash properly and educate others about proper waste disposal.

Reduce your own waste: examine how much waste you produce and look at ways to reduce it by recycling as much as possible is a great way to reduce waste!

Remember YOU can make a difference! Reducing water pollution takes everyone working together!

For more information contact the Stormwater Coordinator at
 (770)963-4002 X207.

