

## 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

01/05 at 6PM: City Council Business Meeting

01/11 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission

01/12 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority

01/18 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning Commissioner

01/19 at 6PM: City Council Workshop

## Food Plants as Landscape Elements

Increasingly homeowners are interested in growing food plants at home but feel constricted by their traditional home landscape design. Or, their homeowner association has restrictions on food plots. Many subdivisions would frown on a large stand of sweet corn or tomato cages in the front yard. However, by creative planning homeowners can add food plants to their landscapes while keeping the homeowner association happy.

### Choose the Right Plants

The key in incorporating food plants is choosing ones that will fit into the existing aesthetic of the landscape. For cool-season gardening, leaf lettuce tucked among pansies and snapdragons can be beautiful. Leaf lettuces come in many shades of green (and red!) and different textures. They aren't just tolerated in the landscape layout; their form actually adds to it! To harvest the lettuce simply cut off leaves of the plants. Or, the entire plant can be harvested and some extra mulch added to that area. No one will be the wiser. Several types of edible greens are suitable for the landscape. Collard greens can add a nice backdrop for blooming annuals. They are large plants and need plenty of growing room but they look lovely well past frost.

Carrots are another cool-season crop that has landscape interest. Carrots are grown from seed and need even moisture as they germinate. Once they start growing the frilly carrot tops add a nice design texture to the garden. The mature tops are less than a foot tall so they easily fit into an annual bed.

For warm-season growing peppers are a nice addition. Ornamental peppers are found at any landscape store. They add visual interest around home entryways or in small ornamental garden beds. Why not replace those with edible peppers? Varieties of jalapeno, banana pepper, and bell pepper plants mature at under two feet and can blend in nicely with other landscape elements.

Peanuts are an underused plant in home food gardens and have merit in an ornamental garden. Peanut plants have nicely shaped leaves and yellow flowers. The plant matures at under a foot tall and most varieties will spread somewhat. These are planted from seeds when the soil is warm and harvested in the Fall.

### Food Gardening 101

Remember that most food crops require full sun. They cannot tolerate too much shading from other plants. Root crops, like carrots and peanuts, need loose friable soil. Also, it is important to review your pest management strategy when adding food plants. Broad spectrum insecticides could kill needed pollinators and no one wants pesticide residue on their harvest. With just a bit of creative planning you could soon be enjoying homegrown food from your home landscape. Contact your local Gwinnett County Extension Office at [www.ugaextension.com/gwinnett](http://www.ugaextension.com/gwinnett) for more information.

## Auburn Library Programs & Events

January 2, 9, 23, 30 at 1PM: Stitch, Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles

January 4, 28 at 11:15AM: Auburn Family Story Time

January 17 at 3PM: Auburn Lego Club

January 9, 23, 30 11:15AM: Ready to Read - Pre K Story Time

January 9 at 6PM: Auburn Adult Coloring Night

January 9 at 6:30PM: Auburn Cover to Cover Book Club

January 10, 24 at 5PM: Teen Writing Club

January 11, 18, 25 at 11:30AM: Auburn Lapsit Story Time— up to 2 years

January 12 at 5PM: Teen Advisory Board

January 14 at 12PM: Saturday Crafternoon

January 16—Martin Luther King Jr. Day— Library Closed

January 21 at 1PM: Scout's Inauguration

January 23 at 4PM: Library

January 28 at 4PM: Bookworms Book Club



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

## COPYRIGHT DISCLAIMER

This newsletter may at times present copyrighted material, the use of which might not always have been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. Such material is made available in an effort to advance understandings of public interest and educational issues. The author believes that this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in 17 U.S.C. Section 107. In accordance with 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material published in this newsletter is distributed without profit for public notice and educational purposes.

**MANDELLA'S TREE SERVICE**  
From tree tops to stumps ground, we handle it all around  
24-Hour Emergency Storm Damage  
**678-517-2724**  
[www.mandellastreeservice.com](http://www.mandellastreeservice.com)

**FREE MULCH**

**Our Services**  
Tree Removal  
Dangerous trees  
Tree Trimming  
Lot clearing  
Tree Maintenance

## 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. **Please note: Parks & Leisure Meetings are moving to the 2nd Wednesday of each month**

January 11– Parks & Leisure Meeting—6:30 pm City Hall

January 18—OWLS Luncheon—JD Withers Building 11:30 am



## Auburn Youth Athletics 2017 Spring Baseball Registration



The Auburn Youth Athletics Program is pleased to announce that registration for Spring Ball is now open.

**Registration can be done at Auburn City Hall Monday—Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.** Additional walk-up registration days will be held at the Auburn Ball Fields located on Mary Carter Road after the first of the year. **If you register your child before January 10, 2017, we will give you 20% off your total registration. Please use this code when registering: EARLY20**  
**Registration Deadline is February 15, 2017**

All Players Welcome! Player Registration Fees include team jersey and hat, player insurance, umpires, field maintenance & other associated playing fees. Additional fees may be required by individual teams. No out-of-county fees. Registration forms can be downloaded at

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

Rookie	age 3-4 years	\$ 85.00
T-Ball through Majors	age 5-12 years	\$115.00
Dixie Boys	age 13-19 years	\$150.00

For more information, contact Parks & Leisure Director Dan Pruehs at 770-963-4002 ext 230 or email [parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org).

## The City of Auburn is Hiring!

### Director of Public Works:

The City of Auburn is currently hiring for the Director of Public Works. This is a position responsible for technical and supervisory work in overseeing the city's Public Works Department. Work involves directing, planning, organizing, and coordinating the administrative, fiscal and technical aspects of the Water/Works, Storm Water divisions. This position is often involved in every level of work in each division and is expected to have extensive technical knowledge in many fields relating to the construction, maintenance, repair, and governance of water distribution systems, streets and public and private property. Work is performed with the guidance of the Mayor and Council.

### City Planner I

This position has oversight responsibilities for planning, zoning, building permits, protective inspections, and occupational license. Recommends development/zoning regulations; conducts plan reviews; supervises technical plan reviews, building inspections, code enforcement, and permitting; ensures compliance with land use regulations; recommends fee structures; applies for grants; facilitates planning/zoning board and board of appeals.

### Part Time Cleaning Position

Full job descriptions and applications can be found at <http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org/Jobs.aspx>





Mention this ad and enjoy this special!

Buy One 6"—Get One 6" free with purchase of a medium drink



Join us at the Auburn Tennis Courts for Group Lessons! Group Tennis Classes available All Ability Levels

MONDAYS: January 16, 23, 30 \$30 (3 lessons—Only \$10 per Lesson!)
MONDAYS: February 6, 13, 20, 27 \$40 (4 lessons—Only \$10 per Lesson!)
Discount Price for BOTH months: \$63—7 lessons only \$9 per lesson!

January/February Tennis Program Sessions Available! 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)

To register for Group Tennis Lessons or to request more information, please contact: Josh Honea: tenniswithjosh@gmail.com - 770-547-8647

It's That Time of Year!

It's tough to think about the new year without thinking about new year's resolutions. If you don't have any resolutions in mind this January, consider this one: Don't pour it out! We're talking about toxic chemicals, such as drain and oven cleaners, paint, and paint thinner, to name only a few. When these are poured down household drains, storm drains, toilets, or on the ground, those chemicals end up in nearby waters.

An easy way to reduce the number of chemicals that you have to dispose of, is to try to use non-hazardous products when you can. Lemon juice, vinegar, hot water, borax, soap, and baking soda are good alternatives, and there are many recipes online. Our favorite is this all-purpose cleaner that you can prepare and use by adding to a spray bottle: 1/2 cup vinegar and 1/4 cup baking soda mixed into 1/2 gallon of water. You also might find that these non-toxic cleaners are not only easier on local waters but also are easier on your wallet!

If you do have household chemicals to dispose of, contact your local environmental, health, or solid waste agency for information. For additional tips to help safeguard our waters, contact City of Auburn at (770)963-4002 X 207.



PiYO LIVE! Pilates + Yoga = Piyo
Now at The North Georgia School of Dance
This low-impact, high intensity workout is great for all fitness levels ages 12 and up!
Join us for a FREE trial class on Monday, December 5th from 5:00-6:00 PM
Weekly classes will begin January 13th
North Georgia School of Dance
1209 4th Ave
Auburn, GA 30011
www.thebook.com/piyolive

RENT THIS SPACE!
Rent this 2" x 2" space for 3 months Only \$50
Ad must be Camera Ready and be submitted as a high resolution PDF.
Download the submission on the City website.

Juggernaut Cycles
404-551-6608
Motorcycle Service & Customization
120 Auburn Park Dr, Ste G
Auburn, GA 30011
Juggernautcycles.com
juggernautsgarage@gmail.com

Fence America
Commercial & Residential Fencing
James Brigman
jbrigman@hotmail.com
678-698-8926

OWLS Luncheon (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)
Wednesday, January 18, 2017—11:30 am
JD Withers Building—7 7th Street

This monthly luncheon is the "don't miss" event for those age 50 and better. Bring a dish to share!

Guest Presenter: Rick Almand
Taking Care of Your Most Important Asset: You!

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

Auburn Messenger



Facebook Us



PEOPLE PASSION PROGRESS

The Mayor's Corner



Mayor Linda Blechinger

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season surrounded by family and friends. Thank you to everyone who called or emailed to say how much they enjoyed the Christmas decorations. We are so excited about everything that was accomplished in the City of Auburn in 2016. Construction started on the Auburn Center in the historic R&R Building. Built in 1902 as a dormitory for the Perry-Rainey Institute, this historic building will be the new gathering place in Auburn. This event center will offer meeting and event space as well as host Lanier Tech GED classes. The Auburn Center is expected to be ready to open in 2017.

The Whistlestop Shops were built and are now thriving businesses. From a concept of four shops to the nine that were built, this project has been a resounding success. We are planning to add additional units to accommodate other businesses on the waiting list. Be sure to keep the Whistlestop Shops on your shopping destination list! They offer wonderful, unique gifts, yummy treats and original crafts.

The Roy E. Parks Children's Park Pavilion was completed and offers a sheltered area to host picnics and gatherings in our popular children's park. A beautiful arbor was constructed on 4th Avenue which was a perfect venue for our Auburn Stroll Cinderella event. The arbor provides a comfortable resting place for our downtown visitors. Lit at night with twinkling lights, this is a great asset for our downtown area.

Speaking of parks, the Auburn Youth Athletic Association was formed and hosted fall ball at the Auburn Ball Fields. Sign ups are ongoing for spring ball. Make sure you check out this new organization that hosts our ball program. The concession stand at Parks Mill has been completed along with a new Major ball field. The new 6th Street Park construction has begun. This park will host the Auburn Dog Park and trails for walking. We are so excited about this park and green space!

Due to the joint efforts of our Community Development Director and Parks & Leisure Director, the Auburn Community Garden was reestablished. With 10 completed raised beds, the 2016 gardens had a bumper crop of tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, herbs, flowers and squash. These beds will be available for spring planting soon—get your space reserved!

A project that has been in the works for some time, we are pleased that 4th Avenue was widened and repaved. This is the result of several years of grant proceeds being accumulated for the work. Work continues on water supply project, with the proposed reservoir and water treatment plant in the planning stages. We are pleased with the partnership we have with the City of Winder for this important project. This reservoir will supply our water needs for years to come and will help the entire county in times of drought.

2016 was the year for events! From horse-drawn carriages, fairy godmothers, princesses and princes to the Grinch with Santa and his reindeer, our events continue to grow in popularity. Auburn is THE family-friendly place to be. We offer a safe, downtown area teeming with businesses and events throughout the year. We hope you have had time to attend these and get to know your neighbors

As we look ahead to 2017, we continue to work towards the goals that you, our citizens, have laid out for the City in the Strategic Implementation Plan. Visit our website at www.http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org/PlanningZoning.aspx to view the plan. This is the blueprint of the City's future.

My wishes for you in 2017 are for a happy, healthy and prosperous year. Many Blessings to you and your family!



Important Notice:

Republic Sanitation Services, who provides waste services for the City of Auburn, has announced that effective January 1, 2017 cash payments for services will no longer be accepted. For more information, please contact Republic Services at 678-963-2800.

