

Happy
Valentine's Day

OWLS Luncheon
(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
Wednesday, February 16, 2022—11:30 am
Perry Rainey 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

Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Training

The Master Gardener Extension Volunteer program is set up to assist UGA Extension by training volunteer educators to provide current horticultural information through community service and educational gardening projects using the resources of the University of Georgia. If you are interested in joining a class of gardeners working together to grow a better community, this is the program for you.

Learn about the science of growing, develop garden skills, and build community in the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer program. This hybrid training model combines online learning with in-person skills development workshops. Learn more and apply to the program using the contact information and QR code below.

Applications are due February 11. Workshops will be held on April 15, April 29, May 13, and May 27 from 1:00-5:00 pm.

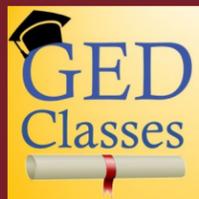


UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



UGA Extension-Barrow County
770-307-3029
aholloway@uga.edu

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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

#OurHearts

Stay smoke-free together

Smokers are up to 4x more likely to develop heart disease or to have a stroke, compared to nonsmokers. But it pays to quit. Just 1 year after quitting, your heart attack risk drops sharply. Ask your family and friends for support or join a support group.

- Tell your family, friends, and coworkers that you're quitting and you want their help.
- Ask them not to smoke around you.
- They might follow your lead: Research has shown that people are much more likely to quit if their spouse, friend, or sibling stops smoking.

#OurHearts
are healthier together



February 2022

Volume 14, Issue 2

Facebook Us



Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

The Mayor's Corner

It is February already and the cold weather is upon us. I hope everyone is staying warm and safe. The winter weather of January was beautiful and we were spared some of the worst effects as no road issues were reported by our awesome police department. Power outages were limited in the state and for that I am very thankful. I am hopeful that February continues with the mild weather.

Speaking of our roads, there has been a great deal of discussion of roads lately. Whether it is the discussion of traffic controls (signals, stop signs, etc.) or the continued growth in our area, roads seem to stay at the forefront. In keeping with this, I thought I would give a brief update and explanation of the roads in our community. We have 44 miles of roads in our City. Some roads are City maintained, some are GaDOT, some are County and some are a combination of City and County. City roads are evaluated every five years by engineers that the City contracts with to determine which roads need to be improved first. The engineers rate these based on critical infrastructure criteria.

The most traveled road, and one we get the most comments on, is Highway 8/Atlanta Highway. This is a State Route and is maintained by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The City is limited in what we can and can't do on this right-of-way. When there are areas of concern, such as the intersection of Etheridge Road and Atlanta Highway, we work with the GaDOT to try to resolve the issue. In the case of this intersection, we have been trying to get some type of traffic control there ever since I have been in office. The GaDOT has the final say on what happens here. We are pleased that there is renewed discussion on this intersection and we believe that a change will be coming soon. Many of our other roads are both City and County roads. We work closely with Barrow County so that we can coordinate when we are both going to perform a road repair/paving on the roads. Harmony Grove & Union Church Road repair was an example of this partnership. The City used two years of LMIG funding to repair the roads and worked with the County to be sure we coordinated the work so the entire road was done at once with the same contractor.

Speaking of funding, we take advantage of state funding called Local Maintenance & Improvement Grants (LMIG) to help pay for our road maintenance. This allocation of funds is based on our centerline miles (44 miles as mentioned above). This is a matching funds grant where the City pays 30% of the cost of the projects. We are allocated

Heatherwood - Entrance/Cul-de-sac	2020	34,610.00
Mt. Moriah/Price Road corner	2020	12,570.00
Heritage Way	2021	103,248.00
Ardell Court	2021	30,043.75
Cabot's Drive	2021	91,527.88

between \$80,000 and \$92,000 each year. This table shows the projects that were completed in the last 2 years with these funds. The City is permitted to "save" the funds from several years to do larger projects as needed. In 2016, we used multiple years of LMIG funding for Harmony Grove and Union Church Road at a cost of over \$2,000,000. Since that time, we have been able to do maintenance/repaving on multiple roads. The City staff also works diligently to rectify road issues that occur throughout the year. There will be improvements on Highway 8/Atlanta Highway near the new Townes of Auburn, a deceleration lane near the new Municipal Complex, just a to name a couple. The City recognizes the need for more funding to take care of the roads. The 2023 SPLOST has roads as the second level of funding. Spanning six years, this SPLOST will provide much needed extra revenue to address the roads in the City. If the projections hold up, we expect over \$1,000,000 in revenue over the time span of the SPLOST. This revenue can only be spent on roads.

City staff and engineers are working diligently to make the best use of the funding available to us. We know that it can be frustrating waiting as some of these projects take years for the engineering and design to be complete. We hear your concerns. We encourage you to become more involved with the City so that you are aware of all the work that is done in the background to keep our City the great place you know and love. City Council meetings are held at 5PM on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month and we'd love to see you there!



Mayor Linda
Blechinger

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



Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or improper disposal into Auburn's 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 report 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

- 02/03 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 02/09 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 02/10 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 02/17 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning
- 02/17 at 5PM: City Council Workshop

Auburn Library Programs & Events

- February 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 at 11AM: Auburn Story Time
- February 5 at 1PM: Lego Club
- February 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11AM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles
- February 7, 14, 21, 28 at 5PM: Teen Monday Fundays
- February 7 at 11:30AM: Between the Pages Adult Book Club
- February 8 at 5PM: Adult Craft Night
- February 15 at 6PM: Virtual Author Chat
- February 17 at 6PM: Crime After Crime Book Club
- February 19 drop in 11AM to 2PM: Saturday Crafternoon
- February 21 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club
- February 22 at 2PM: Between the Pages Book Club

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



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.



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Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission

is devoted to bringing the best in leisure programming to Auburn. From Auburn Youth Athletics Baseball and Soccer Programs, the Tennis program, the Auburn OWLS (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors) and green space parks—there is something for everyone.

- February 09—6:30 pm—Parks & Leisure Commission
- February 16—11:30AM—OWLS Luncheon—Perry Rainey Center. Bring a dish to share!
- February 16—6:30 pm—Community Garden Interest Meeting—Auburn Library

Community Garden—We Need You!

You may have noticed the raised garden boxes between City Hall and the library. Have you ever wondered what the big deal is about community gardens? This space is a place to not only plant and harvest vegetables, herbs and fruit, it is a place to learn. It is a place to meet other like-minded folks who want to get back to the soil and serve healthy produce they have grown themselves.

The Auburn Community Garden committee has begun planning for 2022 and is inviting you to become part of this project. We will be hosting a **Community Garden Interest Meeting "Help Grow Our Garden" on February 16 at 6:30 pm at the Auburn Library.** Interested in helping to plan the Community Garden's future programming and expansion? Do you love to garden and want to learn more about what a Community Garden can do in a community? Come to the meeting! Don't want to be part of a committee, but would like to learn more about what the Auburn Community Garden is and what will be offered to visitors this year? Come to the meeting! Be involved as much or as little as you like.

We are excited to share some tentative plans for this year. The proposed program will include pollinators and bee hives, seed swaps, plant swaps and more. We are partnering with the University of Georgia Master Gardening Program to come up with monthly programs such as a youth Master Gardener program, container gardening, and Native Bee Boxes. These interactive classes will center around what you and others at the meeting on 2/16 would like to see. Don't see a topic here that you are interested in learning more about? Come to the meeting with your ideas and let's see what happens. If you have any questions about the community garden or the upcoming meeting, please email Michael at parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org.



2022 Events!

The City of Auburn is proud of its annual events. Always Family-Friendly, we host four major events each year. We begin with our premier **Auburn Ever After** event where your princes and princesses can meet more than 40 of their favorite characters. Cinderella, Elsa, Anna, Snow White, Spiderman, Hercules, Batman and others come to Auburn on **May 7, 2022** to meet their biggest fans. The day begins with free princess carriage rides and inflatables and closes out with a Movie in Whistlestop Park.

Auburn's Independence Day Celebration set for **July 2, 2022** is by far the best display of fireworks around. With live music and vendors, Auburn knows how to celebrate our Country's independence.

Our longest running event is **AuburnFest**. Set for **October 22, 2022**, this hometown celebration is celebrating it's 30th year. Well known for the craft and food vendors, AuburnFest is also host to the 6th Annual Trains & Flames Backyard BBQ competition. Come out and sample the best barbecue around and vote for People's Choice. Hometown competitions also include knitting, crocheting, quilting, canning and pie baking. We hope to add a cake competition this year as well. Think you make the best pie around? Put your skills to the test against other hometown bakers.

Last, but definitely not least, **Sounding Off the Christmas Season** is set for **December 4**. Auburn welcomes Santa and his live reindeer to Auburn. Elsa, Anna, Elves, and other characters drop in to help celebrate. The Live Nativity helps remind us of the reason for the season! The Grinch has been spotted around town too, but our ever-vigilant Police Department keeps him from stealing the joy of this event.

There is always a reason to come to Auburn—we look forward to seeing you here!

