

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

OWLS Luncheon (Older Wiser Laughing Seniors) March 17, 2021

This monthly luncheon is the "don't miss" event for those age 50 and better. Lunch will be provided

Contact Michelle Walker at
mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org or
770-963-4002 ext 204 for more information.

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

www.cityofauburn-ga.org

Culvert Maintenance

Homeowners throughout the city are responsible in most cases for residential culvert maintenance and repair. Repairs can be costly, so its in your best interest to make sure your culvert is always properly maintained.

Natural Debris can fill a culvert up very quickly. Weeds, grass clippings, and leaves can clog your culvert up over time. These should never reduce water flow by 20% or more. Serious drainage issues can occur if they do.

If your culvert is near a public roadway, or another property, inspections and maintenance are key to avoiding flooding that could damage the roadway or other properties near you. Removing silt, trash, and vegetation should be a part of your culvert maintenance routine. Examine your culvert for any issues such as Deterioration, and Damage for soil erosion.

Help extend the life of your culvert and driveway by incorporating this small measure to your yard maintenance. Please contact the Stormwater Coordinator at 770-963-4002x208 with any questions regarding this or any water quality issues.



Clogged Culvert

Unclogged Culvert

March 2021

Volume 13, Issue 3

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Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

The Mayor's Corner

Spring is here! We are finally seeing numbers drop for the pandemic and more availability of the vaccines. I for one am extremely thankful that this public health emergency response seems to be making great progress. One thing we have discussed on the many conference calls with elected leaders is the distrust and misinformation out there about the safety and efficacy of the available vaccines. Dr. Amber Schmidtke, an Assistant Professor of Microbiology at Mercer University, has been kind enough to answer some common questions about the COVID-19 vaccinations. Her goal is to take the science behind the vaccines and make it understandable. This, in turn, will hopefully improve people's comfort so they can make decisions based on the science, not just "soundbites" from social media and other sources. Dr. Schmidtke says:

"Your medical decisions are meant to be a team effort between you and your physician with your consent. So if you have specific medical questions about your unique situation, then I recommend asking those questions to the person who knows your medical history. My comments here are intended ... to 'translate' the science and the medical knowledge into a format that is easily understandable for members of the general public."

One complaint Dr. Schmidtke has seen was very impactful: "But in searching for expert opinion one receives only a pat on the head and assurance that everything will be all right...The over-riding impression is that politicians and media are driving public towards taking the shots without solid information about the risk involved." She says: I, too, have experienced the "pat on the head" and had my own questions ignored in the past. I know what you're talking about. Where the data may be obvious to us scientists, it's not necessarily to the public. And authority is meaningless if the relationship and trust aren't built first. I think it's a good thing that you're asking questions and wanting data. I want you to be and feel heard. I want to find the data that pertain to your questions. I want you to make data-driven decisions in all areas of your life.

With all this in mind, here are some common questions as well as Dr. Schmidtke's answers and other science publication data:

- Was the process of development of the vaccine rushed?** The short answer is that the vaccines went through the same safety and efficacy checks that happen with non-emergency approval. Whereas traditionally there are stops where data are submitted to FDA at interim steps and approval is then granted for progression to further trials, the process is streamlined in this emergency situation.
- How well does this protect from COVID-19?** This graph shows the incidence of COVID-19 infection after vaccine. Placebo (or fake) shot recipients are represented by the blue line. The red line shows those who received the vaccine. (Source sciencealert.com). It has a prevention rate of 94%.
- Can a COVID-19 vaccine give me sick with COVID-19?** No—none of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live COVID-19 virus so the vaccine itself cannot give you the virus. (Source: CDC.gov)



I hope that this information gives you peace of mind when it comes to getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Phased vaccines are currently happening and as availability increases, we should start seeing the effect in our infection numbers. Reach out to your health care provider to find out how you can register to get your vaccination.



Mayor Linda Blechinger



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contact@MylesTruckRepair.com

The Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program is coming to Barrow County!

Master Gardeners receive in-depth horticulture training and put that training to use to serve the community through demonstration gardens, teaching classes, and answering questions for local gardeners.

This year's training will be a hybrid model. Participants will learn content online from March 29-May 28, and will attend four in-person workshops over that time for hands-on skills development. A wide range of topics will be covered: propagating plants, botany, insects and diseases, fruit and vegetable production, ornamental plants, and more! If you are interested in joining a class of gardeners working together to grow a better community, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2021MGEV>, scan the code, or e-mail aholloway@uga.edu.



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

- 03/04 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 03/10 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 03/11 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 03/17 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning
- 03/18 at 5PM: City Council Workshop



MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH®



Important Water Notice

The City of Auburn operates a distribution water system in which it purchases water treated by Barrow County. The City received a notice from the Department of Natural Resources indicating that certain microbial levels and concentrations of byproducts were detected in the water. It appears this condition was caused by lower water usage which caused water treated by Barrow County to be stored in the water lines longer than it typically is. This allows the microbes to grow. The City has taken corrective action by flushing its lines. The City's water operator indicates these steps in sequence will remedy this issue. Although this is not an emergency, you have the right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the situation. Please see the letter enclosed with this newsletter for more information.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Public Works at 770-963-4002 ext 207.

HOURS

M-F 10 - 4
Sat 10 - 2

LOG INTO YOUR PINES ACCOUNT AT PRLIB.ORG OR CALL 770-513-2925 TO PLACE ITEMS ON HOLD.

STAFF WILL CALL YOU ONCE ITEMS ARE PULLED TO SCHEDULE A PICKUP TIME

PORCH PICKUP AT THE AUBURN LIBRARY

Now Available



HEAD TO THE LIBRARY AT YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT TIME. STAFF WILL PLACE YOUR ITEMS ON A TABLE ON THE LIBRARY PORCH IN A BAG WITH YOUR NAME ON IT.

OPENING DATE TBD

Follow us on FB for details

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.

March 10—Parks & Leisure Commission
March 17—OWLS luncheon

City of Auburn Great American Cleanup

Thursday April 8th. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday April 9th. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday April 10th. 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We will be collecting:

- Batteries
- Motor Oil
- Scrap Metal
- Electronics (Only Flat Panels TVs Accepted)
- Plastics
- Freon Free Appliances
- Wood (no construction)
- Tires only **NO RIMS** - \$2.00 - \$5.00 each depending on size

EXACT CASH ONLY NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

- Paint of Any Type
- Paint Thinner
- No Household / Municipal Garbage
- No Chemicals
- No Businesses

All loose items must be boxed or bagged
NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

Attendees are strongly urged to practice CDC guidelines
Including wearing a face mask and social distancing

Containers will be set-up at Mary Carter Ballfields

For more information contact Johnathen Eggleston
jeggleston@cityofauburn-ga.org
770-963-4002 Ext. 208