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Village Newsletter

Village of Aurora, 456 Main Street, Aurora, NY 13026-9790
(315) 364-7293 (Office) (315) 364-5239 (DPW) villageclerk@auroranewyork.us (email)
Website: auroranewyork.us

Village Office Hours

Village office hours are by appointment only. Please call or email to schedule an appointment with the clerk or treasurer. To meet with the Code Enforcement Officer, Patrick Doyle, please call him directly at (315) 729-3921.

JOIN VILLAGE OFFICIALS FOR A READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 4TH AT 11:00 AM ON THE TAYLOR HOUSE LAWN. PLEASE WEAR A MASK AND ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Summer Cancellations

Much to our dismay, the Aurora Summer Swim Program is canceled this year. Given the limited space at the Wells College dock and the beach area, Department of Health social distancing recommendations are not practical. We are hopeful that next summer will see the return of lifeguards and swim lessons.

SUMMER EVENTS THAT, SO FAR, ARE NOT CANCELED – MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND CHECK FOR UPDATES ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE/BULLETIN BOARDS

July 4th – Annual reading of the Declaration of Independence at 11:00 am on Taylor House lawn. Please wear a mask and maintain a safe social distance.

July 26 – Aurora Fire Department chicken BBQ – Pick up is from 11:00-1:00
Please pre-order via avfd@rochester.rr.com, no later than July 19, and specify halves or dinners (include salt potatoes, baked beans, a roll and Oreos), as well as your preferred time for pick-up. We will do our best to accommodate. Dinners are \$10 and halves are \$7, a check or exact change is appreciated.

August 15th – Blessing of the Boats at 6:00 pm behind St Patrick’s Church. Food and beverages provided, along with live music. Please adhere to social distancing recommendations and wear your mask when not eating/drinking.

Aurora Historical Society News and Events

Watch for reopening soon! There's paperwork to do and procedures to get in place, but the process is beginning. In the meantime, please visit the Facebook page for Village of Aurora Historical Society. Recent conversations have included the historic craft of timber-framing, members of the Heffernan family ca. 1875-1900, and two African-American Civil War veterans and their distinguished regiment.

Tuesday Pre-Order/Pick-Up Market at Patrick Tavern (4:00-5:30):

Fresh veggies are now ready, as well as new herbal and fair-trade items. Check out the article in the Southern Cayuga Tribune, pick up a flyer at the PO, or visit “The Hub of the Greater Aurora Community” Facebook page and Newsletter for the latest.

Village Elections

Village elections are scheduled for September 15 from 12:00-9:00 at the village office. Currently, in-person or absentee voting is planned. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those who requested one approximately 4 weeks prior to the election. Applications are available on the village website on the Voting page and must be mailed or dropped off at the village office, 456 Main St, and must be received no later than September 8. Please do not submit your application electronically, they are not valid. Anyone who submitted a **ballot** prior to the March 18 election date is all set; the ballot will not change. Anyone who votes in person on September 15 who has already voted via absentee ballot, will have their in-person vote counted and their absentee ballot voided. Like everything else, this is all subject to change so please check the village website for any updates especially as we get closer to the election.

Tax Collection

Village taxes are now overdue. If you did not receive a bill, please contact the village office as soon as possible to limit any additional late fees.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Fellow Villagers,

It’s definitely summer – maybe not the one we would have imagined five months ago, but definitely one that will remain in our memories. I continue to be impressed by the sense of social responsibility and diligence shown by the residents of this tiny village, as well as by those who have joined us for the summer. We help our neighbors, we wear our masks, we yield the sidewalk, and so far, we have avoided COVID-19. Let’s continue our vigilance and keep each other safe.

The pandemic continues to affect several aspects of normal village life. The office remains closed to walk-ins, although payments, etc. can be left in the box outside the door. We hope to be able to install a video doorbell soon that will make quick communication a little easier. Our parks remain closed because of the problem of enforcing the mandated social distancing and the difficulties of meeting state guidelines on disinfecting and cleaning, but we are working to see if a plan can be put together.

The project for a new water plant continues to be affected by the pandemic as well. There still has not been an announcement of a funding cycle for this year but we have our financials and project ready to go as soon as we hear. Assemblyman Finch and Senator Helming have been instrumental in helping Aurora move forward in conjunction with Cayuga County and the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority's plan for a Southern Cayuga Water District and I'm very grateful for their efforts. I'll keep you posted as this moves forward.

I also want to make sure that you're aware of the new sewer rates that take effect this month and have been instituted in order to maintain a balanced sewer budget. In other words, we are aiming to have the actual operating cost of the plant met by income from equitable sewer rates; every property owner should equitably share in the cost of maintaining the facility. The new rates are as follows: the quarterly access fee for sewer for all metered customers remains at \$25.00 per quarter; if you use under 10,000 gallons of water, you are charged a flat rate of \$75, plus the access fee, making a total quarterly fee of \$100; customers using more than 10,000 gallons per quarter are charged \$7.15 per 1000 gallons plus the \$25 access fee; the charge for the single unmetered customer, Wells College is not changing. Remember that this is the sewer charge and does not include either the minimum water charge or the water charge based on higher usage; water rates remain the same. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

As we move out of the "Pause" New York has been experiencing I'm sure you join me in wishing our businesses well as they struggle to reopen under pandemic restrictions, as well as cheering Wells on as it makes the decisions challenging so many small colleges after the Covid-19 impact. We're not just New York tough, we're Aurora tough.

Hope to see you at the reading of the Declaration of Independence on the 4th, 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.

Village Board Meetings

As of this writing, per social distancing guidelines, we are currently allowed a maximum of 15 people in the meeting room for board meetings. The State recommends limiting the length of meetings to include only discussions requiring a vote and paying bills. Any discussion not requiring a vote should be conducted via email and noted in the meeting minutes.

There is no public comment except for during public hearings (different from a regular meeting). If we anticipate more than 15 people attending a meeting, we will move it to the truck bay in the firehouse. The maximum capacity in the truck bay is 50 people. Having a heads up that there is significant public interest for a specific agenda item will help tremendously. If a few more than 15 people show up unexpectedly the night of a meeting, they will be given a conference call number so they can listen in.

Agendas are posted the Friday before the Wednesday night meetings on both bulletin boards (village office and the north wall of the post office) as well as the village website on the Boards page. Additionally, notice of public hearings are published in the Citizen newspaper under Legal Ads.

Village Government Officials

Community Preservation Panel – 1st Wednesday

Jim Burkett – Chair
Jeff Blum
Chris MacCormick
Claire Morehouse
Julia Rossmann

Village Board of Trustees – 3rd Wednesday

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

Zoning Board of Appeals – 2nd Wednesday

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

Planning Board – 4th Wednesday

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