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ISSUE #2

February 2026

Your City Hall News

February 2026

Serving You Better

Auburn's Customer Service Team at Work

At the City of Auburn, providing responsive, dependable customer service is a top priority. Our Customer Service team works daily to ensure residents and businesses receive accurate information, timely assistance, and support you can count on—whether you have a question about your utility bill, need help with an account, or simply want clarity on city services.

To help you stay on track, here is a friendly reminder about our billing schedule: **utility bills are mailed by the 1st of each month, payments are due on the 15th, late fees are applied on the 16th, the 25th is the last day to pay, and service cutoffs for non-payment begin on the 26th.** Keeping these dates in mind helps avoid additional charges or service interruptions.

We're also excited to offer a new, convenient way to reach us. Auburn now has a **Customer Service text line**, allowing you to text a question or request a call back at your convenience. Simply text **(943) 291-8408**, and a member of our team will be happy to assist you with any billing or account-related questions.

Our goal is simple: to make city services easy to navigate and to ensure your needs are taken care of promptly and professionally. Thank you for allowing the City of Auburn to serve you.



**Busy Day?
Send us a
message!**

(943) 291-8408

When sending a message, please include your **name, service address, and your question**. A member of our Customer Service team will follow up with you using the **contact number on your account** to make sure your question is answered promptly.

"Being able to text a quick question and get a call back makes taking care of my bill incredibly easy—it's convenient, fast, and fits right into my day." - P.L.

Employee Spotlight



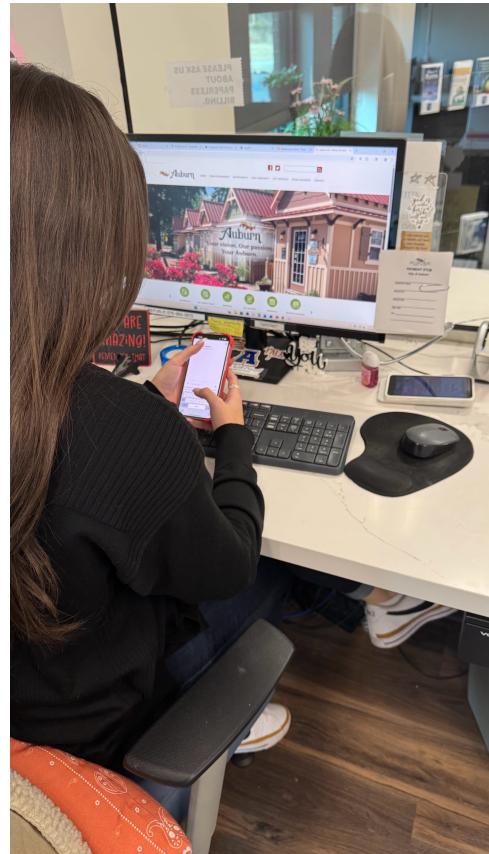
Customer Service Team Member: Sydnee

My name is Sydnee, and I am 20 years old. I have been proud to serve the City of Auburn since September 2024, where I have found meaningful opportunities to give back to the community I call home. In addition to my work with the City, I also coach volleyball, a role that allows me to mentor, encourage, and support others—something I am deeply passionate about.

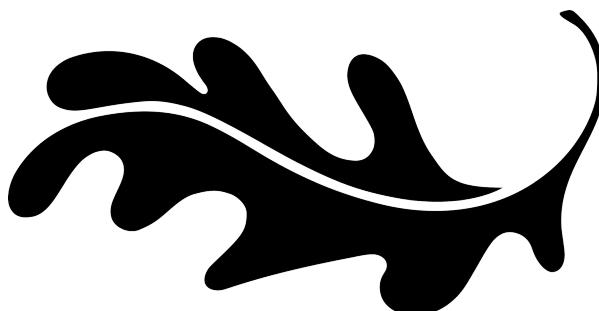
I have been involved with the Auburn Explorers program since I was 15 years old, and that experience played a significant role in shaping who I am today. Through the program, I gained valuable insight into public service, teamwork, and leadership, and it helped solidify my desire to serve my community in a hands-on way.

Public service has always been close to my heart, largely because of my dad, who serves as a Police Sergeant. Watching his dedication, integrity, and passion for helping others inspired me to develop the same commitment to serving and supporting those around me. His example taught me the importance of compassion, responsibility, and leading by example.

Working for the City of Auburn allows me to serve the community in so many different ways, and it truly brings me so much joy. I am grateful to be part of a team that makes a positive impact every day and honored to contribute to a city that means so much to me.



Sydnee Assisting Customers Via Our New Text Feature



**“Focused on efficiency,
committed to our community.”**

Your Police Department News

February 2026



POLICE SPOTLIGHT

Chief Chris Hodge

Chief Chris Hodge has served as the City of Auburn's Chief of Police for more than eight years and brings over 30 years of experience in law enforcement and security to the department. His extensive career reflects a deep commitment to public safety, leadership, and service to others.

Chief Hodge holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Health Sciences. His education, combined with decades of hands-on experience, has shaped his thoughtful and steady approach to leadership within the Auburn Police Department.

He resides in Winder, Georgia with his wife, Natalie, and the two have been married for 30 years. Together, they have three children—Crystal, Christian, and Camden—who are all grown and pursuing their own paths in life.

Before beginning his career in law enforcement, Chief Hodge attended Augusta University on a baseball scholarship, where he earned recognition as a First Team All-American. He went on to play two years of independent professional baseball following college. Later in his career, Chief Hodge spent seven years living and working in Afghanistan, conducting counterintelligence interviews for the U.S. military—experience that further strengthened his leadership, discipline, and global perspective.

Chief Hodge is unapologetically Christian and views serving the citizens of Auburn not simply as a job, but as a calling. His faith, integrity, and dedication continue to guide his service and leadership, making a lasting impact on both the Auburn Police Department and the

“Serving the citizens of Auburn is more than a job to me—it’s a calling. Every day is an opportunity to lead with integrity, faith, and a commitment to protecting this community.”

CHIEF CHRIS HODGE

Position: Chief of Police

Years with the City of Auburn: 8+ years

Years in Law Enforcement/Security: 30 years

Education: B.S. in Criminal Justice / Health Sciences



UPDATE FROM LAST MONTH

In last month's newsletter, the City of Auburn shared exciting news about the addition of Police Recruit Abigail Thompson and the appointment of Don Black as the Auburn Police Department's new Training Coordinator. We are pleased to provide an update on both as they continue to strengthen the department and enhance public safety for our community.

Recruit Thompson has officially begun her journey at the police academy and is now approximately one month into her several-month training program. During this time, she is receiving intensive instruction in law enforcement fundamentals, physical training, and classroom education designed to prepare her to serve as a certified, professional police officer. Her commitment and dedication during this early phase reflect Auburn's high standards and investment in developing well-trained officers who are ready to serve the community with integrity and professionalism.

At the same time, Auburn's new Training Coordinator, Don Black, has been formally sworn in and has begun his role with the department. With extensive experience in law enforcement training, Coordinator Black is focused on building a comprehensive training program that emphasizes preparedness, accountability, and continual professional development. His leadership is already helping position the Auburn Police Department as one of the most well-trained departments in the region.

Together, the progress of Recruit Thompson and the leadership of Training Coordinator Black highlight Auburn's ongoing commitment to proactive policing, officer development, and community safety. These efforts ensure that the City of Auburn Police Department remains dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the citizens it proudly serves.

Prepared Officers.

Protected Community.

Your Public Works News



February 2026

Auburn Public Works: Keeping the Streets Safe During the Ice Storm

Dedication of Our Crew Shines Brightly

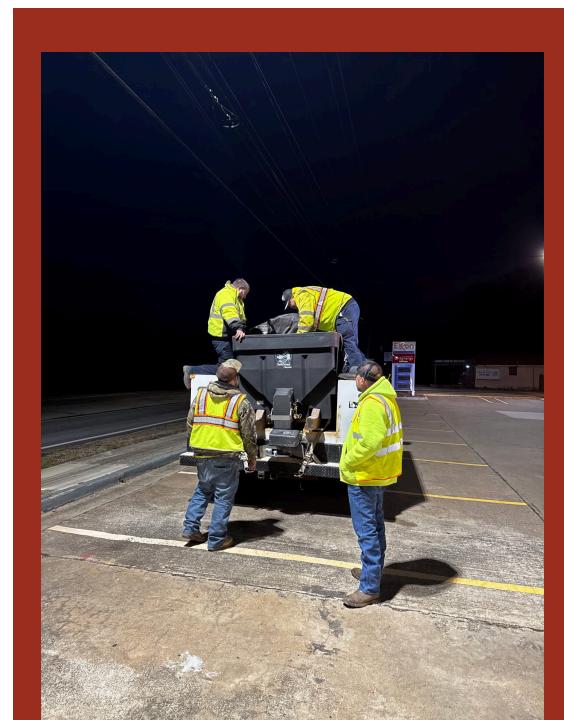


When winter weather threatened road conditions this past weekend, the City of Auburn's Roads Crew was already hard at work. Crews began **pretreating roadways on Saturday** and remained on duty **through Sunday and into Monday** to ensure streets stayed safe and passable for residents.

While many were able to remain at home, these employees chose to stay on the job—often working long hours and spending time away from their families—to protect the traveling public. Their commitment ensured that essential travel could continue and that residents could move about the city as safely as possible during potentially hazardous conditions.

This level of dedication is a clear reflection of the pride Auburn's Roads Crew takes in their work. Their willingness to respond quickly, remain on standby, and see the job through—regardless of inconvenience or personal sacrifice—demonstrates a strong sense of duty and service to the community.

The City of Auburn is grateful for the professionalism and commitment shown by our Roads Crew. Their actions over the weekend serve as a glowing example of public service and underscore their unwavering commitment to keeping Auburn moving, even when conditions are challenging.



Thank you!

"Our roads crew put the needs of our citizens first by working through the weekend to keep Auburn's streets safe. Their dedication and commitment to public service make me incredibly proud of this team."



Upcoming Road Repairs

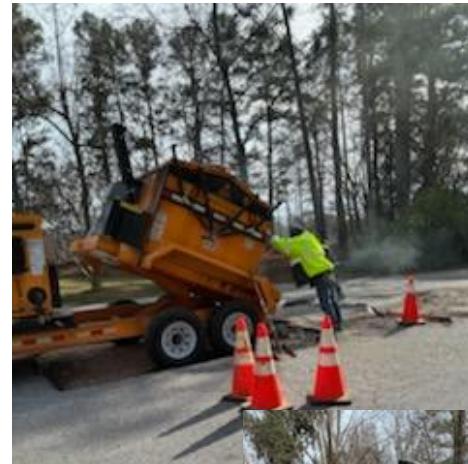
Road Improvements Underway Across Auburn

The City of Auburn is preparing for a major round of roadway improvements that will take place across the city in the coming months. These efforts include both **large-scale paving projects** and **in-house pothole and asphalt patching**, all aimed at improving safety and extending the life of Auburn's streets.

Several road projects have already been approved, and additional paving projects are currently being presented for approval. In the meantime, Auburn's Public Works crews are actively completing in-house patching on non-subdivision streets throughout the city, addressing pavement failures and safety concerns as they arise.

Roadway improvements are funded through **LMIG (Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant)** and **TSPLOST (Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax)**, allowing the City to invest in critical infrastructure while responsibly using public funds.

When viewed together, these projects represent a citywide effort to improve driving conditions for residents and visitors. The City appreciates the public's patience as this important work moves forward.



**Reliable Water. Safer Streets.
A Stronger Auburn.**

February 2026

City Council Spotlight:

Josh Rowan

Meet Your City Council

Councilmember Josh Rowan serves on the Auburn, Georgia City Council, with his current term set to expire in **2027**. He is an at-large councilmember representing the community in municipal government affairs.

In his role on council, Rowan participates in policy discussions and votes on issues impacting the city, including zoning, public works, and community development. He has been actively involved in council deliberations on matters such as property tax, planning and zoning changes, and community infrastructure improvements.

As a resident and elected official, he engages with local citizens and participates in regular council meetings to shape city policies that support Auburn's growth and quality of life.



"It is great to see our City Council working so hard for the citizens. While most are new they have shown such dedication to their job and it shows they really care about employees and citizens alike." - J.M.

"I'm honored to serve in such a pivotal role helping make thoughtful decisions that support our local businesses..." — Councilman Josh Rowan,



City Council January Recap

January 8, 2026 – Council Business Meeting

- New and returning council members were sworn in.
- Routine items and prior minutes were approved.
- Josh Rowan was appointed Mayor Pro Tempore for 2026.
- Council approved a resolution to move forward with proposed charter amendments (one dissenting vote).

January 22, 2026 – Council Workshop

- Council held a public hearing on opting out of the statewide homestead exemption (no public comments).
- Major road projects, procedures, and bids were discussed and scheduled for future action.
- Numerous board and commission appointments were approved.
- No final policy decisions beyond appointments were made.

[Click Here for Agendas, Minutes, and Video of Our Meetings](#)

**Experience. Fresh Perspective.
Working Together for Auburn.**

SIGN UP NOW!

**MARCH 7, 2026
@ 9:00AM**

City of Auburn's 2nd Annual

ROCKIN' RUN5K

BENEFITTING

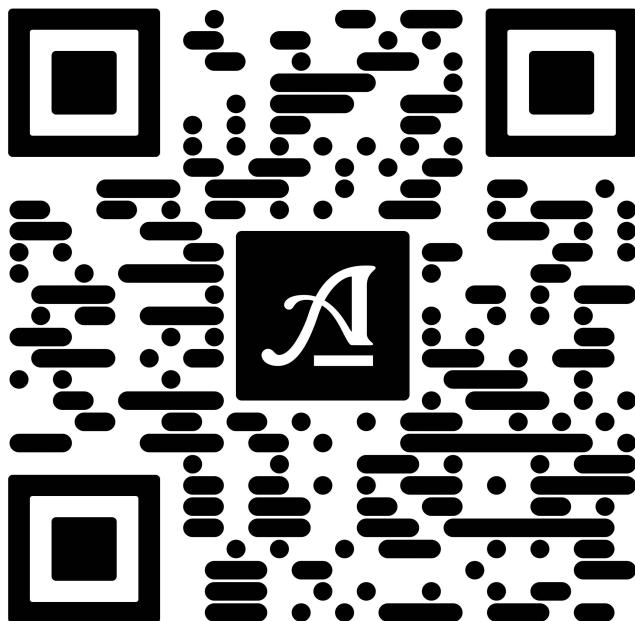
PATH UNITED



**CLASSIC RACE
SERVICES**

Black Bag
RACE SERIES

CALL 470-834-7707 FOR INFO



SCAN TO REGISTER



City of Auburn's Rockin' 5k Run/Walk

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Auburn Municipal Complex

1 Auburn Way, Auburn, GA 30011

Race will be run on paved surface throughout the city.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. Race begins at 9 a.m.



CLASSIC RACE
SERVICES

Black Bag
RACE SERIES



PATH
UNITED

City of Auburn presents a 5k run/walk to raise funds for Path United— Auburn..

Awards will be given to Overall Male/Female, Masters Male/Female, and top three Male/Female Runners in 10 year age groups beginning at 10 and under through 75 and over.

Questions? Contact:

Staci Waters: 770-963-4002 EXT 221
swaters@ciytofauburn-ga.org

Participant information:

5k Early Bird— (before February 16, 2026)

Guarantees t-shirt size -\$25/Runner

5k Registration 02/17/2026 - 02/23/2026

Guarantees t-shirt- \$30/Runner

5k Day of Registration- (on 03/07/2026)

T-shirt subject to availability -\$30/Runner

Promoting this event could be a great opportunity to encourage a healthy activity for employees and their families!

Registration is Online

<https://runsignup.com/auburnrockinrun5k>



Participant Registration Form: TO BE SIGNED DAY OF RACE

WAIVER: In consideration of acceptance of this application, I hereby waive any and all claims against the City of Auburn, hosts, sponsors, officials, volunteers, and any other parties involved in the City of Auburn's Rockin' Run 5k run/walk for injury and/or damage I may incur while participating in said event. I understand that there will be no refunds for any reason. I understand the race may be cancelled in the event of ice or lightening. I also give my permission to use my name and/or photo in any media publication regarding this event.

Signature _____ Date: _____

(Parent or guardian if under 18)

Deadline to guarantee t-shirt: 2/16/2026



City of Auburn presents a 5k Run/ Walk to raise funds for Path United located in Auburn, Georgia

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Auburn Municipal Complex

1 Auburn Way, Auburn, GA 30011

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Gold Sponsor: \$1,000+

- Banner Display with company logo at Finish Line
- Speaking Opportunity: A representative can speak at the opening ceremony
- Booth Space: Opportunity to display promotional items
- Large Company name and logo displayed online, & on event banner/promotional items
- Company logo listed on official participant t-shirt
- Recognition as Water Station Sponsor
- 8 Free Race Entries

Silver Sponsor: \$500

- Company name and logo displayed online, and on event banner/promotional items
- Company name listed on official participant t-shirt
- Booth Space: Opportunity to distribute promotional items
- 4 Free Race Entries



Community Sponsor: \$250

- Company name recognized online and on event banner/flyers
- Company name and logo listed on official participant t-shirt
- 2 Free Race Entries

Help Support
Path United- Auburn



Participant information:

5k Early Bird– (before February 16, 2026)

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5k Registration 02/17/2026 - 02/23/2026

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City of Auburn's Rockin' 5k Run/Walk
Saturday, March 7, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Auburn Municipal Complex
1 Auburn Way, Auburn, GA 30011

Corporate Sponsorship Information:

Company name: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsors must submit payment by February 13, 2026 in order to secure a spot.

Amount enclosed: _____

Checks may be payable to:

City of Auburn

Attn: 5k Run/Walk

PO BOX 1059 Auburn, GA 30011

Or call Staci Waters for Credit Card Payments

770-963-4002 EXT 221

Questions?

Contact Staci Waters: 770-963-4002 EXT 221 swaters@ciytofauburn-ga.org

WE APPRECIATE OUR SPONSORS!