



### Community Yard Sale

Saturday, Auburn 14, 2021  
Burel Park—4th Avenue  
1st Come-1st Serve spaces

### OWLS Field Trip

(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)  
Thursday, August 19, 2021—9AM  
Reservations are required—subject to availability  
Smith House & Dahlonga Trip!

No monthly meeting due to Dahlonga Trip. Next Meeting will be Wednesday, September 15, 2021



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

August 2021

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# Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

## The Mayor's Corner



Mayor Linda Blechinger

The sultry August weather is here and I hope you are all staying cool! We celebrated July with our annual Independence Day Celebration. The weather was hot but it was worth it—this was by far the best fireworks display around! After a year of quarantine from COVID-19, it was so wonderful to see our friends and neighbors out and about. Just a reminder though: COVID-19 is not gone. The Delta variant of COVID has gained ground and is very contagious. The unvaccinated are still at risk and children are not immune to this variant. Please be vigilant if your little one shows flu- or cold-like symptoms. I encourage you to get your vaccination if you have not done so already. Dr. Carlos Del Rio, Distinguished Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine and Executive Associate Dean for Emory at Grady, informed us at our weekly GMA conference call that of the 30 folks hospitalized in his hospital with COVID at that moment, none had been vaccinated. While the vaccine may not stop you from contracting COVID-19, it will greatly minimize the severity of the virus in 90% of those who are vaccinated. The vaccine is free and available at numerous local pharmacies and the health department.

August is National Back to School Month. With our students heading back to school, there is one thing I always remember: school supply and clothes shopping! The excitement of having the list of needed supplies and looking for new school clothes: it fills me with nostalgia thinking of when my sons were younger. It was fun, but it could also be stressful when you are working with a budget. There are several resources out there for parents who need assistance with school supplies. Barrow County Family Connection can help - just give them a call at 770-530-0687. Here are some other tips for getting your little ones ready for school. HealthyChildren.org says:

- Parents should remember that they need not wait until the first day of class to ask for help. Schools are open to address any concerns over the summer. The best time to get help might be 1-2 weeks before school opens.
- Many children become nervous about new situations, including changing to a new school, classroom or teacher. This may occur at any age. If your child seems nervous, it can be helpful to rehearse entry into the new situation. Take them to visit the new school or classroom before the first day of school. Remind them that there are probably a lot of students who are uneasy about the first day of school. Ask them what they are worried about and help them problem solve ways to master the new situation.
- Point out the positive aspects of starting school to create positive anticipation about the first day of class. They will see old friends and meet new ones. Talk with them about positive experiences they may have had in the past at school or with other groups of children.
- Find another child in the neighborhood with whom your child can walk to school or ride on the bus.
- If it is a new school for your child, attend any available orientations and take an opportunity to tour the school before the first day. Bring the child to school a few days prior to class to play on the playground and get comfortable.
- If you feel it is needed, drive your child (or walk with her) to school and pick her up on the first day, and get there early on the first day to cut down on unnecessary stress.
- Make sure to touch base with your child's new teacher at the beginning or end of the day so the teacher knows how much you want to be supportive of your child's school experience.
- Consider starting your child on their school sleep/wake schedule a week or so ahead of time so that time change is not a factor on their first couple of days at school.

Barrow County Schools has a great website with information on school schedules, supplies, and COVID 19 safety precautions. Please visit them at <https://www.barrow.k12.ga.us/families/school-supplies> for the supply lists.

Speaking of education, please read inside this newsletter about the ongoing GED/ESL/Citizenship classes offered by Lanier Tech at the Auburn Perry Rainey Center. These are free classes offered in the evening.

In closing, it is never too late to learn! Every year, I attend classes that enhance my knowledge of things that affect our City. A lifetime of learning is a life well lived. Remember, Lanier Tech offers many classes that can further your education or teach you a new skill. Check out their offerings at [www.laniertech.edu](http://www.laniertech.edu).

## Kill Weedy Grass With Mulch and Herbicides, UGA Expert Says (Paul Pugliese UGA Extension)

Many clients contact their local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension office frustrated with grasses taking over their flower beds or vegetable gardens.

A common phone call might involve Bermuda grass taking over a bed of juniper ground cover or daylilies. And, if you've ever tried to pull Bermuda grass out by hand, you quickly learned that it just grows right back from any root fragments left in the soil. It's nearly impossible to dig or pull out every piece of grass by hand.

*Adding mulch to landscape beds can be an effective way to control small weed infestations or in areas where herbicides cannot be used, UGA Extension experts say.* One option to control grasses in flower beds is what I like to call the "smothered and covered" method. Mulching can be used to effectively control small infestations or in areas where herbicides cannot be used. To use this method, cover the entire infestation with several inches of mulch. This may include wood chips, pine straw or similar materials. Hay and grass clippings should not be used as mulch, since they may carry weed seeds. Covering the area with a layer of cardboard topped with mulch may improve the effectiveness of this method. The mulch should stay in place for at least two growing seasons to kill tough perennial grasses.

Depending on whether these weedy grasses are growing in a flower bed or a vegetable garden, there may be options available to control weeds with selective herbicides labeled for particular applications. In vegetable gardens, use an herbicide containing the active ingredient sethoxydim (brands such as Poast and Vantage) around broadleaf vegetables to control Bermuda grass, crabgrass and other grasses without harming your veggies. This product cannot be used around corn, however, as corn is in the grass family and will be damaged. This chemical is very selective for controlling grasses and will not control other weeds.



In vegetable gardens, use an herbicide containing the active ingredient sethoxydim (brands such as Poast and Vantage) around broadleaf vegetables to control Bermuda grass, crabgrass and other grasses without harming your veggies. This product cannot be used around corn, however, as corn is in the grass family and will be damaged. This chemical is very selective for controlling grasses and will not control other weeds. There are also product options on the market that can be used in flower beds to selectively control weedy grasses. Products containing the active ingredient clethodim (Envoy), fluazifop-p (Grass-B-Gon and other brands) or sethoxydim (Segment) are safe around most flowers and shrubs. For nutsedge that is invading flower beds, a selective product that contains imazaquin (Image) can be applied over the top of a number of ornamentals. Be sure to read the label

for which plants are safe to spray around.

A nonselective herbicide containing glyphosate (brands such as Roundup and others) can also be used in between rows and along borders of vegetable gardens and flower beds. However, because this is a nonselective herbicide, avoid any direct contact or spray drift with desirable plants. Do not spray on a windy day. Make a shielded spray application by using a piece of cardboard or other barrier to shield plants and spray just the weeds. As long as the spray does not contact the leaves of vegetables, fruit trees

Glyphosate is inactive in the soil, so it does not affect plant roots in the areas that are treated. Make sure the formulation used has only glyphosate as the active ingredient. Many other herbicides and combination products are soil active and are not appropriate to use in these situations. For example, avoid using combination products such as Roundup Extended Control, which should never be used in a vegetable garden or flower bed. One last tool to add to your weed control toolbox is a pre-emergent herbicide. Consider using pre-emergents in combination with mulch and other selective herbicides as needed. There are several products on the market such as trifluralin (Preen, Treflan and other brands) that can be applied to prevent the seeds of annual grasses (i.e., crabgrass) from growing.

Pre-emergents will not control weeds that are currently established, but they will significantly reduce the number of weeds that come back from seed. Timing is the key with pre-emergent herbicides. They should be applied before March 15 for weed prevention in flower beds or incorporated into the soil of a vegetable garden, according to the label. Be sure to read and follow all labeled application rates and safety precautions when using herbicides. Contact your Gwinnett County Extension Office at [www.ugaextension.com/gwinnett](http://www.ugaextension.com/gwinnett) or 678-377-4010.



### Auburn Library Programs & Events

August 7 at 1PM: Lego Club  
 August 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11:15AM: Pre K Story Time  
 August 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11AM: Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles  
 August 9 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club  
 August 10, 24 at 5PM: Adult Craft Night  
 August 11, 18, 25 at 11AM: Lapsit Storytime  
 August 16, 23, 30 at 5PM: Teen Mondays  
 August 21 at 11AM: Saturday Crafternoon  
 August 26 at 6PM: Crime After Crime Book Club  
 August 31 at 1PM—Between the Pages Adult Book Club



**Auburn Public Library 24 Fifth Street, Auburn**  
 770-513-2925 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

08/05 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting  
 08/11 at 6PM: Parks & Leisure Commission  
 08/12 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority  
 08/17 at 6PM: Planning and Zoning Commission  
 08/19 at 5PM: City Council Workshop



### COVID-19 Vaccines

For those of you who have not yet gotten your COVID-19 vaccination, there is still time! While we have seen smaller numbers of infections, there has been an uptick in hospitalizations with the new COVID-19 variant. The one thing in common with all the current patients in the hospital with COVID? Almost none had taken the vaccine prior to their illness. It is 90% effective in preventing severe COVID symptoms and hospitalization.

Please reach out to the Barrow County Health Department at 770-307-3011 for more information on local vaccination events and opportunities to get yours. Together we can win this fight against COVID-19!



### Barrow County Emergency Notification System

Inclement weather is a way of life in the southeast. The City of Auburn participates in the County-Wide Emergency Alert System to keep our citizens informed.

Sign up today to receive notifications of community emergencies, weather emergencies, community events and more!  
 You can select phone, text or email communications.

Visit [www.cityofauburn-ga.org](http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org) and click "Emergency Alert Link" next to "City Code" on the blue scroll bar to register.



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## 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.

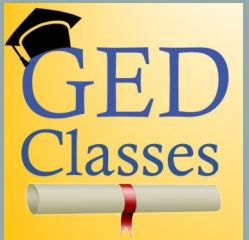
August 4, 11, 18, 25—Farmer's Market and Craft Fair—Burel Park Pavilion  
 August 11—Parks & Leisure Commission—6PM  
 August 14—Community Yard Sale  
 August 15—OWLS Field Trip to Dahlonge—no meeting this month



### Adult Literacy Barrow Announces GED and ESL

Adult Literacy Barrow and Lanier Tech offer GED, ESL and Citizenship classes in the Perry Rainey Center, 16 College Street (across from the Post Office. To register, please call 770-531-3361

- Free GED Classes Tues & Thurs. evenings 5:30 pm – 8:30  
**Home country Identification accepted**
- Free English Classes (ESL) Mon. & Wed. evenings 5:30 pm – 8:30  
**Home country Identification accepted**
- Free Citizenship Classes Thursday evenings 6:30 pm - 9:00



### Older Wiser Laughing Seniors (OWLS) Cookbook Coming Soon!

Do you have a delicious recipe that everyone tells you is the best they ever had? Are you the keeper of the family recipe cards with Great Grandma Sadie's apple butter recipe? The Auburn OWLS need you!  
 The OWLS are collecting recipes for a cookbook to be published this fall. Recipes can be mailed to City of Auburn, PO Box 1059, Auburn, GA 30011 (attn: Michelle) or emailed to [mwalk-er@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:mwalk-er@cityofauburn-ga.org).



### Rain Gardens or Buffer Zones: It's all about stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Runoff comes from rain falling on lawns, patios and driveways or from rooftops (especially gutter downspouts) and storm drains. Once the water flows or volume exceeds the absorption ability of the surrounding vegetation, it can drain directly into the our streams. This runoff water often carries bird or animal feces, insecticides, fertilizers and other pollutants which may enter the streams without any type of filtration.

The Solution is simple..... add a Buffer Zone or Rain Garden to absorb rain water flow and runoff.

