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**OWLS Luncheon**  
(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)

Wednesday, April 14, 2021—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. Lunch will be provided—please RSVP to 770-963-4002 ext 230 or mwalk-



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

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



**2021-2022 Registration Information**

[www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us)

ONLINE ONLY

**Pre-K Lottery Application**  
March 1 to April 2

BCSS Georgia Pre-K Program classes are at the nine elementary schools.

- Pre-K follows the BCSS calendar and elementary school hours (7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.).
- Bus transportation is available within your child's elementary school zone.
- Pre-K students must attend class within their elementary attendance zone (unless student numbers create a need for a combo class).
- A child must be age-eligible (4 years old on or before September 1). Children who are 5 years of age on or before September 1 and have not attended Georgia's Pre-K Program old, may also enroll in the Pre-K Program.



LINKS:  
[Pre-K Info](#)  
[Lottery Application](#)  
[FAQs](#)  
[Email sign-up](#)

**APPLY ONLINE**  
[barrow.k12.ga.us](http://barrow.k12.ga.us)

ONLINE ONLY

**Kindergarten Registration**  
February 22 - June 1

Welcome to Kindergarten at Barrow County School System! We're honored to teach your child. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to attend kindergarten for the upcoming school year.

**You may register for Kindergarten online at any time**, but if you register during your school's featured week, you have the chance to win a prize pack full of your school's gear! See your school's week below:

Feb 22 - 26 <b>Auburn</b>	March 29-April 2 <b>Bethlehem</b>
March 1-5 <b>Holsenbeck</b>	April 12-16 <b>Bramlett</b>
March 8-11 <b>County Line</b>	April 19-23 <b>Kennedy</b>
March 15-19 <b>Winder</b>	April 26-30 <b>Yargo</b>
March 22-26 <b>Statham</b>	



**APPLY ONLINE**  
[barrow.k12.ga.us](http://barrow.k12.ga.us)

**Registration for rising 1st to 12th Grade Students**

Online registration is required for ALL students (new, returning, transferring within or from another county or custody changes). If your child is currently enrolled in a Barrow County School in a Pre-K class, you do not need to register for Kindergarten. Registration is now open for the 2021-2022 school year.

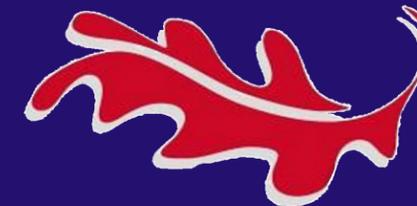
Visit our website to apply online: [www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us).

April 2021

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**Auburn**



**Messenger**



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

*The Mayor's Corner*

April is here and nature's glory is abundant. We have concentrated so much on the pandemic recently that this month, I'd like to change it up a little. I have reached out to Alicia Holloway with the UGA extension office to talk about gardening. Here is some helpful information for our local gardeners. Enjoy!

Gardening has a long standing as America's most popular hobby, but even this common pastime saw a surge in popularity last year. As many of us were stuck at home looking for something, anything, to do, a lot of folks tried veggie gardening for the first time. Gardening can be very rewarding...many of us find time outside digging in the dirt rewarding in and of itself, but then getting vine-ripened juicy heirloom tomatoes puts it over the top, and even adults get giddy digging potatoes or carrots out of the ground – it's like searching for buried treasure! But gardening can also present a lot of challenges, to new and experienced gardeners alike. You can avoid many garden issues by sticking to the basics, the time-tested and science-driven recommendations that have been proven successful time and time again. Below is a review of the basics to get you started this planting season.

**Every Plant is Unique**—Keep in mind all plants have different spacing, nutrition needs, and are prone to different insects and diseases. Do some plant-specific research to get the details right for each crop.

**Location, Location, Location**—Veggies need sunlight. Six hours is the minimum, but eight to ten hours is ideal. Well-drained soil is best, and convenience to water and to your kitchen is helpful.

**Healthy Veggies Start with Healthy Soil**—Improve your soil by adding organic matter; compost is an easy and reliable option. Incorporate 2"-4" into the top 6" of soil. If you are using a raised bed, fill with 25%-50% with compost, and the rest with topsoil. Good old Georgia clay is great for growing after adding organic matter. The benefits of increased organic matter are immense: better water retention, ability for your soil to hold on to nutrients, increased aeration, and more. After adding organic matter, complete a soil test.

A soil test can tell you what nutrients are in your soil, and what nutrients you need to add. Soil tests can also tell you how to adjust your pH for optimum nutrient uptake. Your soil report will tell you the exact amount of fertilizer or lime you need to add to your garden to achieve top yields. Use the contact information below to get a soil test.

**Plant in the Right Season**—Plant summer vegetables after the last frost, and when soil temperatures reach 60-65 degrees Fahrenheit. Our last frost is usually around the end of March, and occasionally into early April. Go to [georgiaweather.net](http://georgiaweather.net), select past data, and then 7-day summary to see the 4' inch soil temperature over the past week.

**Plants need Personal Space (a.k.a. Social Distancing for Plants)** - Your seed packet or plant tag, and the UGA Vegetable planting chart will give recommended spacings. Follow the recommendations! Plants packed too tightly compete for nutrients and are prone to diseases. Plants spaced to widely invite weeds and give less yield per square foot of garden space. For raised beds, use mostly in-row spacing recommendations for smaller crops, but make sure you leave plenty of space between large crops like tomatoes or peppers.

**Water is Life**—Mulch around the base of vegetables with straw or a garden soil mix to hold in moisture during hot summer months. This can also reduce soil-borne pathogens like many of the fungal diseases that affect tomatoes. When watering, water deeply and less often. Watering deeply will encourage roots to grow deep and make stronger plants.

**Protect against Invaders**—Here in the south we have all the pests. When you see a potential pest or disease, bring it to me, your agriculture and natural resources agent. I can identify the issue if there is one and if needed, give recommendations for practices that will reduce the number of pests, and chemical treatments if needed, organic or conventional, whatever your preference. Follow these garden basics for a great garden this year. For more information on gardening, recommendations for specific crops, soil tests, or to identify garden insect or diseases, contact me at the UGA Extension office in Winder. UGA Extension – Barrow County: phone: 770-307-3029; e-mail: [aholloway@uga.edu](mailto:aholloway@uga.edu); address: 90 Lanthier Street, Winder; Facebook: [@BarrowCountyExtension](https://www.facebook.com/BarrowCountyExtension).



Mayor Linda Blechinger

# Earth Day April 22

Since 1970, Earth Day has been celebrated to remind us how important keeping our planet healthy and clean.

Make Earth Day a project day for your family. Pick an area near your home in need of clean up or plant a tree. It's easy and fun! You will enjoy the benefits for years to come



## 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.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

All meetings may be held via web depending on current Health Crisis State of Emergency—please check [www.cityofauburn-ga.org](http://www.cityofauburn-ga.org) for updates

- 04/01 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting
- 04/08 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority
- 04/14 at 6:30PM: Parks & Leisure Commission
- 04/15 at 5PM: City Council Workshop
- 04/21 at 6PM: Planning & Zoning

### What is 811?

811 is the national number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect do-it-yourselfers, landscapers and contractors from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects – large and small.

### Why contact Georgia 811?

- **For Safety's Sake!** Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause damage to the environment and/or serious personal injuries.
- **Convenience:** Failure to contact Georgia 811 can result in disrupted service to an entire neighborhood and potentially incur fines and repair costs.
- **It's free.** Georgia 811 exists to prevent utility and safety emergencies, and it's a free service!
- **It's the law.** Please visit the Georgia Public Service Commission's web site at [psc.state.ga.us/](http://psc.state.ga.us/) for more information on Georgia's "Dig Law", the Georgia Facilities Protection Act.

### When should someone contact 811?

Do-it-yourselfers and contractors should reach 811 at least two business days before ANY digging project.

A few common examples include but are not limited to:

- Putting in a fence
- Planting trees or shrubbery
- Installing a sprinkler system
- Pool installation
- Installing a mailbox
- Grading, boring or trenching

### How does 811 work?

Notifying Georgia 811 kick-starts a process that is crucial to any outdoor digging project. Digging after utility lines have been marked prevents possible mishaps that could otherwise occur during an outdoor project. The service is free and the process is simple:

1. The digger contacts Georgia 811 by dialing 811 or visiting [Georgia811.com](http://Georgia811.com) and submitting an eRequest form at least two business days prior to digging.
2. Georgia 811 then transmits the location and description of the project to the affected member utility companies. After receiving the information, these utility companies send a professional locate technician to identify and mark the approximate location of lines with colored paint or flags.
3. Once underground lines have been marked, the digger now knows the approximate location of utility lines and can dig safely.

### What if 811 is not contacted?

- An underground line is damaged every three minutes nationwide and nearly 1,300 damages are reported to Georgia 811 each month.
- Damage to underground lines can result in service interruptions, costly repair bills and fines.
- Hitting a line can also cause serious harm to the digger and other individuals.

### Why is April so important?

- April is National Safe Digging Month, as well as Safe Digging Month in Georgia by declaration of the governor.
- According to consumer behavior trends, April marks the beginning of the peak period for outdoor digging projects in Georgia and nationwide.
- Raising safe digging awareness in April encourages citizens to contact 811 during an optimum time for utility line protection.

### How has safe digging increased?

- In 2020, Georgia 811 took 1,359,090 requests to have underground utility lines located.
- In 2020, Georgia 811 took 69.8% of locates on the web.
- For each request 7.2 member companies on average were notified that digging would be taking place in their service area.

# 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.

April 14—Parks & Leisure Commission

April 21—OWLS Luncheon—Perry Rainey Center, 16 College Street—RSVP required—lunch will be provided. Email [parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:parksdirector@cityofauburn-ga.org) or call 770-963-4002 ext 230.

## City of Auburn Great American Cleanup

Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>. 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:jeggleston@cityofauburn-ga.org)  
770-963-4002 Ext. 208

