

Harris appointed to lead Auburn PD



The City of Auburn announces the appointment of Michael D. Harris as Auburn's next chief of police, effective February 1. Harris will step into the role following the retirement of Cedric Anderson, chief of police since February 2021.

"Chief Harris is a proven leader who will continue the Auburn Police Department's commitment to excellence in public service," said Auburn City Manager Megan Crouch. "His passion for Auburn and his high-level career experience with the FBI have equipped him well for this role, and I am confident his leadership will serve Auburn well."

Chief Harris returned to Auburn in 2021 to become assistant chief of police following his retirement from the FBI, where he served for 22 years. A graduate of Auburn University, Harris is an Auburn native who previously worked for Auburn Police from 1994 through 1999 as a patrol officer. While various assignments with the FBI took Harris and his family across the country, he and his wife, Ivy, along with their three daughters have always considered

Auburn home. It was during a ride-along with a former lieutenant of Auburn Police, that 12-year-old Harris discovered his dream to be an officer.

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This is home for me; it's home for my wife," Harris said. "We're extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to come back to Auburn. In 22 years with the FBI, we had six permanent moves and several longer-term temporary assignments. The big thing for me is investing back in my community, into my home where I grew up.

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While at the FBI, Harris served in various assignments across the country, including Texas, Washington D.C., California, Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia and Florida. He served 18 months as the acting chief of the FBI's Technical Surveillance and Tactical Operations Sections in Quantico, Virginia. His assignments focused primarily on violent crime, technical/special operations and cyber investigations. While assigned as a special agent to the Auburn Resident Agency from 2010 to 2012, Harris partnered with Auburn Police on one of the largest animal fighting investigations in U.S. history. Harris was the recipient of 19 performance awards in 22 years, including three "Medals of Excellence," the FBI's highest award for exceptional performance.

As police chief, Harris will focus on expanding the use of state-of-the-art technologies. He intends to bolster the APD's investment in officer fitness, mental health, training, and leadership development. As the new chief of a town where his mother still lives in his childhood home, he's committed to keeping Auburn as safe as he remembers it from his youth.

"I'm dedicated to ensuring this community continues to be one of the safest places to live, raise your family, work, and attend school," Harris said. "It is the number one priority for me. Our responsibility at APD is to ensure those who live, work, and visit our community feel safe."

Chief Anderson retires after 34 years

Cedric Anderson, chief of police since 2020, will retire at the end of January after 34-years in local policing.

Since starting as a patrol officer in 1992, Anderson has held nearly every rank within Auburn Police, including that of a patrolman, narcotics detective, supervisor, patrol lieutenant, patrol captain, section chief for city operations and assistant chief before becoming police chief.



"Chief Anderson has provided excellent leadership to the Auburn Police Department at every level of his career, culminating as police chief," said Auburn City Manager Megan Crouch. "We have a better police force because of him, and we thank him for his decades of dedicated service to the Auburn community."

In Anderson's six years as chief, the department has utilized cutting edge technology to improve and enhance its work and increased its capacity to provide training to outside agencies.

"Our city government has been really supportive of new technologies over the years, and we're at the cutting edge of all that is being introduced in law enforcement," Anderson said. "That makes me feel good, and there are so many aspects of law enforcement that we're now helping to train other agencies in, which was one of the goals we set for ourselves six years ago."

When asked what he would say to the community he served for so long, his response is, simply, "thank you." He credits the men and women with whom he has served for the department's success and says he is grateful to the Auburn community for their support over the years.

"The citizens are the ones that make this place so special," he said. "They are the ones that make it safe. They don't tolerate anything that is going to disrupt their tranquility, and the Police Department reaps that benefit."

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day March 28

Spring cleaning just got a whole lot easier! Our semiannual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is coming up on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

From paints and pesticides to batteries and gasoline, we'll accept a wide variety of materials that are not collected during your regular trash and garbage pickup. Simply pack up your materials and drop them off at the Environmental Services Complex at 4277 Wire Road. You can also bring electronics for recycling and paper documents for secure, on-site shredding. Each household may bring up to 20 pounds of material for disposal completely free of charge!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

This event is limited to Auburn residents. Proof of residency can be shown by bringing a recent water bill. Those participating in the event are asked to register ahead of time.

Find a list of acceptable materials and a link to register at auburnal.gov/HHW.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

March 28 · 9 AM-1 PM

Hop into Spring with Parks and Recreation

From art and music to family fun and furry friends, March is full of ways to celebrate with Auburn Parks and Recreation!

Auburn Community Orchestra Spring Concert

Start the month with the Auburn Community Orchestra Spring Concert on Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. at the Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center.

Spring Invitational Exhibition

The Spring Invitational Exhibition opens March 9 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, showcasing new works by regional artists and craftsperson's through April 18.

5th Annual Breakfast with the Bunny

Little ones can celebrate the season at the 5th Annual Breakfast with the Bunny on Saturday, March 21, at 8 a.m. at Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center. For ages 5 and under, this \$10 event includes breakfast and children's activities.

Bark in the Park

Dog lovers can enjoy Bark in the Park on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. This free event features pet vendors, activities, and adoptable dogs from CARE Humane Society.

6th Annual Eggcellent Easter Scavenger Hunt

Wrap up the month with the 6th Annual Eggcellent Easter Scavenger Hunt, running March 28–April 1. Follow clues on social media to find hidden eggs for a chance to win prizes.

Boards & Commissions

Interested in serving our community? Applications for vacancies on the Auburn Public Library Board and Historic Preservation Commission will be open Feb. 18-March 9, and appointments will be made at the March 17 Auburn City Council meeting. Applications for the Board of Education will be open Feb. 18-March 23. Find applications and more information at auburnal.gov/boards.



SPRING CLEANING DONE RIGHT Trash Amnesty returns March 9 - April 3

Ready to clear out the clutter in and around your home? Trash Amnesty 2026 will take place March 9 through April 3, giving you a chance to take care of spring cleaning without extra fees. During Trash Amnesty, collection fees are waived for oversized yard debris and other bulky items that exceed 5 cubic yards (or 6 feet x 6 feet x 4 feet).

PLEASE KEEP THESE GUIDELINES IN MIND:

- We accept yard waste, appliances and bulky items for collection. Please do NOT include household garbage or hazardous waste.
- Place debris at the curb no later than 6 a.m. on your regular collection day.
- Place items at least 3 feet from mailboxes, utility boxes, poles or other fixed objects.
- Contain or bundle items so they don't fall into the street or down storm drains.
- Limbs and debris should be no longer than 5ft.
- Place all items in one pile for pickup.

DELAYS TO NORMAL COLLECTION ARE POSSIBLE

Because of the large volume of pickup expected during Trash Amnesty, residents may experience a delay in their normal collection schedule. For questions, contact Environmental Services at (334) 501-3080 or webenvirsvc@auburnal.gov.

MARCH 2026 upcoming events

Open Line is produced by the Office of the City Manager
334.501.7268 | openline@auburnal.gov

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Auburn Community Orchestra Cogue Performing Arts Center 7 p.m.</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p> <p>S.T.E.A.M. Lab Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bedtime Buddies Tuesdays 6 p.m.</p> <p>Adults Create! Miniature Masterpieces 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>AACT Young Performers Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cemetery Advisory Board 4 p.m.</p> <p>Curiosity Crew Mondays 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament All Day</p> <p>AACT Young Performers Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Awesome Art Wednesdays 4 p.m.</p> <p>Baby's First Story Time Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament All Day</p> <p>AACT Young Performers Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Teen Game Night 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament All Day</p> <p>AACT Young Performers Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>USSSA Baseball Tournament All Day</p> <p>AACT Young Performers Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center 2 p.m.</p> <p>Movers & Shakers Saturdays 1 p.m.</p> <p>Untidy Tales Saturdays 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Adults Create! Miniature Masterpieces 2 p.m.</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>USSSA Baseball Tournament All Day</p>	<p>Spring Break Camp Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon</p> <p>Curiosity Crew Mondays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Spring Break Showings 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Spring Break Camp Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.</p> <p>S.T.E.A.M. Lab Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bedtime Buddies Tuesdays 6 p.m.</p> <p>Spring Break Showings 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Spring Break Camp Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Awesome Art Wednesdays 4 p.m.</p> <p>Baby's First Story Time Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Spring Break Showings 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Spring Break Camp Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m.</p> <p>Planning Commission 5 p.m.</p> <p>Spring Break Showings 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Spring Break Camp Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center 7:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Movers & Shakers Saturdays p.m.</p> <p>Untidy Tales Saturdays 10:30 a.m.</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Curiosity Crew Mondays 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Auburn Public Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p> <p>S.T.E.A.M. Lab Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bedtime Buddies Tuesdays 6 p.m.</p> <p>Chaper Chats Book Club 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Auburn Public Library Board 10 a.m.</p> <p>Greenspace Advisory Board Noon</p> <p>Committee of the Whole TBD</p> <p>City Council 6 p.m.</p> <p>S.T.E.A.M. Lab Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bedtime Buddies Tuesdays 6 p.m.</p> <p>Chaper Chats Book Club 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Awesome Art Wednesdays 4 p.m.</p> <p>Baby's First Story Time Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Water Works Board 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Teen Game Night 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Breakfast with the Bunny Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center 8 a.m.</p> <p>Movers & Shakers Saturdays p.m.</p> <p>Untidy Tales Saturdays 10:30 a.m.</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>Curiosity Crew Mondays 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>S.T.E.A.M. Lab Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bedtime Buddies Tuesdays 6 p.m.</p>	<p>S.T.E.A.M. Lab Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bedtime Buddies Tuesdays 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Awesome Art Wednesdays 4 p.m.</p> <p>Baby's First Story Time Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Teen Game Night 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Neon Nights: Silent Disco Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day 9 a.m.</p> <p>Tails and Trails Fun Run Kiesel Park 9 a.m.</p> <p>Bark in the Park Kiesel Park 9 a.m.</p> <p>Eggcellent Easter Scavenger Hunt All Day</p> <p>Movers & Shakers Saturdays p.m.</p> <p>Untidy Tales Saturdays 10:30 a.m.</p>
29	30	31				
<p>Eggcellent Easter Scavenger Hunt All Day</p>	<p>Eggcellent Easter Scavenger Hunt All Day</p> <p>Curiosity Crew Mondays 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Eggcellent Easter Scavenger Hunt All Day</p> <p>S.T.E.A.M. Lab Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bedtime Buddies Tuesdays 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Programs & events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at auburnal.gov</p>	<p>Programs & events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at auburnal.gov</p>	<p>Programs & events are subject to change.</p> <p>Find up-to-date information at auburnal.gov</p>	<p>Background Photo: Bark in the Park</p>