

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

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

www.auroranewyork.us

315-364-7293 (Clerk & Code Enforcement Office) 315-364-5239 (DPW)

villageclerk@auroranewyork.us

VILLAGE HOURS

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Hello, Cayuga County residents! The Cayuga County Planning Department is seeking feedback on your current trash and recycling services. Please take the time to fill out this short survey. Your answers are greatly appreciated and will be taken into consideration as the Department develops the new county-wide Local Solid Waste Management Plan. For further questions, please call Jenna DeRario at (315)-253-1203.

You can access the survey at: www.cayugacounty.us/survey

Zoning and Permit Information

The current Village Zoning Law (Local Law #1 of 2020) is located on the Local Laws page of the village website, auroranewyork.us. Section 404, Table of Uses, outlines all permitted activities within the five zoning districts. Contrary to popular belief, home occupations are allowed within the village, but they do require a permit, and some require a Special Use Permit. The application is the same for all building/zoning permits and can be downloaded from the website.

Permits are required for construction, alteration, improvements, removal or demolition of any building or structure (including accessory buildings). Also, roofs, excavation, earth filling, interior work, conversions of buildings, and land from one use to another. Projects that can be seen from a public way, including from Cayuga Lake, or that alter the footprint of a structure require Community Preservation Panel and/or Planning Board review.

Applications for consideration before the Community Preservation Panel or the Planning Board must be received in the Village Office **at least 10 days** prior to a meeting. Only when an application is declared complete by the Code Enforcement Officer, will it then move to the required Board(s) for review.

Requests for variances to the Zoning Board of Appeals may require a longer lead time so if your project requires a variance, please submit the Appeal Application as soon as possible.

Zoning Application Forms, required for all building permits, as well as Appeal Application Forms are available at the village office or on the Permit/Applications page of the village website.

The Community Preservation Panel meets the first Wednesday of each month, the ZBA meets the second Wednesday (as needed), and the Planning Board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Before you begin any project contact the Village Code Enforcement Officer at 364-7293.

From the Department of Public Works

LEAF BLOWER pickup dates: October 18 – December 17 (weather permitting).

Leaves/brush must be in bags for pickup prior to October 18.

Please pile brush and leaves separately, keep catch basins free from leaves and grass clippings and be aware that stones and walnuts will not go through the leaf blower! 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.

When the snow flies, once the first sweep is complete, please move your vehicles to a cleared space so the DPW can easily plow the entire road.

KAYAK RACKS: The DPW are putting the kayak racks away for the winter. If you have not already done so, please remove your kayak from the village racks ASAP. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 Patrick Tavern and the Aurora Historical Society

The Aurora Mobile Farmers' Market - Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m., in Patrick Tavern, 302 Main St. - offers some special events and new items in October. Watch for Pork Day in mid to late October: pre-order fresh, local pork by the cut, raised on organic veggies and non-GMO grains, for a one-day delivery. The bread list is growing with several new items, notably a delicious Wheatberry from local whole grain. Whole grains themselves can be the star of fall and winter meals; stop by for a FREE cup of local, non-GMO wheat berries, rye berries, and/or hulled barley to try. (Makes about 3 C cooked.) Whole grains take longer to cook, but are worth the wait, with nutty flavor and chewy texture; order your favorites in larger quantities. It's peak season for apples, pumpkins, and winter squash, too; flowers and tender vegetables are available until frost, and Cookie's delicious dinners will be available every week. And don't forget the birds; local black-oil sunflower seeds will be available in quantity soon. Last but not least, look for some upcoming opportunities to do some good for local charities.

(Thank you to everyone who bought apples to support the SHARE farm!) Want more info? Email lschwab@wells.edu or just stop by on Tuesdays.

In addition to this market, Patrick Tavern (a joint project of the Village of Aurora and the Aurora Historical Society) hosted a well-attended art show in late August. If your group would like to have an event in this rustic and flexible setting, please contact the Village Office to learn more and sign up. Access to this community space is free to Village and Town residents.

Finally, a pop-up exhibit from the Aurora Historical Society was a popular addition to the Sturgeon Fest at Howland Farm Museum. Watch the Village website and the usual online noticeboards for other pop-up history events.

Fire Department News

The fire department is looking for volunteers! Meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and anyone interested in joining is more than welcome to attend.

There is also a vacancy on the Fire Commissioner Board. This is an elected position, and anyone interested should submit a letter of intent to the Aurora-Ledyard Fire District, P O Box 171 Aurora, postmarked no later than November 24.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Fellow Villagers,

Our summer finished with spectacular September weather, almost making us forget the days we sweated through in June, July, and August. The farmers' market is better than ever and even though it'll soon close we can look forward to those hardy vendors who will keep going at the Tuesday market at Patrick Tavern. I'm happy to report that the Summer Swim Program was very successful due to the Director, Dalton Elser, and our dedicated lifeguards - in spite of the many closures for suspected and actual algae, Ann Balloni, Village Clerk, was diligent in keeping up with weather and water quality and posting conditions on the village website. Our special thanks go to Carolyn Connors and Wells College for the swimming lessons at the college pool that saved the program from an early closure. Our thanks also go to the Army Corps of Engineers for their continuing project to eradicate the hydrilla infestation, especially now that it's been discovered further north along the shoreline and at the Inns' dock. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help monitor its spread by working with the Cayuga Watershed Network. I'm pleased to say that funding for the eradication project will continue next year.

In village government news, the project to revise the Comprehensive Plan, managed by the planners from Labella Associates, is nearing completion and should be available for review on the village website in the next week or two. The review period will be followed by a public meeting so watch our posted notices and website. It's been good to have so many of you involved in this process and we're all looking forward to the result. It's with great regret, however, that I report that Thea Miller and her family (including now brand-new Aileen!) have moved out of the village and she has resigned from the Board of Trustees. Thea has been a thoughtful and engaged member of the Board and her knowledgeable voice will be truly missed. I'm happy to report, however, that Jim Orman has agreed to step up and fill the Trustee position until the next village election in March when we will elect a person to complete Thea's term.

And lastly, don't be fooled by this nice weather, winter is coming. Remember 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

Village Government Officials

See the Village website and bulletin boards for information on meeting times and location.

Community Preservation Panel – 1st Wednesday

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

Village Board of Trustees – 3rd Wednesday

Bonnie Apgar Bennett – Mayor
Grace Bates
Matt Bianconi
Janet Murphy
Jim Orman

Zoning Board of Appeals – 2nd Wednesday
(as needed)

Karen Hindenlang – Chair
Alexis Boyce
Laura Holland
Jeri Vargo
Vacancy

Planning Board – 4th Wednesday

Pat Bianconi - Chair
Pat Foser
Michele Murphy
Pam Sheradin
Frank Zimdahl

**Forwarded from Cayuga Lake Watershed Network:
Ten Things You Can Do to Protect Your Lake
Rick Nelson, Owasco Watershed Lake Association**

Please use and share these guidelines for protecting our lake and our watershed:

- 1. Trash Disposal: You Burn it, You Breathe It.** Open burning is potentially one of the largest sources of airborne toxic emissions in the United States. Burning trash in a burn barrel, incinerator or open fire releases toxic substances into the air. Please recycle, reuse or dispose of trash in an environmentally friendly manner.
- 2. Yard Debris:** Keep all leaves, grass clippings and yard debris out of roads, ditches, streams, and the lake. These items become mulch to the unwanted weeds growing in our lake. Alternatives include recycling grass by mulching or composting.
- 3. Lawn and Garden Fertilizers:** If you absolutely must use a fertilizer, do not use one that contains phosphorus or overfertilize. If you have a commercial lawn service, make sure it is environmentally friendly.
- 4. Pesticides and Household Chemicals:** Use pesticides only if absolutely necessary, only after identifying the best way to control the specific pest. Always apply pesticides carefully and under the appropriate weather conditions.
- 5. Hazardous Materials:** Never pour hazardous chemicals, paint, varnish, and other similar products into a storm drain, the ground, the lake or any water body that feeds into the lake.
- 6. Pets and Wildlife:** Never feed waterfowl or allow others to do so; this can make them sick and encourages them to remain in our area past their normal season. Do not wash pets in the lake.
- 7. Septic Systems:** Do not exceed the capacity of your septic system, and always maintain the system appropriately.
- 8. Medicines and other Chemicals:** Do not flush medicines or other hazardous chemicals down the sink or toilet. Dispose of these items at collection areas.
- 9. Buffers:** Plant bushes, trees, and grass (which act as buffers) near streams and the lake to prevent soil erosion and keep unwanted nutrients from entering the lake.
- 10. Soaps and Detergents:** Use low or no phosphate soaps, detergents and cleaning products. Phosphates promote weed growth in lakes and streams.

Remember: "Never put anything into the lake that you wouldn't want in your child's next glass of water."