

Auburn

MAGAZINE

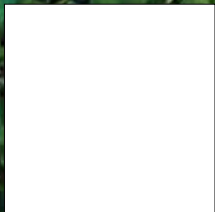
SPRING 2019

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TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS



DID YOU KNOW?

State law provides two tax benefit programs for senior citizens and the disabled: **property tax exemptions and property tax deferrals.**

Yet more than 26,000 qualified seniors and disabled persons have yet to register for the exemption, and only 1 in 100 of those eligible for deferrals are currently enrolled. Details of these two programs are provided below. The process of applying is fairly simple. Under certain circumstances, you may be eligible for a property tax deferral or exemption.

Senior Citizens/Disabled Exemption Qualifications:

- Annual household income of \$40,000 or less
- Own and occupy a house, mobile home, condo or co-op
- 61 years of age by December 31 of the previous year, or
- Retired because of disability, or
- Veteran with a 100% service-connected disability
- You are a widow, or widower, or state registered domestic partner at least 57 years of age whose spouse or state registered domestic partner had an exemption at the time of death.

Once qualified, you continue to benefit from the exemption but any change in circumstances must be reported to the assessor to avoid penalties. For information, call 206-296-3920.

THIS MEANS YOU!

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE AUBURN SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

808 9th Street | 253-931-3016 | www.auburnwa.gov



Did you know?

All cats and dogs residing in the city limits of Auburn require a pet license.

Every day pets are lost.

Licensing your pet provides yet another layer of protection in the event that they go missing.

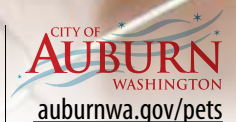
License your pet today!
auburnvalleyhs.org

AVOID THE FINE!

Failure to license your pet per Auburn City Code 6.04.010 will result in a fine of \$50



4910 A St SE
(253) 249-7849
auburnvalleyhs.org



Auburn MAGAZINE

SPRING 2019

Auburn Magazine is a quarterly publication produced by the City of Auburn

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City of Auburn
Multimedia Design



Irises show their spring colors in a Lea Hill garden.

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Scarlett warms up with a warm towel after some fun in the recent snow.

City of Auburn DIRECTORY

Address

Unless otherwise noted, departments are located at City Hall, 25 W Main Street

CITY OFFICES

City Attorney

253-931-3030

City Clerk

253-931-3039

Community Development

1 E Main St, 2nd floor
253-931-3090

Emergency Management

1 E Main St, 3rd floor
253-876-1925

Engineering Services

1 E Main St, 2nd floor
253-931-3010

Finance

1 E Main St, 2nd floor
253-931-3033

Human Resources/ Risk Management

253-931-3040

Innovation & Technology

1 E Main St, 3rd floor
253-804-5078

Maintenance & Operations

1305 C St SW
253-931-3048

Mayor's Office

(Mayor, City Council and Administration)
253-931-3041

Parks, Arts & Recreation

910 9th St SE
253-931-3043

Police

340 E Main St, Suite 201
253-931-3080

Call 911 in case of emergency

Non-emergency:
253-288-2121

Public Works

1 E Main St, 2nd floor
253-931-3090

Records Clerk

253-931-3007

Solid Waste/Recycling Customer Service

1 E Main St, 2nd floor
253-931-3047

Utilities (Billing)

1 E Main St, 2nd floor
253-931-3038

OTHER NUMBERS

Auburn Golf Course

29630 Green River Rd SE
253-833-2350
auburngolf.org

Auburn Municipal Airport

(Dick Scobee Field)
400 23rd St NE
253-333-6821

King County District Court—South Division

340 E Main St
800-325-6165 ext. 59200

Mountain View Cemetery

2020 Mountain View Drive
253-931-3028
mtviewcemeteryauburn.com

Senior Activity Center

808 9th St SE
253-931-3016

Valley Regional Fire Authority

1101 D St NE (Headquarters)
253-288-5800
Call 911 in case of emergency
www.vrfa.org

White River Valley Museum

918 H St SE
253-288-7433
wrvmuseum.org

HOTLINES

Code Compliance

253-931-3020 opt. 4

Graffiti Hotline

253-931-3048 opt. 7

Pothole Patrol

253-931-3048 opt. 1

Spills and Water Pollution

253-931-3048 opt. 8

Auburn Mayor & City Council



Nancy Backus
Mayor
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253-931-3041



Bill Pelozo
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bpelozo@auburnwa.gov
253-261-3235



Bob Baggett
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253-457-2358



Larry Brown
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Claude DaCorsi
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cdacorsi@auburnwa.gov
253-329-4084



John Holman
Councilmember
jholman@auburnwa.gov
253-261-5384



Yolanda Trout-Manuel
Councilmember
ytrout@auburnwa.gov
253-329-4029



Largo Wales
Councilmember
lwales@auburnwa.gov
253-261-5421

Official City Council MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00pm

Council Study Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 5:30pm.

Meetings are held at Auburn City Hall located at 25 W Main Street and open to the public or can be viewed live at auburnwa.gov/gatv.

FROM THE MAYOR

February's snow storm was certainly one for the record books, one we haven't seen the likes of in more than a decade. But despite the hassle it created for our region, it provided City staff with a rare, but important, opportunity to put to use the emergency skills they train for every day.

While we always hope that this training will never be needed, we still prepare for the worst. As a city situated at the base of an active volcano, tucked between two lively rivers, and in the heart of earthquake country, the preparation for maintaining the safety of our 82,000 residents is always ongoing.

Though often unseen, the City maintains a full Emergency Management division with two full-time and one part-time employee, dedicated to ensuring that Auburn is ready for a multitude of disaster situations at all times, whether they be natural or man-made.

Throughout the year, key designated staff from each department meet to review procedures and train for the activation of our Emergency Management Center (EOC)—a central command room that serves as the hub of strategic direction and operational decisions during an emergency. Outside of City staff, the Emergency Management team also conducts trainings throughout the year at schools, businesses, churches and other locations to help citizens prepare for themselves, their family and neighborhood. In 2018, nearly 2,500 Auburn residents received this life-saving information.

In addition to personal preparedness, our team also trains residents to be part of the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact our area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. To date, there are 806 CERT trained residents in Auburn.

In the week leading up to our recent snow storm, staff from each department gathered at our EOC to review daily weather briefings from the National Weather Service and to coordinate possible response efforts between one another. It is a scene that plays out regularly throughout the year, as we respond to alerts of rising rivers, storms or other foreseen events. It is these hands-on experiences that allow us to train for what we can anticipate and be prepared for what we cannot.

If you want to learn more about how to be a part of the City's CERT team or about how to prepare you and your family for emergency situations, visit auburnwa.gov/city_hall/emergency_preparedness.



Nancy Backus
Mayor of Auburn

nbackus@auburnwa.gov
253-931-3041



CERT volunteers practice emergency response scenarios.

SNOWMAGEDDON 2019 SNOW RESPONSE

As the snow began to fall on February 8, road crews from the City's Maintenance and Operations team were already deep into operations for Snowmageddon 2019.



View pictures of the City's snow response at auburnwa.gov/snow2019.



For nearly a week before the first flakes fell, staff from each of the City's nine departments gathered together daily at the Emergency Operations Center to review weather briefings from the National Weather Service and plan coordination between teams about the City's response.

Working in concert with the Auburn Police Department and Parks Department, the Public Works Department's Maintenance and Operations crews set to work preparing the city for what was being described as "the storm of a generation."

Crews spent the days leading up to the storm staging equipment and material at sand and salt storage locations, while other crews prepared trucks, plows, sanders and deicers for service. On February 8, crews switched into 12-hour operational shifts to prepare for round-the-clock service. By the end of snowfall the first night, nearly eight inches of snow had gathered in the valley with higher amounts on each of the hills. In total, more than a foot of snow fell in Auburn throughout the weekend and into the following week, leaving February 2019 the snowiest month on record.

City Maintenance and Operations crews logged more than 2,000 hours toward emergency operations with a core team of 14, which included hand crews, plow operators, mechanics and department operations center staff. More than 7,000 miles of roads were cleared, as plows zig-zagged throughout the city clearing and re-clearing roads as snow continued to fall. More than 300,000 pounds of salt and 400,000 pounds of sand were applied as a combination of compact snow, ice and below-freezing temperatures continued to plague the region for more than a week.

CLEARING STREETS

With snow events like the one this February, City snow plows use a three-pronged approach to servicing roads.

First, major routes and corridors throughout the city are plowed, ensuring that emergency vehicles are able to reach those in need of assistance and that metro transit and school buses are able to serve as many people as possible.

CLEARING NEIGHBORHOODS

As main roads begin to clear, plows will begin to shift their focus to neighborhood streets. Because snow events in our region usually last for very short periods of time, or have small accumulations, many times City plows will not make it to neighborhood streets before most of the snow has melted.

Depending on conditions during major snow events, some side streets may still be too dangerous for large plow vehicles to service. Other roads may be private, not public. In this case, our plows are not able to clear them. It is good to have a conversation with your HOA or neighbors about the roads that lead to your home and determine before foul weather strikes if they belong to the City. If not, it may be a good idea to come up with a plan about how your neighborhood will

handle clearing private streets and parking areas.

You can also help our crews by moving vehicles out of the street once you get home. The fewer cars parked along the side of the road, the closer our plows are able to get to the curb. And when it comes to shoveling, make sure that snow from your driveway or sidewalk goes on the lawn or other areas that are off of the road, because once plows are able to service these streets that effort may go to waste when snow is simply pushed back toward the sidewalk or street side.

AFTER THE STORM

Once the snow has stopped and snow begins to melt, urban flooding can pose a risk to neighborhoods as large accumulations of water begin to run off. You can help keep your street clear by sweeping away sand that may have accumulated around storm drains or by clearing paths in the snow pack around the drains to allow water to reach them.

Street sweepers will make their way to neighborhoods to help clear sand applied during the event, but keep in mind that because sweepers use water sprayers to limit dust during sweeping, the City will not deploy them until the risk of freezing weather has passed. Clean streets are great, but icy ones are not!



Some of Auburn's youngest residents stop by M&O offices to deliver thank you notes to the road crews.

Important things to remember during a severe weather event

- **City staff will close roads when they pose a safety risk to the public.** While some vehicles may be equipped to make it up steep inclines during slick conditions, most vehicles cannot. Going around road closure signs not only risks your safety, it can risk the safety of those who are responding if you become stuck.
- **Sometimes roads are closed because City crews are unable to safely make it on the road to plow or sand.** Other times, roads must be closed because too many cars have become stuck or have been abandoned by drivers and crews must first clear these vehicles before the road can be plowed.
- **If you become stuck in your vehicle during a snow event, it is important to stay in your car or truck.** It is not only safer for you, it allows our crews to quickly assist you and clear the road once they arrive. It also helps avoid a domino effect of stranded cars that block plows from servicing roads that then have to be closed because they can't be plowed clear.
- **During snow events, hand crews are assigned to different areas of the city and will circle through the area continuously in order to assist drivers that have run into trouble.** Chances are, within the hour, someone will be there to help you move your car and help get you going again.
- **Crews will continue to monitor road conditions.** They work around the clock to get closed roads opened as soon as possible.

Auburn Farmers Market Puts Roots Down at Les Gove Park

The Auburn Int'l Farmers Market celebrated a spectacular 2018 season.

In its tenth year, the market relocated to Les Gove Park and the new location exceeded expectations.

The 2018 season featured 97 unique vendors, an increase of 20% from 2017. Customer attendance increased by 28%, with 23,500 visiting the market in 2018, the highest customer attendance since 2012! The Market continued to emphasize sustainable agriculture practices, and offer a variety of fresh, farm-based foods, hand-crafted items and concessions.

Vendor sales increased by 66% in 2018, setting a record-high year and vendor attendance increased by 21% over 2017. With more vendors came more donations, and the Market donated over 5,400 pounds of food to the Auburn Food Bank in 2018, an increase of 107% from 2017.

A \$20,000 grant from King Conservation District in 2018 allowed the market to continue an aggressive marketing campaign promoting EBT and Fresh Bucks, a food assistance program matching EBT dollars. With both programs in place, the number of transactions increased by 50% over last season. By seasons end, customers had spent over \$16,000 in EBT and Fresh Bucks. That amount went directly back to our farmers. EBT and Fresh Bucks customers spent roughly \$10,000 more at the Market than they did in 2017.

With another \$20,000 grant from King Conservation District for the 2019 season, the Market will continue to grow at Les Gove Park. Open on Sundays, June 2 through September 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the weekly Market will include cream-of-the-crop vendors with local, farm-fresh products and hand-crafted art and crafts. The Market will also feature various food trucks, free community performances and cooking demonstrations. As well as several educational sessions on health, nutrition, canning, and gardening. EBT and the popular Fresh Bucks matching program will return in 2019.

The move to Les Gove Park has brought new success to the Market, its customers, vendors, and especially the farmers. With the new park view, increase in exposure, an active park full of amenities, and space to grow, the Auburn Farmers Market will continue to flourish and grow for decades to come.

For a full list of weekly activities, visit auburnfarmersmarket.org.



2019 Schedule of Events

JUNE 2	Opening Day	
JUNE 9	Canning Demo: Hal Meng	
JUNE 16	Father's Day	
JUNE 23	Gardening Demo: Marianne Binetti	
JUNE 30	Senior Appreciation Day	
JULY 7	Cooking Demonstration	
JULY 14	Berry Day	
JULY 21	Live Entertainment	
JULY 28	Dog Days of Summer	
AUG 4	Live Entertainment	
AUG 11	AuburnFest Cruise-In	
AUG 18	Gardening Talk: Ciscoe Morris	
AUG 25	Vendor Appreciation Day	
SEPT 1	Back to School Day	
SEPT 8	Canning Demo: Hal Meng	
SEPT 15	Northwest Animal Adventures	
SEPT 22	Chili Cook-Off & Last Day of the Market!	

See you at the Market!

Sundays, June 2-September 22
10am-3pm
Les Gove Park 1140 Auburn Way S
253-266-2726
auburnfarmersmarket.org



CROW WITH FRIES

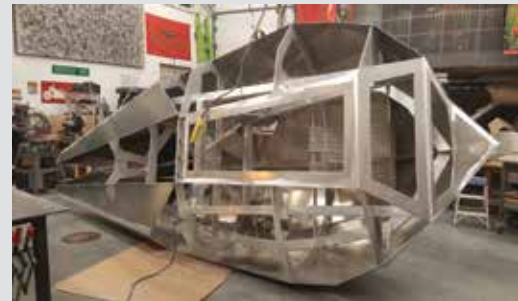
Have you ever noticed crows playing games in the air with their food, or cleverly dropping nuts from great heights to crack them open on the pavement below? Did you know that crows can even create and use tools to solve complex puzzles? Crows are known as one of the most intelligent species in the animal world. They can imitate other birds, cars, and even learn to speak if socialized with humans. Crows can recognize individual people and form a relationships with humans, pick a person out of a crowd, follow them, and remember them — for years!

In late 2017, the City of Auburn began the process of commissioning an artist to create an iconic public art piece for Les Gove Park. Public art enhances meaning in our civic spaces and adds uniqueness to our communities. The artwork's future location on Auburn Way South is the former site of Big Daddy's Drive-In and is now a beautiful grassy entrance to one of Auburn's most beloved parks. The goal was to create a piece of art for the park and city, as well as catch the attention of thousands that drive along Auburn Way South. There was a very competitive selection and interview process, with applications received from many accomplished PNW public artists. The talented artist Peter Reiquam was selected by a committee and his proposed artwork was confirmed by the Auburn Arts Commission and Auburn City Council.

Artist Peter Reiquam has been successfully creating interactive, site-specific public art for over 30 years. Each of his studio projects are a "unique response to the special character of a given site, inspired by its history,

culture, architecture, and surrounding landscape." Inspired by the history of the site as a former drive-in, as well as the countless playful crows that frequent Les Gove Park, Reiquam has designed a large-scale sculpture titled "Crow with Fries" that is slated to be installed in late spring 2019. The sculpture will be a visible landmark that will encourage public interaction, whether sitting on the oversized package of sculptural french fries, or posing for a selfie with this winged creature. The artwork, currently in the fabrication phase at Reiquam's large custom-built Georgetown studio, will be welded with precise aluminum panels and then powder coated, making this delightful sculpture incredibly durable and able to stand the test of time for the enjoyment of the Auburn community for many years to come.

In celebration of the new artwork, the City of Auburn will be coordinating a community art exhibition in collaboration with local artist, curator, and crow-lover Greg Bartol. The Auburn Community & Event Center crow-themed art show will be on display from April 9-July 9 and will include guest lectures, poetry readings, and other special events. A grand "Bird is the Word" landing celebration of the iconic art sculpture is scheduled for a "Fryday" in late spring. These various opportunities will give the community an opportunity to see and learn about crows in the Auburn community and park, perhaps coming to appreciate them from a different perspective.



Artist Peter Reiquam works on "Crow With Fries" at his Georgetown studio.

Celebrate Earth Day! Saturday, April 20, 2019

Volunteer for Auburn's Clean Sweep

Our largest volunteer effort is just around the corner and you're invited to be part of this fun, annual event.

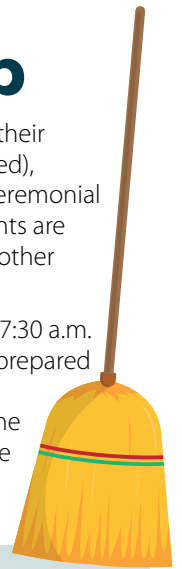
This community-wide volunteer effort will focus on major clean-up projects, environmental restoration, and beautification efforts in different areas around the city. Volunteer groups will work on general clean-up, landscaping, planting, weeding and other projects at various parks, trails and sites around Auburn.

Volunteers can register online by selecting the Clean Sweep event at auburnwa.gov/events and can either choose to participate in a specific project or can ask to be assigned to the project that is in need of the most volunteer support.

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! Service clubs, social service agencies, faith-based groups, scouting troops, businesses, families, and individuals are all invited to come out for the day, work together on projects, and celebrate Auburn.

Volunteers will be asked to bring tools based on their volunteer assignment (determined once registered), gardening or work gloves, and a broom for the ceremonial sweep along the Main Street sidewalks. Participants are encouraged to wear t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, or other clothing that identifies their group.

The 2019 Clean Sweep will kick-off at City Hall at 7:30 a.m. with group registration and a pancake breakfast prepared by Kiwanis Club of Auburn. Volunteers will then participate in a Ceremonial Clean Sweep down the Main Street sidewalks at 8:30 a.m., followed by the collective volunteer projects at various sites in Auburn beginning around 9:00 a.m.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP FOR CLEAN SWEEP 2019

Visit the City's website at auburnwa.gov/events, call 253-931-3043, or email events@auburnwa.gov.

The 2018 Clean Sweep event held special significance for the Auburn community, as volunteers built a new playground at Lakeland Hills Park in memory of Avery Huffman, the brave seven-year-old girl who lost her battle with childhood cancer. We will always remember the impact Avery made on so many. The Avery's Playground sign will be unveiled at Lakeland Hills Park on Saturday, April 20 at 11 a.m.

A large graphic for Avery's Playground. It features a pink background with white polka dots. On the right is a close-up photo of a young girl, Avery Huffman, smiling. On the left is a green circular area containing text. The title 'Avery's Playground' is in large, stylized yellow and white letters. Below it is the hashtag #AveryStrong. The text describes Avery's life and the foundation named in her honor. At the bottom, it says 'She was #AveryStrong and Lakeland Hills will forever be #AveryStrong.' and 'Avery Hayden Huffman October 19, 2008 - February 16, 2016'.

Avery's Playground

#AveryStrong

Avery fought with strength, she fought with courage, she fought with bravery, she fought with grace and she fought with love. She showed thousands, even millions of people, what love, what compassion and what strength truly is. Avery lit up a room as soon as she walked into it. Her personality, compassion and heart radiated wherever she was. She loved to have fun, to play with her brother and sisters, her cousins and her friends. She enjoyed swimming, baking, singing, dancing, playing at the park, doing artwork, eating pizza and having beach parties.

Avery had a heart to give and help others and made everyone feel instantly like they were her best friend. She inspired the establishment of the Avery Huffman Defeat DIPG Foundation, named in her honor to raise awareness and fund research to fight against the disease, DIPG, the terminal brain cancer that took her life in 2016 at the age of seven.

The Auburn community will always remember the impact Avery made on so many. It was the Lakeland Hills community that built this very play structure and made it possible thanks to their continued love and support of Avery.

She was #AveryStrong and Lakeland Hills will forever be #AveryStrong.

Avery Hayden Huffman
October 19, 2008 - February 16, 2016



HOMETOWN TEAMS

HOW SPORTS SHAPE AMERICA

America's love of sports begins in one place – the hometown. From little leagues, to neighborhood pick-up games, to afternoons spent listening to every pitch on the radio; sports create a sense of home and belonging, and a hint of friendly competition.

On exhibit at the White River Valley Museum MAY 4–JUNE 16, 2019

The White River Valley Museum is excited to display Hometown Teams at part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program. This exhibit will travel throughout Washington this year, encouraging fans to come out and root, root, root for their home teams. Visitors young and old will find opportunities to reminisce while engaging with stories of victory, defeat and a love of the game.

EXHIBIT PROGRAMS

May 4 | What Do Sports Teach our Kids?

Lecture with Hometown Teams scholar Eric Davis at 2pm
Included with Museum admission or membership

May 19 | The Good Game - On the Moral Value of Sports

Lecture with Mike VanQuickenborne at 2pm
Free Program

June 9 | Year of the Bull

Documentary Screening at 2pm
Included with Museum admission or membership

June 15-16 | Hometown Team Spirit Weekend

Wear gear from any team for FREE Museum admission!

Accompanying the stories developed by the Smithsonian will be images from the Museum's collection representing sports history in Auburn.

Are you an Auburn sports fan? Try your knowledge with these Auburn sports trivia questions!

1. What are the mascots for all six Auburn-area high schools?
2. Which 1970s golf champion got their start here in Auburn?
3. Which Auburn baseball field is named for a 1920s ice cream salesman (and local baseball team manager)?
4. Who was the Auburnite who was also a first-round NFL draft pick for the Cleveland Browns in 2015?
5. What year did the Auburn Little League All-Stars make it all the way to the Little League World Series?

Find the answers at the bottom of the page!

Hometown Teams has been made possible by



Answers: 1. Auburn High School: Trojans, Auburn Riverside: Ravens, Auburn Riverside: Falcons 2. Jo Ann Washam 3. Frank Fulmer Park 4. Danny Shelton 5. 2010
Kings, Auburn Adventist Academy: Falcons 2. Jo Ann Washam 3. Frank Fulmer Park 4. Danny Shelton 5. 2010

Feature Capital Project

A Street SE Preservation (East Main Street to 17th Street SE)

A Street SE is one of the city's primary north/south arterial routes connecting the our Regional Growth Center to the north with the Sumner/Pacific Manufacturing Industrial Center to the south. This corridor is also home to a number of businesses and residential communities and serves, on average, over 25,000 vehicles and over 85 transit services daily. It is identified by the Washington State Freight and Goods Transportation System as a T3 Truck Freight Route, meaning the corridor carries between 300,000 and four million tons of freight each year.

With this much heavy use over the years, the pavement has seen its share of significant wear and tear, and is in need of repairs. In the summer of 2018, the City was approved and awarded a Federal Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) grant to initiate the street improvements along the north half of this vital corridor. With the federal funding secured, the City is now able to move forward with designing and constructing the A Street SE Preservation Project.

Project Description

The Project will preserve nearly 4.7 lane miles of roadway along A Street SE between East Main Street and 17th Street SE. The project consists of the following improvements:

- Grind and overlay the roadway pavement from curb to curb;
- Perform pavement patching repairs in various locations;
- Address localized drainage issues and ponding;
- Upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA requirements;
- Improve the water system by replacing approximately 1,000 feet of main between 2nd Street SE and 7th Street SE.



Existing Condition: A St. SE near 7th St. SE



Existing Condition: A St. SE & 8th St. SE

Project Costs and Funding

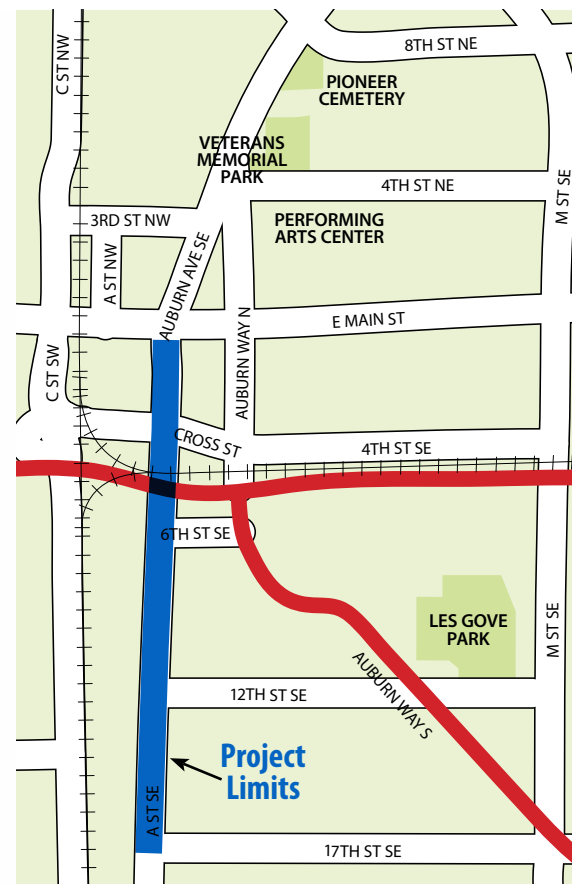
The total project estimate is \$2,173,600 and is funded by an \$881,800 Federal PSRC Grant and \$1,291,800 in City funds.

Project Schedule

The design work associated with this project is being completed now, with construction anticipated to begin this spring and completion in the fall.

Project Benefits

- Provides a smooth roadway surface and prolongs the life of the pavement structure;
- Eliminates potholes and depressions in the pavement;
- Alleviates drainage issue areas;
- Improves access for pedestrians;
- Improves the water system for future growth and reduction in maintenance costs.



For more information on this project, contact

Kim Truong, Project Engineer

253-804-5059 | kbtruong@auburnwa.gov

Public Works: A Closer Look

When the roads are icy, or the flood water's risin', who ya gonna call?

Whether it's constructing and maintaining roads, sidewalks and bridges, or keeping the drinking water safe, the roads from flooding, and the sewage flushing, the Public Works Department's job is to maintain the highest level of service for the programs that you rely on every day. Our mission is to make sure that you never have to think about what we do, because everything works the way it is supposed to.

Our Transportation and Streets staff maintain approximately 245 miles of paved public roads, which is not an easy task. That's about the distance from downtown Auburn



to Whistler, Canada. They are responsible for replacing street lights, resurfacing roadways, fixing potholes, fixing sidewalks, sweeping roadways, and repairing and installing street signage. To keep our city moving, we maintain 19 bridges, 95 traffic signals, four flashing pedestrian crossing warning beacons, 50 school zone flashing warning beacons, seven speed radar feedback signs, and over 11 miles of fiberoptic communications network. The traffic control center monitors data and video from traffic signals, cameras and numerous other connected devices so that we can respond quickly to traffic incidents, signal failures or special event traffic.

Although rainfall keeps our City green, when it runs off onto streets, it can carry organic waste, litter, chemicals and other pollutants through our storm drainage pipes



and ditches into nearby wetlands, creeks, streams, rivers and eventually the Puget Sound. Once the storm water pollution reaches our waterways it can be harmful to plants and animals. The City began collecting storm water utility fees in 1987 to help alleviate the problem of polluted waterways and improve the drainage capability of areas susceptible to flooding. With these fees, public works is able to plan, construct, operate, and maintain storm water management systems through drainage improvement projects, routine maintenance activities, and by responding quickly to spills to prevent the spread of contaminants and assist with the cleanup.

The city's main water supply source comes from an aquifer beneath us. These wells and springs, along with connections to other water purveyors like the City of Tacoma,



provide clean and safe drinking water for our residents and businesses. Our engineers and scientists monitor and routinely test the quality of the water to ensure that it meets all state and federal standards, and at our maintenance and operations facility, we monitor and control our wells, reservoirs, and pumps throughout the City.

The Auburn Municipal Airport opened in 1969. It is home to nearly 350 aircraft, from helicopters and gliders to multi-engine airplanes and seaplanes. It has more takeoffs and landings every year than all other Puget Sound airports except SeaTac. Exciting new changes are on the way, including a longer runway that can accommodate corporate jets, helping to make Auburn an important regional business center.



Our sewer utility collects the sewage from our homes and businesses and conveys it to King County to be treated at their South Treatment Plant in Renton. Preventing overflows from the sewer system is our highest priority to protect public health. Our customers can help us by not putting oil and grease down the drain, which hardens in the sewer system and can cause blockages. So-called flushable products like wipes and toilet cleaners can clog our pump stations, requiring expensive, time-consuming maintenance and possible sewage backups.



Our Public Works engineers oversee many construction projects throughout the city. The goal of our annual Local Street Repair and Reconstruction Projects is to reduce congestion



and provide safe travel to all motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. We also oversee the design and construction of sidewalks, bike lanes, utility improvements and replacements, airport improvements and other infrastructure projects. The engineering group typically completes \$25 to \$30 million dollars worth of infrastructure, or capital projects, each year. These projects range from small projects like sidewalk repair and pipe replacement projects to very large projects like the M Street underpass, the new community center, and the 3rd Street overpass.



Rethinking Spring Cleaning

As we dream of summer and start preparing our yards to enjoy the beauty that is all around us, there is one thing to keep in mind during our outdoor cleaning – everything you wash down the storm drain goes directly into our lakes, streams and our beautiful Puget Sound!

It's easy to crank up our pressure washers and just start cleaning away. But where will all the soap, grime, cleaners and dirty water go? You guessed it ... into our beautiful bodies of water.

If you have watched the news, you know about the increased efforts to maintain the health and wellbeing of our local orca whales. A major part of the solution is protecting our bodies of water from pollutants and keeping our salmon and other sealife healthy. Every small effort adds up to make a big improvement.

Pressure washing is an excellent way of removing the grime of winter from our outdoor surfaces. But the wastewater it produces from around our homes should never flow into the storm drains or ditches– it is toxic!

PRESSURE WASHING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs):

If you are like the rest of us and can't wait to start enjoying the beautiful northwest scenery in the comfort of our own yard, please stop and follow a few simple steps, before you tidy up the outside of your home.

- Temporarily cover storm drains, or block the path to the drain during pressure washing (be sure to remove the cover or blockage when you are finished).
- Discharge to a landscaped area, provided that the discharge does not overflow the landscaped area or contain hazardous chemicals.
- Please do not ever lift the grates as you could harm yourself.
- Keep chemicals and soap away from these drains, as you tackle outside projects.

Using Best Management Practices as we get ready to dive into summer is one of the best ways we can tidy our homes and still protect our beautiful Puget Sound and wildlife.



A storm catch basin being inspected by City of Auburn storm technicians. You will see them in the street, near the sidewalk in front of your home or business. They usually have a grate covering them.

Clean and Clear: 2019 Street Sweeping Schedule

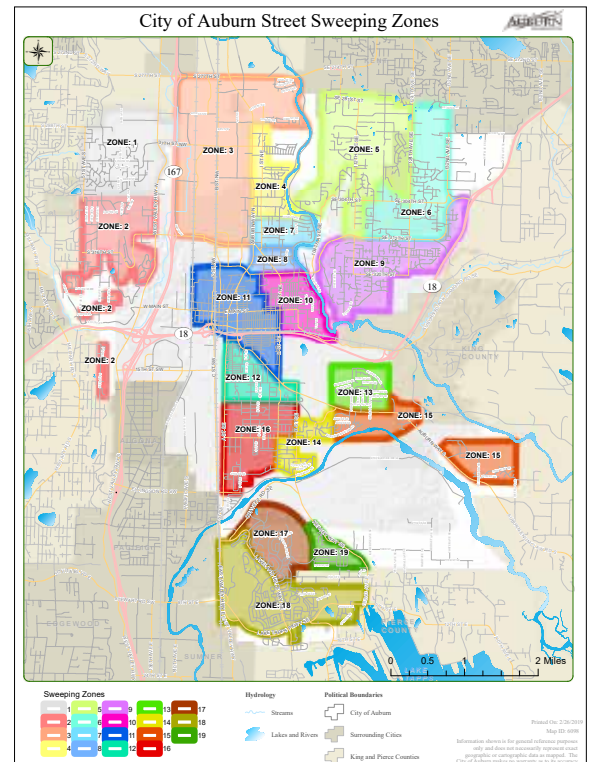
The City of Auburn street maintenance crews work throughout the year to ensure that our storm drains remain free of debris and can effectively keep water from collecting on our roadways. One way we do this is through our street sweeping program. It is often thought that street sweeping is meant to clean pavement, but it is actually done to remove debris with contaminants that could enter our storm water system.

Each year in February, the March-October street sweeping schedule is posted to the City's website. This schedule allows you to find out when your street will be swept. This year you can use our new interactive search tool, which will allow you to view and print the map and sweeping dates. Knowing when your street will be swept and not parking your vehicles on the street on those days, as well as making sure your waste and recycle containers are not in the roadway, will assist sweepers in getting to the curbs and gutters to remove debris. Please make sure to check your schedule and dates, as a few changes have been made this year.

Since storm drains carry rainwater to the nearest natural body of water, by removing debris and contaminants before they enter the storm drainage system, we help our system work more efficiently and protect our waterways from pollution.

During fall and winter weather conditions, typically October through the beginning of March, the street sweepers are not on set schedules as they are during the drier weather times of year. When it is raining, snowing or we are experiencing freezing conditions, our sweepers will operate as the weather allows and as needed to clear sand or heavy leaf accumulations from storm catch basins.

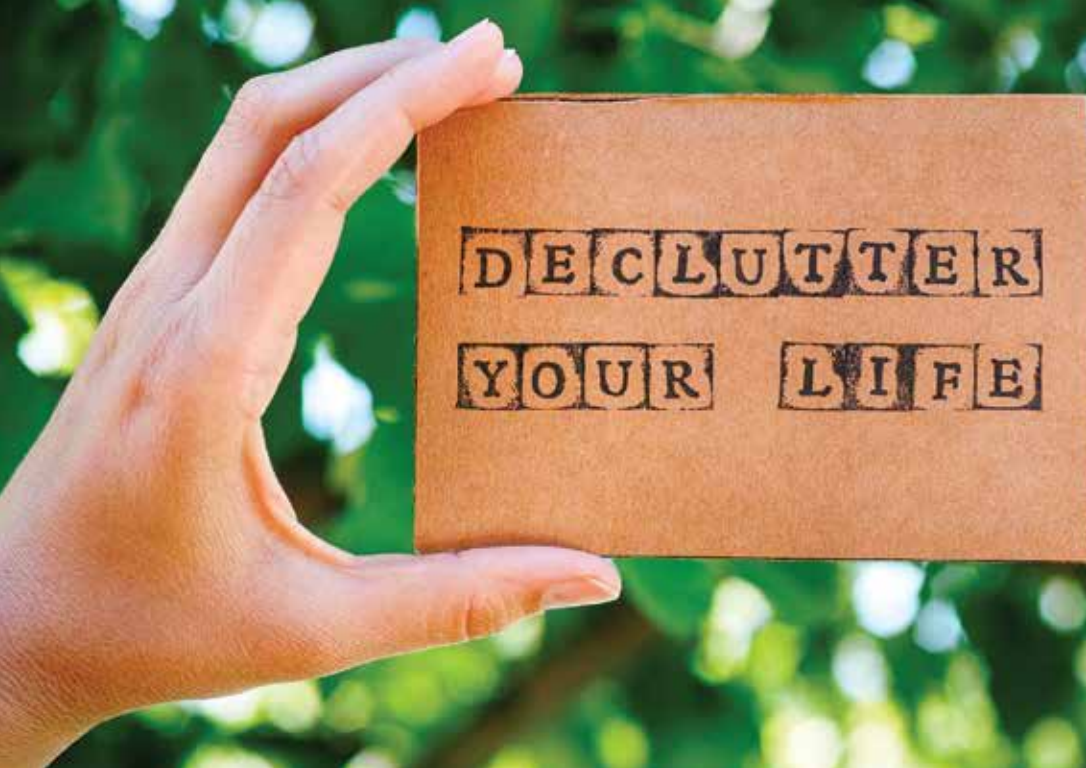
You can help us by making sure leaves and other yard trimmings are put in yard waste containers so that they may be composted. Leaving yard waste such as leaves, branches, grass clippings, weeds and other debris in the street will clog the storm water system during heavy rains and cause flooding problems and possible damage to homes in your neighborhood.



When are we in your neighborhood?

Check the street sweeping schedule at auburnwa.gov/sweepingschedule





Get a Jump Start on Your Spring Cleaning in Time for the Community Yard Sale

Life can be stressful enough, but add on the headache of cluttered surroundings and it can start to feel overwhelming.

Whether its the email box full of discount offers, the junk drawer that has morphed into a junk closet, or the garage that hasn't seen a car since summer, we all struggle with finding the time—and the places—to keep everything in line. It would seem that the old adage, "A place for everything and everything in its place," is from a bygone era before we were tied by the digital chains of our phones, when work hours were truly 9-5, and when after school activities were limited to kicking ball in the backyard.

According to decluttering experts Molly Graves and Ashley Murphy, most people find themselves stuck in one of three categories:

Too Busy = Too Many Extras

You buy things you already have because you don't have a system for where to store them or there simply isn't time to spend time searching when you need to find things fast.

Constant Worrier = Must Save Everything

You never know when, or if, you might need that item again in the future, so you keep it "just in case."

Overwhelmed in Life = Overwhelmed at Home

You don't have the time or energy to even begin the process of clearing out the clutter, so you simply embrace the chaos of it all.

By identifying which category you fall into, you can often avoid the weak spots in your routine that add to the trouble. That can help stave off some of the problems, but if you've already got some clutter to clear out, here are a few tips to help.

1. Set a deadline

Set a deadline for yourself. Plan to host a family birthday at your home or a summer bbq with the neighbors. This will give you incentive to stay on track through the process. If you don't already have something planned, we've got just the thing to keep you going—the City of Auburn Community Yard Sale. This year, the event is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 14-16. You can participate for one day, or all three, but the act of signing up will serve as a motivator for your tidying process, and the extra cash from selling those unwanted items is a nice motivator too.

2. Set a timer

Choose a set amount of time to devote to the process each day. Maybe it's five minutes, maybe it's a hour. Make space in each day to devote a bit of time to the effort and before long, you'll start to see major impacts. If you've got an even bigger chunk of time to throw at the process on the weekends, go for it!

3. Make it fun

Uncluttering, whether it be your house, your car, or your office, is about bringing freedom to your life. Don't get overwhelmed by looking at everything that needs to be done all at once. Break the process apart into small pieces and focus on how addressing one small area will alleviate stress and bring you a bit of happiness. Imagine the kickstart a drawer full of neatly rolled matching socks will bring to your morning, rather than a frantic search when you're already late.

There are hundreds of strategies for decluttering your life, but arguably one of the best parts is the money you can make as a result of it. If you are interested in participating in the city-wide Community Yard Sale this year, you can register April 1 through May 15 to have your address and a brief description of your sale items listed on the City website. For more information visit: auburnwa.gov/solidwaste and click on Upcoming Events or call 253-931-3038.

2019 AUBURN COMMUNITY

YARD SALE



**FRIDAY,
JUNE 14**

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 15**

**SUNDAY,
JUNE 16**

HOURS (MAY VARY): 9AM-4PM

HAVE A SALE!

Registration available April 1-May 15:

- Register by 5pm on May 15 to have your address listed on the website.
- Online: auburnwa.gov/solidwaste
Click on Upcoming Events
- List some of your sale items online when you register.

SHOP A SALE!

Yard sale addresses, map and brief descriptions of items for sale available online after June 7 at auburnwa.gov/solidwaste under Upcoming Events.

FREE YARD SALE KIT:

- Available June 1-16
- Download kit online
- Pick up yard sales signs at the Customer Service Center

Funding provided by a Department of Ecology Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Grant and King County Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant



Solid Waste & Recycling
253-931-3038, option #2
auburnwa.gov/solidwaste

EXPLORE *Auburn*

The Adventure Has Begun

The first ever Auburn Adventure Film Festival debuted January 18-20 at our Auburn Avenue Theater and included a lineup of adventure films dedicated to skiing, mountain climbing, biking, surfing, skating, a children's matinée, fun and games. From seasoned professionals to novice adventurers, the array of films proved that the options are limitless for anyone with a desire to explore more of the world, take some risk, and live life to the fullest.

Following the success of the first year, the Auburn Tourism Board is pleased to announce that the Auburn Adventure Film Festival will return to the Auburn Avenue Theater February 21-23, 2020.

If you missed this year's screenings, make sure to mark your calendar for next year's lineup now. For upcoming announcements and details, sign up at AuburnAdventureFilmFestival.org to stay in the loop.

This event is financed by Auburn hotel/motel tax funds to encourage visitors to Auburn, generating tax revenues to fund city improvements and services to Auburn residents.



JURY PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO:

Best Short Adventure (Animated):
TWO BALLOONS by Mark C. Smith

Best Short Adventure (Narrative):
GAME by Jeannie Donohoe

Best Short Adventure (Documentary): *tie*
SURFACE by John Rodosky
YASSIN FALAFEL by Mohammad Gorjestani

Best Long Adventure:
FUNKE by Gab Tarabouly

Spirit of Adventure Award:
FRENCHY by Michelle Smith



Auburn Film Festival Director Warren Etheredge welcomes the crowd to opening night of the 2019 festival.



Soos Creek Botanical Garden
29308 132nd Ave SE, Auburn

Get Ready for Spring at Soos Creek Botanical Garden

As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers. Yet at the Soos Creek Botanical Gardens, the display of blooms continues well into summer!

Opening Wednesday, March 6, this free Auburn attraction is a labor of love by volunteers dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of the gardens, sharing our local history, and offering gardening classes through their Red Barn programs. And, if you are inspired by what you see, there are even plant sales so you can take a bit of the experience home with you.

For tips to plan your visit or a schedule of classes, please go to sooscreebotanicalgarden.org.

New Tourism Video

What's there to do in Auburn?

This winter, in partnership with cinematic filmographer Justin Michael Ladd, we strove to answer just that question. Whether you are new to the city or you've lived here a lifetime, there is always more to discover—something the newest City of Auburn tourism video aims to capture.

You can find the new video on the homepage of the Explore Auburn and City of Auburn Facebook pages. Take a look and see what new adventures you might discover!

And, as always, you can find fun happenings in the calendar section of the ExploreAuburn.com website. Whether you are planning for your weekend or for visiting friends, you can find the perfect activity to keep things fun right here in Auburn.



Sun's out, mountain's out! Spring is here and it's time to plan a visit to Mt. Rainier. Plentiful walking trails, Instagram-worthy photo moments, and the opportunity to create memories with loved ones in a scenic setting will inspire you for the season. Remaining 2019 free days include:

April 20 First day of National Parks Week	August 25 National Park Service Birthday	September 28 National Public Lands Day	November 11 Veterans Day
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STATE PARKS FREE DAYS

Washington is nothing if not full of natural beauty and wonder. Get out and enjoy the beauty of our state parks during these free admission days:

April 20 Spring Day	April 22 Earth Day	June 1 National Trails Day	June 8 National Get Outdoors Day	June 9 Fishing Day
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Find Auburn gems and events on Auburn's tourism website!



Helping Hands

How the City's Community Matching Grant Program helps build character

The City of Auburn's Comprehensive Plan sets a vision for the future of our City. It is a policy document that helps to guide the City's evolution and growth. The seven values are: character, wellness, economy, celebration, environment, sustainability and service. In this edition, we will highlight a unique program that supports the vision of *character*. As we begin to look forward to the glorious spring and summer months we experience here in the Pacific Northwest, we are pleased to bring your attention to a special opportunity that exists thanks to our Department of Community Development's Neighborhood Programs, and the community matching grants they provide. If you have never heard of this phenomenal program, we want to share with you the power of what is possible when the City of Auburn, community groups and organizations come together to support one another. The following is just one project that was accomplished last year thanks to this partnership, and the funding that is available to help make these dreams become a reality.

When we think about the many ways we can build character in a community, we strive to develop and preserve attractive and interesting places where people want to be. Whether you are strolling through the core of downtown, or simply enjoying the surroundings in your own neighborhood, we hope you experience landscaping and outdoor spaces that are interesting, attractive, and well maintained; neighborhoods that are socially and physically connected and include features that encourage us to interact with each other. With the matching grant program, we will make every effort to support community led activities, programming and physical environments that will bring residents together; an investment strategy that reinforces the individual identity of our neighborhoods with projects that promote that sense of community.

The community grant program is not new to Auburn, the city has been awarding small improvement grants for many years. To be eligible, a community group must first identify a project THEY would like to complete and determine what they are able to contribute – whether that contribution

comes in the form of in-kind services, monetary donations, or sweat equity with volunteer hours. A proposal then needs to be submitted for review, approval, and to determine if the project is eligible for a grant to match the amount being provided by the community. Funding is awarded based on the benefits each project will provide for the residents of Auburn, with a maximum of \$5,000 available per project. It is important to note this is structured as a reimbursement grant, meaning that if approved, your group will need to complete the project and then submit receipts for reimbursement from the city. Applications are received on a rolling basis throughout each calendar year until the funding is exhausted.

So what types of projects are we talking about? The possibilities truly are endless. Perhaps your corner of town could use a simple "touch-up" and would benefit from a simple clean-up project; or perhaps you want to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables to your neighbors in the form of a community garden. Maybe you want to share your love of books with the installation of a Little Free Library; or you have ideas for strategies to reduce crime and improve the overall health and safety of the community.

How does a good idea become a reality? Through passion, commitment, teamwork, and leadership. Take for example a project that began to take shape in 2017 when the board of the Lea Hill Village Home Owner's Association recognized that one of their community parks was in need of some attention. As a community, they took the initiative to remove an old and dangerous play structure and used their HOA dues to replace what they could afford - a new climbing structure, teeter totter and swings. There was so much more they wanted to do, but they lacked the funding to bring the full scope of their vision to life.



Before



During



After

According to Rachael Hahn, past president of the Lea Hill Village HOA, all that changed in July of 2018. Rachael states, "Thanks to the funding available from the City of Auburn Community Matching Grant Program, and the connections that were made by Neighborhood Program Coordinator Erika Klyce, we were able to move our project forward and complete the park renovation. Erika introduced us to local volunteers from Rainier Christian School whose student body was looking for a project that would allow them the opportunity to serve the community."

In speaking with Bruce Kelly, President of Rainier Christian Schools, their students were looking to participate in what they refer to as Community Impact Day. Mr. Kelly states, "Christian school communities share a calling to become creative force agents of change, inside and outside of the classroom. By seeking to partner with the City of Auburn, and the opportunity that the Lea Hill HOA provided, we were able to illustrate how working together produces positive change. Our students relished the opportunity to engage in authentic and relevant projects. As they serve, they learn more about others, and in turn, more about themselves."

Mrs. Hahn adds, "This partnership enabled us to put down new landscape fabric and fresh play chips. We installed new barriers and additional play equipment for the kids including a tether ball area and a Little Free Library. In addition to expanding the size of our park, with the extra workforce we were also able to conduct a neighborhood clean-up, removing graffiti and trash that was blanketing our community, as well as help some of our neighbors in need with basic lawn care." This project's success sparked excitement to do more. In May, Rainier Christian School intends to triple the size of their work group, and are actively seeking a community service project they can participate in. Kelly states, "Serving the community in this way allows our students to work hard, work together, and alongside others. When we partner with others to do good, it is a win for our learning community and a win for those we are able to serve."

This is YOUR city, and this program is in place to help support you. We need to hear from you, and we hope this encourages you to take action. Talk with your neighbors, identify the need, rally support, and submit a proposal. When a community is called to action, anything is possible!

For more information or to apply, visit auburnwa.gov/matchinggrants.

Questions? Contact Erika Klyce, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator at eklyce@auburnwa.gov or 253-876-1988.

FEATURING
STUDENT DIRECTOR & PRODUCER
MCKENNA WEBB

3rd Annual
BROADWAY
for
#brAvery

Come See Local Talent
Perform Current
and Classic Broadway Hits!

JUNE 1, 2019, 7PM
ADULT \$15/STUDENT \$10
AUBURN RIVERSIDE THEATER, AUBURN

Proceeds benefit Avery Hoffman Defeat DIPG Foundation to fund research for the deadliest form of pediatric cancer DIPG

Swing into Spring
With a
Bright White Smile!

Dr. Beth Padilla Dr. Jennifer Fields

WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS!

FREE WHITENING FOR LIFE **AND** **\$100** GIFT CERTIFICATE TOWARD FUTURE DENTAL SERVICES

With purchase of new patient exam, x-rays and cleaning. Some restrictions may apply.

253.939.6900
1348 8th Street NE, Auburn
www.simplysmilesauburn.com

Simply Smiles
Zoom! Professional Teeth Whitening

Kids Day!

FRIDAY, JUNE 21
11am-4pm
Les Gove Park, 910 9th Street SE

FREE!

E=AUBURN Fred Meyer 100.7 THE WOLF AUBURN

CODE COMPLIANCE CORNER

Know your zone – Call before you build!

Your City of Auburn code enforcement officers are out in the community working hard to keep our city safe and a place we can be proud to call home. Given the various situations they may encounter on any given day, they also seek out opportunities to identify trends in the types of cases they are investigating. If a trend is noted, they explore creative means to get ahead of the issues identified. We wanted to share with you the development of a recent informational campaign made possible thanks to Officer George Winner, who joined the code enforcement team in the fall of 2017.

When Officer Winner first began fielding complaints and investigating cases, it seemed he was encountering a slew of building complaints where tenants, homeowners, or landlords were found to have proceeded with a construction project, often times without consulting the City, and without obtaining the proper permits. You may ask, so what? It's my home, I own the building or property, why do I need to talk with the City? What's the big deal? Unfortunately, when a project such as this has been reported through a complaint, we often find it has not been built to current code standards which can present serious health and life safety issues. Additionally, we have discovered structures such as fences or sheds placed in locations on a parcel that are not allowed due to property lines, or required setbacks. There may also be height restrictions or other limitations imposed due to the particular zone a property is located in. Sadly, this can translate into increased costs IF the project can be allowed but needs to be redesigned, relocated or reconstructed. We also have lots of experience being the bearer of bad news if ultimately the work that has been done cannot be allowed.

It did not take Officer Winner long to realize that increasing awareness around the need to consult with the City and determine the need for permits was a goal he wanted to focus on. However, he also quickly learned that doing so would not be an easy undertaking. Through further research and conversations with the various units who report to the Department of Community Development, Officer Winner discovered construction and permitting can be a complex and convoluted issue that requires input and analysis from multiple perspectives. What you might view as a simple, spring-time home improvement project can have unintended consequences not just for you, but for neighboring properties as well. Each project, scope of work, and the individual property itself can require review and consultation with members of the Building, Planning, Engineering and Fire departments.

Given all these variables and the countless number of code books and subject matter experts it would require, it became apparent to Officer Winner that one simple brochure or flier could not possibly contain all that would be necessary to provide our customers the degree of information they would need and deserve. He posed this dilemma to code enforcement supervisor Officer Chris Barack: How could we best serve the community and get this important message out there? The answer was clear ... keep it simple.



CALL before
you **BUILD**
A PERMIT MIGHT BE REQUIRED
253-931-3020
CITY OF AUBURN - PERMIT CENTER
KNOW YOUR ZONE

Officer Winner states, "Code Enforcement Officers can often times be viewed as the bad guy. We are coming to your home or place of business to deliver bad news. We really need to be viewed as an ally and an advocate, particularly in this instance. We want nothing more than to set you up for success to begin with. The potential does exist that perhaps what you are proposing will not even require a permit. Or, once you consult with our Permit Center staff, they may be able to provide you with reasonable alternatives that the code does allow for, but was not a scenario you had originally thought of. What we really need to let our residents know is to consult with the Permit Center, your one stop shopping for building and permitting needs."

If your midwinter clean-up calls for home improvements, or you are looking to get yourself organized this spring, know we are here to help answer any questions you may have and what construction projects may trigger the need for a permit.

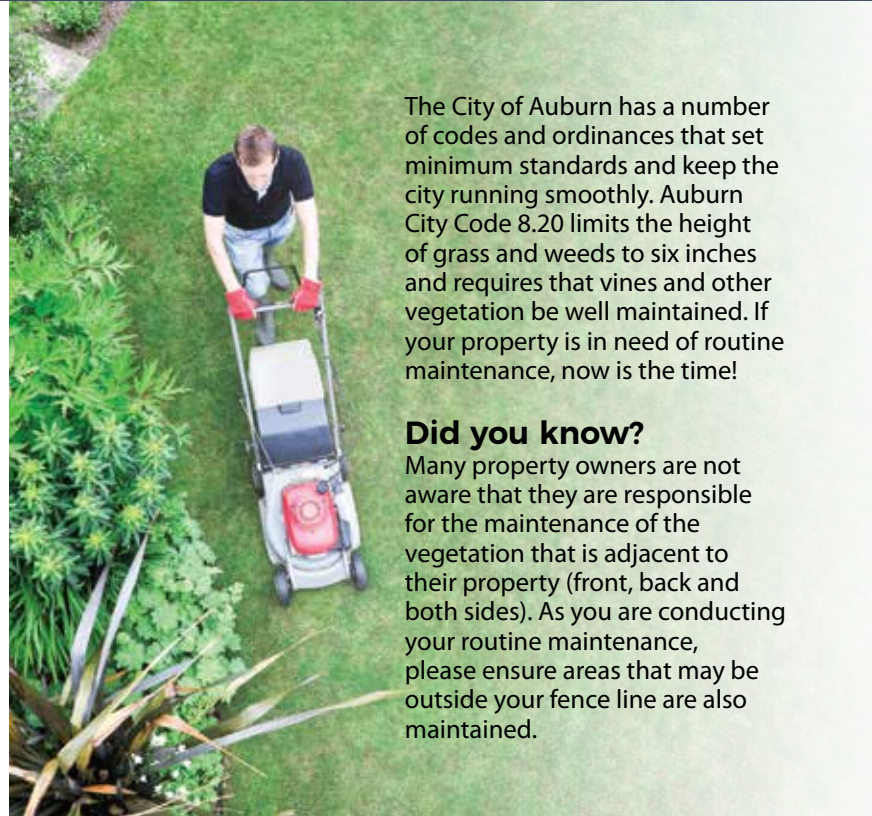
City of Auburn Code Enforcement

From January 1 to March 8, 2019, Code Enforcement has worked tirelessly with landlords, homeowners, property management companies and businesses throughout the community and gained compliance on 143 cases. An additional 146 cases remain open and active.

For more information or to access to all Auburn city codes and ordinances, please visit our website: auburnwa.gov/citycode

If you have questions, concerns or would like to report a potential City of Auburn code violation:

- auburnwa.gov/reporting
- codeenforcement@auburnwa.gov
- 253-931-3020, option 4
- Or using your mobile device, download the YourGOV app for Apple and Android devices



The City of Auburn has a number of codes and ordinances that set minimum standards and keep the city running smoothly. Auburn City Code 8.20 limits the height of grass and weeds to six inches and requires that vines and other vegetation be well maintained. If your property is in need of routine maintenance, now is the time!

Did you know?

Many property owners are not aware that they are responsible for the maintenance of the vegetation that is adjacent to their property (front, back and both sides). As you are conducting your routine maintenance, please ensure areas that may be outside your fence line are also maintained.



**DISCOVER WHAT
AUBURN HAS
TO OFFER**

EXPLORE
Auburn
WA
EXPLOREAUBURN.COM

**BUY LOCAL
AUBURN**

Search for & Find
Auburn's Local Businesses
BUYLOCALAUBURN.COM

Fire Safety for Our Youngest Residents

Each spring, staff from Valley Regional Fire Authority visit public and private schools in Auburn, Algona and Pacific with important safety information. In hope of preventing fires and injuries to our youth, VRFA has partnered with school administration to present safety curriculum to both elementary and high school classrooms.

Elementary school curriculum focuses on fire prevention, fire escape and injury prevention for kindergarten, first and second graders. Kindergarten classes receive lessons teaching them that matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups and not toys for kids; to know the sound of a smoke alarm and get out of their homes quickly if there is a fire; and to crawl low under smoke and stop, drop and roll if their clothes catch fire. They also get a chance to see, hear and touch a firefighter in full gear.

We build upon what was taught in kindergarten when visiting first grade students. They learn to plan an escape route from their home and practice it so they can react quickly if fire occurs where they live. Kids love participating in the fire escape role play scenario each year. They test a smoke alarm, check doors for heat, crawl low under smoke, escape to their family meeting place and practice calling 911.

Our second grade curriculum focuses on the prevention of four of the top ten most likely injuries to affect young children: motor vehicle crashes, bicycle and pedestrian injuries, drowning and fire-related smoke inhalation or burns.



Through a pretend trip to “Camp No-Owie” students discover that many of them need to ride in a booster seat for the seatbelt to fit them correctly and protect them in a crash. They also learn how to correctly fit their bike helmet and life jacket along with bicycle and water safety tips. Lastly, we remind them to make safe choices if faced with the temptation of fire experimentation or peer pressure.

In high school, we target distracted driving behavior through a program called, “Think Again.” A firefighter relays personal stories of vehicle crashes they have responded to and talks about the possible consequences of driving while distracted or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A separate program provided by VRFA teaches CPR skills to high school students.

With both the elementary and high school programs in place, VRFA hopes to reduce fires and injuries involving youth, provide positive role modeling and teach behaviors that will stay with students into their adult years.





ALL ABOARD!

WELCOME RAIL HOP'N BREWING COMPANY



How one family's history and vision, combined with the façade improvement program, is helping to create a sense of place

Urban Design. You may have heard the term, but what does it really mean? In theory, urban design is about making connections between people and places. It is the manner in which public spaces are not only used, but experienced. It is the process by which a city is designed and shaped, taking into consideration the groups of buildings, streets, public spaces, transportation systems and how they are knit together into an organized system. This concept helps to create a vision for a particular area or place, enhancing its unique identity or special characteristics, while ensuring that new development is compatible with existing character.

When we think of a public space, let's think about it in terms we can all relate to. Think of our public spaces as the livingroom of a city. More often than not, the livingroom of a home is the central gathering place; a place you want to be. It is a place where you entertain, where friends want to hang out, a space where you feel you belong. Such is the space that has been created by the owners and operators of Rail Hop'N Brewing Company, located at 112 W Main St. This small town success story all began during the economic downturn of 2008 when Billy Jack Newman, who worked as a commercial truck driver, was laid off and began experimenting in homebrewing to pass the time.

Over the years, Billy continued to perfect his craft with family, friends and neighbors, reaping the fruits of his labor when the economy began to pick up. Billy found himself returning to driving truck, but brewing had become his passion. According to wife Kristi, who has served this community for 11 years as a paraeducator in the Auburn School District, what began as a fun garage-based hobby was actually done so well, in an atmosphere that was incredibly inviting, that it began to garner quite the local following.

By 2016 as the variety of beers expanded, and with the demand for Billy's brews increasing, it became apparent that they had outgrown the original one-barrel brewing system. They had reached a crossroad where their ability to keep up with a diverse supply was becoming nearly impossible, and they would have to make a decision. Do we or do we not believe in what we have created? Are we all in, and can our little home-based business really sustain us with a full time income? And if so, where do we go?

The answer to those questions and more were a unanimous yes, but their location needed to remain local and stay true to the family roots that run deep here in the

City of Auburn. You see, Kristi's family has long been a presence in this community. Her grandfather, Edward Sluys, a Korean War Veteran, retired as an Auburn firefighter but didn't believe he had fulfilled his calling upon retirement. Civic minded and heavily involved in volunteerism through both the Black Watch Color Guard, Drum and Bugle Corp and the A Street Recycling Center, Edward identified a need. Following his official retirement from the fire service, he started his own newspaper and aluminum recycling business known as Washington Fiber, which he operated out of the family home. The very same home where Billy Jack and Kristi first started to brew beer.

As a veteran and volunteer, Edward wholeheartedly believed in the importance of giving back. As his little home-based business began to grow, he eventually employed several employees, operating several trucks with recycling locations in multiple cities. Edward vowed that a percentage of his profits would be donated to support local area charities - an important family value and practice that continues on to this day. Interesting to note that Mr Sluys' operation would later be sold to Waste Management and curbside recycling became available to residents! A true pioneer whose success story is a testament that necessity truly is the mother of invention.

As the patriarch of the family was getting older, his health began to fail right around the time the Newman's business was about to take the next step toward expansion. They asked themselves, why are we here? It was thanks to grandparents Edward and Lolita Sluys, who settled in Auburn from the Bellingham area, that the family WAS here. And as a family, they had fond memories of Edward's years at the fire department, of the railroad that ran through town, and the time spent working together in the family business. Ultimately, it was those memories that inspired the name Rail Hop'N Brewing Company as the business officially began to take shape. According to their website they are "a family, veteran, and educator owned micro-brewery in the heart of downtown Auburn."

They had a great product, had established a following, and a name. Now they just needed to find the right location. As they began their real estate search, some key elements became very important and helped to drive the decision making process; a process that ultimately took two years before the right location revealed itself. The couple knew they had to be near the tracks, and they wanted a space that had character and that "old Auburn" charm. Keeping in line with a family business model, they also wanted the ability to offer coffee and espresso drinks so their children could be involved, and provide a family-friendly environment. Following a recommendation from Josh Arndt, economic development officer with the City of Auburn, they arrange a tour of 122 E Main Street with their realtor. The minute they toured this space, they just knew. It felt right, it felt like home. And yet something was missing.

Since their original concept started in a garage, the two knew they simply had to incorporate that same look and feel. So they opted for the edgy urban look that roll up garage windows could provide. They signed the lease and brought their concept to the City of Auburn Permit Center. It was in speaking with the staff there that they learned of the façade improvement grant program. But would a project such as this be considered? Is there benefit to the community from a façade improvement project like this one?

According to Jeff Tate, director of the Department of Community Development, the answer is yes! He states, "When it comes to the core of downtown, these types of projects and ideas can add to the overall streetscape and help to give it character. It's no longer about simply getting from Point A to Point B as you walk up Main Street. The fact that a business can open up their commercial space with the installation of these roll-up windows now allows for engagement — for the conversations, positive energy, music, and the overall atmosphere of an establishment to spill out into the community. This creates a more dynamic and lively pedestrian experience."

The Newman's were successful in securing funding for a category 1 grant,



DID YOU KNOW?

Rail Hop'N is located in a building with an interesting history of its own. It was constructed by the International Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) and named Mystic Hall. This was the location of many fraternal meetings, community events, and also served as a library and the Slaughter City Hall.



which meant that since this project was at or under the \$5,000 mark they were not required to secure any matching funds or in-kind contributions. But has the investment been good for business? And what future expansion might be possible given this structural modification? In speaking with Kristi, she believes the investment was well worth it. Kristi states, "We have found that this really does bring the community together. If you are simply walking by and are encouraged to say hi to the patrons at the window, or perhaps you hear the lively conversations and are enticed to come in, that's a success. We hope you find our business is reminiscent of the old Auburn feel I grew up with; the Central Perk coffee shop inspired by Friends; or Cheers, where everybody knows your name. By opening up this space, we hope that everyone feels welcome."

Given all the extra space their new location provides, and its close proximity to the local commuter rail station, they are able to offer extended hours and an expanded menu that includes a full service espresso bar and appetizers. If you have not yet had the chance to check out this not-so-hidden gem, we hope you will consider this a warm invitation, and the opportunity to buy local. And yes, according to Kristi, there is hope for future expansion to include outdoor seating. "We want to continue to make this a hub and central gathering space on this end of town—a place that is warm and inviting, where people can grab a hot cup of coffee on the way to the train, or an inviting space to meet friends after work. A little something for everybody, no matter what time of day you want to hop on by."

Welcome to the City of Auburn, Rail Hop'n. We are delighted to have you as a part of our community.

Downtown Facade Improvement Grant Program

In 2015, the Downtown Facade Improvement Grant Program was created as a means to help protect, preserve and enhance the charm of our downtown commercial area. To be eligible to apply, buildings must be commercial properties located within the Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the project proposal must meet all code requirements and with no current code violations. According to Mayor Backus, "We want to make sure that we provide special attention to retaining the history and charm of what makes downtown Auburn so special – a traditional, pedestrian friendly Main Street comprised primarily of independently owned small businesses. Façade improvement grants can help our local small businesses and property owners by providing a little bit of money to apply a fresh coat of paint, replace a torn awning, restore traditional storefront windows and doors, and so much more. A collection of these types of small scale enhancements improves the feel and appearance of our downtown core."

To learn more about the façade improvement program, and the downtown redevelopment, please visit our website at auburnwa.gov/downtown.

Why Advertise in Auburn Magazine?

The four-color, glossy format makes for an attractive environment for your ad—and it makes people hold onto the magazine longer. You will reach Auburn and surrounding community residents who shop locally.

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Tell Metro about your transit needs in Auburn and surrounding areas

King County Metro is working to improve the transit network serving Auburn, Kent, Renton, and surrounding areas. This effort includes developing an Area Mobility Plan in south King County that will map out future transit options for local communities.

The plan will integrate a new RapidRide line, local bus service, dial-a-ride transit (DART) buses, and Metro's Community Connections Program, which provides cost-effective transportation options in areas that are not set up to support typical bus service.

By 2023, Metro plans to launch the RapidRide I Line, which will upgrade the current Route 180 between Auburn Station and Kent Station and combine it with the current Route 169 from Kent Station to Renton. The I Line will be faster, more frequent and more reliable than buses on the current routes, including added service at night and on weekends. Riders will be able to connect to other transit service, including the RapidRide F Line, Sound Transit's Sounder train and Sound Transit buses.

Metro plans to enhance some bus stops along the I Line route with lighting, signs providing real-time arrival information, and ORCA card readers that allow you to pay before you board the bus. Metro also works with local cities to improve sidewalks, street crossings and other pathways near stops to provide a safe and convenient experience for riders.



Metro is talking with area communities to learn and understand their needs and priorities for the new RapidRide service and other mobility solutions.

Want to have a say? Visit Metro's website to learn more about the project, take a transit needs survey, or consider joining the Renton-Kent-Auburn area mobility board: kingcounty.gov/metro/iline.

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events | upcoming events | upcoming

Second Sting - Scorpions Tribute

March 29 | 7:30pm
Auburn Avenue Theater

Second Sting - The Ultimate Scorpions Tribute brings the best songs of the Scorpions to the stage in unforgettable way. Their sound is totally authentic and their high energy set blazes through the Scorp's 50 year catalog of rockers and ballads, from the 70's to now.

\$21/18 | Tickets at auburnwa.gov/arts or by calling 253-931-3043.



Comedy at the Ave

April 12 | 7:30pm
Auburn Avenue Theater

Comedy Night at the Ave will keep you laughing all night long as three comedians work to twist your funny bone. Ages 18 and over only.

\$18/15 | Tickets at auburnwa.gov/arts or by calling 253-931-3043.



Easter Lunch

April 18 | 11:30am

Auburn Senior Activity Center

Celebrate the arrival of spring at our annual Easter luncheon. Enjoy watching the kids from Kaleidoscope Daycare search for Easter eggs.

Pre-Register and get tickets at Senior Activity Center front desk.

Suggested \$4 contribution for those over 60; \$6 for under \$60. Purchase tickets by April 11 to avoid \$5 administrative charge.

Auburn Community Jr. Players: Madagascar, Jr.

April 20 & 21 | 2pm
April 19 & 20 | 7pm

Auburn Avenue Theater

Follow all of your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip-hip Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto your stage in the musical adventure of a lifetime.

\$10 | Tickets at auburnwa.gov/arts or by calling 253-931-3043.

Clean Sweep

April 20 | 7:30am
Auburn City Hall

Help us Celebrate Earth Day in Auburn by participating in Auburn's largest community volunteer effort! Clean Sweep is a chance to work together on projects to benefit the entire community. We will kick off the 2019 Clean Sweep together at 7:30am at City Hall with breakfast and registration. Then we will all come together for a ceremonial sweep down the sidewalks along Main Street at 8:30am, followed by our projects beginning around 8:45am.

Register at auburnwa.gov/events.

Ladies & Lil' Gents

April 27 | 6:30pm
The REC

A fun 'date night' for moms and their little boys! Come dressed in your best builders outfit and enjoy light refreshments, dancing with a DJ, hands-on activity, and a few surprises. The gym will also be set-up for open-play. Bring your camera to capture your special night! Grandmothers and aunts are welcome.

\$35/\$44 per couple, \$12/\$15 for additional siblings. Tickets by calling 253-931-3043.

AveKids: Caspar Babypants

May 4 | 2pm
Auburn Avenue Theater

Sing and dance along with one most popular performers in the Northwest. Chris Ballew, aka Caspar Babypants, is known by some as the lead singer and songwriter for The Presidents of the United States of America. These days he is making music for kids and their parents as Caspar Babypants.

\$10 | Tickets at auburnwa.gov/arts or by calling 253-931-3043.



events | upcoming events | upcoming

Dog Trot

May 18 | 9:30am prior to Petpalooza
Game Farm Park

Dog Trot is a family-oriented Fun Run event that takes place in conjunction with Petpalooza. Participants will follow a 3K or 5K route. The 'chip-timed' course is flat, easy and enjoyable for all ages.

\$18 Early registration (on or before April 19), \$23 Late registration (after April 19), \$25 On-Site registration (May 18). Find out more at auburnwa.gov/petpalooza.

Petpalooza

May 18 | 10am
Game Farm Park

Petpalooza is a FREE event for pet lovers and a their furry friends. The event features an animal-related entertainment stage, flydog and agility demos, pony rides, Mud Bay's Northwest Pet Contest, an agility area, over 150 vendor booths, adoptions, low-cost animal services, giveaways and lots of activities to keep both humans and pets entertained. Complete details at auburnwa.gov/petpalooza.

Memorial Day

May 27
Government Offices Closed

Community Yard Sale Event

Registration: April 1 – May 15
Sale: June 14, 15 & 16
auburnwa.gov/solidwaste
click on Upcoming Events



Want to start or grow your business?

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MAR 26	Business Financials & Business Funding 9-11am City Hall Council Chambers	SEP 5	Procuring Government Contracts 11:30am-1:30pm City Hall Council Chambers
APR 17	Site Selection & Space Needs 1-3pm City Hall Council Chambers	SEP 19	Retail: Loss Prevention Strategies 1-3pm City Hall Council Chambers
MAY 16	Healthcare Options for Your Employees / Employer Healthcare Options 6-8pm City Hall Council Chambers	OCT 17	Start Up & Grow Your Business 6-8pm IPZ Business Incubator
MAY 28	Start Up & Grow Your Business 6-8pm IPZ Business Incubator	NOV 15	Increase Sales: Emotionally Connect to Customers 11:30am-1pm City Hall Council Chambers

Register today at ipzauburn.com/classes



Auburn Avenue Theater
10 Auburn Avenue
Senior Activity Center
808 9th Street SE

Auburn City Hall
25 W Main Street
The REC
910 9th Street SE

Game Farm Park
3030 R Street SE
IPZ Business Incubator
110 2nd St SW, Suite 145

Petpalooza



SATURDAY
MAY 18

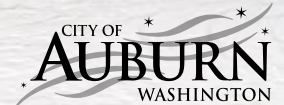
10AM-5PM

GAME FARM PARK

3030 R ST SE

**3K/5K
DOG TROT**

\$18 per person by April 19
\$23 per person late registration
\$25 per person on event-day
T-Shirt included with early registration!



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