

AUBURN MESSENGER

Auburn's Public Works Gears Up for a Busy Summer: Prioritizing Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Community Events

Public Works Overview

- **Increased Hiring**
- **Continuing to beautify the city**
- **Ramped up road work**
- **Commitment to have the staff to assist in summer events**

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A sense of renewed energy is palpable within the City of Auburn, Georgia's Public Works Department as they embark on an ambitious summer season. Recognizing the critical role they play in the city's infrastructure, aesthetics, and community life, the department has significantly ramped up its hiring efforts to meet the demands of a busy few months ahead. This strategic move aims to ensure more road projects are completed efficiently, city property is meticulously maintained, and Auburn's vibrant community events go off without a hitch.

With additional hands on deck, residents can expect to see an accelerated pace of progress on road improvements throughout

safety. With additional staff, the department will be better equipped to support these events, allowing them to run smoothly and contribute to the strong community spirit that defines Auburn.

However, as Public Works employees dedicate themselves to these crucial tasks, the City of Auburn urges all residents and visitors to exercise extreme

Auburn. From repaving and patching to drainage work, these projects are essential for enhancing safety and improving the overall quality of life for motorists and pedestrians alike. The increased staffing will allow Public Works crews to tackle a greater volume of these vital initiatives, addressing long-standing needs and proactively preparing for future growth.

Beyond the roadways, the Public Works department is also responsible for the upkeep of Auburn's numerous public spaces, parks, and facilities. The summer hiring surge will bolster these efforts, ensuring that city property remains well-maintained and appealing for everyone to enjoy. This includes eve-



rything from landscaping and litter control to repairs and general beautification, contributing to Auburn's charm and livability.

Furthermore, Auburn's calendar is often filled with exciting community events, from festivals to parades. The Public Works team is an indispensable part of making these gatherings successful, handling everything from setting up infrastructure to managing waste and ensuring public

"Our Public Works team is the backbone of Auburn"

caution when encountering crews working near roads. Work zones, whether clearly marked or temporary, require heightened awareness. Please remember:

- **Slow Down:** Adhere to posted speed limits in work zones, and be prepared to reduce your speed even further if conditions warrant. Speed is

a major factor in work zone accidents.

- **Move Over:** If possible and safe to do so, move over a lane to create a buffer between your vehicle and the working crews. Georgia's Move-Over Law requires drivers to move over one lane or slow down below the posted speed limit when approaching stationary highway

Public Works Continued...

maintenance and construction workers.

- **Pay Attention:** Minimize distractions such as cell phones and other electronic devices. Focus entirely on the road and your surroundings.
- **Expect the Unexpected:** Conditions can change rapidly in work zones. Be alert for sudden stops, lane shifts, and workers or equipment entering or exiting the roadway.
- **Obey Flaggers and Signage:** Always follow the instructions of road crew flaggers and adhere to all

temporary traffic signs. These are in place to ensure your safety and the safety of the workers.

The City of Auburn's Public Works department is committed to making Auburn a better place, and their efforts this summer are a testament to that dedication. By ramping up their workforce and focusing on these key areas, they are investing in a more beautiful, functional, and vibrant community for all. Let's do our part by driving safely and giving them the space they need to get the job done.



Auburn PD Ramps Up for Summer Safety: New Officers, Enhanced Training, and

Community Vigilance

As the summer season gets underway, the City of Auburn Police Department is proactively implementing a series of strategic initiatives and community-focused plans to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors. With a focus on enhanced response times, cutting-edge training, and public safety awareness, the APD is ready to meet the unique challenges of the warmer months.

In a move to increase their capacity and improve response to calls for service, the department has successfully completed the hiring of three new officers. This brings the department to a full complement, allowing for more patrols and a

quicker response to emergencies and non-emergency situations alike.

"We are thrilled to welcome our new officers to the Auburn Police Department family," said Public Information Officer Sgt. Marc Pharr. "Their addition allows us to deploy our resources even more effectively across the city. Whether it's a routine traffic stop or a critical incident, having more officers on the streets means we can respond to our community's needs even more quickly and efficiently."

Beyond staffing, the APD is also leveraging its state-of-the-art new gun range, a facility that has become a valuable asset not only for Auburn but for other law enforcement agencies as well. This modern training facility allows officers to hone their skills in a controlled and safe environment, ensuring they are always prepared for any situation.

"Our new gun range is a game-

changer for our training program," said Sgt. Pharr. "It provides our officers with an unparalleled opportunity for realistic, ongoing firearms training. But it's not just for us; we're proud to be able to share this resource with our law enforcement partners in surrounding jurisdictions. When we train together, we build stronger partnerships and a more cohesive public safety network for the entire region."

With the arrival of summer, the APD is also putting a strong emphasis on a crucial public safety message: **safe driving**. With schools out and children spending more time outdoors, it is imperative for all motorists to exercise extreme caution on the roads.

"Summer is a time for fun and freedom, but it also brings a heightened risk on our streets," Sgt. Pharr emphasized. "We see more kids playing in neighborhoods, riding bikes, and walking to parks. We are asking every driver to be our partner in

Auburn Police Department Continued...

safety. Please maintain a safe speed, eliminate distractions, and be extra cautious, especially on residential streets. A few seconds of caution can prevent a lifetime of regret. Let's make this a safe and memorable summer for every child in our community."

The Auburn Police Department's comprehensive approach, combining increased staffing, advanced training, and a strong focus on community awareness, demonstrates their unwavering commitment to keeping Auburn a secure and thriving place to live, work, and play.



A Spectacular Success! Thank You for a Memorable Independence Day Celebration!

The City extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our nation's independence this past Saturday, June 28th. The evening was a resounding success, filled with community spirit, dazzling fireworks, and unforgettable moments. We were thrilled to see so many families, friends, and neighbors

gathered together to mark this special occasion.

This year's celebration was made possible by the incredible support and hard work of many. A special thank you goes to our fantastic vendors who provided delicious food

and unique goods, adding to the festive atmosphere. We are also immensely grateful for the dedication of our city staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a smooth and safe event for all.

Of course, the highlight of the even-

"Seeing the community come together is what it is all about"



ing was the truly amazing fireworks display that lit up the night sky. The brilliant colors and breathtaking booms were a perfect finale to a wonderful day of celebration. We were fortunate to enjoy a beautiful, storm-free evening, allowing everyone to relax and enjoy the show.

"Seeing the community come together like this is what it's all about," said event organizer Brooke Haney. "There's a certain magic in the air when you see generations of families enjoying the simple pleasure of a summer evening and a spectacular fireworks show. We are so grateful for the positive energy everyone brought to the event."

Haney also expressed her gratitude for the collaborative effort involved. "From our public works team ensuring the grounds were perfect, to our vendors who bring such life to the celebration, and of course, to every single person who attended, it's a true community-wide effort," she added. "That's what makes this event so special year after year."

We are already looking forward to creating another memorable celebration for our community in 2026. Thank you once again for making this year's Independence Day celebration a fantastic success!



Your vision. Our passion. Your Auburn

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Auburn City Council Approves Water Rate Increase

The Auburn City Council has approved a 5% increase in wholesale water rates, which will affect customer bills starting July 1, 2025. This decision follows a notification from Barrow County about a 5% increase in their wholesale water rates to the city, effective the same day.

The rate adjustments are part of Barrow County's annual review of utility revenues and expenses, as permitted by the water purchase intergovernmental agreement between the county and the city. The new rates will be in effect until June 30, 2026, at which point they will be re-evaluated.

New Water Rates for Residents

Effective July 1, 2025, residents living inside the city limits will see their base water rate rise from \$17.33 to \$18.20. For senior citizens aged 65 and over residing within city limits, the base rate will increase from \$11.55 to \$12.13.

For residential customers outside the city limits and for non-residential services, the base rate will climb from \$23.10 to \$24.26. Seniors in this category will see their base rate change from \$13.86 to \$14.56.



City of Auburn Utility Rates <i>Approved by Council July 1, 2025 Wholesale Water Rate Increase by 5%</i>					
<i>Water Rates Effective for Bill July 1, 2025</i>					
Residential Service Inside the City Limits			Residential Service Outside the City Limits & Non Residential Service		
Base Rate		\$ 18.20	Base Rate		\$ 24.26
Base Rate - Senior 65+		\$ 12.13	Base Rate - Senior 65 +		\$ 14.56
Consumption Rates			Consumption Rates		
From	To	Rate Per 1000 Gallons	From	To	Rate Per 1000 Gallons
0	1000	\$ 8.91	0	1000	\$ 9.76
1001	2000	\$ 9.27	1001	2000	\$ 10.10
2001	3000	\$ 9.64	2001	3000	\$ 10.45
3001	4000	\$ 9.97	3001	4000	\$ 10.84
4001	5000	\$ 10.34	4001	5000	\$ 11.20
5001	6000	\$ 10.84	5001	6000	\$ 11.67
6001	7000	\$ 11.20	6001	7000	\$ 12.05
7001	8000	\$ 11.53	7001	8000	\$ 12.40
8001	9000	\$ 11.93	8001	9000	\$ 12.77

Sewer Rate Residential & Commercial	
Minimum Monthly Base	\$ 17.00
Usage per 1000 Gallons	\$ 5.85
Maintenance Fee	\$ 5.00
BC Sewer Admin Fee	7%
<i>Garbage - Republic Services 678-963-2873</i>	
Rate	\$ 30.75
Extra Can	\$ 14.64
Deposit	\$ 52.00
Garbage Nonpayment Reconnect	\$ 45.00

Other	
Deposit for Service (Cash/Money Order only)	\$ 100.00
Deposit for Hydrant Meters	\$1,500.00
Fee for Lost/Damaged Hydrant Meter	\$1,000.00
Meter Box/Lid Replacement	\$ 100.00
Administrative Fee	\$ 25.00
Re-Read Fee - Customer Request	\$ 25.00
After Hours Reconnection	\$ 325.00
Insufficient Funds Fee	\$ 36.00
Tampering Fee	\$ 500.00
Penalty	10.00%
Damage to meter or components Fee	\$ 400.00
Cut-on/Cutoff for Inspections	\$ 25.00
New Water Meters Per Residence	\$5,250.00
Relocate Water Meter - Meter Box	\$4,000.00

COMING NEXT MONTH

Get ready, Auburn! The coming months are packed with important dates and community events.

Vote this Fall Mark your calendar for the Municipal General Election on **Tuesday, November 4, 2025**. Two city council seats are on the ballot. Be sure to register to vote by **October 6th** to have your say in Auburn's future.

Back to School The 2025-2026 school year for Barrow County Schools is just around the corner. Families can find the complete academic calendar, including the first day of school and holiday dates, on the Barrow County School System website.

Community Happenings Keep an eye out for announcements from the City of Auburn regarding the popular "AuburnFest." For the latest details on all community events, visit the official City of Auburn website.