

Happy
Valentine's Day

OWLS Luncheon
(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
Wednesday, February 19, 2020—11:30 am
Perry Rainey Center, 16 College Street
(next to Auburn Elementary)
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:
Valentines Social!**

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 3, 10, 17, 24 (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

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**Auburn
Messenger**



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The Mayor's Corner

Can you believe it is February already? The work in our fair city doesn't stop because of the cold weather. We are staying prepared for any inclement weather that may occur and working towards the goals that were set by you—our citizens. This is also the time of year the Georgia Legislature is in session. The session runs from January 13 through April 2 at the Capitol and our representatives are working to consider legislation that will affect all Georgia citizens.

The legislature will consider a great many issues, large and small, that will affect our city. One of the most impactful are House Bill 302 and Senate Bill 172, which were introduced during the 2019 legislative session. These bills would prohibit cities and counties from establishing residential building design elements for single and double family dwellings. If this legislation were to become law, local governments could no longer enact design standards on:

- Exterior building color
- Type or style of exterior cladding material
- Style or materials of roof structures or porches
- Exterior nonstructural architectural ornamentation
- Location or architectural styling of windows and doors, including garage doors
- The number and types of rooms, the interior layout of rooms and
- The types of foundation structures approved under state minimum standard codes

This legislation will basically preempt locally elected officials from working with residents on residential building design standards. Imagine this: Under a proposed law, your neighbor can finally finish their home redesign, complete with bright orange paint and a two-car garage coming right up to the street. It's an obvious eyesore, but one local governments are powerless to stop. Please reach out to our State Representatives Terry England (404-463-2247), Chuck Efration (404-656-5105) and State Senator Frank Ginn (404-656-4700) and ask them to oppose this legislation so that our citizens can choose the standards to best represent our community.

February is Also National Heart Month—American Heart Month isn't just for lovers. February reminds us to take care of our heart and consider our risk factors. Believe it or not, heart disease can happen at any age. Some risk factors for heart disease and stroke are preventable. American Heart Month teaches us the ways we can help reduce our risks while eliminating those we have control over. Do you have one of these risk factors for cardiovascular disease: Obesity, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, high cholesterol or diabetes? Visit www.millionhearts.hhs.gov learn more about the risks and how to prevent heart disease and stroke. Here are a few signs the CDC says you may be at risk for heart disease.

- **High blood pressure.** There are millions of people in the United States who have high blood pressure, and millions of them are as young as in their 40s and 50s. If you are one of them, *make sure to have it under control.*
- **High cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity** are all conditions that can increase your risk for heart disease. If you fall into this category, work on eating healthy and getting some physical activity in a few times a week.
- **Smoking cigarettes.** Over 35 million adults in America are smokers and thousands of young people are picking up the habit daily. If you're a smoker, do your best to quit or cut down. It's what's best for your health.

So, if you want to stay on top of your health and try to avoid the risk of heart disease, there are a few things you can do. Don't smoke, and if you're already a smoker, do your best to quit. The next step you can take is managing any conditions you may have such as high blood pressure and cholesterol. Take your medication as prescribed by your doctor. Next, make heart-healthy diet decisions. Eat whole foods that are low in trans-fat, saturated fat, sodium, and added sugar. A good rule of thumb is to fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables. Finally, get moving! Try to get in at least 20 minutes of physical activity 4-5 days a week, then build from there!



Mayor Linda
Blechinger



Auburn Library Programs & Events

- February 1 at 2PM: Lego Club
- February 3, 10, 17, 24 at 11AM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
- February 3, 10, 17, 24 at 11:00AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time
- February 3 at 6PM: Essential Oils
- February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10:00AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time—up to 2 years
- February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11:00AM: Toddler Tales
- February 6 at 5PM: Tri-Wizard Tournament Party
- February 8 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon
- February 10 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club
- February 11 at 6PM: Managing a Service Industry Business
- February 13 at 6PM: Teen Anti-Valentine's Day
- February 15 at 2PM: STEAM Saturdays
- February 17 at 5:30PM: Bee Box Program
- February 18 at 5PM: Adult Craft Night
- February 19 at 1PM: Write On!
- February 20, 27 at 5PM: Teen Nights
- February 22 at 11AM: Sign Language Class
- February 22 at 2PM: Family Storytime
- February 25 at 1PM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club

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



What is an Illicit Discharge?

An Illicit discharge is defined as "any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater." Some of the pollutants that fall into this category are:

- Car wash wastewater
- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings
- Household cleansers
- Paints
- Pesticides
- Pet waste
- Solvents
- Weed Killer

Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or improper disposal into Wisconsin water ways. This can result in serious health and water quality problems. In addition, wildlife and the overall appearance of water ways are adversely affected by illicit discharges.

The City is working to identify illicit discharges by performing annual dry-weather outfall screenings. You can do your part and help the City of Auburn maintain an operating storm water system and healthy waterways by report illicit discharges. Illicit discharges along with any other water quality concerns may be reported by calling the Stormwater Coordinator: 770/963-4002 X 208.

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

- 02/06 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 02/12 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 02/13 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 02/19 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning
- 02/20 at 5PM: City Council Workshop

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 in Auburn at the Perry Rainey Center near Auburn Elementary. 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 be offering Citizenship Classes too.

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



Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission

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

- February 19—OWLS Luncheon—11:30 am—OWLS Luncheon—Perry Rainey Center—Valentine's Social!
- February 12—6:30 pm—Parks & Leisure Commission

Gardening Tip from the University of Georgia

Winter is a season of waiting for gardeners. But winter is the perfect time to work on our soil. When is the last time you had a soil test? Dr. Jason Lessl gives us a refresher on why and how to soil test. Dr. Lessl writes....

One of the most fundamental, but often overlooked aspects to any successful vegetable garden, flower bed, landscape, or lawn is good, fertile soil. Getting your soil tested by a laboratory is the best and most accurate way to assess your nutrient and pH levels which are vital components of maintaining your soil. The University of Georgia Soil, Plant, and Water lab offers such services.

When you send a soil sample to a lab, you will receive a detailed report of soil nutrients levels along with crop-based recommendations on how to fix any potential deficiencies. The steps required to submit a soil sample are simple and can be achieved through a few items commonly found household items. You can start by contacting your local county extension office to acquire soil bags and get information on how to submit your samples.

Dr. Lessl is a program coordinator for UGA's Soil, Plant, and Water Lab.



REMEMBER, EDUCATE, CELEBRATE.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Auburn Museum News

Bring a group of friends or your organization for a tour and enjoy special selections of love songs on the dulcimer and storytelling/readings from our collections on February 13. The Museum's newest addition features "Back Home," A Memoir by Josie Gravitt, Sister of Museum Volunteer Thelma Bidy.

Hours are Wednesdays 10-1, Thursdays 1-4 and Saturdays 12-3. Closed on 5th week. Volunteers are needed for Saturdays and applications are available at the Museum or from Josh at City Hall with training furnished

Auburn Community Blood Drive

Every 2-seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. A single blood donation can help save the lives of up to three people.

Be a hero to someone in need by donating blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive held at the Perry Rainey Center from 1p-6p every other month.

You can schedule your donation appointment in advance by downloading our Blood Donor App, visiting us online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 (RED-CROSS).

There are multiple ways to support and partner with the American Red Cross other than donating blood. If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring a blood drive, please contact. Antonea Stuckey at 770-634-2250 .

Give blood. Help save lives.

