

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 in Observance of Memorial Day



**OWLS Luncheon**  
(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)  
Wednesday, May 16, 2018—11:30 am

JD Withers Building  
7 7th Street—Auburn

This month: Bingo!

**AUBURN**  
1369 Fourth Avenue  
P.O. Box 1059  
Auburn, GA 30011  
770-963-4002

www.cityofauburn-ga.org

May 2018

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Facebook Us



# Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS



## May 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: May 7, 14, 21** (3 lessons—Only \$11 per Lesson!) - \$33

with PTR (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

## Public Works—Your Tax \$\$ at Work

Public Works is busy every day keeping our City safe and beautiful.

**Shackelford Park:** Recently, the guard rail at Shackelford Park was replaced after an automobile accident damaged it.

Located on Brown Bridge Road, Shackelford Park has beautiful trails and picnic areas.



**6th Street Dog Park:** Downed trees from storms were removed and other maintenance was completed at the 6th Street Dog Park. Planning for the future improvements at the park, including fencing, are in the works.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

You'll know what's below by the different flags, stakes or paint.

- Red - Electric
- Yellow - Gas, oil or petroleum
- Orange - Communications
- Blue - Potable water
- Purple - Reclaimed water, irrigation
- Green - Sewer
- White - Proposed excavation
- Pink - Temporary survey

## The Mayor's Corner

It's a beautiful day in Auburn! May is the full abundance of spring with the promise of the summer days to come. We will be celebrating Auburn Ever After on Saturday May 5th. This event is one of my favorites—all the little princesses and heroes decked out in their finest come downtown to meet their favorite characters. Tiana from Princess and the Frog, Cinderella, Shrek, Sleeping Beauty, Tinkerbell, Spiderman, Hercules and more have promised to be here this year! Celebrating "happily ever after" in Auburn is, after all, what we do. Auburn is a great place for families and has been since it's founding in 1892. Families have lived and loved here for 126 years and I am proud to continue that tradition with my family. I am so honored to be the Mayor of this beautiful city.



Mayor Linda Blechinger

As we celebrate our town this May, we also are celebrating National Historic Preservation Month. Auburn has a rich history that includes years as an college town. The Perry-Rainey Institute once stood where Auburn Elementary now stands. The old school bell from Perry-Rainey is still standing in front of the school. Thousands of students came to Auburn for the finest education available at the turn of the century. The original building was lost some years ago and, aside from the bell, all that remains of the Institute is the women's dormitory next to Auburn Elementary School. Traditionally known as the R&R Building for the clothing manufacturer that was housed in the building, this building is one of the best examples of historic structures in Auburn. The City purchased this structure and, using a \$500,000 CDBG grant, is rehabilitating it into a community/event center. I am very proud to announce that we are almost done with the first round of renovations! Rechristened the Auburn Center, this building will be a wonderful place to host events, meetings, and classes. Our partnership with Lanier Technical Institute will expand into the new building with Lanier Tech hosting their GED classes and ESL classes. The top floor of the building will be a beautiful wedding venue. We expect to begin hosting classes and events in the Auburn Center in June.

As I have mentioned before, we are in the planning process for the new Municipal Complex in Auburn. We are very excited that the design of the new Municipal Complex is taken from the original plans for the Perry-Rainey Institute! The new Municipal Complex will house City Hall, the Municipal Court and our Police Department. The land purchase for the Auburn Complex was completed using SPLOST funds designated for this purpose. This project, completed utilizing public-private partnerships, will give us a wonderful new municipal complex that honors Auburn's storied past. All of these projects are being completed using our Comprehensive Plan created by Auburn Citizens. We are updating our Comprehensive Plan now—be part of the future, volunteer today! Contact City Planner Jay Miller at cityplanner@cityofauburn-ga.org to see how you can become involved.



Auburn City Hall

## Fence America



Commercial & Residential Fencing

James Brigman  
jabrigman@hotmail.com  
678-698-8926



## Juggernaut Cycles

470-545-1121

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130 Auburn Park Dr, Ste D  
Auburn, GA 30011

Juggernautcycles.com  
juggernautsgarage@gmail.com

## Re-Elect BILLY PARKS

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

OUR PROVEN VOICE OF REASON

Vote on May 22, 2018 - Make Your Voice Heard!

## Get out and Vote!

The 2018 Primaries are set for May 22, 2018. Advance voting runs Monday, April 30 through Friday, May 18. Both Barrow County Commission Seats for the City of Auburn are contested in the Republican primary so for your vote to count, you will have to vote in the primary.

Advance voting is Monday—Friday, 8AM-5PM and Saturday, May 12 from 9AM-4PM. All advance voting takes place at the Barrow County Elections Office, 233 E. Broad Street, Winder. Questions? Contact Barrow County Elections at 770-307-3110.

your VOTE  
is your VOICE



## Auburn Library Programs & Events

May 2, 9, 16, 23 at 11:30AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time— up to 2 years  
 May 3 at 11:30AM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club  
 May 3, 10, 17, 24 at 5PM: Teen Nights  
 May 5 at 10AM: Free Comic Book Day  
 May 5 at 3PM: Auburn Lego Club  
 May 5 at 4PM: Auburn Ever After Event—Carriage Rides, Meet your Favorite Characters, Movie Princess & the Frog  
 May 7, 21 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K  
 May 7, 14, 21 at 1PM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles  
 May 8, 22 at 5PM: Teen Writing Club  
 May 12 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon  
 May 14 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club  
 May 21 at 5PM: Friends of the Library Meeting  
 May 24 at 7PM: Well Red Wine Club  
 May 25: Summer Reading Sign Up Starts  
 May 25 at 11AM: Men's Book Club  
 May 25 at 1PM: Summer's Here Party  
 May 26 at 11AM: Family Story Time  
 May 26 at 3PM: STEAM Saturdays  
 May 28: Memorial Day—Library Closed  
 May 29 at 11AM: Magic Rocks!  
 May 31 at 1PM Movies Rock

**Auburn Public Library**  
 24 Fifth Street  
 Auburn, GA 30011  
 770-513-2925  
 www.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

05/03 at 6PM: City Council Business Meeting  
 05/09 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission  
 05/10 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority  
 05/16 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning  
 05/17 at 6PM: City Council Workshop  
 05/28—Memorial Day—City Offices Closed



## FREE BASKETBALL CAMP

LEARN FUNDAMENTALS, SKILLS, & VALUES

**JUNE 4-7, 2018 BEGINNERS // GIRLS & BOYS 9-13**  
 AUBURN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1334 Sixth Avenue, Auburn, GA 30011

**AGES 9-10:** REGISTRATION: JUNE 4, 8:00 AM CAMP: 8:15 AM - 10:00 AM  
**AGES 11-13:** REGISTRATION: JUNE 4, 9:30 AM CAMP: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Note: No children under age 9  
 PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS MUST WEAR TENNIS SHOES  
 PARENTS ARE WELCOMED TO STAY FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE CAMP

FOR INFORMATION: CALL COACH E.W. DEMPSEY AT (423) 667-5420

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 Tree Trimming  
 Lot clearing  
 Tree Maintenance

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
 CELEBRATE • HONOR • REMEMBER

## 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 9—Parks & Leisure Commission  
 May 16—OWLS Luncheon —JD Withers Building 11:30 am

### Native Azaleas are Very Different from Their Traditional Southern Cousins

Georgians are accustomed to evergreen azaleas, but native azaleas are currently growing in popularity. Unlike evergreen azaleas, native azaleas lose their leaves in the fall, grow tall and airy rather than low and dense, and bloom in the spring and summer.

University of Georgia plant breeder Carol Robacker has studied azaleas for the past 25 years. She and her research technicians, Allen Byous and Sherrod Baden, have learned a lot about one of the South's most popular flowers. A scientist with the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Robacker breeds new landscape plants that are genetically adapted to survive and thrive in the heat and drought stress of Georgia's urban conditions. Robacker works with CAES entomologist Kris Braman to breed native azalea plants that can tolerate azalea lace bugs, a major pest of azaleas.

Evergreen azalea flowers come in a wide variety of forms, and the most common is single-petal. Native azaleas typically have tubular flowers with long stamens that extend beyond their petals. "There are more than 17 species of native azaleas. We collected a number of these that grow in the Piedmont (region) and are now evaluating which ones are adapted to Georgia," said Robacker. To help Georgia gardeners successfully grow azaleas, they offer the following tips.

"First, when you buy an azalea, turn the pot upside down. Gently remove the plant from the pot and examine the roots. If the roots are light brown and the pot is fairly full of healthy-looking roots, you're good. If they are black, don't buy it," Byous said.

When it comes to site selection, pick a spot that gets both sun and shade, Byous said. Azaleas need sunlight to develop flower buds and flowers, but most azalea varieties perform better in the shade, which protects them from extreme heat in summer. "A 50-50 mix of sun and shade makes for a good compromise for most varieties," he said. Look closely at the soil. Azaleas don't like wet, boggy areas, and native azaleas especially like well-drained soil, Byous said. Azaleas also like an acidic soil with a pH in the 4.5 to 6.0 range. When you are ready to plant, dig a hole 4 inches larger than the pot. "Break up the root ball, scar the inside of the hole so the roots can spread and place the plant 2 inches higher than soil level so it drains well," he said. Add pine bark or shredded leaves as mulch to insulate the plant and keep the weeds down. Water the new azalea plant heavily for the first two years and fertilize in the spring with a slow-release fertilizer similar to a 19-5-8 fertilizer blend. Native azaleas typically aren't pruned, but if you choose to prune, do so after they bloom and before the new buds set the following spring. "You don't have to prune them, but you may want to if they grow outside the area where you planted them," said Robacker. "But please don't try to create a meatball shape. Natives aren't meant to be shaped like that."

For more information, contact your Gwinnett County Extension Office at [www.ugaextension.com/gwinnett](http://www.ugaextension.com/gwinnett) or 678-377-4010.

## 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](http://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.

