



Open Line

a newsletter for you, our residents

Expanding care & building careers at Auburn Fire

"It was difficult to wait and want to do more," recalls Auburn Fire EMS Officer Garrett Kemp. "That's why becoming an advanced life support (ALS) provider was such a big step for us and the patients we serve."

A medical emergency can strike at any moment, and when it does, firefighters are often the first to arrive. In October 2023, the Auburn Fire Department became a licensed ALS provider, a major milestone that transformed how crews respond and provide medical care.

Before ALS, Auburn Fire provided the best care the law allowed — checking vital signs, performing CPR, bandaging wounds — while waiting for licensed paramedics to arrive on the scene of medical emergencies.

Now, two years later, Auburn Fire includes 32 state-licensed paramedics and 13 advanced EMTs — all firefighters who took on new challenges and expanded their skills through the department's greatly expanded medical program.

Auburn Fire's ability to provide the same advanced life support care as an ambulance crew but from ALS-equipped fire trucks was a pivotal shift. Patients receive faster advanced care, and firefighters can provide critical life-saving skills previously outside their reach. Nearly all fire apparatuses carry bags stocked with specialized equipment including lifesaving medications, airway management tools and cardiac monitors. When needed, Auburn deploys its own paramedic transport unit to get patients to the hospital without delay.

"I am tasked with ensuring all aspects of our emergency medical services operate smoothly," says EMS Officer Garrett Kemp. "This means sending firefighters to EMT and paramedic schools, purchasing and maintaining lifesaving equipment, keeping our



medical certifications up to date and reviewing every response for quality."

Achieving a paramedic certification isn't easy. Firefighter paramedics complete two years of training backed by tools that put hospital-level care in the field: cardiac monitors that detect major conditions instantly, defibrillators that restore heart rhythms and automated CPR compression devices that deliver steady compressions without stopping. In a crisis, even the strongest first responder can tire after minutes of CPR, but Auburn's LUCAS CPR machines keep a perfect rhythm. Used 23 times in the past year, these machines help increase a patient's chance of survival.

Since 2023, Auburn Fire has performed more than 1,000 advanced interventions and cared for over 9,000 patients. In a city of more than 83,000, Auburn Fire's ALS providers are touching lives across every corner of the community. Their work goes far beyond emergencies: last year alone, firefighters completed more than 7,500 service calls, 1,300 fire inspections and 28,000 hours of training, all while hosting 244 public education events to keep the community safe.

The numbers tell a powerful story: lives saved, families kept whole and firefighters growing in skill and responsibility. Two years of ALS certification have not only raised the standard of emergency care in Auburn. They've built a department that is stronger, more skilled and more dedicated than ever to the people it serves.



Solid waste rates changing in October

As a reminder, our garbage, trash and recycling collection rates will change beginning on Oct. 1. What does this mean for you?

- Residential curbside service will cost \$32 per month.
- Backdoor collection will cost \$69.50 per month for those without a medical waiver.
- Those with a medical waiver will pay the same fee as curbside service — \$32.

Find more information at auburnal.gov/es. Questions? Reach out to Auburn Environmental Services at 334-501-3080.

A better way to get rid of used cooking oil

We're celebrating a milestone — as of July, we've kept more than 20,000 gallons of used cooking oil and grease out of Auburn's sewer system! You can help us collect even more and protect our infrastructure by participating in the Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Recycling program.

Our Water Resource Management Department began the FOG Recycling program in 2009 to bring awareness to and reduce the harmful effects of improper disposal of grease and used cooking oil.

Oil should never be poured down the drain. Even if it is poured slowly down the drain with hot water, this will eventually cause problems with your plumbing and the City's sewer system.

Through the program, you can responsibly recycle used grease and oil by picking up a free container from the Recycling Drop-Off Center at 640 Mary Brooks Drive. Once the container is full, bring it back to the drop-off center for disposal. For more information, visit auburnal.gov/water-resource-management/fog-recycling.



Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Our fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 4, at our Environmental Services Complex (4277 Wire Road).

Participating is simple — just pack up your materials and drop them off between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. From paints and pesticides to batteries and gasoline, we will accept most hazardous materials that are not collected during your regular trash and garbage pickup. 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 at no charge.

Participation is limited to Auburn residents, and 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.

State of the City Address

The Auburn community is invited to the seventh-annual State of the City Address. The event will be held Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and the event will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Auburn residents will get a glimpse of what their local government has been up to over the last year and what's to come in the years ahead. Mayor Ron Anders will conclude the evening by presenting the 2025 Mayor's Lamplighter Awards that recognize the efforts community members have made to make Auburn even brighter.

The event is free and open to the public. The Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center is located at 910 S. College St.

Spooktacular events at the Auburn Public Library

The Auburn Public Library invites the community to enjoy a variety of exciting and free events this October. All programs are open to the public. Come join the fun!

Posh Pumpkins Oct. 16 @ 4:30–6 p.m.

Design your very own mini posh pumpkin with no carving required. We'll provide all the arts and crafts supplies you need. Pumpkins are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. If you prefer, you're welcome to bring your own pumpkin and decorate it using our materials.

Create! Decorated Pumpkin Oct. 11 @ 2-4 p.m. & Oct. 28 @ 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Ages 13 and up

We'll decorate a pumpkin to celebrate spooky season! We'll provide paint, glitter, and other crafting supplies if you bring the creativity!

Ghoulish Gala & Haunted Library Oct. 23 @ 5:30–7 p.m.

Bring the whole family for a frightfully fun evening at the library. Wear your favorite costume and enjoy music, games, treats and more. Feeling brave? Dare to enter our Haunted Library and discover what lurks inside.

An Unfortunate Demise at the Library: A Murder Mystery Scavenger Hunt All Month

We need your help solving a crime. Put your detective skills to the test in this interactive scavenger hunt. Pick up your first clue at the front desk and see if you can solve the mystery before the month ends.

Find more info about these and other upcoming events at auburnal.gov/library.



Auburn Parks and Recreation brings fall to life

This October, Auburn Parks and Recreation is celebrating the season with a variety of fun events for the whole family.

Kick off the month at City Market's **Harvest Market** on Oct. 4 at Town Creek Park. Browse seasonal vegetables and handcrafted goods from local vendors.

Gather the family for **Friday Fright Night** at the new Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center. On Oct. 17, enjoy a family-friendly movie beginning at 6:15 p.m., complete with concessions. Afterward, older teens and adults can stay for a second, slightly spookier feature. Admission is free, and gates open at 5:45 p.m.

Finally, help us celebrate 25 years of community tradition at Auburn's final **Downtown Trick or Treat** on Oct. 30 from 6–8 p.m. Experience trick-or-treating at local businesses, costume contests, live entertainment and festive surprises as we say farewell to this cherished event. Don't miss this historic send-off — let's make it the best one yet!

Please note that both Downtown and Neighborhood Trick or Treat are set for Oct. 30 this year for safety during the Auburn University home game weekend.

Ann Pearson Park

Auburn's newest natural retreat.

Auburn's newest park is ready for you to explore! In August, we celebrated the opening of Ann Pearson Park, a nearly 47-acre natural retreat located at 1420 Shelton Mill Road. The park offers 2.5 miles of shaded trails with creek access, a playground for ages 2-12, a covered pavilion, restrooms and an open play field.

Whether you're looking for a relaxing stroll, a new running spot, a place to play with the family or somewhere to connect with nature, Ann Pearson Park has something for everyone. We hope to see you out there soon!

OCTOBER 2025

upcoming
events

Open Line is produced by the
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Background Photo: Posh Pumpkins	Auburn Public Library auburnal.gov/library City Meetings auburnal.gov/boards Parks & Recreation auburnal.gov/parks Citywide Events auburnal.gov		1 Baby's 1st Story Time Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. Awesome Art Wednesdays @ 4 p.m. Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.	Toddler Tales Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. Lullabies for Little Ones Thursdays @ 1 p.m. City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m. Author Visit: Jason Reynolds 5:30 p.m. Fall Live & Local Music Series 5:30 p.m. @ Kiesel Park	3 Puppet Shows Fridays @ 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Tree Commission 11:30 a.m.	4 Family Story Time Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m. Untidy Tales Saturdays @ 10:30 a.m. Movers & Shakers Saturdays @ 1 p.m. Harvest Market 8 a.m.-Noon @ Town Creek Park
5	6 Planning Commission Packet Meeting Noon 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. PreK in PJs Tuesdays @ 1 p.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.	8	9 Planning Commission 5 p.m. Fall Live & Local Music Series 5:30 p.m. @ Kiesel Park Teen Night (Ages 13-18) 6-7:30 p.m.	10	11 Create! Decorated Pumpkin 2-4 p.m.
12	13	14 Historic Preservation Commission 4 p.m.	15	16 City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m. Fall Live & Local Music Series 5:30 p.m. @ Kiesel Park Posh Pumpkins 4:30-6 p.m.	17	18
19	20	21 Auburn Public Library Board 10 a.m. Greenspace Advisory Board Noon Chapter Chats Book Club 5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole TBD City Council 6 p.m.	22	23 Water Works Board 4 p.m. Ghouligha Gala & Haunted Library 5:30-7 p.m.	24 Friday Fright Night 5:45 p.m. @ Lake Wilmore Park Recreation Center	25 Author Visit: Mary Dansak 2 p.m.
26	27	28 Create! Decorated Pumpkin 5:30-7:30 p.m.	29	30 City Council Agenda Review Meeting 4 p.m. Downtown Trick or Treat 6-8 p.m. @ Downtown Auburn	31 Programs & events are subject to change. Find up-to-date information at auburnal.gov .	