

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 in Observance of Memorial Day



OWLS Luncheon
(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)

No Meeting in May!
OWLS will be enjoying a day trip to Blue Ridge on 5/19. Active OWLS members who wish to attend, contact Michelle at mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org or 770-963-4002 ext 204
Our next luncheon will be June 15, 2022



www.cityofauburn-ga.org

National Public Works Week May 16-22

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is a celebration of the men and women who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services communally known as Public Works. Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 1960, NPWW calls attention to the importance of public works in community life. The week of May 16-22 is dedicated to Public Works Departments to enhance the respect of the often unsung heroes of our society – the professionals who go above and beyond to serve the public good with daily dedication. City of Auburn Public Works employees are dedicated to improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

The City of Auburn's Department of Public Works appreciates the support and participation of our employees with National Public Works Week. Special appreciation is also extended to Mayor Linda Blechinger, the City of Auburn Council, City of Auburn Employees, and Auburn residents for their part in making May 16- 22 a week of success.



In appreciation of
NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK...
WE THANK YOU!



AGE MY WAY: MAY 2022



May 2022

Volume 14, Issue 5

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Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

The Mayor's Corner



Mayor Linda Blechinger

It's a beautiful time of year. May is the perfect time to enjoy the springtime with your families. May is also National Foster Child Month. Foster children and the foster care system are very near and dear to my heart. I'd like to give you a little insight into a foster child's thoughts.

Children in foster care know they are only with you for a while. They wonder what happened to their mom/parents. Even if it was a bad situation, they still long for their family. Foster children, like all children, want to know they matter, that they are wanted and valuable. Fosters typically want to be accepted, they want to fit in and they want to know the rules. They typically will not ask questions so foster parents must help make them feel that they are safe to speak with.

Children are our most valuable asset in a society after all they will one day be the adults in our community. I am a living example of this! Let me *share my story:

As a child I lived in both an orphanage and a foster home. In my case, I had two sisters whom I was separated from when we went into the foster care system. When I lived in the foster home I had several other children that came and went in the home. The foster parents had a daughter who was theirs and a little older than me and a son who was a baby when I lived there. The foster home was *my home* in a strong sense. We went on little trips, they let me take ballet lessons. I remember the foster father teaching me how to garden. I played in the yard, I had dolls and I had clothes that my foster mother made for me. I had a bedroom that I shared with my foster sister and when I went to bed I knew I would wake up in a safe place. I remember a very special woman, a social worker, would come and visit me. She picked me up from school once every couple of months and would take me for ice cream or hot chocolate. I remember her so well, when she showed up I was very excited! I loved our outings. She made me feel hopeful! Now as an adult, let me tell you what I never thought about as a child. My foster parents were a machinist and a bus driver. They didn't take care of children because they made a lot of money. They just loved children and had a heart to help. They weren't perfect but who is a perfect parent? I grew to love them. I loved gardening and loved the smell of machine oil, I loved making clothes. I loved taking care of the other children that came into our home.

Unfortunately, I was taken from that home never to return. I wasn't safe after I left there. I longed for "my home" as I had come to know it. I went through very difficult years, however, the time I spent with my foster family kept me hopeful in so many ways. I had love modeled for me, a family shown to me that enabled me so many years later to know how to be a mother and how to keep a household. In the last few years I reconnected with this special family. The foster mother cried in joy telling me so many stories of when I was a child. She sent me photographs which I treasure as I had no pictures of myself as a child. My foster sister calls me *her* Linda as she used to when we were children. I hope to fly to California to visit this special lady. She's in her eighties and such a delight!

Becoming a foster parent is not a spur of the moment decision. There are over 400,000 children in foster care. There is in depth training involved. Background checks. This is all for the safety of the child. However, there are many reasons that make that all worthwhile! Just of few of these reasons are:

- Children Need Your Love.
- Change Future Generations — Break the Cycle of Abuse.
- Consider It a Mission Field.
- Teach your children how to give of themselves
- Keep Siblings together
- Caring for Children Keeps You Young
- Add Extra Meaning to Your Life
- Children Need a Family Atmosphere. They will bless you just as much as you bless them!

So, if you're considering becoming a foster parent, don't let fear hold you back. You don't need to be rich, you don't need to be perfect. Just love and care for a child even if it's only for a couple of years. You will change a life! For more information, please visit: <https://www.families4kids.org/services/foster-care/frequently-asked-questions>

- Or contact the Barrow County Department of Family & Children Services at 770-868-4222. Your impact—as a foster or a mentor—can make such a difference in a child's life.

Auburn Public Library

COMPUTER LESSONS

By appointment



more info :
770-513-2925
boutwater@prlib.org



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

- 05/05 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 05/11 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 05/12 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 05/18 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning
- 05/19 at 5PM: City Council Workshop
- 05/30—Memorial Day—City Offices Closed



Celebrate **JEWISH AMERICAN Heritage** Month

JOIN US FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL



View The Movie "Encanto" at dusk
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Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission

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

- May 7—Auburn Ever After—Downtown Auburn—meet your favorite characters and watch "Encanto" - 4PM
- May 11—Parks & Leisure Commission
- May 19—OWLS Day Trip—Blue Ridge Train Ride—register with mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org

Pest Control - Mosquito Control Tips

As everyone knows, mosquitoes are very annoying pests. They attack humans and animals alike, and can spoil an outdoor gathering rather quickly. Fortunately, there are ways to control mosquitoes. The American Mosquito Control Association www.mosquito.org reports that there are over 2,500 different species of mosquitoes around the world. The best way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate their breeding sites.

Here are some breeding control tips:

- Do not allow water to accumulate anywhere in your yard for more than two days. Cans, buckets, pots, plastic swimming pools and tires are all containers that tend to collect and hold water. Removing these items will help control the number of mosquitoes that hatch in your yard.
- Keep the gutters clean. If leaves or other debris clog your gutters and prevent them from draining, water will accumulate in the gutter system, providing the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Do not over-water your lawn or garden. This may cause water to be left standing for more than one day.
- If your cistern, septic tank or cesspool seeps, fixing the problem will help control the number of mosquitoes that plague your yard.
- Filling swampy areas, ditches and drain puddles will eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. If filling is not possible, these areas may be treated with commercial mosquito control products.
- If you have a backyard pond, stock it with mosquito fish (minnows). These fish eat mosquitoes and their larvae.
- Change the water in your wading pool or birdbaths at least once per week. Stagnant water makes the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes.



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for more information