



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Sean Rabé, City Manager
DATE:	April 28, 2025
SUBJECT:	City Manager Report for April 28th City Council Meeting

Mayor and Council Members,

The following report provides an update on some of the major activities City Staff has been working on recently:

City Manager's Department:

- *Canyons a Success!* This past weekend was the UTMB Canyons race, which brought several thousand people to Auburn (and many more thousand online). Making these big events successful take the cooperation of nearly all of our City departments – with especially heavy lifts from Public Safety (Fire, Police and Public Works). My thanks to all of you for helping make Auburn continue to shine as the Endurance Capital of the World!
- *New SHAAC Tiles Unveiled:* Thursday evening I was able to attend, along with several Council members and other staff, the unveiling of five new SHAAC tiles at the California Welcome Center. The new tiles are:
 - **Virginia Jane (Ray) Bell.** After becoming a widow at age 41 with 6 children, she took over the Bell Electric Company, which brought lights to Auburn in 1889. She was also the first president of the Auburn Women's Improvement Club. Patti Baker reenacted Bell.
 - **Monroe "Spud" DeJarnette.** He was a visionary founder of the Auburn Symphony in 1988 and champion of the Auburn State Theatre. He was a much-loved musician, educator, conductor, community and service club leader and volunteer. He was also a winner of the 2000 McCann Award.
 - **Dr. John F. Engle.** He was the Placer High School principal from 1906 until 1936. During his tenure, he stressed prominence in academics and athletics. He saw the expansion of the landmark buildings seen on campus today. He also established Placer College in 1936, which later became Sierra College.
 - **Joanne Neft** is an indomitable businesswoman and visionary who devoted her life to preserving and promoting art and agriculture. She pioneered the region's Farm to Fork movement. She founded the Auburn Foothill Farmers Market in 1989 and the Mountain Mandarin Festival in 1994.

- **Gussie Alberta (Wright) Stewart.** She was the first female attorney in Placer County in 1915 and first woman president of the Placer County Bar Association in 1940. She started the Auburn Camp Fire Girls and was a fierce protector of women's and children's rights, and is the current subject of the Auburn Historian exhibit on the second floor of City Hall.

Each tile recipient had reenactments or speeches made at the event to explain their historical significance to the community. The event featured local wines and local food through the Placer Grown network.

Police Department:

- Our team was out early assisting with traffic control, setting up and parking for the Canyon Endurance Run, ensuring the safety of participants and spectators throughout the course. A huge thank you to everyone who helped support this event—you made a big difference!

We also hosted the Drug Take Back event at Station 3, where community members were able to safely dispose of unused or expired medications. Thank you to our partners at Auburn Fire for their support and to all the staff and volunteers who manned the booth. Your efforts will help keep our community safe and healthy!

- ***Blue Envelope Program:*** APD is proud to partner with Placer County in supporting the Blue Envelope Program, an initiative designed to improve communication and safety during traffic stops involving individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities. The Blue Envelope contains important documents like a driver's license, registration, and insurance, along with helpful instructions for both the driver and the responding officer. It alerts officers that the driver may have communication challenges and offers tips for reducing stress and promoting a positive interaction—such as using clear language, speaking calmly, and minimizing sensory triggers. By participating in this program, Auburn PD reaffirms its commitment to fostering understanding, inclusion, and safety for all members of our community.
- ***Breakfast with Brass:*** Chief Morrison and Lieutenant Huey recently hosted "Breakfast with Brass," a relaxed and welcoming event designed to bring employees together over a good meal and even better conversation. The informal setting gave staff a chance to connect with command staff, ask questions, share ideas, and discuss department happenings in a more personal, open environment. It was also a valuable opportunity for leadership to hear directly from employees, offering support and building morale. Events like these help strengthen communication, reinforce teamwork, and remind everyone that their voices matter. Plus, let's be honest—everything's better over breakfast!

Planning/Economic Department:

- ***Canyons Race:*** Another Canyons Endurance Run has come and gone, and with it, another record-breaking year for one of the region's most anticipated trail races. The 2025 edition saw participation from runners representing more than 70 countries, an increase of roughly 20 nations compared to last year, which

highlights the race's growing global appeal. This year's event was marked by cool to cold weather, a sharp contrast to the sweltering conditions of two years ago, when temperatures climbed into the upper 90s.

While some local businesses voiced concerns about the temporary loss of parking and increased congestion, others embraced the influx of visitors, reporting a sizable boost in sales and foot traffic during race weekend. As the Canyons Race continues to grow, both in scope and stature, it remains a cornerstone event for Auburn and the broader endurance running community.

Finance Department:

- *Third-Quarter Analysis:* March 31st marked the end of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-25. Finance has been busy taking the pulse on revenue and expenditure trending since the mid-year financial update spotlighted the end of the General Fund deficit with an estimated surplus of about \$450,000 as of June 30, 2025. Finance will be updating the City Council on May 12th of any changes since the mid-year presentation; however, so far, all signs are confirming the previously identified surplus. As noted during the mid-year presentation, the estimated surplus is forecasted to continue year-over-year for the next five years (existing models do not go beyond five years). The ongoing surplus is predicated on modest revenue assumptions, no additional labor costs, and minimal increases that don't necessarily mirror inflation nor unanticipated building & equipment repairs. That said, the surplus is being contemplated to fund urgent City priorities, which will help inform the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget development.

Finance is also busy evaluating the City's Financial Management Policy for an update to be considered by Council in the near future, as well as shifting focus back on the City's unfunded pension and other-post employment benefit liabilities.

Fire Department:

- *Auburn Fire Department – Hosts PG&E Safety Training:* On April 14th, 16th, and 18th, the Auburn Fire Department hosted PG&E electrical and natural gas safety training at Station #1. All Auburn Fire personnel attended, along with members of the Penryn, Newcastle, and Placer Hills Fire Protection Districts. City of Auburn Public Works staff also participated in one of the sessions. The training focused on staying safe when working around PG&E infrastructure. Presenters were retired fire service professionals and effectively conveyed information about electrical and gas hazards in an engaging environment.
- *Auburn Fire Department – Automatic Aid for Residential Structure Fire:* On April 21st, the Auburn Fire Department responded automatic aid to assist CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire with a residential structure fire off Highway 49, just north of the city limits. Battalion Chief McCarthy, Captain Rendon, Engineer Lawton, and Firefighter Sloan arrived to find a working structure fire. Auburn Fire units assisted with water supply, fire attack, search, salvage, and overhaul operations. Units from the Placer Hills, Newcastle, and Penryn Fire Protection Districts also assisted. Special thanks to Foresthill Fire Protection District for covering the City of Auburn with an engine company while our resources were committed to the fire.

- *Auburn Fire Department – Community Helper Day at Skyridge School:* On April 24th, Captains Bowers and Croft, along with Engineer Rea, participated in Skyridge School's Community Helper Day. Students received a tour of the fire engine and learned about home fire safety, proper use of 911, and the importance of a designated meeting place during a fire. The visit also included a stop-drop-and-roll demonstration. Unfortunately, the event was cut short when the engine responded to a medical emergency.
- *Auburn Fire Department – Supports APD with Drug Take Back Day:* On April 26th, the Auburn Fire Department supported the Auburn Police Department during their bi-annual Drug Take Back event. The drive-through, drop-off setup was held at Station #3, providing shelter and comfort for staff and participants. The Fire Department is proud to support our law enforcement partners in safely removing expired or unneeded medications from homes. Their efforts help protect both the environment and community, especially children from the dangers of improper medication disposal.

Human Resources Department:

- *April Anniversaries:* Each month, we love to celebrate the incredible individuals who've reached another milestone in their service with the City of Auburn. Your commitment and hard work help shape our community, and we're so grateful for all you do! A big round of applause for our April work anniversaries!
- **Chris Williamson – 19 years**
- **Erik Croft – 17 years**
- **Sarah Stanton – 5 years**
- **Benjamin Dorr – 4 years**
- **Bryce Bandilla – 4 years**
- **Jerrilyn Gow – 2 years**

Thank you all for your continued contributions to the City of Auburn — you make it a better place every day!

QUESTIONS? Please contact me at the phone number below or by email at srabe@auburn.ca.gov.



Sean Rabé, City Manager