

# THE MESSENGER

#### **BIG CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER IN 2026, SEE Y'ALL SOON!!!!**



Building a Smarter, Stronger Auburn: City Hall Efficiency Updates

At City Hall, we are always working behind the scenes to make Auburn more efficient, more effective, and more responsive to the needs of our residents—all while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Several major improvements are underway that will help us better serve our community for years to come.

First, we are completing our transition to a new Voice-Over-IP (VOIP) phone provider. This upgraded system will not only provide a more robust and resilient communication network for all City departments, but it will also generate significant savings. Once fully implemented, Auburn will save more than \$1,100 every month—funds that can be redirected toward essential services and community priorities. The new system also enhances reliability during emergencies, offers tools that help staff communicate and collaborate effectively.

**Next, we are preparing to launch a fully updated City website.** Expected to go live within the next month, the new site will make it easier than ever for residents to access information, find services, and stay informed about local government. Whether you're looking for meeting agendas, events, permits, or contact information, the redesigned layout will streamline navigation and improve the overall experience.

These upgrades represent our ongoing commitment to modernizing City operations, increasing transparency, and ensuring Auburn continues to grow efficiently and responsibly. We look forward to bringing these improvements online and continuing to find new ways to better serve our residents every day.

#### **Auburn PD Shares 12 Days of Holiday Safety**

As the holidays arrive in Auburn, the Police Department is hard at work ensuring that the season stays merry, bright, and safe for everyone. While families prepare for gatherings, wrap gifts, and travel, our officers are out in the community offering friendly reminders to help keep the season joyful.

This year, Auburn PD is sharing its "12 Days of Holiday Safety"—a collection of simple tips inspired by the calls, questions, and situations our officers see every December.

#### 1. Keep packages out of sight.

Whether you shop online or in-store, avoid leaving gifts visible in your car. A quick stop can be tempting to a thief.

#### 2. Lock up—every time.

It only takes a moment to double-check that your car and home doors are locked when leaving or arriving.

#### 3. Light up the night.

If you're traveling, consider leaving a few lights on or using timers to make your home look lived-in.

#### 4. Watch for porch pirates.

Arrange for deliveries to be placed out of view, delivered to a workplace, or held at the store when possible.

#### 5. Drive with patience.

Holiday traffic increases across our area. Slow down, stay alert, and remember to never drive impaired.

#### 6. Shop smart.

Keep purses zipped and wallets secure. Be mindful of your surroundings in busy parking lots and stores.

#### 7. Keep Christmas trees safe.

If you have a live tree, water it regularly and keep all trees away from heat sources.

#### 8. Plug in safely.

Inspect lights and cords for fraying and avoid overloading outlets with decorations.

#### 9. Keep pets secure.

During holiday gatherings, make sure pets don't slip out an open door—and remind visitors to close doors behind them.

#### 10. Protect your identity.

Scammers love the holidays. Be cautious with unsolicited calls, emails, and charity requests.

#### 11. Share your travel plans wisely.

Avoid posting detailed vacation plans on social media. Save those pictures for when you return.

#### 12. Look out for neighbors.

If you notice anything unusual—packages piling up, suspicious activity, welfare concerns—don't hesitate to call Auburn PD.

These safety reminders come from real experiences our officers have throughout the year, especially during the busy holiday season. By taking a few simple steps, we can all help keep Auburn's homes, families, and celebrations safe.

From everyone at the Auburn Police Department, we wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyful holiday season.



## From The Public Works Dept:

#### **Public Works: Keeping the Season Flowing Smoothly**

While Auburn celebrates the holidays, the City's Public Works team is quietly hard at work ensuring that everything behind the scenes continues to run safely and smoothly. As temperatures drop and families gather, our crews play a critical role in keeping the water flowing, the roads safe, and our community moving.

This time of year brings unique challenges, and Public Works meets them head-on—often long before most residents are awake. Whether responding to a burst pipe, repairing a water main, clearing roadways, or preparing for freezing temperatures, the team stands ready around the clock to ensure that essential services remain uninterrupted.

Winter in Georgia can be unpredictable, with cold snaps, heavy rain, and the occasional icy morning. Public Works crews monitor conditions closely, treating problem areas, clearing debris, and responding quickly to ensure that Auburn's roads remain safe for holiday travel. Even on nights when most of us are enjoying time indoors, you'll often see their trucks out on the streets, making sure the morning commute is safe.

On the water side, **ensuring a dependable supply is a top priority**. The team works diligently to maintain water lines, repair leaks, and monitor system performance so residents can count on clean, reliable water throughout the season. Their preventative work—inspections, winterization efforts, and infrastructure checks—helps avoid disruptions when the weather turns cold.

This holiday season, we want to recognize and thank the Public Works staff for their dedication, resilience, and commitment to Auburn. Their behind-the-scenes efforts keep our city running, our roads safe, and our homes supplied with one of our most essential resources.

From the entire Public Works Department, we wish all residents a safe, warm, and wonderful holiday season.



### From The Mayor of Auburn:

#### A Message from Mayor Rick Roquemore

As we look ahead to a new chapter in Auburn, I am grateful for the trust our citizens continue to place in their local government. Every day, our team at City Hall and across all departments is focused on one goal: **making life better for the people who live, work, and raise their families here in Auburn**. From strengthening infrastructure and public safety to investing in parks, technology, and customer service, we remain committed to building a community we can all be proud of.

I would also like to **welcome our newest Councilmember, Johnathen Eggleston**, to the Auburn City Council. His dedication and passion for serving our citizens will be a tremendous asset. In addition, please join me in congratulating **Taylor "TJ" Sisk and Johnathen Eggleston** on their election victories. They are taking their seats ready to get to work, and with the gavel's bang, we begin this next chapter with energy and purpose.

As we move forward, I look forward to working closely with **Councilmembers Eggleston**, **Sisk**, **Jaime Bradley**, **and Josh Rowan**. Together, we will continue making thoughtful decisions that strengthen Auburn's future—decisions that reflect the voices of our citizens and guide the direction of each meeting the moment that gavel comes down.

By working as a team—Mayor, Council, staff, and residents—we can ensure Auburn remains a safe, welcoming, and thriving place to call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It is an honor to be your Mayor.

#### **Mayor Rick Roquemore**

City of Auburn, Georgia

For more information about what is happening around Auburn, GA check us out on Facebook or @www.cityofauburn-ga.org

If you would like to meet with the Mayor or just have some question scan the QR Code to schedule an appointment.