



## VILLAGE OF AURORA NEWSLETTER

April 2023  
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A big THANK YOU to all for your patience while we were short staffed the past few months. Due to ongoing family emergencies, Debbie has been working from home since January but is now back in the office, at least part-time. She is looking forward to engaging with the community again and we are thrilled to have her back.

The village office is generally open Monday-Thursday from 10-4, but it is always best to call ahead and make an appointment. To meet with the mayor, clerk, treasurer, or code enforcement officer, please call (315) 364-7293 or contact us via email:

Mayor (Jim Orman) – [mayor@auroranewyork.us](mailto:mayor@auroranewyork.us)

Clerk (Ann Balloni) – [villageclerk@auroranewyork.us](mailto:villageclerk@auroranewyork.us)

Deputy Clerk (Deborah Brooks) – [deputyclerk@auroranewyork.us](mailto:deputyclerk@auroranewyork.us)

Code Enforcement Officer (Bob Rhea) – [rarzoning@gmail.com](mailto:rarzoning@gmail.com)

Monday and Thursday, 1-4

To contact Adam Van Horn or Mike White at the DPW, please call (315) 364-5239

### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We recently had the pleasure of traveling to Iceland to visit my daughter. She is there on a Fullbright scholarship project from August to June. In addition to providing Julie and I a spectacular tour of the natural delights of Iceland she arranged a meeting with the Mayor of Reykjavik (capital of Iceland). His name is Dagur Eggertsson and he proved to be a wonderful host. We discussed how we approach our extreme ratios of visitors to residents. About 700,000 people visit Reykjavik which has 122,000 residents. Aurora has over 2500 visitors in our village of about 250 residents. Despite our difference in size it was very interesting to discuss our similarities.

The Village would like to extend our thanks to Barb Blom for arranging a Meet and Greet to interact with Wells College staff and students. About 70 people attended the event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of MacMillan Hall's Art Exhibit room. Delicious food and beverages were provided by Hallmark Dining and local sponsors. Dr. Jon Gibraltar, President of Wells, led off with a warm welcome to all. In my remarks, I stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen the Village partnership with Wells College. Janet Murphy, a Wells alum and Deputy Mayor, spoke about arriving in Aurora as a freshman at Wells and never leaving. She found a home here, raised a family and is teaching students. She encouraged current Wells students to embrace all they can while here. J.D. Balloni, Fire Chief, discussed the valuable contribution of the Wells students that are part of our fire department. We sincerely hope this event was the first of many similar ones to follow during the next school year.

Jim

### SUMMER PROGRAM

Are you a lifeguard? Would you like to be one? Please contact the village office if you are interested in working at the Wells College dock this summer. We are looking for lifeguards and a program director. There are also options for additional jobs assisting DPW personnel/office staff if the dock is closed due to inclement weather or algae blooms. Applications are available on the village website:

<https://auroranewyork.us/resources/summer-youth-program/>

or at the village office.

## Historian's Corner

Last month, I received a query from Swiss philatelist Jean-Marc Seydoux, who emailed to ask me the origin of the name "Aurora" for this village. I was pleased to respond and in return received from him a scan of the letter he had acquired, written in 1823 by a student at Briercliff School, Cynthia Brayton.

Briercliff was a Quaker school for girls, on Court Street opposite Lafayette: the one-time courthouse location. Several Briercliff graduates took significant roles in both the women's and abolitionist movements, and this was largely thanks to the influence of teacher and head, Susannah Marriott, an English-born Friend, who figured prominently in Cynthia's letter to her brother. When Miss Marriott returned from a six weeks' journey, and heard that in her absence "we were *good girls*," she invited them to join her "in the Parlour accordingly we went and had a very good supper very nice *Pound Cake, Biscuits, sweet-meats, etc, etc, etc, etc.*" Cynthia asked her brother "I should like to have you send me a few flower seeds in a letter if you have any to spare. I suppose we shall have a flower garden here SM [Susannah Marriott] is '*very fond of flowers.*'" Marriott's influence as a gardener was well attested by others, too; she is noted to have been the first to grow verbenas in Aurora. Cynthia also wrote that the peach trees were then in bloom (May 4th), but "could you believe that it has been snowing by *fits* all day." Two centuries later, we don't find that hard to believe at all.

Linda Schwab, PhD  
Aurora Village Historian

### DPW REMINDERS

LAST CHANCE UNTIL OCTOBER! The leaf machine will be out for ONE WEEK ONLY, April 24-28.

The NY State Burn Ban is in effect through mid-May and there is never any burning allowed within the village limits.

**Thank you to Josh and Mike from the Inns of Aurora for their assistance with clean up following the April 5 storms. We sincerely appreciate your help with the muddy mess!**

**Water/Sewer Bills:** Any payments not received by April 30 will be added to your village tax bill.

### Building Permits

Spring has sprung and building permit applications are starting to come into the village office. Most projects within the village require a building permit and many projects are subject to Community Preservation Panel or Planning Board review. Please stop in the village office and meet with our new code/zoning enforcement officer, Bob Rhea, before beginning ANY project. Permit application forms are available on the village website: <https://auroranewyork.us/resources/permits-applications/>