

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

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

www.auroranewyork.us

315-364-7293 (office) 315-364-6857 (fax) 315-364-5239 (DPW)

villageclerk@auroranewyork.us

VILLAGE HOURS

Monday: Clerk and Code Enforcement Officer 4:00 – 6:00pm

Tuesday: Clerk – 10:00am – 2:00pm

Thursday: Clerk – 11:00am – 5:00pm

Treasurer – 9:00am – 1:00pm

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

There are no public office hours on Wednesday or Friday

Message from the Mayor

Dear Fellow Villagers,

We may have been a little short of water this summer but otherwise the season was hard to beat in terms of sun and warmth, so I hope you're finding the time to enjoy the way it's extended into fall. It was not just another great season for the Aurora Farmers' Market, but one that was better than ever, with a larger selection of produce and vendors. And the Summer Swim Program broke all records with 2100 visitors and swimmers – two days at the end of July saw 140 people a day. Attendance over the last eight years has averaged 1300 per season, rising each year, but this year was wildly successful. We continue to be grateful to Wells College for providing the great facilities and allowing us to bring in sand and make the changes necessary each year for the program. This year Wells repainted and upgraded the Boathouse, which was a big help. It's very gratifying to see so many children again playing at the dock.

The summer also brought a very unwelcome new resident – hydrilla. This is an extremely invasive water plant that can grow 20" in a day and create dense, choking mats on the water surface. It was found in mid-September just south of the college dock by students on the floating classroom, the first confirmed specimen outside the Ithaca inlet where the battle against it has been raging for the last couple of years and where it was thought to be contained. We've just received this confirmation from Cayuga County so the village doesn't have a plan in place yet. When we know more it will be posted on the village website.

Construction on Main Street has finally come to an end, and we just have to make it through the reconstruction of the new post office courtyard. This will begin in about

two weeks. Service to the post office won't be disrupted but we will have to route patrons around the construction. We've been working toward this for nearly five years so it's very exciting to see that we'll finally have a real gathering place in the center of the village and a proper entrance to the village park at the lake. We're eager to see if the road reconstruction has the calming effect on traffic that the planning engineers have promised, but the view from my house has been that there are fewer garbage trucks, and those that do come through have slowed considerably. Cherry Avenue has been widened as it approaches Main Street and handicapped access to the crosswalk has been properly connected to the other side of Main Street.

Construction on Lafayette Street began in September with limited closing of that street, but, as I'm sure you've discovered, Lafayette is now completely closed until it's finished – the date projected is mid-November. They will be working as quickly as possible to make sure the road is paved before the asphalt plants close for the season so it's quite possible that date could be earlier. In the meantime Cherry Avenue has been made a two-way street to ensure that residents will not be held captive by construction vehicles on Court Street. As a result there is no parking on the lower half of Cherry west of Court. These changes are in effect throughout the construction, but Cherry Avenue will revert to one-way with parking on the south side when construction is finished. In the meantime I urge you to be careful and vigilant.

We've also had two other projects that are a little less obvious. First, the firehouse was painted at the beginning of the summer – and looks quite classy given its age. The other is that the village's historic archive has been moved and is located behind Vintage Lighting down the south sidewalk. The Inns of Aurora generously donated this space when Wells' expansion meant that the college could no longer house the archive for us. In exchange, the Aurora Historical Society will open the space several days a week and mount small changing exhibitions for residents and visitors. I hope you'll attend their grand opening.

So, as we go into the fall, just a reminder to make sure to get your car off the street if snow is expected. It helps us plow the streets more efficiently and not have parking restricted by snow piles. Remember that sidewalk snow and ice removal is the property owner's responsibility, but, if possible, we will help keep sidewalks clear with the small plow after the streets are taken care of. Thanks to all of you for doing your part,
Bonnie

HYDRILLA UPDATE!

Additional discoveries of hydrilla in Aurora have been brought to the attention of the village office. Included with your mailing is an identification card from the NYSDEC with instructions on how to proceed if found. **Do not remove it as it spreads easily when disturbed.**

From the Department of Public Works

LEAF BLOWER pickup dates: October 17 – mid December (weather permitting).

Please pile brush and leaves separately, no stones in piles, and help us keep catch basins free from leaves and grass clippings. Brush should be in four-foot lengths or smaller. If you have a large amount of brush or lawn debris, Mike White will drop off the Village's trailer for you to fill as you clean up your yard. Contact Mike at 364-5239. The DPW will do their best to pick up leaves and brush daily, but sometimes they are called away to perform their other duties. Your patience is appreciated.

Zoning and Building Permits

Permits are required for construction, alteration, improvements, 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. Before you begin any project contact the Village Office at 364-7293, or drop by to meet with the Village Code Enforcement Officer, Patrick Doyle on Monday from 4 to 6pm or Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00pm.

Dig Safely has provided the village with materials to help guide you through your project. If your project requires any type of excavation, please contact the village office or the Department of Public Works.

NEWS FROM THE AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Grand Opening of the History Center in Aurora

On Saturday, October 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the new home of the Aurora Historical Society and Village History Center will open to the public with two displays. The first display, "The Hands that Built Aurora: The Life and Work of Martin Maloney Sr., 1829-1918" features selections from the recently donated Maloney Collection as well as text and photographs by the late William Maloney.

Born in Ireland, where he was trained as a stonemason, Martin Maloney arrived in Aurora while the Erie Canal building boom of the mid nineteenth century was still active. The display will focus on Maloney's contributions to many of the most recognizable public buildings and private homes of Aurora and the Town of Ledyard.

Also, for the first time on record, the 1795 map of Aurora drawn by Gen. Benjamin Ledyard will be on public display. The map, framed with the 1794 map by Seth Phelps, is on loan from the Wells College Archives until November 1. The Ledyard map, drawn in February 1795, is the first known document to use the name "Aurora." The village was then still known in State records as Scipio; however, Gen. Ledyard's choice of the name Aurora (for the Roman goddess of dawn) referenced one of the Cayuga names for the place, Deawendote ("village of constant dawn").

The Aurora Historical Society is located behind the Aurora Arts and Design Center, 371 Main St., on the courtyard with Vintage Lighting; it is fully accessible by the walkway along the white wooden fence.

Village Government Officials

All meetings commence at 7:00 pm in the Firehouse Meeting Room

1st Wednesday

Community Preservation Panel

Chair Chris MacCormick
Jeff Blum
Dan DiSanto
Ed Easter
Claire Morehouse

2nd Wednesday

Zoning Board of Appeals

(as needed)
Chair Karen Hindenlang
Laura Holland
Marie Taylor
Ann Tobey
Jeri Vargo

3rd Wednesday

Village Trustees

Mayor Bonnie Apgar Bennett
Grace Bates
Janet Murphy
Alan Ominsky
Kit Van Orman

4th Wednesday

Planning Board

Chair Pat Bianconi
Pat Foser
Michele Murphy
Pam Sheradin
Frank Zimdahl