



Community Yard Sale

Saturday, July 11, 2020
Burel Park—4th Avenue
1st Come-1st Serve spaces

OWLS LUNCHEON

(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
Wednesday, July 15, 2020—11:30 am

Perry Rainey Center—16 College St.

Bring a dish to share!
For More Information, contact Michelle at
mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org
770-963-4002 ext 204



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

www.cityofauburn-ga.org

July Tennis Program Sessions—On Hold—Contact Josh Honea for more information

Josh Honea: tenniswithjosh@gmail.com - 770-547-8647

Find Leaks, Save Water and Save Money!

An undetected water leak in or around your home wastes our precious water resources and can also be costly for your wallet. Water leaks account for more than 10,000 gallons of water waste in an average home very year. The most common water leak around the home often involves your toilets. If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting more than 200 gallons of water every day! To detect a toilet leak, listen for hissing or running water noise coming from the toilet or tank, make sure the water level is no higher than 1 inch below the top of the overflow tube and perform a dye test on your toilet tank. To conduct a dye test, just add a teaspoon of food coloring or some dye tablets to the tank. After 30 minutes without flushing, check to see if any color has appeared in the bowl.

Old or worn-out toilet flappers (e.g., valve seal) can cause leaks. Flappers are inexpensive rubber parts that can build up minerals or decay over time. Replacing them can be a quick and easy fix for your water woes. To fix this leak, consult your local hardware store, home improvement retailer, or licensed plumber. Here are some online resources from WaterSense partners:

- WaterSense Bath Hack #3 shows how easy it is to Replace Your Leaky Toilet Flapper. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPeViXlqOPE&feature=youtu.be>
- Spartanburg Water in South Carolina has a useful video tutorial on detecting leaky toilets. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IS3GhmF1p0>
- Concord General Services has a dye test video on how to detect a toilet leak. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yT8FYDB43a0>
- The Regional Water Providers Consortium has a step-by-step video on how to fix a leaky toilet. <https://www.conserveh2o.org/how-to-videos-water-conservation>

Tip: Bring the old flapper to the hardware store for comparison to make sure you buy a new flapper that fits your toilet model. You can also check the owner's manual, if you have it, or the manufacturer's website for the appropriate replacement part number for the flapper.

WATER IS LIFE SAVE WATER SAVE LIFE



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July 2020

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Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

The Mayor's Corner

Summer is here! We had hoped for a return to our "new normal" this month in light of the success that the social distancing and other sheltering recommendations has brought. We believe that these actions helped keep our hospitals and healthcare systems from being overwhelmed. While this is a good thing, I want to make sure that we don't get complacent and start being less careful about our safety. COVID-19 is still here. The numbers in Georgia continue to climb—some of this can be attributed to expanded testing. Even so, it still shows how prevalent this is as well as how contagious. There are three things you can do to help yourself and others stay healthy:

1. Wear a mask in public. Every single doctor we have spoken with has asked us to please advise the public to wear masks. It protects others if you are sick (sometimes you may not know you are sick)
2. Practice social distancing, when someone coughs or sneezes the spray can be as far as 6 feet
3. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizers often

I know there are people who have differing opinions on various aspects concerning Covid-19 but the doctors and public health officials just want us to be healthy! I now personally know three people who have or had COVID-19. One was in the hospital on a ventilator for three months, one passed away and one was just diagnosed. Dr. Arona shared a story about a friend who attended a college graduation party recently. Another guest later tested positive for COVID-19 and when Dr. Arona's friend spoke to Dr. Arona, she was asked if she was wearing her mask. Her response was that no, she wasn't. She said no one else was and was embarrassed to be the only one. Now she is quarantined because she didn't want to be the only one. This a good example of how following simple health advisories could have saved this person from the stress, worry and hassle or having to quarantine.

Each week, I participate in conference calls with the Georgia Municipal Association and the Gwinnett Municipal Association as well as receiving updates from the White House regarding this pandemic. From the White House to the local health departments, the message is consistent: this is not over. While we have taken great strides in helping slow the virus and keeping our healthcare system from being overwhelmed, we need to continue to be vigilant.

Alarming news has just come out at the writing of this newsletter about a resurgence of the virus in China. According to Dr. Kathleen Toomey, Director of Georgia Department of Public Health and Dr. Audrey Arona, CEO and District Health Director of the East Metro Health District, we are not out of the woods yet. The easing of some restrictions has fostered a sense of security that we are through the worst of the pandemic. Unfortunately, this is not necessarily true. In many cases, it just means that the healthcare system is expected to be able to handle the influx of patients—not that people are no longer getting sick. New research is showing that the virus is taking longer to show symptoms in those affected and that antibodies are not lasting as long as in other viruses. Researchers are not certain if that means that you do not hold immunity as long so more testing is required. Local information shows that Gwinnett is number one in the state for cases and testing and that for deaths, we are third in the state. The median age for cases has moved lower to 43 and 15% of the cases require hospitalization. While most of Auburn lies within Barrow County, this virus knows no boundaries. Our proximity to Gwinnett and the rise in cases is indeed alarming. As someone who is at risk because of compromised health, and the mom of an immunocompromised son, I want to say thank you to all who continue to be vigilant and safe. This has been a stressful time for us all.

As we navigate these tumultuous times, remember to be safe and practice self-care. Not just the three recommendations above but take care of your mental well-being. The CDC recommends that you take breaks from reading, watching or listening to the constant news streams, take care of your body, find time to unwind and connect with others. You can safely connect with friends and family, near or far, with many social media platforms currently available. Have a zoom party and play virtual bingo—the laughter and fellowship you find with others will be a balm to your soul.



Mayor Linda Blechinger

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

- 07/02 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 07/10 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 07/11 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 07/17 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning Commission
- 07/18 at 5PM: City Council Workshop

Auburn Library Programs & Events

- July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 10AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time— up to 2 years
- July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11AM: Auburn Toddler Tales
- July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 5PM: Teen Nights
- July 4—Independence Day—Library Closed
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11AM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
- July 11 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon
- July 13 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club
- July 15 at 1PM: Write On!
- July 18 at 2PM: STEAM
- July 25 at 11AM: Sign Language Class
- July 25 at 2PM: Family Storytime
- July 28 at 1PM: Between the Pages Adult Book

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



It's Mosquito Season!

The recent rains have made the upper portion of the state relatively wet and left water standing in low-lying areas. These temporary habitats can be very productive for mosquitoes due to the lack of fish and other aquatic predators. Localized rainfall events play a major role in most mosquito populations and their potential for disease transmission. All mosquitoes need moisture, either standing water or boggy soil, to develop from eggs to adults. Only adult mosquitoes bite.

Georgians often remember to rinse birdbaths and dump out buckets and toys, and there are many other potential mosquito habitats that people often forget. The most common larval habitats around homes and gardens are the dishes and trays associated with potted plants. Other habitats include tarps, downspouts, underground drainage systems and boats. Basically, anything that can hold water can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Used tires are a particularly problematic habitat for container-breeding mosquitoes. Residents should contact their local solid-waste departments to find out about scrap tire amnesty days or other ways to dispose of old tires.

The best way to prevent mosquito-borne disease is to avoid mosquito bites. Wearing pants and long sleeves that are loose-fitting and lightly colored minimizes our attractiveness to the host-seeking female mosquito. Only female mosquitoes bite. They need a blood meal to develop eggs. Using Environmental Protection Agency-approved insect repellents is also extremely important. When used as directed, EPA-registered repellents are proven safe and effective. For more information about reducing mosquito populations, visit www.extension.uga.edu/publications.



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) to green space parks—there is something for everyone.
July 10—Parks & Leisure Meeting—6:30 pm City Hall
July 11—Community Yard Sale
July 15—OWLS Luncheon—Perry Rainey Center, 16 College Street—11:30 am—bring a dish to share!



U.S. Census Is Still Going On! It's Not Too Late!

Responding Online

The 2020 Census will be the first time individuals can respond online. Your invitation to respond will be mailed out mid-March and will include a unique ID, however you can fill out the form without the unique ID. 20% of households will also get a paper form with their unique ID letter. The online response option can be accessed on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. You can access the form in 13 languages, including Arabic, if you chose to respond online.

Responding by Phone

Like in previous Census' you can also use the phone to submit your census responses. By calling, you can ask Census Bureau representatives questions about the Census as well as fill out the form verbally with the representative on the phone. The phone option is also available in 13 languages, including Arabic.

Responding by Paper

Also like in previous Census' you can submit a paper form. The Census Bureau has stated that everyone will eventually get access to a paper form. The Bureau will send you a paper form by the 4th mailing if you did not get the paper form in your first mailing. The paper form is only in English and Spanish, however you can use the language guides the Bureau created which are in 59 languages.

Survey Finds Only 45 Percent Know That Census Data Guide Community Funding Decisions

Knowing that the census guides how much money a community gets from the government is the most important reason for people to respond to the census, according to results from a 2018 Census Bureau survey.

Thirty percent of respondents specifically said the most significant reason to reply to the census is the knowledge that census data are used to guide public funding decisions. Another 17% said it's that it benefits their community's future, while 15% said the most important reason is that it provides information for local governments.

In another survey, just over 40% of survey respondents did not feel it matters whether they are personally counted in the 2020 Census, and young people ages 18 to 34 were the least likely to believe it matters if they are counted. It matters! Don't be one of the 40%!

If you have not yet responded to the census, please respond! Accurate numbers are very important to you and your local governments.

Questions about the census in Auburn? Contact Cityplanner@cityofauburn-ga.org.



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It's That Time of Year—Auburn Farmer's Market

Beginning in June, the Auburn Farmer's Market will resume at the Burel Park Pavilion. The Farmer's Market will run every Wednesday from 5:00 to 8:00 pm from June through October.

Have a garden this year that provided a bountiful harvest? Come out and set up a table to sell your excess. This would be a great time to think about getting a plot at our Community Garden behind City Hall.

Not a gardener? Looking to buy some homegrown fruits and vegetables? The Farmer's Market will offer locally produced fruits and vegetables. You can find the best jellies and salsa. Do you love homemade Ice Cream? You can usually find chocolate, peach and strawberry ice cream. Local honey, live plants, boiled peanuts, and much more can be found at the Market.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the Farmer's Market, please contact jcampbell@cityofauburn-ga.org for an application.

