

Happy  
Valentine's Day

**OWLS Luncheon**  
(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)  
Wednesday, February 20, 2019—11:30 am  
Auburn Center, 16 College Street  
(next to Auburn Elementary)  
This monthly luncheon is the "don't miss"  
event for those age 50 and better. Bring a side  
dish or dessert to share!  
**This month:  
Valentines Social!**

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

**February 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: February 4, 11, 18, 25** (4 lessons—Only \$10 per Lesson!) - \$40



**(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

**It's Community Garden Time!**

Recently Boy Scout Jake Spinnler was approved for an Eagle Scout project, building a potting shed, in our Community Garden. He has made great progress and the shed should be available for use soon.

It is that time of year to consider getting your community garden space. We have raised beds available for your use. This is a great family project—growing your own food while teaching your kids about sustainability. It's also a great project for churches and other community groups. By planting a garden, you can provide fresh vegetables to your members or as part of your community outreach programs.

To get information on the community garden, please email jcampbell@cityofauburn-ga.org or call 770-963-4002 ext 206.



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February 2019

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**Auburn Messenger**

PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

*The Mayor's Corner*



Mayor Linda Blechinger

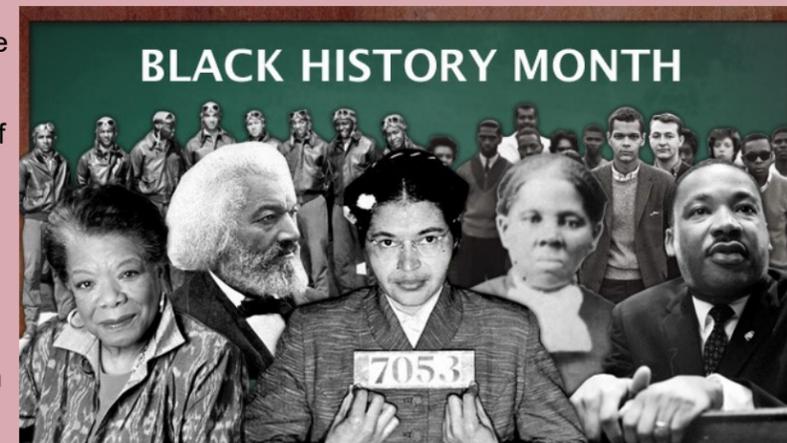
Happy February! Although this is the shortest month of the year, it seems like we pack so much into it. City Staff has been busy updating our business license database with all the business license renewals. We are so excited to see Auburn businesses grow and prosper.

Rawhide Boots has expanded their store and is partnering with local manufacturers to keep their employees geared up in proper footwear. Rawhide's owner, Katelyn, has also teamed up with other merchants to promote business in Auburn using billboard advertising. Boise Cascade has added on to their facility, adding over 47,000 Sf of space to keep up with demand. Sunbelt Asphalt has built a new asphalt plant and Miles Trucking is opening a second facility in the Auburn Business Park. All of these expansions show that Auburn has so much to offer to businesses and individuals alike.

New businesses are coming to Auburn too. I am sure by now you have heard that Pizza Hut has opened in Auburn. We are excited to announce that in 2018 we had 31 new businesses open (many of these are home based). Leather Creations, a manufacturer of leather furniture, has opened in the old Durden Facility. Chuck B. Woodcarver has opened up on Mt. Moriah. He is a chainsaw artist and you will see him out there working on his original pieces. State Farm Insurance has opened an office near Anytime Fitness and Render ALC has opened its education facility next to Rawhide Boots. O'Reilly's Auto Parts has opened next to Dollar Tree and Real Works Lawnmowers has opened in the Auburn Business Park. We are proud that these business owners have chosen Auburn as the place to build their businesses. Welcome one and all!

February is also Black History month—the roots of which go back 92 years. In 1926, historian Carter Godwin Woodson, the founder of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, launched Negro History Week in recognition of black achievement and contribution. This has since become a month-long celebration of achievements that have been largely underrepresented in historical teachings. Did you know that the first person killed in the American Revolution was actually an African-American named Crispus Attucks? He was killed at what is now known as the Boston Massacre. Did you know that during Reconstruction after the Civil War, African-Americans made great strides in politics? During reconstruction, 265 African-American delegates were elected, more than 100 of whom had been born into slavery. In all, 16 African-Americans served in the U.S. Congress during this time; more than 600 more were elected to the state legislatures, and hundreds more held local offices across the South. Over 2000 African-Americans held government jobs as well. Violence and new laws eventually removed these elected officials from office. It wasn't until 1967 that the next African-American was elected by popular vote to the U.S. Legislature. Today, African-Americans hold seats in every branch of government, serving their communities with pride.

I love the diversity of our community and hope that, in our children and our children's children, we will see further strides in celebrating diversity while acknowledging that we are all children of God. "In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute." *Thurgood Marshall, 1st African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice.*



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

## Auburn Library Programs & Events

February 2 at 2Pm: Lego Club  
 February 4, 11, 18, 25 at 1PM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles  
 February 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time  
 February 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11:30AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time—up to 2 years  
 February 7 at 11:30AM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club  
 February 7 at 5PM: A Night at Hogwarts  
 February 9 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon  
 February 9 at 4:30 PM: Movie and a Book Club  
 February 13 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club  
 February 14, 21, 28 at 5PM: Teen Nights  
 February 15 at 6PM: Teen Anti-Valentine's Day  
 February 20 at 1PM: Write On!  
 February 23 at 11AM: Family Storytime  
 February 23 at 3PM: STEAM Saturdays

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



## What is an Illicit Discharge?

An Illicit discharge is defined as "any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater." Some of the pollutants that fall into this category are:

- Car wash wastewater
- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings
- Household cleansers
- Paints
- Pesticides
- Pet waste
- Solvents
- Weed Killer



Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or improper disposal into Wisconsin water ways. This can result in serious health and water quality problems. In addition, wildlife and the overall appearance of water ways are adversely affected by illicit discharges.

The City is working to identify illicit discharges by performing annual dry-weather outfall screenings. You can do your part and help the City of Auburn maintain an operating storm water system and healthy waterways by reporting illicit discharges. Illicit discharges along with any other water quality concerns may be reported by calling the Stormwater Coordinator: 770/963-4002 X 208.

## 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

02/07 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting  
 02/13 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission  
 02/14 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority  
 02/20 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning  
 02/21 at 5PM: City Council Workshop

## Free GED Classes In Auburn

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.

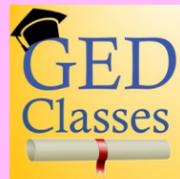
Having the GED certificate opens up a lot of doors for advanced training. Most specialized training programs require either a high school diploma or a GED. Also with GED certificate, you'll be eligible for most workplace or on-the-job training programs, along with higher educational opportunities.

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 Auburn Center near Auburn Elementary. There is no cost to attend classes, and there are scholarships available to pay for the GED test.

English as a Second Language courses will also be available at the Auburn location. The Winder Campus will be offering Citizenship Classes too.

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



## 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.

February 20—OWLS Luncheon—11:30 am—OWLS Luncheon— Auburn Center—Valentine's Social!  
 February 13—Parks & Leisure Commission

## Car Seat Safety Checks

Want to learn how to install your car seat for free? Safe Kids trains technicians who can check your seats and show you the proper way to install them. We are proud to announce that Sgt. Mark Pharr has been certified as a Child Passenger Safety Certified Technician. He can teach you everything you need to know to make sure your car seat is fitted and installed correctly. Drop by the Auburn Police Department for a free check!



## Gardening Tip from the University of Georgia

Winter is a season of waiting for gardeners. But winter is the perfect time to work on our soil. When is the last time you had a soil test? Dr. Jason Lessl gives us a refresher on why and how to soil test. Dr. Lessl writes....

One of the most fundamental, but often overlooked aspects to any successful vegetable garden, flower bed, landscape, or lawn is good, fertile soil. Getting your soil tested by a laboratory is the best and most accurate way to assess your nutrient and pH levels which are vital components of maintaining your soil. The University of Georgia Soil, Plant, and Water lab offers such services.

When you send a soil sample to a lab, you will receive a detailed report of soil nutrients levels along with crop-based recommendations on how to fix any potential deficiencies. The steps required to submit a soil sample are simple and can be achieved through a few items commonly found household items. You can start by contacting your local county extension office to acquire soil bags and get information on how to submit your samples.

Dr. Lessl is a program coordinator for UGA's Soil, Plant, and Water Lab.



## Code Enforcement Update by Officer Winkler

During my patrols, I have noticed an increasing number of Auburn residents placing their grass clippings, leaves, and tree/bush limbs in the storm water drains. Please refrain from placing refuse of any kind in the storm water drains as this, over time, clogs the drains and causes the system to overflow. Also, please be cognizant that leaves and any other type of yard material cannot be placed or blown in the roadway as this creates a hazard for motorists and eventually ends up in the storm water drains. Both described activities are a violation of our city ordinances (Chapter 8.20 and Chapter 16.38).



It is the responsibility of the owner, lawful occupant, or lessee of properties and businesses within the incorporated city limits to properly remove grass clippings, leaves, and other materials in a responsible manner. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me personally at the Police Department: Officer Paige Winkler – (770) 513-8657 ext. 201. Thank you so very much for your cooperation.

