

I put my money where  
my house is.

I SHOP LOCAL.



### OWLS Monthly Meeting

(Older Wiser Laughing Seniors)

Wednesday, December 15, 2021—11:30 am

Perry Rainey Center

16 College Street (across from the Post Office)

This Month: Our Annual Christmas Dinner

Main dish will be provided—please bring sides and  
desserts to share.

Call Michelle at 770-963-4002 ext 204 or email  
mwalker@cityofauburn-ga.org

AUBURN

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

www.cityofauburn-ga.org

December 2021

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Facebook Us



# Auburn Messenger



PEOPLE

PASSION

PROGRESS

## The Mayor's Corner

The holidays are upon us once again. As I think back to last year facing Covid-19, sickness and separation from loved ones, it's been quite a year hasn't it? There are times in life when I search for the good things, I try to stay present and grateful for the little blessings. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, I write the things I am thankful for. This year I started early because I really needed to. I'd like to share some of the things that are in my journal. I hope that they encourage you too!

Day one

- I am thankful for life, thankful for my wonderful sons, thankful for friends that are steadfast and true. For those I have the honor of working and serving with.

Day two

- Today Lord, I am so thankful for Your love, even when I don't feel worthy You still love me.

Day Three

- I am so thankful for autumn, I love the colors of the season; the blue of the sky, the gold, orange, and red of the leaves. I can't help but smile when I walk in my yard enjoying the cool brisk air, fires and hot cocoa.

Day four

- I am so very thankful for this community, this place is my home, I have so many wonderful memories that are forever in my heart.

Day five

- I'm thankful for the birds that sing so sweetly, they seem to greet me every day, their colors vary and their song seems to praise their creator.

I hope this has inspired you. Even in difficult days we can find things to be grateful for...

Lastly I will share that I am thankful for you. So many of my fellow citizens that have shared words of encouragement with me. These words lifted me up a year and a half ago when my husband passed away. That meant so much to me. I am thank for the citizens that, for the past fifteen years, have shared their hopes and dreams, their heart for our city, for those that have volunteered, for so many of you that have poured your yourselves into Auburn. I have loved getting to know Auburn's history. Not only am I so very blessed living in our beautiful city, I am honored for each and every day that I have been allowed to serve our community.



Mayor Linda  
Blechinger



Chief Chris Hodge

## Chief's Corner

With Christmas fast approaching, everyone is busy and it is easy to become distracted. As you head out to the stores for your annual shopping, the Auburn Police Department is offering some tips to keep you safe. Have a safe Christmas!

- Stay alert when using electronic devices. Limit your distractions.
- Always be alert to your surroundings and have your keys in your hand as you approach your vehicle.
- Park Smart: Help avoid vehicle break-ins, leave nothing visible in your car. Consider moving your vehicle to a different location each time you load packages in the trunk.
- Keep your wallet in a hard-to-reach place and carry only the cash and credit cards that you will need to complete your shopping.
- If someone demands your purse, wallet, or packages, surrender them, make note of the suspect's description and direction they flee and call 911. Property can be replaced.
- "If you see something, say something." If you witness criminal activity or see something or someone suspicious, flag down a police officer, call 911 or contact security.
- Shop with a companion, especially after dark, whenever possible.
- Shield your PIN when using ATMs or other electronic devices in public.

HAPPY

New Year



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### 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.

## Gift Shopping at It's Finest!

Come visit the Whistlestop Shops and see what great gift giving opportunities there are! You will find a gift for just about any person on your list. From hand crafted jewelry to handmade gifts, the Whistlestop Shops can be your one stop shop for the holidays.

### Shop Local—Support Local Businesses!

We are very pleased to see shop owners thrive in downtown Auburn. You can visit Hue Graphics for custom gift ideas. Remember the model trains that used to run only at Christmas? Trainmaster at the corner of 4th Avenue and 5th Street. They have kids gift ideas, young at heart gift ideas and so much more. Stop in to visit! Hungry after all of your shopping? Grab a bite at Mike's Margaritas. Need catering for one of your holiday events? Mike's Margaritas offers a wide range of catering options—not just Mexican food. Reach out to them for all of your holiday needs.

Did you know that there are over 400 businesses based in our City limits? Many of these are home based businesses. There is a wide variety of businesses and services that choose to make Auburn home. When faced with the choice of an internet gift or shopping local—we recommend shopping locally. These are the folks who make our community what it is today!

## 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

12/02 at 5PM: City Council Business Meeting  
 12/08 at 6PM: Parks & Leisure Commission  
 12/09 at 6PM: Downtown Development Authority  
 12/16 at 5PM: City Council Workshop  
 12/24 and 12/27—Christmas Holiday—City Offices Closed

**Top 10 Reasons to Shop Local** Shop Local / By Tad from <http://www.thelocalparrot.com>

“Going local does not mean walling off the outside world. It Means nurturing locally owned businesses which use local resources sustainably, employ local workers at decent wages and serve primarily local consumers. Control moves from the boardrooms of distant corporations and back into the community where it belongs.” – Michael H. Shuman, author of the book *Going Local*.

1. Local Economic Stimulus. When you purchase at locally owned businesses rather than nationally owned, more money is kept in the community because locally-owned businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing local helps grow other businesses as well as the local tax base.
2. Non Profits Receive Greater Support. Local business owners donate more to local charities than non-local owners.
3. Unique Businesses Create Character & Prosperity. The unique character of your local community is defined in large part by the businesses that reside there, and that plays a big factor in your overall satisfaction with where you live and the value of your home and property.
4. Environmental Impact Is Reduced. Small local business usually set up shop in the town/village center, providing a centralized variety that is much friendlier to a community's walk score than out of town shopping malls. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.
5. Most New Jobs Are Provided By Local Businesses. Small local businesses are the largest employers nationally. The more jobs you have in your local community the less people are going to have to commute, less traffic and pollution.
6. Customer Service Is Better. Local businesses often hire people with more specific product expertise for better customer service. You are also going to see these people around town and they are less likely to blow you off or be rude because they have to face you day after day.
7. Local Business Owners Invest In Community. Local businesses are owned by people who live in our community, are less likely to leave & are more invested in the community's welfare and future.
8. Public Benefits Far Outweigh Public Costs. Local businesses require comparatively little infrastructure and more efficiently utilize public services relative to chain stores.
9. Competition And Diversity Leads To More Consumer Choices. A marketplace of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term.
10. You Matter More. We talk a lot about exerting influence with your purchasing choices, or “voting with your wallet.” It's a fact that businesses respond to their customers but your values and desires are much more influential to your local community business than the large big box stores. To read more about going local check out Ecolocalizer, a great site that provides news, ideas and inspiration to “Think globally, act locally.”

## Auburn Library Programs & Events

December 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 at 11AM: Auburn Story Time  
 December 4 at 1PM: Lego Club  
 December 6 at 5PM: Santa at the Library  
 December 6, 13, 20 at 11AM: Knit and Crochet Club: Bring yarn and knitting needles  
 December 7 at 10AM: Homeschool Hangout  
 December 13, 20 at 5PM: Teen Funday Monday  
 December 13 at 6PM: Cover to Cover Book Club  
 December 14 at 5PM: Adult Craft Night  
 December 16 at 6PM: Crime After Crime Book Club  
 December 18 at 11AM: Saturday Crafternoon  
**December 21 at 5PM: Between the Pages Book**  
 December 24-28: Library Closed for Christmas  
 December 31: Library Closed

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



FOR EVERY  
**\$1 MILLION**  
 SPENT...

AT A LOCAL STORE

**\$680,000**

REMAINS IN OUR COMMUNITY

AT A CHAIN STORE

**\$430,000**

REMAINS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Shopping local means less tax dollars spent on infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify our community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong - HERE! Over \$9.3 billion would be directly returned to our economy if every US family spent just \$10 a month at a local business. Also, small businesses support one another - 70% source goods and services locally.

**\$119,000**

GOES TOWARDS WAGES FOR LOCAL WORKERS

**\$71,000**

GOES TOWARDS WAGES FOR LOCAL WORKERS

Small business is big business! Small businesses are the largest employers nationally, creating two out of every three new jobs. They account for 99.7% of all U.S. employers, employing 58.9 million people! That's 44% of the total U.S. private payroll.

**2.2 LOCAL JOBS ARE CREATED**

**1.3 LOCAL JOBS ARE CREATED**

Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, firemen, police officers and many other essential professions. Compared to large online retailers, local retailers create twice as many jobs for the same amount of revenue. As online retailers grow larger, they crowd out small brick-and-mortar stores, leaving fewer jobs available.

Source: Small Business Administration

## Auburn Parks & Leisure Commission

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

December 8—Parks & Leisure Commission—6PM  
 December 15: OWLS Monthly Luncheon—Perry Rainey Center—11:30AM

Happy Hanukkah

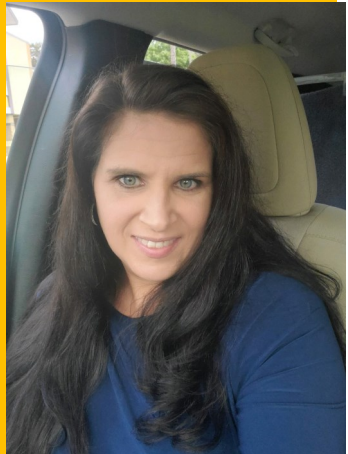


## City of Auburn Welcomes New Community Development Director Kellie Littlefield

The City of Auburn is pleased to welcome Kellie Littlefield to our team. Ms. Littlefield is originally from Taylor, Alabama and was raised as a minister's daughter. She is an alumni of Troy University, with two Bachelor's of Science degrees in History and Criminal Justice. Kellie graduated with her Masters in Public Administration in 2015.

Ms. Littlefield has worked across the southeast in planning as a disaster mitigation planner, community development liaison, historical, county planner, and as a consultant. She has been in the Metro Atlanta area for the last 5 years working in local government planning offices, overseeing sustainable development through comprehensive planning, economic development, and code enforcement.

Currently Ms. Littlefield resides in Social Circle, Georgia, and on Sunday mornings can be found at Eastside Community Church. When she isn't working, Kellie enjoys a good hike on a nearby mountain trail. She is a certified search and recovery scuba diver, and she enjoys working as an advocate for local organizations committed to ending domestic violence. An avid baker, a passionate volunteer, and staunch supporter of responsible growth, Ms. Littlefield is excited to become part of the Auburn community.



## Important Notice

Republic Services Contract with the City of Auburn allows for a rate increase yearly based on the Consumer Price Index. We have received notice that beginning in January, rates for trash collection will be raised as shown below.

|  | 2021    | Change  | New Rate 1/1/2022 |
|--|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Non Senior MSW Trash & Recycling Monthly Rate: | \$17.50 | \$ 0.70 | \$18.20           |
| Senior Trash & Recycling Monthly Rate:         | \$14.91 | \$ 0.60 | \$15.51           |
| Extra Cart for Trash Monthly Rate:             | \$ 8.00 | \$ 0.32 | \$ 8.32           |
| Extra Cart for Recycling Monthly Rate:         | \$ 6.00 | \$ 0.24 | \$ 6.24           |
| Delivery Fee                                   | \$45.00 | \$ 1.80 | \$46.80           |

This will take effect on January 1, 2022 so your quarterly billing will reflect the new rates.

## It's That Time of Year—Business License Renewal

If you are a business owner in Auburn, you should have received your business license renewal packet in the mail. Renewals are due by January 1, 2022.

Didn't get your packet? Please contact Kellie Littlefield at 770-963-4002 ext 229 or email [klittlefield@cityofauburn-ga.org](mailto:klittlefield@cityofauburn-ga.org)



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