

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

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

www.auroranewyork.us

315-364-7293 (office) 315-364-6857 (fax) 315-364-5239 (DPW)

villageclerk@auroranewyork.us

VILLAGE HOURS

Monday

Clerk: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Code: Enforcement Officer 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Tuesday

Clerk: – 10:00am – 2:00pm

Thursday

Treasurer: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Clerk: 11:00am – 5:00pm

Code Enforcement Officer: **2:00pm - 4:00pm**

There are no public office hours on Wednesday or Friday

Message from the Mayor

Dear Fellow Villagers,

This is the newsletter that usually welcomes you to spring, but this year we seem to still be in the dead leaves and a million little branches from windstorms phase. Nonetheless, welcome back to those who spent the winter somewhere warmer – you and all those welcome birdsongs mean that spring is nearly here. Winter has given us time to work on some small projects around the village. I'm sure you've noticed the new energy-saving lights installed in the post office that will not only save money but are considerably brighter. We have also finalized an agreement to install new LED bulbs and covers on the streetlights in the village, which will be installed over time by NYSEG and will result in considerable savings.

Work also continues on the problem of a new drinking water source for the village. The completion of the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority's master plan, which is available on their website, has been accepted, including the recommendation to form a water and sewer district in the southern part of the county. This proposes to bring water and sewer infrastructure to areas not currently served, and to provide a second county water source with a water intake at Long Point. A solution that benefits a larger population, and more than one municipality improves the chances for state and federal financial support and lessens the burden on the village. It also means that the wheels turn slowly, but we are moving forward.

Another large project of interest for the village will soon be begun by the Inns of Aurora. They have agreed to undertake a Generic Environmental Impact review for all proposed development as of 2019 on their properties in the village. This comprehensive study will relieve them of having to do individual State Environmental Quality Reviews (SEQR) on individual projects, and it will give the village a clearer view of what the comprehensive impact of their development will have on the village. This information is of vital importance as we begin work on a revision of our master plan and zoning. This collaboration will bring welcome benefits to both the Inns and the village.

Although it seems a long way off, the summer is also shaping up. The Summer Swim Program will run from June 28th to August 23rd, with three weeks of swim lessons held, as last year, at the college pool and taught by Carolyn Conners. With the help and enthusiasm of Michael Miller, we are also hoping to start a two- or three-day a week small recreation program from 10 to 12. We're very much in the planning stages, trying to figure out how much interest there is, what age groups might attend, what activities would be appropriate, etc. If you have children who might be interested, please contact Michael or me.

The Aurora Hydrilla Eradication Project run by the Army Corps of Engineers has been funded for another year and will begin in July. They had good results last year but, needless to say, the hydrilla is not gone, and the area being monitored has increased. The Army Corps continues to be very responsive to our need-to-know and will continue to provide us with water sampling results that will be posted on the village website.

And – bad news last – the village will be raising sewer rates for residents from \$5.50/1000 gal. to \$6.50 beginning next quarter. As you may know, the village sewer fund, as well as the water fund, are self-supporting funds in the village budget and do not depend on taxes but on usage. Usage has fallen by nearly half, meaning the revenue to support the plant and infrastructure is similarly reduced. The increase is necessary to balance that budget and provide for needed equipment replacement. Sorry to leave you with that thought. I wish I knew a good sewer joke.

Wishes for a glorious, long, healthy, and magical summer, Bonnie

AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Opening Soon: New Show at Aurora Historical Society

A hundred years ago, a downtown fire forever changed Aurora. Later the same year the Aurora Volunteer Fire Department as we know it today was organized. The Aurora Historical Society, 371 Main St., will mark this double centennial with a new exhibit, "Fire! A Century of Service: The Aurora Volunteer Fire Department," opening Tuesday, April 9th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Watch the "Village of Aurora Historical Society" Facebook page for more about the Grand Opening and upcoming events, which will include lively conversations and oral histories.

April 9 Presentation: Women in the Fire Service

Attention Students!

Looking for a summer job? Spend your afternoons on the lake as a lifeguard with the Summer Swim Program. Stop in the Village Office for an application, or download it off the village website on the Summer Youth Program page, and submit it by May 1st.

2020 CENSUS

Interested in being a Census taker for our community? Apply on-line at 2020census.gov/jobs. IT PAYS!

Project Permits

Please remember that the majority of the Village is part of the National Historic Register. **ANY PROJECTS**, no matter how small, must go through the Village Code/Zoning Enforcement Office to ensure proper permits, appropriate Board review, etc. Permits are required for construction, alteration, removal or demolition of any building or structure, including accessory buildings, for excavation, earth filling, and interior work and for conversions of buildings and land from one use to another. **When in doubt - ASK!**

Before you begin your project, contact the Village Office at (315) 364-7293, or drop by to meet with Code and Zoning Enforcement Officer, Patrick Doyle, on Monday afternoons from 4 to 6pm or Thursdays from 2 to 4pm.

Water Meter Readings

Please be aware that any unpaid water/sewer bills, or other outstanding fees, that are not received in the Village Office by May 14 will be added to the individual's Village Tax Bill.

The Village DPW alternates quarterly meter readings with village residents. If you have never submitted a water meter reading card or aren't sure if the DPW has obtained a reading, please call them to schedule an appointment at (315) 364-5239. Estimates are done if a meter read is not recorded and may not reflect actual use. Also, please contact the village office to schedule a final read whenever there is a change in ownership/responsibility for the account.

Leaf and Brush Pick-Up

April 29 & 30 the DPW will have the leaf truck available.

After May 1st, please bag your leaves for pick-up. Brush should be cut to four-foot lengths or smaller. If you have a large amount of brush or lawn debris, Mike will drop off the Village's trailer for you to fill as you clean up your yard. Contact him at 364-5239. The DPW will do their best to pick up leaves and brush daily, but sometimes they are called away to perform other duties for the Village. Your patience is appreciated.

And remember, per the NYSDEC, NO BURNING March 15- May 15 and there is never ANY burning allowed within the Village.

Village Board Meetings Schedule

(All meetings begin at 7:00 pm)

1st Wednesday – Community Preservation Panel

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

3rd Wednesday – Board of Trustees

4th Wednesday – Planning Board