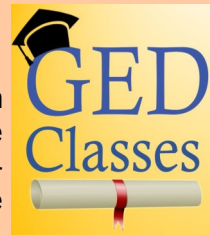


## Free GED Classes in Auburn Enrolling Now

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.



Sometimes, due to family or personal financial circumstances, teens have to drop out of high school to go to work. In 2009, the average high-school dropout earned \$10,000 less than someone with a high school diploma. If staying in school is economically impractical, a GED shows employers that you've still achieved a goal—someone who has earned a GED is looked on more favorably than someone who simply dropped out and ended his education there. A GED will indicate a level of completion while freeing you up to earn money.

A GED certificate will help you get a job, and even keep it. Employers would rather hire someone who has the basic skills to pass the GED test than someone who does not. Completing the GED test means that the graduate has the fortitude to successfully finish a seven and one-half hour exam. This GED certificate is not a small thing.

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. And with a 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 morning and evenings in Auburn at the J.D. Withers building near Auburn Elementary. There is no cost to attend classes, and there are scholarships available to pay for the GED test.

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

**Juggernaut Cycles**  
404-551-6608  
Motorcycle Service & Customization  
120 Auburn Park Dr, Ste G  
Auburn, GA 30011  
juggernautcycles.com  
juggernautgarage@gmail.com

**Fence America**  
Commercial & Residential Fencing  
James Brigman  
jabrigman@hotmail.com  
678-698-8926

**MANDELLA'S TREE SERVICE**  
From tree tops to stumps ground, we handle it all around  
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www.mandellastreeservice.com  
FREE MULCH  
Our Services  
Tree Removal  
Dangerous trees  
Tree Trimming  
Lot clearing  
Tree Maintenance

## 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) and our green space parks—there is something for everyone.

November 5 at 2PM—OWLS Silent Cake Auction at AuburnFest

November 9 at 6:30PM—Parks & Leisure Commission Meeting

November 15 at 6PM—Parks & Leisure Community Meeting—Auburn Elementary School Gym

November 16—11:30 am—OWLS Luncheon— Special Guests the New Horizon Band—location TBD



### Chief's Corner

#### Distracted Driving and You

The Auburn Police Department has been working with our Auburn Police Explorers on various aspects of law enforcement. One of these classes deals with traffic stops and traffic safety. The Explorers were shown information about Distracted Driving and how quickly this can lead to an incident that could involve serious injury and death. I sat down and researched some statistics and what I found was disturbing. This is an interesting article from icebike.org showing statistics about distracted driving, many of which I have included here. These are very sobering and might teach us all a lesson about what constitutes a distraction and how deadly serious this is.



Chief Carl Moulder

- 1.6 million accidents per year have a cell phone involved in them. That's 64% of all the road accidents in the United States. Over half the road accidents in the States have cell phones involved, and if this doesn't make you realize just how potent it is, what will?
- 37,000+ people die in automobile crashes in the U.S every year
- Every year, about 421,000 people are injured in crashes that have involved a driver who was distracted in some way.
- Each year, over 330,000 accidents caused by texting while driving lead to severe injuries. This means that over 78% of all distracted drivers are distracted because they have been texting while driving.
- **1 out of 4 car accidents in the US are caused by texting while driving.**
- It was surprising to find that texting and driving is 6 times more likely to get you in an accident than drunk driving. That's right, it is actually safer for someone to be intoxicated and get behind the wheel than to text and do it.
- It takes an average of three seconds after a driver's mind is taken off the road for any road accident to occur. This is the bare minimum amount of time it takes, and it is surprisingly small. Three seconds is the time it takes to turn your ignition when starting your car.
- The average speed in the US is about 55mph. Taking five seconds to read a text in this time means that the driver travels the length of a football field without looking at the road, or being distracted. There are so many vehicles on the road now that this means there is a huge chance of something terrible happening in this distance.
- **Every day, 11 teenagers die because they were texting while driving.**
- **Of all the teenagers ever involved in fatal accidents every year, 21% were using a cell phone at the time of the accident.**
- Teen drivers have a 400% higher chance of being in a car crash when texting while driving than adults.
- 10% of adults and 20% of teenagers have admitted that they have entire conversations over text message platforms while driving.
- **When polled, 77% of adults and 55% of teenage drivers say that they can easily manage texting while driving.**
- 48% of kids in their younger teenage years have been in a car while the driver was texting. Over 1600 children in the same age group are killed each year because of crashes involving texters.

Our lives never seem to slow down and I realize how easy it is to think "I can do this—it will only take a second." That one second—that is all it will take to irrevocably alter your future and perhaps of others around you. Don't gamble with your life and the safety of those around you.

**"IN A SPLIT SECOND YOU COULD RUIN YOUR FUTURE, INJURE OR KILL OTHERS, AND TEAR A HOLE IN THE HEART OF EVERYONE WHO LOVES YOU."**

SHARON HEIT, MOTHER OF TEXTING WHILE DRIVING VICTIM

### Auburn Library Programs & Events

- November 2, 9, 16, 30 at 11:15AM: Lapsit Story Time—Birth to 2 yrs
- November 3 at 11:30AM: Auburn Between the Pages Adult Book Club
- November 5 at 2PM: AuburnFest Hometown Festival
- November 5 at 3PM: Auburn Lego Club
- November 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time
- November 7, 14, 21, 28 at 1PM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
- November 8, 22 at 5PM: Teen Writing Club
- November 12 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon
- November 14 at 6PM: Adult Coloring Night
- November 14 at 6:30PM: Auburn Cover to Cover Book Club
- November 19 at 12PM: Kidz Rhythym
- November 21 at 6:30PM: Friends of the Auburn Library
- Novemrber 28 at 4PM: Libratory

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





Mention this ad and enjoy this special!

Buy One 6"—Get One 6" free with purchase of a medium drink



Join us at the Auburn Tennis Courts for Group Lessons! Group Tennis Classes available All Ability Levels

MONDAYS: November 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th \$36 (4 lessons—Only \$9 per Lesson!)

MONDAYS: December 5th and December 12th \$18 (2 lessons—Only \$9 per Lesson!)

Discount Price for BOTH MONTHS: \$48—(6 total lessons—Only \$8 per Lesson)

### November Tennis Program Sessions Available!

with PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) Certified Professional Instructor Josh Honea  
All sessions will be held at the City of Auburn Tennis courts

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

### OWLS Luncheon

(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)

Wednesday, November 16, 2016  
11:30 am (Special Location—TBD)

This monthly luncheon is the “don’t miss” event for our age 50 and better friends. Bring a dish to share!

This month: Performance by New Horizons Band—a 55 and better band. Want to learn to play an instrument? New Horizons can help!



www.cityofauburn-ga.org

November 2016

Volume 8, Issue 11

Facebook Us



# Auburn Messenger

PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

## The Mayor's Corner

I associate November with giving thanks, family gatherings, community and the warmth of friendships near and far. The City of Auburn celebrates November with our annual AuburnFest Hometown Celebration set for 11/5 from 2-10 pm. Taking us back to our community roots, AuburnFest offers competitions, family-friendly games and the most wonderful canned items, baked goods and handmade items. There will be blacksmithing and homesteading demonstrations too. With the addition of the new Whistlestop Shops, this AuburnFest is gearing up to be the “must attend” event of the year. We hope to see you on November 5!

November is also the month we recognize our Veterans, Veterans Day is near and dear to my heart. As I have written in earlier newsletters, I grew up around Veterans and Veterans issues are very important to me. There will be several local events honoring our Veterans including the Barrow County Veterans Day Ceremony held on 11/11 at 11:00 am at Winder's Jug Tavern Park. This year's ceremony is about “Paying It Forward” and the featured speaker, Cpl Sean Adams USMC Ret. is a Veteran who suffered grievous injuries in Afghanistan. Instead of worrying about what he lost, Sean spends his time helping other Veterans.

The City of Auburn Police Explorers and Military Veterans of Georgia will be hosting our annual flag retirement ceremony on November 11 at 7:00 pm. This provides an opportunity for our young citizens to learn the proper way to retire a flag. Come out for the formal ceremony at 7:00 pm and stay to help or observe the retirement of the flags that have been turned by our community. You will be amazed at how moving this ceremony is. If you can't attend these ceremonies, I encourage you to offer your thanks to a Veteran who has served our country.

We are looking forward to our beautiful Christmas event, Sounding Off the Christmas Season, set for Saturday, December 3 at 5:00 pm. I have to admit that Christmas in Auburn is my very favorite time of year. Downtown Auburn is a beautiful sight to behold! Don't forget that Santa will be here with his live reindeer. Big changes in the way the Santa visits will help reduce waiting in line and allow everyone to visit our hand-selected vendors. Very exciting news for this year: the Whistlestop Shops next to City Hall will be open and, right in the center of the shops, will be an ice skating rink! The grand opening for the rink will be at the Sounding Off event on December 3 and the rink will be open through Christmas. Come out and skate! You can bring your own ice skates or rent a pair at the rink for a nominal fee.

I love the sense of community and family that we have here in Auburn. If you are new to Auburn, you will find that our staff is here and ready to help. Come celebrate what is truly important, our families and friends, and help weave together the fabric that makes Auburn the best place to call home.



Mayor Linda Blechinger

### Flag Retirement Ceremony 11/11/2016—7:00 pm—Auburn City Hall

You are invited to join the Auburn Police Explorers and Military Veterans of Georgia as they team up for a Community Flag Retirement Ceremony. Bring your unserviceable flags to be retired on 11/11 or you can drop them off any day at City Hall from 8:30am-4:30pm. After business hours, you can drop them at the Auburn Police Department. Questions? Call Michelle at 770-963-4002 ext 204

### Sounding Off the Christmas Season

Saturday, December 3, 2016  
5:00 to 8:00 PM



Live Music—Skating Rink

SANTA and his LIVE Reindeer

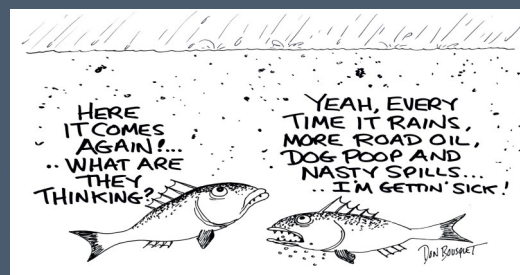
Free Photos with Santa  
Free Crafts for Kids  
Food and Craft Vendors

### 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



## Food for Fine\$

You bring the food - we'll waive the library fines!

Pay your Auburn Public Library fines with food instead of cash!

From November 1 - November 30, 2016, for every non-perishable food item or toiletry item you donate,

\$1.00 of your fines will be waived!

(Donated items cannot be credited towards lost or damaged items.)

Maximum amount waived is equal to amount due on your account.

All donated items must be new, unexpired, and regular-sized (no trial-sizes or samples allowed).

All donated items will go to the Barrow County Food Pantry.



### Important Notice:

Republic Sanitation Services, who provides waste services for the City of Auburn, has announced that effective January 1, 2017 cash payments for services will not be accepted. For more information, please contact Republic Services at 678-963-2800.