

July 2019
Volume 14, Issue 3

Village Newsletter

Village of Aurora, 456 Main Street, Aurora, NY 13026-9790
(315) 364-7293 (Phone) (315) 364-6857 (Fax) villageclerk@auroranewyork.us (email)
Website: auroranewyork.us

Village Office Hours

Monday – Clerk & Code Enforcement Officer - 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Tuesday – Clerk – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Wednesday – No Public Office Hours

Thursday – Treasurer – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Clerk – 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Code Enforcement Officer – 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Friday – No Public Office Hours

**JOIN VILLAGE OFFICIALS FOR A READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
ON JULY 4TH AT 11:00 AM ON THE PORCH OF THE FARGO**

Aurora Summer Swim Program

The Wells College dock is open again for the Aurora Summer Swim Program from June 28- August 18. Hours of operation are daily from 1 to 5 pm with an additional evening swim on Fridays until 7 pm. Children ages 12 and under must be signed in by a parent or guardian. Additionally, there will be three swimming lesson sessions, July 8-12, July 22-26, and August 12-16 1:00-3:00. **Please note, swim lessons will be held in the Wells College pool located in the Schwartz Fitness Center.** Four lifeguards are working this summer under the supervision of our Head Lifeguard, Dalton Elser.

Cayuga County Department of Health Announcement

You must register your cell phone with Hyper-Reach if you want to be contacted by the Cayuga County 911 Center in the event of emergencies in your area, including those related to your public water supply. Be prepared. Text "Cayuga Alerts" to (828) 201-3877 or use the link below to register today!

<https://secure.hyper-reach.com/comsignup.jsp?id=12642>

SUMMER EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 4th – Annual reading of the Declaration of Independence at 11:00 am on the porch of the Fargo

July 5 – Blessing of the Boats, Fire Department Dock Dedication and Aurora Waterways kick-off: 5:30 behind St Patrick's with cookout to follow.

July 22nd - Merry-Go-Round Youth Performance, Look Up: Tales of the Sky at 7 pm in the Village Park. (Rain location – Morgan Opera House)

August 25th – Community Band performance at the Village Park at 3:00 pm

Aurora Fire Department News

Exciting news! We have replaced the old fire department dock that was damaged in the 2017 storm and our rescue boat is now settled in its new home. Shout out to Ron Knewstub for his guidance and excellent craftsmanship in constructing our new dock. Several people have expressed interest in the old dock so we are accepting bids up until our July 11 meeting; PO Box 71, Aurora.

The public is allowed access to the dock from the public Right-of-Way, but no boat docking is allowed. Please understand that the lake area, as well as Dublin Hill Lane, must be kept clear for emergency vehicles. We appreciate your cooperation and hope that you can join us for the dedication immediately following the Blessing of the Boats on Friday, July 5.

Aurora Historical Society News and Events

The Smithsonian's "Water/Ways" Comes to Aurora

This summer, the magic of the Smithsonian is coming to Aurora. The Louis Jefferson Long Library at Wells College, the Aurora Masonic Center, and the Aurora Historical Society are partnering to bring Water/Ways to the area for six weeks, from August 17th through September 29th, 2019.

Water/Ways, part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program, is the first such exhibit to come to New York, and this year will travel to six different sites in the state and seven more around the nation. Aurora will be the second of these sites.

The Water/Ways traveling exhibit focuses on cultural, environmental, and historical roles of water. It will be located in the Long Library at Wells College and will be open to the public during the library's open hours. Over the same six weeks, the Aurora Historical Society will host events associated with its related display, "How Cayuga Lake Shaped Aurora: Legends and Lore," and the Aurora Masonic Center will celebrate the bicentennial of Scipio Lodge with a grand ceremonial and related history tours.

Best of all, the fun starts soon: the annual Blessing of the Boats, this year held Friday, July 5th, will be the local kick-off event. Come to the lakeside lawn of St. Patrick's Church, Aurora, starting around 5:30 p.m. (Blessing at 6:00), followed by the dedication of the AVFD dock, a community dinner with band, and to hear more about the fun to come. Bring along your lake stories to share (which will become part of the Smithsonian's archive) and take a few minutes to help to color the Cayuga Lake Monster.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Fellow Villagers,

After a beautiful – if wet! – spring we're finally heading into summer and village life will again revolve around the lake. Although our drinking water is now safe from algal blooms, remember that we are not. It's really important to heed the health department warning not to go in water that has a bloom of any sort. There's no way to tell by looking whether it's harmful or not, so play it as safe as the Village did last summer with the swim program – stay out of the water if you're unsure. The Army Corps of Engineers project to eradicate hydrilla has again been expanded along the Aurora shoreline but otherwise the program and application schedule are essentially the same.

And speaking of water, the Village's project to secure a new drinking water source for the village has been aided by the completion of the final Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority's Regional Master Plan for the Efficient Delivery of Water and Sewer Services to Cayuga County (available at <https://wsamasterplan.com/documents> or at <https://cayugacountycares.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/ccwsa-final-masterplan-1.pdf>.) It recommends the establishment of a central county water and sewer district with a water treatment plant in or near Aurora and an upgrading of the Aurora sewer treatment plant to serve the same area. By the Authority's estimate, this will bring a savings of \$39 million, provide services to many areas that now do without, and provide a second water source as well as redundancy to county residents, ninety percent of whom now receive water from Owasco Lake. The plan has been adopted by the Authority Board and reviewed by the County Legislature. The wide-reaching nature of the plan, the numbers of residents and businesses that would be affected, and the positive economic and environmental effects are all to our advantage in seeking both state and federal funding – a process the Authority is beginning with this Regional Funding grant round, and with which we are assisting. We are doing all we can to hurry this along.

Other news: Don't forget the group reading of the Declaration of Independence on the 4th, the Blessing of the Boats on the 5th, all of the activities in August surrounding the Water Ways exhibits from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street Program, and the regular Family Swim Fridays at the Wells Dock as part of the Village Summer Swim Program. This season we're hoping to organize family-friendly activities and the possibility of food trucks on Fridays between 5 and 7 pm for the family swim. Watch for notices at the dock. Have a wonderful and safe summer, Bonnie

Leaf and Brush Pick-Up

The DPW team thanks residents for bagging leaves and cutting brush to 4- foot lengths as requested. If you have a large amount of brush or lawn debris, Mike or Adam 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 routinely. We are also asking residents to keep an eye on catch basins in front of their homes and remove any weeds and debris so that storm water flows unimpeded. Please do not blow grass clippings into the road as they clog the storm drains. Your help is greatly appreciated.

SCAT Van

Need a ride to the grocery store or an appointment? The Village of Aurora contracts annually with the Human Services Coalition of Cayuga County to provide SCAT van service to the disabled and the elderly. Any person over 60 or any person under 60 with a disability that prevents them from using public transportation is eligible to use the service. Contact them at (315) 253-3548. There is a suggested donation of \$4.00 for each one-way trip.

Zoning and Building Permits

Most projects in the village require a building permit and many require Planning Board/Community Preservation Panel review. Before you begin **ANY** project, contact the Village Office at 364-7293, or drop by to meet with Code Enforcement Officer, Patrick Doyle on Monday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm, Thursday from 2 to 4 pm, or by appointment. 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. Applications can be downloaded from our web site, auroranewyork.us, by navigating to the Permits and Applications page. **Also, please remember that there is a moratorium on firework permits within the village through December 31, 2019.**

Village Government Officials

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

Community Preservation Panel – 1st Wednesday

Chris MacCormick – Chair
Jeff Blum
Jim Burkett
Claire Morehouse
Vacancy

Zoning Board of Appeals – 2nd Wednesday

Karen Hindenlang – Chair
Alexis Boyce
Laura Holland
Ann Tobey
Jeri Vargo

Village Board of Trustees – 3rd Wednesday

Bonnie Bennett – Mayor
Grace Bates
Matt Bianconi
Janet Murphy
Kit Van Orman

Planning Board – 4th Wednesday

Pat Bianconi - Chair
Pat Foser
Michele Murphy
Pam Sheradin
Frank Zimdahl
Thea Miller (alternate)