



OWLS Monthly Meeting
 (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
Wednesday, November 18, 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

AUBURN
 1369 Fourth Avenue
 P.O. Box 1059
 Auburn, GA 30011
 770-963-4002
www.cityofauburn-ga.org

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... Pretty much anything is possible! Reading 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 your voice as you read stories to them... And believe it or not, studies show that that alone can have a profound effect on your child when it comes to learning later on in life. Grab a few books, gather the fam, snuggle up, and let a book take you all to another place together.

Get the whole family together and enjoy some reading. Use #FamilyLiteracyMonth to post on social media. If you are reading to toddlers or other young children, try to remember when you were young, and the way you liked listening to your parents or teachers read with excitement in their voice, and when they gave you enough time to look at the pictures as well as listening 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.
2. 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!
3. Take a few trips to the library.
4. Read your child the book version of their favorite movie. If they can read on their own, encourage them to read it!
5. Start a book club with friends and family.
6. 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.

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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, Attn: Michelle,
 PO Box 1059,
 Auburn, GA 30011
 or
 via email
mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org

Real Estate Questions? Let me Help!

Call or Text 770-685-2756
 Office 770-495-5050 ext 5664

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The Mayor's Corner



Mayor Linda Blechinger

November is upon us. A time for giving thanks and looking forward to the Holidays, this has always been my favorite time of the year. This year, though, it seems that there is so much negative out there in the news. Pandemic numbers, economic woes, political infighting, fires and weather disasters—it seems that 2020 has been a year of sorrow. In addition to the news, many of us have lost loved ones and are grieving their loss. Even though it has been a challenging year, I know that one thing I haven't lost is HOPE.

Hope keeps us going even when "the going gets tough." Hope is the one thing that can make even the most sad day bearable. We all go through seasons in our life, seasons of joy as well as sadness and trials. It is in those seasons of trial and sadness that we learn a lot about ourselves. Sure, those seasons are hard, but those that make it out of their hardships come out stronger. I believe they have a more firmly rooted identity. No one can tell you who you are or what you went through because, guess what, you were the one that walked through the fire, not them. Hope is what gets you through the fire.

I see hope in so many things these days. The coming together of our communities to support each other. The faith I see in folks that "this too shall pass." How we treat each other—how we speak to, correspond with, and interact with others is more important today than ever before. With the pandemic, face-to-face meetings have been greatly reduced. Instead of in-person, we now interact mainly through electronic platforms. From Facebook to Zoom, meetings are now as simple as clicking a link in your email. With so little effort involved, it is easy to forget how important these interactions are; how the sharing of hope and optimism are what moves us forward.

George Washington Carver once wrote "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because, someday in your life, you will have been all of these." Have hope. Have compassion for your fellow man. Have faith that we are stronger than any challenge before us.

While yesterday may have been hard, today is a new opportunity. What you do today matters. I am hoping and praying that you see the good in the world. While 2020 has been a trial, I am thankful every day for each my blessings. I am thankful for you.



November is National Military Family Appreciation Month.

November was first declared as Military Family Month in 1996. Since then, November has been a time to acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices our military families make. They contend with separation from their families and make adjustments to new living situations and communities. Military Families embody strength, resilience, and courage. Care of military families and children sustains our fighting force, and strengthens the health, security, and safety of our nation's families and communities. Take a moment to reach out to Military Families around you. Military families are throughout our community including many who are National Guard members that have deployed multiple times for our freedom. Thank them for all they sacrifice for our families every day.



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

- 11/05 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 11/11 at 6PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 11/12 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 11/19 at 5PM: City Council Workshop
- 11/26-11/27—Thanksgiving Holiday—City Office Closed

Building a Better Auburn Library



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 inconsistent over the last several seasons.

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. 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.ugaextension.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

Honoring all who served
Veterans Day
Monday, Nov. 11

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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 11—Parks & Leisure Commission—6PM

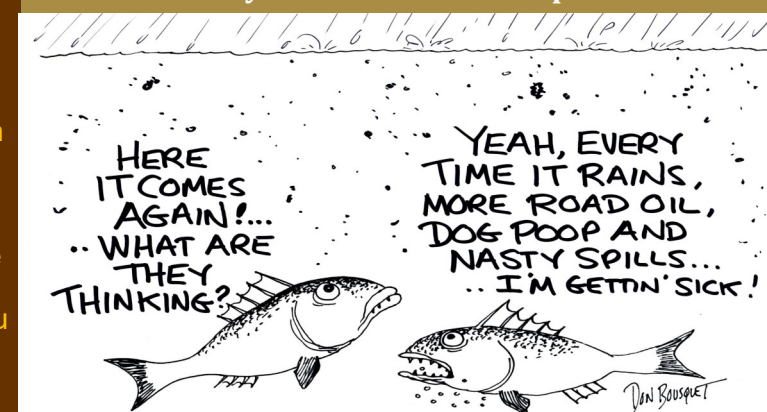
November 18: OWLS Monthly Luncheon—to be announced—11:30AM

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 downspout extenders to direct water onto your lawn instead of pavement



COVID-19 and the Holidays

Fall and winter celebrations, such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Halloween, Día de los Muertos, Navratri, Diwali, Thanksgiving, Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and New Year's, typically include large gatherings of families and friends, crowded parties, and travel that may put people at increased risk for COVID-19.

Hosting a holiday gathering

If you will be hosting a celebration, follow CDC tips for hosting gatherings. Below are some additional considerations for hosting a holiday celebration:

- Host outdoor activities rather than indoor activities as much as possible. If hosting an outdoor event is not possible, and you choose to host an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, or fully enclosed indoor spaces.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather.
- Host activities with only people from your local area as much as possible.
- Limit numbers of attendees as much as possible.
- Provide updated information to your guests about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Provide or encourage attendees to bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy. For example, extra masks (do not share or swap with others), hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and tissues.
- If you are planning in-person holiday gatherings with people outside of your household, consider asking all guests to strictly avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before the gathering.

Attending a holiday gathering

If you will be attending a celebration that someone else is hosting, follow CDC Considerations for attending an event or gathering. Below are some additional considerations for attending an in-person holiday gathering:

- Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities. If participating in an outdoor event is not possible, and you choose to attend an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, and fully enclosed indoor spaces. Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather.
- Check with the event host, organizer, or event venue for updated information about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and if they have steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

Bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy. For example, bring extra masks (do not share or swap with others), hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and tissues.

If you are planning to attend in-person holiday gatherings with people outside of your household, consider strictly avoiding contact with people outside of your household for 14 days before the gathering.

Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> for more information.