

Auburn

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2021

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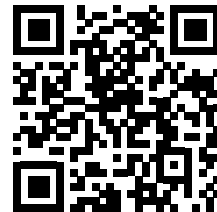
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FREE COVID-19 TESTING IN AUBURN

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



REGISTER ONLINE:
bit.ly/free-testing-auburn



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

Auburn MAGAZINE

SPRING 2021

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

EDITOR

Kalyn Brady
kbrady@auburnwa.gov

DESIGNER

Sarah St. George
City of Auburn
Multimedia Design



Have a hippity-hoppity good time participating in Auburn's Peter Cotton Trail. See page 9 for details!

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AUBURN PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION



[AUBURNWA.GOV/CAMPS](https://auburnwa.gov/camps) | 253-931-3043



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

Call 911 in case of emergency

Non-emergency:
253-288-2121

Public Works

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

Records Clerk

253-931-3007

Solid Waste/Recycling Customer Service

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

Utilities (Billing)

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

OTHER NUMBERS

Auburn Golf Course

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

Auburn Municipal Airport

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

King County District Court—South Division

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

Mountain View Cemetery

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

Senior Activity Center

808 9th St SE
253-931-3016
auburnwa.gov/seniors

Valley Regional Fire Authority

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

White River Valley Museum

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

HOTLINES

Code Compliance

253-931-3020 opt. 4

Graffiti Hotline

253-931-3048 opt. 7

Pothole Patrol

253-931-3048 opt. 1

Spills and Water Pollution

253-931-3048 opt. 8

Auburn Mayor & City Council



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



Claude DaCorsi
Deputy Mayor
cdacorsi@auburnwa.gov



Bob Baggett
Councilmember
bbaggett@auburnwa.gov



Larry Brown
Councilmember
lbrown@auburnwa.gov



James Jeyaraj
Councilmember
jjeyaraj@auburnwa.gov



Robyn Mulenga
Councilmember
rmulenga@auburnwa.gov



Chris Stearns
Councilmember
cstearns@auburnwa.gov



Yolanda Trout-Manuel
Councilmember
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.

FROM THE MAYOR

Earlier this month, we held our first town hall of the year with an overview by each of our department directors about what they have been working on during the past year and what they are focused on for the year ahead. We also had a robust discussion of topics that you told us were most important to you including COVID, police, litter, roads, and homelessness. If this first event was any indication, there is a lot that our community cares about and a lot of ideas and questions about how we can ensure Auburn is thriving.

Like so many things in the past year, reaching out and engaging with our residents has required us to pivot our focus from in-person City events and programs, to a virtual platform. As we move into 2021, my goal is to continue that outreach with a monthly town hall series that focuses on a specific topic of interest each month. Although this first town hall provided us a chance to give an overview of what has been happening, I want our future events to dive deeper into important issues so that you, as a resident, have a clear understanding of the work that we are doing and have an opportunity to provide your direct feedback.

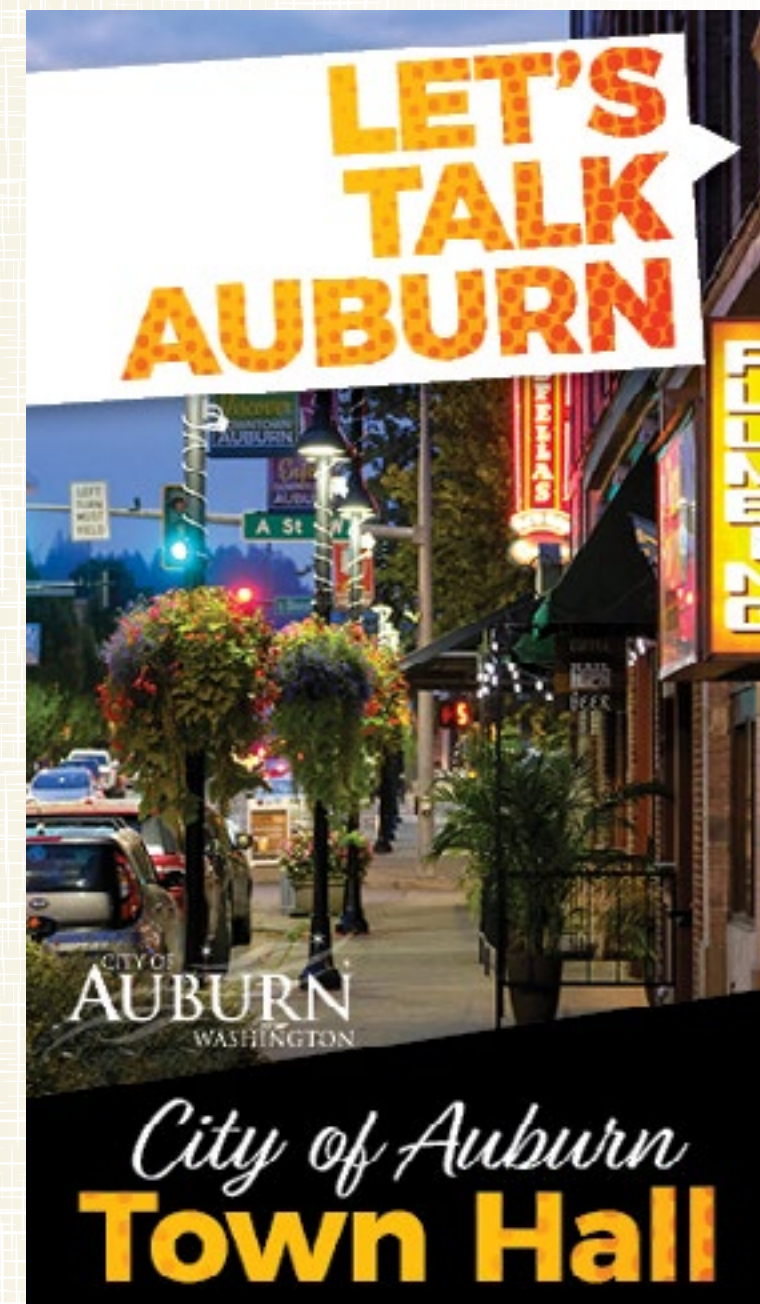
We are working hard on developing a calendar of topics that we will be sharing in the coming weeks at auburnwa.gov/townhalls, so I hope you will take a moment to check and see what is of interest to you and mark your calendar so that you can join us.

If you missed our first event, you can still view it on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/watchauburn.

I look forward to seeing you in the months ahead!



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





The Nation Next Door: Connecting students to local tribal culture this spring at the White River Valley Museum

In a non-pandemic year, the White River Valley Museum would host thousands of elementary schoolers on field trips each spring. Students from many school districts visit to learn about local history, enjoy hands-on activities, explore our exhibits, and share a fun day out with their classmates. Though nothing compares to seeing a bus full of excited kids show up at the Museum's front door, we are happy to announce we will soon be offering a new virtual field trip opportunity for little learners.

For the past fifteen years, the Museum has met the needs of teachers by providing meaningful and educational field trips. One of the primary subjects for field trips is the history of Native Americans in Washington state. This year, the Museum is shaking up the how, what, and why we teach about tribal culture in order to show the significance of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's presence in the White River Valley from past to present. We are working with tribal educators to create a learning experience that engages students and teachers who probably won't get a chance to visit us in-person this year.

The new virtual field trips will meet Washington state's Since Time Immemorial curriculum standards while connecting students to contemporary tribal culture. These standards were developed so students can gain an understanding of topics ranging from tribal sovereignty to the importance of salmon preservation and storytelling, but also to recognize that each tribe is unique in its culture and that tribal culture is still alive today. It asks students to take a close look at their immediate community, and recognize it stands on land that has been stewarded by Indigenous people since time immemorial. It challenges students to dive deeper into the hard questions of how settlement affected Northwest tribes and discover how they, too, can help in the stewardship and preservation of Indigenous lands and waterways.

The Nation Next Door curriculum will focus on combining Museum resources and artifacts, allowing students to interact directly with Muckleshoot educators through video, live presentation, and Q&A. Students will learn about a variety of topics including Native fishing rights, food sovereignty, modern cultural practices, staying healthy with outdoor fitness, and more!

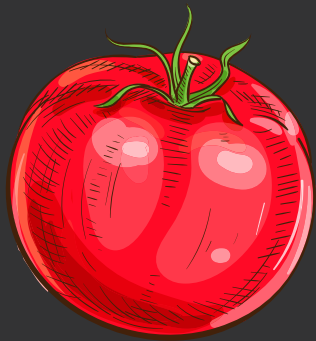
When you go to most museums, you learn about things that happened in the past, see objects that help tell people's stories, and think about how those past events and people helped shape the present. The Museum will bring that experience to life so students still have the opportunity to step away from their everyday routine and participate in out-of-classroom learning.

LEARN MORE ABOUT UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS & FIELD TRIPS



The Nation Next Door
Virtual field trips will be offered
from April 26-30, May 24-28,
and May 31-June 4.

Please visit wrvmuseum.org/education
to learn more and register your class!



Fruit, veggies and so much more at the Auburn Farmers Market!

The Auburn Farmers Market will open its 13th season on Sunday, June 6th. With vendor applications pouring in, we anticipate a full and safe season! We will continue to uphold safety requirements and modifications. Our Market Manager is hard at work staying up to date with the latest information from King County Public Health (KCPH). Under their guidelines, the Market has adjusted its setting to maintain social distance and keep everyone shopping safely.

The Market will again be held across the street to the other side of Les Gove Park, where vendors will have six feet of space between each booth according to KCPH guidelines. You'll see a fence around the Market and a controlled entrance and exit. This allows us to maintain a safe number of customers inside the Market at any given time. Our modified market layout also encourages customers to follow a one-way traffic pattern while inside the Market. There will be bright orange arrows to guide you through the Market to the exit. Orange dots represent social distancing markers in front of each vendor booth, in case you need to wait in line. Similarly, there are dots outside of the Market in case a line develops. With such a wide area, we do not anticipate long lines to enter the Market. Based on last year's season, customers are typically in and out of the Market in under 15 minutes.

Like 2020, vendors continue social distanced practices to be as safe as possible while working with the public. On a quick trip to the Market, you'll notice vendor's have barriers to protect themselves and customers from spreading germs. They are wearing masks, and bagging your items for you, to reduce the amount of times something is touched. You will see many familiar vendors and a few new ones as well.

SEE YOU AT THE AUBURN
Farmers Market

SUNDAYS | JUNE 6-SEPTEMBER 19
10AM-3PM | LES GOVE PARK

auburnfarmersmarket.org

ACCEPTING EBT SNAP Market Match

K&D CITY OF AUBURN

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

As restrictions ease over the course of the summer, we will look at bringing back some of the traditional elements of the market. We will continue to operate with safety as a top priority when considering adding back activities such as entertainment and cooking demonstrations. We continue to thank all of our vendors, volunteers, staff, and customers for working together to make the Market an enjoyable experience for everyone.

SEE YOU JUNE 6!

Have a hippity-hoppity good time participating in Auburn's Peter Cotton Trail

Here comes Peter Cotton Tail, hoppin' down the bunny trail.. actually hundreds of cute little bunnies will be hidden in Auburn's parks and trails March 26-28 for the Peter Cotton Trail event, which will be held the weekend before Easter.

Grab your peeps and hop around Auburn in search of the elusive bunny. Find ten bunnies, have a chance to win prizes and have a hippity-hoppity good time doing it! This is a safe and FREE event for families, seniors, our Specialized Recreation Community or anyone looking for an opportunity to get out and get active in an outdoor setting.

Before you start your search, you'll need to print a 'Bunny Scorecard' (one scorecard for each participant, please) or pick one up at one of the locations listed here. Each bunny will have a unique number. When you find a bunny, write the corresponding number on your scorecard. Please don't take or move the bunnies, so everyone can enjoy this activity.

Complete your scorecard and email it to events@auburnwa.gov by noon on March 31 to be entered into the random drawing for prizes. Winners will be selected at random and announced on April 1.

To help maintain social distance and to keep this a safe activity, bunnies will be hidden in a variety of Auburn's parks and trails. Locations will be announced at 8 am on March 26.

Bunny Scorecards can be picked up at the following locations:

Auburn Community & Event Center,
910 9th Street SE | scorecard holder will be outside entry doors March 22-28

Painting With A Twist*
920 15th Street SW

Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro*
18 Auburn Way S

*during open business hours

AUBURN PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION'S
PETER COTTON TRAIL
MARCH 26-28

FIND THE BUNNY
WIN PRIZES!
HAVE FUN
FREE!

Painting With A Twist

WWW.AUBURNWA.GOV/EVENTS
253-931-3043

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS:

Painting With a Twist | Jimmy John's | Haggen Food & Pharmacy
Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro | Auburn Golf Course | Sound Credit Union

Shake your cotton tail

GRAB YOUR PEEPS & have fun searching!

Prizes!?!? That's right!
There's an eggs-citing list of prizes:

- AUBURN GOLF COURSE GIFT CARDS
- PAINTING WITH A TWIST GIFT CARDS
- FOUR (4) \$50 HAGGEN GIFT CARDS
- FOUR (4) \$40 VINIFERA WINE BAR & BISTRO GIFT CARDS
- FOUR (4) VISA GIFT CARDS (COMPLIMENTS OF SOUND CREDIT UNION)
- FIFTEEN (15) \$20 JIMMY JOHN'S GIFT CARDS
- EIGHT (8) TAKE & MAKE KITS
- TEN (10) PLUSH ANIMALS
- TEN (10) CHOCOLATE BUNNIES

FEATURE CAPITAL PROJECT

Academy Pump Stations Replacement Project



Exterior of Pump Station 2



Pump Station 1 Pumps and Piping



In 2020, the City issued a series of bonds to help finance replacement and improvements to the City's potable water supply and distribution system. Many projects are currently underway to help ensure a healthy, continuous, and reliable water supply.

Project Description

The Academy Pump Stations Replacement project was initiated with an assessment of the existing facility to determine the most cost effective option to replace and upgrade the Academy Pump Station Facility. The Academy Pump Station Facility is comprised of two separate pump stations with 4 total pumps. The first pump station, Academy Pump Station 1, was constructed in 1960 and has served the Auburn water system well with its 2 pumps. The second pump station, Academy Pump Station 2, was constructed in 1980 and houses the other 2 pumps. Both pump stations are supplied onsite by Reservoir 1 and convey water throughout the south Auburn plateau area.

The assessment determined that Pump Station 1 had reached the end of its useful life and Pump Station 2 would need to be expanded and requires extensive upgrades to meet the system demands as well as building code requirements. As a result it was determined that construction of a new single pump station that would replace the existing two pump stations was the best option to meet the City's operational needs. This will allow the City to maintain water service through the existing pump stations until the new pump station is ready to be brought online. Constructing a new pump station will not only reduce potential service interruptions but also make construction sequencing much easier.

The new pump station will include four vertical turbine variable speed driven pumps. The capacity of the new pump station will be 2,100 gallons per minute (gpm) which will not only meet current system water demands but will allow for future growth. In addition to the new pump station structure, the backup power generator will be replaced with a new self-contained backup power generation system. The existing Academy Pump Station 1 will be demolished and Academy Pump Station 2 will be repurposed to serve as a larger storage building.

Project Costs and Funding

The estimated cost of this project is \$4.35 Million and is fully funded by City water utility funds sourced mostly from bond proceeds.

Project Schedule

The design of this project was completed in December 2020 and the construction contract was advertised for bids on January 28, 2021. It is anticipated that the project will begin construction during the spring of 2021 and be completed in the summer of 2022.

Project Benefits

New Equipment and Structure: Much of the existing equipment in the existing pump stations are the original equipment. Building a new pump station will replace the aging structures and equipment, extending the life of the facility by at least 50 years. The new pump station building will be built to current codes and standards and will have more efficient pumps and electrical equipment. This will reduce operational and maintenance costs.

Increased Capacity: Installing new variable speed driven pumps will add flexibility to system operation. These new pumps have been designed and selected to not only meet current system demands but will allow for future growth.

Improved Redundancy: The new pipe infrastructure has been designed to provide improved redundancy. The new design configuration will provide added flexibility in system operations allowing Maintenance and Operations staff to operate the facility to its fullest capacity while providing options for facility maintenance.

Additional Project Information

For more information on this project, please contact Jeffrey Bender, P.E., Project Engineer at 253-804-5063 or via email at jbender@auburnwa.gov

Child Safety Seats

Keep kids safe in the car!

Car crashes are a leading cause of fatal injury for Washington children. Keep children safe for travel by choosing the right child restraint (car seat, booster seat, or seat belt) and reading all instruction manuals carefully for installation and use of child safety seats.



Child Restraint Laws

Every state has child passenger restraint laws. Here's what Washington law requires:

- Vehicle occupants of any age must be restrained properly. The driver is held responsible for properly securing all passengers under the age of 16.
- Children under age 13 must ride in the back seat whenever possible.
- Children must ride in an appropriate car safety seat until they reach age 8 or 4 feet 9 inches tall, whichever comes first. Car safety seats (car seats or booster seats) must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Children who have reached age 8 or 4 feet 9 inches tall may use an adult seat belt if it fits correctly (see Step 4 below). If the seat belt cannot be adjusted to fit the child's body, continue to use a car safety seat until it does.



Tips for Choosing the Right Seat

Car seats, vehicles, and children come in all shapes and sizes. Choose a car seat that fits your child and can be installed properly in your vehicle. Be cautious of used car seats because they may be damaged, recalled, expired, or have missing pieces.

The following reflects current best practice recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Highway Safety Administration on choosing a car seat.

Infant/Toddler

The safest way for infants and toddlers to travel is in a rear-facing car seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible, until they reach the height/weight limits of their convertible car seat (usually 40-50 pounds). Choose seats with low shoulder harness slots as they fit newborns best.

Preschooler

Keep preschool-age children in a 5-point harness as long as possible. When the child reaches the rear-facing limits of their convertible car seat, transition to forward-facing. Forward-facing seats are often rated up to 50–65 pounds. Some are rated to 80+ pounds. Choose a seat with high weight limits and high harness slots to keep kids snug in a harness for longer.

School-Age

Children who have reached the weight or height limit of their forward-facing car seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the adult seat belt can fit properly. Always use booster seats with a seat belt that has both lap and shoulder portions (never with a lap-only belt).

If your child isn't mature enough to leave the seat belt in place while in a booster, a five-point harness is a safer choice. Look for a harnessed car seat with high weight and height limits that fit big kids longer.

Per Washington law, your child must use a properly fitted car seat or booster seat until at least age 8 or 4'9" tall.

Seat Belt Readiness Test

There is no single age, weight, or height that ensures a seat belt's proper fit in every vehicle. Make sure your child can pass **all** of the requirements of the Seat Belt Readiness Test in every vehicle:

- Scoot against the vehicle's seat back.
- Cross the shoulder belt between the neck and shoulder.
- Keep feet flat on the floor.
- Fit the lap belt so it's low across the upper thighs (not up on the belly).
- Bend knees at the edge of the vehicle seat.

Teenager

At age 13, your child can legally ride in the front seat of a motor vehicle, wearing their lap belt and shoulder belt correctly. Always check for airbag warnings.

Tips for Installing Car Seats

Location

- Consult your vehicle owner's manual for any restrictions on where you can install a car seat. (Washington law requires that children ride in the back seat, whenever possible.)
- Never install a rear-facing car seat by an active front passenger airbag.

Angle

- Consult your car seat instruction manual for guidance on how to achieve the proper recline angle.
- Install rear-facing car seats so they are in a semi-reclined position. (The level indicator, often found on the side of the car seat, shows if the seat is not sitting at the proper angle.)
- Install most forward-facing car seats in an upright position.

Attachments

- Consult your vehicle owner's manual to determine which seats have lower anchors and tethers for children (LATCH) and how to lock your seat belts.

- Install your car seat with either the LATCH system **or** a seat belt, not both at the same time.
- Route your seat belt or LATCH anchors through the correct belt path on the car seat.
- Push down on the car seat while tightening the seat belt or LATCH straps.
- Make sure to lock seat belts if using them. This may involve using a locking latch plate, locking retractor, locking clip, or built-in lock-off.
- Grasp the car seat next to the belt path with one hand and tug directly to the side—if it moves more than one inch from side to side, tighten the belt again. If you cannot achieve a tight fit, try a different seating position or a different car seat.
- Read and follow the tethering instructions in your manual when installing a forward-facing car seat.

Tips for Using Harnesses

- Route the harness through the nearest slot at or **below** your child's shoulder in a **rear-facing car seat**.
- Route the harness through the nearest slot at or **above** your child's shoulder in a **forward-facing car seat**.
- Adjust the harness snugly on your child's shoulder. If you can pinch harness webbing between your fingers (at the child's collarbone), it's too loose.
- Place the chest clip at armpit level.
- Do not add any aftermarket car seat accessories that were not made specifically for your car seat. They have not been crash-tested with your seat and can be dangerous.



Questions?

Contact the VRFA Child Safety Seat Technicians at 253-288-5881 or 253-288-5882.





THE RACE MUST GO ON!

Auburn's Dog Trot scheduled for May 22, 2021

Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation is happy to announce that Auburn's Dog Trot 3K/5K Fun Run will be held in 2021. Event organizers are planning to host the event in-person, but will also have a 'virtual' option to best accommodate everyone's wishes..

Registrations are currently being accepted for Auburn's Dog Trot. A convenient link is located at auburnwa.gov/events. Registration is \$18.00 per person and includes a limited edition T-Shirt, a full color race bib and a participation medal. Packets can be shipped domestically for an additional \$5.00 per packet. Packet pick-up sessions will be held in the weeks leading up to the event date. We will offer a variety of date/time options for a contactless pick-up prior to the event. Packet pick-up will also be offered on-site on May 22.

For those participating in-person, they will sign-up for a timeslot that will include a maximum of 25 people. The event will be self-timed and starting in waves every few minutes. Only on-line registration will be accepted; there will be no day of registration. Face masks/face coverings will be required until participants enter the route. Visit our website for complete details.



Dog Trot is a family-oriented Fun Run event that typically takes place in conjunction with the Petpalooza festival, held annually each May. Due to the current gathering limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Petpalooza Festival will not be held in 2021 but a smaller-scale Happy Paws event will be held at Les Gove Park.

HAPPY PAWS



SATURDAY, MAY 22
10:00AM - 4:00PM
LES GOVE PARK



WWW.AUBURNWA.GOV/EVENTS

CITY OF AUBURN
PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION

The City of Auburn is planning a small-scale pet vendor event. While this is not to be confused with the grandiose Petpalooza festival, Happy Paws will give attendees the opportunity to visit some vendors and stock up on some of your favorite goodies in a safe, outdoor environment.

Happy Paws is planned for Saturday, May 22 at Les Gove Park. The outdoor event site will be completely fenced, so the number of attendees can be monitored in accordance with state guidelines.

As of press time, there will be no entertainment of other attractions, but attendees will see up to 45 vendors with items such as pet nutritional products, handmade pet items, pet beds, leashes, animal sculptures, original watercolor paintings and more. Of course, leashed, licensed, well-behaved pets are welcome!

Since 2008, Auburn's Petpalooza has been a bright spot for thousands of animal lovers and their furry companions. Although we cannot celebrate with our traditional Petpalooza festival in 2021, please know that we are committed to future festivals and look forward to Auburn's Petpalooza 2022.

The event will be taking the following safety precautions:

- Limiting attendance inside fenced area to current state guidelines (as of press time, current guidelines are 200)
- In accordance to the Governor's orders, masks/face coverings are required by all attendees, staff and vendors inside the event area
- One entrance and one exit
- One way flow of traffic
- There will be a maximum of 45 vendors, who will be separated by 10' per vendor space
- Social distancing indicators will be placed at each vendor booth
- Vendors are required to provide a 'U-shaped' set-up; thus no attendees will be allowed under canopies
- Hand sanitizer available at entrance and exit.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

Flashing Yellow Left Turns



DID YOU KNOW?

Flashing yellow left turn arrows are used to tell you that you can turn left **but you must yield to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles.** At some intersections, the flashing yellow may be displayed only during off-peak hours.





The City of Auburn's Community Development Department is excited to announce the launch of a new web-based community engagement tool! SpeakUpAuburn provides a platform for residents, business owners and students to engage on various projects happening in Auburn. Contribute your ideas and take the opportunity to influence decision making on local issues and projects that matter to you.

Visit speakupauburn.org to get started!



SUMMER CAMPS

WWW.AUBURNWA.GOV/CAMPS | 253-931-3043

Blast into Summer with Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation summer camps

Need summer plans for the kids? The Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation Department has everything you're looking for to keep your child active and engaged.

Camp options are offered for pre-school age through tweens in various topics and settings. All camps follow the Washington State Department of Health guidelines for childcare. Based on the current guidelines, camps will feature curbside check-in and health screenings; staff will walk youth participants to their assigned program space; masks must be worn by staff and participants at all times (both indoors and outdoors); increased cleaning and sanitizing; and designated space and facilities for each program.

Whether you're looking for enrichment activities to make your child's summer extra fun, need-part time or full-time childcare, or are looking for social opportunities, we've got you covered!

Visit auburnwa.gov/camp for full list of programs & activities.

Auburn's Recreation Division provides opportunities for the public to participate in diverse recreational programs - from fitness opportunities to open gym drop-in programs and a host of youth and adult organized sport leagues and lessons - there is something for everyone.

For more details about specific programs and activities, call the Parks, Arts & Recreation Administration office at 253-931-3043 or visit auburnwa.gov/play.

SUMMER BLAST!

For kids, there is nothing quite like summer time! This summer Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation is rolling out something new with Summer Blast. Summer Blast will offer a multitude of specialty camps each week for kids ages 6-11. Topics range from a STEAM based camps that include Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math; theater, healthy futures; rock climbing; the arts; dance; nature; museum camps; cooking; gardening and more! Families have the option of choosing half day specialty camps or selecting the full day option that combines the specialty camp of their choice and awesome afternoon activities for a full day of care that will capture the kids interest and make their summer unforgettable!

SPORT CAMPS

Sport camp options, coordinated through Skyhawks and held at Les Gove Park, include baseball, basketball, flag football, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball and a multi-sport camp. Skyhawks camp will have both full-day or half day options. Additionally, a special tennis camp will be held at Game Farm Park.

TWEEN SCENE

Keep the big kids busy with the popular Tween Scene camp just for kids entering 5th and 6th grades. Tween Scene takes over the Teen Center with weekly themed activities, arts & crafts and special events.

THEATER CAMPS

Drama, creativity, music and more will hit the stage for a variety of theater camp options this summer. Mini theater camps, Devised theater camps, a theater tech camp and a musical review are all options to experience at the Auburn Avenue Theater.

In honor of national Historic Preservation Month in May, we want to highlight the iconic Auburn Post Office.

Preserving a local treasure – Auburn’s 1937 landmark post office

The historic structure was built in 1937 as a WPA project and originally housed the Auburn Post Office. The building was purchased by King County and transitioned for use as a Public Health building in 1964. Vacant since 2009, the City of Auburn purchased the building in 2016 and will begin interior renovations this year to transition the building into the Auburn Arts & Culture Center. The building was designated as a historic City Landmark in 2000 and is on the King County Landmarks Register, the Washington State Heritage Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

The beautiful red brick building located in Auburn’s downtown was designed in a “Starved Classical” style, commonly used for federal buildings in that era. The 8,000 sq. ft. one-story building has a full basement, a poured concrete foundation, sandstone trim elements, and engaged sandstone piers that call out the main building entry. Five wide granite steps flanked by original wrought-iron ornamental lamp posts lead to tall wooden double entry doors with transom windows above and large rectangular double-hung wood windows with true divided lights and wooden style and rail panels below on either side. Located on either side of the entry ensemble are gently arched double-hung wood windows with true divided lights and poured concrete sills. These windows, which feature a soldier course of red brick at the headers emphasizing the subtle arch, continue at regular intervals around the sides and rear of the building.

Interior finish materials in the lobby area included Alaskan marble wainscoting, mahogany window and door trim, and terrazzo flooring. The workrooms behind the public portion of the building were floored and trimmed with less expensive wood treatments, as was the custom in the “Starved Classical” style of the time.

As a historic local landmark building, great care has been exercised by the City to comply with Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties relating to the building’s restoration and rehabilitation. Specifically important to our efforts are preserving existing historic character and maintaining historic features like mahogany window trim, Alaskan marble wainscoting, and an industrial-looking pulley system used to open and close skylight windows above the reception area. In addition, the original terrazzo and hardwood flooring remain, with plans for rehabilitation that will make this features a focal point of the interior renovations.

Protecting and maintaining a historic landmark building is no small feat, and it has not been undertaken without



Interior rendering of lobby and gallery space at Auburn Arts & Culture Center. Courtesy of Johnston Architects



incredible support from King County’s Landmarks Commission and 4Culture’s Preservation Department. The City of Auburn has been very fortunate to receive \$938,000 in grant funding, of which \$423,000 has been specifically from 4Culture in support of Auburn’s preservation efforts, including specific funds to rehabilitate the windows, the distinctive original cupola, the terrazzo and wood flooring, and the roof. Additional grant funding for the project has come from Multicare and the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Interior transformation of this beautiful landmark post office building will allow new life to be brought into the historic space. As an Arts & Culture Center, the building will act as a venue for visual, performing, literary, and cultural arts. Through arts and cultural education, events, and various programming, the City of Auburn hopes to provide an inclusive space that can celebrate, and bring together, Auburn’s diverse cultural community through the shared language of the arts. We are honored to celebrate this important historic preservation effort and allow the historically significant building to be redefined as a central hub where cultural communities will come together in appreciation, and creation, of artistic and cultural experiences.

AUBURN GOLF COURSE IS BOOMING IN POPULARITY

If you're having difficulty finding a tee time at our Auburn Golf Course you are not alone as the number of golfers continues to swell during this pandemic. People of all ages have been coming out in droves to chase that little white ball around, both locally and nationally.

According to figures compiled by Golf Datatech, which provides the golf industry with specialized market research, the numbers of rounds played nationally in August were up 20.6% from the same month the previous year. After being down 18% for the first five months of 2020, the number has gotten out of the red and is now up over 10%, thanks to increases throughout the rest of the year.

Golf is a sport in which players can socially distance, and the number of rounds nationally and revenue from the purchase of golf equipment are both substantially up from last year. "There are several factors for this but I'd say that it's a great respite to be outdoors and you can properly socially distance," said Chris Morris, Auburn Golf Course Head Golf Professional. "It was one of the few sports that you could do at the height of the pandemic when indoor space was closed. I think the health benefits as well as the mental well-being, that you could spend four hours of quality time with family and friends in a safe manner."

The Auburn Golf Course followed all the protocols required by the State of Washington, such as sanitizing golf carts after each use, social distancing in the club house, and requiring credit or debit card payments only. With over 50,000 rounds being played in 2020, no COVID cases were traced back to the Course. Staff and participants continue to follow all the required safety protocols required by the State. "As we move into 2021, participation numbers remain high and spring leagues and tournaments getting underway," added Morris. The Auburn Golf Course is home to the Auburn and Auburn Mountainview High School golf teams as well as the host of approximately one hundred and fifty tournaments a year, many of which raise money for area causes.

"I think everybody is desiring every recreational pursuit to reopen in a safe manner," noted Daryl Faber, Parks, Arts and Recreation Director for the City of Auburn. "We certainly want youth to have opportunities that are vast. So whether you, or a child goes back to hiking or soccer or golf or tennis, whatever the sport of choice is, I encourage them to find an activity that can last a lifetime and create lifelong memories and friendships".



Poetry Corner – National Poetry Month

As we celebrate the coming of spring, it is also a time to celebrate National Poetry Month, and the many talented poets in the Auburn community. In 2021, the City of Auburn welcomes a new Poet Laureate, James Rodgers. Rodgers has many ideas for how to bring poetry to the community during his tenure, including: a series of recent virtual poetry readings; working with the schools and the Auburn Reporter to showcase kid's poetry; creating a chapbook spotlighting the four Poets Laureate of Auburn; creating a mini-library box in Auburn with poems for people to take; and collaborating with the Auburn Reporter to hopefully have a regular poetry column, like Dick Brugger once did.

Auburn is also fortunate to have two excellent long-time poetry groups, the Striped Water Poets and Northwest Renaissance Poets. Members of these groups often gather for Monday night poetry readings at the Rainbow Café, a tradition and spotlight shared by Poet Laureate James Rodgers as well as Auburn's former Poets Laureate: Susan Landgraf (2018-2020), Marjorie Rommel (2015-2017), and the beloved late Dick Brugger (2012-2014). These talented groups of writers and community members have found a way to come together to share their love of the written word, and also share their talents at many wonderful Auburn events.

Traditionally, Auburn sponsors two literary-focused events each year in partnership with these talented local poetry groups: "Poets on the Ave" at the Auburn Avenue Theater, held in April in celebration of National Poetry Month; and AuburnFest's "Literary Showcase," in August which includes a book fair, readings, poetry workshops, and much more. Over the past years, these events have been excellent avenues to celebrate the literary arts with the broader community, to spotlight the talents of Auburn's current and past Poets Laureate, and to engage an audience with the power and passion of the spoken word. We will look forward to the return of these events when gatherings resume.

Let us bring in this new spring season and spend time with the words written by Auburn's own Poet Laureate James Rodgers!

Things I've Learned in Quarantine

*I am not essential, no matter what my Mom thinks.
My job can be performed remotely.
I eat more chocolate when I work remotely.
Two of the laws of motion I learned in Physics class make more sense now: An object at rest stays at rest unless changed by an external force; and For every action in Nature, there is an equal and opposite reaction.
Sitting at my dining room table with my laptop is the equal and opposite reaction.
Lounge pants are proper work attire.
Zoom is fine. Microsoft Teams is fine, but I miss my co-workers.
I'm funnier remotely.
I miss hugs.
Spending all this time in quarantine in a small house with my wife tells me retirement will be a piece of cake.
I didn't realize how important toilet paper is for people's state of minds.
Everything gets slightly better after chocolate, beer, or a nap.
I miss hiking in the woods.
I drink more beer in quarantine.
I wear more t-shirts in quarantine.
Most of my clothes seem to have shrunk while I'm in quarantine.
People's tolerance for inconvenience is incredibly low.
Besides a very small group, I don't really miss interacting with people too much.
I look less cool with long hair than I did when I was twenty.
I look less cool than I did when I was twenty.
I write more poems about being in quarantine when I am in quarantine.
Food delivery services don't deliver food hot or fast. It shows up when it shows up, and you better have a microwave to reheat it.
Small acts of kindness are worth more in quarantine.
As a society, we complain too much. Inconvenience is not oppression.
Nurses, doctors, teachers, delivery folk and anyone in the service industry are underpaid, and most of us don't deserve the sacrifice they are making.
I miss hugs. Yeah, I know I already said it. I'm just surprised by that fact, so I'm repeating it.
Something we can't see can change our life in a heartbeat.
As restrictions lessen, I thought humanity would be more grateful. It isn't.
Birthdays during quarantine suck.
All those times I said I'd do something when I had more time, I lied.*

James Rodgers 05/13/20



Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE)

Few would argue that the role of a police officers in today's world is straightforward. Even fewer would say that the situations they encounter each day offer simple solutions or resolution. The complexities, challenges and stresses involved with policing in a community are vast, and with that growing complexity, comes a demand from our communities that officers are equipped with the training and skills needed to protect residents without harm.

Across the country, our communities - and the law enforcement agencies that serve them - are recognizing the need to reflect on how we ensure that policing remains centered around safety and justice.

Last summer, the Auburn Police Department became one of only 25 agencies in the United States and Canada to participate in Georgetown Law's Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project – a program designed to train officers to intervene to prevent their colleagues from causing harm or making costly mistakes.

Launched in 2020, ABLE is based on the EPIC (Ethical Policing Is Courageous) Peer Intervention Program developed in 2014 by psychologist Dr. Ervin Staub, the New Orleans Police Department and others to focus on the psychology of peace and violence.

Through ABLE, instructors are able to use science-backed strategies from the EPIC program to deliver practical, scenario-based training for peer intervention and to further guide development of concrete measures that create and sustain a culture of peer intervention among officers.

In mid-January, the Auburn Police Department marked a major milestone in the program with the completion of training for every officer on the force. Today, the pride in this work can be seen with the ABLE pin worn on every uniform and decal on every vehicle.



"We have always had the expectation that we hold each other accountable, but this program reinforces that we need to go beyond that," said Chief of Police Dan O'Neil.

"For us it's more than just a symbol of something we have accomplished, it is a constant reminder that we are responsible to each other – that we not only hold one another to the highest standards, but that this is hard work and we need be a support to one another," said O'Neil.

Central to the ABLE program training is intervention – not only in the field during officer interactions, but off duty as peers.

"Officer wellness is core to good policing. Having the courage to talk to one another when it feels like someone is struggling, to address something that seems off even in their personal life, is one of the ways we make sure we are serving our community at the highest level," said O'Neil

One of the unique, and most important elements of the ABLE program is the emphasis on a holistic look at department's culture.

"We are all better officers when we know that our peers are not only holding us to the highest standards of police accountability, but that they are also invested in the wellness of the person behind the badge," said O'Neil.

To learn more about the ABLE program and the data behind the success of peer intervention programs, visit law.georgetown.edu/innovative-policing-program/active-bystandership-for-law-enforcement.

Greenery Guidelines

Spring is coming and with it, trees in bloom and bushes full of foliage. Once growing season hits full speed, it's time to break out the trimming shears to keep your greenery in order and your neighborhood roads and sidewalks safe.

Here are some reminders about property owners', homeowners' and business owners' responsibilities:

1	Trees should be pruned as they grow to provide a minimum of 8 foot clearance above public sidewalks, and 14 foot clearance above roadways.
2	Shrubs should be pruned as they grow to not exceed 3 feet in height when located in landscape strips.
3	Vegetation should be trimmed to not exceed 30 inches (2.5 feet) in height, and should not be lower than 7 feet near intersections and driveways to prevent blocking the view of approaching traffic.
4	Signs must be clear of vegetation so that drivers can see them.
5	Vegetation must be maintained in the landscape strips adjacent to your properties.
6	Vegetation must be trimmed so that it doesn't block the sidewalks.
7	Sidewalks and driveway approaches must be clear of tree limbs, grasses, moss or any other vegetation that may prevent a safe travel path for pedestrians.



Signs must be visible to drivers



Sidewalks must not be blocked by vegetation and maintained to be free of debris, grass, and moss

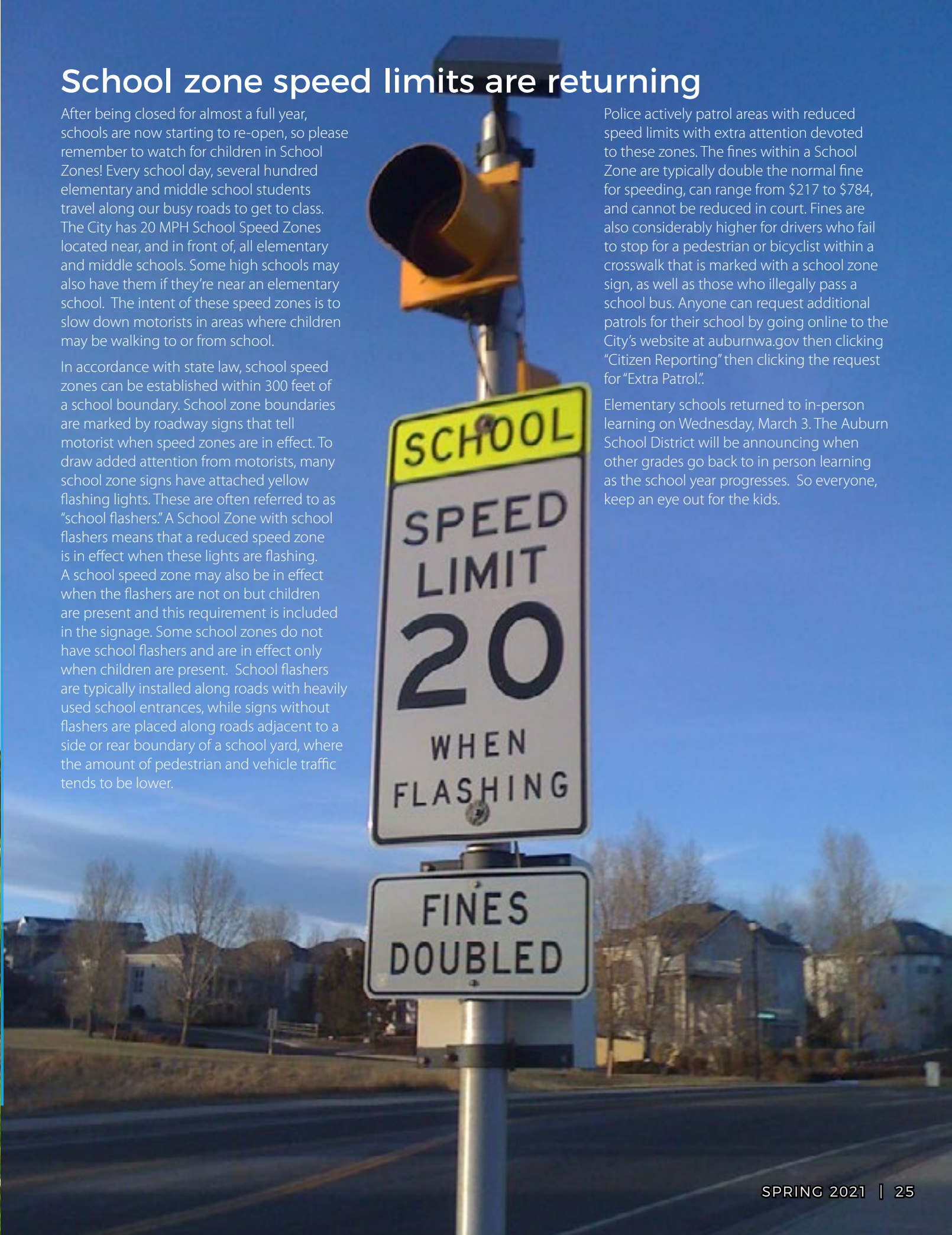
School zone speed limits are returning

After being closed for almost a full year, schools are now starting to re-open, so please remember to watch for children in School Zones! Every school day, several hundred elementary and middle school students travel along our busy roads to get to class. The City has 20 MPH School Speed Zones located near, and in front of, all elementary and middle schools. Some high schools may also have them if they're near an elementary school. The intent of these speed zones is to slow down motorists in areas where children may be walking to or from school.

In accordance with state law, school speed zones can be established within 300 feet of a school boundary. School zone boundaries are marked by roadway signs that tell motorist when speed zones are in effect. To draw added attention from motorists, many school zone signs have attached yellow flashing lights. These are often referred to as "school flashers." A School Zone with school flashers means that a reduced speed zone is in effect when these lights are flashing. A school speed zone may also be in effect when the flashers are not on but children are present and this requirement is included in the signage. Some school zones do not have school flashers and are in effect only when children are present. School flashers are typically installed along roads with heavily used school entrances, while signs without flashers are placed along roads adjacent to a side or rear boundary of a school yard, where the amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic tends to be lower.

Police actively patrol areas with reduced speed limits with extra attention devoted to these zones. The fines within a School Zone are typically double the normal fine for speeding, can range from \$217 to \$784, and cannot be reduced in court. Fines are also considerably higher for drivers who fail to stop for a pedestrian or bicyclist within a crosswalk that is marked with a school zone sign, as well as those who illegally pass a school bus. Anyone can request additional patrols for their school by going online to the City's website at auburnwa.gov then clicking "Citizen Reporting" then clicking the request for "Extra Patrol."

Elementary schools returned to in-person learning on Wednesday, March 3. The Auburn School District will be announcing when other grades go back to in person learning as the school year progresses. So everyone, keep an eye out for the kids.



Keeping it clean in Auburn

Keeping Auburn clean is important for the safety, health, and welfare of all residents, but it is a big job! As you walk around the city, it is hard to avoid noticing the increased amount of litter and trash on the main roads, open spaces, parking lots, neighborhoods, public and private properties, and parks. Over the last twenty years the population of Auburn has more than doubled to over 81,464 (per the 2019 U.S. Census). Along with growth of city boundaries and people, there can, unfortunately, be an increase in litter and illegal dumping. We all want our community to have clean streets, parks, and public places, but it is going to take all of us to do our part to keep Auburn healthy and safe for our families.

A bit of history

The City of Auburn has been providing litter patrol crews for over thirty years, as well as providing outreach campaigns and contests for litter pickup in Auburn schools. Containers were added to City parks for recycling in 2004, and a special Auburn litter crew was added specifically to clean the main streets and public right of ways in 1991. The City previously contracted with Vadis, a special work program providing persons with disabilities a livable wage job to help keep Auburn clean for over 26 years. After Vadis stopped offering litter control services, the City contracted with Recology CleanScapes from 2017 to 2020 to collect litter and illegal dumping.

The new Think Green Street Crew

Starting in January 2021, as part of the new solid waste contract with environmental services provider Waste Management (WM), the City hired the WM Think Green Street Crew, first of its kind service in the Pacific Northwest. This full-time team of highly trained responders is dedicated to cleaning up Auburn.

A two-person team using specially designed trucks responds to reports of anything from an old washing machine dumped

on the side of the road to discarded hypodermic needles near a playground. Team members go through extensive training on how to handle biohazards, large heavy objects, and even how to avoid insect nests and noxious, invasive plants.

By the time their day ends, they have separated the garbage and recyclables they have collected and taken it all safely and securely to the proper facilities.

"We worked very closely with the City to develop this unique street crew concept," said Laura Moser, WM's public sector manager for Auburn. "Safety for the community and our crews is our top priority as they go about cleaning up Auburn."

As you are out and about in the city, keep an eye out for the Street Crew and give them some room. You will know it is them when you see the WM truck parked between cones, flashing warning lights and pulling an odd-looking trailer. It is an impact-safety barrier designed to protect the crew and any motorist who might run into it. Their trucks are also equipped with litter grabbers, shovels, and plenty of garbage bags.

Let's look at the volume

In 2020, the Recology CleanScapes crew collected: 3,358 bags of garbage, 197 tires, 621 large bulk items, and 205 Sharps (needles). Off to a great start, the new Waste Management Think Green Street Crew removed over five tons of litter and nearly four tons of large bulk items during its first month patrolling the streets of Auburn.

All of the trash, litter and illegally dumped materials are collected and brought to the City's Maintenance and Operations facility where they are picked up by the contracted solid waste hauler. In 2020, 71 tons of garbage and 35.5 tons of bulky wood waste (large bulky items such as sofas, chairs, mattress, etc.) were hauled to the landfill. Items such as ovens, refrigerators, and other scrap metal are separated for recycling.



Where does the litter crew collect?

The Auburn Litter Crew collects litter and trash on the main roads and right of ways throughout the city on five specific routes, Monday through Friday. For a litter collection map of what areas and days the crew collects, please go to www.auburnwa.gov/solidwaste. The crew also collects illegal dumping items such as furniture and appliances in all route areas as soon as possible during the week. The City of Auburn Street Department staff collects litter in the downtown area and assists with picking up larger illegal dumping piles. The Auburn Parks Maintenance crews take care of picking up litter and trash in City parks and City-owned open spaces.



Where does the litter crew not collect?

The litter crew does not collect on neighborhood streets and State highway on-ramps and off-ramps. We encourage residents to pick up litter and trash around their own properties and HOAs.

Adopt-a-Street

Another great way to keep your neighborhood clean is to sign up for the City Adopt-a-Street Program. Although it is currently suspended due to restrictions of COVID-19, if current restrictions change, the City can restart the program with proper precautions. Participants can fill out an application to request to adopt a street on the City's website at auburnwa.gov or contact the City's right of way specialist in the Public Works Department at 253-804-3120 for more information. Approved streets are generally a mile in length and the program requires that applicants sign an agreement, indemnification and Hold Harmless statement. Participants must be 15 years or older and minors under 18 are required to have adult supervision.

Businesses and commercial or service groups are required to provide insurance naming the City as an additional insured. The insurance requirement is waived for family groups. Participants must also agree to attend a safety training, clean up four times a year and coordinate with the City to pick up and return supplies and complete required paperwork for each cleanup activity.

The City provides safety vests, disposable gloves, bags, flags for hazard items (needles), traffic warning sign and pick up of the full bags. After the first cleanup, a recognition sign is installed. Please note that not all streets requested are approved for the program. The City looks at the safety of a road and other factors prior to approving a location for the Adopt-a-Street Program. If the street you requested is not approved, the City can work with you to identify another location that is more suitable for the program.

Reporting Trash, Litter, and Illegal Dumping

The City offers two methods to make a report – Online Citizen Reporting or SeeClickFix.

To access these options, visit auburnwa.gov. Under the News and Announcements section of the homepage, you can choose from "File a Report" or "SeeClickFix."

Report Tips:

Help our street crew by following these tips when reporting:

- Take a picture so there is identifying background (see examples).
- Provide as much details as possible on the location and what items are to be collected.
- Remember litter and trash are collected by routes, so it may take up to a week to collect regular litter. Check the litter collection map.
- Larger or dangerous items will be collected as soon as possible.



Picture showing identifying information in the background on location.



Picture not showing enough information on location.

For a healthy community, clean air matters

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's (the Agency) vision is for everyone to breathe clean, healthy air all the time – regardless of who you are or where you live. Our jurisdiction covers King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. It is important to know that there are many health impacts from air pollution. In our region, particle pollution, smog, wildfire smoke, and air toxics pose the greatest risk to our well-being. Outdoor air pollution can cause serious health issues such as heart attacks, asthma, strokes, cancer, and premature death.

The Agency is also committed to environmental justice so no community in our region bears disproportionate burdens and exposure from air pollution. We have identified four focus communities throughout the Puget Sound region, including the Auburn, Algona, and Pacific areas that are disproportionately impacted by air pollution and other environmental issues. We focus many of our community engagement efforts in these communities to try and move the needle and see greater environmental justice.

Our commitment to equity and environmental justice means taking the time to build and invest in relationships within the community. To be relevant and serve all people in the Auburn Valley, we reach out and listen to community concerns and make room to work with issues new to us. We are currently working with community partners to provide education, resources on how to protect yourself and your family from air pollution, and much more. We encourage you to join us in this community work and hope you will reach out to us for any questions, collaboration ideas, or needed resources.

Transportation routes and train lines are some of the air pollution sources in the Auburn, Algona, and Pacific communities and in the winter months, the area is impacted by wood smoke from residential wood burning. All these elements contribute to air pollution and certain communities in the area are disproportionally impacted by this issue.

There are many things that you can do to help improve your neighborhood air quality. Smoke from wood burning is a major contributor to increased air pollution in King County and directly impacts neighborhoods and communities since smoke is often trapped close to the ground especially when it is cold outside. It is also the reason air quality burn bans are issued during the winter.

Clean air matters for a healthy community and it takes all of us to make an inclusive, healthy, and vibrant community. Our Agency continues to pursue opportunities to reduce the impacts of air pollution through our programs, education and mitigation resources, and community engagement. We look forward to developing impactful solutions with the Auburn Valley community and working with you to help celebrate and build on community-driven solutions.



Below are a few reminders to help you prevent burn bans and improve your neighborhood air quality.

- Wood Stove Recycling Program: For a limited time, residents of King County can receive a \$350 reward for recycling their old, polluting wood stove. To be eligible, you must have an uncertified or pre-year 2000 wood stove or fireplace insert, free-standing manufactured fireplace, wood-burning furnace, or residential coal-burning device. One project per household. After enrolling, applicants must submit photos of their old wood stove or fireplace insert to be reviewed for eligibility. Learn more and sign up today at pscleanair.gov/WOODSTOVE or call (206) 343-8800. Español: pscleanair.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3943
- Clean Burning Challenge: If you must burn, burn smart! Now is the time to be preparing your wood pile for next winter. It's important to split, stack and store your firewood for 6-12 months before it is dry enough to burn. Join the Clean Burning Challenge to earn a free moisture meter to test when your firewood is ready to burn. To qualify, you must have a wood stove, pass a short quiz, and sign up for burn ban alerts. Visit pscleanair.gov/CleanBurnChallenge or call (206) 689-4054. Español: ¡Únase al Reto de la Combustión Limpia! pscleanair.gov/RetodelaCombustionLimpia
- Burn Bans: Learn more about air quality burn bans and sign up for alerts. pscleanair.gov/BurnBans



In late 2019, the South King County Senior Centers & Resources Hub was formed and got off the ground in 2020! Funded through the Veterans, Seniors, Human Services Levy (VSHSL), we are a hub that serves the Auburn Senior Center, Pacific Senior Center, and Federal Way Senior Center (in unincorporated Auburn).

Our goal is to provide social services to seniors and help them navigate the resources that will support them to thrive in our community. Our focus population is underserved seniors who may be socially or physically isolated and may not be engaged with their local senior center. We also are doing outreach with seniors from diverse communities in South King County and have interpretation services available.

We serve seniors who are age 55+, as well as veterans of any age (or the family of a veteran). They must live in our hub service area, which includes: Auburn, Pacific, Algona, and unincorporated Auburn/Federal Way. We have a close working relationship with the King County Veterans Program, which is also funded through VSHSL funds and their social worker collaborates with us to serve our veterans.

The Resource Navigators are Masters-Level providers, who can provide support, outreach, connection, and social engagement for the diversity of seniors who live in South King County. We can provide short-term counseling, case management, crisis intervention, and ensure that people get connected with resources in their community. We can meet with clients 1:1, meet with them in the community, or connect in our Zoom support groups.

Some of the things that we can help seniors with include (but are not limited to): affordable housing, home care, assistance with online applications, accessing benefits online, transportation, utility assistance, financial assistance, access to food, dementia care, and veterans' issues.

You may be wondering how COVID-19 impacted our program in 2020. Because our three sites have been impacted so greatly by the pandemic and have had to shut our doors to the public, we have remained active behind the scenes. We have been providing creative outreach to Seniors (Zoom support groups and activities, drive-through events, and distribution of coffee mugs to senior housing residents). Our monthly drive-through events have been popular and usually have at least 250 people in attendance. We also used VSHSL funds to provide emergency food to seniors early in the pandemic. With the senior center closed for the last year, we continue to try new services to combat loneliness and isolation.

During the pandemic, more seniors struggled with the impact on their daily business, as many organizations went "virtual" and requested things to be scanned, emailed, uploaded, or applications completed online. Not everybody has access or the technical skills to complete these things, so the Resource Navigation Team has stepped in to help.

With respect to "Stay at Home" restrictions, the Resource Navigators started limiting time at each site and have done a lot of work through virtual conferences, telephone interviews and quick door visits with clients for signatures and to provide resources. However, we have a protocol in place for meeting with people 1:1 at the Auburn Senior Activity Center.

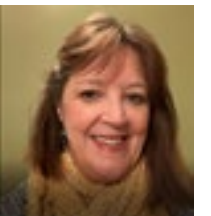
Who is the Resource Navigation Team?

In addition to the management and staff at the Auburn Senior Activity Center, Pacific Senior Center, and Federal Way Senior Center & Food Bank, the Hub hired a full-time Resource Navigation Program Coordinator in February and a part-time Resource Navigation Program Specialist in August. Our team was fully complete in August 2020, when our Resource Navigation Program Office Assistant was hired.

Jennifer Hurley, MSW, LICSW is the Resource Navigation Program Coordinator. She grew up in South King County and loves this part of the Northwest! She is an Auburn resident with over 21 years of social work experience, mostly in South King County. Having worked as a medical social worker, she can help with adjustment to chronic illness and help people connect to the medical resources that are sometimes challenging to navigate. Jennifer has also practiced as a therapist to help individuals find ways to cope with depression and anxiety. She has been facilitating Mindfulness and Stress Reduction classes virtually for the Auburn Senior Activity Center. She is also a strong advocate who likes to partner with clients, as well as the organizations that already exist in our community.



Sarah ButlerWills, MDiv. & MS.MFT, is our part-time Resource Navigator. She hails from Tacoma, WA and works out of the Pacific Senior Center and Federal Way Senior Center & Food Bank. Sarah's background is in Marriage and Family Therapy, she had a private practice for 22 years, and she was a Pastor of a small church in Seattle for 5 years. Most recently she worked in a non-profit transitional housing ministry called Vision House. There, she was the Director of Family Services. Sarah has three sons, all college graduates, and living into their best lives! Her husband is an Elementary School Music Teacher. Sarah loves working with Seniors, especially hearing stories of their lives, struggles and contributions to our communities. She started working for the Senior Center Hub in August of 2020, so she has never experienced working in an opened Senior Center! She loves to read, hike, snowshoe, and drink coffee.



Lindsey Pritchard is the Resource Navigation Program Assistant who has been with the City of Auburn since October 2020. She provides help with program development, database management, grant reporting and administrative support to program staff. She has over ten years of experience working in the technological field, much of that time spent with nonprofits and communities of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. She is skilled at making connections between numbers and people.



City of Auburn's Blue Ribbon Committee Update

In 2015, a King County Community Health Needs Assessment report was released with data showing that south King County, including Auburn, was among the most negatively impacted areas in the state for health, with life expectancy in south King County 13 years less than other areas. It also showed Auburn as having some of the highest rates of behavioral/mental distress, obesity, smoking, diabetes, low income, and unemployment.

To address these concerning findings, a Blue Ribbon Committee was formed with the goal of transforming the City of Auburn into the healthiest city in Washington. Made up of clinical health partner, MultiCare Health System, and seven major stakeholders: Auburn School District, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Green River College, Valley Cities Mental Health, Auburn Valley YMCA, HealthPoint, and Seattle-King County Public Health-Auburn, the committee forged forward to find solutions to improve health for the residents of Auburn and beyond.

Five years later, the committee remains hard at work in pursuit of their goal, with some major accomplishments already under their belt, including national recognition for their work to reach minority communities in Auburn and the copyright of a first-of-its-kind mental health training course.

A closer look at the work of the committee

The Blue Ribbon Committee has focused their work during the past five years on four critical issues facing the Auburn community: healthy weight; mental health; health equity and maternal and child health. Here is a closer look at some of those initiatives.

Mental/behavior health highlights

In 2017, the Blue Ribbon Committee developed the R.E.A.D.Y.™ (Real Emergency Aid Depends on You) program. This program is designed to provide information about common behavioral and mental health issues through a one-hour course that teaches basic, practical skills to use in emergency mental health situations and crises.

R.E.A.D.Y.™

In 2019, Teen R.E.A.D.Y. was created to address the unique mental health challenges facing youth. The program was made a permanent part of the curriculum for middle and high school students in the Auburn School District. A program for parents and children, R.E.A.D.Y. for Kids, has also been developed and will be shared with elementary school parents beginning this year.

TEEN R.E.A.D.Y.™

Health weight highlights

In 2018, the Committee developed a series of "Healthier by the Minute" videos that were widely shared with the community. These one-minute videos demonstrated for viewers healthy recipes which can be made quickly and with easily-to-use ingredients.

A Healthy Food and Beverage Summit was also held with national speakers to engage school leaders and Auburn restaurants in offering healthy food and beverage options for kids and adults. A resolution was also passed by the City to promote these healthy options and create guidelines.



Maternal and child health highlights

In 2016, an annual vaccination program was developed with HealthPoint, Multicare and the Auburn School District to increase required vaccinations among students. More than 2,100 students who did not meet vaccination requirements have since been served and in 2019, the Auburn School District announced that they had reached maximum vaccination compliance.

In 2018, the Committee collaborated with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to develop Muckleshoot First Food, a breastfeeding campaign that teaches the importance of breastmilk as a first food and provides lactation support to young tribal women. Twenty-five students have since graduated and the program is being shared with other tribal nations.

Health Equity Highlights

Connecting with minority communities in Auburn and building trusted relationships has been the work of the Committee since its earliest days. Today, the committee works closely with a variety of groups to provide outreach and educational opportunities, with a particular emphasis on our Latinx and Marshallese communities. This work has included regular round-table discussions and presentations; CRP, first-aid and English classes; mask and food distribution during the pandemic; and filtered fan distribution during wildfire season, to name a few.

To learn more about the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee, visit auburnwa.gov/HealthAuburn.

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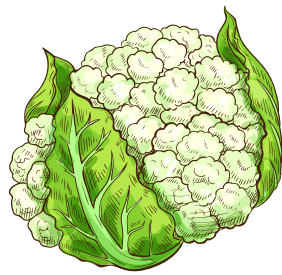
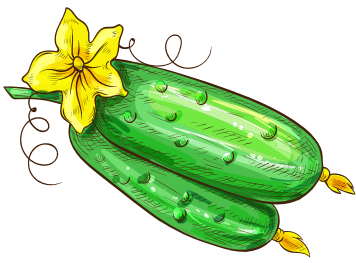
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AVOID THE FINE!
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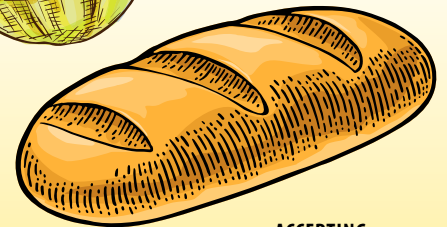
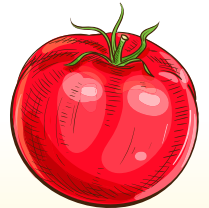
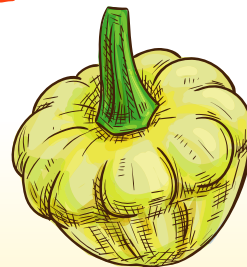
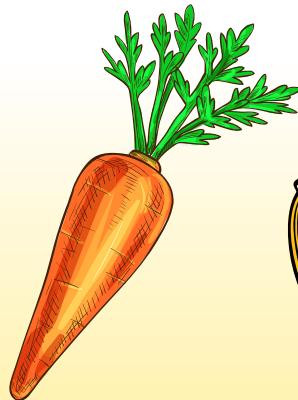
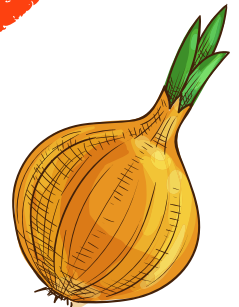
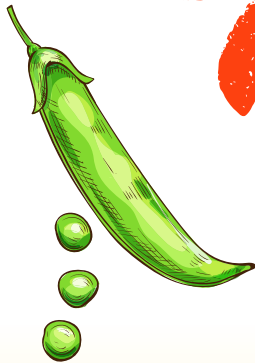
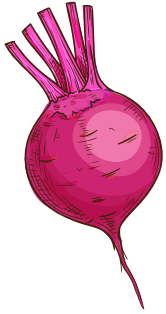
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