



OWLS Monthly Meeting
(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
Wednesday, October 14, 2020—11:30 am
To Be Announced

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, OWLS Luncheons have been temporarily suspended. Our membership will be notified by telephone of any meeting or event. Want to be added to the membership list? Call Michelle at 770-963-4002 ext 204 or email mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org



www.cityofauburn-ga.org

Building a Better Auburn Library

Due to growing pains, we will be rolling back to porch pickup as of September 1st. Follow us on Facebook or call 770-513-2925



Hours: M-F 10-4; Sat 10-2



Every Drop Counts—Watching Water Wasters—Part 2

Each year, millions of gallons of water are wasted. Take a look at these helpful suggestions on how to eliminate water waste and reduce your water bills.

- Water lawns during early morning hours to reduce losses from evaporation and position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the lawn and shrubs, not on paved areas.
- Teach your family how to shut off automatic systems so they can turn them off when storms are coming.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than closely-clipped lawns.
- Avoid overfertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water and is a source of water pollution.
- Mulch to retain soil moisture and control weeds.
- Plant native and/or drought-tolerant plants. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- Minimize the grass areas in your yard because less grass means less water.
- Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk; use a broom instead saving hundreds of gallons of water.
- Check all hoses, connectors and spigots regularly. Replace or add washers if you find leaks.
- If you have a pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter. A single backflushing with a traditional filter uses from 180 to 250 gallons of water.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park it on the grass, use a bucket with soapy water, turn off the water while soaping and use a hose with a pressure nozzle to decrease rinsing time.

Early Voting Starts October 12! Make Your Voice Heard—Vote 2020

Early Voting for the 2020 election starts October 12 at the Barrow County Voter Registration office at 233 East Broad Street in Winder.

If you are waiting for November 3 to vote, some polling places were changed. If you are unsure where you should go to cast your ballot, please visit registertovote.sos.ga.gov which takes you to the Secretary of State's webpage. You can click "Am I Registered to Vote" link and go to the My Voter Page (MVP). Where it says "MVP Log In" enter your first initial, last name, County and date of birth then click "submit." This will bring up your voter information page and provide information on your polling location. This includes a link with directions as well as Early Voting hours.

October 2020

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PEOPLE

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The Mayor's Corner

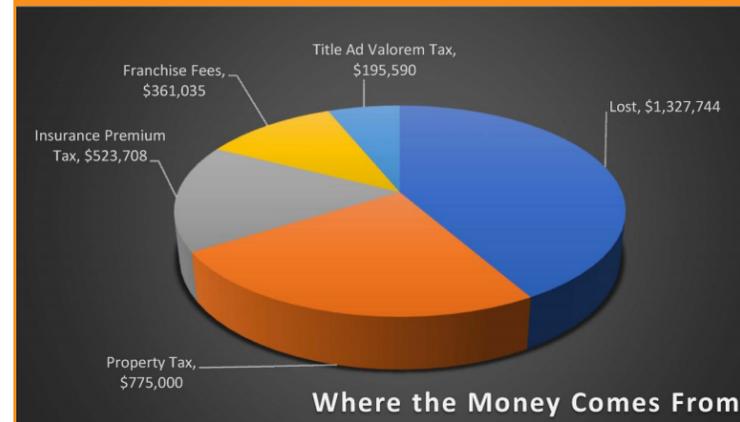
October is here already. The weather is getting cooler and we are looking forward to the leaves changing. We are excited that fall brings us visible progress on the new Municipal Complex project. The groundbreaking ceremony is set for October 14 at 3PM. Due to COVID-19 pandemic rules, RSVP's are required. If you plan to attend, please contact Michelle at mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org or 770-963-4002 ext 204.



Mayor Linda Blechinger

Speaking of the new Municipal Complex, last month we shared the "what" of the new Municipal Complex. This month, I would like to take this opportunity to share the "how" of this project.

In order to understand how this project is funded, we need to take a moment to go over how municipalities get and use their money. There are strict State laws on how funding is used, our Charter adds more controls on approval of projects and then there are the various funds that are maintained by the City. The first fund people think of is the general fund. This is where your property taxes go when they are received. Property taxes account for 24% of the general fund income for the City. The largest portion of funding comes from Local Option Sales



Tax which is generated on every retail sale in the County. The general fund is used for the day to day operations of the City including general maintenance of City properties, utilities and various expenses such as salaries. Planning and Zoning, Public Works, the Auburn Public Library and Police are all paid from this same Fund. As illustrated in the "Where the Money Comes From" chart, you will see where we get the money that goes in to the general fund.

For the new Municipal Complex, the money is designated for this project through a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. This is much different from the general fund. Monies spent from SPLOST were designated for specific projects and voted on by the taxpayers. 2012 SPLOST funds purchased the land that the new Municipal Complex is being constructed upon. The 2018 SPLOST funds will pay for the construction of the actual building and associated infrastructure. These funds come from any retail purchase made in Barrow County, not from property taxes.

The great news about this new Municipal Complex is not only the ability to respond in the event of an emergency. As I mentioned last month, this area will include private development that will generate over \$1,200,000 in revenue each year. It will also provide our downtown area with a much-requested walkable town center and encourage more development of quality homes. This in turn will provide the rooftops needed for new restaurants and businesses looking to locate to a vibrant area. Growth is heading our way and we are fortunate that the planning that our citizens, Council and staff have done in the Comprehensive Plan makes it possible for us to be prepared for and guide the changes.

We are proud of the fiscal responsibility of Council and staff for the City. A balanced budget is presented each year to Council for approval and staff does an amazing job keeping within that budget. We are also very proud that the Auburn Millage rate has not increased since 1997. As a matter of fact, the millage rate was actually decreased in 2010. Not many municipalities can make that claim!

Have more questions about the budget and how funds are expended? Please visit the City of Auburn website at <https://www.cityofauburn-ga.org/Budget.aspx>. Our website contains a wealth of information on your City. Visit and browse around to get to know everything the City has to offer.

Coming together is a beginning. Pulling together is progress, Working together is success. Henry Ford

