

Historian's Thank You to AHS, Jan. 18, 2023

For everyone involved in local government, as we are, surely the most enjoyable duty is to recognize outstanding work by the citizens we serve. Such accomplishments should be recognized by more than just a written report. Therefore, as Village Historian, I'd like to take the lead in offering public thanks to the Village of Aurora Historical Society (AHS) for a remarkable achievement in its oversight of Patrick Tavern: the AHS *not only met the Preservation League's five-year project benchmark for Patrick Tavern in four years, but did so in the midst of COVID.*

Nor is that all. Last month, Trustee Miller mentioned the Governor's proposed direction on energy. Many projects across the state are already overcommitted to on-going energy costs. In contrast, I am happy to tell you that AHS' approach to Patrick Tavern's sustainability through energy conservation is already ahead of the game. Such foresight and good stewardship also merit your appreciation.

These efforts are bearing fruit, as shown in comparison with another Village resource that you support, the Aurora Free Library. Measured on a monthly basis, attendance at Patrick Tavern regular and special events is now over 60% of the Library's walk-in visits, and in the Spring quarter is likely to rise to 75%.

Sometimes visitors are the first to appreciate accomplishments that have taken time to realize. Award-winning Rochester attorney Joshua Gewolb, one of the participating artists in the gallery evening on November 30, recently wrote to me as follows:

...the tavern is really magical, and it made the evening magical. I have been to lots of art shows, but never in a restored 18th century building with rough-hewn planks the width of a refrigerator. Combine that with the company and the artwork and it made it a perfect evening.... Many thanks again for helping create this special place.

I was delighted to reply to Josh with more about how the tireless fundraising and attention to detail that the Aurora Historical Society brings to the project is "making the magic happen," and I trust you join me in celebrating these contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Schwab
Aurora Village Historian