

# Auburn

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2020



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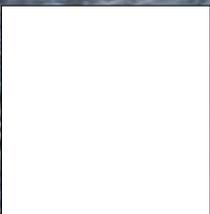
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# Did you know?

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

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

**AVOID THE FINE!**  
Failure to license your pet per Auburn City Code 6.04.010 will result in a fine of \$50

# Every day pets are lost.

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



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



**DISCOVER WHAT AUBURN HAS TO OFFER**



**BUY LOCAL AUBURN**

Search for & Find Auburn's Local Businesses  
[BUYLOCALAUBURN.COM](http://BUYLOCALAUBURN.COM)

# Auburn MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2020

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

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Thank you  
essential  
workers!

**YOU ARE OUR HEROES!**



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ON THE COVER: City of Auburn staff Jerry Thorson, Radine Lozier, and Tina Kriss prepare meals for seniors. See page 19 for details.



City staff wearing protective masks.

## 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

#### 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

#### Mayor's Office

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

#### Parks, Arts & Recreation

910 9th St SE  
253-931-3043

### Police

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

Call 911 in case of emergency

Non-emergency:  
253-288-2121

### Public Works

#### Engineering Services

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

#### Maintenance & Operations

1305 C St SW  
253-931-3048

#### 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

### 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  
Deputy Mayor  
[cdacorsi@auburnwa.gov](mailto:cdacorsi@auburnwa.gov)



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



Larry Brown  
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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 are held at Auburn City Hall located at 25 W Main Street and open to the public or can be viewed live at [auburnwa.gov/gatv](http://auburnwa.gov/gatv).

# FROM THE MAYOR

The past three months have challenges us all in ways we have never been before. From a global pandemic that has shuttered our retail stores and called for us all to stay home, to the senseless death of George Floyd and the renewed outcry for social justice reform, our community – and communities around the country – have been called to reexamine every facet of daily life.

As we fight the frustration, and sometimes hopelessness, that our current times weigh upon us, I have drawn renewed inspiration and faith in the love, support and boundless resilience that our community holds. From delivering meals to vulnerable seniors during the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order, to the peaceful protest by Black Lives Matter demonstrators through our downtown core, the deep passion of our residents to support one another and improve the world around us is evident.

I certainly do not have all of the answers, nor do I know what the weeks and months ahead hold, but I know that the solution will require us all to step forward. Although we face many challenges, the end results that we seek are derived from the same source: our community can only flourish when all are heard, all are acknowledged and all are supported. I hope you will reach out to me with your thoughts and ideas on what this new future will look like for our city, and how we can move forward together as one community united by the shared strength of our resilience.



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

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



# take a look at virtual recreation!

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

Let Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation help you stay active and engaged during the COVID-19 crisis. Check out our new Virtual Recreation website jam-packed full of great workouts, creative craft projects, community engagement options and more!



Best of all? The website is continually updated with new workout options, fun craft ideas and exciting programs. So, check back often and let's get through this together!

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 will feature 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.

Be sure to participate in the "4 on the 4th" – a virtual event that encourages 4 miles of activity (running, walking, cycling, swimming, etc.) on the 4th of July. Participation is FREE! During a time that is convenient to you on July 4, participate in your 4 miles of activity. After your activity, send an email to [events@auburnwa.gov](mailto:events@auburnwa.gov) with the participant(s) first and last name. Also include a photo of you participating along with a screenshot of your distance or route. During the week of July 6th, participants will receive a Finisher Certificate. This is a wonderful way to get children active! Encourage your family members around the country to join you too! We're stronger together!

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, Where's Parker? Trivia Game, 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)

# Auburn's Dog Trot 3k/5k Fun Run rescheduled!

## Petpalooza's **Dog Trot** 3K/5K Fun Run

**The Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation is thrilled to announce that Auburn's Dog Trot 3K/5K Fun Run will still take place and has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 19, with a start time of 9:30 a.m. at Game Farm Park.**

The race will be 'chip-timed' by BuDu Racing and will start and finish in the same location at Game Farm Park. Participants will exit the park, run through the adjacent neighborhood, cross the White River Bridge and hop on the beautiful White River Trail before returning. Water will be available on the course for both dog and human participants. The route is flat, easy and enjoyable for all ages and ability levels. Awards will be given to the top finisher in six age groups for both the 3K and 5K distances.

While the Dog Trot may feel a little different without the Petpalooza festival, we've added a few components to energize the event; think live entertainment, food/beverage options, some attractions and a handful of vendors!

If you've already pre-registered, you're all set – your registration transfers from the May event to the rescheduled date. All registrants will receive a confirmation email the week of the event with final details. Packet pick-up begins at 8:00 a.m. The first 100 who registered will still receive their 'swag bags' and t-shirts will be included with registration.

Registration is \$23 per person in advance of the event, or \$25 per person on event day. (Sorry, no registrations Sept. 17 & 18).

Visit [auburnwa.gov/events](http://auburnwa.gov/events) to register.

**Saturday,  
September 19**

**9:30am**

**Game Farm Park**

**3030 R Street SE**

The Dog Trot Fun Run is coordinated by the City of Auburn. A special thank you to Tractor Supply Company and Haggen Food & Pharmacy for sponsoring our Fall Dog Trot event.

CITY OF  
**AUBURN**  
WASHINGTON



# Geocaching; Join the hunt and explore Auburn's parks at the same time

**While you might not spot a big X on the ground during this treasure hunt, you'll know when you've landed on a treasure when you start Geocaching.**

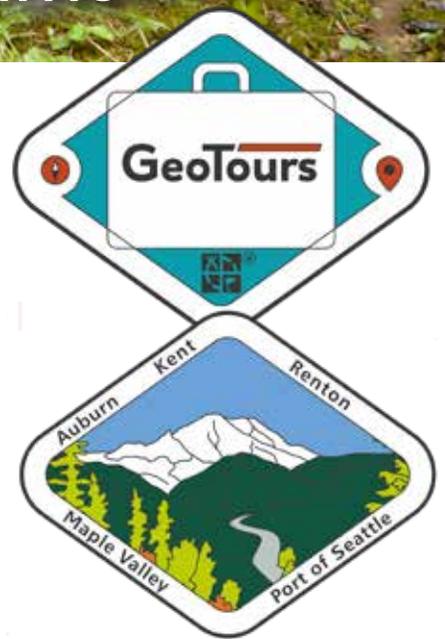
This outdoor, high-tech treasure hunting game allows participants to navigate to a set of GPS coordinates using GPS-enabled devices (including smart phones or tablets) to find hidden objects. To get started treasure hunting, simply set up a free account at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) or download the app to your phone or tablet.

Auburn Parks and surrounding areas make a great spot for these hidden treasures to be found. There are more than 900 active caches within Auburn city limits and many more within close proximity.

Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation is offering an opportunity to delve into adventure and explore local and area city parks during the [ValleyCitiesGeoTour.com](http://ValleyCitiesGeoTour.com).

The Valley Cities GeoTour, which started in 2019, challenges participants to find 10 specific geocaches each in Auburn, Kent, Renton & Maple Valley. Participants record the special "code" or punch in the hidden cache on your passport and once the passport is completed and returned, participants receive a trackable coin that was produced specifically for the event (coins are available while supplies last).

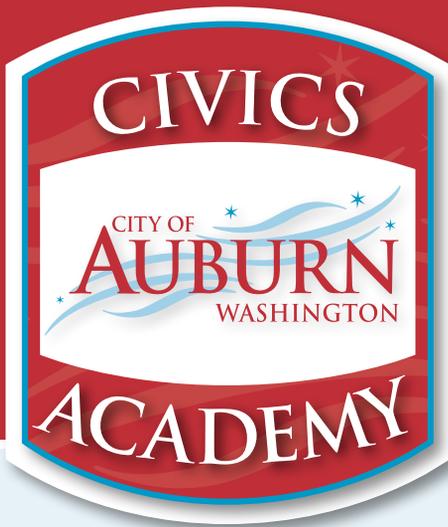
Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation partnered with the Washington State Geocaching Association (WSGA), Port of Seattle, [exploreauburn.com](http://exploreauburn.com), and [visitkent.com](http://visitkent.com) to provide the Valley Cities GeoTour event, which brings hundreds of locals and out-of-town visitors to the Valley and its parks.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



The Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation Department offers a variety of opportunities for the public to participate in diverse recreational programs and activities designed to meet the needs of the community. These programs include: preschool, youth, teen, and adult leisure programs; youth, teen, and adult athletics; fitness and wellness programs; programs designed to provide social and recreational opportunities to senior citizens and those with special needs, and a host of special events suitable for the entire family and community at large. For a full list of programs this fall, visit [auburnwa.gov/play](http://auburnwa.gov/play) or call 253-931-3043.



**Have you ever wondered how potholes are repaired, how the City budgets and spends its money, or builds and maintains parks?**

**Citizens are welcome to learn the answers to these questions and more through the City's Civics Academy.**

The Auburn Civics Academy is an 11-week program that teaches Auburn residents, business owners, and students age 16+ about City of Auburn government and operations.

**FREE TO PARTICIPANTS | AGES 16 & UP**

### Objectives

The City of Auburn believes that when residents and businesses are better informed about how their City operates, how decisions are made and how funds are allocated, they will make better decisions about the future of their City. Therefore the objectives of the Auburn Civics Academy are:

1. To involve and engage residents and businesses in learning about and understanding the operation of City government, and to improve communication between the City and those who live and work here.
2. To provide insight into how decisions are made, how City funds are allocated, and how City departments operate.
3. To empower and encourage a larger number of residents and business owners to become more civically engaged in the future decisions effecting Auburn's quality of life.

**Classes meet once each week from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**September 10-November 19, 2020**

Two Saturday sessions: September 26 & October 10, 9am-12pm

**Auburn City Hall Council Chambers**

25 W Main Street

Participants will hear presentations from representatives of City departments and elected representatives.

### Eligibility

- Must be willing to commit to attendance of sessions (can miss TWO sessions and still graduate)
- Must be an Auburn resident, business owner/employee, or student age 16+
- Must not be running for, or currently serving in, a political office

### Application Process

Interested individuals can apply online. An application will be open from Wednesday, July 1 through Wednesday, August 12, 2020 and is accessible on our website: [auburnwa.gov/civicsacademy](http://auburnwa.gov/civicsacademy).

**Get better acquainted with the city you live in**

**Meet your local elected officials and city staff**

**Gain first-hand experience and exposure to the wide range of city services, functions, activities and issues**

**Become an active community member**

**Provide feedback to the city regarding municipal services**

**To apply, visit [auburnwa.gov/civicsacademy](http://auburnwa.gov/civicsacademy)**

**For more information contact Erika Klyce, City of Auburn, Neighborhood Coordinator [eklyce@auburnwa.gov](mailto:eklyce@auburnwa.gov) | 253-876-1988**



# Get back to recycling basics... ...it really is simple!

Let's all get back to the basics of good recycling and remember these three rules each time you toss something into your recycling container:



Recycle empty bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of the recycling.



Empty recyclables directly into your recycling container - NO bagged recyclables.

## Empty, clean, and loose.

These three words can greatly improve the quality of recyclables placed in your cart. You can do this by rinsing out recyclables and placing empty containers directly in your cart loose, not in a plastic bag.

## Been Oops Tagged?

In an effort to reduce recycle contamination and "clean up the stream," Waste Management has been using "Recycle Only" Oops Tags to monitor contamination in recycling carts. If a driver spots contamination in your recycling cart, the cart will be tagged, and you will be informed on how you can ensure you are recycling only items that are accepted.



## Off to market they go!

A "clean stream" of recycle materials is key to a successful recycling program. A clean stream means free from garbage or non-recyclable material. Cardboard, mixed paper, metals, and plastics are made into bales that go to market. The bales must be clean from other recyclables and garbage in order to obtain the best pricing for the seller and the best product for manufacturing. We are all in it together to rebuild a robust recycle industry - one that creates jobs, new recycle-content products and reduces the use of natural resources.



## Got the spring cleaning blues?

The air is light, the flowers have arrived, the sun has popped out, you are home all day due to the COVID-19 Stay at Home orders and the mood hits! It is time to deep clean. It feels so rewarding when you have cleaned out those rooms, closets, drawers, garage, attic and shed. Wow, everything is tidy and you have reduced all that "stuff" you've been saving for what seems like years. You are done! Well, not quite. What are you going to do with the piles, boxes and bags of stuff? Most of the donation locations are temporarily closed ... but don't start singing the blues just yet.



## Good news:

Donation drop boxes are still accepting reusable clothing, footwear, accessories and linens. PLEASE do not leave furniture, mattresses, rugs, carpets or household appliances at drop boxes.

Keep an eye on donation center websites for updates on re-openings. You can find a list at [auburnwa.gov/solidwaste](http://auburnwa.gov/solidwaste) under Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Disposal.

For alternative ideas to donating, check out Zero Waste Washington's Spring quarterly newsletter. The May edition features an article labeled "Bartering Makes a Comeback" that shares great tips on bartering, timebanking, skillsharing, and neighborhood exchange groups. [zerowastewashington.org/spring\\_may-2020\\_newsletter/](http://zerowastewashington.org/spring_may-2020_newsletter/)

## Safe summer picnics

You don't have to forgo your summer fun! Following the public health guidelines on social distancing and limited gathering sizes, you can still get the barbeque going and have a picnic. Just remember to keep it simple, clean and safe when you plan your outing.



Bring your own containers drinkware, silverware, compostable paper plates and napkins, lawn chairs, portable tables or tablecloth, garbage and recycling bags, and enjoy the great outdoors!

## Solid waste collection in a world of COVID-19

So many things have changed in our lives since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are at home all day instead of at work, school or out to dinner. Along with this new "Stay at Home, Stay Healthy" mandate, solid waste haulers have seen a significant increase in the amount of garbage, recycle and compostables collected from residential customers. Proper collection of all these extra materials is important for public health and for the safety of the drivers who are on the front lines.

### Extras must be properly prepared

If you have extra materials, they must be properly prepared for curbside collection. Proper preparation is essential for efficiency and safety as the haulers deploy all available resources to sustain regular curbside collection. There is a charge for extra garbage and yard waste.

#### Extra Garbage



Put your extra garbage next to your garbage cart.  
Maximum weight for extras is 60 pounds each.

32 Gallon Can      Extra Bag

#### Extra Yard Waste



Put your extra yard waste next to your compost cart.

32 Gallon Can      Kraft Paper Bags      Bundles tied with fiber twine up to 4' long x 2' diameter. Max weight 60lbs.

#### Extra Recycling



Put extra recycling next to your recycle cart in a box or paper bag.  
Do not use plastic bags.

Put extra recycling out the morning of collection so it stays dry.

Cardboard Box      Paper Bag

### Bulky waste items curbside collection

The collection of bulky waste items has been temporarily suspended in Waste Management areas so all available resources can be dedicated to regular curbside collection. Please do not place bulky items at the curb, as they will not be collected. Scheduling to collect bulky waste items will resume after the COVID-19 crisis passes.

Examples of bulky waste items are mattresses, furniture, appliances and large outdoor items.

### Garbage disposal

King County Transfer Stations are operating normal hours but proof of residency in King County or Auburn Pierce County is required for access. Please visit the website below for details and transfer station guidelines. The best plan at this time is to store bulky items until further notice. Self-haul customers making essential visits should expect lines and possible service delays up to two hours.

Self-haul customers are asked to:

- Pay with a card rather than cash
- Stay in their vehicle while waiting at the scales
- Stay at least six feet from other customers and employees

Recycling and yard debris disposal is available at Bow Lake Transfer Station and Enumclaw Transfer Stations.

Find out more at [kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/facilities/transfer.aspx](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/facilities/transfer.aspx)

## UTILITY BILLING NEWS

### Utility Payments

On March 23, 2020, Auburn City Council passed Ordinance No 6767, temporarily waiving late fees for utility accounts and suspending water disconnections due to non-payment until June 30, 2020. This is in the process of being extended to August 31, 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted employment and business income for many in Auburn. We are available to work with residents and businesses on payment plans.

Please call 253-931-3038 for more information.

### Senior Discount/Rebate Program

The City of Auburn offers reduced utility rates to seniors 62 years of age or older and customers who are permanently disabled and whose annual total gross income for all adults in the home does not exceed the HUD King County Very Low Income Level. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the application due date is extended to July 31, 2020.

Utility Senior Discount/Rebate applications and instructions can be found at [auburnwa.gov/utilities](https://auburnwa.gov/utilities). You can also request a mailed application by calling Utility Billing at 253-931-3038.

# Feature Capital Project

## Citywide LED Street Lighting and Controls

**New LED streetlights will brighten the city and save energy – let there be LED light!**

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Energy-efficient street lighting that reduces the City of Auburn's carbon footprint and significantly lowers the street lighting power bills is on its way to the city of Auburn.

The City of Auburn owns and maintains 2,849 cobrahead style streetlights throughout the city. A cobrahead style light consists of a tall metal pole with a curved elbow arm that extends towards the roadway with a light fixture attached.

This project will convert all City-owned cobrahead street lights to LED and add smart lighting control technology. The new lighting control technology will utilize a state-of-the-art wireless control system that will allow real time monitoring of power consumption and automated notifications of burned out lights, malfunctions, and other issues. The controls will allow the City to remotely adjust light levels and schedules to meet City lighting standards as well as assist in planning maintenance work.

The City owns and maintains other types of street lights including decorative downtown street lights and decorative neighborhood street lamps. These lights may be converted to LED with future projects as funding becomes available. There are also many street lights throughout the city that are owned and maintained by others. These lights include lights attached to utility poles and street lights in some areas that are owned and operated by utility companies. The City works with the owners of these street lights to convert them to LED on a case-by-case basis to address specific requests and needs.

### PROJECT BENEFITS

#### Saves Money

LED streetlights use 50-60% less energy than standard high pressure sodium lights. They use fewer watts to produce the same amount of luminosity, saving money to power each streetlight. Conversion of the City's street lights to LED is anticipated to reduce the City's street light bill by \$150,000 per year. Additionally, standard street light fixtures require replacement every 2 to 5 years compared to LED light fixtures that can last up to 20 years, saving the City approximately \$40,000 per year in light fixture replacement costs.

#### Helps the Environment

This project will reduce annual power consumption by more than 2 million kWh, which equates to nearly 1.1 million pounds of CO2 reduction. That provides the same amount of CO2 reduction as planting 457 acres of trees. LED light fixtures don't use mercury or other toxic substances and are often 100% recyclable. Longer lifetimes of the fixtures also means fewer end up in the trash.

#### Improves Lighting

LED lights produce better color rendering and uniform illumination patterns. The white light emitted by LEDs shows colors as they really are and provides better visibility for drivers and pedestrians. LED lights use lenses rather than reflectors to direct light, which reduces light pollution and improves the efficiency of the fixture.



### PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING

The estimated cost of this project is \$2.7M of which \$500,000 is funded by a Department of Commerce federal grant and \$350,000 is funded by anticipated rebates from Puget Sound Energy. \$1.85M is funded by City funds sourced from real estate excise tax (REET) revenues.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

This project is currently entering the implementation phase and there will soon be crews moving throughout the streets converting the lights to LED and installing the control units. The conversion is anticipated to be mostly complete in 2020 with some work carrying into 2021. The schedule for converting non-cobrahead style lights to LED will be dependent on the availability of future funding from grant, rebate, and City sources.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on this Project, please contact Scott Nutter, Traffic Operations Engineer at 253-804-5068 or via email [snutter@auburnwa.gov](mailto:snutter@auburnwa.gov).

Acknowledgment: "This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), under the State Energy Program Award Number DE-EE0008296."

*Disclaimer: "This article was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof."*



# You've been cooped up too long!

PEEK INSIDE

"Hey, who are  
you calling  
cooped-up?!"

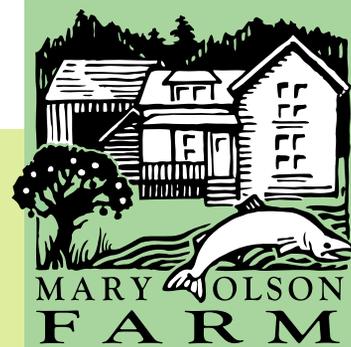


Starting to feel a little stir crazy?  
As a society of apartment  
dwellers, suburban cohabitantes,  
and the square-footage impaired,  
we are all longing for a little  
space to stretch our legs right  
about now.

Remember that neighbor that had the creek in their  
backyard or going over to grandpa's farm to play in the  
pasture? What we all wouldn't give to have a quaint little  
slice of picturesque land to wander without agenda at a  
time like this. Well guess what? You do!



The Mary Olson Farm is a City of Auburn park with lots of history and even more charm. It is the perfect place to escape your city domicile and practice leisurely social distancing this summer. And if the last couple months of screen time overload has you unsure what to do at the Farm here are a few suggestions.



Mary Olson Farm is open every Saturday & Sunday 11am-4pm June 20-August 30  
 CLOSED 4TH OF JULY  
 Admission is Free!

**Mary Olson Farm**  
 28728 Green River Rd SE  
[wrvmuseum.org/the-farm](http://wrvmuseum.org/the-farm)  
[facebook.com/wrvmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/wrvmuseum)



Fulfill your very own Anne of Green Gables fantasy by finding a spot under a century-old apple tree and spending your day imagining

Bring a blanket and a picnic for an Insta-perfect post #farmlife

Meander the grounds and meet the farm's animals

Take refuge from the sun and read a good book (or terrible magazine) in the barn

Check-out the interpretive panels to learn about the farm's rich history

Sit in a rocking chair on the farmhouse front porch and sway yourself calm



To encourage social distancing the farmhouse and weaving shed will be closed this summer – which only gives you more reasons to come back in the future!

# Sidewalk Talk

Here at City Hall, we often have people ask us, “Why doesn’t the City build sidewalks in my neighborhood,” or “Am I supposed to take care of the sidewalk in front of my house,” or “Help, my sidewalk is damaged” and finally “Can I install irrigation in the landscape strip in front of my house?” To understand the answers to these questions, it helps to look at the story of sidewalks in Auburn.

In 1950, you could buy a house in Auburn for less than \$10,000, watch the premier of “I Love Lucy” on television, and walk on brand new sidewalks in downtown. Fast forward to present times and \$10,000 may buy you a used car, you can still watch the premier of “I Love Lucy” but it takes a deep YouTube search, and sidewalks have spread from being mostly only in downtown to being along almost every arterial roadway and many residential streets.



Main Street & Division, sidewalks were already established downtown and used by many pedestrians. The road was shared by cars and cyclists. Photo courtesy White River Museum – Downtown Auburn circa 1945

Sidewalk requirements were first established in 1957 with the codification of Chapter 12.12 of the Auburn City Code (ACC).

The original code did not require sidewalks to be constructed along residential streets, which is why many neighborhoods in Auburn do not have sidewalks. In 1981, the City’s sidewalk network started expanding with the passage of revised City code and standards that required all new neighborhoods and other developments to construct sidewalks with their projects. However, these sidewalks were much narrower than modern sidewalks and often didn’t include ramps to transition from the sidewalk to the roadway at intersections. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) went into effect on January 26, 1992, and requires that all facilities constructed after this date be readily accessible and usable by persons with disabilities, including sidewalks. The sidewalks constructed after the adoption of ADA must be at least 4-feet wide to accommodate wheelchairs, have limitations on how steep they can be, cannot have obstructions that block the walkway, and require curb ramps to transition from the sidewalk to the roadway at roadway crossings. Since then, requirements have continued to evolve and in 2016, the City adopted the Complete Streets ordinance as ACC Chapter 12.06. The Complete Streets ordinance states that “The City of Auburn shall, to the maximum extent practical, scope, plan, design, construct, operate and maintain appropriate facilities for the safe accommodation of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, emergency responders, freight and users of all ages and abilities in all new construction, retrofit or reconstruction projects.” The product of this policy is evident in the completion of projects by private developers and the City that have sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes.





Auburn Way S near Bingo Hall and Casino – bus stop, wide sidewalk which can be shared by pedestrians and cyclists.



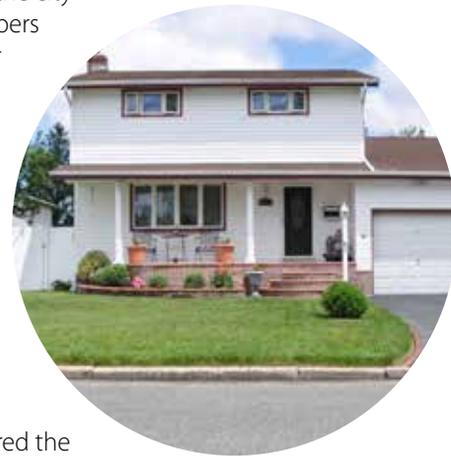
S. 277th St. multiuse trail, wide enough for pedestrians and cyclists to share, separated from the main road by a landscape strip.



I St. NE near 22nd St. NE – wide sidewalks and bike lanes with bicycle ramps to access sidewalks around the roundabout.

## Why doesn't the City build sidewalks in my neighborhood?

Most sidewalks throughout the city were built by private developers to comply with ACC Chapter 12.64A that requires many types of development, including new commercial and residential construction, to build sidewalks along the project roadway frontages. The neighborhoods and commercial areas without sidewalks were constructed prior to those requirements being in place or have deferred the requirement to construct the sidewalks



until it makes sense to do so (trying to avoid sidewalks to nowhere). The City also constructs sidewalks with its capital projects. Most of the new sidewalks constructed by the City rely on State and Federal grant programs that are intended to improve accessibility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Examples of these programs include the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Safe Routes to Schools and Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety programs. The Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) is a state agency that utilizes revenues from gas tax to provide grant programs that build new non-motorized facilities. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that funds sidewalk projects specifically in low income neighborhoods. The grant funding programs are very competitive with limited funds available. Except for the CDBG program, the grant programs often do not provide opportunities to construct new sidewalks in residential neighborhoods that were built without them. The City Council appropriates City funds for sidewalk and accessibility projects that are generally used to meet grant funding match requirements (the grants require that the City pays for a portion of the projects with its own funds). And this leads to the answer to the original question: "Why doesn't the City construct sidewalks in my neighborhood?"

The City utilizes most of its limited sidewalk funding as matching funds for grants that generally are not awarded to residential sidewalk projects. Neighborhoods that want sidewalks constructed may fund and construct them through the formation of a Local Improvement District (LID). LIDs can also be used to fund utility extensions and street lights.

Additional information regarding LIDs is available through the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) website at: <http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Public-Works/Finance/Local-Improvement-Districts.aspx>.

## Am I supposed to take care of the sidewalk in front of my house?



The short answer is yes. Auburn City Code (ACC) Chapter 12.12 specifies that “the maintenance of the area of the sidewalk along either side of any street shall be the duty, burden and expense of the abutting property owner. Maintenance shall include removal of debris, moss, snow and ice, cleaning of sidewalks, maintenance of vegetation, including but not limited to maintenance of vegetation consistent with sight distance and vegetation clearances in accordance with any other city code...” Contrary to

popular belief, the maintenance responsibility of a sidewalk applies to more than just the concrete walking surface. ACC defines “sidewalk” as “any landscaping, driveway apron, pedestrian pathway, curb ramp, and pedestrian curb between the edge of pavement or back of curb along any public street and the abutting property boundary, excluding street tree grates.” It follows that maintenance of street trees,

landscape strips, and that pesky area between the back of the sidewalk and the property line are all the adjacent property owner’s responsibility to maintain.

The sidewalk area begins at the property line (which is not always where the sidewalk ends), and ends at the curb.



## What do I do if my sidewalk is damaged?

ACC Chapter 12.12 specifies “the repair and/or replacement of sidewalk...shall be the responsibility of the abutting property owner unless determined otherwise by the City engineer. If a property owner believes the damaged sidewalk and/or sidewalk needing replacement is/are the city’s or someone else’s responsibility, the property owner must notify the city engineer in writing with sufficient documentation of the cause of the damage and justification of why the repair and/or replacement should not be considered the responsibility of the abutting property owner. Damage caused to the sidewalk by vegetation located on private property, lack of regular maintenance by the abutting property owner, or damage that is in any way caused by the abutting property owner shall be the responsibility of the private property owner to repair...” To make the sidewalk repairs, a construction permit needs to be secured from the Public Works Department. See “getting a construction permit” below. If you believe the sidewalk damage shouldn’t be your responsibility because it was not caused by you, activities on your property, or by your trees or other vegetation, you should notify the City via the City’s See Click Fix application.

**AVAILABLE IN YOUR APP STORE**  
**SeeClickFix**  
**Auburn, Washington**  
 Report concerns like sidewalks in need of repair. Learn more about the city, sign up for email updates, or even check our traffic cameras.

## Can I install an irrigation system in the landscape strip in front of my house?

Recent changes to the City code and design standards now allow property owners to install irrigation in the landscape sidewalk areas (landscape strips) adjacent to their property. Previously, this was only allowed through securing a right-of-way use permit. However, securing a construction permit is still required to install the irrigation. See “getting a construction permit” below. Property owners must take responsibility for all repairs and maintenance of the irrigation system and must relocate or remove it if the City determines it is in conflict with existing or planned City utilities or other improvements. The owner must also provide the City with drawings showing the locations of the installed irrigation and must register with the State’s 811 one-call system. The owner is required to mark the location of the irrigation facilities when requested by the one-call system in accordance with RCW Chapter 19.122.

To obtain a construction permit visit [auburnwa.gov/permits](http://auburnwa.gov/permits)

If you have questions or would like more information regarding sidewalks in Auburn, please contact the Auburn Public Works Department at 253-931-3010.



# COVID-19 creativity: innovative approaches to connecting with our senior community



Talk of the Corona virus and how it might impact the senior population and our operations started the end of February. By 1 p.m. on March 5, Mayor Backus directed that the building be closed to seniors until further notice, followed by orders from Governor Inslee a few days later. "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" became our new reality.

As information changed and evolved, we knew our number one priority had to be that all seniors in the Auburn community had the resources and support needed to get through this crisis. Staff worked alongside Emergency Management, Community Development, Auburn Food Bank, local churches, organizations and individual Auburn residents to ensure that the most vulnerable populations were able to remain fed, not forgotten and safe.

We knew that an average of 75 people participate regularly in our congregate meal program. While we could not serve them inside, we came up with other options. On March 6, we started our hot lunch take out program with seven seniors participating. By the end of May, we were delivering and providing drive through food pick up to over 100 seniors a day. We would have not been able to do this without partnerships with Catholic Community Services, our wonderful cook Sharon, and Hyde Shuttle. Today, three vans continue to deliver the hot lunches daily.

Meals on Wheels is a regular weekly program offered to local homebound seniors. The program relies on senior volunteers for ordering, packing, and delivering of the meals. COVID-19 meant that senior volunteers could no longer assist for the time being. Senior Center staff have since taken over the ordering and packing, while Hyde Shuttle has been delivering to approximately 50 clients every Friday. Since March, over 31 new clients have joined the program and approximately 4,500 meals were delivered in April and May combined.

Seniors attend our programs for many different reasons, however the benefit for all visitors is socialization.

Social isolation is a big concern. We needed to make sure we stayed connected with our Seniors. We made over 700 wellness check-in calls making sure that seniors had food and other necessary supplies like prescriptions. We also wanted to make sure that they were doing ok emotionally and that staff was available. For some, we referred them onto our Resource Navigator, Jennifer. For those homebound and in need of food, we were able to get food delivered through our partnership



with Auburn Main Market. Postcards were mailed to over 1,000 Auburn Seniors letting them know that we are here to support and help them as needed and wellness check-in calls continue to be made by staff with the additional help of 10 regular Senior Center volunteers. The calls are a win-win for both the callers and the receivers.

Once our regular participants were taken care of, we began to explore how to get food to the most vulnerable. Working with Community Development, Emergency Management and the Auburn Food Bank, we developed a plan. Using King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services outreach grant money, we purchased 1000 frozen meals per week at \$3.15 each. The Auburn Food Bank provided additional food to supplement the frozen meals. Our goal was to eliminate or reduce the number of trips residents needed to make out of the building to get food.

We focused our efforts on three senior apartments in Auburn – Auburn Court (300 units), The Reserve (300 units) and The Estates at Hillside Gardens (130 units). We knew the apartments were small and had high concentrations of vulnerable adults. Under normal circumstances, residents are able to gather in one of the many recreational spaces in the complex, but with COVID-19, this was no longer possible. Food delivery began April 10, with enough funds to cover four weeks of food. The Auburn Food Bank paid for an additional week and so did Community Development. May 14 was scheduled to be our last delivery. We partnered with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce in April to apply for the Haggen Foundation & Nourishing Neighbors – Feed Local Families in Need grant. On May 12, two days before we ran out of funds, we were notified that we received a \$10,000 grant. Meal Delivery continued through June 4. (Governor Inslee’s “Stay Home –Stay Healthy” order was lifted May 31). We provided food to approximately 310 units a week. Using 12-14 volunteers weekly, we spent three hours to sort, bag and deliver the food to the residents’ doors. As of June 4, we delivered approximated 9,000 frozen meals and over 3,000 bags of groceries.

## Everyone loves a parade

One of the Senior Center’s main goals has always been to provide socialization to older adults. Social isolation is proven to be detrimental to the health of seniors. With COVID-19, everything we work so hard to prevent is now becoming more difficult than ever. As we brainstormed to find creative and new ways to engage our seniors, we thought of the teachers having parades for their students. We thought, we miss our seniors, and they miss us, so let’s do have a parade!

Seniors stood outside of their houses, apartments, mobile parks and cheered. There were signs, balloons and smiles from all. For a moment in time, everyone was happy. COVID-19 did not win. The most unexpected turnout was at The Reserve Senior Apartments. It was incredible. People were yelling and waving from their balconies. Lots of “Thank you, we love you!” Residents had signs and cheered from the street as well. Some were in tears. Up until April 10, when we started meal delivery, very few of The Reserve residents even knew the Senior Center existed. The outreach dollars provided by the King County Senior Levy proved to be beneficial in a way we never could have imagined. When cross referencing Senior Center participants names with the names of the 300 apartment residents we provided food to, only 14 of them had eaten at the Senior Center before.

Out of a horrible situation, we have been given the opportunity to reach out to some of the most isolated in our community and let them know that the Senior Center is here and we can’t wait until we reopen so they can all see what they have been missing. We have received many cards and phone calls from them. They are excited about coming to the Senior Center and are telling their friends.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT:



*"I want to commend the Auburn staff for doing an outstanding job in communicating with your "members" of the Auburn Senior Center. You folks have been fantastic keeping the door of communication open, checking in on us etc. We have not seen other senior centers do as much. Please let the whole staff know what a great job you have all done and are still doing during this difficult time. Many of the folks I am in contact with have mentioned this more than once. So pat yourselves on the back! Well done! We have appreciated the attention and will not forget all of the efforts you have made to make that happen."*

*~From a regular participant at the Senior Activity Center, Tricia Briscoe*

### Keeping Seniors engaged until regular operations resume

At this time, no one knows for sure when we will enter phase 4. While we wait, planning and preparation are taking place to modify programs and services to ensure social distancing and safety. In the meantime, staff are offering many virtual programs to stay active and engaged in new ways.

- Over the phone tech support –Zoom instructions, ordering online instructions, how to set up a Facebook account
- Weekly Senior-focused newsletter
- Multiple Facebook posts and emails weekly
- Staff videos for Seniors featuring messages about: Self-Care, Mask Making Tips, Stay Home -Stay Healthy, & Stay Active
- Weekly Zoom meetings with senior volunteer groups

### Virtual programming is everywhere

Be sure to join the Senior Center for:

- Weekly games: Pictionary, Scattergories, Bingo, Name that Trip
- Happy hours
- Educational offerings
- And more coming soon.
- Exercise classes

*Remember, staff are available by phone to help you set up your technology. Smart phones, tablets, iPads, or computers can be used.*

### Mental health focus and offerings

Resource Navigator, Jennifer Hurley, MSW, started working at the Senior Activity Center in mid-February, just two weeks before COVID-19 affected operations. Her expertise has been invaluable during this pandemic. Due to the quarantine, many resources in the community became more difficult to access, as many social service organizations were temporarily closed or providing services virtually. Some seniors needed help learning how to order groceries online, how to use their smartphones, or how to start using social media to connect to others. Some of the resources that we have been able to connect participants with include: housing, access to prescriptions, utility assistance, tax assistance, veterans services, transportation resources, home care, access to free telephones, and help navigating the healthcare system. Jennifer has also collaborated with long-

term care facilities and other social service agencies that serve Auburn. An online weekly support group will be starting on 6/12/20 to help people develop new coping strategies and feel connected with others.

### Mindful Mondays

Jennifer, who is a clinical social worker, quickly realized the emotional impact of social distancing on the mental health of our community. She has been available for brief counseling over the phone, as well as connecting participants with mental health agencies for therapy. She developed a Facebook video about self-care during COVID-19 and recently started a weekly Mindful Monday's group on Zoom. This group gives participants the opportunity to learn relaxation techniques, practice mindfulness meditations and enjoy guided imagery exercises. Information about the Mindfulness class can be found on our Facebook page and the City of Auburn website.

### Seniors helping seniors

We know seniors are at higher-risk for COVID-19. Many have mentioned feeling socially isolated because of the Stay-At-Home order. Even as we progress through the phases, older adults are encouraged to stay home until phase 4. Jennifer realized that many high school students, particularly seniors in high school, were also feeling isolated and missing out on graduations and other activities with their friends. The Auburn Senior Activity Center received many cards from high school students with encouraging messages that they wanted to share with seniors. Jennifer has reached out to the Auburn PTSA and the Teen Volunteer Council from the King County Library System to collaborate on a Seniors Helping Seniors Program, in which we could match a high school senior with an older adult who wants to be a "virtual pen-pal" and exchange emails, phone calls, play online games together, or even practice using Zoom. We also decided to ask Senior Center participants if they would be willing to share some advice with graduating seniors. We had 28 seniors submit pictures with advice and we created a video that we posted on our Facebook page. It is worth checking out!

# SHARE THE ROAD, SAVE A LIFE

## Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety is Everyone's Concern

As the weather is warming and many of us start looking for safe ways to get outside, we will see a rise in the number of pedestrians and cyclists getting out on the roadways. The safety of pedestrians and cyclists is something that should be of supreme importance to us all. It is estimated that 30% of all fatal and serious injury vehicle collisions involve either pedestrians, cyclists, or both. In 2019, just within the city of Auburn, there were 60 pedestrian and/or cyclist-involved crashes reported, in which 58 pedestrians or cyclists were injured and four were killed.

**2018**

**Pedestrian & cyclist involved crashes  
in Auburn**

**77 crashes reported  
69 people injured  
3 people killed**

**2019**

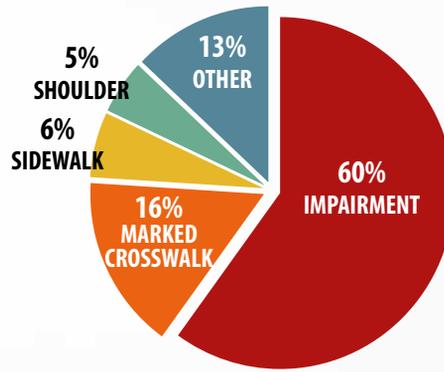
**Pedestrian & cyclist involved crashes  
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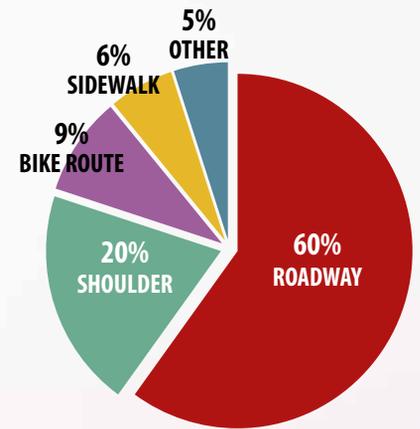


Modern transportation systems are a shared network of facilities that serve not only passenger vehicles, trucks, and a variety of public transit options, but also non-motorized transportation such as walking and cycling. While the availability of dedicated facilities for pedestrian and bicycle travel is rapidly increasing, these alternatives will never eliminate the mixture of motorized and non-motorized travel on our streets.

Approximately 50% of pedestrians and cyclists, that are seriously injured or killed, are struck by a vehicle while crossing the street. Furthermore, 76% of pedestrians injured or killed were struck by a vehicle either in the roadway or within a marked crosswalk, and 80% of cyclists were struck either in the roadway or on the shoulder.



**Pedestrian Crash Locations**

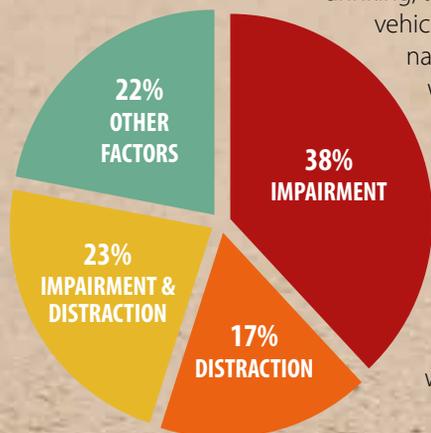


**Cyclist Crash Locations**



While pedestrians and bicyclists can do many things to help keep them more safe, safe driver practices are equally important to help protect pedestrians and cyclists. Driver impairment, distraction, or both impairment and distraction are a contributing factor in 78% of all pedestrian and cyclist deaths in our state. Since 2013, alcohol and drug related traffic fatalities are on the rise in Washington. Drugs and alcohol were a contributing factor in 111 deaths statewide in 2019 alone. The need for drivers to take responsibility, and not get behind the wheel while physically and/or mentally impaired cannot be understated.

The second major factor contributing to deaths, after impairment, is distraction. The modern world in which we live has no shortage of distractions. Distracted driving includes any activity that diverts attention away from the task of driving. This can include; talking or texting on your phone, eating or drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, adjusting the stereo or navigation system, spotting wildlife or a beautiful view



– in short, anything that diverts your attention away from the task of driving. While we can't eliminate all possible distractions, we owe it to ourselves and our neighbors to be vigilant while behind the wheel.

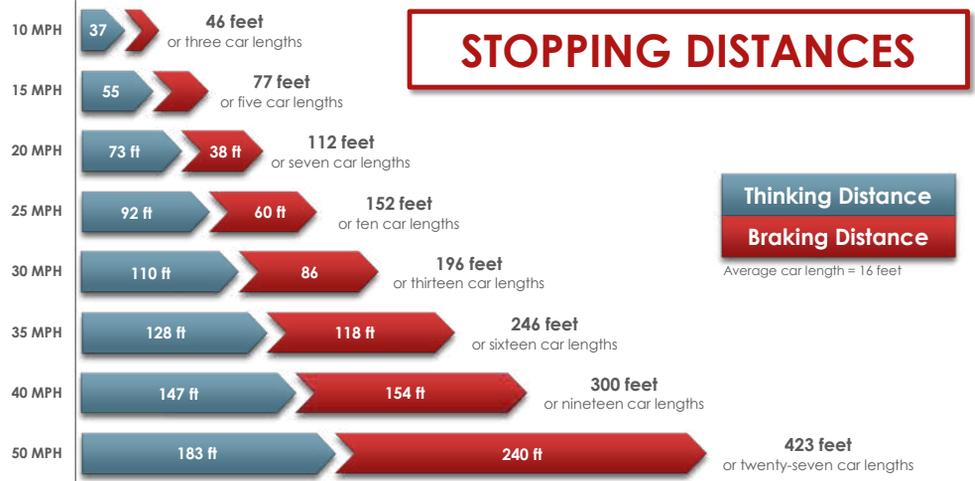
That extra second it takes you to respond to a changing traffic signal, a swerving cyclist, or a child running into the street for their ball, could make the difference between a close-call or devastating accident that could shatter people's lives.

How much difference can 1 second of distraction make? In 1 second at 10 mph, your vehicle will travel 15 feet and at 35 mph your vehicle will travel 51 feet. Even without distraction, studies show that the lag time between a driver's perception and reaction ranges between ½ and 2 ½ seconds; that is it takes ½ to 2 ½ seconds from the time a driver sees a pedestrian or bicyclist in its path to when the driver starts to apply the breaks or take other evasive measures. Factors such as time of day, weather, age, health conditions, and impairment can all extend that reaction time even more. Engineers designing roadways typically use 2 ½ seconds for perception-reaction time, as studies show that this reaction time is within the capability of nearly all drivers.

With those factors in mind, let's pretend that you are driving home one afternoon. The weather is beautiful, the sun is shining and there is not a cloud in sight. You are travelling on a local street in Auburn, which means the speed limit is 25 mph. Being a conscientious and courteous driver, you are traveling at exactly 25 mph. All of a sudden, without any warning, a Boston Terrier darts out ahead of you from behind a parked car and stops in the middle of the road. Boston Terriers are small but you are an alert driver and it only took 2 ½ seconds for you to see it and decide that you needed to stop to avoid hitting it.

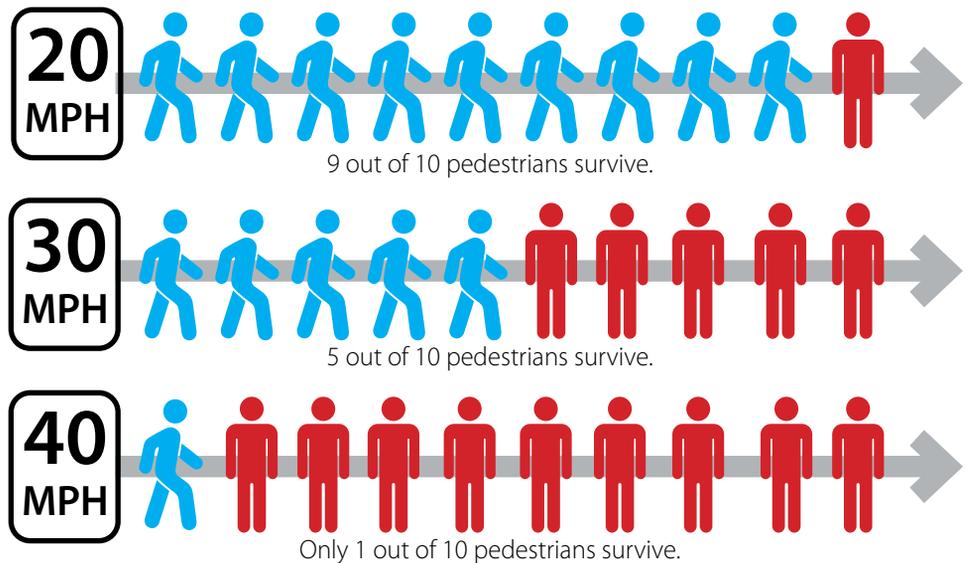
*(cont'd on page 24)*

Now if you first saw your neighbor's dog at least 152 feet, or ten car lengths, ahead of you, then this story has a happy ending because at 25 mph your vehicle will travel 92 feet in the 2 ½ seconds it takes you to see the dog and to decide to apply your breaks and another 60 feet as your vehicle comes to a stop. The alternative ending to this story is not quite so happy if you were even slightly distracted or speeding. Even more sobering is the possibility that the dog in this example could easily be replaced by a child.



Being struck by a vehicle travelling at 20 mph is roughly equivalent to being dropped out of a second floor window. Being hit at 35 mph is like being thrown from the roof of a four story building and at 50 mph like an 8 story building. Pedestrians and cyclists, struck by a moving vehicle, are more likely to be killed or seriously injured when drivers are travelling at high speeds.

While we urge pedestrians and cyclists to follow the rules of the road and best safety practices, drivers are in control of a 1,000+ LB mass of steel. Given an encounter, the automobile will always win at the expense of the person it hits. As a driver, the power to save that life lies with you. Therefore eliminating, to the greatest extent possible, all distractions while driving is important. Silence your phone, talk to your children and other passengers about their role in avoiding distractions, and maybe the food or beverage can wait for a safer time. Consider slowing down further in high pedestrian areas; those we share the road with (pedestrians, cyclists, et.al.) are a part of the "current conditions" when choosing an appropriate speed for your vehicle. Simply choosing to forego the assumed "5 over the limit" just might buy you another 50 feet that could save someone's life.



**Please follow and share these Safety Tips for Drivers:**

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Study travel directions thoroughly BEFORE you begin a trip in your vehicle to reduce or eliminate the need to depend on maps or navigation while driving.
- Stay in your lane and where vehicles are anticipated to be present.
- Keep alert at all times; don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
- Secure objects in and on your vehicle so they do not pose a distraction while you are driving.
- Look for pedestrians and cyclists in all directions, including those who could turn into your vehicle's path.
- Your eyes should always be up and facing front before your foot leaves the brake.
- Never assume that a pedestrian or cyclist sees you. Make eye contact with them as you approach to be sure you are seen.
- Watch for pedestrians and cyclists entering or existing paths, walkways, driveways and parking lots.
- Avoid ALL alcohol and drugs while driving, or when you will be driving; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
- Remember: Washington State Law requires drivers of motor vehicles to yield to pedestrians and cyclists AT ALL TIMES.

# “Clean Car” and elevated procedures aid in the fight against COVID-19

Since the early days of the pandemic, the Valley Regional Fire Authority has implemented changes to protect both our staff and the community we serve. From how we enter our facilities to begin the workday, to the level of personal protective equipment (PPE) we use, and the steps we take to respond to possible COVID-19 patients, we have elevated procedures to address all known threats of infection.

When we arrive for work, we move through a single designated entry point, take our temperature, check for any COVID symptoms, and sanitize hands and surfaces. We wear face coverings in areas where we cannot socially distance, conduct meetings and training online, and are constantly disinfecting high touch areas.

Another, more difficult change has involved closing our lobby to the public and cancelling our school safety education programs, CPR classes, non-essential business inspections and in-person car seat checks. We have greatly missed these opportunities to interact with the citizens of our three cities but have strived to reach out through other avenues, including social media and our website.

In addition to our public outreach programs and staff protection, additional updates were made to our emergency response procedures to ensure we followed best practices for COVID-19 related patient care. These safety procedures were put in place with collaboration from Public Health officials, King County Emergency Medical Services, Valley Communications Dispatch Center and fire department leadership across our region.

Within March, April and May, we responded to 493 “PPE Advised” calls that dispatchers deemed a possible risk of COVID-19. Those calling 9-1-1 were asked specific questions relating to their symptoms, and any risk indicators were communicated to responding Firefighters/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT’s). When arriving at these PPE Advised calls, crews donned fitted masks, protective eyewear, gloves and gowns. Patients were asked to come outside if they were physically able, and only one VRFA member conducted a patient assessment. This approach limited exposure to other crew members.

On April 3, the VRFA introduced the “Clean Car,” a dedicated COVID-19 patient response vehicle. It is utilized for any patient confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19. This specially outfitted medical aid unit is staffed by four firefighters working two at a time, on 48-hour

shifts over a two-week rotation. The crew is isolated at a location separate from all VRFA facilities to reduce exposure to other staff.

Firefighter/EMT’s assigned to the clean car engage in a constant decontamination effort. Each day begins with a thorough check to ensure the vehicle, personal protective equipment (PPE) and specialized cleaning equipment are ready for use. After every call, the process is repeated using a variety of tools including a repurposed household paint sprayer that generates a mist of 80% ethanol liquid to penetrate and disinfect every surface in the aid car.

The crew utilizes several layers of PPE, including a face shield, goggles, an airtight mask, overalls, disposable gown, and two pairs of gloves. Donning and doffing the extensive PPE is a slow and deliberate process, requiring additional gloves and hand sanitizer breaks in between each step. To reduce out of service time, two sets of PPE equipment are available for use.

Firefighter Justin Erickson, who served on the Clean Car said, “Overall, my clean car experience was extremely rewarding. I felt I used all of my EMS skills, knowledge, and ingenuity to help our community through a time of hardship. The lessons learned from this experience will serve us well as we move forward and face new challenges.”

With the Clean Car handling COVID-19 related calls, those not assigned to it could focus on the daily emergent needs of the community. Interestingly, 9-1-1 calls have decreased. During March through May, our overall 9-1-1 response rate decreased over 10 percent from the same time frame in 2019. Many factors could contribute to this reduction, including fewer people on the roadways and at work, less recreation and participation in sports. There is also a possibility that some citizens resisted calling 9-1-1 due to a fear of contracting COVID-19.

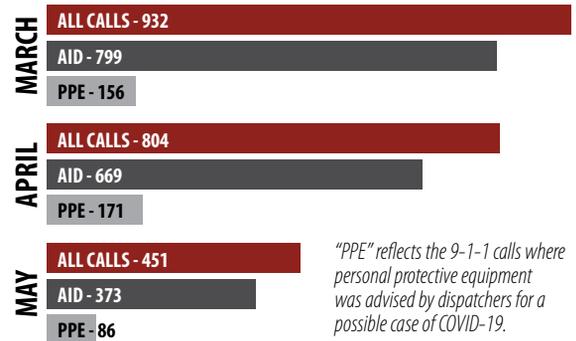


*“Although the pandemic has presented many challenges, there have been several bright spots for all of us at the VRFA. None of our staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We were well prepared with a large stock of much-needed PPE and pandemic supplies, and we have been embraced with countless offers of support from businesses and community members.”*

*Fire Chief Brent Swearingen*



## 2020 VRFA CALLS MARCH-MAY



# Auburn Arts Alley -



UW students Allison Ong, Sylvia Janicki, and Jack Alderman discuss their original vision for the Alley.



# Revitalizing an urban alley into a creative gathering place

## A spark of an idea?

*An urban outdoor creative gathering place for the community.*

## The location?

*An underutilized alley perfectly positioned in the heart of downtown Auburn between the beloved Auburn Avenue Theater and the future Auburn Arts & Culture Center.*

What started with an idea and vision by students participating in the University of Washington's "Livable Cities" program, has now become a plan set in motion for a multi-faceted artistic gathering place in Auburn's Downtown, created in collaboration with some truly amazing artists and a lot of important support from the local and regional community!

Initial alleyway redesign plans and site studies were produced by former University of Washington landscape architect students: Allison Ong, Sylvia Janicki, and Jack Alderman. Those designs acted as a springboard for a successful grant application for 4Culture's new Creative Consultancy program, in which Local Arts Agencies can apply to collaborate with artists on creative projects. With generous support from 4Culture, the City selected to work with talented local artist Kathleen Fruge Brown on this exciting alleyway redesign, and launched an outreach effort to gather community input for the project. From a community-shared Pinterest idea board, to a widely-distributed email survey, and in-person stakeholder meetings, the public input process helped define and refine our project goals. Feedback indicated that Auburn residents thought the most important elements for the Arts Alley were: lighting, seating, public art, as well as space for temporary or 'rotating' art and performances. Above all, the community conversations revealed a hunger for more visual expressions of diversity—to see their own culture and history embodied in the public space.

Once the collaboration with artist Fruge Brown was underway, the excitement for the project began to grow, and with it, our ideas of how inclusive and artistically multi-faceted the space could become. Fruge Brown has created a series of mosaics based on traditional and contemporary weaving designs, with many of the original designs made by talented artistic collaborator Gail White Eagle, of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, as well as other Coast Salish weaving and basketry designs. Fruge Brown also designed the concrete bench with cast text of the Muckleshoot motto, "I am alive and strong" translated from *bəqəlšnúcid* into ten other languages most commonly spoken in the Auburn community. Having prominent artistic representation and acknowledgment of the indigenous culture of this area is an essential way to honor Auburn's history and commemorate its rich cultural diversity. At the end of 2019, the City of Auburn applied for a second round of grant funding through 4Culture's Creative Consultancy program in collaboration with the Muckleshoot Tribal Culture Division and Kathleen Fruge Brown. The City was awarded the second



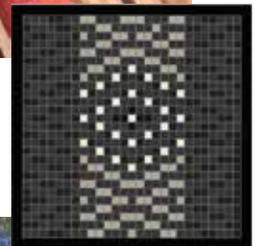
grant and the opportunity to collaborate on a more artistically robust expression of the Muckleshoot culture and history, including a one-of-a-kind carved welcome figure and land acknowledgement plaque in the Auburn Arts Alley.

Kathleen Fruge Brown will liaison with Muckleshoot Tribe Cultural Director Willard Bill Jr. and traditional carvers Keith Stevenson and Tyson Simmons to produce a sculpture that will bring an iconic symbol of the Muckleshoot culture into the heart of downtown Auburn.

The cast concrete sitting wall will be poured in early June, and beautiful mosaics by Kathleen Fruge Brown will be installed shortly after. Additional artistic components of the Auburn Arts Alley design will include overhead lighting designed by Fruge Brown, a dynamic wall mural to be designed and painted by talented public artist Will Schlough, and a stage for music and performances.

Activation of the space through arts and cultural events, musical or theater performances and pop-up experiences will seek to bring life into a once forgotten alley, and engage the community in a creative gathering space! Community partners will be encouraged to create collaborative programming as well, allowing the site to truly become a place for the community and activated with the community.

The City of Auburn looks forward to redefining the alley as a central hub where the community can come together in appreciation and creation of artistic and cultural experiences.



# Auburn Farmers Market opens and adjusts to changes related to COVID-19

## Summer is here and the Auburn International Farmers Market has returned to Les Gove Park – just with a different look and feel.

This year, as with almost all things right now, the Market has a slightly different set up to ensure that customers, vendors, and staff are able to stay safe while visiting the Market.

The Market site is in a slightly different location, still at Les Gove Park, just off of 12th Street, slightly east from where it's been the past few years.

Currently, King County Public Health is allowing Markets to host farm, flower, food, health and sanitation vendors like mask-makers and soap vendors. As the restrictions ease, the next phase of the Market will allow for crafters and then the final phase will allow non-profit organizations, sponsors, and other vendors to participate and may allow us to bring back entertainment and demonstrations.



### Following is a list of some of the changes:

#### Self-screening health checklist

All staff, vendors and volunteers are required to self-screen with a set list of health questions before they enter the Market.

#### Plan ahead for shopping

You are encouraged to plan ahead and bring a shopping list for the Market. The Market will post a list of the vendors that will be in attendance and what products they will be bringing on Friday's prior to the Market Sunday. Look for this list on the Market Facebook page or on the market website at [auburnfarmersmarket.org](http://auburnfarmersmarket.org).

Public Health is currently limiting the number of people inside of the market at a time. Because of this, customers may experience a bit of line to get in when they arrive at the Market. The waiting line outside the market will be clearly marked for physically distancing and clear signage will guide customers through both the waiting line and the Market.

Additionally, while we encourage customers to try to send just one member of a household, we understand that your household may need to shop together to pick up needed items. (And, customers will need to leave your dogs at home this year – unless they have a service animal).

#### Mask up

Vendors and staff are required to wear masks. In accordance with King County Public Health guidelines, the Market strongly urges customers to wear a mask as well.

#### Market layout - go with the flow

There is just one entrance and exit to the market and a one-way flow of customers through the Market.

Vendor stalls are spaced 10 feet apart and markings on the ground indicate six feet from each vendor booth to help guide physical distancing requirements. Park restrooms are still currently closed to the public, but there is hand sanitizer available at the entrance and exit along with a hand washing station in the Market.

Staff and vendors will be sanitizing high touch surfaces throughout the day as well as washing hands often.

#### SNAP & EBT

The Market accepts EBT and matches those EBT funds with SNAP Market Match. The EBT booth will be the first booth upon entering the Market for customers using EBT to get their tokens and then shop.



For full details and other frequently asked questions related to the revised Market operations, please visit [auburnfarmersmarket.org](http://auburnfarmersmarket.org)

The Market will be open every Sunday from 10am-3pm through September 20.



Bring your shopping list - know before you go!



Shop with those in your household



No pets allowed.

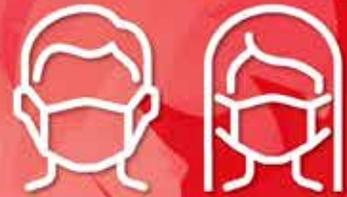
(Service animals permitted)



*Auburn Int'l Farmers Market*

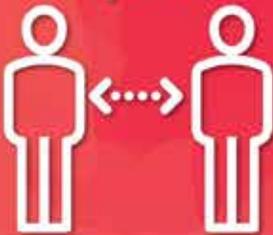


Customers encouraged to wear a mask



Help protect our community!

Social distance - please stay 6 feet apart.



Go with the flow - follow the marked traffic patterns.



No eating on-site. Take it to go!



High-touch areas are being sanitized regularly.



All vendors will wash hands regularly.



Wash produce before eating.



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



# Story Thyme

## We asked Jeff and Diane Pechacek of Z Street Coffee Roasters about what they bring to the Auburn Int'l Farmers Market

### What type of produce do you offer?

We do roast-to-order coffee.

### How long have you been in operation?

Our home-based business has been in operation in Auburn for 8 years.

### During the Market season (June-September) how many Markets do you participate in a week?

Up until this year, we've done 2 weeks out of every month. This year we'll be there for the entire Market season.

### Why or what inspires you to produce your product?

We decided to get into the business after discovering what a really fresh cup of coffee is like. People notice the difference. Because we decided to do roast-to-order, those buying our coffee will always have the freshest coffee around, and it's how they like it, not how we (or anyone else) thinks it should be.



We really enjoy the Market because of the City and volunteers do a great job of managing it. We get to meet all kinds of people, and we really like interacting with them, and, it's great to be outside in the fresh air, despite the occasional rain and cold.



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

## Auburn's Poet Laureate honored

The City of Auburn's Poet Laureate, Susan Landgraf, has been selected as a 2020 Poets Laureate Fellow from the Academy of American Poets! This is an incredible honor, and she will be awarded \$50,000 for her proposed civic poetry program in Auburn. Landgraf will partner with the Muckleshoot Tribe and Reservation and the City of Auburn to offer poetry workshops at the Tribal School and in the Auburn Public Schools Tribal Programs, as well as for adults and children at the Tribal Center. The project will culminate in a book of participants' poems, as well as a series of readings on the Reservation, in the City of Auburn, and at the State Capitol.

"As we face the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, more and more people are turning to poetry for comfort and courage. We are honored and humbled in this moment of great need to fund poets who are talented artists and community organizers, who will most certainly help guide their communities forward," said Jennifer Benka, President and Executive Director of the Academy of American Poets.

Through its Poets Laureate Fellowship program, the Academy has become the largest financial supporter of poets in the nation. The fellowship program is made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which, in January of this year, awarded the Academy \$4.5 million. The award will fund the program in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

"We are gratified to support the Poets Laureate Fellows as they engage their communities around the unprecedented challenges of our moment, making work that provides meaning, brings beauty, and helps us, in Lucille Clifton's words, 'sail through this to that,'" said Elizabeth Alexander, poet and President of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Susan Landgraf is an accomplished poet and journalist. She is the author of *What We Bury Changes the Ground* (Tebot Bach, 2017) as well as *The Inspired Poet* (Two Sylvias Press, 2019), a book of writing exercises. Landgraf has taught at Highline College and Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, as well as the Port Townsend Writers' Conference. As Poet Laureate of the City of Auburn, Landgraf has taught a series of successful teen writing workshops at the Auburn Public Library called the "Young Writers Group," and has worked with the Auburn Library to create adult writing workshops also. She has been a featured poet at Auburn's annual "Poets on the Ave" national poetry month event, was a guest reader at the annual "Poets on the Farm" event with Northwest Renaissance Poets at the Mary Olson Farm, and has also read her poetry at many City events including the Veteran's Day parade and 4th of July event.

Her passion for poetry is extraordinary and her desire to give back to the community has been an incredible gift to Auburn. We are thrilled to see Susan Landgraf receive this competitive and significant award, wish her many congratulations, and will look forward to supporting her project and the many ways it will engage with the Auburn community through the art of poetry.



*"My goal as Poet Laureate of Auburn is to open the window of poetry to more people during my tenure."  
~Susan Landgraf*

### Moving My Mother into Memory Care

*I had a boyfriend, she tells the administrator who's asking for date of birth and a list of medications. His name was Franklin. And when we danced my feet were music.*

*I would rather dance than eat. She leans forward in her wheelchair. When I was with Franklin, the stars were singing.*

*She turns to me. You remember Franklin, don't you? I would rather dance than eat. That was before your father. Her brow furrows and she pauses, as if she's counting her breath. That was when I played hopscotch.*

*You remember Franklin, don't you? She waves to the flowers on the desk. Franklin loved flowers. Remember, how my feet were flowers.*

*Published in Calyx - Winter/Spring 2020*

# IF IT GOES UP OR BLOWS UP, IT'S ILLEGAL IN AUBURN!

Anything that leaves the ground or produces a report or explosion is illegal.  
Any combination of two or more effects is also illegal.

## NO. 1 FIREWORK SAFETY TIP: ATTEND A PUBLIC DISPLAY!



### CITY OF ALGONA

 Discharge of all fireworks is illegal

### CITIES OF AUBURN AND PACIFIC

Discharge of legal fireworks is allowed July 4th between the hours of 9am-11pm. You must be 16 years old to purchase legal fireworks.

 **LEGAL** Party Poppers, Booby Traps, Snappers, Sparklers, Cylindrical and Cone Fountains, Illuminating Torches, Wheels, Ground Spinners, Flitter Sparklers, Smoke Devices.

 **ILLEGAL** All Aerial Devices, Sky Rockets, Missile-Type Rockets, Helicopters, Aerial Spinners, Roman Candles, Mines, Shells, Firecrackers and Salutes, Chasers, Jumping Jacks.

### INCREASED ENFORCEMENT

The Auburn Police Department will cite those using fireworks unlawfully with a possible fine of up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail. Those discharging fireworks recklessly face up to a \$5,000 fine and a year in jail. Anyone caught in possession of a device containing more than 2 grains of pyrotechnic charge (such as an M80) may be charged with a felony, punishable up to 20 years in prison.

Citizens can assist the City with this stepped up emphasis by calling our non-emergency number at 253-288-2121 when fireworks are illegally discharged in their neighborhood.

CITY OF  
**AUBURN**  
WASHINGTON



### MORE SAFETY TIPS:

- Buy and use only legal fireworks
- Follow directions and safety recommendations printed on the fireworks
- Maintain adult supervision
- Use fireworks in an area clear of materials that can burn (grass, bark, trees)
- Keep garden hoses ready
- Wet down firework display area
- Light one item at a time, move away quickly and keep a safe distance
- Dispose of used fireworks by first soaking them in water
- Trim any tall grass close to buildings or fences
- Clean all gutters and move burnable materials away from homes
- Place minor burns in cool water, call 911 if you need further assistance

