

# Auburn

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2022

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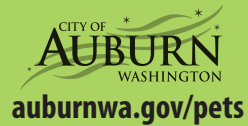


The City of Auburn requires all dogs & cats 5 months & older to be licensed every year.

Pets are part of your family. Keep them licensed. Keep them safe.



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auburnvalleyhs.org



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# Auburn MAGAZINE

WINTER 2022

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

**EDITOR**

Dana Hinman  
[dhinman@auburnwa.gov](mailto:dhinman@auburnwa.gov)

**DESIGNER**

Sarah St. George  
City of Auburn  
Multimedia Design



New slate of outdoor sculptures adorn downtown Auburn.

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## 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  
[auburnwa.gov/play](http://auburnwa.gov/play)

### Police

340 E Main St, Suite 201  
253-931-3080  
Emergency: 911  
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

### 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

### OTHER NUMBERS

#### Auburn Golf Course

29630 Green River Rd SE  
253-833-2350  
[auburngolf.org](http://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](http://mtviewcemeteryauburn.com)

#### Senior Activity Center

808 9th St SE  
253-931-3016  
[auburnwa.gov/seniors](http://auburnwa.gov/seniors)

#### Valley Regional Fire Authority

1101 D St NE (HeadQs)  
253-288-5800  
Call 911 in case of emergency  
[vrfa.org](http://vrfa.org)

#### White River Valley Museum

918 H St SE  
253-288-7433  
[wrvmuseum.org](http://wrvmuseum.org)

## Auburn Mayor & City Council



Nancy Backus  
Mayor  
[nbackus@auburnwa.gov](mailto:nbackus@auburnwa.gov)  
253-931-3041



James Jeyaraj  
Deputy Mayor  
[jjeyaraj@auburnwa.gov](mailto:jjeyaraj@auburnwa.gov)



Bob Baggett  
Councilmember  
[bbaggett@auburnwa.gov](mailto:bbaggett@auburnwa.gov)



Kate Baldwin  
Councilmember  
[kbaldwin@auburnwa.gov](mailto:kbaldwin@auburnwa.gov)



Larry Brown  
Councilmember  
[lbrown@auburnwa.gov](mailto:lbrown@auburnwa.gov)



Robyn Mulenga  
Councilmember  
[rmulenga@auburnwa.gov](mailto:rmulenga@auburnwa.gov)



Chris Stearns  
Councilmember  
[cstearns@auburnwa.gov](mailto:cstearns@auburnwa.gov)



Yolanda Trout-Manuel  
Councilmember  
[ytrout@auburnwa.gov](mailto:ytrout@auburnwa.gov)

### 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 can be viewed live at [auburnwa.gov/gatv](http://auburnwa.gov/gatv).

# From the Mayor

**Happy holidays! Happy New Year! Happy everything to the best readers in the world!**

We are thrilled to bring you our final magazine of 2021 and look forward to delivering more amazing Auburn information and stories to you next year. Goodness what a year it has been.

I think back to the beginning of 2021 and we were so eager to get the COVID-19 vaccine to our residents and I was so happy when it finally became available and we could start moving further away from the pandemic. And as usual, we began working in earnest with our legislators in Olympia during session to help ensure the bills introduced would be beneficial to Auburn. This year, we won some and lost some and we know we have a lot of work to do in 2022 to refine some. That work never stops!

In February, we decided we needed to find a way to connect with you better in this remote environment so we started our "Let's Talk Auburn!" virtual town hall series. We had some robust community conversations about homelessness, crime and policing, parks and recreation programs, equity and inclusion, construction projects and one that was led by our youth. I am so appreciative of all that tuned in to listen, ask us important questions and continue to work with us to improve our community for each other.

We have concluded our virtual town halls for 2021, but I have a very special announcement. I am starting my own podcast! We are calling it "That's So Auburn!" My goal is to reclaim the phrase "That's So Auburn!" so that when people think of our beautiful city they think "Auburn is amazing!" Because, well, we are!

As spring rolled around and our weather began to warm, our Parks, Arts & Recreation programs began to return! We were so happy to be able to bring back some of our programs for you. Our Parks staff thrives on bringing people together and they all missed you so much! While they looked a little different in the end our staff did an amazing job!

In May, I finally became eligible for my COVID vaccine! I made my way to Auburn's mass

vaccination site as quickly as I could for my first shot. Like many people, I had a few side effects but I know that was just my body's immune system getting geared up to fight that virus if I were to get it. I am so thankful for all of the scientists, healthcare workers and public health officials that have been here for us the entire way and are seeing us through this.

As we entered into our summer months, we opened up our farmers market at Les Gove, raised the Pride flag at city hall, celebrated Juneteenth, Independence Day and watched our Olympians in Tokyo – remember that we had one of our own in the weightlifting competition? Congratulations again to Auburn's own Harrison Maurus and your 4th place finish in weightlifting in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

And then Mother Nature turned up the heat! Remember those heat waves that came through the Pacific Northwest this summer? When have we ever seen multiple days of temperatures over 100 degrees here? Not anytime I can remember. Like we always do, we took great care of each other during those days.

Now here we are, the end of another year. We honored our veterans, gave a warm welcome on a cold night to our old friend Santa Claus and have our holiday lights on to add some sparkle to our downtown. We will continue to be resilient and courageous in the face of our challenges and we will do it like we always do – the Auburn way! We take care of our own here and I don't plan on that changing anytime soon.

In 2022, I will begin my third term as your mayor and we will welcome a new councilmember Kate Baldwin and James Jeyaraj will be our new deputy mayor. On behalf of the entire City of Auburn staff and City Council we wish you a safe, happy and healthy New Year!



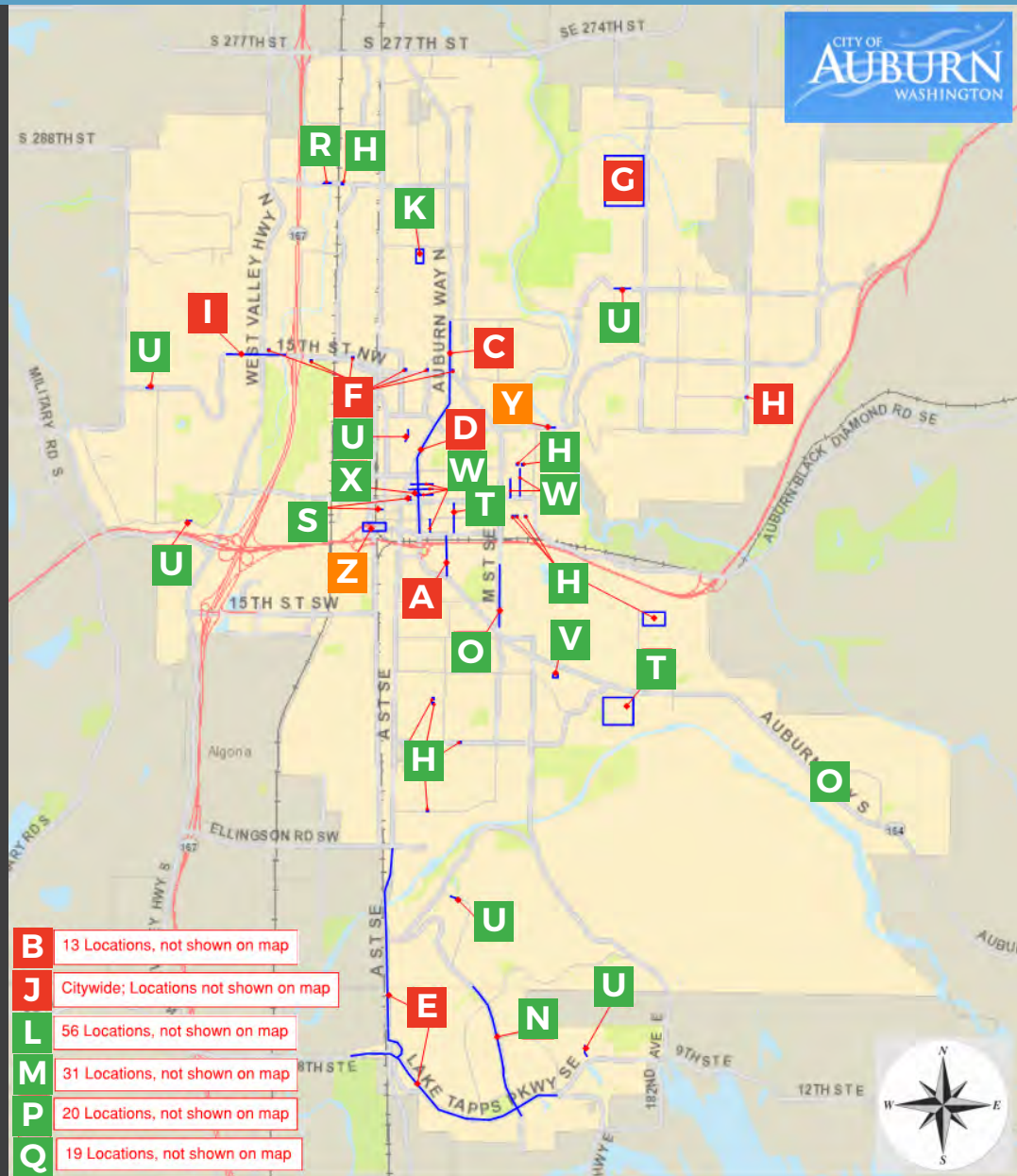
**Nancy Backus**  
**Mayor of Auburn**  
[nbackus@auburnwa.gov](mailto:nbackus@auburnwa.gov)

253-931-3041

# CAPITAL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION YEARLY WRAP-UP

2021 brought another busy year for the City's Public Works Engineering Services team designing and constructing projects that improve and maintain City infrastructure.

Throughout the 2021 calendar year 14 new projects began construction. The team also advertised 2 other projects for construction bids for work that will begin in early 2022. In addition, 10 significant projects that began work in 2020 continued construction into 2021. The 26 total combined projects amounts to approximately \$43.5 million in capital construction investment! By funding source the \$43.5 million comprises almost \$9 million in grant funding, \$11.4 million in City street funding and developer mitigation fees, \$18 million in City Water utility funding, \$2.7 million in City Sanitary Sewer utility funding, \$2 million in City Storm Drainage utility funding, and \$440 thousand in General Services funding. These significant investments support reduced traffic congestion, improved safety of your roadways and pathways for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, and also contributes toward improving the City's water, sewer, and storm drainage facilities.



## By the Numbers, Improvements Include:

- Preservation or reconstruction of over 22 lane miles of pavement
- Replacing over 22,000 linear feet of water main
- Replacing 56 deduct meters with irrigation meters
- Replacing nearly 4,400 linear feet of storm drain pipe
- Replacing over 3,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipe
- Converting city owned street lights citywide to LED fixtures
- Installing nearly 4 miles of new traffic signal communication lines
- Installing 5 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) pedestrian crossings
- Installing 2 new roadway Dynamic Message Signs
- Installing over 9,600 linear feet of new or replaced sidewalks and upgraded 142 curb ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- Upgrading electrical components within 12 sanitary sewer pump stations
- Replacing 1 water pump station

**The 26 total projects are represented in the general project location map and project summary table.**

**PROJECTS THAT BEGAN CONSTRUCTION IN 2020, BUT CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION INTO 2021**

	Begin Date	End Date	Total Costs
<b>A CP1416 F St SE Non-Motorized Improvements</b> - Reconstruction of F St SE from 4th St SE to Auburn Way South, including new sidewalks, curb and gutter, street lighting, streetscape elements, and safety improvements. Sections of water and sewer line replacement and overhead utility relocation to underground. Bike boulevard and way-finding components between Auburn Station and Les Gove Community Campus.	2nd Quarter 2020	4th Quarter 2021	\$3,902,425
<b>B CP1812 Sewer Pump Station Electrical Improvements</b> - Electrical systems updates at sewer pump stations throughout the City to meet current electrical code, improve safety and increase the efficiency of maintenance.	3rd Quarter 2020	4th Quarter 2021	\$955,492
<b>C CP1903 Auburn Way North Preservation Phase 2</b> - Grind and overlay of Auburn Way North from approximately 8th Street NE to 22nd Street NE, removing unused driveways, and upgrading curb ramps and pedestrian signals as needed to meet ADA requirements.	2nd Quarter 2020	4th Quarter 2021	\$1,424,364
<b>D CP1904 Auburn Way North Preservation Phase 3</b> - Grind and overlay of Auburn North/South from approximately 4th Street SE to 8th Street NE, removing unused driveways, and upgrading all curb ramps and pedestrian signals to meet ADA requirements.	2nd Quarter 2020	4th Quarter 2021	\$2,433,479
<b>E CP1618 Lake Tapps Parkway ITS Expansion</b> - Construction of new Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) infrastructure along Lake Tapps Parkway and A St SE. New infrastructure includes new communication lines, Variable Message Sign, ITS cameras, network upgrades, wireless connections, an interconnection with Sumner at 8th St E, & weather stations at Lakeland Hills. Replacement of some aerial copper communication lines along A St SE.	3rd Quarter 2020	4th Quarter 2021	\$1,082,097
<b>F CP1912 15th Street NW Dynamic Message Sign</b> - Construction of a new dynamic message sign on the shoulder of eastbound 15th Street NW between C St NW and SR 167 and connecting existing traffic signals at W Valley Hwy, C St NW, A St NE, and D St NE to the existing City fiber system.	2nd Quarter 2020	2nd Quarter 2021	\$368,529
<b>G CP1929 Lea Hill AC Main Replacement</b> - Replacement of approximately 5,685 LF of 4" to 8" existing asbestos cement (AC) water mains with 8" or 12" ductile iron pipe (DIP) water mains and associated gate valves, fire hydrants, water meters, service lines and other appurtenances in the City's Lea Hill Service Area.	3rd Quarter 2020	2nd Quarter 2021	\$2,027,047
<b>H CP1902 2020 Pedestrian Safety, Sidewalk and ADA Improvement</b> - Improve pedestrian accessibility & safety throughout the City. Numerous sites throughout the City where sidewalks are in need of repair or improvement, curb ramps are needed, and where pedestrian crosswalk improvements are desired.	3rd Quarter 2020	2nd Quarter 2021	\$777,173
<b>I CP1926 2020 Arterial Street Preservation (15th St NW)</b> - Replacement of the pavement and replacement and up-sizing of the existing 8" cast iron water main to a 16" ductile iron water main on 15th Street NW from R Street NW to West Valley Highway. Grind and overlay of 15th Street NW from West Valley Highway to SR 167.	2nd Quarter 2020	2nd Quarter 2021	\$1,482,408
<b>J CP1920 Citywide LED and Streetlight Controls</b> - Retrofitting existing City street lights with LED fixtures and street light controls for remote management.	2nd Quarter 2020	3rd Quarter 2021	\$2,677,836

**PROJECTS THAT BEGAN CONSTRUCTION IN 2021**

	Begin Date	End Date	Total Costs
<b>K CP2026 North Airport Area Storm Improvements</b> - The purpose of this work is to better utilize an existing storm pond and prevent flooding around the hangars on the north end of the airport. This project will also allow the City to eventually eliminate one or more of the existing storm ponds at the north end of the Airport in future to improve airport safety.	1st Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	\$222,691
<b>L CP2001 Deduct Meter Replacement Phase 2</b> - Replace approximately 56 of the 128 remaining deduct meters within the City limits, including replacing related piping and restoration.	1st Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2021	\$587,228
<b>M MS2101 Thermo Refresh</b> - Restore thermoplastic pavement markings (i.e. crosswalks, stop lines, arrows and legends) at locations where the existing markings have been worn away by traffic and the elements.	2nd Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2021	\$42,414
<b>N CP2011 Lakeland Hills Way Preservation</b> - Grind, patch, and overlay Lakeland Hills Way from 57th Drive SE to Lake Tapps Dr SE and replace curb ramps to meet ADA requirements.	2nd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021	\$1,646,000
<b>O CP2012 M St SE Sidewalks</b> - Construct missing sections of sidewalk along M Street SE between Auburn Way S and 8th St SE. Replacement of curb ramps to meet ADA requirements and installation of street lighting.	2nd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021	\$841,494
<b>P CP2106 2021 Sidewalk and ADA Improvements</b> - Improve pedestrian accessibility and safety throughout the City. The project includes numerous sites throughout the City where curb ramps are missing or need to be improved, where sidewalks are in need of repair or improvement, and where pedestrian crosswalk improvements are desired.	4th Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021	\$490,463
<b>Q CP2010 2021 Sewer Repair and Replacement</b> - Replace approximately 2585 LF of 8"-10" diameter sewer line at 9 separate sites and construct 10 spot repairs.	2nd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021	\$1,500,000

<b>R CP1724 37th St NW Flood Control Phase 1</b> - Alleviate significant annual localized flooding at the 1000 block of 37th St NW of Auburn, Washington, by upgrading the drainage system in the area.	3rd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021	\$301,000
<b>S CP2008 Parking Lot Improvements</b> - Troubleshooting and replacing outlets with enclosures, replacing light fixtures, removing light poles, and installing new downtown pedestrian poles with foundations.	3rd Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2022	\$93,285
<b>T CP2019 2021 Local Streets Preservation</b> - Construct the following improvements: Site #1 (G St SE from E Main to 4th St SE) - Full depth pavement re-build; replace water main incl. water services; upgrade storm drainage system as needed; and upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA. Site #2 (Riverwalk/Forest Ridge) - Grind and overlay the roadway; replace water main incl. water services; upgrade storm drainage system on 24th Ave/ St. SE; and upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA.	2nd Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2022	\$5,241,103
<b>U CP2017 2021 Storm Repair and Replacement</b> - Repair and replace storm system infrastructure throughout the City, at eight different locations. Improvements will eliminate known drainage issues and reduce maintenance efforts.	3rd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2021	\$944,000
<b>V CP1916 Academy Pump Station 1</b> - Demolish and replace Pump Station 1, repurpose Pump Station 2 into a storage facility, replace backup power systems at the site, and replace/install underground water main to the facility.	2nd Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2022	\$4,200,000
<b>W CP1922 Lead Service Line Replacement</b> - Improvements to the City's water distribution system by replacing lead gooseneck service line infrastructure. Replace approximately 7,100 linear feet of water main, approximately 190 water services, potentially reconstruct 13 street segments and upgrade associated drainage, curb & gutter, curb ramps; as well as grind and overlay 4 street segments.	4th Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2022	\$7,585,000
<b>X CP1927 Auburn Way North and 1st Street NE Signal Replacement</b> - Replace the existing traffic signal at Auburn Way North and 1st Street NE with a new traffic signal per the City of Auburn standards and the Downtown standards. Add a left turn pocket on 1st Street NE and flashing yellow arrows in all four directions.	3rd Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2022	\$1,606,514

**PROJECTS THAT ADVERTISED FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS IN 2021, BUT CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 2022**

	Begin Date	End Date	Total Costs
<b>Y CP2007 Lea Hill Bridge Deck Preservation</b> - Grind and overlay the Lea Hill bridge deck in an effort to extend the overall service life of the bridge.	1st Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2022	\$980,642
<b>Z CP2006 3rd Street SW Bridge Deck Preservation</b> - Seal and overlay the 3rd Street SW bridge decks in an effort to extend the overall service life of the bridges.	1st Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2022	\$588,935

## What other significant projects can we expect to see begin construction as we prepare for 2022?

**CP2102 4th Street SE Preservation** – This project will replace pavement and utilities on 4th Street SE from Auburn Way South to L Street SE. The project will also replace sections of sidewalk and upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA requirements, and install new LED street lighting.

Road Closure Notice – Construction of the 4th Street SE Preservation project includes a closure of 4th Street SE between Auburn Way South and M Street SE. The road will be closed to general through traffic, however local access to and from residences along 4th Street SE will be provided.

It is anticipated that the road closure will begin in early March 2022 and remain closed through October 2022. The road closure will be split in to two segments:

- Segment 1 is from Auburn Way South to F Street SE
- Segment 2 is from F Street SE to M Street SE

Construction will first start on Segment 1 and then progress to Segment 2. The City's contractor will only be permitted to close one Segment at a time.

**CP2003 2nd Street SE Preservation** – This project will reconstruct the pavement on 2nd Street SE between A Street SE and Auburn Way South. The project will also replace 450 feet of sewer main, construct new curb ramps, install new LED street lighting, replace curb & gutter as needed, and upgrade drainage infrastructure as needed. Private utility relocations will take place prior to construction of the project elements. Construction is anticipated to begin in the latter part of the first Q (January-March) 2022.

For more information about any of these projects, please contact Ryan Vondrak P.E., Capital & Construction Engineering Manager at 253-931-3086 or via email at [rvondrak@auburnwa.gov](mailto:rvondrak@auburnwa.gov).



# Auburn Airport Demolishes Competition in Second Annual Food Drive Contest

If you've ever wondered what two tons of food looks like, you could have gotten a glimpse of it last month at the Auburn Municipal Airport as pilots rallied to compete in the second annual Fly Washington Passport Program Food Drive.

Started in 2020 as a way to help inspire pilots to give to their local food banks, the food drive encourages friendly competition between Washington State airports to see who can donate the most food each fall. The winner each year is presented with the traveling taxi-light trophy, a hand-crafted, highly coveted award. Currently housed at the Orcas Island Airport, the trophy will be making its way to Auburn after a landslide victory.

Statewide, the food drive collected nearly 7,500 pounds of food with more than 4,600 of that donated by Auburn Airport pilots. Auburn Airport Manager Tim Mensonides expressed his appreciation for the donations. "It's a real source of pride for our airport and what we were able to do for the community," he said. "The pilots really bought in to the idea, and it was great to see how grateful the [Auburn] food bank was for the donations."

Kick-off weekend, one pilot took it upon himself to lead the charge for the airport and inspire others to give. After filling two platform carts at Costco, he left the donation in the airport lobby for airport staff to find Monday morning. What followed was a chain-reaction of donations that ended up taking seven truckloads to deliver to the Auburn Food Bank over the course of the five-week food drive.

"Each time we showed up, the food bank staff was wide-eyed," said Auburn Airport Operations Technician Ryan Hubbard. "They couldn't believe the first donation was all from one person, and after that they just kept getting more and more surprised each time we showed up."



"The amount of support from the tenants at the airport has been amazing," said Max Platts, a member of the leadership team for the Fly Washington Passport Program. "It was a fun thing for airports to rally behind. With the pandemic, people are having a hard time. This is an opportunity for the aviation community and airports to give back, a chance to get pilots and the entire community to band together."

The Fly Washington Passport Program, a volunteer-based partnership designed to highlight the economic benefits and joys of general aviation in Washington State, has been growing in popularity as more pilots hear about the ability to obtain a "passport" and collect stamps from 105 airports throughout the state. As each region is completed, pilots earn patches designating that region. Once 90% of airports are validated, recipients receive pilot jackets to proudly display their patches.

Mensonides spoke with pride about the program. "It's really an opportunity for people to get out and fly to places they've never been and probably wouldn't see otherwise," he said, recounting stories of pilots who praise the program for encouraging them to explore their state. "It encourages tourism and economic activity, especially to more remote, out-of-the-way areas, and helps make people more aware of the importance of local airports to their communities."

As Auburn Airport staff clear a space to proudly display the food drive trophy, Mensonides mentioned the importance of being able to help during such a difficult time. "Because of COVID, people need extra help, and while winning the trophy is a nice incentive, getting it done is the most important thing."

For more information on the Auburn Airport or the Fly Washington Passport Program, visit [auburnmunicipalairport.com](http://auburnmunicipalairport.com) or [flywashington.org](http://flywashington.org). You can also donate to the Auburn Food Bank or get involved as a volunteer by visiting their homepage at [theauburnfoodbank.org](http://theauburnfoodbank.org).



# NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE AUBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT



City of Auburn  
Chief of Police  
Mark Caillier



Earlier this Fall, the Auburn Police Department said farewell to former Chief of Police, Dan O'Neil. O'Neil announced his retirement in September after a more than 20 year career in Auburn.

"I am grateful for the support I have received from the leaders that have come before me. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had. I have experiences and friendships that will last a lifetime. The leadership team of the Auburn Police Department has developed a strong foundation that will serve our community well for years to come," said O'Neil.

With O'Neil retiring, Mayor Backus worked quickly to find the next Chief. However, she didn't look far as she announced that Assistant Chief Mark Caillier will be taking over the role of Chief. Mayor Backus believed that Chief Caillier would be the best person to lead the department through the trying times in our nation, our state, and our community.

Chief Caillier has been a police officer since 1991, when he started his law enforcement career with the Whitman County Sheriff's Office. It wasn't until 1994 when Chief Caillier joined the Auburn Police Department.

Since his time in Auburn, he has served as a Patrol officer, Major Crimes Detective, Field Training Officer, EVOC Instructor, SWAT Officer and a K9 handler. In 2007 he was promoted to Sergeant, where he supervised Patrol, Property Crimes and Major Crimes. In 2013 he was promoted to the rank of Commander, where he lead the Patrol Division and Inspectional Services Division. He was promoted to Assistant Police Chief in 2018.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead the men and women of the Auburn Police Department," said Caillier, "it's been 27 years that I've served this community. I wouldn't change anything. I love it here."

With Chief Mark Caillier being officially promoted, a vacancy was left at the Assistant Chief Position. After a thorough interview process, Commander Sam Betz was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief.

Assistant Chief Betz has been with the Auburn Police Department since 2006. As a Patrol Officer, he spent time on the Crime Scene Response Team, President of the Auburn Police Officer's Association, Auburn Police Guild Executive Board, Valley SWAT Team, and as a K9 handler for a narcotic detection. In 2013, Sam was promoted to Sergeant and then in January of 2020 he was promoted to the rank of Commander.

"I am humbled to be in the position of Assistant Chief and look forward to earning the trust and confidence of my fellow employees and the community," said Betz about his new role.



At the December 6, 2021 Auburn City Council meeting Sam Betz was ceremoniously promoted to Assistant Chief, Sergeant James Nordenger was promoted to Commander, and Officer Jason Blake was promoted to Sergeant.

*"I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead the men and women of the Auburn Police Department. It's been 27 years that I've served this community. I wouldn't change anything. I love it here."*

*Chief Mark Caillier*



Auburn Police Department's Assistant Chief Sam Betz



## AUBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT SPREADS GOOD CHEER TO DESERVING FAMILIES

Usually, around this time of year, Auburn Officers will participate in the annual for Shop With A Cop event. This year, in an effort to make sure our young community members and officers stay healthy, the Auburn Police Officers Association decided to work with the Auburn School District and local churches to identify some well deserving families to shop for this holiday season.

This year, thanks to Walmart and Kelly Auto Supply, more than \$3,000 was donated to helping families across Auburn. A total of 14 families, including 45 children, will receive a wonderful Christmas full of gifts.

We would like to thank the businesses involved for their continued support in our gift giving to the Auburn community. Auburn PD's Mascot, Archie, also got involved by helping some of our officers as they began their shopping. We aren't sure who had more fun, Archie or the officers!



# How to Clean Like a Curator

Just in time for your New Year's cleaning resolutions, get some advice on cleaning and organizing from someone who has to clean and store lots of things, the Curator of Collections at the White River Valley Museum in Auburn.

<p><b>Organizing means making things easier to find and use.</b></p>	<p>When you are planning a big organization project, it's more important to put things in a place where they will be easy to use when you want them, rather than adhering to ideal images of what a perfect house looks like. For example, if you always struggle to find the right lid for the plastic container you use for lunch every day, consider storing your lunch containers on a different shelf than your other plastic storage dishes. There's no law that says they always have to be kept together.</p>
<p><b>Keep precious items in the home, not in a garage.</b></p>	<p>Garages, sheds, and damp basements are too humid for storing your family photos and important hand-me-downs. Store these things in places away from sunlight and sudden temperature changes, like the top shelves of closets on the ground floor of a building, or under beds or on bottom shelves on upper floors.</p>
<p><b>Use your things.</b></p>	<p>Electronic and mechanical objects need to be turned on and used to keep them in top shape, so dig out your childhood NES and play a few rounds of Dr. Mario before you put it away again. It counts as cleaning!</p>
<p><b>Don't store clothes in plastic dry-cleaning bags.</b></p>	<p>If you are cleaning out your closet this year, don't put clothes back into plastic covers. Plastic doesn't allow the fabric to get good airflow, which is key to preventing mold. Plus, the plastic in the bag can stain clothing it is in contact with for too long as the bag ages. If you are worried about a rarely-used outfit getting dusty on the shoulders, take a piece of muslin fabric and cut a small hole in the center for the hanger hook to fit through, and let the rest drape over the shoulders of the clothing.</p>
<p><b>Organizing doesn't mean buying lots of plastic bins.</b></p>	<p>Putting something away in a clear plastic bin might look satisfying on Tiktok, but it generates a huge amount of plastic waste every year and can actually be bad for your stuff long-term. For storing things long-term like fancy shoes, cardboard boxes that block light and allow some limited airflow are going to do a better job preventing fading and mold than a plastic bin.</p>
<p><b>Clean isn't a smell.</b></p>	<p>Lots of cleaning products have strong perfumes and other compounds that they advertise as creating "freshness," but are actually just leaving an additional layer of perfume on your stuff and in the air of your home, especially products that are sprayed on and never rinsed away. Warm, soapy water, white vinegar, and elbow grease will clean and disinfect most surfaces in your home without needing to buy out the whole cleaning aisle.</p>



(PO-03725) Masato Yamada's extremely organized General Store in Kent, 1929.



(PO-00811) Meridian High School Domestic Science class, 1916.



(PO-10145) Two members of the Gear Lords Car Club in Auburn show they aren't too cool for a mop and broom, 1965.





**GET SOCIAL WITH US!**


  
 wrvmuseum wrvmuseum  
[wrvmuseum.org](http://wrvmuseum.org)



# New roundabout coming to Auburn Way South in 2022

The Auburn School District (District) is currently re-constructing Chinook Elementary School located along Auburn Way S between Hemlock Street SE and Noble Court SE. As part of the project, the District wanted to improve access to/from the school. To achieve this, a single driveway, located along the Auburn Way S frontage, will provide access to the new school. The new driveway will be aligned with the existing driveway serving the Palisades Mobile Home Estates. Through the review and approval process with the Washington State Department of Transportation due to this being a State Route, it was determined that a roundabout would be the appropriate type of intersection for the new driveway. To accommodate traffic on the Auburn Way S corridor, and to provide acceptable traffic operations for the new school, the roundabout will have two circulating lanes. The roundabout will be sized to accommodate all roadway users including trucks, buses, bicycles, and pedestrians.

The replacement Chinook Elementary school is currently under construction, and is scheduled to be open for the 2022/23 school year in September 2022. The roundabout is anticipated to be completed for the opening of the new school.

The City is also working on a project that will improve Auburn Way S between Hemlock Street and Poplar Street SE. The City project will add a second travel lane in each direction, sidewalks, bus pull-outs, illumination and access management. The City's project is currently in design, with the construction planned for 2024/25. As the design of the City project progresses, mailer(s), social media posts, and another magazine article will help keep you informed of the project progress.

The District's project will be complete before the City completes the widening of the corridor on either side of it. When it first opens, the new roundabout will function more like a single-lane roundabout. The City of Auburn already has two single-lane roundabouts within its limits that many residents have become familiar with (I Street NE/22nd Street NE and 124th Avenue SE/304th Avenue). After the District and City projects are both complete, the new roundabout will be fully functional as a two-lane roundabout. Recognizing that this will be the first two-lane roundabout in Auburn, we have prepared the following guide that explains some pointers for using it (see next page).



Chinook Elementary School replacement preliminary layout

# ROUNDAABOUT 101

## A step-by-step guide to driving a multi-lane roundabout

A roundabout is an intersection where left-turns are routed around the far side of a circular island located in the center of the intersection. By following these easy steps, you'll be driving roundabouts like a pro in no time:

**1 SLOW DOWN** As you approach a multi-lane roundabout, slow down to the advisory speed and prepare to stop if necessary



**2 CHOOSE THE PROPER LANE** Get in the appropriate lane well in advance of the intersection. Lane use signs will always show which lanes can be used for different turns. In this example, right-turns can only be made from the right-lane, and left-turns can only be made from the left-lane.

**3 STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS** Just before you get to the roundabout, be sure to watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk



**4 YIELD ON ENTRY** When you reach the roundabout, do not proceed beyond the yield sign until all cross traffic is clear. Never attempt to enter the intersection alongside crossing traffic, as those drivers have the right-of-way to exit the intersection.



**5 ENTER THE ROUNDAABOUT** When there is a safe gap in all lanes of circulating traffic, proceed into the intersection, keeping to the right of the central island. Stay in your lane. Don't change lanes within the roundabout. As with any other type of intersection, you must be in the proper lane before entering.

**6 EXIT THE ROUNDAABOUT** Once you've safely entered, you have the right-of-way. When you reach your desired exit point, simply proceed straight ahead out of the roundabout.

**7 STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS** Be sure to watch for pedestrians as you exit the roundabout, and be sure to stop for any pedestrians within any crosswalk.



### HOW DO PEDESTRIANS CROSS?

- If you are crossing Auburn Way S, press the button to activate the pedestrian crossing warning lights.
- Always look for vehicles and make sure that all drivers can see you. Never assume that a driver can see you or intends to stop for you.
- Stay on the sidewalk. Never walk in the roundabout or cross the central island.

### WHAT ABOUT BICYCLES?

Depending on your comfort level, bicyclists have two options when navigating a roundabout:

- Use the shared pedestrian/bicycle paths and crosswalks, following the same rules as pedestrians listed above.
- Ride through the roundabout with vehicular traffic, following the same rules as drivers.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE IS APPROACHING?

If you are inside the roundabout, proceed to your desired exit, exit the roundabout, and pull to the side of the street. Just remember to not stop inside the roundabout, as this could prevent the emergency vehicle(s) from passing, and prevent other vehicles from exiting the roundabout.

# CITY OF AUBURN DOWNTOWN TOWN SCULPTURE GALLERY



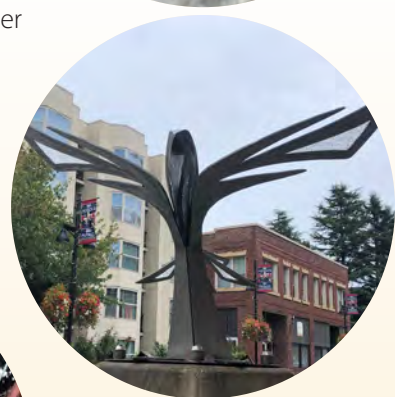
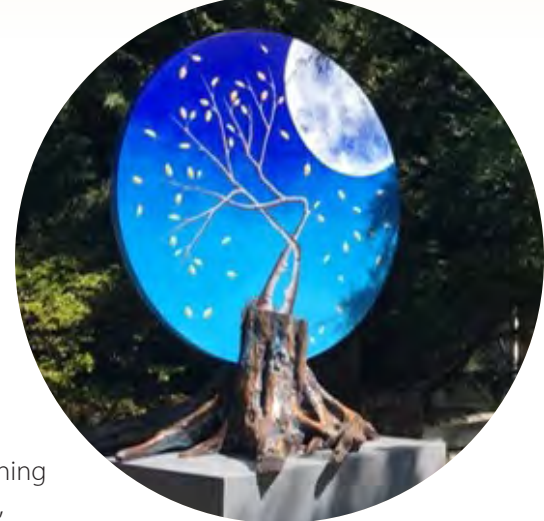
## New slate of outdoor sculptures adorn downtown Auburn

Take a stroll through Downtown Auburn to enjoy new sculptures on view as a part of Auburn's Downtown Sculpture Gallery program. Ten new sculptures are installed and on view in Auburn as a part of this annual public art program. Now entering its 11th year, the program receives sculptures on loan from artists throughout the region and proudly displays them for all to enjoy and experience.

This program enlivens the City of Auburn with new and interesting things to see, enriching the experience of visitors and locals alike. Just as the leaves started to fall in September, ten new artworks were placed in locations around town, bringing excitement and creativity to downtown Auburn and beyond.

Featuring a variety of materials, subjects, and techniques, the artists featured this year in the Downtown Sculpture Gallery demonstrate incredible artistic talent. We invite you to watch for these sculptures as you are out and about in Auburn. Don't be surprised to find yourself chuckling at the wit of Karsten Boysen's clever Rockitdog; thinking deep thoughts at Ken Turner's Temporal Order; deciphering the mystery of Tim Duffy's Legend of Sleepy Hollow; or celebrating the language of nature with Jennifer Kapnek's Encircled in Cycles. You may find you shake your head in amazement at Chuck Fitzgerald's Star Gazer; or Ed McCarthy's Porcupine; feel the joy of Seward Johnson's Los Mariachis; relax into the harmonious rhythm of Rodger Squirrel's Ribbon; or encounter hope in Milo White and Lin McJunkin's Mi Paloma Brilla, or MacRae Wyld's The Hill We Climb, by Amanda Gorman. Each artist, and each sculpture has something to say – come and discover what it is!

An additional element of the Downtown Sculpture Gallery program is the "People's Choice" award in which residents and visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite sculpture. These votes are tallied at the end of the summer and determine which artist wins the \$500 People's Choice award. The winner of the 2020-21 People's Choice Award was The Gardener by Louise McDowell. Voting has already begun for the 2021-22 year, so take a walk, see the sculptures, and vote for your favorite at [auburnwa.gov/sculpture](http://auburnwa.gov/sculpture).





The City of Auburn's Downtown Sculpture Gallery showcases outdoor sculptures in various sizes, types and mediums.



## 2021-22 DOWNTOWN SCULPTURE GALLERY



1 W MAIN ST & B ST SW

### MI PALOMA BRILLA Milo White and Lin McDunkin

*Stainless steel, cast glass*

What the world needs especially right now is a peaceful transition from all the sickness and shouting to healing and positive change. We chose the dove, a universal symbol of peace, to convey our hopes for a healthy, prosperous and meaningful future for us all.



2 W MAIN ST & A ST NW

### RIBBON Rodger Squirrel

*Stainless steel*

Made from the remnants of another sculpture, this stainless steel piece has a fresh, light look. It uses the sine wave pattern that has inspired many of Squirrel's pieces, expressing a harmonious and rhythmic flow among the gently curved vertical waves.



3 1ST ST NW & N DIVISION ST

### ROCKITDOG Karsten Boysen

*Upcycled welded scrap steel*

"Rockitdog" was inspired by the brightest star in the sky, Sirius, which is also called the "dogstar". The welded upcycled abstract steel sculpture with International safety yellow powder coat is bright, dynamic, and large enough to capture people's attention.



4 10 E MAIN ST

### LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW Tim Duffy

*Bronze*

As I see it, bronze illuminates the ancient and the futuristic. Most times, both at once. This tale here is told with some mystery; all four seasons do apply.



5 10 E MAIN ST

### PORCUPINE Ed McCarthy

*Stainless steel, painted stainless steel*

Porcupine is an abstract study in shape and color. The sculpture is from a body of work of glyphic-like animals, each piece possessing an ancient quality.



6 E MAIN ST & A ST SE

### STAR GAZER Chuck Fitzgerald

*Aluminum*

The artist has been studying hummingbirds for quite some time, "their color, speed (wing movement up to 90 times a second), and habits amaze me." Fitzgerald has been creating hummingbirds using aluminum, stainless steel and fiberglass for several years.



7 B ST NE & E MAIN ST

### THE HILL WE CLIMB BY AMANDA GORMAN

**MacRae Wylde**

*Varnished steel, paint*

The Hill We Climb, by Amanda Gorman - the poem, a marker for our time, so eloquently speaks to the truth, and yet, still finds hope.



8 E MAIN ST & AUBURN WAY

### TEMPORAL ORDER Ken Turner

*Stainless steel*

We watch the stars dancing. The earth responds. Now's the time.



9 D ST NE & E MAIN ST

### LOS MARIACHIS Seward Johnson

*Bronze*

Los Mariachis, by Seward Johnson, celebrates the vibrant musical style which originated in Mexico in the 18th century. *Los Mariachis by Seward Johnson © 2013 The Seward Johnson Atelier, Inc.*



10 R ST SE & 29TH ST SE

### ENCRCLED IN CYCLES Jennifer Kapnek

*Wood, acrylic, tree stump*

Observing and celebrating the language of nature.



The Downtown Sculpture Gallery is partially funded through Local Revitalization Financing funding received from the State of Washington and 4Culture King County Lodging Tax.

# Historic building renovations begin this month as Auburn's original Post Office transforms into downtown Arts & Culture Center

The City of Auburn will continue the transformation of the historic Auburn Post Office into an Arts & Culture Center with major construction and renovation beginning in mid-December. The renovations and interior transformations were designed by Johnston Architects and the remodeling and construction project will be handled by American West Construction.

"It is such an exciting moment to see the dream of this Arts & Culture Center finally becoming a reality after so many years," says Mayor Nancy Backus. "This center will be much more than a remodeled building; it will be a place where the community can come together in appreciation of arts and to share cultural experiences that will strengthen our bond as a community."

The main floor renovation is dominated by a gallery and gathering space, a multi-use studio space for arts education of all ages, and a classroom and meeting space. The original post-office vault will be transformed into an inspiring and unique art installation space. A main-floor gift shop will serve as a revenue-generator while giving local artists an opportunity to promote and sell their work. A catering kitchen and/or café will strengthen the vision of the Auburn Arts Center as a community event space. Additional project components include newly required fire and life-safety systems, HVAC improvements/modifications; restroom improvements, new lighting systems, roof replacement and cupola repairs; as well as refinishing the original historic terrazzo and wood floors. In a future phase, the renovated basement level will feature teaching spaces for community-based arts classes, performance rehearsal spaces, and additional studios.

"The project team found inspiration in the building's original design. Demolition of the interior walls, bulky column wraps, and suspended plaster ceiling gave way to an open space with high wood plank ceilings, allowing ample natural light deep into the interior. Newly revealed raw structures merge with refined elements, like the building's original floors and marble wainscot, to create a unique backdrop for classrooms, galleries, art studios, and community spaces that celebrate the building's history and bright future," noted Ray Johnston, Founding Partner of Johnston Architects.





Auburn's original Post Office was built in 1937 as a WPA project. The building was converted into a King County Public Health facility in 1964. Vacant since 2009, the City of Auburn purchased the building in 2016 and has been working since that time to restore the architectural and historic treasure and redefine it as a central hub where cultural communities come together to learn, create and share. The 8,000 square foot building is listed on the King County Landmarks Register, the Washington State Heritage Register and the National Register of Historic Places and all exterior renovations must receive approval from King County Landmarks Commission.

Work on the building has been tackled in phases as fundraising efforts have allowed. Historic window restoration was completed in Spring 2019; abatement and main floor interior demolition was completed in spring of 2021; and all needed funding was secured in fall of 2021 to move forward with construction. In all, the City of Auburn has secured \$928,000 in grant funds for Phase One main floor renovations which will cost nearly \$2.5M. 4Culture, the arts and cultural funding agency for King County, has generously provided multiple grants from their funding programs including: Building for Culture; Preservation Special Projects; Arts Facilities; Landmarks Capital; Preservation Emergency and Unforeseen; and Building for Equity Arts Facilities grants. MultiCare has generously supported the project through its Community Partnership Fund. Additionally, direct appropriation of funds from the State of Washington Department of Commerce were awarded thanks to efforts by Representative Pat Sullivan, who championed the application. It is with immense thanks to these funders, and the unwavering support of the Auburn community and City of Auburn, that the initial renovations for Auburn's Arts & Culture Center are finally underway.

The transformation is expected to be finished in August of 2022. The Arts & Culture Center will provide increased access to the arts and cultural education for the local and regional community and drive economic activities in Auburn's downtown core. The newly renovated lobby space and multipurpose rooms will offer new public programs like music and dance performances, visual arts exhibitions, literary arts events, and other cultural gatherings. Programming will also include arts education for all ages, including after-school programs that aim to engage youth and at-risk youth. The goal is to make the economic, educational, cultural, and civic benefits of the arts available to all communities by broadening public access to the arts.



# Winter weather driving

**La Niña conditions are expected for the second year in a row, which means we can expect another colder, wetter winter in Auburn. While snow gives up picturesque landscapes and the opportunity for fun activities, it also means that navigating roads can become a challenge. Luckily, when the storms hit, your City of Auburn Maintenance and Operations (M&O) team has already been hard at work for several days preparing equipment and material to be ready.**

When a winter storm is predicted to hit our community, our team goes into overdrive, working around the clock to keep our City functioning. Rather than waiting for bad weather to arrive, crews kick into action days in advance, pre-treating many of our roadways with sand or a de-icing agent to help slow ice from forming on the roads.

As the snow arrives, our team begins to plow and treat the streets according to priority. Most important are major routes throughout the city, allowing for emergency vehicles to move through the city to help those in need of assistance. Once these routes are cleared, we move on to secondary routes, though many times during a typical 2-to 4-day snow event the weather changes to rain and melts the snow before we can complete the secondary routes.

You will see maintenance crews all over the City during a major storm event, as they clear and treat roadways for all of us to travel. This means that crews may be working in shifts over a 24-hour period to keep Auburn moving, so you may hear plow trucks in or near your neighborhood during the night.

We would enjoy nothing more than to clear and treat every street in the city, including all the residential streets, but the reality is that we don't have enough staff or equipment to be able to accomplish a task that large. In order to serve the greatest number of residents as quickly as possible, we've developed a plan to maximize our efficiency with the City of Auburn Snow and Ice Routes Map ([auburnwa.gov/snow](http://auburnwa.gov/snow)). This map shows at a glance what our priority and secondary routes are and where we will be focusing our resources. Once these routes are completely cleared and treated, we will then begin clearing the neighborhood collector streets (these are the roads that connect your neighborhood to the primary or secondary routes on the map) and only when these are completely cleared and treated will we move to the remainder of the neighborhood streets.

## Winter driving tips



### Prepare your car

- Check your battery – battery power drops in cold weather.
- Check your lights
- Make sure you have enough coolant.
- Make sure your windshield washer fluid reservoir is full of “winter” fluid with de-icer.
- Check that your wiper blades are working properly.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel to avoid gas line freeze.
- Pack a winter emergency kit, including blankets, shovel, broom, ice scraper, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand or kitty litter), cell phone with charger, water, and food.
- Clean your car’s external cameras and side view mirrors so you can see what’s around you.

### Before you drive

Check the forecast, especially for long trips. If winter weather is coming, only travel if it is necessary. If you must travel, share your plans with someone before you leave.

### While driving

- Drive slowly, and make sure to accelerate and decelerate slowly.
- Increase following distance.
- Avoid using cruise control.
- If possible, don’t stop when going uphill.
- As always, pay attention and avoid texting, social media, or using handheld devices while driving.

### Check the mountain passes!

If you’re planning on travel through any of Washington’s mountain passes, make sure to check if it’s open and the conditions. WSDOT provides up to date information about mountain passes and winter travel around the state. Visit their website at [wsdot.com/travel/real-time/mountainpasses](https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/mountainpasses) or call 5-1-1 to find out more!

### If you get stuck in the snow or a storm

- Stay with your vehicle. It gives you temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Don’t overexert yourself. If you are digging your car out of the snow, stop if you become tired.
- Be visible. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled-up window to make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Clear the exhaust pipe. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause carbon monoxide to leak into the car while the engine is running.
- Stay warm. Use whatever is available, including extra blankets, sweatshirts, newspapers, or even the floor mat, to insulate your body from the cold.
- Conserve fuel. If possible, only run the engine and heater long enough to remove the chill to help conserve fuel.

## Don’t forget the sidewalks!

Did you know that per Auburn City Code 12.40 it is your responsibility to remove all ice and snow from the sidewalks abutting your property within 24 hours of a snow event?

Make sure you stock up on your rock salt and snow shovels, and don’t forget to clear the sidewalk so that you and your neighbors can safely get where you need to go!



## Transit route changes during snow events

When winter weather hits, transit agencies that serve Auburn – King County Metro, Sound Transit, and Pierce Transit – keeps the public transit system running so you can get to your destination. However, during snow events, transit routes and service may change or be canceled.

For more details, visit King County Metro’s website at [kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/alerts-updates/winter.aspx](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/alerts-updates/winter.aspx) or call 206-553-3000.

### Transit alerts

As winter weather and storms approach, it is a good idea to sign up for transit alerts for the routes you regularly take. See the following websites or phone numbers to sign up for alerts or to learn more about route changes.

#### King County Metro

[kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/alerts-updates.aspx](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/alerts-updates.aspx) | 206-553-3000

#### Sound Transit

[soundtransit.org/ride-with-us/service-alerts](https://soundtransit.org/ride-with-us/service-alerts)  
1-888-889-6368

#### Pierce Transit

[piercetransit.org/snow-extreme-weather/](https://piercetransit.org/snow-extreme-weather/)  
253-581-8000



# FITNESS

AT THE  
AUBURN COMMUNITY  
& EVENT CENTER

## One day or day one? The New Year always gets us thinking of new beginnings.

It's a time for reflection, a time to set goals and plan for the future and often those goals and plans pertain to health and wellness. While it's not uncommon for people to set a goal of weight loss in the New Year, a focus on good health has been shown to lead to far greater benefits and long term sustainability versus a weight loss emphasis. Here are five great ways to focus on your total health in 2022:

### **Begin or continue an exercise routine.**

Aim for 30 minutes a day most days. Most importantly, find an activity that you enjoy. Ask a friend or family member to join you for support and mix it up; try new activities and classes to keep variety in your routine. If you're not sure where to start, try joining a class at the Community Center and let our instructors run you through a range of activities.

### **Get enough sleep.**

You'll need 7-9 hours of sleep every night! Ensure quality sleep turning off your electronics, doing light yoga or stretching before bed or doing something relaxing.

### **Eat more fruits and vegetables.**

It is recommended to consume 5-9 servings per day of fruits and vegetables by the USDA. Getting adequate fruits and vegetables promotes a long and healthy life! Sneak extra servings into foods that you're already enjoying.

### **Drink water.**

Be sure to get enough water- at least 60 ounces per day. Staying well hydrated can improve your energy, control your calorie intake, hydrate your skin and improve your kidney function.

### **Be social!**

Maintaining social connections is an important part of good mental health. Participating in fitness programs at the Community Center allows member and participants an opportunity to meet new people, share goals and cheer for each other along the way.

Auburn Community Fitness has been helping Auburn stay active during the COVID-19 pandemic with a several options to participate. We offer 30 fitness classes each week in a variety of formats: in-person, virtual and hybrid. Having this variety has made it possible for our community to stay active in a way that works for them. As we continue adapting to the changing guidelines we look ahead to exciting things to come. Some things we're looking forward to in 2022:



[auburnwa.gov/fitness](http://auburnwa.gov/fitness)

### **The re-opening of drop-in childcare.**

Drop-in childcare has been on hiatus since March of 2020 and we are so excited to bring it back! At the Community Center we know how many families rely on a safe and fun place for the kids to play while parents use the Fitness Center or attend a fitness class. We also know how important it is for kids to have a space for free play and social interaction with their peers. From babies on up, we all need time with friends! Unlimited childcare can be added onto a Fitness Membership for \$15 a month per child.

### **Clases de Yoga en español (Spanish language Yoga Classes)**

Estamos encantados de anunciar que el yoga en español comenzará en enero. Los beneficios del yoga incluyen: reducción del estrés y la ansiedad, mejora del equilibrio y la flexibilidad; aumento de la densidad ósea y mejora del sueño, entre otros. Esta nueva clase se instruirá completamente en español y será apropiada para todos los niveles de condición física. Las colchonetas y accesorios estarán disponibles para los participantes y no se requiere membresía de fitness. La clase se llevará a cabo el segundo sábado del mes a las 8:30 a.m. en el Auburn Community & Event Center.

*(We're thrilled to announce Spanish language Yoga to start in January. The benefits of yoga include: stress and anxiety reduction, improved balance and flexibility; increased bone density and improved sleep among others. This new class will be instructed entirely in Spanish and will be appropriate for all fitness levels. Mats and props will be available for participants and Fitness Membership is not required. Class will be held on the second Saturday of the month at 8:30am at the Auburn Community & Event Center.)*

### **Nourish & Restore Monthly Yoga & Mindfulness Workshops**

Nourish & Restore is an opportunity for Fitness Members to practice mindful yoga and meditation designed specifically to calm the nervous system and help alleviate the effects of stress. It will explore slow, rhythmic movement infused with breath practices and mindfulness meditations. This workshop is a great compliment to an active life style and the perfect addition to your workouts as it gives the body a chance to slow down, release tension and quiet the mind. Each class will have a theme and there will be many pauses to observe, reflect, and connect to the present moment. These 90-minute workshops will be exclusively available for Fitness Members.

Fitness Membership has many benefits including unlimited access to fitness classes; access to the Virtual Fitness Library of recorded classes; open gym programs; full access to the Fitness Center and drop-in childcare. Perhaps the most important benefit is the opportunity to be active with your friends and neighbors- fostering connections while growing strong and healthy. Auburn Community Fitness strives to provide an supportive and welcoming environment with a team of instructors to lead the way to a healthy life.





## Let's work together to reduce plastic pollution

Washington State implemented a new state law, RCW 70A.245 in 2021 aimed at reducing the use of single-use plastics that create plastic pollution. The goal of the new law is to:

- reduce contamination in the recycling and compost systems
- promote reuse and recycled content
- build consistency in policy and enforcement across the state
- support the recycled paper industry

The new plastic law will be phased in over several years and will help reduce the use of some plastics and drive the development of new markets for Washington's recyclable plastics. Here's how the new law may affect you as the new regulations are implemented.

### As a consumer

When you eat at a restaurant or food truck or shop at farmers markets, retail stores, grocery stores, temporary stores, home delivery, convenience stores, etc. they will no longer have single use plastic bags available but instead will have either a paper bag or a thick reusable plastic carryout bag. These bags will carry and .08 cent charge per bag. You can avoid the .08 cent per bag charge and help reduce waste by getting in the habit of bringing your own bag to shop. #BringYourOwnBag



### As a business

If you operate a restaurant, food or retail business in Washington, it is important that you understand the new regulations. Such as:

- Stores may not provide customers with single-use plastic carryout bags.
- Stores must charge a minimum charge of .08 cents for large paper bags (882 cubic inches or larger) and reusable plastic bags (2.25 mil or thicker).
- The large paper bags for which customers are charged must contain at least 40% post-consumer recycled content with the bag's post-consumer recycled content printed on the outside of the bag.
- The reusable plastic film bags for which customers are charged must contain at least 20% post-consumer recycled content with the minimum percentage of post-consumer recycled content, the mil thickness, and the word "Reusable" printed on the outside of the bag.
- Small plastic bags are allowed such as those used for bulk items, produce, meat, or other items like hardware, frozen foods, flowers and plants, unwrapped prepared foods, bakery goods, and prescription drugs.
- Businesses may not charge the bag charge to customers using/showing a voucher or benefits card (SNAP, WIC, TANF, FAP).

If you have questions about whether your business must comply with this ban, please contact [bagban@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bagban@ecy.wa.gov).



# WASHINGTON STATE BAG REQUIREMENTS

For Retailers, Grocers, Restaurants, and other Businesses



**NO**  
**Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags**



**8¢ charge**  
**Large Paper Carryout Bags**  
Made with 40% recycled content.  
Charges must be retained by the business.



**8¢ charge**  
**Thick Reusable Plastic Carryout Bags**  
Made with 20% recycled content and a minimum of 2.25 mil thick film. Charges must be retained by the business

## Other bags ALLOWED:



Durable Reusable Bags



Small Paper Bags



Produce, Meat, Bulk Foods, Bakery Goods, etc.



Flowers, Drycleaning, Newspaper Bags, etc.

## Why was this law adopted?

Prior to implementation of the new law, Washington conducted a study to focus on plastic packaging in Washington. This comprehensive study on the generation of plastic packaging waste was completed in 2017 and updated in 2020. The study found that Washington residents disposed of 410,300 tons of plastic packaging per year. That equates to an average of 112 pounds of plastic packaging waste per person per year!

State legislators have now set a 2025 goal that all packaging in Washington will be 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable and that this packing contains a least 20% post-consumer recycled material.

*Eventually, Washington will phase out:*

- Single-use plastic bags
- Expanded polystyrene (coolers and peanuts)

*And will require:*

- Higher recycled-content minimums contained in plastic products
- Restaurants and other food establishments to only supply single-use service ware to customers who request it

Major steps system-wide are needed to reduce plastic pollution and increase the value of recycled plastic commodities. For this reason, Washington State is one of the founding members of The U.S. Plastic Pact, a collaboration led by the Recycling Partnership and World Wildlife Fund in partnership with Ellen MacArthur Foundation that will unify stakeholders' approaches across the supply chain to create a path forward to improve the circular economy for plastics in the United States.

Information for this article courtesy of the Department of Ecology. Please visit their website [ecology.wa.gov](http://ecology.wa.gov) for full information on the 2021 Plastics Laws.

## Law phase-in timeline

### 2021

- Plastics will no longer include the chasing arrows symbol
- Stakeholder committee finalizes recommendations for items not covered in 2021 plastics law

### 2022

Restaurants and food service businesses to only give customers disposable serviceware upon request. These items include plastic utensils, straws, condiment packages, and cup lids for cold beverages.

### 2023

Require minimum recycled content in several types of single-use plastics, starting with trash bags and beverage bottles.

### 2023 - 2024

Restrict the sale of specific types of expanded polystyrene (e.g., Styrofoam™) products, starting in 2023 with packing peanuts. The restrictions will apply to food service containers and recreational coolers beginning in 2024.

### 2024

State agencies may only buy plastic trash bags that meet the post-consumer recycled content requirements.

### 2025

A minimum amount of recycled content will be required in plastic bottles used for household cleaners and personal care products.

### 2028

- A minimum amount of recycled content will be required in plastic milk bottles and small plastic wine bottles.
- Conduct a study of plastic resin market conditions, if funding is available.

## What Can I Recycle?



Plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs (no cups)



Clean paper and cardboard (no cartons)



Tin and aluminum cans



Glass bottles and jars



No plastic bags!



No paper cartons!

Free Christmas tree and polystyrene (Styrofoam™) collection events in January. Visit [auburnwa.gov/solidwasteevents](http://auburnwa.gov/solidwasteevents) for details.

## Received an Oops Tag?

WM drivers will place a yellow "Oops Tag" on recycling carts when they notice contaminants inside.

After 3 incidents, WM will provide a verbal warning along with additional education. Continued contamination could lead to suspension of recycling service.



## Contact WM

[WMNORTHWEST.COM/AUBURN](http://WMNORTHWEST.COM/AUBURN)  
IS YOUR #1 RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION



MY WM APP



Manage accounts and billing, request services, and view pickup schedules.



EMAIL

[pnwrsservices@wm.com](mailto:pnwrsservices@wm.com)



CHAT

Weekdays 7a-5p



PHONE

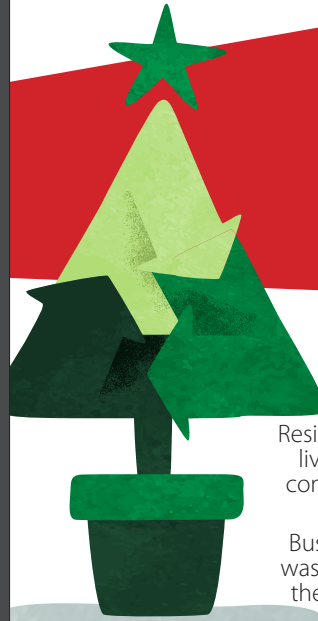
253-939-9792

M-F 7a-7p  
Sat 8a-5p



# Christmas Tree Collection Event

January 3-7, 2022



Residential and multifamily customers who live within the city limits of Auburn can compost their organic Christmas tree and wreath at no additional cost.

Business customers who have yard+food waste service can place their cut up tree in their yard+food waste cart for collection.

Visit [auburnwa.gov/solidwasteevents](http://auburnwa.gov/solidwasteevents) for more details and set-out guidelines. Decorated or flocked trees cannot be composted.

Funding provided by a Department of Ecology Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Grant, King County Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant, and the City of Auburn Solid Waste & Recycling.



# Your full-service city of Auburn app

Report concerns like potholes & graffiti.

Learn more about the city, sign up for email updates, or even check our traffic cameras.



**SeeClickFix**  
AUBURN, WASHINGTON

Get it now in the App Store or Google Play

# recycle STYROFOAM

Free!

Saturday, January 8  
9am-1pm

**Restrictions Apply:** Is it Styrofoam? (Expanded Polystyrene)  
Look for the #6 or EPS symbol.  
Clean & dry material ONLY, free of tape

Funding for this event provided by a King County Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant, City of Auburn Solid Waste & Recycling and Safeway/Albertsons.

**SAFEMAY**

Drop-off recycling in the Safeway Parking Lot



# ADULT DAY CARE

## Auburn Respite Program

### Our adult day care has been assisting families in South King County since 1988

Most of the elderly in our community are able to care for themselves. Others may need assistance because of health problems associated with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke, as well as frail health. Many of these people are cared for by family members. The pressures and demands of caregiving are 24/7. Our program was created to provide assistance to families in this situation. While family caregivers get a much needed break, their loved ones are secure and safe, in a comfortable and welcoming setting. Our trained volunteer staff members are compassionate and dedicated. They do their best to insure that the participants are happy and well taken care of, physically and mentally.

**We provide care for seniors with memory loss or frail health who need supervision.**

**While the family caregiver gets a well-deserved break the participant is involved in the activities the program provides.**

**There is a fee for services: \$40.00 for a five hour day, which includes lunch. Fees may be negotiated upon request.**

### Our Mission Statement

Our goal is to keep dependent seniors in their family homes for as long as possible, delaying or negating the need for a nursing home. Our program partners with the City of Auburn, receiving support and assistance with meals and a donated meeting space.

### We are a social group!

We meet on Fridays, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Auburn Senior Activity Center at 808 9th St SE. We provide a day of activities that include:

- Reminiscing
- Arts and crafts
- Exercise
- Music
- Games
- Companionship
- Lunch



**We like to laugh and enjoy life as fully as possible!**

AUBURN PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION

# SENIOR *Activity* CENTER

### CONTACT US

Contact Sheila Pankratz at 253-229-7510 | [sheiladorene@gmail.com](mailto:sheiladorene@gmail.com)

Auburn Senior Center: 253-931-3016 | 808 9th St. SE, Auburn, WA 98002



# LITTLE-KNOWN FIRE HAZARDS CAN BE A BIG PROBLEM



When it comes to fire hazards in the home, there are many obvious causes: faulty wiring, unattended candles, overloaded outlets. But there are quite a few hazards that aren't so noticeable. Even when you think you're being careful, some dangers come as a surprise. Household fires are devastating and costly. Here are a few lesser known hazards you should watch out for.

## Hot Laundry

Most of us know that we need to keep our dryer lint filters and exhaust hoses clear of lint, but there is also a danger in not allowing clothes to cool before removing them from the dryer.



"If clothing or towels are removed from the dryer and piled up while they are very hot, the heat is retained and can start a fire," said Josh Rogers, Assistant Fire Marshal for the Valley Regional Fire Authority. Because of the retained heat, he said, the temperature can continue to rise. "As the temperature rises, the chemical reactions proceed faster and soon you have a fire or a smoldering condition, which can burst into open flame."

Even more dangerous are kitchen towels that may contain cooking oils. The polyunsaturated fatty acids present in vegetable oil can become very reactive if they are left on items and put in the dryer. Often a typical wash cycle fails to remove all oils.

The best way to prevent these fires is to let the dryer finish its cool-down cycle before removing anything.

## Excess Sawdust

Sawdust doesn't look very dangerous, but it can collect easily when working on a project. It can be highly combustible when left on surfaces. Regularly clean work surfaces with a vacuum designed to collect combustible dust, or install a good dust collection system in work areas.

## Lithium Batteries

Lithium batteries are capable of spontaneous ignition and subsequent explosion due to overheating. Overheating may be caused by electrical shorting, rapid discharge, overcharging, manufacturers defect, poor design, or mechanical damage, among many other causes.



The right charger for your battery is crucial to prevent overcharging; the charger must match the battery in terms of output voltage and Ah rating. It's easier to avoid overcharging in lithium-ion batteries because they can receive a partial charge or be charged intermittently.

## 9-Volt Batteries

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys. But these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.



9-volt batteries positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.

To prevent fires do not store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting. Even weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire.

Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape.

Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items. To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries. Check with your local waste management company to see if batteries are allowed to be disposed of with trash or need to be taken to a household hazardous waste collection site.

## Loose Outlets

When you plug something in to an outlet in your home, do you notice the cords falling out easily? This could be part of a larger problem. The blades inside electrical outlets can loosen over time. Loose blades can generate intense heat and lead to fires. If you notice your plugs don't fit snugly, replace the outlet to prevent this common fire hazard. This problem can also happen with power strips or even loose breakers in your electrical panel.



## Leaky or Old Dishwashers

One of the most common causes of house fires are appliances, but you may not realize that a leaky dishwasher could be the culprit. If leaking water gets into the heating element or electrical components, it is possible for a fire to ignite.

## Linseed Oil

If you've recently completed a few home improvement projects, you may have linseed oil around the house. This product is often used to polish wood furnishings, and when left on a rag, it can spontaneously combust. Instead of tossing used rags in the corner with your other project supplies, take the time to dispose of them in a metal container with a lid.

## Fireplace Ashes, Coals or Smoking Material Disposal

Coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to start a fire for many days after you think the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning and how much unburned fuel remains.



To be safe, treat all ashes and coals as hot, even when you think they had time enough to cool. Allow ashes and coals to cool in the area where you had the fire for several days. These devices are designed to contain heat safely. When it is time to dispose of the ashes, transfer them to a metal container and wet them down. Do not put the ashes in a plastic container or bag as these are combustible. Keep the metal container outside your home and away from any combustibles until the refuse is hauled away.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Valley Regional Fire Authority at 253-288-5800 or email us at [info@vrfa.org](mailto:info@vrfa.org).

# Auburn's New Community Fund Program

**The Community Services Department is pleased to announce our new opportunity for supporting community-led projects within Neighborhood Programs!**

The Community Fund program is designed for communities who live, work, or study in the Valley and Plateau areas of Auburn.

The goal is to create connections between community members, their neighborhoods, and the City of Auburn.

If you have ideas for a project in those communities that promotes community wellness, accessibility, inclusivity, and connectedness, you can submit them online or by filling out an application available at the Customer Service Counter on the 2nd Floor of 1 E Main St (across from City Hall).

Ideas will be given by community members, the City will look at these ideas and choose ones that fit the scope of the program, and present it to the community to be voted on throughout the month of May. The voted project (or projects depending on the budget) will be completed by the City alongside community members.

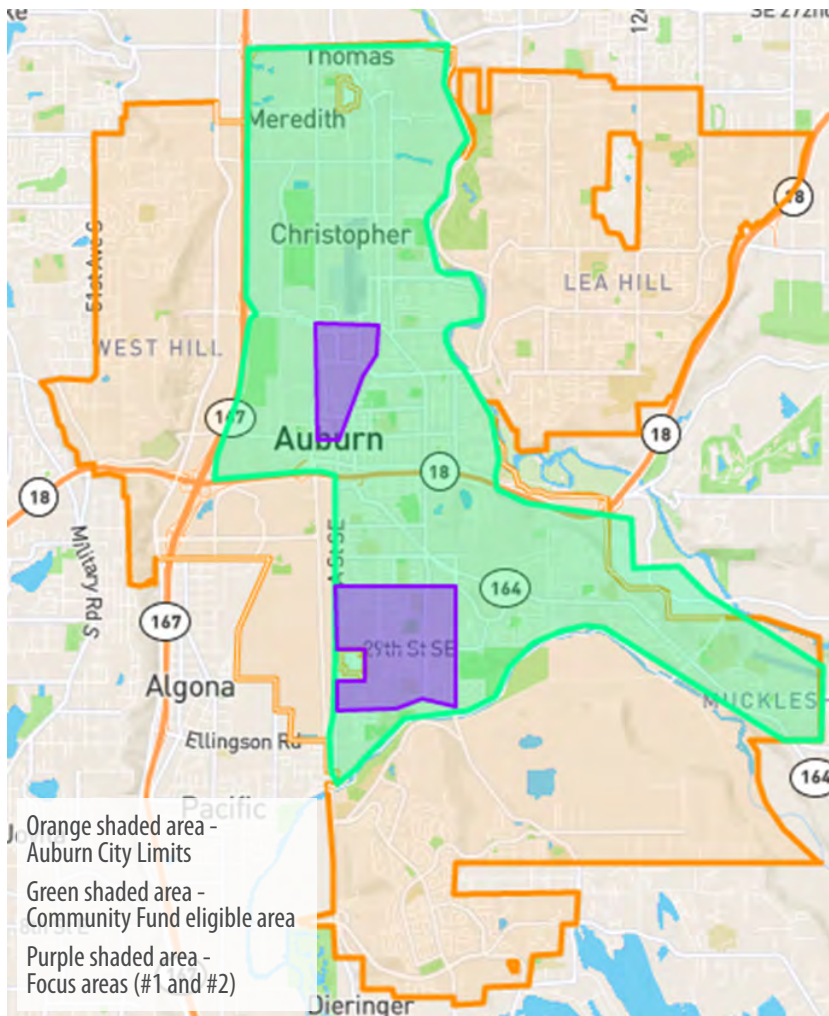
For more details and to submit your idea, visit [speakupauburn.org/communityfund](https://speakupauburn.org/communityfund) or contact Chris Lovings, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator, at [clovings@auburnwa.gov](mailto:clovings@auburnwa.gov).

## Meet Chris Lovings, City of Auburn Neighborhood Programs Coordinator

Chris Lovings joined Team Auburn in September 2021, as our Neighborhood Programs Coordinator with our Community Development Department.



Chris grew up throughout the United States as a military child. He lived in 6 different states before he turned 14! Before joining us in Auburn, he worked for the Public Defender's Office in Georgia, a UK-based volunteer organization that sent him to Nepal and Sri Lanka, and as the Community Engagement Manager for Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP). He is excited to work with the Community Services Team to ensure Auburn is a healthy, inclusive, and engaged community.



# Get to Know Auburn's Family Programs

## Fun for the whole family!

The Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation Department has some exciting family program offerings for you to enjoy together now that we are back opening up more in the new year.

We have our ever-popular **Indoor Playground** for children aged 1-5 where families come to play from all over the valley. It has become quite an inter-generational social event, with kids, parents, and grandparents all coming to the gym to have fun, meet new friends, socialize, and watch their little ones zoom around the gym.

To give parents a break from all the hectic days, we offer a break for mom and dad, and a fun monthly night of play for the kids at our **Parent's Night Out**. Parents get a night alone, while kids are dropped off at the gym, provided dinner and an evening of fun with a variety of activities, including sports, games, crafts, and more.

Upcoming March 12, we will be offering a special night for dads and daughters, where dads can bring their little princess and enjoy an evening of dancing, refreshments, and other fun activities at our **Daddy Daughter event**. Later in the month, March 26, we have set aside a special day for moms and sons to come have a special night together at our **Ladies & Gents event**, with dancing, refreshments, and fun-filled activities around a fun theme with what little boys love to do most.

We love to help our families celebrate together and we invite you can come party at the Les Gove Park Gymnasium, while we provide the fun with one of our fun-filled **Birthday Party Packages**. Our party crew will facilitate a two-hour, action-packed party for your child. You get to have fun and we will do all the work!

In addition to family programs, Auburn Parks offers a variety of athletic programs for all ages. For adults we will have a **cornhole league** on Wednesday evenings at the Outlet Collection. This is a continuation of our very successful summer league we held in Downtown Auburn and want to keep the fun going indoors during the winter months.

**Adult 4-on-4 basketball** will be back for the first time in two years with league play on Tuesday evenings at the Auburn Community & Events Center gym. **Pickleball** leagues, clinics and tournaments are coming this winter and spring. Stay tuned for more information.

The kids can play too! For youth we will be offering **instructional sports classes** in Basketball (January), Flag Football (February) and Soccer (March). Kids will learn the fundamentals of the game through drills, games, coaching and other activities.

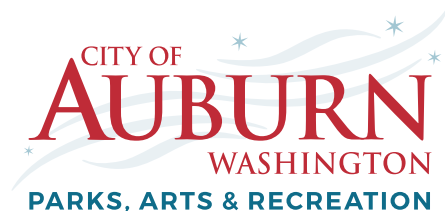
Stay active this winter by signing up yourself and/or your child for a program through the City of Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation at [auburnwa.gov/play](http://auburnwa.gov/play) or give us a call at 253-931-3043 to register.



Partnering with Auburn's community-wide events, cultural arts and other park and recreation programs is a fantastic marketing option for your business!



Visit [auburnwa.gov/events](http://auburnwa.gov/events) for 2022 package options!



# FITNESS

AT THE  
**AUBURN COMMUNITY  
& EVENT CENTER**



Unlimited access to fitness classes both virtual and in-person

Unlimited use of the fitness center

Open gym programs

Unlimited access to the full virtual fitness class library

Drop-in childcare

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP**

- Adult ● \$20/month
- Senior/Teen ● \$15/month

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP WITH UNLIMITED CHILDCARE**

- Adult + 1 child ● \$35/month
- Adult + 2 children ● \$50/month
- Adult + 3 children ● \$65/month

**DAILY DROP-IN**

- Adult \$5 ● Senior/Teen \$4



**Auburn Community & Event Center**  
910 9th St SE | Auburn, WA 98002  
Monday-Friday 6:30am-9pm | Saturday 8am-4pm  
253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/fitness