

# Auburn

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2021

## In This Issue

New slate of outdoor sculptures adorn downtown Auburn

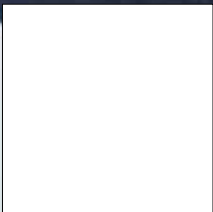
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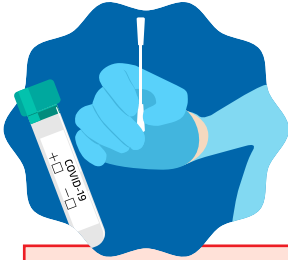
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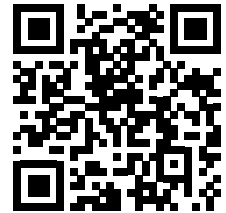


# FREE COVID-19 TESTING IN AUBURN

2701 C St SW, Auburn, WA 98001  
Monday-Saturday | 8:30am-5:30pm



**REGISTER ONLINE:**  
**[bit.ly/free-testing-auburn](https://bit.ly/free-testing-auburn)**



If you have symptom(s) or you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days, get tested immediately!

Testing is FREE and available to anyone regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

Have questions? Contact our King County COVID-19 Call Center at 206-477-3977 (open daily from 8am to 7pm). If you need language assistance, we will connect you with an interpreter.

Public Health  
Seattle & King County



UW Medicine  
LABORATORY MEDICINE  
& PATHOLOGY

## Did you know?

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

## Every day pets are lost.

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

License your pet today!  
[auburnvalleyhs.org](https://auburnvalleyhs.org)

### AVOID THE FINE!

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

Auburn Valley  
**Humane Society**

4910 A St SE  
(253) 249-7849  
[auburnvalleyhs.org](https://auburnvalleyhs.org)

CITY OF  
**AUBURN**  
WASHINGTON  
[auburnwa.gov/pets](https://auburnwa.gov/pets)





# Auburn MAGAZINE

WINTER 2021

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

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New slate of outdoor sculptures  
adorn downtown Auburn.  
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Sunset from Auburn City Hall plaza  
courtesy of City of Auburn staffer  
Michele Weiss

## 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

Call 911 in case of  
emergency

Non-emergency:  
253-288-2121

### Public Works

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

### Records Clerk

253-931-3007

### Solid Waste/Recycling Customer Service

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

### Utilities (Billing)

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

## OTHER NUMBERS

### Auburn Golf Course

29630 Green River Rd SE  
253-833-2350  
[auburngolf.org](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 (Headquarters)  
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)

## HOTLINES

### Code Compliance

253-931-3020 opt. 4

### Graffiti Hotline

253-931-3048 opt. 7

### Pothole Patrol

253-931-3048 opt. 1

### Spills and Water Pollution

253-931-3048 opt. 8

## Auburn Mayor & City Council



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



Claude DaCorsi  
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Chris Stearns  
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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

## *What 2020 has taught us*

We so often say hindsight is 2020 – something that feels more true this year than ever. With the arrival of a COVID vaccine just a few short weeks ago and the holiday season freshly behind us, it feels strange to see this seemingly unending year of uncertainty and change drawing to a close.

2020 has certainly challenged us all in ways we could never have imagined. It has brought hardship and heartache to many, but as I look back on this year, I would be remiss in not acknowledging the many gifts it has given us as well.

I often talk about the deep connection that Auburn is blessed to have as a community, but rarely have we had the opportunity to see its full scope as we have this year.

We have seen neighbors organizing to pick up and deliver groceries and supplies for our senior and at-risk populations. We watched as experienced crafters dug deep in their storage closets for fabric and thread to make masks for our frontline workers when none were available, and as newbies watched hours of YouTube videos to learn sewing skills to lend a helping hand.

We watched as mothers, fathers, grandparents and caretakers across the world took on the role of teacher and found new appreciation for the part that instructors play in our children's lives. Many took on these new responsibilities while continuing to work full-time from home or worked in partnership with others families to create safe "pods" that would allow for them to share in the collective efforts.

We saw people young and old don the hat of "essential worker" as they braved their own safety to continue to serve us so that we could keep our cupboards full, our deliveries coming and – most importantly – the toilet paper in stock. We watched as our first responders answered to the call of duty, as they always have, putting themselves at the frontline of the pandemic, even as we were still unsure of how it was being transmitted.

As many of us moved into virtual work environments, we gained new perspective and appreciation for our coworkers as we watched them at home balancing the needs of both family and work. We learned a bit more about each other and had fun exploring one another's wall art and décor as we moved from room to room – whether that be kitchen table, home office, or coffee table – for our Zoom meetings.

As we sheltered in place, we found opportunities to create new traditions and to slow our pace to enjoy more of what we already have. We spent more time with family, loved ones and furry friends, and were able to watch the seasons change from day to day - many of us for the first time – from our own windows.

We refused to stop showing our love and gratitude for one another as we organized birthday car parades and set a place at our Thanksgiving table for our iPads and computers as families joined together in laughter and conversation through the power of technology.

If we have learned anything, it is that we are stronger and more resilient than we ever believed we could be; that there is room to try new things and new approaches, even if it is uncomfortable; and that humanity is still centered in kindness and love, even when pushed to the brink.

As we move into 2021, even as we still face challenges ahead, we do so with the confidence that we can not only handle whatever lies ahead, but that we will flourish.



**Nancy Backus**  
**Mayor of Auburn**

*nbackus@auburnwa.gov*  
253-931-3041



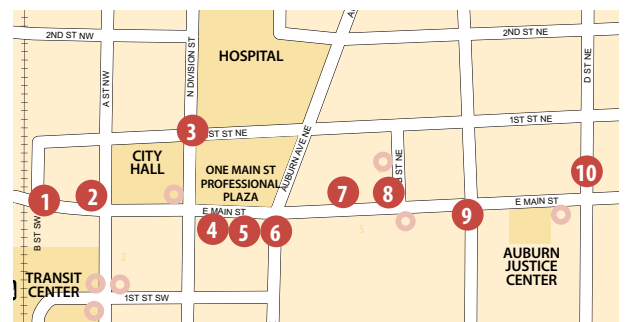
# New slate of outdoor sculptures adorn downtown Auburn

Take a stroll through downtown Auburn to enjoy the new sculptures on view as a part of Auburn's Downtown Sculpture Gallery program. Eleven new sculptures are installed and on view in Auburn as a part of this annually rotating public art program. Now entering its ninth year, the program loans sculptures from artists throughout the region and proudly displays them for all to enjoy and experience.

Every year, the goal of this program is to enliven 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, these new artworks were placed in their locations around town, hopefully bringing excitement and creativity to the downtown and beyond.

Featuring a variety of materials, subjects, and techniques, the artists featured this year in the Downtown Sculpture Gallery demonstrate an incredible amount of artistic talent. Some artists find interesting ways to work with recycled metal materials, such as Ben Dye's textured form in *Reach*, Wendy Ray's whimsical *Cogburn's Roost*, and Nathan Robles' innovative figurative form *The Guide*, whereas other artists use gleaming traditional stainless steel to create their sculptures, such as Mark Twain Stevenson's vertical figure in *Water Watcher* and Ken Turner's cyclical *Day In Day Out*. The streets of Auburn are alive with inspiration! From the beautiful circular and spherical simplicity of Jan Hoy's *Twining II* and Steve Farris' tall torch-like *Orbe Aberge*, to the joyfully colorful sculptures *I Watch the Salmon from the Bridge Above* by Ed McCarthy and *Family Tree* by Kris Vermeer, there is something for everyone to enjoy! Also featured this year is the figurative bronze *The Gardener* by Louise McDowell, and the iconic vertical *Truth* sculpture by artist MacRae Wylde.

## CITY OF AUBURN DOWNTOWN SCULPTURE GALLERY



PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
AWARD  
2019-2020  
Abe Singer's  
"Reflection"





1

W MAIN ST & B ST SW

## I WATCH THE SALMON FROM THE BRIDGE ABOVE

**Ed McCarthy**

*Painted steel*

This piece is from a family of sculptures, shaped by city objects. The original body of work intends to inspire visitors to reflect on their place in urban dwellings as well as their relationship to each other while navigating the city.



2

W MAIN ST & A ST NW

## REACH

**Ben Dye**

*Recycled stainless steel*

"Reach" is an exploration in our fascination with small parts that create a large form. Like sand on the beach, leaves on trees, or scales on fish. We are drawn to these mathematical sequences found in nature.



3

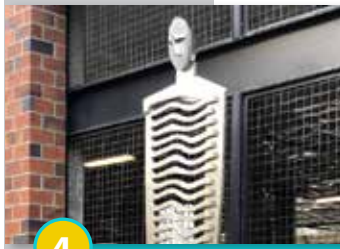
1ST ST NW & N DIVISION ST

## TWINING II

**Jan Hoy**

*Corten steel*

"Twining II" is composed of two similar arcing forms, one a complete arc and one that rests on a foot. They "twine" toward and beside one another. The sculpture is composed of Corten steel, the naturally rusting steel.



4

10 E MAIN ST

## WATER WATCHER

**Mark Twain Stevenson**

*Stainless steel*

Healthy human adults are 60+% water, infants are 85%. "Water Watcher" reminds us of the need for clean water for all life. Water is life!



5

10 E MAIN ST

## THE GARDENER

**Louise McDowell**

*Bronze*

"The Gardener" is a bit meditative as she digs into the earth to plant seeds for a future bounty. She radiates a sense of hope for tomorrow's harvest and a determination to make it happen.



6

E MAIN ST & A ST SE

## TRUTH

**MacRae Wylde**

*Laquered steel*

"Truth" the sculpture is a monument to the concept. It is a concept that applies across all boundaries. It cares not where you come from or who your parents were, it does not care what party you belong to or what group you are part of. Like the concept, "Truth" the sculpture will last forever, yet with neglect it will start to rust.



7

123 E MAIN ST

## DAY IN DAY OUT

**Ken Turner**

*Stainless steel*

The sun rises. The sun sets.



8

B ST NE & E MAIN ST

## FAMILY TREE

**Kris Vermeer**

*Steel*

"Family Tree" represents not only our families but how I see life in general. We may all choose different paths, but we all share the same foundation.



9

E MAIN ST & AUBURN WAY

## ORBE ABERGE

**Steve Farris**

*Steel*

This sculpture was an experiment to combine the symmetry of the base column with the irregularity of the random and unfinished sphere and to emphasize the interplay between the two.



10

D ST NE & E MAIN ST

## THE GUIDE

**Nathan Robles**

*Steel and clear enamel*

Nathan Robles' sculpture "The Guide" is symbolic of the meaningful relationships that shape who we are. This piece features seven human figures and invites the viewer to consider the interconnections of our lives.



11

R ST SE & 29TH ST SE

## COGBURN'S ROOST

**Wendy Ray**

*Steel and stainless steel*

Cogburn and his roost are built entirely from repurposed materials, adding to his humble and approachable personality. He is eager to share his roost with you and be in your next selfie!

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 2019-20 People's Choice Award was Abe Singer's Reflection. Voting has already begun for the 2020-21 year, so don't forget to go see the sculptures and vote for your favorite at [auburnwa.gov/sculpture](http://auburnwa.gov/sculpture).

# Auburn's Public Art Scavenger Hunt BINGO

Auburn's Public Art Scavenger Hunt Challenge was created by City arts staff in November 2020 as a fun way for the community to get outside and learn about Auburn's public art collection by finding and taking pictures with a variety of public artworks. Although the challenge encouraged participants to find four or more artworks to complete a line of BINGO, four families enjoyed the activity so much that they found all 24 artworks on the gameboard, and got some amazing pictures too!



**Steve Brown and Chris Bakholdin** had a great time participating in the challenge, and think that they found most artworks and perhaps a couple bonus ones as well! When asked about their experience participating in hunt, they wrote, "We pride

ourselves on exploring the area where we live. There are so many hidden gems in our own backyard that we don't know about until we go out and find them. Anytime we see a city or town provide a challenge or an event that we can participate in, we jump on it. We love to live our lives outside and in real life as opposed to inside in a virtual world."

They had a great day finding artworks, were grateful for nice weather, and made sure to participate safely by wearing a mask and remaining socially distanced from others. Steve and Chris even spent a little time patronizing local businesses like Gosankos! Their favorite artwork was not on the game board, but was Greg Bartol and Studio B's "Silverware Ostrich," located behind City Hall.



**Erin and Rob Dickinson, and their eight-year-old daughter, Pearl** had a wonderful time completing the Public Art Scavenger Hunt Challenge! Having grown up in Auburn, they knew where most of the

artworks were, except for two recently completed murals, so they "thought it sounded like a fun way to spend the day!"

Erin said the scavenger hunt caught her eye because of Dick Brugger's poem about railroads on the side of the building across from Ace. Dick passed away recently and the family thought it seemed like a fitting tribute to spend the day doing the scavenger hunt. Erin's father, Dennis Swanson, made two of the wood benches at Lee Hill park, so he thought it would be a great adventure to go up and take some pictures of their daughter sitting on those as well. Pearl was up for the challenge as the family was trying to be creative during quarantine and have some fun while making unique memories.

Erin's favorite artwork was the "Railroads" mural because of Dick Brugger, and George Tsutakawa's "Sun Circle" at Game Farm which she says was probably because she spent many summers working there as a seasonal employee and keeping score at softball games. Pearl's favorite is the big "Crow With Fries!"



**Julia Simmons and her three-year-old daughter Abigail Simmons** also completed the full Public Art Bingo card. Julia shared that the project "was a fun and socially distant way to enjoy all of the amazing art around Auburn," and that it

gave them an opportunity to explore new parts of the city. Her favorite piece of art was "Crow with Fries" because she loves fries too!

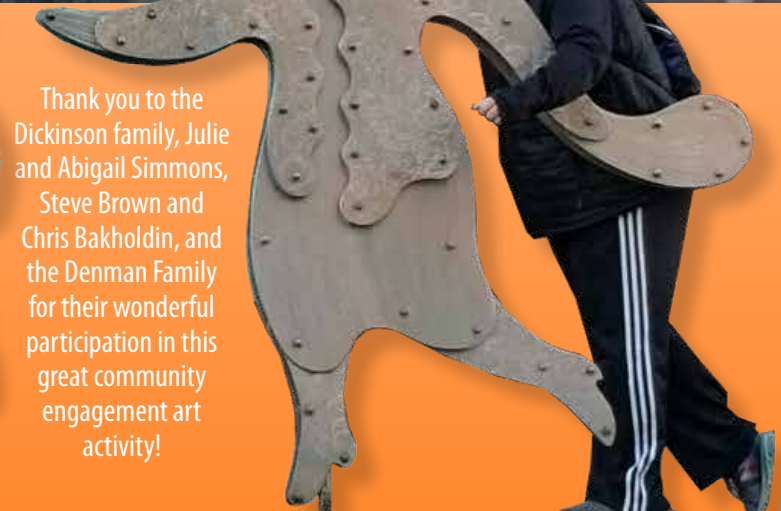


**Family members Bryan Denman (dad/chauffeur for the scavenger hunt), Joleen Denman (mom, photographer for the scavenger hunt), Elliott Denman (9), and Natalie Denman (7)** had a wonderful time participating in the challenge and completed the entire BINGO card as well! They shared about their experience, and how they had a beautiful day to explore the city and

discover the abundance of art the city has on display.

"My kids' favorite part was being downtown and literally running from art piece to art piece! Running in the city is not something we typically do on a normal day, then to have a purpose of finding each unique art piece was really so thrilling for all of us! Even our chauffeur (their dad) had a bit of fun. He would safely park so we could get out and take pictures, then he would hop on his phone and scour the internet for clues about the next art piece location. Together we found them all! My favorite would be the lookout at Centennial Viewpoint Park. I had no idea such a scenic location existed. My kids' two NEW favorites would be the mural on the side of the Auburn Ave theater. It is HUGE and just really cool to witness in person. Also the Astronomy Picnic table at Les Gove is incredible and gave my kids the chance to learn what a sundial is and how it works! The Crow is one of their all-time favorites, as is the Pillow Fight under the bridge, which we have always thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks again for bringing brightness to our days!"





Thank you to the Dickinson family, Julie and Abigail Simmons, Steve Brown and Chris Bakholdin, and the Denman Family for their wonderful participation in this great community engagement art activity!



# Capital Projects

## Yearly Construction Wrap Up

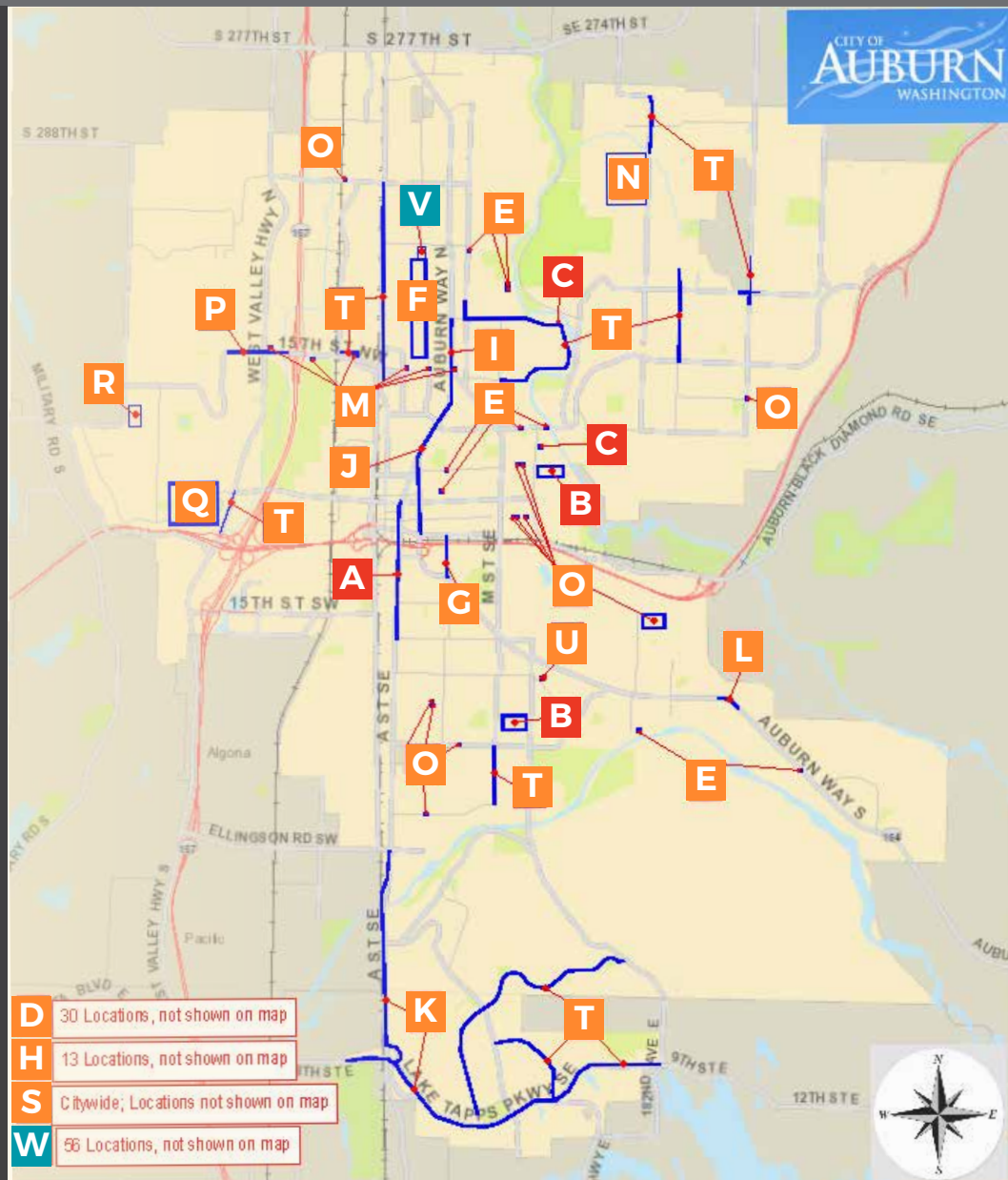
The City's Public Works Engineering Services team had another eventful year designing and constructing projects that are improving and maintaining Auburn's infrastructure. In addition to continuing construction on three significant projects that began work in 2019, 18 new projects began construction during the 2020 calendar year. The team also advertised two projects for construction bids for work that will take place beginning early next year. The 23 total combined projects amount to over \$32 million in capital construction investment!

### Funding sources

The \$32 million comprises of:

- Almost \$12 million in grant funding
- \$9.3 million in City street funding and mitigation fees
- \$6.8 million in City water utility funding
- \$2 million in City sanitary sewer utility funding
- \$1.3 million in City Storm Drainage utility funding
- \$320 thousand in airport funding,
- \$320 thousand in City cemetery funding

These significant investments are helping to reduce traffic congestion; improve the safety of your roadways and pathways for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists; advancing operations at the airport; and are also contributing towards improving the City's water, sewer, and storm drainage facilities.



### By the Numbers, Improvements Include:

- Preservation or reconstruction of approximately 23 lane miles of pavement
- Replacing over 12,500 linear feet of water main
- Replacing seven large water meters and vaults
- Replacing over 8,600 linear feet of storm drain pipe
- Replacing nearly 450 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipe
- Converting City-owned street lights city-wide to LED fixtures
- Installing nearly four miles of new traffic signal communication lines
- Installing five rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) pedestrian crossings
- Installing three new roadway dynamic message signs
- Installing over 6,500 linear feet of new or replaced sidewalks and upgraded numerous curb ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- Upgrading electrical components within 12 sanitary sewer pump stations
- Lengthening the Auburn Municipal Airport runway by 441 feet

**The 23 total projects are represented in the general project location map and project summary table.**



## PROJECTS THAT BEGAN CONSTRUCTION IN 2019, BUT CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION INTO 2020

	Begin Date	End Date	Total Costs
<b>A CP1819 A St SE Preservation</b> - The project rehabilitated and preserved the existing pavement on A St SE between East Main St and 17th St SE by grinding and overlaying the pavement and performing pavement patching. The project restored 4.77 lane miles of pavement, upgraded pedestrian signal infrastructure including curb ramps to meet ADA standard. Utility work included upgrading storm drainage and sanitary sewer manholes and catch basins frames and grates to current city standards and replacing approximately 1,000 feet of water main.	Jul-19	Jul-20	\$2,875,000
<b>B CP1726 2019 Local Streets Pavement Reconstruction</b> - The project reconstructed selected streets that were in very poor condition, as well as improved utilities, and rebuilt curb ramps to meet ADA standards.	Jul-19	May-20	\$3,645,000
<b>C CP1719 Sewer Pump Station Telemetry</b> - The project added telemetry and SCADA capabilities to the 22nd St NE and R St NE Sewer Pump Stations.	Jun-19	Apr-20	\$580,000

## PROJECTS THAT BEGAN CONSTRUCTION IN 2020

	Begin Date	End Date	Total Costs
<b>D CP1917 Deduct Meters Phase 1</b> - The project is part of a phased approach to replace the 184 remaining deduct meters in the City. This project replaced 30 of the meters, including required piping and restoration.	Feb-20	Jul-20	\$400,000
<b>E CP1807 Water Meter Vaults and Lids</b> - The project replaced 8 large water meter vaults and 1 large water meter lid at various locations.	Feb-20	Jul-20	\$875,000
<b>F CP1516 Auburn Municipal Airport Runway Enhancements</b> - The project improved safety and the ability to accommodate the current and forecast fleet of multi-engine piston aircraft for both takeoff and accelerate-stop distances at the Auburn Municipal Airport by extending both ends of Runway 16/34 to a total length of 3,841 feet of runway.	Apr-20	Jul-20	\$3,865,000
<b>G CP1416 F St SE Non-Motorized Improvements</b> - This project is reconstructing F St SE from 4th St SE to Auburn Way South, including adding new sidewalks, curb and gutter, street lighting, streetscape elements, and safety improvements. Some sections of water and sewer lines are being replaced and overhead utilities relocated underground. The project also includes bike boulevard and way-finding components between Auburn Station and Les Gove Community Campus.	Jul-20	2nd Q 2021	\$3,800,000
<b>H CP1812 Sewer Pump Station Electrical Improvements</b> - This project is updating the electrical systems at sewer pump stations throughout the city to meet current electrical code, improve safety and increase the efficiency of maintenance.	Aug-20	4th Q	\$1,180,000
<b>I CP1903 Auburn Way North Preservation Phase 2</b> - This project is performing a grind and overlay of Auburn Way North from approximately 8th St NE to 22nd St NE, removing unused driveways, and upgrading curb ramps and pedestrian signals as needed to meet ADA requirements.	Jun-20	2nd Q 2021	\$1,425,000
<b>J CP1904 Auburn Way North Preservation Phase 3</b> - This project is performing a grind and overlay of Auburn North/South from approximately 4th St SE to 8th St NE, removing unused driveways, and upgrading all curb ramps and pedestrian signals to meet ADA requirements.	Jun-20	2nd Q 2021	\$2,430,000
<b>K 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. The project will also replace some aerial copper communication lines along A St SE.	Sep-20	4th Q 2019	\$1,080,000
<b>L CP1901 Poplar Curve Safety Improvements</b> - This project is constructing safety improvements in the vicinity of the Poplar St curve along Auburn Way S. The specific project elements include installing LED street lights, a speed-activated curve ahead warning sign, high friction surface treatment, guardrail, and reconstructing curb radii and driveways.	Aug-20	4th Q 2020	\$335,000
<b>M CP1912 15th St NW Dynamic Message Sign</b> - This project is constructing a new dynamic message sign on the shoulder of eastbound 15th St 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.	Aug-20	3rd Q 2021	\$365,000

<b>N CP1929 Lea Hill AC Main Replacement</b> - The project is replacing 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.	Aug-20	2nd Q 2021	\$2,025,000
<b>O CP1902 2020 Pedestrian Safety, Sidewalk and ADA Improvement</b> - Improves 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.	Aug-20	1st Q 2021	\$775,000
<b>P CP1926 2020 Arterial Street Preservation (15th St NW)</b> - The project is replacing the pavement and replacing and up-sizing the existing 8" cast iron water main to a 16" ductile iron water main on 15th St NW from R St NW to West Valley Highway. The project will also grind and overlay of 15th St NW from West Valley Hwy to SR 167.	Jul-20	2nd Q 2021	\$1,480,000
<b>Q CP1826 Mountain View Cemetery Paving</b> - This project designed and constructed roadway/pavement improvements at Mountain View Cemetery.	Jun-20	Oct-20	\$318,000
<b>R CP1925 2020 Local Street Reconstruction and Preservation</b> - This project improved the condition of the City's local streets in the West Hill area. The project included full-depth roadway replacement, grind/overlay, and curb ramp upgrades.	Jun-20	Oct-20	\$850,000
<b>S CP1920 Citywide LED and Streetlight Controls</b> - This project is retrofitting existing City street lights with LED fixtures and street light controls for remote monitoring.	Aug-20	1st Q 2021	\$2,675,000
<b>T CP2023 2020 Crack Seal</b> - This project implemented maintenance of various classified streets by sealing newly formed cracks. Sealing the cracks will prolong the life of the pavement by stopping water from draining into the subbase of the pavement.	Oct-20	Oct-20	\$116,000
<b>U CP2024 Howard Road VFD Replacement</b> - This project will remove and replace existing variable frequency drives (VFDs) for potable water pumps at the Howard Road Corrosion Control Facility. The work also includes a new VFD enclosure and VFD programming for each pump.	Oct-20	1st Q 2021	\$91,000

**PROJECTS THAT ADVERTISED FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS IN 2020, BUT CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 2021**

	Begin Date	End Date	Total Costs
<b>V 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.	Jan-21	2nd Q 2021	\$222,000
<b>W CP2001 Deduct Meter Replacement Phase 2</b> - This project will replace approximately 56 of the 128 remaining deduct meters within the city limits, including replacing related piping and restoration.	Mar-21	3rd Q 2021	\$587,000

**What other projects can we expect to see begin construction as we prepare for 2021?**

**Some of the more significant upcoming construction projects include:**

- CP1927 Auburn Way North and 1st Street NE Signal Replacement – This project will 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. The project also includes adding a left turn pocket on 1st Street NE and flashing yellow arrows in all four directions.
- CP2012 M Street SE Sidewalk Improvements – This project will construct missing sections of sidewalk along M Street SE between Auburn Way S and 8th Street SE. The project scope includes installation of sidewalk, ADA curb ramps and street lighting.
- 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.
- CP2006 3rd Street SW Bridge Decks Preservation – This project will seal and overlay the 3rd Street SW bridge decks to extend their service life.
- CP2007 Lea Hill Road Bridge Deck Preservation – This project will grind and overlay the Lea Hill bridge deck to extend the service life.
- CP2011 Lakeland Hills Way Preservation- This project will perform pavement patching and grind and overlay Lakeland Hills Way from 57th Dr SE to Lake Tapps Dr SE.

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).



# CODE COMPLIANCE CORNER

For more information, or to access all Auburn city codes and ordinances, please visit [auburnwa.gov/citycode](http://auburnwa.gov/citycode).



## Let it snow! Snow Removal from Sidewalks

**Now is the perfect time to stock up on your cold weather gear, get that snow shovel you've been meaning to buy and be ready BEFORE the storms hit.**

Here at the City of Auburn, we believe it's important to increase the awareness of the various city codes and ordinances that set the minimum standards for our community and help keep the city running smoothly. Your code enforcement team is also committed to taking the necessary steps to enforce those codes when properties fall below those minimum standards. With this in mind, it is important to be aware that there are additional responsibilities when it comes to those sidewalks.

Auburn City Code 12.12.232 speaks to the maintenance responsibility when it comes the presence of debris, moss, leaves, ice or snow on the sidewalks adjacent to your property. Countless residents, visitors and pets rely on our sidewalks as a primary means for getting from point A to point B. Whether heading next door to visit with a neighbor or traveling across town for groceries or medical appointments, poorly maintained sidewalks can create a slip or trip hazard for any user. Those same conditions can also become an insurmountable obstacle for individuals with mobility issues. If your sidewalks are in need of routine maintenance, we ask you to please be a good neighbor. Inspect those sidewalks and ensure they are safe and user-friendly for all who visit or call Auburn home.



**Did you know? 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?**

### City of Auburn Code Enforcement

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

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

- [auburnwa.gov/reporting](http://auburnwa.gov/reporting)
- [codeenforcement@auburnwa.gov](mailto:codeenforcement@auburnwa.gov)
- 253-931-3020, option 4
- Report via SeeClickFix, available in the app store



## Your Full-Service 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






# Winter Driving 101

A close-up, low-angle shot of a car's front right wheel and tire, showing a silver alloy rim and a black tire with a deep tread pattern. The car is moving on a road covered in a layer of snow and slush. In the background, a line of bare, snow-covered trees stretches along the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall color palette is cool, with blues, greys, and whites, accented by the car's metallic tones.





NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is predicting that the Pacific Northwest should expect a colder and wetter than normal winter this year. For some of you, this is exciting news because it means an amazing ski season may be on its way. For others it may mean you get to enjoy an amazingly peaceful scene as you watch the large flakes blanket the area. For all of us, it will unfortunately mean that navigating the roads will become more of a challenge and will require more caution and care than usual.

When a significant winter storm is predicted to hit our community, our Maintenance and Operations (M&O) staff goes into overdrive, working around the clock to keep our city functioning. This includes pretreating many of our roadways with sand, or a de-icing agent, which will help slow the formation of ice on our roads.

During the storm, M&O staff plow and/or treat the streets according to priority. The City of Auburn has more than 240 miles of public streets. We would enjoy nothing more than to clear and treat every street in the city, including all the residential streets, but the reality is we don't have enough staff or equipment to be able to accomplish a task that large. Most important are the critical routes throughout the city. We need to ensure that emergency vehicles are able to reach most areas in the city through main roadways to help those in need of assistance. Once these priority routes are cleared, the staff will move on to secondary routes. This map shows, at a glance, what our priority and secondary routes are, and where we will focus our resources. To view a more detailed version of the map, please visit [www.auburnwa.gov/snow](http://www.auburnwa.gov/snow). Once these routes have been cleared and treated, we 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 the secondary routes are completely cleared can we begin moving to the remainder of the neighborhood streets, if resources allow. The ability to move to treating the neighborhood streets is dependent on the weather and whether the priority and secondary routes need additional or ongoing attention. During a typical 2-4 day snow event, the snow often changes to rain, which melts the snow before we can complete the secondary routes. This emphasizes the need to practice extra caution when traveling on snow covered streets.

## Winter driving tips for snowy or icy weather

- 1 Avoid unnecessary travel.**
- 2 If you need to travel and your car becomes stuck, stay with your car if it's safe to do so.** This is so your vehicle does not delay the ability of our crews to plow the roadway for any longer than necessary.
- 3 Do not park cars on the street.** These can block plows and emergency vehicles from getting through your neighborhood.
- 4 Prepare your car for snow, ice and cold temperatures.**
  - *Check your car's mechanical preparedness, including the following:*
    - Adequate and properly mixed antifreeze
    - Healthy battery (many local auto parts shops will test them for free)
    - Functional heater and windshield defroster
    - Functional head, tail and hazard lights
    - Good windshield wipers
  - *Check that tires:*
    - Have adequate tread
    - Are rated for snow and mud (indicated by a "M+S" on the tire)
    - Consider whether you need winter tires. Winter tires have a softer rubber compound that maintains better traction in cold temperatures. Be careful because the same rubber will wear quickly in warmer weather.
  - *Consider keeping chains in your car*
    - Studded tires do not qualify as adequate equipment in areas where chains are required. Additionally, studded tires are only legal from November 1 through March 31 in Washington. Tire studs are intended to provide additional traction by digging into ice on the road. In the absence of ice, studded tires do not contribute to vehicle performance and cause significant damage to our roads.
- 5 When driving, observe the following:**
  - When a road is closed, do not go around the sign. Find another route.
  - Drive at a slower speed. Don't insist on the speed limit, it doesn't take into account snow and ice.
  - Accelerate and decelerate gently, you don't want your tires to spin or lock up.
  - Leave extra space between vehicles. If they can't stop, neither can you.
  - Do not use cruise control.
  - If you find yourself behind a snowplow, slow down and give the plow space. Do not pass it.
  - Remember, even four-wheel and all-wheel drive vehicles may have issues stopping and steering on snow and ice.

CITY OF AUBURN ★ 55TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

# || ★ Salute to Veterans ★ ||



Photo credit: Katie Spears Photography

## City of Auburn continues long tradition of honoring Veterans amid COVID-19 restrictions

The City of Auburn has been formally honoring our Veterans since 1965, and as one of the few Regional Sites for Veterans Day Observance in the United States, the City of Auburn was honored to continue hosting an event to celebrate our deserving Veterans this year as well.

It was no surprise that early in the planning process, it was decided that the event was too important to cancel. Rather than the traditional large-scale parade running the length of Main Street, the street displays and the state's largest band competition, Auburn's 2020 event shifted to a five-day Salute to Veterans Celebration. And while this year's event was much different than previous years, it proved to still be delightful with a variety of both safe, in-person event options and virtual opportunities.

The five-day celebration started with a Veteran's Vehicle Procession on Saturday, November 7. This event gave both procession participants and spectators the opportunity to safely participate, as veterans, active military members, antique military vehicles and more drove a three-mile procession route that was lined with 'socially-distanced' spectators.

On Sunday, November 8, a virtual Veterans Tribute Program was offered at 6:30 p.m. The program included live performances, patriotic music, inspirational stories and a walk down memory lane. This wonderful tribute is still available to view on the City's YouTube channel, watchAuburn.

Monday, November 9, offered up a virtual Veterans Museum Showcase that included curated links to a variety of local and national virtual Veterans exhibits, including Auburn's own White River Valley Museum. Links are still active at [auburnwa.gov/VeteransMuseum](http://auburnwa.gov/VeteransMuseum).

On Tuesday, November 10, we held a Sweet Treats for Vets event. This was a drive-through event held at our Senior Activity Center, where we offered fresh cinnamon rolls, coffee, flowers, car flags and other goodies to our veterans and active military members that stopped by. This event was graciously supported by the Auburn Noon Lions Club. Thanks go out to the Auburn Garden Club for providing fresh flowers. We were happy to have Congresswoman Kim Schrier on-site helping us safely pass out goodies!

And on Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day, we aired our Remembrance Ceremony from 2014. This is also still available for viewing on the WatchAuburn YouTube channel.

The City of Auburn is optimistic that we can return to our traditional parade and observance in 2021. Save the date: Saturday, November 6 at 11 a.m.! See you on Main Street!

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:











## South King CARES Team aims to reduce senior fall injuries

**Did you know that one out of four Americans, aged 65 and older, falls every year? Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans. Falls are costly, in dollars and in quality of life. And, although they are not always an inevitable part of aging, falls do occur more often among older adults because fall risk factors increase with age.**

Through practical lifestyle adjustments, evidence-based programs, and community partnerships, the number of falls among seniors can be reduced substantially. The VRFA is taking aim at reducing falls through a relatively new program: South King Community Assistance, Referral and Educational Services, or South King CARES .

South King CARES is a joint effort of the VRFA and South King Fire & Rescue, using a team of firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMT's) and social workers to respond to non-emergent 9-1-1 calls and referrals. Many of their responses include patients who are experiencing frequent falls or are at risk of falling.

The CARES unit has multiple opportunities to engage seniors in fall prevention. In fact, over the last two years, the South King CARES team has facilitated 473 fall interventions in Auburn, Algona and Pacific. Some interventions happen in real time at the beginning of the need. During 911 calls where the patient is not injured, the team takes time to talk about fall risk and assist with while on site. Other interventions may come later, when a person needs to transition to a higher level of care like an adult family home because falls have become an imminent risk.

Fall interventions by the CARES team may include: an assessment of need for fall prevention services, a connection to the King County Fall Prevention program, connection to home health care services, connection to hospice care services, connection to caregiving services, helping patients obtain durable medical equipment either through insurance or via community agencies, engaging a patient in conversation about increasing care needs and when to move to a higher level of care to reduce risk of falls, and lock box installation for access to fall patients.

If you, or someone you know is at risk for falls and would like an assessment, please contact the South King CARES team at 253-288-5800.

### **South King CARES Fall Responses 2019**

130 9-1-1 calls for lift assists

149 enrolled patients for fall/mobility related concerns

179 total Fall Interventions

### **South King CARES Fall Responses 2020**

169 9-1-1 calls for lift assists

125 enrolled patients for fall/mobility related concerns

294 total Fall Interventions



# FALL PREVENTION TIPS



## Make an appointment with your doctor

Begin your fall-prevention plan by making an appointment with your doctor. Be prepared to answer questions such as:

- What medications are you taking? Make a list of your prescription and over-the-counter medications and supplements. Your doctor can review your medications for side effects and interactions that may increase your risk of falling.
- Have you fallen before? Write down the details including when, where and how you fell. Be prepared to discuss instances when you almost fell but were caught by someone or managed to grab hold of something just in time. Details such as these may help your doctor identify specific fall-prevention strategies.
- Could your health conditions cause a fall? Certain eye and ear disorders may increase your risk of falls. Be prepared to discuss your health conditions and how comfortable you are when you walk — for example, do you feel any dizziness, joint pain, shortness of breath, or numbness in your feet and legs when you walk? Your doctor may evaluate your muscle strength, balance and walking style (gait) as well.

## Keep moving

Physical activity can go a long way toward fall prevention. With your doctor's OK, consider activities such as walking, water workouts or tai chi — a gentle exercise that involves slow and graceful dance-like movements. Such activities reduce the risk of falls by improving strength, balance, coordination and flexibility.

If you avoid physical activity because you're afraid it will make a fall more likely, tell your doctor. He or she may recommend carefully monitored exercise programs or refer you to a physical therapist.

## Wear sensible shoes

Consider changing your footwear as part of your fall-prevention plan. High heels, floppy slippers and shoes with slick soles can make you slip, stumble and fall. So can walking in your stocking feet. Instead, wear properly fitting, sturdy shoes with nonskid soles.

## Remove home hazards

- Remove boxes, newspapers, electrical cords and phone cords from walkways.
- Move coffee tables, magazine racks and plant stands from high-traffic areas.
- Secure loose rugs with double-faced tape, tacks or a slip-resistant backing, or remove loose rugs from your home.
- Repair loose, wooden floorboards and carpeting right away.
- Store clothing, dishes, food and other necessities within easy reach.
- Immediately clean spilled liquids, grease or food.
- Use nonslip mats in your bathtub or shower. Use a bath seat, which allows you to sit while showering. Grab bars may also need to be installed.

## Light up your living space

Keep your home brightly lit to avoid tripping on objects that are hard to see. Also:

- Place nightlights in your bedroom, bathroom and hallways.
- Place a lamp within reach of your bed for middle-of-the-night needs.
- Make clear paths to light switches that aren't near room entrances. Consider trading traditional switches for glow-in-the-dark or illuminated switches.
- Turn on the lights before going up or down stairs.
- Store flashlights in easy-to-find places in case of power outages.

## Use assistive devices

Your doctor might recommend using a cane or walker to keep you steady. Other assistive devices can help, too:

- Hand rails for both sides of stairways
- Nonslip treads for bare-wood steps
- A raised toilet seat or one with armrests
- Grab bars for the shower or tub
- A sturdy plastic seat for the shower or tub — plus a hand-held shower nozzle for bathing while sitting down



# Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation: Keepin' Us Moving During COVID





## This year has been one for the record books!

As we head into 2021, life looks a lot different. We've had months of establishing a new "normal" and that normal has extended throughout every aspect of daily life. One area that has been greatly impacted is health and wellness. Now, more than ever, people are in need of a regular exercise regimen. Remote working and learning has led to more sitting and increased time spent sedentary, neither of which are having positive impacts on our health.

The benefits of exercise are well known. According to the Mayo Clinic, exercise can improve mood and ease symptoms of depression. It improves sleep by helping you to fall asleep faster and stay asleep longer, it helps to maintain a healthy weight, it increases longevity and it improves health conditions like heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

These are all wonderful benefits of exercise, but how does it work now that access to health and wellness programs have been impacted by COVID-19?

One of the greatest motivators to developing and maintaining a fitness regimen is the community that is formed around classes and activities. With social distancing and industry limitations, many people are missing that sense of community and team spirit. But we are becoming resilient in this COVID era. We depend on technology in more ways than we imagined a year ago. We work online, we learn online, we visit with family and friends online, and now we exercise online too. Online fitness classes are not a new concept. We've been doing them for years. But now with platforms like Zoom, we are able to experience live classes online, taking our experience to a whole new level and regaining some of the community that we've been missing.

Auburn Parks & Recreation rolled out Virtual Fitness Membership in September. Members have access to 13 live classes each week and a library of recorded classes to access later if the live classes don't work for their schedule. The Virtual Fitness Membership is offering the encouragement and the accountability that so many people need to build and maintain a fitness program. With extra time built in before and after class for participants to chat, share progress and encourage one another, we're bringing back the community feel that keeps people moving. It helps to see the same instructors and other members from the "old days." It's exciting to see new faces, too. And so as we exercise together, in real time, we feel the benefits of exercise that we've been missing. But maybe even more importantly, we're seeing the benefits that come with the connections made, and the collective sense of accomplishment, that comes with group exercise. Until we're physically back together, virtual fitness will be here, filling the void that many are feeling. Keep moving Auburn!



# VIRTUAL FITNESS MEMBERSHIPS

## AT THE AUBURN COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER

### Fitness Membership Benefits

Live virtual classes • Unlimited access to fitness class library

#### MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP

Adult • \$20/month  
Senior/Teen • \$15/month

**Find the full fitness schedule at [auburnwa.gov/Fitness](https://auburnwa.gov/Fitness)**

## *A Passion for Words: Auburn Welcomes New Poet Laureate James Rodgers*

The old Irish expression about those who have “kissed the Blarney stone” could be true of poet James Rodgers, whose humor, wit, and eloquence dance effortlessly through the words in his poetry. The City of Auburn is proud to announce that James Rodgers has been selected as Auburn’s honorary 2021-23 Poet Laureate, recommended by the Auburn Arts Commission and appointed by the Mayor.

The City of Auburn Poet Laureate program recognizes and honors a poet of exceptional talent and accomplishment and encourages the public to appreciate poetry and literary life in Auburn. Nominees for the Poet Laureate position must reside in South King County or North Pierce County and must be engaged in Auburn’s creative community for at least one year before being appointed. Former Poets Laureate of the City of Auburn include: Dick Brugger (2012-14), Marjorie Rommel (2015-17), and Susan Landgraf (2018-20).

James Rodgers is a prolific poet who has lived in Pacific for more than two decades and has lived in the Pacific Northwest his entire life. While James prefers humor, he writes all kinds of poetry, with a focus on music, humor, kids, travel and so much more, along with many song lyrics waiting to have music attached to them.

James has three self-published chapbooks and has had poems published by Prism Magazine, Ha!, Poets of the Kent Canterbury Faire, Fly By Night Press, WPA Members Anthology, Wrist, Raven Chronicles, Washington English Journal, and over 30 more. James’ first full book of poetry, *They Were Called Records, Kids*, was released by MoonPath Press in 2018. He was also the winner of the WPA Charles Proctor Award for Humor in 2005, and honorable mention on two other occasions.

James is a member of the Auburn Poetry Group, Striped Water Poets, and is a regular reader at the Rainbow Readings held on the first Monday of each month at the Rainbow Café in Auburn, where he has been a featured reader multiple times. He was also featured at Auburn’s Poets on the Ave event at the Auburn Avenue Theater for April Poetry Month, curated by Marjorie Rommel.

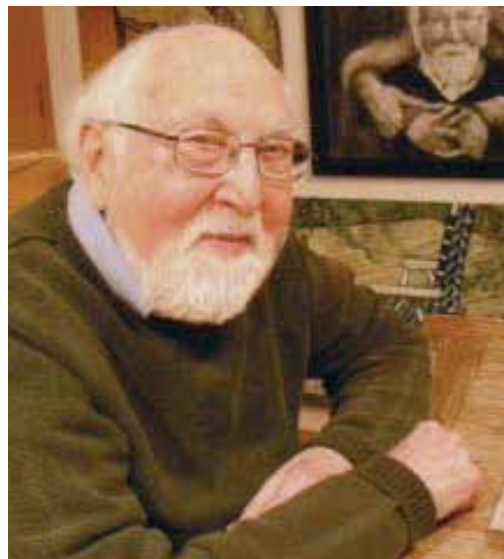
Rodgers is a deeply-respected poet with a long-time commitment to Auburn’s literary arts community. He has a passion for poetry, positive personality, and charisma that the Auburn Arts Commission believes will be perfectly suited for his new role as Auburn’s Poet Laureate!





## Remembering an Auburn Legend Mr. Richard “Wicked Dick” Brugger, 1935-2020

Brugger served as Auburn’s first ever Poet Laureate, from 2012 to 2014, and has his poetry featured throughout the city, including within the sidewalks. With a quick wit and humor that wouldn’t quit, Brugger was a local favorite character and very passionate and talented poet. He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered. The City of Auburn’s incoming Poet Laureate, James Rodgers, wrote the following poem in honor of Dick Brugger:



*For Richard*

*I met Richard  
more than two decades ago  
through the Striped Water  
Tuesday night poetry meetings,  
a self-help  
and critique group  
for aspiring writers.  
This was well into  
Richard's retirement,  
his work life behind him,  
those meetings  
a chance to socialize,  
talk poetry,  
and be out of the house  
for a couple hours.  
Though we might not admit it,  
most of us  
who read aloud each week  
hoped for a raspy voiced,  
"Wicked"  
when we finished,  
the ultimate  
Dick Brugger compliment.  
He always made  
this awkward introvert  
feel invited,  
accepted,  
with his mischievous smile  
and eyes  
as kind as a hug.  
We all celebrated  
when Richard was named  
Auburn's first Poet Laureate,  
one of our own  
sharing poetry  
with a wider audience,  
his generosity  
already legendary  
in this town.  
Over time,  
his voice became*

*more gravel than road,  
the words arriving  
in clouds of dust,  
his handwriting  
almost illegible  
even to him,  
and after his fall,  
breaking his hip,  
he'd still come  
to the meetings,  
though far less frequently,  
wheel in,  
laugh and smile,  
growl out  
a "wicked" or two,  
and then wheel home.  
With the virus  
and quarantine  
of the last year,  
I haven't seen him  
in far too long,  
so hearing from his daughter  
that he had passed  
last week,  
I felt the loss  
of pure gentleness  
our world needs  
now more than ever,  
but I know  
as he walks through  
those pearly gates,  
a bundle of poems  
under one arm,  
when St. Peter  
welcomes him in,  
he'll just smile,  
and despite,  
or maybe because of,  
the irony,  
he'll whisper,  
"Wicked!"*

*James Rodgers 11/02/20*



## What's in your memory box this year? We'd love for you to share it with us!

**The White River Valley Museum wants to preserve your photos, poems, experiences, and more from 2020.**

Your objects and memories tell the story of what our community looked like this past year. You can help us document and preserve history by sharing digital content like:

- Personal stories or copies of journal entries
- Photos from your phone or camera
- Sound or video recordings
- Social media and blog posts
- Art projects or photos of them
- Poems or essays
- Other digital things you would like to share that represent you and your experience!

Our community is living through historic events. Capturing your experiences today will help future generations understand what life was like in 2020. The digital content you share will become part of our permanent collection, which means that we will save it in our collections management system and it will be available for people to access for research, browse online, and could be used for future exhibits. You can share what is important to you right now, or you can use some of the topics below to get you started:

- How has COVID-19 impacted you?
- Have you been involved in any form of activism, protest, or social movement this year?
- How will the 2020 election results impact you?
- Were you or a loved one affected by the 2020 wildfires?
- How has your daily life changed this year?
- What are some positive moments for you in 2020?
- What has been the most difficult part of 2020?

Have you captured any photos or written anything that you feel are representative of your experiences or community experiences this year?

We hope that you will consider contributing to our community's documented history by donating digital content for our collection. We want YOU to shape the story of 2020 for future generations — your voice matters and no contribution is too small. Please visit our website at [wrvmuseum.org/memory-box-2020](http://wrvmuseum.org/memory-box-2020) to submit your content. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact our Curator of Collections Hilary Pittenger at [hpittenger@auburnwa.gov](mailto:hpittenger@auburnwa.gov).

We are looking for digital content to keep everyone safe and healthy at this time. If you would like to discuss a physical donation, please contact us at [hpittenger@auburnwa.gov](mailto:hpittenger@auburnwa.gov).



# Virtual Educational Resources from the White River Valley Museum and Mary Olson Farm

## Mary Olson Farm Virtual Field Trips

Each fall we see thousands of students at the Mary Olson Farm to learn about the site's history, animals, food, and how people lived one hundred years ago. We are really missing all of the students we get to see, so we made a series of videos and interactive online lessons to bring the Mary Olson Farm to your home! Video topics include: an introduction and site history, animals at the farm, the orchard, a tour of the farm house, and a little about how the family used the barn and weaving shed to trade and make money.

The videos and activities are designed for lower elementary aged students and align best with first grade learning standards. Videos are provided through a YouTube link, and all interactives are powered by Google. Check out some stills from the videos and email [arust@auburnwa.gov](mailto:arust@auburnwa.gov) for free access to these resources! Access to this content is free thanks to support from the King Conservation District.

## Couldn't make it to one of our Virtual Story Clubs with KCLS? No problem!

In addition to virtual field trips to the Mary Olson Farm, you can also email [arust@auburnwa.gov](mailto:arust@auburnwa.gov) for access to past content from our Story Club with KCLS program. We will send you a suggested book to read that is available to check out through KCLS, a short video that connects the book to exhibits or local history at the Museum or Farm, and a sheet of fun at-home activities to try related to the book's themes. This content is designed for ages 7-11, and is completely free!

**Don't forget to follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletter to stay up-to-date on all the fun programs we have at the White River Valley Museum and Mary Olson Farm!**



# Auburn Senior Activity Center Update

With the ups and downs of COVID this year, one thing Auburn seniors can count on is consistency and fun from the Auburn Senior Activity Center (ASAC). ASAC has offered virtual programs Monday through Friday, a weekly newsletter, a six-week remote walking program called Walking with Ease from the Arthritis Foundation, fun games and challenges on their Facebook page, continued wellness calls, and six drive-through events since September.

The drive-through events have served the greater community of Auburn and have been able to reach seniors who have never been to the Center before. These drive-through events celebrated events both fun and silly including National Cheeseburger Day; Halloween with trick-or-treats, pumpkin decorating contest and costumes; Sweet Treats for Vets in honor of Veteran's Day; and a pre-Thanksgiving lunch the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. A drive-through shot clinic was also offered which had great success and such overwhelming demand that a second event had to be planned. The biggest drive-through offered this fall was the pre-Thanksgiving lunch, with a total of 370 participants registered (a new record for ASAC)! Staff were thrilled to meet the demand of the community and do their best to give every participant a hot meal with a smile (under their mask, of course).

ASAC virtual programs have also been a great hit. A wide-range of programs has included everything from Mindful Mondays with meditation and support groups on Fridays, to lively games of Bingo and Wheel of Fortune on Wednesdays. The staff had great attendance with their remote six-week walking program and the Coping with Holiday Stress seminars. In November, they offered a 30-day Gratitude Challenge on Facebook, which has been very thought-provoking.

Find the Center's Facebook page at [facebook.com/auburnsenioractivitycenter](https://facebook.com/auburnsenioractivitycenter) and check out the weekly "Caption This" challenges, updates on community classes, & much more!

The ASAC staff continues to work hard to reach as many seniors as they can. Staff is feeling nostalgic entering the holiday season and miss seeing friends who brighten the Center. Participants mean so much to the staff and without them, their "Auburn Family" feels incomplete. Don't be afraid to reach out to staff if you need a friend or need help. They are here for you. Most staff are working from home, but there are a few who remain working daily at the Center to assist with the hot lunch delivery program, foot care appointments, and dental services.

The best way to see what ASAC is up to is to visit [auburnwa.gov/seniors](https://auburnwa.gov/seniors) or call to talk to a friendly voice at 253-931-3016. We look forward to continuing to serve our community and constantly evolving how we can stay connected!



## Auburn Senior Activity Center

Serving individuals age 50 and over



### VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

#### Weekly:

- Mindful Monday
- Happy Hour with Staff
- Wednesday Games
- Learn Sudoku
- Support Group

#### Monthly:

- Monthly Book Club
- Bi-Monthly Craft Club
- Educational Lectures



### IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

#### By reservations only

- 1:1 Footcare Services
- 1:1 Dental Services
- 1:1 Resource Navigator Support
- 1:1 Veteran Services Consultations
- Monthly Drive-Thru Special Events
- Daily Hot Lunch

*Can be pick-up, drive-thru, or delivered (restrictions could apply)*

### FOR MORE DETAILS

Visit [auburnwa.gov/seniors](https://auburnwa.gov/seniors) | Call 253-931-3016

Follow our Facebook page at [facebook.com/auburnsenioractivitycenter](https://facebook.com/auburnsenioractivitycenter)







**STEAM Stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math – and we’ve got it all!**

## Little STEAMers

**Classes for kids ages 5-7 to learn and understand what STEAM stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math**

We are gearing up for this new year with some exciting new classes! Is your child a maker? A tinkerer? An artist? An inspiring inventor or engineer? Then these classes are for them! Join us at the Auburn Makerspace for some exceptional fun.

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- **January 13** – Happy New Year! Lots of pop, fizz and spark activities.
- **January 20** – Health Nuts! Let’s gear up and get moving in new healthy ways. We may even create a healthy snack.
- **January 27** – Under Construction – Let’s put our thinking caps on and put our building skills into action and see how creative we can be.



## Holly Jolly Lane

On Saturday, December 5 at Les Gove Park, Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation staff and volunteers created a winter wonderland of lighted displays as a safe alternative to the annual Santa Parade. Community groups, individuals, and local businesses created beautiful lighted displays to keep our lane merry and bright! Over 1,000 goodie bags were handed out to children full of goodies from our display participants and the Auburn Library. Thousands of spectators drove through the lane along with 450 letters dropped in Santa’s mailbox! We know this year has been challenging for many and we were so happy to bring an evening of joy. It was amazing to connect with the community from a safe distance and wish them a happy holidays!

## High Fashion's High Cost for the Environment: How a small change can mean big savings for our planet

We live in a world of fast fashion and overall, clothing is getting cheaper. Americans are consuming clothes at a much higher rate than ever. The volume of clothing that we now throw away in the United States has doubled in the last 20 years from 7 million to 14 million tons, or approximately 68 pounds per person per year.

According to the U.S. EPA, a whopping 85% of all discarded textiles – 11.5 million tons – are sent to landfills every year. If collected, most of these items are in perfect condition to be reused or re-worn. In fact, people all over the world depend on used clothes to dress and feed their families. Used clothes are worn by 70% of people on earth.

### The environmental impact of clothing:

Did you know that the production of clothing is the second largest cause of pollution in the world?

Cotton is by far the most popular natural fiber used in clothing. A single cotton t-shirt requires 700 gallons of water to make. That's about how much water the average person drinks in about 2.5 years.

The amount of water required to grow cotton has major impacts on water access for billions of people throughout the world. For example, the Aral Sea in Central Asia, once the fourth largest lake in the world at 45,000 square miles, is now almost completely dry due to cotton production in the surrounding areas.

In most of the countries in which garments are produced, untreated toxic wastewaters from textiles factories are dumped directly into the rivers. Wastewater contains toxic substances such as lead, mercury, and arsenic, among others. These are extremely harmful for the aquatic life and the health of the millions of people living by those river banks. The contamination also reaches the sea and eventually reaches around the globe.

Cotton farming also accounts for a quarter of global sales of insecticides and pesticides. Pesticides have killed almost all the fish in the

Aral Sea, polluted the drinking water and soil and even formed toxic dust storms. Long-term exposure to pesticide chemicals in the Aral Sea is also linked to health consequences like lower fertility rates and higher rates of some cancers and heart and kidney disease.

### Synthetic Fibers

Before you start to think that synthetic fibers like polyester might be a better alternative to cotton, you should know that its environmental impacts are just, if not, more dangerous to the environment. Manufacturing polyester is energy-intensive and uses crude oil and other fossil fuels that release emissions. A polyester shirt has more than double the carbon footprint of a cotton shirt (12.1 lbs vs 4.6 lbs).

The environmental impact of synthetic fibers also continues to cause harm throughout the entire lifetime of the fabric. During washing, polyester garments shed microplastic fibers that end up in the world's oceans, and often, the fish we consume. On average, a synthetic garment will shed more than 1,900 microplastics during a single wash.



**POUNDS**  
The amount of clothing that the average American discards each year, 85% of which ends up in landfills or incinerators.



**4%**  
The percentage of global landfills that are filled with clothing and textiles.

**700**  
**GALLONS**

The amount of water it takes to produce a single cotton T-shirt.



**2.6%**  
The percentage of global water used for growing cotton.

**99%**



The estimated percentage of used clothing that is recyclable.



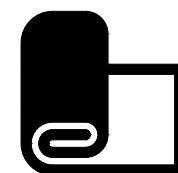
**17-20%**  
The estimated percentage of industrial water pollution that comes from textile dyeing and treatment.

**8,000**

The estimated number of synthetic chemicals that are used worldwide to turn raw materials into textiles.

**60,000,000**

The estimated number of people who work in the fashion industry worldwide.





## What about organic fibers?

Organic cotton is grown without the use of toxic pesticides, synthetic fertilizers or genetic modification. But organic cotton currently only accounts for about 0.5 percent of global cotton production, with 55 percent of organic production based in India.

## How can you make an impact?

By extending the lives of clothes and shoes through reuse, we can help save our environment from harmful pollution. This starts by purchasing well-made clothing that can last for years and year, not just a single season. But it also means closing the loop by recycling these items but either reselling them or donating them. Even better, take a trip to your local thrift store and find some great items of your own that you can give new life!

- Even items that are no longer suitable for wearing can be recycled to create materials that can be used in the production of new clothing. The moral of the story? Don't throw your textiles away! Donate them!
- Donation locations around Auburn and King County want all of your clothes, shoes, and linens – in ANY condition except wet (eww, mold!). Even if they are torn, stained or threadbare, these worn out items can be recycled into athletic equipment, insulation and more.
- Even single shoes, socks, gloves, and other items that are normally paired-up can be matched with other “singles” and worn by people who otherwise would not have those items to wear.
- The only items to put in the garbage are those that are wet, mildewed or contaminated with hazardous materials.

Learn more about donating your clothes, shoes and linens for reuse or recycling, what items are acceptable, where to give, what happens to the donated items, and buying wisely at King County's Threadcycle website at [kingcounty.gov/threadcycle](http://kingcounty.gov/threadcycle).

Sources: United Nations Environment Programme, World Resources Institute, USAgain

Washing clothes with synthetic fibers releases 500,000 tons of microfibers into the ocean each year — the equivalent of **50 billion plastic bottles**.

It takes approximately **2,000 gallons** of water to produce **one pair of jeans**. That's more than one person will drink in ten years.

## RECYCLE YOUR STYROFOAM IN JANUARY!

**January 9, 2021**  
**9am-1pm**  
**Safeway**  
**101 Auburn Way S**

**January 17, 2021**  
**9am-1pm**  
**Albertsons**  
**4101 A Street SE**

**Waste Management and Republic Services customers who live within the city limits of Auburn can recycle their Christmas tree and organic wreath for no additional cost.**

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

**Christmas Tree  
Collection Event**  
**JANUARY 4-8, 2021**

CITY OF  
**AUBURN**  
WASHINGTON



## WASHINGTON DISTRACTED DRIVING FACTS

According to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC), distracted driving is the cause of 30% of fatalities and 23% of serious injuries in Washington. In one out of four crashes, a cell phone was used just prior to the crash.

Using a cell phone while driving creates “inattentional blindness,” which means that the driver is not able to see something unexpected that is in plain sight. This is a psychological lack of attention, creating impairment. Driving while using your phone increases the risk of a crash as if you have a blood alcohol content of 0.19%, more than twice the legal limit.

**DRIVE SAFE:** Put your phone away, keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.

### INATTENTIONAL BLINDNESS:

The driver is not able to see something unexpected that is in plain sight.



**30%**

of crash  
fatalities  
are due to  
distracted  
driving

**23%**

of serious  
crashes in  
Washington  
are due to  
distracted  
driving

**3x**

drivers are 3  
times more  
likely to be in  
a crash when  
talking on a  
phone

**70%**

of observed  
distracted  
drivers were  
using their  
cell phones





## GAME FARM PARK SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS TO GET A FACELIFT

On any given day at Game Farm Park you will find the synthetic turf fields being used by youth and adults alike. Whether it is an organized sport or a pickup game, the fields are used for soccer, football, lacrosse, and various other field sports. The fields allow for year-round recreation and a steady stream of revenue that is then used to fund other programs and projects in our parks system.

The two fields at Game Farm were upgraded from dirt to a synthetic surface in 2007 in an effort to increase play and improve drainage during times of inclement weather. Since the surfacing and drainage upgrades, the fields are by far the most used fields in our parks system, but given the heavy use of the fields, the surface is nearing their expected lifespan.

The surfacing upgrades scheduled for 2021 will bring the fields back up to industry standards and improve safety. The turf replacement project will include removing and disposing of the existing worn surface, re-grading the gravel surface under the turf, and inspecting the drainage system associated with the

fields. The fields will also be overlaid with lines and hashmarks to accommodate other sports and allow other groups a chance to use the fields. The fields currently accommodate approximately 2,000 games a year.

Game Farm Park is the largest and most frequently-used community park in Auburn. Other amenities include four softball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, pickleball courts, the Len Chapman Amphitheater, picnic shelter, restrooms, parking lot, play equipment, public art, a one-mile looped trail, and space for community-wide special events. The hillside backdrop and proximity to the White River creates a spectacular natural setting that makes this location a favorite among Auburnites and throughout the region.

# take a look at virtual recreation!

virtual

## Announcing virtual recreation options with Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation

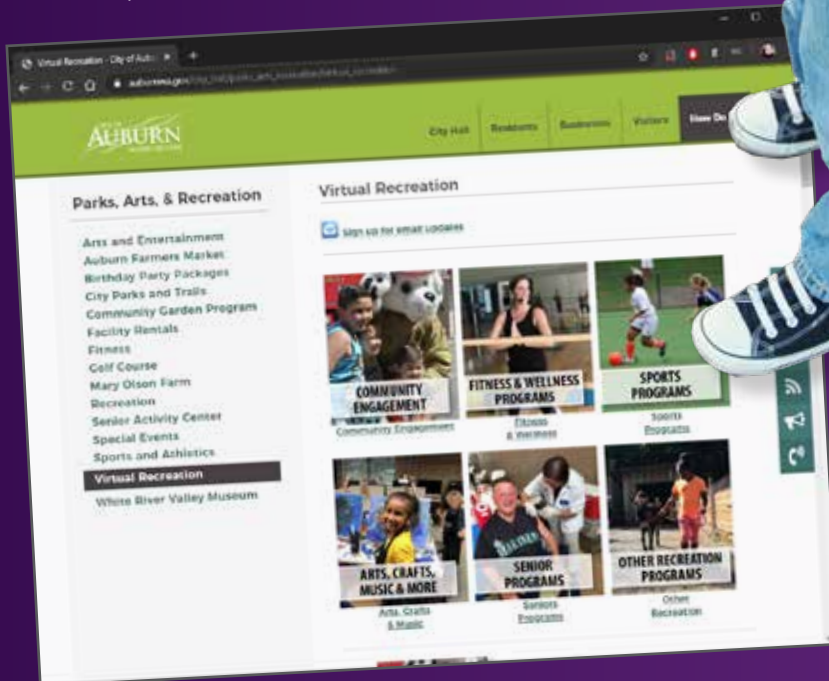
While Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation has a handful of in-person classes for youth and teens, we're also offering virtual recreation options for you to stay active and engaged until we can return to in-person activities.

Check out our Virtual Recreation website at [auburnwa.gov/virtualrec](http://auburnwa.gov/virtualrec). It's jam-packed full of great workouts, creative craft projects, community engagement options and more!

The website is continually updated with new workout options, fun craft ideas and exciting programs!

In addition to the new website, Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation is sending a weekly e-newsletter to highlight some of these exciting virtual offerings.

The e-newsletter features direct links to workouts, children's activities, current community engagement options, senior programs and more. If you aren't already receiving the e-newsletter, be sure to subscribe on the VirtualRec website.



Don't miss out!



Follow Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation on Facebook! Keep up with the current times, catch the great videos (Chicken Dance anyone?), park tips, hands-on craft ideas, and so much more.

@AuburnParksArtsRecreation

For a full list of activities, check us out!

Don't forget to subscribe to the e-newsletter and follow Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation on Facebook and Instagram.

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