



# The Aurora Colony Times

21420 Main St. NE · Aurora, OR 97002

503-678-1283 [www.ci.aurora.or.us](http://www.ci.aurora.or.us)

## ALL WELCOME City Meetings for Jan / Feb.

Meetings at the City  
Council Chambers at  
7:00pm

**Planning Commission**  
Jan. 7  
Feb. 4

**City Council**  
Jan. 14  
Feb. 11

**Parks Committee**  
Jan. 21  
Feb. 18

**Historic Review Board**  
Jan. 23  
Feb. 27

**Please confirm dates and  
times with City Hall  
503-678-1283**

**City of Aurora  
Website  
[www.ci.aurora.or.us](http://www.ci.aurora.or.us)**

**THE  
ENCLOSED  
UTILITY BILL IS  
DUE ON OR  
BEFORE  
JANUARY 10TH**

\*\*\*

**Please  
remember to  
keep grass,  
rocks,  
vehicles,  
bark, etc. off  
water  
meters!**

## Mayor's Corner :

Welcome to a New Year 2020! I hope your holiday season was very memorable for all of you and your loved ones.

As our winter weather is upon us most of us spend more time indoors. Please be aware of any neighbors who may be in need of some assistance or just someone to talk to. If you or someone you know needs help please don't hesitate to contact City Hall.

The new year is a time to reflect on the past and look forward to tomorrow. I can't help but contemplate the future of our city. Do we rest on our laurels and watch time pass by or do we turn our heads and say let's get involved and let our voices be heard! We need your input and suggestions. Without the help of our community change will not take place. Let's be heard!

Currently there are two openings on the Planning Commission and one opening on the Historic Review Board. These positions are open to all residents of Aurora. We would enjoy your presence at these meetings. The Planning Commission meets the 1st Tuesday of each month and the Historic Review Board meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. City Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

We will be starting plans for the August Aurora Colony Days and are welcoming your assistance. Wasn't it fun last summer with all the activities around town? Please contact City Hall and we will find a committee for you!

There are lots of great shops and restaurants in our town. Let's support our local businesses!

Mayor  
Brian Asher



## Planning Commissioner John Berard Appointed to City Council

At its Tuesday, November 12 meeting, the Aurora City Council voted unanimously to appoint Planning Commissioner John Berard to the position 2 seat vacated when Brian Asher became mayor.

Berard has been a resident of Aurora since 2014. He was appointed to the city's Historic Review Board in June 2015 and served on that body until January 2017, when he was appointed to the Planning Commission.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Berard has done public relations work in New York, Connecticut, Washington D.C. and San Francisco throughout his career. He currently consults business executives throughout the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean.

"My approach to communications is rooted in the idea that products, services, ideas, companies, institutions and individuals earn endorsements on the strength of who they are, what they deliver and how they affect the way people work and live," Berard said.

Berard was a communications advisor to the San Francisco Food Bank and also served as a board member for that organization, as well as the Market Street Railway. That is a private support organization for the historic street cars in San Francisco. While he was living in Washington D.C., Berard advised a crisis counseling service hotline in that city.

Since moving to Aurora, Berard has been a volunteer and contributor to the Colony Museum and has managed the Colony Days parade for three years. "These and other local experiences have given me a sharp sense of the views held by my fellow Auroras' and an appreciation of the challenges and opportunities the city faces," Berard said. "I have a grasp of how the city's resources can be deployed against its many tasks and of the continued need for volunteers to help complete the rest."

## The Aurora Fire District Spot



With winter storms already in full swing it is always smart to be well prepared! Here is a list of things you can do to help you prepare for winter storms and severe weather conditions.

Take these steps to prepare your home:

### Winterize your home:

- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks before it storms.

### Check your heating systems:

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Install a smoke detector and test batteries monthly.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies:
  - Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas and check it monthly.
  - Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headaches, nausea, and disorientation and call 911 if you suspect it.

### Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including power outages.

- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.
- When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.

### Keep an up-to-date emergency kit, including:

- Battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a fully charged cell phone, and lamps.
- Candles are highly discouraged due to fire dangers. Please use with caution if used.
- Extra batteries.
- First-aid kit and extra medicine.
- Baby/Child items (if you have children).
- Cat litter or sand for icy walkways.

### Protect your family from carbon monoxide:

- Keep grills, camp stoves, and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Locate generators at least 20 feet from the house.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector sounds, and call 911.

You can learn more safety tips by visiting our website at [www.aurorafire.org](http://www.aurorafire.org).



## City, Sheriff's Office Release Radar Speed Control Sign Data

In response to citizen concerns, the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) set up a radar speed control sign in various locations around town in October. The sign displayed the speeds that passing motorists were going, and also collected data on those speeds.

From October 3 through 9, the sign was placed at the intersection of Highway 99E and Fourth Street. Based on the suggestions that citizens made on the city's Facebook page, the sign was then moved to the intersection of Airport and Ehlen roads from October 9 through 14. From October 16 through 23, it was moved to the intersection of Highway 99E and Ottaway Road.

All of the sets of data collected by the sign are included in PDF form on the city's website at this link: <https://www.ci.aurora.or.us/community/page/city-sheriffs-office-release-radar-speed-control-sign-data/>. Some of the data has been presented in graph form to illustrate the speeds traveled by motorists in those intersections at different times of the day. It was made available to the Planning Commission and City Council at their November meetings.

The City of Aurora contracts with the MCSO for its law enforcement services. Deputy Bill Ovchinnikov is assigned to the city under that contract.

"The data obtained through the use of the radar speed control sign can be used to petition the Oregon Department of Transportation for adjustments to speed limits through parts of town," City Recorder W. Scott Jorgensen said. "The city appreciates the efforts that the sheriff's office makes to better serve the citizens of Aurora through our ongoing partnership."

# Community Events

## A grateful and heartfelt thank you from the North Marion Community Library



**It was a win-win:** Our winter holiday greens fundraiser generated funds for our local community library as well as a host of pleased customers. And if you weren't able to take home (or send) a wreath, swag, or centerpiece this year, mark your calendar for the winter of 2020. Many thanks to all who participated—from those who took and filled orders, delivered, or staffed pickup hours at the Veterans Hall, and of course, purchased items. Always a bonus is that we met some of our neighbors, perhaps introducing them to the library for the first time.

**Make it a new year resolution:** Come visit us, currently located in the basement of the Aurora Presbyterian Church, 21553 Liberty St. NE. We're open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., though closed on holidays. Want different or more open hours or days? Sure, those may happen, and especially if we have more volunteers, so see below.

**Volunteer your time or talents.** We need folks willing to help staff the library, participate in fundraisers, brainstorm ways to recruit volunteers and new patrons, help with social media or technology, and more! Stop by the library, send us an email at [nmarionlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:nmarionlibrary@gmail.com), or come to monthly library association meetings, usually the first Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the library.

**Donate your newer, gently used books.** Fiction and non-fiction categories such as biography and history are preferred. However, if you have vintage books or specialized ones, we may be able to use these for our annual book sale in August. And any books we can't use in our collection are destined for the library's sale shelves at the White Rabbit, or offered at the Aurora Colony Flea Market, the first Saturday of the month, September through May, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Check out those venues too!

**Make a monetary donation.** The North Marion Community Library Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization, and welcomes monetary donations. Our mailing address is NMCLA, PO Box 186, Hubbard, OR



## ☐ Museum News

The Old Aurora Colony Museum will be closed during the month of January, as is its tradition. The museum reopens February 1, 2020. During this 100th anniversary year of voting rights for women, museum special exhibits will rotate through some stories of strong Colony women.

**February 15, 2020**, will be the Aurora Colony Historical Society's Annual Meeting, and it will include the official dedication ceremony for the new Will Family Preservation & Research Center. The new building is at 21555 Main Street NE, behind Tin & Paisley's new location. Plans are still coming together; check [www.auroracolony.org](http://www.auroracolony.org) for details.

## City Receives Grant Funding

The city received a grant of \$11,500 this year from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). It was part of the Certified Local Government program under OPRD's State Historic Preservation Office.

Work on the grant began last year, as the city's Historic Review Board (HRB) solicited applications for projects that would be eligible for the funding. Applications were submitted and evaluated by the HRB, with the help of City Council and Planning Commission members.

Two projects ultimately qualified for the grant funds. The first was for preservation and repairs for the masonry walls for the 1905 bank building originally constructed for the World's Fair that currently houses Pheasant Run Winery. The second was for roof repairs to the historic Walter Fry House located downtown. Both buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Funds from the grant allocation will go to the property owners to reimburse them for the costs of the restoration projects.

"The city would like to thank its volunteers on the Historic Review Board for their work on this grant application," City Recorder W. Scott Jorgensen said. "All of the work that has been done on these important buildings will help ensure that the city continues to be a destination for tourists who are interested in the area's unique history."

## \*\*\*\*\* Upcoming City Hall Closures \*\*\*\*\*



**Wednesday, January 1, 2020 ~ New Year's Day**  
**Monday, January 20, 2020 ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
**Monday, February 17, 2020 ~ President's Day**



## Johnson Selected as Safety Committee Chair

Jacob Johnson, a utility worker with the city's public works department, was unanimously selected as the Safety Committee chair on Thursday, October 24. Utility Worker Mark Basargin was also selected unanimously to serve as vice chair.

The city's Safety Committee is made up of all of its employees. Its purpose is to ensure that the city maintains a safe environment for its workers. This is done through open conversations regarding conditions, possible hazards and ways in which the safety of the city's operations can be enhanced and improved. As a result of the city's practices and the ongoing efforts of its Safety Committee, the city was presented with a Gold Safety Award during the recent League of Oregon Cities conference in Bend. The award is for an injury frequency rate of zero in fiscal year 2018-19 with six full-time employees. The citizens of Aurora benefit from this, as it leads to lower insurance rates and greater morale and productivity from city staff.

### Emergency and Non-emergency call out information

- If you have an emergency call 911.
- If there is a non-emergency item you would like to report please call 503-588-5032, Marion County non-emergency dispatch.
- If there is a water leak that you would like to report please call City Hall, 503-678-1283. If it is after hours, please report it to Public Works at 971-930-3597 or 503-505-0951 or call the non-emergency dispatch number, 503-588-5032 and they will contact public works
- The City is only responsible for repairs and water leaks in the city right-of-way.

**For additional information regarding events and happenings in Aurora, please check out the City of Aurora facebook page at**

<https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Aurora-Oregon-1690880117667604/>.

**This page will be updated regularly to provide up to date information to anyone who may be interested.**

### North Marion Community Library

21553 Liberty St. NE., Aurora, OR 97002  
Library Hours: Tuesday, Thursday &  
Saturday : 1 – 4 pm



### Colony Museum Hours

Tuesday—Saturday 11:00 am—4:00 pm  
Sunday: Noon—4 pm

The Museum is closed for the month of January and all major holidays.



### City of Aurora Contact Information

**Office: 503-678-1283 Fax: 503-678-2758**

Office Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday  
**Closed Friday**

**W. Scott Jorgensen, City Recorder**  
[recorder@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:recorder@ci.aurora.or.us)

**Mary Lambert, Finance/Court Clerk**  
[finance@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:finance@ci.aurora.or.us)

**Tammy Grimes, Administrative Specialist**  
[assistant@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:assistant@ci.aurora.or.us)

**Mark Gunter, Public Works Superintendent**  
[pws@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:pws@ci.aurora.or.us)

### City Council Contact/Information

Mayor Brian Asher – [mayor@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:mayor@ci.aurora.or.us)

Councilor Berard – [jberard@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:jberard@ci.aurora.or.us)

Councilor Feely – [mfeely@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:mfeely@ci.aurora.or.us)

Councilor Heitmanek – [theitmanek@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:theitmanek@ci.aurora.or.us)

Councilor Weidman – [tweidman@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:tweidman@ci.aurora.or.us)

You will find additional council and board information on the city website or come by City Hall with any questions.

**City of Aurora Website**  
[www.ci.aurora.or.us](http://www.ci.aurora.or.us)

### Aurora/Marion County Police Department

Anonymous Tip Line: 503-540-8079

Non Emergency: 503-588-5032

**Emergency: Dial 911**