



### Community Yard Sale

Saturday, Auburn 11, 2018  
Burel Park—4th Avenue  
1st Come-1st Serve spaces

### OWLS Luncheon

(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)  
Wednesday, August 15, 2018—11:30 am  
JD Withers Bldg., 7 Seventh St.

This monthly luncheon is the “don’t miss” event for those age 50 and better. Bring a dish to share!

Seniors and the Law—How to Stay Safe in Today’s World



1369 Fourth Avenue  
P.O. Box 1059  
Auburn, GA 30011  
770-963-4002

[www.cityofauburn-ga.org](http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org)

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Facebook Us



# Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE PASSION PROGRESS

## The Mayor's Corner

The dog days of summer are here! During extremely hot and humid weather, your body's ability to cool itself is challenged. You make even the hottest days more enjoyable by taking frequent breaks in the shade and staying hydrated if working outside. Remember to check up on the elderly, sick and those without air conditioning. Last, but not least, NEVER leave a child, a person with limited mobility or pet unattended in a vehicle. If the temperature outside is 80 degrees, the temperature inside a vehicle climbs to well over 120 degrees within a short period of time.

Speaking of planning, I have mentioned in previous notes that we are in the midst of our comprehensive plan. This plan, mandated to be updated every 10 years, is the roadmap for the City's future. When I was elected to office I quickly learned about the ten-year Comp plan because we were at the end of the previous one, so I was able to participate in that new plan ten years ago. It was very encouraging to me to hear what citizens wanted to see in Auburn and we had achieved many of those goals. When I first moved to Auburn, the downtown had a very different look. In 1992, Auburn's centennial, the officials requested that CSX return to the City the land that is now Burel Park. Citizens worked to acquire a caboose to celebrate our history of being a railroad town. The photos below show the park as it existed on the day that the caboose was delivered. Because the elected officials and citizens decided what the future of Auburn would look like, we have the beautiful park and the iconic caboose you see today.



Mayor Linda Blechinger



As we continue the process of comprehensive planning, we continue to look to the future of Auburn. Growth is again headed our way and we need to be prepared. What do we want our City to look like? How do we maintain our community while welcoming new growth?

The City is currently working on a new Municipal Complex that will be located across Highway 8 near Auburn Elementary School. This move is necessitated for safety reasons, having City Hall and the police station right on the railroad tracks would make it impossible for our officers to respond if there was a derailment. Any leak in the rail cars, they would have to evacuate. Watching the devastation other cities have experienced in this very situation has helped us to make this decision. Funded by SPLOST (special purpose local option sales tax), the new Municipal Complex will centralize government services such as police, court and City Hall and will open retail opportunities in downtown. The city has potential business interested in coming into Auburn every week, some are looking for space and some are building their own. It is exciting times for sure!

Current plans for the area of the new Municipal complex call for the mixed-use development of homes and retail developments that increase

the walkability of our community and retain the character of our town.

We appreciate everyone who has participated in our comprehensive planning, The City of Auburn, Downtown Development Association, DDA and citizens all look forward to seeing our community grow and prosper. Working together for the future of Auburn.

The Auburn Center is almost complete, this month we have the sprinkler system installed, floors stripped and finished and then the elevator will be installed. Once that happens we will have our Grand opening for all to come and see this beautiful historic building open once again! Watch of Facebook page and website for announces. As always it is a great honor to serve as your Mayor – together we can do great things!



## Auburn Youth Athletics 2018 Fall Baseball & Softball Registration



### NOW OPEN

**\*\*Registration starts July 3, 2018 and ends August 10, 2018\*\***

All Players Welcome! Player Registration Fees include team jersey and hat, player insurance, umpires, field maintenance & other associated playing fees. Additional fees may be required by individual teams. No out-of-county fees. Registration forms can be downloaded at

[www.cityofauburn-ga.org/parks.aspx](http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org/parks.aspx)

Rookie	age 3-4 years	\$ 75.00
T-Ball through Majors	age 5-12 years	\$ 99.00
Dixie Boys	age 13-19 years	\$150.00
Travel Teams	All Ages	Contact for Pricing

For more information, contact Parks & Leisure Director Dan Pruehs at 770-963-4002 ext 230 or email [parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org).

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**Important Notice! Barrow County Increases both Wastewater and Water Rates for Auburn Residents:**

The wastewater rates have been increased by Barrow County Board of Commissioners. This will be reflected on your September 2018 billing. An increase for the monthly base rate for sewer will go from \$15.90 to \$16.60 for the first 2000 gallons. The usage rate will go from \$4.47 to \$5.07 per 1000 gallons over the 2000 gal usage.

Barrow County has also raised the water rates for the City. This \$2 per 1000 gallons increase will also be reflected on your September bill. The rates are based on usage and are reflected below

From	To	Rate per 1,000 gallons
0	1000	\$7.26
1001	2000	\$7.55
2001	3000	\$7.85
3001	4000	\$8.13
4001	5000	\$8.42
5001	6000	\$8.84
6001	7000	\$9.12
7001	8000	\$9.40
8001	9000	\$9.71

**Lanier Technical Offers GED and English as Second Language classes in Auburn!**

GED class Tuesday and Thursday night from 5:30 - 8:30.

English as Second Language class Monday and Wednesday night from 5:30 - 8:30. Classes are free.

To register for the GED class, students must attend an orientation in Winder at the Wimberly Center. Call 770.531.3361 for orientation dates.

For more information, call Sally Brown at 770.531.3369 at Adult Literacy Barrow.

**Older Wiser Laughing Seniors (OWLS) Cookbook Coming Soon!**

Do you have a delicious recipe that everyone tells you is the best they ever had? Are you the keeper of the family recipe cards with Great Grandma Sadie's apple butter recipe? The Auburn OWLS need you!

The OWLS are collecting recipes for a cookbook to be published this fall. Recipes can be mailed to City of Auburn, PO Box 1059, Auburn, GA 30011 (attn: Michelle) or emailed to [mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org).



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**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

- 08/02 at 6PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 08/08 at 6PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 08/09 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 08/15 at 6PM: Planning and Zoning Commission
- 08/16 at 6PM: City Council Workshop

**Auburn Library Programs & Events**

- August 2 at 11:30AM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club
- August 4 at 3PM: Lego Club
- August 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11AM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
- August 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time
- August 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11:30AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time—up to 2 years
- August 8 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club
- August 11 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon
- August 16 at 5PM: Teen Nights
- August 20 at 5PM: Friends of the Auburn Library
- August 23, 30 at 5PM: Auburn Teen Nights
- August 24 at 4:30PM: Movie and Book Club
- August 25 at 11AM: Auburn Family Story Time
- August 25 at 3:00PM: Auburn STEAM
- August 27 at 6PM: The Shetland Tea Murder
- August 28 at 5PM: Auburn Teen Writing Group
- August 30 at 7PM: Well Red Book Club at Georgia Wine Shop in Whistlestop Shops

**Auburn Public Library**  
24 Fifth Street, Auburn, GA  
770-513-2925 [www.prlib.org](http://www.prlib.org)



**FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW EQUIPMENT/INSTALLS**

**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**

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**Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission**

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

- August 8—Parks & Leisure Commission—6PM
- August 11—Community Yard Sale
- August 15—OWLS Luncheon—11:30 am—JD Withers Building.

**Chief's Corner**

The City of Auburn Police Department is a community police force. We love the community we serve and work hard to keep our citizens safe. This does not mean that we are only involved after a crime has been committed, when an investigation is called for or a call for medical assistance is received. We help in ways that may not be seen so easily. From keeping an eye out on the elderly we know to be alone to assisting families in need, Auburn officers use their resources to alleviate conditions that are known to give rise to public safety concerns.

Recently, we have been responding to an unusually high number of suicide calls within Auburn city limits. These are some of the hardest calls to handle. The family and loved ones of the individual are understandably devastated by the aftermath and the officers responding feel helpless to ease their pain. Family members often ask, "How could they have done this?" or "Why didn't I see it so I could have stopped it?". There are no easy answers to any of these questions.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), suicide rates have increased in many communities by more than 30% since 2016. More than half of those who died by suicide had not been diagnosed with a mental health condition said Dr. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director of the CDC. "Suicide is one of the top 10 causes of death in the US right now and it's one of three causes that is actually increasing recently, so we do consider it a public health problem—something that is all around us." Schuchat said. (Other causes on this list that are on the rise are Alzheimer's disease and drug overdoses). In 2016 alone, about 45,000 lives were lost to suicide.

The Auburn Police Department has worked hard to be proactive about suicide attempts and is in the process of training all of our officers on how to respond to this type of crisis. In August, one of our Corporals will complete his training to become a facilitator for suicide intervention classes so that we can offer this course to other first responders. We are also looking into other ways we can reach out to the community to help stem the tide of this epidemic. We are partnering with other organizations to reach out to our community's youth in the hopes that we might reach individuals before they do something that can't be undone.

I recently watched a clip of Kevin Hines's documentary "Ripple Effect." Mr. Hines attempted suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge—only 0.1% survive that fall. He states that the millisecond that his hands left the rail of the bridge he knew he wanted to live. We just don't know how many people have impulsively made a bad decision only to regret it once it was too late. What we do know is that many might have survived if their distress or depression had been recognized by themselves or the people around them. Studies have shown that the rise of suicide declines sharply when people call the national suicide hotline (1-800-273-TALK). There is also a crisis text line—text HOME to 741741 for free 24/7 crisis support in the US.

There is no magic wand we can wave to help someone in crisis and regrettably we know that not every single suicide can be prevented. We do know, however, that beginning a conversation about suicide is an important step. If you know someone at risk, begin the conversation, keep them safe, help them connect with the hotline or with a mental health professional, then follow up with them and let them know they are not alone. You may be the one to bring someone back from the edge. The Auburn Police Department is also here to help. Feel free to drop by for direction on available resources from our staff. Let's work together to provide our community the relief and resources they need to combat this serious issue. Thank you.



Chief Chris Hodge

**It's That Time of Year—Auburn Farmer's Market and Craft Fair**

The Auburn Farmer's Market has resumed at the Burel Park Pavilion. The Farmer's Market will run every Wednesday from 1:00 to 6:00 pm from June through October.

Have a garden this year that provided a bountiful harvest? Come out and set up a table to sell your excess. This would be a great time to think about getting a plot at our Community Garden behind City Hall.

Not a gardener? Looking to buy some homegrown fruits and vegetables? The Farmer's Market will offer locally produced fruits and vegetables. You can find the best jellies and salsa. Do you love homemade Ice Cream? You can usually find chocolate, peach and strawberry ice cream. Local honey, live plants, boiled peanuts, and much more can be found at the Market.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the Farmer's Market, please contact [parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org) for an application.

