**VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**

***APRIL 2017 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2***

Village of Aurora, 456 Main St. Aurora, NY 13026

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**VILLAGE HOURS**

Monday

Clerk: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Code: Enforcement Officer 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Tuesday

Clerk: – 10:00am – 2:00pm

Thursday

Treasurer: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Clerk: 11:00am – 5:00pm

Code Enforcement Officer: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

**There are no public office hours on Wednesday or Friday**

**Cherry Avenue Update**

On March 15th the Village Board opened a public hearing for Local Law #3: Regarding Regulating Cherry Avenue as a One-Way Village Street. During public comment, a recommendation was made by the fire department to amend the law by designating the parking on the north side of the street. This would allow easier access for the emergency vehicles, as well as the hydrant located on the south side of Cherry Ave.

The Village Board voted to amend the law and will continue the public hearing at the April 19th board meeting. Anyone with additional comments on the law should plan on attending or submit their comments in writing to the village clerk.

**Attention Students!**

Looking for a summer job? Spend your afternoons on the lake as a lifeguard with the Summer Swim Program. Stop in the village office for an application, or download it off the village website on the Summer Youth Program page, and submit it by May 1st.

**Project Permits**

Please remember that the majority of the Village is part of the National Historic Register. Any projects, no matter how small, must go through the Village Code/Zoning Enforcement Office to ensure proper permits, appropriate Board review, etc. Permits are required for construction, alteration, removal or demolition of any building or structure, including accessory buildings, for excavation, earth filling, and interior work and for conversions of buildings and land from one use to another. When in doubt - ASK!

Before you begin your project, contact the Village Office at 364-7293, or drop by to meet with Code and Zoning Enforcement Officer, Patrick Doyle, on Monday afternoons from 4 to 6pm or Thursdays from 3 to 5.

**Water Meter Readings**

The Village DPW alternates quarterly meter readings with village residents. If you have never submitted a water meter reading card or aren’t sure if the DPW has obtained a reading, please call them to schedule an appointment at 364-5239 or sign the enclosed permission slip to allow the DPW employees to access your water meter if you are not home. Please return the permission slip to the village office.

Estimates are done if a meter read is not recorded and may not reflect actual use. Also, please contact the village office to schedule a final read whenever there is a change in ownership/responsibility for the account.

**Leaf and Brush Pick-Up**

**April 19, 20, & 21 the DPW will have the leaf truck available**.

After May 1st, please bag your leaves for pick-up. Brush should be cut to four-foot lengths or smaller. If you have a large amount of brush or lawn debris, Adam will drop off the Village’s trailer for you to fill as you clean up your yard. Contact Adam at 364-5239. The DPW will do their best to pick up leaves and brush daily, but sometimes they are called away to perform other duties for the Village. Your patience is appreciated.

**Message from the Mayor**

Dear Fellow Villagers,

It’s a pleasure to see us all out on the street again, welcoming back those who fled to warmer climates, and finally having the promise of spring in the air. As soon as the ground truly unfreezes last fall’s projects will pick up where they were left and we’ll have the flag flying again at the post office. Even in the cold weather some hearty villagers have been spotted using the new benches, and I’m hoping those of us who linger there will find the space even more welcoming when the plantings are in. Within the next month or so we’re also upgrading the interior of the post office, primarily with a new floor. And I’m happy to be able to say that this will go much faster than the exterior has!

Usually I stick to bringing you up to date on just news in the village, but some larger political issues that are of significant importance to the village have taken a significant chunk out of my time this winter. One is the reconstruction of Route 81 through Syracuse, a project that wouldn’t seem to be of much concern to Aurora, but the solution will have a large impact on the on-going issue of truck traffic through Aurora. Along with other mayors and town supervisors I have been arguing for the highway to retain the current route through Syracuse as a depressed highway or tunnel in order to encourage trucks to stay on 81 and the thruway to reach destinations west of Syracuse. Please speak out on this project if you have the chance. The other issues have to do with Governor Cuomo’s proposed budget and its effect on the village. One is free tuition to state colleges and the negative impact this would have on private colleges, especially institutions the size of Wells. The other is the mandate that counties develop a countywide consolidation plan to save money or lose state aid. Aurora has consolidated services as much as possible with the Town of Ledyard and other villages – sharing code officers, assessors, justices of the peace, dog control, etc. We’ve done our part and it’s time for the state legislators to recognize it. Let’s hope they do the right thing.

And meanwhile, back in the village, we’re facing a problem even more basic. Water. As you’re probably aware, Jonathan Gibralter, President of Wells, came to the Village Board last December to discuss the college’s intention to stop producing potable water for the village and college. As a consequence we’ve engaged our engineer to begin to collect the data and information necessary to produce a feasibility study laying out the options for the project. We have also reached out to our local state legislators for funding the study, which is necessary before we can apply for funding for an actual plant. I’m hoping that we’ll have more specific information for you by the end of May, so please watch for notices of an informational meeting where we can address any questions you might have. In the meantime, we have been reassured by the Cayuga County Health Department and the recent report from MRB Engineering that the water system is not in imminent danger of failing. But it’s also clear that the current plant won’t last forever, nor is it the right choice for either Wells or the village as we move into the future.

And speaking of water, the summer swim program is taking shape and will run at the Wells College dock from Monday, June 26th, to Sunday, August 20th. We’ll continue to have Family Friday late swims, and three weeks of swimming lessons with specific dates to be announced. We’re again grateful to the Town of Ledyard for their contribution to the program. The children’s playground on Court Street has been getting plenty of use after its upgrade, thanks to Cindy Wilcox, Erin Johnson and many volunteers. At the park behind the post office landscape work has already begun and, shortly, new benches will replace the old wooden ones worn out by sunset watching. Wishes for a glorious, long, healthy, and magical summer,

Bonnie