



VILLAGE OF AURORA NEWSLETTER

April 2026
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The village office is generally open Monday-Thursday from 10-2, and during code enforcement hours, 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 – mayor@auroranewyork.us

Clerk (Ann Balloni) – villageclerk@auroranewyork.us

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer (Deborah Brooks or Christine Tanner) – deputyclerk@auroranewyork.us

Code Enforcement Officer (John Greer, Monday & Thursday 1-4) codeofficer@auroranewyork.us

To contact Aaron Van Arnum, Tony Filer, or Mike White at the DPW, please call (315) 364-5239

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hi All,

It is with mixed emotions that I am sending my final message to you as Mayor. Although I have grown up in Aurora, I have come to see the village in a different light during the last four years. I have seen the dedication and caring of our appointed and elected people as they carry out their duties. It sometimes can be challenging but satisfying also. And we are so fortunate to have the employees to perform all those tasks that sustain a village throughout the year. They are truly the best.

The last four years have proved to be among the most pivotal this village has experienced. Just to summarize:

1. We finished an extensive re-zoning effort that took over a year (with great help from the County Planning Office).
2. This Village established a short-term rental law which took over a year. This law became a model for other villages.
3. The effort to refurbish Patrick Tavern has moved along. The Village has owned this building for over 35 years. This is being helped greatly by the Historical Society.
4. The Village, together with the Villages of Union Springs and Cayuga, worked extensively with NYS agencies and the Cayuga County Planning Department, in obtaining a \$10,000,000 grant through the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) program. This multi-village approach had never been done before. This will result in further improvements at Patrick Tavern and a new lakefront park at the southern part of the Village. (County Planning was critical to this process).
5. Through our extensive communication with NYS Transportation, Rt. 90 was repaved through the Village.
6. Then on April 29, 2024, Wells College closed. Over half of our Village disappeared. The Village, among other things, had to assume operation of the municipal water plant. This became official last week. Along the way the Village had the opportunity to form new partnerships with several NYS agencies (including the DEC, Dept. of State, Dept. of Health, Attorney General and the

Governor's Office). Another result of ownership of the water plant allowed the Village to pursue a \$5,000,000 grant to extend the water intake line to a safer depth in the lake.

All of the above was accomplished with a collective effort by our Village Engineer Ken Teter, Village Board, Planning, CPP, ZBA and input from the residents! It was not easy some of the time but in the end, we have all moved the Village of Aurora forward. We have a newly elected Village Board and new Mayor in Janet Murphy. We are well positioned to continue moving forward.

I wish to thank all of the above for the opportunity to serve the Village of Aurora. It certainly has been memorable and very satisfying to have been a part of this team.

Jim Orman

VILLAGE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Matt Bianconi and John Miller on their re-election to the Board of Trustees. And please welcome our new mayor, Janet Murphy, whose 4-year term begins on April 6. Janet served as village trustee under three mayors and was also a member of the Planning Board and Community Preservation Panel. We are fortunate to have her experience and dedication.

NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE & EMAIL ADDRESSES

NY State has mandated that all municipalities transfer to .gov addresses for cyber-security reasons. All village employee/board member email addresses will be updated to .gov and we will notify residents when the changeover takes place. Additionally, we are in the process of creating a new website and will keep you posted on the progress.

TAX BILLS

Cayuga County generates and mails the village tax bills, usually by the end of May, though payments are received in the village office. If you have had a change of mailing address in the past year, you must notify Cayuga County Real Property. The Change of Address Form may be found here: <https://www.cayugacounty.gov/1387/Address-Change>

CAYUGA COUNTY PLANNING

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Village Survey on the future of the Wells College campus. 167 responses were received. Additionally, Cayuga County Planning assisted with updates to the Village Zoning Law and Comprehensive Plan and are holding a public hearing at the April 15 village board meeting at 6:00. Survey results and proposed updates are on the Home page of the village website, www.auroranewyork.us and copies are available to review at the village office.

DPW REMINDERS

Leaves must be bagged, and brush tied in four foot bundles for pick-up.

The street sweeper is scheduled for April 21, and the leaf machine is also available that week. Please do not park on the road during the street cleaning.

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

Water/Sewer Bills: Any delinquent payments not received by April 30 will be added to village tax bills.

Fire Department News

Thank you to everyone who donated to our ambulance fund! With your contributions and funds from the fire district and the fire department memorial fund, our new rig was put in service on March 8.

Historian's Corner: Before It Was Paine's Creek

In the late spring and early summer of 1750, two Moravian missionaries, Bishop John Cammerhoff and Brother David Zeisberger, made the long journey from Bethlehem, PA to the Great Council Fire at Onondaga. For much of the way, they had a Cayuga guide, of whom they were very fond.

The woodland trails were surprisingly busy places. Hardly a day passed without meeting a traveler or coming across a small dwelling, where the wife often offered them something to eat out of the family's meager supplies.

Eventually "we reached a creek, called by the Indians Gientachne [Salmon Creek], where their warriors usually encamped. Here we saw the whole ... archives of the Gajukas, painted or hanging in the trees," a record of battles and exploits.

"We continued on, passing over a beautiful plain, watered by many creeks, all of which empty into the lake [Cayuga Lake], and at last reached a spot called Tschochniees [Paine's Creek], inhabited by Cayugas. There were two huts there, but we found only one woman, with several children. Everything looked very miserable and deserted. We heard yesterday that provisions were growing very scarce in this neighborhood."

Thy had come upon the upper reaches of Paine's Creek, and began to hurry to find lodging. "Toward evening we reached the first farms of Cayuga, which are still at some distance from the towns. It had already grown dark when we arrived in the town. It is situated on the lake, and on a creek by the name of Gaheskao [Great Gully Brook]."

Since the travelers passed right through today's Aurora, did they see anything but "farms"? Did orchards and fields hide the few houses? Usually the travelers recorded every dwelling, but as evening fell, perhaps their eyes were on the way ahead, where they received warm hospitality on their arrival. "We felt comfortable at this place, and could easily have enjoyed a half year here."

These journals were published in 1916 by the Onondaga Historical Society. More about Paine's Creek will appear in the next (June) issue of the Southern Cayuga Tribune.

Applications for Building/Zoning Permits

Please stop in the village office to meet with John Greer, the code/zoning enforcement officer, if you are planning any type of building project or change of use. This includes roofs, sheds, fences, repairs, renovations, additions, demolitions, etc. He is available on Mondays and Thursdays from 1-4 and will help guide you through the process.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held in the firehouse meeting room, 456 Main Street

Permit applications that require CPP, Planning Board, or ZBA review MUST be received by the code/zoning officer at least ten (10) days prior to a meeting for consideration of inclusion on the agenda.

Community Preservation Panel: First Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Jim Burkett – Chairperson

Jeff Blum

Claire Morehouse

John Wendler

Planning Board: Second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

John Wade – Chairperson

Laura Heslop

Michele Murphy

Pam Sheradin

Frank Zimdahl

Village Board of Trustees: Third Wednesday of the month at **6:00 p.m.**

Janet Murphy – Mayor

JD Balloni

Matt Bianconi

John Miller

Zoning Board of Appeals: Fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., as needed

Karen Hindenlang – Chairperson

Alexis Boyce

Brad Brokaw

Michael Groth

Laura Holland