November is National Family Literacy Month

National Family Literacy Month is an annual designation observed in November. This month, get the whole family snuggled up on the couch and open up a good book. Studies show that reading aloud with mom or dad is the most important activity when it comes to preparing children to read on their own. And if you raise a good reader in your house, it helps with vocabulary, writing skills, attention span, memory, and teaches us about other times and places. Even if your child is just a baby, you should still sit down and read with them every once in a while. An infant can look at pictures and listen to the words. Here are a few things you can do this month (and hopefully every month to follow) to participate in National Family Literacy Month.

1. Set aside a little time for reading every day, even if it’s only for 15 or so minutes. Go through both old and new books, and set some of your favorites around the house. They make cute decorations, and maybe one of the kids will pick one up and start reading!
2. Take a few trips to the library.
3. Read your child the book version of their favorite movie. If they can read on their own, encourage them to read it!
5. Participate in a book drive and donate old or used books you no longer need. This will help families in need read to their kids.

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 are collecting recipes for a cookbook to be published this fall. Recipes can be mailed to City of Auburn, Att: Michelle, PO Box 1059, Auburn, GA 30011 or via email mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org

November Tennis Program Sessions Available at City of Auburn Tennis Courts!
with PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) Certified Professional Instructor Josh Honea
MONDAYS: November 4, 18, 25 $30 (3 lessons—Only $10 per Lesson!)

 Competetive Champs Tennis
Future Champs Tennis
Junior Development I
Junior Development II

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

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With December right around the corner, the season of giving is upon us. Last month I discussed the services available to citizens. This month, I’d like to thank the agencies that are serving our citizens and encourage you to give back. There are numerous options to donate your time and money that you see advertised all the time. A great resource again is the Barrow County Family Connection Resource Guide. This can be found at https://barrowfamilyconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-Resource-Guide-v2.pdf . During the holidays, the need is great in our community and with your time or your financial assistance, you can make the holidays better for your neighbors.

Another topic that I have spoken on lately is the issue of mental health and suicide. Please remember that the holidays are difficult times for many in our community. Lack of family support systems or estrangement from family, high expectations of the “perfect holiday” and loneliness can lead to thoughts of self-harm. If you or someone you know is in a dark place this holiday season, please reach out to the resources that are available to you. Along with local churches and organizations, there are hotlines available for folks in crisis. The National Suicide Hotline can be reached at 800-794-2222 24 hours a day. The Suicide Prevention Lifeline is another toll free number available 24/—800-273-TALK. Even if the individual is not suicidal, depression is a serious issue. Let them know you are there for them and encourage them. Sometimes all it takes is a kind word or gesture to brighten someone’s life.

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Monarch Butterflies Migrate Through Georgia

It is the time of the year when Georgians look to the sky to watch for signs of monarch migration. These butterflies are on their way to the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico to overwinter on the oyamel fir trees of the area. The fir trees provide the perfect climate with a combination of optimal temperature and humidity to ensure the butterflies survive the winter. It is amazing to realize that this super-generation of migrating butterflies endure the hazards of the trip to go to a place that they have never been before.

Reports around Georgia are that Monarch populations are high. A poll taken of insect enthusiasts showed that 83% have seen Monarchs heading south this year. Thirty percent of the respondents indicated that they are seeing a higher number of Monarchs than last year. This is terrific news as Monarch population numbers have been up to 2 years. Researchers have seen a higher number of Monarchs than last year.

To increase the chances of seeing this phenomenon and to assist the butterflies create a fall migration garden. Monarchs will descend from their high migration path looking for food resources. Research shows that migrating butterflies respond to tall flowers that are easily accessible. Joe Pye weed (Eutrochium purpureum), goldenrod (Solidago spp.), and Mexican sunflower (Tithonia rotundifolia) are all proven Monarch attractors in the fall. Several of our fall-blooming native aster plants (Aster spp.) are perfect for these butterflies as well. The butterflies do not need milkweed (Asclepias spp.), their larval host plant, at this time of the year. But be sure to include milkweed in your summer butterfly garden.

To follow the Monarch migration and to report your butterfly populations visit Journey North (https://journeynorth.org/monarchs). This organization has tabulated the reports of citizen scientists for many years and is a great resource for school groups. Monarch Watch (https://www.monarchwatch.org) provides online information for learning about these insects and their habitat needs. Contact your Gwinnett County Extension Office at www.guextension.com/gwinnett or 678-377-4010 for more information about butterfly gardening and habitat building. If you miss seeing the fall migration spend time getting your garden ready for the Monarch return in the spring!

Monarch migration routes. Source: USGS National Atlas

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

November 13—Parks & Leisure Commission—6PM
November 20: OWLS Monthly Luncheon—Perry Rainey Center—11:30AM

Stormwater: It affects us all!

It’s no joke: whatever enters a storm drain flows directly into our local waters, directly affecting whatever lives there or uses the water for things such as drinking. The storm drain system provides no filters or treatment—What are we thinking?

Help keep your waters clean with these simple steps:

• Never dump, wash, or rake anything into the path of storm drains
• Sweep, don’t hose, your driveway or other paved surfaces
• Consider using downsquaw extenders to direct water onto your lawn instead of pavement

Gift Shopping at It’s Finest! Whistletop Shops Welcomes New Shops!

Come visit the Whistletop Shops and see our shops. You will find a gift for just about anyone on your list. From hand crafted jewelry to handmade gifts, the Whistletop Shops can be your one stop shop for the holidays.

Shop Local—Support Local Businesses

We are very pleased to see the shop owners thrive in downtown Auburn. After you visit the Whistletop Shops, take a stroll down 4th Avenue. You can visit Hue Graphics for custom gift ideas then grab a bite at Rocky’s. There is something for everyone on your gift list!

Assistant Literacy Barrow Announces that GED and ESL Classes Have Resumed in Auburn.

After a break for the summer, Adult Literacy Barrow announces that the free GED classes and English as a Second Language Classes have resumed in Auburn. GED Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday night from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Perry-Rainey Center (16 College St.) next to Auburn Elementary School. GED test scholarships are available. This is a self paced program, with text books, online GED test prep, math tutors, and transition to college provided. The sooner you start, the sooner you graduate. Start today, and bring a friend! 770.531.3361 to register for free GED classes.

Classes for English as a Second Language will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Perry-Rainey Center (16 College St. across from the Post Office). Home country identification accepted. Call 770.531.3361 to register.

Auburn Library Programs & Events

November 2 @2PM: Auburn Lego Club
November 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10AM: Auburn Las Vegas Story Time—up to 2 years
November 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11AM: Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
November 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time
November 7, 21 at 5PM: Teen Nights
November 9 at 10AM: Saturday Craftsmen
November 11 at 6PM: Auburn Cover to Cover Book Club
November 16, 23 at 2PM: STEAM Saturday
November 18 at 6PM: Friends of Auburn Library
November 20 at 1PM: Auburn—Write On!
November 23 at 2PM: Family Story Time
November 26 at 2PM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club
November 26 at 5PM: Teen Writing Group

Auburn Library
24 Fifth Street, Auburn, GA
770-513-2025 www.prlib.org

Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission
85 Auburn Park Drive
Auburn, Georgia 30011
770-277-7958
Fax 770-277-9023
On-Call 978-313-3574

Medicine Wheel Clinic
Rev. Jennie Leavy, MTh, AMS
Administrator/Owner
Inter-faith Missionary to Chemical Dependent Adults

Realtor Questions? Let me Help!
Call or Text 770-685-2756
Office 770-495-5050 ext 5664

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