Auburn's hidden treasure! Want to visit on another day? Stop by the library and they can give you a tour or contact.

Located next to the Library on 3rd Avenue, the museum is

Auburn City Council Chambers (1361 4th Avenue).

Auburn OWLS (Older, Wiser, Laughing Seniors) Consider Their Next Outing

The Auburn OWLS enjoyed an informative trip to the State Botanical Gardens and are currently deciding their next destination. The OWLS plan two each month and the current options are a scenic train ride (either in the mountains or south to Americus) or a trip to Providence Canyon also know as Georgia’s Grand Canyon. Interested in being part of the trip? Join the OWLS for the next monthly meeting on July 18.

The OWLS enjoyed a Patriotic Picnic at their regular meeting in June. Served beneath a tent in the beautiful Whistlestop Park, the OWLS feasted on hot dogs, hamburgers and delicious sides and desserts. Ms. Sue’s lemon meringue pie and Richard’s homemade hamburger and hot dog relish were the big hits of the day.

Speaking of homemade items, the next project for the Auburn OWLS will be a cookbook with favorite family recipes. Off to a good start, the OWLS collected 25 recipes at the June meeting. Do you have a recipe you would like to have included in the recipe book? Please handdrop the recipe by City Hall, mail it to Auburn OWLS, P.O. Box 1059, Auburn, Georgia, 30011 or email it to mwalker@cityofauburn.com. The final cookbook will be presented on Tuesday, August 28 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers.

Auburn City Council Chambers (1361 4th Avenue). Appointments to donate blood can be set now! Please contact josh.honea@cityofauburn.com or email it to mwalker@cityofauburn.com.

The OWLS be helping out at the American Red Cross’s blood drive scheduled for July 24th from 1PM to 7PM at Auburn City Council Chambers (1361 4th Avenue). Appointments to donate blood can be set now! Please contact josh.honea@cityofauburn.com or email it to mwalker@cityofauburn.com.

Where does this money go? The Mayor and council along with the department heads have four additional meetings to go line item by line with the department heads. The City always has a balanced budget that is presented to Mayor and Council. The budget process includes public meetings to discuss expenditures as well as a public hearing. These meetings begin in July. The first special called meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 24 at 6pm in Council Chambers. This meeting will allow the City to add or delete funds as deemed necessary.

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

The chart to the left shows all the funding sources for the City. Our property tax is included in “Ad Valorem Taxes.” It is 21% of the income we receive. This Local Option Sales Tax is the largest percentage of revenue. Every time someone makes a purchase within the county, we receive a percentage of the sales tax through our agreement with the County and state authorities.

July Tennis Program Sessions Available at City of Auburn Tennis Courts!

with PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) Certified Professional Instructor Josh Honea

MONDAYS: July 9, 16, 23, 30 $40 (4 lessons—Only $10 per Lesson!) - $40

In the City of Auburn, we are elbow deep in our budget season. The City’s fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. There is a lot of preparation that goes into the yearly budget. So in June, staff begins reviewing the revenue and expenditures of the past year and trying to forecast the same for the next fiscal year.

We use a zero-based budget process which allows us to examine yearly where we are, what improvements need to be made and what projects we would like to move forward on. The City Accountant and City Manager work very closely with all the department heads as they consider budget items needed for the following year. Items to consider range from replacing front loaders, police vehicles to copiers or computers. Will current staffing levels be sufficient for the upcoming year? Will the revenue we expect to come in be higher or lower than the previous year? A crystal ball would be nice but we rely on past years and revenue in each category along with the growth rate of the city.

With all that on my mind, I wanted to take a moment to explain how the City is funded and where the money goes. The City is funded from several sources. The chart to the left shows all the funding sources for the City. Our property tax is included in “Ad Valorem Taxes.” It is 21% of the income we receive. This Local Option Sales Tax is the largest percentage of revenue. Every time someone makes a purchase within the county, we receive a percentage of the sales tax through our agreement with the County and state authorities.

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**It’s Mosquito Season!**

This year’s mosquito season has had a relatively slow start. Despite a warm February, a cool March slowed development, and winter was dry across middle and south Georgia, where many of Georgia’s natural mosquito habitats occur. The recent rains have made the upper portion of the state relatively wet and left water standing in low-lying areas. These temporary habitats can be very productive for mosquitoes due to the lack of fish and other aquatic predators. Localized rainfall events play a major role in most mosquito populations and their potential for disease transmission. All mosquitoes need moisture, either standing water or boggy soil, to develop from eggs to adults. Only adult mosquitoes bite.

Georgians often remember to rinse birdbaths and dump out buckets and toys, and there are many other potential mosquito habitats that people often forget. The most common larval habitats around homes and gardens are the dishes and trays associated with potted plants. Other habitats include tarps, downsprouts, underground drainage systems and boats. Basically, anything that can hold water can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Used tires are a particularly problematic habitat for container-breeding mosquitoes. Residents should contact their local solid waste departments to find out about scrap tire amnesty days or other ways to dispose of old tires.

While local transmission of the Zika virus was not observed in Georgia during the recent outbreak, the risk of being exposed to the West Nile virus (WNV) continues to be a real threat. Last year the Georgia Department of Public Health recorded 64 human cases of WNV and 7 deaths. The number of people exposed to the virus was surely much greater, as only 1 in 5 people exposed to the virus typically become ill. Peak transmission of WNV occurs between 9/15 and 10/15 annually, but suppressing mosquito populations now can help to prevent larger mosquito populations and the compounding effects on disease transmission.

The best way to prevent mosquito-borne disease is to avoid mosquito bites. Wearing pants and long sleeves that are loose-fitting and lightly colored minimizes our attractiveness to the host-seeking female mosquito. Only female mosquitoes bite. They need a blood meal to develop eggs. Using Environmental Protection Agency-approved insect repellents is also extremely important. When used as directed, EPA approved insect repellents is also extremely important. For more information about mosquito populations, visit [www.extension.uga.edu/publications](http://www.extension.uga.edu/publications).