

As a full-time resident of Aurora for many years, I urge the Village Board to pass legislation to regulate and restrict short-term rental units in Aurora. The unchecked proliferation of STRs over the past decade threatens the viability of our community by eliminating residential housing.

The Comprehensive Plan notes that 347 non-residents work in Aurora! These commuters, and others employed nearby, will never find housing opportunities to enable them to become residential members of this community if more and more village apartments and houses become STRs.

In order to promote a sustainable, safe, and vibrant community, we need to increase the number of residents beyond the current total of 255(!), and thereby grow the local economy, support our AVFD and EMTs, expand participation in village governance, and enhance community services, activities and organizations.

Rather than enriching our entire community in any significant way, STRs cynically exploit Aurora. They market the 'village experience' while they destroy it by creating a residential desert of empty houses deprived of their function as 'real' homes and occupied only by occasional transients.

The greater good of the community outweighs the individual enrichment of Aurora's STR investment landlords, the vast majority of whom don't reside in the village. Their gain will become our irreparable loss unless the Village Board takes action soon to stop and reverse the proliferation of short-term rentals in Aurora.

Sincerely,
Crawford R. Thoburn
cthoburn@rochester.rr.com