

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

OWLS Luncheon
 (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
 Wednesday, March 21, 2018—11:30 am
 JD Withers Building
 7 7th Street—Auburn
 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: Talking Books

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

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

with PTR (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

Kindergarten Preregistration—as easy as 1, 2, 3!

Step 1: PRE-REGISTER your child for school (<https://registration.barrow.k12.ga.us>) *You can do it online from home, no more paperwork!*
Step 2: ENROLLMENT and SCREENING

| | |
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| April 30th - Monday Statham Elementary | May 11th - Friday County Line Elementary |
| May 2nd - Wednesday Yargo Elementary | May 14th - Monday Auburn Elementary |
| May 4th - Friday Bramlett Elementary | May 16th - Wednesday Winder Elementary |
| May 7th - Monday Holsenbeck Elementary | May 18th - Friday Kennedy Elementary |
| May 9th - Wednesday Bethlehem Elementary | |
| May 21st - Monday Make up day - Central Office | |

Please bring all of the required documents to the Central Office on your school's scheduled registration day. To help alleviate crowding and disperse the registrations throughout the day, if at all possible, please attend during the time period listed that corresponds to the first initial of your child's last name (A-C 8-9AM, D-J 9:30-11am, K-M 11AM-12PM, N-S 12-1:30PM, T-Z 1:30-3PM). This is when your child will receive an enrollment and be screened. *(The child and the biological parent/legal guardian must be present)*

OR:

If the biological parent/guardian cannot be present on the school's scheduled day then you may:
 * Bring the required documents to the Central Office prior to the Kindergarten screening/registration dates above. Your child will then receive an enrollment for school. *(Your child doesn't need to be present for this part, but the biological parent/legal guardian registering does!)*

* You will also need to make sure your child attends the scheduled screening/registration day for his/her school (see above), where he/she will be screened. *(Since your child already has an enrollment, anyone can bring him/her in for screening)*
 * You're done!

You're done! Register between April 30th & May 21st and your child will receive a FREE book courtesy of the Barrow Book Partnership. You will also have an opportunity to sign up for a FREE PINES library card from the Piedmont Regional Library System-Winder, Auburn and Statham Public libraries.

Please see the Barrow County School System website for a list of required documents or contact your school or Registration Department at 770-867-4527, www.barrow.k12.ga.us

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 470-545-1121
 Motorcycle Service & Customization
 130 Auburn Park Dr, Ste D
 Auburn, GA 30011
 Juggernautcycles.com
 juggernautsgarage@gmail.com

Fence America

Commercial & Residential Fencing
 James Brigman
 jabrigman@hotmail.com
 678-698-8926

March 2018

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Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

The Mayor's Corner



Mayor Linda Blechinger

I can't believe that March is here. Already the signs of spring are all over town with budding trees, flowers coming up and a sense of renewal in the air. The promise of the future always seems brighter in the early part of spring.

The City of Auburn has had some transitions lately. It was with deepest gratitude for his years of service to the City that we bid goodbye to our City Administrator Ron Griffith last month. Ron was a public servant for 45 years and served his last 10 with the City of Auburn. He was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Georgia Municipal Association at our February Council Workshop. We looked at many candidates for someone who could fill Ron's shoes and found the perfect match within the current City staff. We are pleased to announce the promotion of Alex Mitchem as the new City Administrator. Since joining the City three years ago, Alex has held positions as our City Planner and Community Development Director. Alex has 19 years of experience in city planning, zoning, and detailed site analysis. He has administered on behalf of local governments zoning analysis, plan review, building inspection, and code enforcement. Additionally, he has provided critical feedback on existing policies, procedures and service delivery. His experience includes master planning, site planning for a range of recreational, mixed-use, and municipal projects as part of a multi-disciplinary team. He has worked in both public and private sectors providing creative solutions that integrate development demands with sound planning principles. His first order of business will be to hire a new City Accountant as our long-time City Accountant Cheryl Cruce has retired after 10 years as well. We are excited to see where Alex will lead the Finance Department and the City in his new position.

Next, our City Planner Jay Miller has been promoted to Community Development Director where he will oversee all City Planning and Mainstreet duties. Finally, we will be hiring a Development Coordinator to assist with administrative and clerical duties in support of Community Development operations. Please join us in congratulating Jay on his promotion

Another great "new" beginning is the (re)opening of Rocky's Pizza. A long time favorite of Auburn and surrounding areas, Rocky's Pizza has opened their restaurant next to City Hall on 4th Avenue. Rocky's offers fresh pizza, calzones, sandwiches, wings and more. Open for dinner, they will soon be offering a breakfast and lunch menu! Be sure to drop in and visit Vince and the great staff at Rocky's.

Last but not least, I want to brag on our Auburn OWLS (Older, Wiser, Laughing, Seniors). The OWLS are busily planning their programs for the year. With two trips in the early planning stages and a fun monthly meeting, this group has defied expectations. These 55 and better seniors have their choice of seniors programs to attend. They choose Auburn and we could not be more thankful. Drop by one of the luncheons—held at 11:30 am the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the JD Withers building—and enjoy the fellowship and fun with the OWLS.

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page and Website for updates on events throughout the City. Our Whistlestop Shops are planning a concert series and other events for the spring and summer. Come out and visit downtown Auburn and see why we love our Community!

Expect to have hope rekindled. Expect your prayers to be answered in wondrous ways. The dry seasons in life do not last. The spring rains will come again. —Sarah Ban Breathnach

Notice: Water Consumption Rate Increase for April 2018 Water Bills

The water consumption rate increase that was passed on June 6, 2013 by Mayor and Council for the New Increases with Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) effective on March 1st of each year will go into effect on Water Bills Due by April 15, 2018 with an increase of 2.1%. The CPI rose 2.1 percent in 2017, same as 2016 and 0.7 percent advance in 2015. The 2.1 % increase will be a \$.11 to .16 per 1000 gallons increase for City residents. A City customer using 5,000 gallons a month would be billed from \$43.61 to \$44.21.

Auburn Library Programs & Events

March 1 at 11:30AM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club
 March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 5PM: Teen Nights
 March 1 at 5:30PM: Auburn Coding Club
 March 3 at 3PM: Lego Club
 March 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time
 March 5, 12, 19, 26 at 1PM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
 March 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11:30AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time— up to 2 years
 March 10 at 12PM: Saturday Craftersnoon
 March 12 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club
 March 13, 27 at 5PM: Teen Writing Club
 March 19 at 5PM: Friends of the Library Meeting
 March 24 at 4PM: Bookworms Book Club for Tweens



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

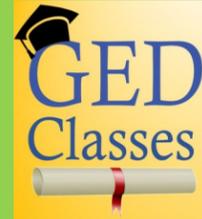
MEETINGS CALENDAR

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

03/01 at 6PM: City Council Business Meeting
 03/08 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
 03/14 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
 03/15 at 6PM: City Council Workshop
 03/21 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning

Free Transportation to Winder GED and ESL Classes

If you, or someone you know, needs to complete their high school diploma or wants to improve their English skills, free classes are being offered in Auburn and Winder. Transportation is currently available to Winder classes—Auburn Transportation will be coming online soon!



Auburn:

- * Monday and Wednesday mornings - English as Second Language classes at Auburn Elementary School
- * Tuesday and Thursday nights - Free GED classes at the Withers Bldg

Winder:

- * Tuesday and Thursday mornings - Free GED and ESL classes available at the Wimberly Center on MLK Jr. Dr. Transportation and childcare are available to registered students.

To become a registered student, call 770/531-3361 to sign up for orientation and to enroll.

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Prepare now for a lush, weed-free lawn and healthy spring garden plot filled with vegetables. *Mary Carol Sheffield UGA Extension*

Even though it is cold outside, many garden tasks can be completed now in preparation for a successful growing season. You may be asking yourself, "What can I do right now that won't be affected by freezing temperatures?" There are many things that you can do this month. Consider some of these suggestions from University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

Test your soil.

As you look ahead to future projects and maintenance, don't forget to test your soil. A soil test provides an analysis of nutrients in the soil and measures the pH of the soil, which impacts the availability of soil nutrients. A written report provides recommendations for the amount of fertilizer needed for a specific crop or lawn. Follow these recommendations to create the ideal soil for your spring garden.

Start seeds now.

Order seeds now and begin collecting supplies to start seeds for your spring vegetable garden. You can start seeds for lettuce, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, lima beans, cucumbers and squash inside, then plant them outside after the chance of frost has passed. Don't plant seeds outside until then!

Plan to fight lawn weeds.

Summer lawn weeds, like crabgrass, dandelions and spurge, can be prevented by pre-emergence herbicides. These herbicides are applied to lawns prior to the germination of weed seeds. They control weeds during the germination process, but do not actually prevent germination. Apply these herbicides between Feb. 15 and March 15. Pre-emergence herbicides are recommended only for turfgrasses that have been established for at least a year.

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.

March 14—Parks & Leisure Commission

March 21—OWLS Luncheon—11:30 am—Talking Books

LAWN CARE & OUR WATER QUALITY



How Does Lawn Care Affect Our Water Quality?

- Proper lawn maintenance is not only required for a healthy and beautiful lawn, but it is also important for good water quality.
- When mowing your lawn, do not let grass clippings or leaves blow into the street or storm drains.
- Lawn grass clippings and leaves that are blown or raked into the street can clog storm drains and cause flooding.



- Fertilizer should not be allowed to fall onto the streets or driveways. Fertilizer on paved surfaces will be washed down the storm drains and directly to the local waterways.
- The nutrients from the grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizers can cause the aquatic life in the waterways to die by depleting the oxygen levels in the water.

Everyone's goal should be to practice quality lawn care in an effort to keep our storm drains flowing and reduce excessive pollutants that would deteriorate water quality in local waterways. Please share this useful information with your lawn care provider.

PROTECT OUR WATER RESOURCES

Please do not dispose of yard waste like grass, leaves, brush trimmings, branches, garden waste, or other undesirable items on creek banks, in ditches or in the storm drains.