

## Auburn Library Programs & Events

December 2, 9, 16 at 11:15AM: Lapsit Story Time—Birth to 2 yrs

December 3 at 11:30AM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club

December 5 at 3PM: Auburn Lego Club

December 7, 14 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time

December 7, 14, 21, 28 at 1PM: Stitch-n-Knit Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles

December 7 at 6PM: Auburn Adult Coloring Night

December 7 at 6PM: An Hour of Code—bring your own device. Ages 4-104

December 10 at 5PM: Teen Holiday Party

December 14 at 6PM: Santa Story Time

December 15 at 6:30PM: Auburn Cover to Cover Book Club

December 17 at 5PM: Family Movie Night

December 24-25: Merry Christmas! Library Closed

Auburn Public Library  
24 Fifth Street  
Auburn, GA  
770-513-2925  
[www.prlib.org](http://www.prlib.org)



## Giving gifts that give back

December is a busy month for many people, and these days, a lot of that busy-ness centers on gift-giving. City of Auburn is working hard to reduce the effects of polluted storm water runoff. So we thought this might be an appropriate time to provide a list of unusual but thoughtful gifts that can benefit us all.

For the person who likes to garden, or for a new home owner, why not give them a rain barrel? Diverting rooftop runoff to a rain barrel not only reduces the amount of water that flows to the street, but it also can be used for irrigation. It's estimated that a rain barrel can save 1,300 gallons of water during the summer season.

For the car enthusiast, try a gift certificate for an oil change at a local garage, or a nice clean and wax at the local car wash, one that recycles its dirty water. Keeping oil and soapy water out of storm drains benefits us all.

For the dog lover, a gift of a portable bag dispenser that attaches to a dog's leash will ensure that Fido's waste is kept off the sidewalks and out of local waters. That's something we all can enjoy.



And for any children who enjoy feeding local waterfowl, buy them a disposable camera for those trips to the pond instead of edibles. Feeding geese and ducks causes them to concentrate in higher numbers than they would if they had to rely solely on natural food supplies, and results in large quantities of their waste polluting those local waters.

## Christmas Tree Recycling



The City of Auburn is again offering Christmas Tree Recycling for our residents

Trees can be dropped off from December 26 – January 9 at 6<sup>th</sup> Street behind the Elementary School.

Questions? Contact Charlotte at 770-963-4002 ext 223 or email [cewing@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:cewing@cityofauburn-ga.org)

## Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission

is devoted to bringing the best in leisure programming to Auburn. From Auburn Dixie Youth Baseball Programs and the Tennis program to the Auburn OWLS (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors) and our green space parks—there is something for everyone. **Please note: Parks & Leisure Meetings are moving to the 2nd Wednesday of each month**  
Sounding Off the Christmas Season is set for Saturday, 12/5 at 5 pm—make your plans to come see Santa and his LIVE reindeer  
No Parks & Leisure Meeting in December  
December 16—OWLS Luncheon—JD Withers Building 11:30 am

## November/December Tennis Program Sessions available!



Join us at the Auburn Tennis Courts for **Group Lessons!**  
Group Tennis Classes available for Ages 13-18—All Ability Levels

**December 7 and 14**  
\$17 (2 lessons—Only \$8.50 per Lesson!)

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)

Advantages of group tennis lessons are many!

- Whether learning for the first time or refining your technique, students will receive personalized instruction in a fun and competitive group setting
- Group tennis lessons are an excellent way to meet new people, improve your game, get fit and make tennis friends for a lifetime
- Private & semi-private tennis lessons, advanced level group lessons, league play, and tournament information available upon request.

Adult lessons are also available!

## The City of Auburn is Hiring!

The City of Auburn currently has two positions open at Auburn City Hall. Come join our team!

The first position is the **Permit and License Clerk**. A part-time position, this clerical position will assist the City Planner at the front desk, accept payments and provide information about licensing and permits. Position is set for 29 hours per week. Minimum requirements: high school diploma or general education degree (GED) is required with two (2) years of general clerical experience and, One (1) year of experience in development or construction permit office. A comparable amount of education, training, or experience may be substituted for the minimum qualifications. Valid Georgia Driver's License must be maintained during employment.

The second position is for our **Main Street and Special Events Coordinator**. This position reports to the City Planner and coordinates and promotes the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Main Street Board through facilitating attraction of new businesses, managing leasing and development of DDA properties, and preparing agendas for DDA and Main Street meetings. This position will foster an understanding of the Main Street program's goals and objectives through speaking engagements, media interviews and appearances, while keeping the city highly visible on a local, regional, and state level. The position is also responsible for planning and coordinating all special events and program activities including History and Heroes, Independence Day Celebration, Auburn Stroll, Auburnfest, and Sounding Off the Christmas Season. The program activities include Movies at Whistlestop, Concerts, Farmers Market, Museum, and Yard Sales. Other duties include recruitment of and marketing for new businesses, promoting the city, development of economic strategies to increase downtown retail, and building relationships with existing businesses. This position also works with the business property owners and commercial city properties to negotiate lease rate incentives, façade improvement, signage, exterior displays, and funding sources for their business. Valid Georgia Driver's License must be maintained during employment.

Complete job descriptions are available at [http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org/?page\\_id=233](http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org/?page_id=233).

Deadline to apply is December 18. The City of Auburn is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## MEETINGS CALENDAR

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers unless noted—meeting times, locations & dates are subject to change

12/03 at 7PM: City Council Business Meeting

12/16 at 6:30PM: Planning and Zoning

12/17 at 7PM: City Council Workshop

City Hall and City Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25 for Christmas.

City Offices will also be closed on 1/1/16 for New Years Day

## Public Notice:

Beginning 10/29, the Auburn Police Department and Municipal Courtroom/Council Chambers will be undergoing repairs. The front walkways and entrances will be affected.

One entrance will remain open during the time that the other entrance is being repaired.

The Municipal Court will be closed from October 29<sup>th</sup> until December 9<sup>th</sup>. This WILL NOT affect City Council meetings. Council Chambers access may be modified but meetings will take place at 7:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

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## Shop Local!

Were you aware of that Auburn has a thriving business community? Did you know that the City of Auburn just mailed out over 430 business license renewals? That means that there are over 430 businesses who have chosen to do business in our City. Many of these are home-based businesses.

Our retail businesses are very successful because of the support of our citizens and community. When you are planning your Christmas shopping—whether it be for gifts, food, party supplies or just day to day items—be sure to consider your Auburn businesses first. By choosing to shop locally, you are contributing to the success of our entire community. Studies have shown that by choosing local and independent businesses for your services, shopping, dining and other needs, you not only get real value and personal service, you're helping:

- **BUILD COMMUNITY:** The casual encounters you enjoy at neighborhood-scale businesses and the public spaces around them build relationships and community cohesiveness. They're the ultimate social networking sites.
- **STRENGTHEN YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY:** Each dollar you spend at independent businesses returns 3 times more money to your local economy than one spent at a chain (hundreds of times more than buying from an online mega-retailer) — a benefit we all can bank on.
- **SHAPE OUR CHARACTER:** Independent businesses help give your community its distinct personality.
- **CREATE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT:** Independent, community-serving businesses are people-sized. They typically consume less land, carry more locally-made products, locate closer to residents and create less traffic and air pollution.
- **LOWER TAXES:** More efficient land use and more central locations mean local businesses put less demand on our roads, sewers, and safety services. They also generate more tax revenue per sales dollar. The bottom line: a greater percentage of local independent businesses keeps your taxes lower.
- **CHOICES:** A wide variety of independent businesses, each serving their customers' tastes, creates greater overall choice for all of us.
- **CREATE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES:** Not only do independent businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue, they also are the customers of local printers, accountants, wholesalers, farms, attorneys, etc., expanding opportunities for local entrepreneurs.
- **GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY:** Small businesses donate more than twice as much per sales dollar to local non-profits, events, and teams compared to big businesses.
- **INCREASE WEALTH OF RESIDENTS:** The multiplier effect created by spending locally generates lasting impact on the prosperity of local organizations and residents
- **ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY:** Local ownership of business means residents with roots in the community are involved in key development decisions that shape our lives and local environment.
- **ENHANCE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS:** Research shows a strong correlation between the percentage of small locally-owned firms and various indicators of personal and community health and vitality.

<http://www.amiba.net/resources/localhero/>



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[www.cityofauburn-ga.org](http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org)

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Facebook Us



# Auburn Messenger

LIVE

WORK

PLAY

## The Mayor's Corner

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all! Christmas is always one of my favorite times of the year, the meaning of Christmas is sacrificial love. My prayer during this season is for peace and protection throughout our land. We hope you are enjoying the beautiful decorations in downtown Auburn. We are excited to see families come down for their annual Christmas pictures and we look forward to our big Christmas event—Sounding Off the Christmas Season—set for December 5. This will be a wonderful family event! I love Auburn at Christmas!



Mayor Linda Blechinger

Every day, the elected officials and staff work diligently to watch out for our citizens and to provide services that you have come to expect. As you know, the City of Auburn has not raised the millage rate since 2008. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our County tax bills. By now, you should have received your Barrow County tax bill and I am sure you have questions about it. Last year, all County and Auburn residents were levied an overall 12.752 millage rate. This year, thanks to the Barrow County Board of Commissioners' inclusion of the Fire Tax and an extra insurance premium rollback of 2.06 Mills for unincorporated residents, City residents will be levied a higher county property tax bill than those living in unincorporated areas.

This change affects all citizens of the County's municipalities—Auburn, Carl, Bethlehem, Braselton, Statham and Winder. What this means is a \$100,000 home in Auburn will be assessed a County tax of approximately \$414.30 compared to \$352.53 in 2014.

Approximately 90% of services rendered to City residents are from the City and not the County. For example, Auburn provides Parks, Library, Police, Public Works, Roads, Planning and Zoning, Business Licenses, Economic Development, etc. that the County must provide to residents outside of the City limits. We worked very hard with the other cities and our County Commissioners to stop this rate increase. Unfortunately, we were not successful. Please be assured that we are still working with the County on this and other issues that affect you and your wallet. Thank you to Commissioners Billy Parks, Ben Hendrix and Isaiah Berry for working to reduce the increase.

We are looking forward to 2016 with great expectations and plans. We continue to work for our citizens and make Auburn the best community it can be.

Please be safe on the road and remember that the joy of family and the holidays can be shattered by one careless act. Always designate a driver if you are planning a celebration including alcohol. If you are entertaining, be sure that your guests are safe and sober when they leave. Keep a basket at the door to collect car keys and let everyone know that you take their safety very seriously. Georgia DOT says "The focus of Below 1000 and Drive Alert—Arrive Alive is for drivers to take responsibility to protect yourself, your passengers, other drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists by buckling up, staying off the phone and driving alert (not drowsy or impaired). We are at 948 fatalities today with Christmas and New Years holidays ahead of us."

From my family to yours: Best wishes to you and your family for a blessed Christmas and happy holiday season. May 2016 be filled with blessings for you and your family.

## MANDELLA'S TREE SERVICE

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*Happy Holidays!*  
**The City of Auburn Wishes You and Yours a Joyous Christmas and Holiday Season!**  
City Offices will be closed on December 24 and 25 for Christmas and again on Friday, January 1 for New Years Day.



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For more information, contact Michelle at 770-963-4002 ext 204 or [mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org)

## Mark Your Calendars! December 5 at 5PM

### Join us for our annual Sounding Off the Christmas Season

Santa and his Live Reindeer return to Auburn just in time to ring in the Christmas Season. Watch as Santa lights up Auburn!

- Live Nativity
- Free activities for the kids
- Holiday vendors—decorations, gifts and more!
- Live music
- Hot chocolate and s'mores

Don't forget to bring the kids Christmas list to Santa Claus. Santa will be available for photos (bring your cameras!). This the only place around where you will see Santa brought in by Live Reindeer!