DECEMBER 2025

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AUBURN

Easy to love, HARD TO LEAVE.

Open Line

a newsletter for you, our residents

Holiday Recycling Tips

FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



As you clean up after this holiday season, keep in mind the many ways we can help you make less of an impact on our environment.

COMPOST YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Composting your Christmas tree is as easy as placing it at the curb. Our Environmental Services team will collect and compost Christmas trees during customers' weekly curbside collections.

RECYCLE BOXES

Don't forget to recycle the boxes from your gifts this holiday season. Cardboard boxes and gift boxes are included in our curbside recycling program and may be recycled at the Recycling Drop Off Center. Please remember to break down all boxes!

RECYCLE COOKING OIL AND GREASE

Before frying or baking those hams and turkeys, pick up a free container from the Recycling Drop-Off Center (640 Mary Brooks Drive) to recycle the used cooking oil rather than pouring it down the drain. Though it may seem harmless, letting grease and cooking oil run down the drain is the main cause of sewer backups. Instead, simply pour any used, cooled cooking oil into a leak-proof container and bring it to the Drop-Off Center or place it by the curb for recycling. To schedule a free curbside grease recycling pickup, call the Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3069.

Find more recycling info at auburnal.gov/recycle.



House check for the holidays

Heading out of town for a while and need someone to keep an eye on your home? Our Auburn Police Department can help.

Auburn Police offer periodic house checks at no cost to Auburn residents. If you're going to be away from your home for an extended amount of time, you can fill out a form at auburnal.gov/police/house-check or call (334) 501-3150 to sign up for the service.

Please include information like if you'll be leaving vehicles parked at the residence, if lights will be left on or if you expect any authorized visitors. Be sure to leave us your local emergency contacts. And before you leave, make sure to lock your doors and secure all windows.

This is just one way that we're working to keep our community safe during the holiday season. For more tips and info about services, follow Auburn Public Safety on Facebook, Instagram and X @COAPublicSafety.

Board & commission vacancies

Interested in serving your community? Applications for the Cemetery Advisory Board and the Water Works Board will be open Nov. 19-Dec. 8. Find more information and apply at auburnal.gov/boards.

Parks & Rec Rings in December with Holiday Cheer



This December, Auburn Parks and Recreation invites the community to celebrate the season with festive runs, holiday crafts, nature hikes and free gift wrapping. Whether you're looking to make memories with family or soak in the spirit of the season, there's something for everyone.

Get into the holiday spirit with the **Jingle Jog 5K and Santa Stroll Fun Run** on Saturday, Dec. 6. Wear your Santa hats and ugly sweaters and join Active Auburn as runners and walkers make their way to the finish line at Toomer's Corner. With both a competitive 5K and a casual one-mile stroll, this event welcomes all ages and fitness levels. Fees range from $20 to $45 per person.

Also on Dec. 6, families are invited to the **Ho-Ho-Ho Hike and Holiday Celebration** at the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In partnership with the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, the Preserve will be transformed into a winter wonderland complete with nature-themed crafts, performances, cookies and a visit from Mrs. Claus. Don't miss the Ho-Ho-Ho Hike, a festive Santa hunt through the woods with fun surprises along the trail. This event is open to children 12 and under.

Need time for some last-minute shopping? Drop the kids off at the **Holly Jolly Drop & Shop** on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Frank Brown Recreation Center. This free event is offered in two sessions — 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. — and is open to children ages 6-12. Kids will enjoy holiday crafts, games, inflatables, letters to Santa, snacks and a seasonal movie (rated G/PG). Space is limited, and registration at auburnal.myrec.com is required.

Take the stress out of the season with **Holiday Wrap-Up**, a complimentary gift-wrapping service offered Dec. 15-23 at the Harris Center. Simply drop off your boxed gifts, and our talented elves will wrap them with festive flair. Gifts dropped off on Dec. 22 after 5 p.m. will be ready by noon on Dec. 23. This service is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is free to the public.

Find info about **more holiday events** listed below at auburnal.gov/parks.

- **Letters to Santa**: Nov. 17-Dec. 15
- **Holiday Art Sale:** Nov. 22
- **Auburn Community Orchestra Holiday Concert**: Dec. 5
- **A Holiday Walk in the Woods**: Dec. 19-20



Auburn Toy Drive kicks off in November

The Auburn Toy Drive is back! Auburn residents and local business are invited to partner with Auburn Public Safety to help make the season brighter for families in need. Here's how you can help:

- **Donate:** Drop off newly purchased, unwrapped gifts throughout November at the Auburn Public Safety Building at 141 N. Ross St. or any Auburn Fire Station.
- **Volunteer:** Sign up to help receive and sort donations into age-appropriate categories then prep toys for pick up at auburnal.gov/toy-drive.
- **Register:** Register a child to receive a gift at auburnal.gov/toy-drive starting Nov. 1 through Nov. 22.

Questions? Reach out to toydrive@auburnal.gov.

December closures & schedule changes

City Hall and most City facilities will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas Day and Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Public Safety services including police, fire and communications will remain on their regular schedules. Garbage, trash and recycling pickup schedules will run as follows:

Christmas Week

Monday, Dec. 22 – No change
Tuesday, Dec. 23 – No change
Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Wednesday's route
Thursday, Dec. 25 – HOLIDAY
Friday, Dec. 26 – Thursday's route

New Year's Week

Monday, Dec. 29 – No change
Tuesday, Dec. 30 – No change
Wednesday, Dec. 31 – Wednesday's route
Thursday, Jan. 1 – HOLIDAY
Friday, Jan. 2 – Thursday's route

The Auburn Public Library will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 31. It will be closed all day on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. No library programs will be held Dec. 18-Jan. 4. The library will also be closed on Dec. 18 for staff training. Book drops will remain open, and the online collection of e-books, audiobooks and digital magazines is always available.

Parks and Recreation facility hours will be adjusted during the holidays, so keep an eye on auburnal.gov/parks for more details.

Business license renewals start Jan. 1

Any business providing services or selling goods within Auburn city limits is required to have a City of Auburn business license, including home-based businesses and short-term rentals. City business licenses for 2025 will expire on Dec. 31, 2025, and must be renewed by Feb. 17, 2026, to avoid late fees.

Business licenses are renewable online beginning Jan. 1, 2026, by visiting auburnal.gov and clicking "Pay" in the top right.

If this is the first time you are using our Citizen Self Service portal, you must first register your account and contact the Revenue Office to link your business license account to your registered username (instructions are available online).

If you cannot renew online, contact the Revenue Office at revenue@auburnal.gov or (334) 501-7239 for further assistance.

For more information, visit auburnal.gov/revenue/business-licenses.

PROJECT UPDATE

Gay Street Streetscape Improvements

Work recently wrapped up on improvements to the streetscape on Gay Street between Thach Avenue and Publix. This project was a key part of the Downtown Master Plan and made the space more walkable, welcoming and beautiful. Take a stroll downtown to see the difference for yourself!



city council

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DECEMBER 2025 upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager
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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 **Curiosity Crew** Mondays @ 3:30 p.m. **Cemetery Advisory Board** 4 p.m.	**Preschool Story Time** Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** 11:45 a.m. **S.T.E.A.M. Lab** Tuesdays @ 3:30 p.m. **Bedtime Buddies** Tuesdays @ 6 p.m. **Committee of the Whole** TBD **City Council** 6 p.m.	3 **Baby's 1st Story Time** Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. **Awesome Art** Wednesdays @ 4 p.m. **Board of Zoning Adjustment** 4:30 p.m.	4 **Toddler Tales** Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. **Lullabies for Little Ones** Thursdays @ 1 p.m. **Letters to Santa** 3:30-4:30 p.m.	5 **Puppet Shows** Fridays @ 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. **Tree Commission** 11:30 a.m.	**Jingle Jog** 6:30 a.m. @ Toomer's Corner **Family Story Time** Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m. **Ho-Ho-Ho Hike & Holiday Celebration** 10 a.m. @ Kreher Preserve **Untidy Tales** Saturdays @ 10:30 a.m. **Movers & Shakers** Saturdays @ 1 p.m. **Create! Whipped Soap** 2 p.m.
7	8 **Planning Commission Packet Meeting** Noon	9 **Historic Preservation Commission** 4 p.m. **Create! Whipped Soap** 5:30-7:30 p.m.	10 **Sweaters & Sweets** 6-7 p.m.	11 **City Council Agenda Review Meeting** 4 p.m. **Planning Commission** 5 p.m.	12	13 **Holly Jolly Drop & Shop** 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. @ Frank Brown Recreation Center **Hot Cocoa Day** 2-4 p.m.
14	15 **Holiday Wrap-Up Begins** @ Harris Center	16 **Auburn Public Library Board** 10 a.m. **Greenspace Advisory Board** Noon **Committee of the Whole** TBD **City Council** 6 p.m.	17 **Just Breathe! Pranayama Techniques** 6 p.m.	18 **Water Works Board** 4 p.m. **No Library programs Dec. 18-Jan. 4**	19	20
21	22	23 **Holiday Wrap-Up Ends** @ Harris Center	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	*Background Photo: Jingle Jog*	**Auburn Public Library** auburnal.gov/library **City Meetings** auburnal.gov/boards **Parks & Recreation** auburnal.gov/parks **Citywide Events** auburnal.gov	Programs & events are subject to change. Find up-to-date information at **auburnal.gov.**