

Auburn

MAGAZINE
SPRING 2023

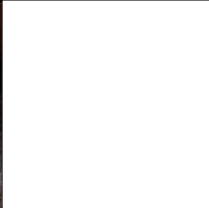


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Did you know?

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

Licensing your pet provides protection in the event that they go missing.

AVOID THE FINE!

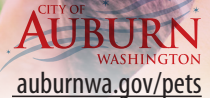
Failure to license your pet per Auburn City Code 6.04.010 will result in a fine of \$50

Every day pets are lost.

License your pet today!
auburnvalleyhs.org



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



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BUY LOCAL AUBURN

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BUYLOCALAUBURN.COM

Auburn MAGAZINE

SPRING 2023

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

EDITOR

Jonathan Glover
jglover@auburnwa.gov

DESIGNER

Sarah St. George
City of Auburn
Multimedia Design



The new Auburn Arts & Culture Center is opening soon!

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Art imitates life: How a Community Court graduate is drawing a new path *See page xx*

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
- 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
253-931-3010
- Records Clerk**
253-931-3007
- 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
- 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
auburnwa.gov/seniors
- Valley Regional
Fire Authority**
1101 D St NE (HeadQs)
253-288-5800
Call 911 in case of
emergency
vrfa.org
- White River Valley
Museum**
918 H St SE
253-288-7433
wrvmuseum.org

Auburn Mayor & City Council



Nancy Backus
Mayor
nbackus@auburnwa.gov
253-931-3041



James Jeyaraj
Deputy Mayor
jjeyaraj@auburnwa.gov



Bob Baggett
Councilmember
bbaggett@auburnwa.gov



Kate Baldwin
Councilmember
kbaldwin@auburnwa.gov



Larry Brown
Councilmember
lbrown@auburnwa.gov



Robyn Mulenga
Councilmember
rmulenga@auburnwa.gov



Cheryl Rakes
Councilmember
crakes@auburnwa.gov



Yolanda Trout-Manuel
Councilmember
ytrout@auburnwa.gov

Official City Council MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7pm.

Council Study Sessions are held on the second and fourth Monday each month at 5:30pm.

Meetings can be viewed live at auburnwa.gov/gatv.

From the Mayor

Dear Auburn Magazine Readers,

By the time these glossy sheets of paper hit your mailboxes, we'll be well on our way towards longer days, warmer afternoons and more colorful scenery on the horizon. Spring really is a time of hope and new beginnings, and why should this year be any different? There's much to look forward to (and plenty we're still working on) and this issue is going to tell you all about it.

We have our spring festivals right around the corner, and our yearly staples such as the Farmers Market, which will come roaring back on the calendar faster than you realize. But if structured events aren't your thing, our many parks throughout the city are particularly beautiful and bustling this time of year, so I encourage you to get out and enjoy it. Who knows – maybe you'll find a spontaneous game of frisbee you can join in on?

In this issue, we also cover some important topics. Like homelessness, and how the funds we dedicate towards wrap-around-services – not to mention the people employed – contribute meaningfully toward ending homelessness in our community. If you read the stories – and I hope you do – you'll learn that no solution is simple, and it's not one size fits all. But the inroads we're making with services such as Community Court and new transitional housing in North Auburn make an enormous impact on the lives of the people we're helping, and in return, a sizable impact on Auburn itself.

This Spring issue also takes you on a ride of the Sound Transit Sounder commuter train. You know, that giant white and blue train that stops through Auburn a dozen times a day? Our Communications Manager took a ride to

Tacoma in the morning and then hopped on the mid-morning northbound train home and documented some of this thoughts. As some of you may know, Auburn's Sounder transit center first opened over 20 years ago and has since become one of the most recognizable landmarks in our city. It's also a service that thousands in the Puget Sound rely on, connecting us to Tacoma, Seattle and beyond.

And finally, while it's not something you'll necessarily find in these pages as we're still very much planning it all, we have our annual State of the City to look forward to in April. Keep an eye out on our official communications channels (our website Auburnwa.gov, in addition to Twitter and Facebook accounts) for more details, including date, time and location.

So as the leaves change, the sun stays around for a little longer and our moods shift into a better gear, I hope you'll take the time to appreciate everything we have in Auburn. I know I will – and so will the hundreds of people who work tirelessly to make this city a wonderful place to live.



Nancy Backus
Mayor of Auburn

nbackus@auburnwa.gov
253-931-3041

Nancy Backus



SEE YOU AT THE
**Auburn
 Farmers
 Market**

JUNE 4 - SEPTEMBER 17

SUNDAYS

10AM-3PM

LES GOVE PARK

The Auburn Farmers Market is returning for its 15th season on Sunday, June 4!

We have a full season JAM-packed with 50 vendors each week! Visit us on Sundays, June 4 through September 17 for all your favorite fruits, veggies, cheeses, wine, baked goods, coffee, handmade crafts and more!

The Market will be held at Les Gove Park, adjacent to the Library just off of Auburn Way South.

With our increased footprint in the park, you will see many familiar vendors and a few new ones as well.

Eligible vendors will continue to accept EBT and Snap Market Match currency. Be sure to stop by the EBT booth to obtain your currency before shopping at vendor booths.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website for special giveaway days! We're looking forward to celebrating our Pets in the Park, the Chili Cook-Off and more this season! With the help of our Market volunteers and partners at King Conservation District, we will be giving away 100 Kid Activity Kits each month. Supplies are limited so be sure to grab your kid kit early.

We look forward to visiting with our vendors and community at the Market. See you Sundays at Les Gove Park!



auburnfarmersmarket.org | 253-931-3043



WHITE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM & MARY OLSON FARM

Little objects – big history!

The White River Valley Museum collects artifacts, photographs and histories that share the story of the valley. The Museum holds tens of thousands of objects in its collection – only a fraction of which are on exhibit. It's easy to see the historical significance of large artifacts like a wagon used to cross the Oregon trail, but little objects can also pack a lot of history! Here are some small but mighty artifacts in the Museum's collection.

1911 Nord-Pacific Saengerbund Badge. The Nord-Pacific Saengerbund (translation: North-Pacific German Choral Society) was founded in 1901 to bring together German-language choirs from Washington, Oregon, Western Canada, and Alaska for an annual song festival, called a saengerfest. German was a commonly spoken language in the Pacific Northwest in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and many of the immigrants to the White River Valley with roots in German-speaking countries brought their language and songs with them. This particular badge was given to a participant in the 1911 saengerfest in Seattle. It shows an image of the Seattle skyline dominated not by the Space Needle, but by the brand new Smith Tower, which was still under construction when this festival occurred.

Army-Navy Production Award Emblem. During World War II, the military relied on civilian factories to produce the vast majority of the goods necessary for the war effort. Those factories that did a particularly outstanding job of increasing production for the military were awarded the Production Award, also called the "E" Award (E stands for Excellence in Navy parlance). When a factory won the award, a ceremony was held in which the owner was presented with a special pennant, and every employee received a small metal badge like this one. This emblem was given to a member of the Mayor family of Kent.

Buddhist Seiten. In the first half of the 20th century, Japanese immigrants and their families made up a significant portion of the population of the White River Valley area. Many Japanese immigrants to this area were Buddhists of the Jodo Shinshu school of Pure Land Buddhism. This small book of hymns, prayers, and meditative exercises was called a *seiten*; it was used by members of both the Seattle Buddhist Church and the White River Buddhist Temple during weekly services and for personal meditation practice. Sections of the *seiten* are written in both Japanese and English. The cover of the *seiten* has a faint imprint of two twisted wisteria vines – a symbol of humility and reverence in the Jodo Shinshu tradition. This same symbol can be seen above the front doors of the White River Buddhist Temple today.

White River Valley Museum is open Wednesday – Sunday, 12-4pm and admission is free!

Learn more about the museum's exhibits and events at wrvmuseum.org



A sound morning on the Sounder train: A newcomer's introduction to a commuting staple



Jonathan Glover is the Communications Manager for the City of Auburn. He recently moved to the area from Spokane, where he worked for several years at the Community Colleges of Spokane. Jonathan lived for several years on Capitol Hill near the Link station, moving just before it opened. He's still bitter about that.



By Jonathan Glover

Something about me: I love movies, coffee, beer and you guessed it, trains. Trains don't care about traffic. They don't mind if you kick back and take a nap – you already know where they're going, and they literally can't go anywhere else. They usually run on time. And for some reason in the United States, they're completely underutilized.

In the Puget Sound, at least, we've seen a remarkable shift these past few decades, as Sound Transit's Light Rail continues to expand outside of downtown Seattle. Even 10 years ago, the concept that someone could easily take a train from SeaTac airport all the way to Lynnwood would have been unimaginable. And in just a few years, it's going to be reality.

But that brings us to Sound Transit's other rail service: the Sounder. Some might not know, but the Sounder service from Tacoma to Seattle started it all, bridging several cities to the major urban cores along the way. Cities like Auburn. The service was conceptualized as a commuter rail, with train schedules following the typical 9-5 workday.

Ridership was solid for several decades until the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Along with nearly every other facet of in-person work, public transportation usage took a nosedive as people stayed home for work. As we claw ourselves out of those habits and return to the office, the Seattle Times noted last month that Sounder ridership hasn't seen the same rebound other modes of public transportation have.

So, if it's true that most aren't using the service like they used to, what's it like to ride a train south to Tacoma these days? And what about north, taking advantage of the new mid-morning northbound train that starts around 10 a.m. in Tacoma.

I did just that and took some photos.



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 8:20 A.M.

I decided to hop on the last train south before the afternoon commute time. My walk from City Hall was short, if not freezing. By the time you read this, this particular week in February should be a distant memory, but temperatures were getting down into the 20s and boy could you feel it. As to be expected, the amount of riders waiting for the south train was quite slim – about half a dozen total. Northbound wasn't much better.

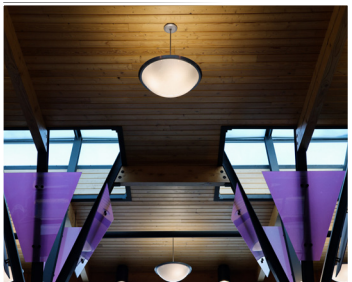


WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 8:45 A.M.

The ride from Auburn to Tacoma is much shorter than you'd expect, especially if you've ever driven the same distance. Trains really can be the best way around our region.

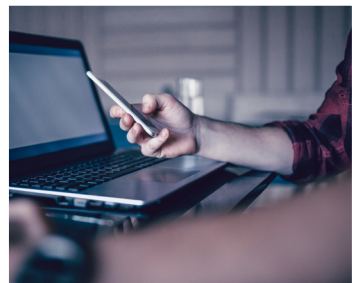
Looking around the cabin, it seemed empty. Part of you thinks and wonders if people knew what they were missing. How many services like this exist, where for under \$5 you can be in a completely different city and not even have to worry about traffic or parking?

With more ride ahead of me, I opted to do some work while the train did all the traveling.



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 9 A.M.

We'd arrived at the Tacoma Dome, where I opted to depart. I left the station along E 25th Street and hopped on the Link headed downtown. I stopped shortly after to grab some coffee and continue working. I also wanted to get out of the cold, which was biting. After enjoying a drip with a splash of oat milk, I was back on the link headed toward the Tacoma Dome station, as I had to hop on a work call at 10.



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 10 A.M.

It's hard to concentrate during a Zoom meeting in public. Don't worry, I had headphones in.



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 10:22 A.M.

I was back on my way toward Auburn. All in all, the trip would cost about \$12 (that includes the \$4 coffee). To be honest, the seats are a lot comfier than the office chair I have at work, and while the train can wobble along the tracks a bit, it wasn't distracting. It was a bit cold, but that's to be expected when temperatures were so extreme.



FINAL THOUGHTS

As a country, we really ought to figure this whole train thing out. Other developed nations have been relying on rail services (which go much, much faster than ours) as a major mode of transportation for decades. How many Amtraks have you been on this past year? And how about planes?

I understand this country is massive, but once upon a time we stitched it together with ugly highways. Why not the same with commuter rails?

Time will tell whether Sounder can recapture its pre-pandemic ridership numbers. But for my money, there's no better way to travel. Now if I can only convince people that you don't have to attend a sporting match when the Sounder runs weekend game trains.

Want to plan a trip of your own?
soundtransit.org/tripplanner



FEATURE CAPITAL PROJECT

A Street Loop (CP2117)

Planning Ahead:

It's been over 20 years since Sound Transit opened the Auburn Station and started providing regular Sounder Train service to and from Downtown Auburn. In that time, the City of Auburn's population has grown from about 40,000 to nearly 90,000 people. With this growth comes increased traffic and more need for transit services and facilities.

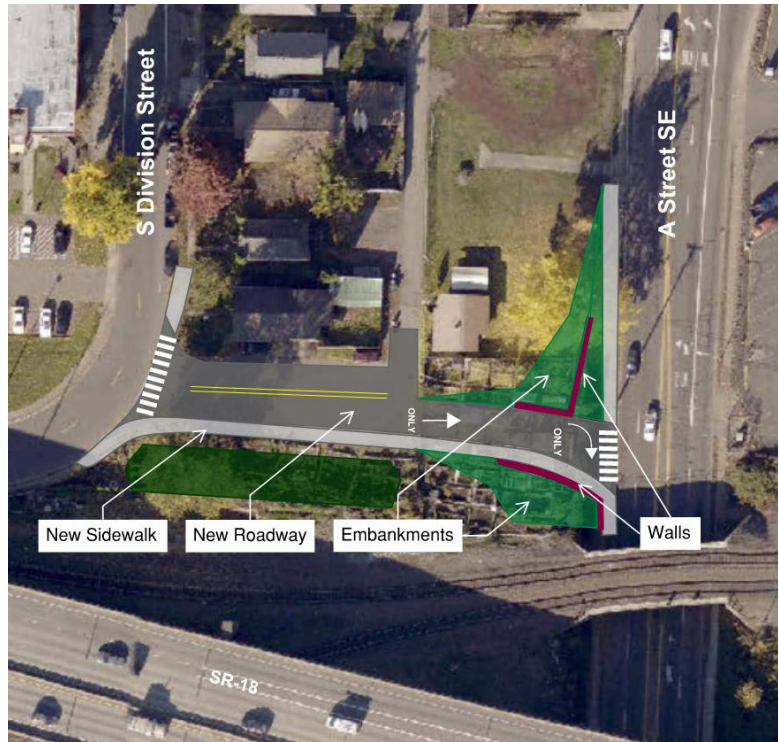
Sound Transit's plan to construct a second parking garage is great news for commuters looking for a place to park so they can catch a Sounder Train. Unfortunately, the increased commuter traffic combined with local traffic moving into and out of Downtown Auburn, has created some congested corridors and intersections. The intersection of 3rd Street SE and A Street SE is one location where drivers sometimes experience delays more than the City's established standards. Without targeted improvements to the transportation system, these delays are predicted to increase with more commuter and local traffic.

The A Street Loop project will construct the improvements needed to reduce delay times at the intersection to meet City standards. The project will allow vehicles heading south on A Street SW from Downtown Auburn and the Auburn Station to directly access southbound A Street SE without having to use S Division Street and 3rd Street SE, thus avoiding the intersection at 3rd and A Street SE.

The project will construct a new one-way (eastbound) roadway connection between S. Division Street and A Street SE. The new intersection with A Street SE will allow vehicles to turn right onto southbound A Street SE. The new roadway connection will also benefit non-motorized road users with the installation of a 10-foot-wide sidewalk equipped with downtown standard street and pedestrian lighting.



A Street Loop Project location



A Street Loop project concept

Partnering

In February 2020, Sound Transit issued a letter of concurrence that established its approach towards mitigating traffic impacts associated with its planned construction of a second parking garage. The letter established that Sound Transit would partially fund the City's A Street Loop project to mitigate traffic impacts at the intersection of 3rd and A Street SE. With this commitment, the project was partially funded and the City continued to seek other sources to help fill the funding gap. In June 2021, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) awarded the City a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant which, combined with the City's required local match funding, fully funded the project.

Project Funding

\$1,125,000	Federal Highway Administration Grant
\$340,000	Sound Transit (as mitigation for the planned second garage)
\$670,000	City of Auburn (sourced from collected Transportation Impact Fees)
\$2,135,000	Total Project Funds

Project Schedule

The project design is being finalized with construction anticipated to begin in late Spring 2023 and be completed by the end of the year.

More Information

For more information on this Project, please contact Matthew Larson, P.E., Senior Project Engineer at 253-804-5032 or email at mlarson@auburnwa.gov.

For information on all Capital Improvement Projects, please visit our website: auburnwa.gov/city_hall/public_works/capital_projects



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

Want some bragging rights with your friend group? How about the skills to help them during and after a natural disaster (knock on wood). CERT can teach you how!



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is designed to teach community members how to help themselves and others during and after a disaster.

CERT training is a blend of classroom education and hands-on practice in topics including disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, disaster medical operations, search and rescue, disaster communication, disaster psychology, and how to respond to any type of hazard as safely as possible.

CERT graduates have the opportunity to become registered emergency workers with the City of Auburn and potentially aid with local disaster response. Graduates also have the opportunity to participate in local and regional continuing education activities, including training and field exercises. Fire department and emergency management professionals from Auburn and surrounding jurisdictions, as well as the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) teach CERT classes.

Over 800 Auburn community members have taken CERT and stand ready to help their neighbors in an emergency. Are you ready to join them?

CERT Class Agenda

Introduction & Disaster Preparedness

Learn about local hazards and how they could impact our community, as well as personal and household disaster preparedness.

Disaster Medical

Part 1: Practice identifying and treating immediately life threatening conditions. Learn how to prioritize care to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Part 2: Learn how to set up treatment areas, take appropriate sanitation measures for public health, perform head-to-toe victim assessments, and treat basic injuries including burns, hypothermia, wounds, bites and stings, and other injuries. Participants will also practice splinting and treating broken or fractured limbs.

Search & Rescue

Practice effective search and rescue including location size up, search methods, rescue techniques, and personal safety. Participants will learn and practice rescue lifts and carries.

Fire Safety & Utility Controls

Understand your role in fire and utility safety, fire chemistry and hazardous materials basics, and how to reduce fire hazards. CERT members will learn how to use a fire extinguisher and will practice using an extinguisher on a controlled fire.

Disaster Psychology & Terrorism

CERT members will learn about the post-disaster emotional environment for survivors and rescuers, and steps they can take to reduce their own stress and that of others. Participants will also learn to identify signs of terrorism and appropriate steps they can take to respond to a possible terrorism incident.

CERT Organization

Discover how to organize and lead CERT teams in an emergency, and how CERT members can work together with and assist professional responders.

Final Drill

Put together everything you've learned through the CERT course and respond to a simulated disaster. Participants will find, rescue, and treat 'victims', and then celebrate the conclusion of the course through a CERT graduation!

2023 Spring CERT Class

Class Dates:
Thursdays, May 11-June 22
6-9pm

Disaster Drill:
Saturday, June 24
9am to 2pm

Cost: Free!

Learn more and sign up at
auburnwa.gov/cert

HAVE A HOME THAT'S OVER 33 YEARS OLD?

We want to hear from you (and your water service line)



The City of Auburn has taken a proactive approach to protecting the health of its customers by continuously implementing measures to ensure delivery of clean and safe drinking water. This includes such efforts as replacing any existing lead service lines over the years as we have replaced or upgraded existing facilities, most recently replacing the remaining known fittings on service lines that had the potential to include lead components. In addition, the City tests for lead in its drinking water every three years and the levels of lead are within safe limits, and have not exceeded the action level set by EPA. These results have been identified in our annual water quality reports for the last 20 years.

However, for millions of people across the United States who are potentially affected by the presence of lead in drinking water systems – which pose a significant health risk, particularly for children and pregnant women – the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in 1991. The main source of lead contamination in water are lead water service lines and service line fittings. Lead was a commonly used material in the past for drinking water applications due to its durability and resistance to corrosion, however, since 1986 when the federal government banned its use, efforts have been in place to eliminate lead materials from drinking water systems.

To address the issue with active lead service lines still in use across the United States today, the EPA has once again revised its LCR to better protect communities from lead exposure through drinking water. This revision includes a provision that requires agencies to document and inventory water service line materials in their systems. This inventory is to include both the public (System-owned) and private (Customer-owned) portions of the water service line. The City of Auburn has been in compliance with the LCR since its initial implementation and is fully committed to complying with EPA's revised LCR. This requires that the City develops and submits a Lead Service Line Inventory by October 16, 2024.

To comply with the revised LCR and to continue to ensure safe drinking water to our customers for years to come, the City's inventory project is intended to better understand the water service line materials that are still in use in our system today, including service line fittings for both the public and private side of the service lines. Again, the City has not used lead service lines in decades and replaces service lines when upgrading or replacing our main lines within our public system. In addition, the last remaining known fittings in the public system that may have had lead components were replaced in recent years. Therefore, the primary focus of the inventory will supplement those previous efforts and begin tracking the material type on the private service line that is owned and maintained by the property owner and is not considered part of the City's system.

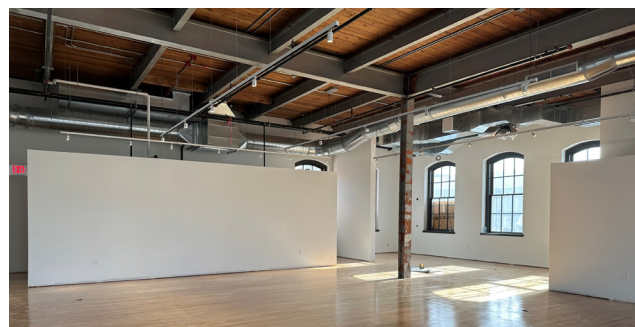
The City's inventory will be utilizing existing records, on-site inspections and water sampling to gain a complete picture of the existing service line materials in its water service area. Once completed, the project's results will be made public through the City's website and the information will be used for further public outreach and next steps.

To make this effort as successful as possible, we need your help!

If your home, office, or business was constructed before 1990 and you have any records identifying what material your water service line is made of, we would love to hear from you. If you simply want to stay informed by providing feedback with questions or comments, we want to hear from you too. Inquiries can be emailed to Senait Gebreeyesus, Water Utility Engineer at sgebreeyesus@auburnwa.gov or call 253-804-5061. By working together, we can protect public health and secure a sustainable future for years to come.

For more about the EPA's revised Lead and Copper Rule, visit [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule)







Auburn Arts & Culture Center Coming Soon!

As the spring flowers begin to open, we are also eagerly awaiting the opening of the new Auburn Arts and Culture Center later this spring! The beautiful 1937 landmark Post Office building has been a whirl of activity and excitement as interior construction transforms the space, allowing new life to be brought into the historic building. As an Arts and Culture Center, the building will provide the community with: visual, performing and literary arts; cultural celebrations; arts and culture education and programming that will empower diverse communities by providing the opportunity to unite within the shared language of the arts.

From crisp, clean drywall in the gallery spaces to the beautifully refinished hardwood floors, progress is becoming more visible, and with it, anticipation about this new gathering place is becoming more exciting! Bryan Sutton from American West Construction has been leading the construction efforts and ensuring that the vision designed by Johnston Architects with the City comes to life successfully. The building's beautiful historic window interiors recently received a fresh new look with dark grey paint, standing out distinctively against the clean white walls, and the new hexagonal tiles in the restrooms give a nod to the building's historical past.

"It is such an exciting moment to see the dream of this Arts and Culture Center finally becoming a reality after so many years," said 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."

Although there is more work to do before this space opens its doors to visitors, we recognize that getting to this step would not have been possible without incredible support from many partners. King County's Landmarks Commission and 4Culture's Preservation Department have been integral to the success of protecting and maintaining this historic landmark building. Specific grant funding from 4Culture was secured to rehabilitate the windows, the distinctive original cupola, the terrazzo and wood flooring, the roof, and other building elements. 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 secured thanks to efforts by former 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 Phase One Main Floor renovations for Auburn's Arts and Culture Center are nearly complete.

Community gathering places such as the future Auburn Arts and Culture Center have the potential to be as dynamic as the communities that enjoy and activate them. In addition to planned programming scheduled for the fall, the Arts team is gathering community input to continue to activate the space. We want to hear your voice and your thoughts on what kind of collaborative community-driven programs you would like to see take place at this new space! From fashion shows to food trucks, hands-on artmaking sessions to cultural activities, and everything in-between, the possibilities are endless! We encourage you to contact us, to share your ideas, and help us redefine this building as a central hub where the entire community can come together in appreciation, and creation of artistic and cultural experiences.

Watch for announcements about a community dedication event, open house hours, summer pop-up events and more via the City's website at auburnwa.gov/arts and make sure to subscribe to our Arts & Events eblast, Facebook page and the Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation Instagram page.



Auburn fourth graders Link Up with Auburn Symphony

If you have a fourth grader in Auburn Schools or Muckleshoot Tribal Schools this year, you may have heard about a musical field trip in January. Auburn Symphony Orchestra performed its second annual Link Up Concert for over 1,200 Auburn fourth grade students at Auburn Performing Arts Center.

This annual concert is an opportunity to make deep connections between children and professional musicians. Most of the students have never experienced a live orchestra performance before. And although bringing a child to their first orchestra concert is a special thing, this one involves a lot of preparation and learning before the big day.

Auburn Symphony Orchestra utilizes the Link Up curriculum developed by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Fourth grade music teachers are provided with learning guides and teaching resources free of charge along with local support from orchestra staff. Of four rotating programs, this year was The Orchestra Sings which focused on melody and how it can express ideas and emotions, help tell a story, and bring people together with a song.

In their classrooms, children learn about the orchestra in a highly participatory and instrument-focused way. They explore music through a composer's lens, actively making music and performing repertoire on recorder, voice, or body percussion. This learning culminates in a live, interactive concert with Auburn Symphony Orchestra where students sing, dance, and play with the symphony from their seats.

"We are so pleased to be bringing this opportunity to over 1,200 students for free again this year," says ASO's Executive Director Rachel Perry. "It's made possible by the enthusiasm and dedication of all the elementary music teachers in the Auburn School District, along with support from many community partners and we are so grateful to them all."

Being in the concert hall, packed with children, a person can not help but be impressed to hear the kids cheer with excitement about Tchaikovsky, sing together in three different languages, and enthusiastically shout answers to music term trivia. The song which really got the kids on their feet dancing and singing this year was "Oye" by Jim Papoulis, a song which he wrote while working with young children in Mexico.

One of the great things about this program is that the kids are introduced to music from well-known historical composers like Ludwig van Beethoven, Antonín Dvořák, and Igor Stravinsky, as well as new works by contemporary composers. For example, a new arrangement of the traditional freedom song, "We Shall Not Be Moved," arranged by Haitian American composer Nathalie Joachim was featured in this year's program and an orchestral arrangement of "Ram Tori Maya"—which is based on a Hindustani bhajan—by Indian American composer Reena Esmail. These are professional composers that children in Auburn can see themselves in.

You can learn more about Auburn Symphony and support their education programs at auburnsymphony.org



"It was pure awesomeness. It felt magical!"

"I had sooo much fun with singing and playing recorders and listening to the music"

"The music field trip was amazing"



"I love hearing [the new] world symphony"

"Thank you for taking us to the orchestra! It was so much fun!"

IT'S PARTY TIME!

Let us plan your next party. Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation has party packages for all types of occasions. Adults and youth alike can enjoy several options to create a memorable experience.

Time is precious and who wants a mess? Let us help you have a low stress birthday party for your child. Birthday Party Packages are available Saturday or Sundays. Choose your day and time and come party at the Les Gove Park Gymnasium. You bring the party, and we'll provide the fun! Our party crew will facilitate a two hour action-packed party for your child and we will do all the work and cleanup. All you have to do is bring your family and friends, show up and party and all the clean-up is taken care of.

We have three party packages available:

- Good Times: Includes balloons, plates, napkins, tablecloths, goody bags.
- Great Fun: Good Times package plus cupcakes & juice.
- Unforgettable: Great Fun package plus Castle Bounce House & Face Paint.

Themes include our Indoor Playground for 5 & under or we have our Sports & Games theme. We have add-ons as well: Rock Wall, Craft, Bounce house.



Get your package today and party on!

Birthday Party Packages are available on the Les Gove Climbing Wall starting in May (weather dependent). Join us for a session of climbing; we'll provide all the equipment, belayers and instruction for kids. Adult groups are available as well and are perfect for teambuilding events.

Sign up to host your party in the Maker Space! Adult parties and Youth parties are available. Choose a project, choose your date and schedule with our Maker Space. These parties are perfect for sports teams-end of season parties, birthday parties, workplace teambuilding, moms' groups, ladies' night out and more! We have a wide selection of project options available and can even create a custom project for your group. For you youth parties, 60-minutes can be added on to the party in the REC Teen Center for pizza and games.

To book your party contact the front desk at the community center. 253-931-3043 or play@auburnwa.gov.



PERFECT FOR:

- ★ BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- ★ WORK GROUPS
- ★ TEAMBUILDING
- ★ SPORTS PARTIES
- ★ GIRLS NIGHT OUT

PRIVATE PARTIES!

AGES 14 & UP

- 1: Choose a project
- 2: Choose your day & time
- 3: Email to book!

Tier 1: 90-minute class
1-8 guests: \$135 | 9-16 guests: \$195

Tier 2: 120-minute class
1-8 guests: \$175 | 9-16 guests: \$260

Tier 3: 120-minute class
1-8 guests: \$215 | 9-16 guests: \$315

AGES 6 & UP

Up to 12 guests! \$150
\$225 with 60-minute add on in the REC

Painted Wooden Signs!

Design choices are made at time of registration. Add-on time allows for 60 minutes of free play in the REC Room at the Teen Center. Refreshments are allowed.

EMAIL MAKERSPACE@AUBURNWA.GOV
TO RESERVE YOUR PARTY & SEE SAMPLE PROJECTS

Getting Ready for Spring Gardening

Get your gardening shoes, shovels, and seeds – it is time to get ready for spring gardening! Gardening can be a family activity, a good teaching tool for kids, and a way to reduce your grocery store needs for fruits and vegetables. There is nothing better than homegrown!

Build Healthy Soil with Compost and Mulch

Healthy soil is an essential element for a healthy garden. Did you know that there are over four billion micro-organisms in a teaspoon of healthy soil? Healthy soil not only provides air, water and nutrients for plants but also serves as nature's environmental protector. In our northwest region, the top layer of soil is thin glacial till, not over rich in organics, and in many yards the soil has been disrupted during the construction of the home.

Here are a couple tips for creating healthy soil with compost and mulch:

Add compost to your lawn and garden. Compost is a natural organic material that is produced when leaves, plant residue, grass clippings and other yard waste break down over time. You can buy compost and worm castings or make your own. Bagged compost and worm castings are available at most home improvement, nursery, and garden stores.

To improve soil health:

- Spread 1 to 2 inches over garden beds in the spring and fall
- Sprinkle 1/2 to 3/4 inch on lawns in the spring or fall
- Till 1 to 4 inches into new garden beds and lawns.

Use mulch instead of toxic weed control products to reduce weed growth. Weed-n-feed and other herbicides and pesticides kill the bad bugs but also the beneficial bugs that help your garden thrive. Mulch is any material, such as chipped or shredded woody waste (chips), deciduous tree leaves, grass clippings, or organic compost.

To improve your garden soil and keep the weeds down:

Apply 4- to 6-inch-deep layer of mulch on garden beds early in spring before the weeds sprout. Keep mulch an inch away from plant stems, and do not pile around tree trunks.

Plant Right for Your Site

Select the right plants and trees for the conditions in your yard. This will allow the plants to thrive with minimal care, saving you time and money. It will also reduce maintenance and help prevent pests and diseases.

- Plan what you want to grow and follow the growing instructions.
- Plan your garden by drawing out a map and placing the plants or seeds in the locations according to their needs. This will save your time and money.
- Use the plant right for your site information at the King County Natural Yard Care website for (see resources below).

Smart Watering

Fresh water is a precious natural element, so do your best not to waste it and water smartly. Watering in the early morning allows for the plant leaves to dry out and prevents fungal disease. Here are some quick tips for watering:

- Check the soil before you water. Poke a finger or trowel a few inches down into the soil or lawn to see if the soil is still damp. When it's dry down at the root zone, it's time to water.
- Water deeply, but less frequently. After an hour, check the soil or lawn again to see if the water has reached the rootzone. Adjust your watering time to moisten the whole root zone, then wait until the upper few inches of soil are dry before watering again, which encourages deeper roots.
- Avoid watering your sidewalk or driveway.

Whether you're refreshing up your existing yard or just starting the adventure of gardening, following these tips can help you to save time, money, and grow healthy plants and vegetables.

"Everyone can garden," says long-time gardener and City employee, Joan Nelson. "There are many plants like herbs and tomatoes that do well in pots if you don't have a lot of space. Make sure to start small if you are new to gardening so you don't get overwhelmed. Gardening should be an enjoyable hobby, not work!"

Information for this article gathered from the King County Natural Yard and Garden websites at kingcounty.gov and the Saving Water Partnership at Savingwater.org

King County Spring Recycle Event

June 10, 2023

Recycle and disposal event for residential customers who live in Auburn, King County and Auburn, Pierce County.

Visit auburnwa.gov/solidwasteevents for details.

Utility Senior Discount/Rebate Program

The City of Auburn offers reduced utility rates to seniors 62 years of age or older whose annual income level does not exceed the amount allowed for very low income as defined by the Department of Housing & Urban Income Limits. This discount is also provided within the same financial limitations for customers who are permanently disabled as verified by a physician. Applicants must live in the home and have the city utility account or Waste Management account in their name.

Application forms are available at the Utility Customer Service counter or for download at auburnwa.gov/utilities.

- Existing Discount recipients must re-apply by May 31, 2023.
- Previous Rebate recipients and new applicants can apply May 1-31, 2023.

If you have questions or would like an application mailed to you, please call the Utility Billing Customer Service at 253-931-3038.



AUBURN COMMUNITY YARD SALE



**FRIDAY
JUNE 9**

**SATURDAY
JUNE 10**

**SUNDAY
JUNE 11**

HOURS (MAY VARY): 9AM-4PM

Sign up between April 1-May 15

Register by May 15 to have your address listed on the City of Auburn website.

auburnwa.gov/yardsale



Download a Yard Sale Kit that includes:

How-To-Tips, Donation Locations, Inventory Sheet, Yard Sale Sign

Yard sale signs available at the Customer Service Center, 1 E Main St, 2nd floor after May 29, 2023.

CITY OF
AUBURN
WASHINGTON

Funding provided by grants from the Department of Ecology and King County Solid Waste, and funds from City of Auburn Solid Waste & Recycling



Drawing a new path

When Ryan Toves thinks of art, his imagination goes to before.

Before he was sent to prison for the first time as a young adult. Before he was released and fell into a meth addiction. Before he was homeless. Before he stole a car to stay warm. Before he was caught. Before he was back in the system. Before his name was synonymous with court case numbers.

Before, it was just him and his drawings. Nothing complicated; just pencil, paper and imagination. The teachers in Maryland, where he grew up, knew he was good. Good enough to enter an art contest in the 6th grade. Good enough to win first place and good enough to garner interest at area art schools.

“I’ve always drawn,” the 41-year-old admitted. “It just kept improving and improving. Now it just comes second nature.”

But it took this long to realize art could be more, and not on purpose: after years in prison and subsequent run-ins with the court system, it was finally time for a change. A fresh perspective – a years-worth of hard work, but on the other side, fulfillment. And maybe art had a place somewhere in the margins.

Last year, Ryan enrolled in Pierce County’s Felony Drug Court, a therapeutic alternative that specializes in incorporating substance abuse and mental health treatment with evidence-based practices. The intense, 12-month program – which includes a rigorous community service component and sometimes daily

check-ins with counselors – was offered after Ryan was busted for stealing the car off a car lot. The court rewards graduates with a clean slate – no strike against their permanent record and no jail time.

Around the same time, Ryan also was arrested in Auburn for trespassing at area casinos. He would visit them often, as they’re open 24-hours a day, and they’re convenient. He was charged with a misdemeanor and offered a similar solution – enroll in Auburn’s Community Court program and eschew a criminal filing.

“With my criminal history, these charges against me would have probably led to me doing jail time,” Ryan said. “That’s what led me to all of this.”

For months, Ryan’s days were packed. He’d have weekly check ins in Auburn, and for four days a week, intensive outpatient appointments through Pierce County. With the treatment and therapy, he started to consider a few things. Like how to work on himself, including seeing a physician and a dentist regularly. Or how to get and hold down a job making windows.

He also learned that the hobby he excelled at as a child doesn’t have to be extracurricular.

“I figured with some of my art, I could put it into a way to express myself,” he said. “And spread it to the community.”

And spread he will – perhaps beginning with Community Court itself. Before graduating in mid-February, Ryan started on a

new drawing. While each piece is different, much of his style is like something you’d find on a tattoo parlor wall. It’s a mixture of fanaticism and real, with strong lines and a bold voice. He hopes to one-day start his own t-shirt printing business; his art emblazoned on each one. Maybe he’ll sell them at farmer’s markets or at Pike Place.

But he’s not selling the drawing he made for court. It depicts a scale – or is it a keyhole? The key before it is praised by outstretched hands bound by handcuffs, but they’re unclasped and ready to fall. The key teeth are C and C – for what, you can easily imagine. At the top reads “Community Court.” And at the bottom, perhaps an olive branch.

It’s not subtle and it doesn’t need to be. To someone like Ryan, Community Court represents what some people never get – a second chance. He didn’t squander this one. It’s an effort not lost on his court administrators, lawyers and judges. All of whom are firmly on his side.

“You were so willing and so committed,” said Judge Leah Taguba at Ryan’s graduation ceremony. “It will only be a matter of time until we’re walking into your art show.”

Only a matter of time.

“I’d never been in the mindset of where I’m at right now, of being aware that you can hold ‘artist’ as a title,” Ryan said. “It never occurred to me this could happen. Until I started these programs.”

Living in the shadows: Richard's story

Richard has lived a tough life, that much is obvious. Twenty-plus years without a home and a crippling methamphetamine addiction tend to do that.

He has some regrets, and he'll be the first to tell you — regrets about his family, and how the dynamic made a life on the streets sound more compelling than under the same roof. Regrets about the first time he tried meth and then heroin and then fentanyl and how good they felt; how nothing quite measures up to the feeling. Regrets about the times he's done too much, and how his life needed to be saved.

"The addiction is like a ball and chain," the 42-year-old said.

But mostly, how long it's taken to find stability. A sense of self. A place to rest inside, away from the elements beating down from above and the social currents threatening to upend. Away from the chaos and the noise.

He's found it, and it's in Auburn.

"I've got a long way to go," he said on a recent chilly morning as he sat in a refurbished hotel lobby a few dozen feet from his room. "This is just the beginning."

Richard is one of just a handful of residents at a former hotel called Don's Place, operated by the Compass Housing Alliance. The project stems from a county initiative, Health Through Housing, which aims to improve the difficult and complicated process of connecting people experiencing homelessness with effective and available housing.

Soon the hotel, which sits at the corner of B Street NW and 16th Street NW, will house more than 80 occupants. Though as they work on getting fully staffed and taking care of a few fixes and improvements to the space — which used to be Clarion Hotel — only a handful of people are currently residing.

For Richard, he doesn't mind that so much. He likes the quiet. He hopes when the hotel does start accepting more guests, he can move to the top floor. He wants to be away from the hustle and bustle. Plus, the view couldn't hurt.

Regardless, it's much better than where he was even just a few months ago. Homeless, moving between camps, and after that, staying at the Ray of Hope shelter, run by the Auburn Food Bank. It's there that Richard met Matt Landis, the City of Auburn's Anti-Homelessness Outreach Coordinator.



Richard talks with City of Auburn Anti-Homelessness Outreach Coordinator

On any given day, you can find Matt out and about — usually outside, and always somewhere most people don't willingly venture. He's out talking to people in parks, in forests, behind convenience stores and on the side of the road. And on this day in early December, he was at the Ray of Hope Resource Center, where Richard was hoping to find stability.

Over the next several weeks, they would check in often, Matt keeping him informed on an application process that is complicated and time-consuming.

"Ultimately, he would receive some of the best news ever that he was moving in," Matt said. "I got to inform him on January 5, and he moved in the next day."

There wasn't much to move. Some clothes, a few keepsakes. His room is sparse, with not much but a bed and a T.V. but it's perfect. For now, it's all his. The consistency and security afforded by having a roof over his head and a place to put his things have led to his mind wandering — what's next?

Permanent housing is number one on the list. And after that, reconnecting with his family. He's tried over the years, but relapses have a way of breaking up even the strongest bonds. But it's like he says, some bridges are made of metal, not wood.

From there, the only limit is his disability and perhaps his imagination. But if he can do it, anyone can, he says. The most important part is accepting the help that's given — especially from the people like Matt Landis.

"I want to give myself a hug," he said. "I'm on my path to do something for my life and my family. I'm doing what I need to do."



Building a better Auburn Police Department

The Police Advisory Committee (PAC) continues to meet monthly as they work together to help build a better Auburn. Starting in 2020, The PAC began as a chance to give the community an opportunity to act in an advisory role to provide recommendations to the Auburn Police Department concerning community policing issues -- since its origin, it has gone on to do that and so much more.

Each month, 30 members come together to represent the people of Auburn and help with the development of policies and strategies for the implementation of stronger, effective, and equitable community policing.

“The members are chosen by the Chair and co-chair of the group to represent specific groups in the Auburn Community,” said Chief Mark Caillier. “To be a true advisory group, the members are not selected by the Chief, but are chosen to provide their perspective on issues affecting the police department.”

Since its inception, the PAC has helped the Auburn Police Department implement many less lethal tools. These tools include the Wrap Restraint System, the BolaWrap, and have provided input on the new SpidrTech software and recruiting video.

The PAC has also created a Scholarship through Green River Community College. This scholarship applies to any Auburn teen who is looking to start a career in Law Enforcement.

“The scholarship partnership with Green River College will soon help our police force look more like the city it serves,” said Co-Chair of the PAC LaShund Lambert. “The desire to increase the pool of local candidates to serve in law enforcement will assist us on the path to a unified, peaceful and safe Auburn.”

And it doesn't stop there. The PAC has played a huge role in efforts to diversify the Auburn Police Department, as PAC members are now included on promotional panels during the testing process. With the help of the PAC, the APD hired 16 new officers in 2022, seven of whom were minorities. It's important to note that APD continues to select the best candidates for these positions as we actively recruit at diversity hiring events and at police testing sites.

Modernizing police response with SPIDR Tech

When you contact Comcast, your wireless provider, or even your dentist, odds are you can expect a modern customer service relationship that develops via one-to-one text messages, emails and mobile-friendly surveys.

Well, starting late last year, that same technology is now a part of the Auburn Police Department's emergency communication efforts, part of an ever-growing expansion of community engagement priorities.

The platform – called SPIDR Tech, used across the United States – enables the APD to send fully automated follow-up messages to victims of crimes and 911 callers. It also allows APD to close the communication loop by collecting community feedback about each person's experience with police, which will overall enhance the department's customer service capabilities.

“APD first began looking into this service after hearing feedback provided by the Police Advisory Committee regarding the need for better communication on Officer responses to 911 calls,” said Chief Mark Caillier. “Using the SPIDR Tech platform we hope to address this community concern and enhance our service to our community.”

SPIDR Tech, was founded by former law enforcement officers to help law enforcement agencies improve public perception and increase efficiency by providing excellent customer service.

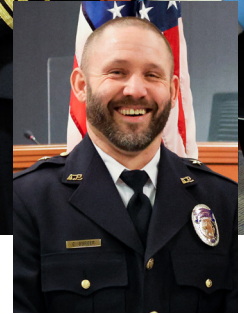
How it works is after a 911 call, you'll receive a customized-but-automated message with the time and date you contacted APD, along with an incident number and contact information on where to follow up.

You can also opt to receive messages via email. Additionally, you'll have the option to complete mobile-friendly surveys.

This partnership with SPIDR Tech means better communication, which equals a safer environment.



Sergeant
Matt Wilkinson



Commander
Chris Burger

Auburn Police Department celebrates two promotions

Recently, The Auburn Police Department promoted Sergeant Chris Burger and Officer Matt Wilkinson to the ranks of Commander and Sergeant.

Sergeant Wilkinson started working with the Auburn Police Department in December of 2013. He has primarily served in the patrol division, where he was assigned as a field training officer for four years with additional time helping train new officers as needed. While within the patrol division he was designated as the 'Officer in Charge' in the event a sergeant wasn't present and has received three lifesaving awards. Matt was an executive board member for the Auburn Police Officers Guild for four years, which included two contract negotiations for the bargaining unit. Matt was promoted to the rank of sergeant in February of 2023 and assigned to the patrol division.

On his recent promotion Sgt. Wilkinson said, "I am humbled at the opportunity to step into this new role and am dedicated to fulfilling the expectations of our Community and Agency."

Commander Burger was hired by the Auburn Police Department in July of 2007. Commander Burger has served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor, Taser Instructor, Explorer Advisor, Crime Scene Response Team

member, Drone Pilot, and a Major Crimes Detective. Burger was promoted on Feb. 1, 2020, to the rank of Sergeant. During his time as a Sergeant, Commander Burger was responsible for the Side B Day Shift Patrol crew. Most recently, as a Sergeant, Commander Burger had the pleasure of leading the Community Response Team, Bicycle Patrol Unit, Animal Control Officers, and MIT Officer.

"I am excited to be on the forefront of positive changes within the department as well as the community. I look forward to leading a great group of Sergeants and Officers," said Commander Burger.

Since the promotion, both Sgt. Wilkinson and Commander Burger have adjusted nicely into their roles. They will continue to strive and dedicate their time in making Auburn the best it can be.

"Both Sgt. Wilkinson and Commander Burger are excellent additions to the leadership team in Auburn," said Chief Mark Caillier. "Their dedication and work ethic will benefit the community and department for years to come."





Providing Emergency Services for an Evolving Community

Over the past decade, increasing calls for service from the Valley Regional Fire Authority have mirrored the real estate development

and population increase seen throughout the valley. During its first year of existence in 2007, for example, the VRFA served a population of approximately 75,000 and responded to 8,700 calls. Today, the VRFA serves a population of 97,000 and responded to nearly 16,000 calls for service in 2022.

In response to this growth, the VRFA recently hired additional firefighters, which allowed a third medical aid car to be placed into service 24/7/365. In the near term, this vehicle, which is staffed by two Firefighter/EMTs, will take pressure off the VRFA's other response units. Longer term, this aid car will transition into a new full-time engine company, further allowing the VRFA to provide effective fire and EMS coverage to our entire community. The challenge is to place these new resources in facilities that can more efficiently ensure a timely response when our community calls 911.

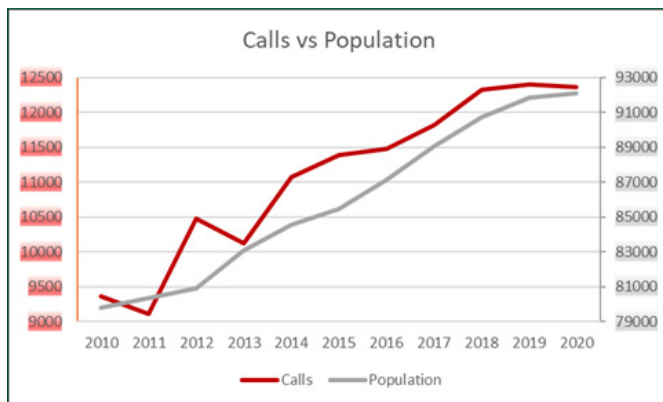


Figure showing population and call volume

The strategy for managing this process is outlined in the VRFA's Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). Adopted by the VRFA's Board of Governance in 2021, the CFP considers the location of 911 calls, current and projected population growth, and an assessment of the location and condition of our current fire stations and support buildings. The overarching goal of the CFP is to ensure that the VRFA can continue to provide rapid and reliable emergency services now and into the future.

A quick look at population growth and emergency call volume shows a steady increase over the last decade. In the north Auburn area served by Station

31, for example, calls for service have increased by 75 percent, from over 2,800 calls in 2010 to more than 5,000 in 2020. Focusing specifically on one of the most staff-intensive and critical emergency calls, CPR, which requires six Firefighter/EMT's, statistics show more than a 40 percent increase from just over 200 responses in 2016, to more than 300 in 2022. Planned high-density residential and commercial development along the South 277th Street corridor will undoubtedly continue this trend of increased service demand in north Auburn.

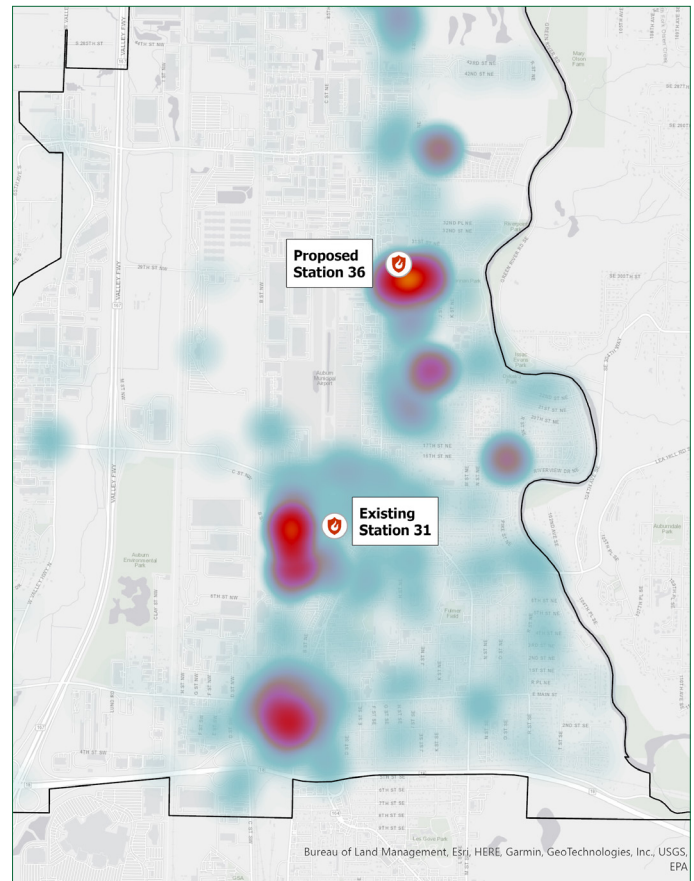


Figure showing heat map of responses in 31's area

The first priority within the CFP addresses this growth by recommending construction of a new fire station in the northernmost portion of the VRFA's response area. VRFA has made a step toward this goal by purchasing land at 30th and I St. NE. Adding a fire station at this location will allow the VRFA to better serve this high-density area by spreading call volume between two stations, thus improving response times from our busiest station, Station 31. In fact, in 2022, 41% of VRFA's calls occurred in Station 31's service area. It is estimated that a new station in the north would respond to over 1,600 calls (12% of the 2022 total), reducing 31's workload by nearly 30%.



This, in turn, will reduce response times for critical medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, and arriving at a home fire before flashover occurs. In addition, a new north station will allow other VRFA units to be available when multiple 911 calls occur simultaneously. When built, this new station would likely be named VRFA Fire Station 36.

The second priority within the CFP is the relocation and rebuilding of Station 38 in Pacific. The current Station 38 was built in 1979 and designed to house Pacific's police and fire departments. Upon the formation of the VRFA, Station 38 firefighters increased their response area to include Algona and parts of Auburn. A careful analysis of data associated with Station 38's call volume and location found that response times to a majority of 38's response area would be improved if the station was relocated. Additionally, a relocated and rebuilt Station 38 will ensure that the community's firefighters continue to be available by housing them in a seismically safe and modern work environment.

The CFP's third recommendation addresses VRFA's headquarters, Station 31. Built in 1985, 31 is the VRFA's busiest station and is the home to VRFA's new ladder truck, two aid cars, and our on-duty commander, Battalion 331. As our headquarters, Station 31 is home to our Fire Chief, Deputy Chief of Operations, and the Finance, HR, and IT workgroups. Station 31 also hosts our monthly Governance Board meetings and acts as the VRFA's Emergency Operations Center during storms and other disasters. Due to its heavy use and construction features, the crowded station is rapidly deteriorating and will need to be rebuilt to contemporary safety and seismic building standards.

The fourth and final recommendation within the CFP discusses the need to find a permanent location for the VRFA's Support Services Division. Twenty personnel currently work in a leased converted 1944 warehouse on former GSA property on C Street Southwest. The personnel housed there support vital VRFA programs, including fire prevention, public information, CARES, and others. Because of restrictive covenants and uncertainty related to the recent sale of the GSA property, the VRFA is likely prohibited from making substantial improvements to the building itself or surrounding training grounds, thus limiting the functional capacity of the facility.

In addition to addressing population growth patterns and increased demand for services, the recommendations within the CFP also consider a key element of the VRFA's mission: reliability. Building fire stations and support facilities in the proper location will help ensure that neighborhoods can continue to rely on the VRFA for timely and effective emergency response. Similarly, fire stations built to modern seismic, health, and safety standards will not only keep our staff healthy but will also ensure that we're able to respond when we're needed the most.

The VRFA has contracted with the architectural and engineering firm TCA to further develop the CFP. TCA is expected to provide the Board and VRFA with projected costs for completing each element of the CFP later this year. This insight will allow the Board of Governance and VRFA to determine the best way to fund these crucial projects. The VRFA's Board of Governance consists of the Mayor and two council members from each participating City. This nine-member board serves as the legislative body, guiding and overseeing the VRFA, an independent municipal corporation.

Saturday, March 18 | 7:30pm

GEOFFREY CASTLE- ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

APAC | Tickets: \$30/\$25

253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater

Keep the St. Patrick's celebration going on Saturday with a live band, Irish dancers and lots of Celtic Fiddling. Electric six-string Violinist Geoffrey Castle fearlessly brings the violin back to center stage with virtuoso showmanship and a 21st century attitude. He is a pioneer on the electric six-string violin. Castle destroys people's pre-conceived notions of what is possible on a violin every time he takes the stage.

Friday, March 24 | 7:30pm

MARCH COMEDY AT THE COURSE

GOLF | Tickets: \$20/\$17

253-931-3043 or online at

auburnwa.gov/theater

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



Saturday, March 25 | 6:30-8:30pm

LADIES & LIL GENTS - WILD WORLD OF SPORTS

Ages 3-11 | ACEC | Pre-registration required for all attendees

Space is limited | Fee \$45/\$57 | Additional Sibling \$18/\$23

Register at 253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/events

A fun 'date night' for mom's and their little boys!

Come dressed as your favorite Sports Fan and enjoy light refreshments, dancing, entertainment, hands-on activity, memory photo and a few surprises.

Grandmother's and aunts are welcome. All attendees must pre-register.

Friday, April 7 – Monday, April 10

PETER COTTON TRAIL

Various Parks & Trails in Auburn | FREE

Details at auburnwa.gov/events

Grab your peeps and hop around Auburn in search of the elusive bunny, who's been hidden in various parks and trails. Find 10 bunnies and complete the on-line Bunny Scorecard for your chance to win some great prizes! Dawn to dusk.



Saturday, April 8 | 7:30pm

TED VIGIL - JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE

APAC | Tickets: \$30/\$25

253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater

Ted Vigil is a singer, songwriter and John Denver tribute artist extraordinaire. He has wowed crowds, sells out theaters nationwide and has played twice for John Denver's own "Windstar Foundation" in Aspen, Colorado. Joining him on stage are a group of professional musicians and the very talented singer Amanda Bacon. Join us as Ted performs many of John Denver's greatest hits.

Saturday, April 22 | 7:30am-12pm

CLEAN SWEEP

Register at 253-931-3043

auburnwa.gov/events

An annual community volunteering effort. Volunteers and community groups will work on various projects to beautify Auburn. 7:30am – Check-in and Breakfast, Auburn Community & Event Center, 910 9th St SE
8:45am – Volunteers arrive at project location



Saturday, April 22 | 7:30pm

AMANDA BACON - PATSY CLINE TRIBUTE

GRCC | Tickets: \$25/\$22

253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater

Amanda Bacon's love of music absolutely shines with her powerful vocals and soulful harmonies. You may recognize Amanda as Ted Vigil's incredibly talented back-up singer. In this stunning show of her own, Bacon pays tribute to a pioneer of the country music industry, Patsy Cline. Join Amanda and her band for a night of great music and some of Patsy's greatest hits including Walkin' After Midnight, I Fall to Pieces, Sweet Dreams, and Crazy. Don't miss this!

Friday, April 28 | 7:30pm

APRIL COMEDY AT THE COURSE

GOLF | Tickets: \$20/\$17

253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater

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

Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation

Peter Cotton Trail

April 7-10

Various parks and trails in Auburn

Find the bunny

Win prizes

FREE!

Have fun!



Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation
auburnwa.gov/events | 253-931-3043

EVENT LOCATIONS

ACEC	Auburn Community & Event Center, 910 9th St SE
AMA	Auburn Municipal Airport, 2143 E St NE
APAC	Auburn Performing Arts Center, 702 4th St NE
GOLF	Auburn Golf Course - Bogey's Public House Banquet Room, 29630 Green River Rd SE
GRCC	Green River College - Student Affairs Building (Cascade Hall)
LG GYM	Les Gove Gymnasium, 910 9th St SE
LG PARK	Les Gove Park, 910 9th St SE
GFP	Game Farm Park, 3030 R St SE

Saturday, May 6 | 8:30am-12pm

YOUTH FISHING DERBY

Mill Pond Park

The Auburn S.O.F. Chapter of the Puget Sound Anglers will host their annual youth fishing derby for kids ages 14 and under. Mill Pond will be stocked with fish for the youth to catch! Kids are invited to bring a rod, bait and their best fishing hat to this fun and free event. The Fishing Derby is also supported by Auburn Sports & Marine and the City of Auburn. A limited number of fishing poles and gear will be available to borrow. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Saturday, May 6 | 7:30pm

THE GOTHARD SISTERS

GRCC | Tickets: \$25/\$22
253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater

The Gothard Sisters are a dynamic musical group of three sisters who play contemporary Celtic folk music. For more than a decade, performing, touring and writing music together, the optimistic style of their music and performances continue to resonate with their fans, building a loyal international following.



Tuesdays, May 11 - June 22 | 6pm - 9pm

Saturday, June 24 | 9am - 12pm

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

Register at 253-876-1925 or online at auburnwa.gov/cert

Do you know what to do in a disaster? CERT is a hands-on training that teaches community members how to take care of themselves and others during emergencies.

Saturday, May 13 | 9am-1pm

MARKER CLEAN UP DAY

Mountain View Cemetery

Families are invited to clean and care for their markers in advance of Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Markers are considered private property and normal care and maintenance is the family's responsibility. However, cemetery staff will be on hand during the event to provide assistance and basic tools.

Saturday, May 13 | 2pm

AVE KIDS: STORYBOOK THEATER - RAPUNZEL

LG GYM | Tickets: \$12 | 253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater

Neither long locks of hair, nor large locks on towers are enough to keep a rainbow-haired maiden from trying to follow her dreams. Can our heroine escape from her tiny room-with-a-view, or will her long locks be forever-locked in her tower?

Friday May 19 | 7:30pm

MAY COMEDY AT THE COURSE

GOLF | Tickets: \$20/\$17
253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater

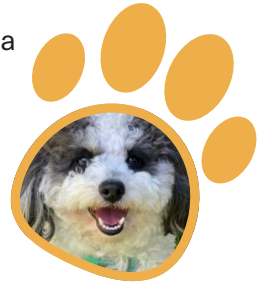
Comedy at the Course will keep you laughing all night long as three comedians work to twist your funny bone. Ages 18 and over only.

Saturday, May 20 | 9:30am

DOG TROT 3K/5K FUN RUN

GFP | Registration and rules online at auburnwa.gov/petpalooza.

A family-oriented Fun Run event that kicks-off the award-winning Petpalooza festival at Auburn's Game Farm Park. The 'chip-timed' race will start and finish in the same location. Participants will follow a 3K or 5K route. The course is flat, easy and enjoyable for all ages and ability levels. Awards given to the top participant in six age groups. The first 100 participants to register receive a FREE 17" x14" Petpalooza logoed insulated picnic bag!! Early registration is only \$20/person and includes a T-Shirt, full-color race bib and a finisher's medal.



Saturday, May 20 | 10am-5pm

PETPALOOZA

GFP | 253-931-3043
auburnwa.gov/petpalooza

An event for pet lovers and a special day for your four-legged family member or other furry friend. The event kicks off with a Dog Trot Fun Run at 9:30am. The event also includes live entertainment, an agility area, pet contests, face painting and other children's activities, loads of vendor booths, pet adoptions, pet services, give-aways, food vendors and lots of activities to keep both humans and pets entertained.



KidsDay!

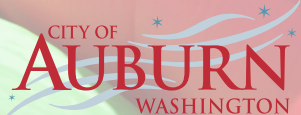
Friday, June 23
11am - 4pm

Les Gove Park
910 9th Street SE

Mini Golf
Face Painting
Inflatable Rides
Live Entertainment
Activity Vendors
Food Concessions
and More!

FREE!

Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation
auburnwa.gov/events
253-931-3043



Monday, May 29 | 10am

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Mountain View Cemetery

The public is invited to a special Memorial Day ceremony starting at 10am in the Flag Plaza. Veteran's gravesites will be recognized with an American Flag placed by volunteers Boy Scouts. Special hours: Saturday 8am-4:30pm; Sunday 12pm-4pm & Monday 8am-4:30pm

Sundays, June 4-September 17 | 10am-3pm

AUBURN FARMERS MARKET

LG PARK | 253-931-3043 | auburnfarmersmarket.org

The Market hosts over 50 farm, food, and craft vendors providing fresh produce, flowers, foods and handmade crafts each week. Check out a variety of entertainment and education presentations throughout the season. See you on Sundays!

Sunday, June 18

JUNETEENTH

LG PARK | 253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/events

An annual holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The celebration will feature live music, food trucks, inflatable rides for the kids to enjoy and opportunities to support Black businesses.

Tuesday, July 4 | 11am-4pm

AUBURN'S 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

LG PARK | 253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/events

Celebrate our country's birthday at Les Gove Park in Auburn. This hometown event features live entertainment on two stages, numerous inflatable rides and other children's attractions including a climbing wall, euro-bungy trampolines, trackless train rides, pony rides and more. The event also includes a car show, laser tag, mini golf, over 40 craft artists, a book sale, food concessions, a spray park and much more! There's something for everyone! The naturally shaded park will keep you cool during the afternoon. Free entertainment and event admission. Unlimited rides/activities for \$10.

Tuesday, July 4 | 11am-4pm

AUBURN'S 4TH OF JULY CAR SHOW

LG PARK | 253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/events

The Car Show is held in conjunction with Auburn's 4th of July Festival. FREE dash plaque to first 200 paid participants. Awards in 15 categories. Festival features live entertainment on two stages, children's activities (inflatable rides, train rides, pony carousels, rock wall and more!), food vendors, over 75 vendors, book sale, bocce, spray park and much more. \$10 in advance or \$20 on event day.



4TH OF JULY Festival

AUBURN, WASHINGTON

TUESDAY, JULY 4

11am-4pm

Les Gove Park

910 Ninth Street SE

\$10
WRISTBAND
=
UNLIMITED
RIDES

AUBURN
MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED

www.auburnwa.gov/events | 253-931-3043

Saturday, July 8 | 10am-4pm

AUBURN AIRPORT EVENT DAY

AMA PARK | 253-333-6821 | auburnmunicipalairport.com

Free flights for kids ages 8-17! Learn more about aviation and the Auburn Airport while you enjoy great food, great company and the chance to be up close and personal with the people, planes and helicopters that make flight possible.

Wednesday, July 12-August 16 | 12pm

KIDS SUMMERSTAGE

LG PARK | 253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/events

Exciting performances designed just for kids! This 'kid-approved' series is enjoyable for wee ones through tweens! Pack a lunch and enjoy the amenities Les Gove Park has to offer, including a state-of-the-art playground and a refreshing spray park, a paved walking trail, the White River Valley Museum, the Auburn Library and more! This entertainment series will be held at the park shelter beside the Discovery Playground.

July 12	Reptile Isle
July 19	Louie Foxx's One Man Side Show
July 26	Eric Ode
August 2	Eric Herman and the Puppy Dogs
August 9	Matt Baker's Comedy Stunt Show
August 16	The Magic of Jeff Evans

Thursdays, July 13-August 17 | 6:30-8pm

SUMMER SOUNDS

LG PARK | 253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/events

The perfect summer entertainment series the whole family will enjoy! Pack up a picnic blanket and dinner and enjoy the various performances. The series will be held at the parks shelter beside the Discovery Playground.

July 13	Slim Wizzy - Country, Blues & Rock
July 20	Ranger and The Re-Arrangers – Hot Club Swing
July 27	Michael Powers – Contemporary Instrumental Music
August 3	Auburn Symphony Brass Quintet
August 10	Kim Archer Band – Local singer song writer
August 17	Wally and The Beavs – 50's & 60's Rock N Roll



Friday, July 28 | 7pm
 Saturday, July 29 | 2pm
 Saturday, July 29 | 7pm
 Sunday, July 30 | 2pm

**AUBURN COMMUNITY JR. PLAYERS:
 JUNIE B, JONES JR.**

Tickets: 253-931-3043 or online at auburnwa.gov/theater
 Regular: \$16 | Student/Senior: \$12

Laugh yourself silly with Junie B. Jones in this hilarious Broadway Junior adaptation of Barbara Park's beloved series. Join Junie B. on her first day of first grade, where many changes are in store: Junie's best friend Lucille has found new best friends - and Junie B. makes friends with Herb, the new kid at school. While in Mr. Scary's class, Junie has trouble reading the blackboard — and she may need glasses. Add in a friendly cafeteria lady, an intense kickball tournament and a "Top-Secret Personal Beeswax Journal," and first grade has never been more exciting.

Fridays, July 28, August 4 & August 11

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS

Various parks in Auburn | 253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/events

A FREE outdoor movie on a 50' inflatable movie screen make Friday nights in Auburn a real treat for the whole family! Movies start at dusk.

July 28	Lea Hill Park, 12305 SE 316th St
August 4	Sunset Park, 1306 69th St SE
August 11	Les Gove Park, 910 9th St SE 6:30pm: Catch A Wave - Disneyland's preferred Beach Boys Tribute Band 7pm: 'Almost 5K' Poker Fun Run Movie at dusk

Friday, August 11 | 7pm

ALMOST 5K POKER FUN RUN & WALK

LG PARK | 253-931-3043 | auburnwa.gov/events

The Almost 5K Poker Fun Run & Walk is an easy run around Les Gove Park. This fun run will utilize the big loop at Les Gove Park. Five loops around is "almost" a 5K (short of a 5K by 1,138 feet). For each lap around the loop, participants will stop, choose a card, and try to get the best poker hand with the five cards drawn. The route is flat, easy and enjoyable for all ages and ability levels. Registrants with the highest poker hands in each age category will win a fun prize! Register early for a discounted registration fee – just \$12 if registered before July 14! Early registration includes a t-shirt and medal.

MARY OLSON FARM

LUSIO LIGHTS FESTIVAL



festival of light, art, and sound for all ages

**AUGUST 18 & 19
 7-11PM**



lusiolight.com/events

PRESENTED BY EXPLORE AUBURN

EXPLORE
Auburn
 WA
 EXPLOREAUBURN.COM

Petpalooza

Saturday,
May 20
10am-5pm

Game Farm Park, 3030 R Street SE



Live Animal Entertainment
100+ Vendors • Petting Zoo
Agility & FlyDog Demos
Pony Rides • Agility Area
Northwest Pet Contest
Children's Activities
Beer Garden
Live Music
AND MUCH MORE!



**3K/5K
DOG TROT**
\$20 per person by March 31
\$25 per person late registration
\$30 per person on event-day
Includes t-shirt,
race bib and medal.

auburnwa.gov/petpalooza
253-931-3043
#petpalooza2023
 auburnpetpalooza

