



July / August 2020

# The Aurora Colony Times

21420 Main St. NE · Aurora, OR 97002

503-266-1283 [www.ci.aurora.or.us](http://www.ci.aurora.or.us)

## ALL WELCOME City Meetings for July / August

### Meetings in the City Council Chambers at 7:00pm

#### Planning Commission

July 7  
Aug 4

#### City Council

July 14  
Aug 11

#### Parks Committee

July 21  
Aug 18

#### Historic Review Board

July 23  
Aug 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)

## Mayor's Corner

Here we are three months plus. I look at our community and feel very proud of each and every one of you for how well you have handled these very strange times.

As we enter the moving experiment of what to do next and how to do it, my advice is to proceed with caution. Our Governor has made masks mandatory for many of us. Please be respectful of others and use a mask. If you can't find any or just can't afford some please ask. Many people in the area have made them and we can get you one.

Shops in town have opened including restaurants, wine, pub, antiques, auction house and art gallery, to name a few. Some existing and many new businesses have worked hard to remodel their interiors. Go check them out.

In the very near future you will be given a special gift that you can spend only in Aurora. The voucher will help our local stores and businesses kick start our return to some semblance of an economy. More information will be coming soon.

Congratulations to the graduating students from all grades. We wish them great success in their future endeavors.

The city council is continuing to work on growing our city. We hope you see some changes for the better in the coming months.

I can't thank all of you enough for getting out walking and talking to our neighbors and supporting the "free" box at city hall. Your support of this is greatly appreciated and the recipients are very grateful. Should you or your family need assistance the Oregon Food Bank is here to help. You may be eligible for food resource programs or school meals for your kids. Pantries and food Assistance Sites remain open across Oregon.

Visit [www.oregonfoodbank.org](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org) or contact City Hall for more information.

Please have a very happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Let's all stick together and keep our community close and thriving.

Mayor Asher

## Candidate Filings Open for November Election

Wednesday, June 3 is the first day that interested parties can file for local office in order to run for positions in the November 3 general election.

The Aurora City Council will have three positions on the November ballot. One is a two-year term for mayor that begins January 2021 and expires January 2023. The others are council positions 3 and 4. Both are for four-year terms that begin January 2021 and expire January 2025.

Any candidate must be a qualified elector with six months of residency prior to the general election.

In order to file, you must pick up SEL 101, 121 and 338 forms at city hall, fill them out and return them to the city recorder. Once the recorder verifies that residency requirements are met and assigns a petition number, candidates will then be allowed to collect signatures to qualify for the ballot. The city charter requires 15 valid signatures from registered voters. Candidates are advised to collect more signatures than are required in order to meet the qualifications.

The deadline to file for any of these positions is August 25. Candidates wishing to file a statement for inclusion in the voter pamphlet must do so by September 8. For more information, call city hall at 503-678-1283 or email [recorder@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:recorder@ci.aurora.or.us).

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## Upcoming City Hall Closures

Thursday, July 2, 2020—Independence Day



**THE  
ENCLOSED  
UTILITY BILL IS  
DUE ON OR  
BEFORE  
July 10th**

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

## Service Line Protection Available for City of Aurora Homeowners

The City of Aurora has partnered with Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA) to offer protection to city homeowners for the water and sewer service lines that connect their homes to the city's systems. The coverage is voluntary and available at affordable monthly prices. Founded in 2003, SLWA has partnered with over 500 leading cities and municipalities in the US to provide repair service plans that offer homeowners peace of mind and convenience.

"Many homeowners do not know that damage to the service lines on their property is their responsibility to repair," City Recorder Scott Jorgensen said. "In the event of a service line repair emergency, the homeowner is responsible for scheduling the repair and covering the associated cost. As the City of Aurora homes age along with the infrastructure serving them, SLWA repair plans provide homeowners with an optional solution so they can be prepared for this type of unexpected repair."

The SLWA Service Line Warranty Program protects against repairs needed to pipes on homeowners' property. Repairs to these pipes are not covered by basic homeowners insurance or by the City of Aurora. If a customer's service line is in need of repair, a simple call to the SLWA 24-hour hotline will dispatch a local, licensed contractor familiar with local code. There are no service fees or deductibles.

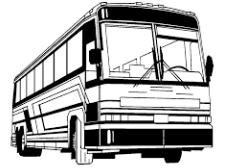
"Our service plans not only cover the cost of the repair; they also provide homeowners with reputable, local contractors who will do the best possible job," said John Kitzie, CEO of SLWA parent HomeServe USA. "We're thrilled to be partnering with the City of Aurora and look forward to the opportunity to provide City of Aurora homeowners with the assistance they need when faced with a home repair emergency."

SLWA has been recognized as the nation's largest and most trusted source of utility line plans endorsed by the National League of Cities. The company is committed to delivering an excellent customer service experience and maintaining an A+ accredited rating with the Better Business Bureau. For questions about this service, or to enroll, please contact SLWA at 866-922-9006 or visit [www.slwofa.com](http://www.slwofa.com).

## Who Rides CAT?

This is an item about transit. To paraphrase the poet Carl Sandburg, "the bus comes on little CAT feet". I am talking, of course, about Canby Area Transit buses that pass through Aurora on their way south to Woodburn in the Bi-Mart parking lot and north to the Transit Hub near Cutsforth's in Canby.

Normally \$1 dollar a ride, in these abnormal times, riding CAT is free. The question I have is, as the traffic safety liaison to the City Council, how many Aurora residents use the bus line?



The answer is important for two reasons. First, the number of buses is about to increase from 13 to 18 passing through the City. CAT, a part of the Canby city government, is clearly making a commitment to reliable service levels. Will that make life easier for those who already use the system? Will it draw more people to the bus?

The second reason is we want to build a tighter relationship with ODOT. To do so, we need to expand our view of mobility in the City beyond our windshields. The Parks Committee has some innovative bicycle-focused programs in the works, the Planning Commission is working on a plan to put an electric vehicle charging station in the downtown area and the City Council is in discussions with ODOT to improve the safety at Aurora's 99E pedestrian crossings.

By making bus transit more top of mind for people on the move, we are creating more options.

Right now, there are about 85,000 riders on CAT each year. It has a Facebook page, a website (<https://canbyoregon.gov/transportation/CAThomepage.htm>) and administrative offices near Wilco in Canby.

To get a better sense of the relationship Aurora has with CAT, we'd like to hear from those of you who use the system or who might. We are trying to get a sense of how the buses work for the City.

## Old Aurora Colony Museum



The museum is currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Staff is looking at ways to reopen once Phase 2 is in effect, as long as social distancing can be maintained and it is possible to implement safety precautions.

All museum events through mid-August are cancelled, including Aurora Colony Day living history day and the Beer Garden.

We are working on either a virtual or live auction raffle and dinner (possibly take-out) as a much-needed fundraiser on August 29.

The annual Quilt Show WILL take place October 9-18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

For updates, visit [www.auroracolony.org](http://www.auroracolony.org), or follow our Facebook page @oldauroracolonymuseum

## Aurora City Council Cancels Colony Days

At its Tuesday, May 12 meeting, the Aurora City Council agreed by consensus to cancel its annual Colony Days event.

Colony Days was originally scheduled to take place August 7 and 8. The event is typically preceded by a Concerts in the Park series that starts in July. That has also been cancelled.

“Cancelling Colony Days was not a decision that the council took lightly,” Mayor Brian Asher said. “However, large gatherings are prohibited statewide until at least September, so we’re doing what we can to keep our citizens and visitors to our community healthy and safe.”

The city’s Parks Committee began having a discussion at its April 21 meeting about the possibility of having other events. One may take place in the fall, as circumstances allow, and another would be at an indoor venue during the winter.

“Even though we won’t be having Colony Days, we would still love to have a community event of some sort,” Asher said. “We have volunteer councilors and committee members working on coming up with ideas, in case we’re able to have one in the future.”



## Patrick Harris Will Be Missed

With the passing of the Old Aurora Colony Museum’s Executive Director, Patrick Harris, Aurora has lost one of its most important ‘story tellers’ of the unique history of the Aurora Colony and the void of his presence in many aspects of the city’s historic personality will be felt for quite a while.

Patrick served on the Historic Review Board when its guidelines were being established and was a resource for all of the buildings and properties within the Aurora Colony National Historic District, knowing more than just what and where they were but also the humans that built them and how those people interacted in their community. This was more than just a valuable contribution because it was this organized “community” that has shaped our city from its beginnings in 1883.

As an administrator, Patrick steered the historical society through enormous growth in educational student tours and regional recognition but as a true historian, he made Aurora’s historic community connections his life’s work. As a culmination of those connections, the new Aurora Colony Preservation & Resource Center was Patrick’s final gift to us, a building devoted to the careful keeping of the “things” of these community members not the least is their recorded and transcribed stories as told to him.

We will miss Patrick’s fun-loving spirit, his always welcoming demeanor and his way of making ‘history’ so enjoyable.

## The Aurora Planning Commission

The Aurora Planning Commission provides volunteer assistance for managing real estate development projects in the short term, and planning future development of the City in the long term. Both of those core functions are usually part of every monthly meeting, which occur on the first Tuesday at 7:00 pm. The public is always invited and given the opportunity to comment, including on items that are not on the agenda.

The first function is to review applications for new development projects. In recent months, this included a variety of new commercial projects, including an electrical contracting business, a drive through coffee shop, and a mixed use project with both antique cars and apartments. Most residential projects, including new houses, are approved by the City Planner without the involvement of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission’s responsibilities overlap with the Historic Review Board for projects that are within the National Historic District. Many applications for improvements in the district, such as signs and fencing are completely managed by the HRB. Larger projects typically require approval from HRB on architectural compliance and from the Planning Commission on site planning issues like parking, landscaping and setbacks.

The second core function is long range planning. The City’s policy is that additional geographic expansion of the airport should be preceded by annexation. The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council on this topic and on updates to the zoning code and map, which are adjusted occasionally to adapt to new requirements. It is our responsibility to look far ahead, and we encourage everyone to attend our meetings or send a note to let us know what direction you think the City of Aurora should take in the coming years.

### News from the North Marion Community Library:

Although the library doesn't yet have plans to reopen, please keep checking the library's website (<http://northmarionlibrary.wordpress.com>), its Facebook page, or watch for announcements on the Facebook pages of I Love Aurora, Hubbard, or Donald. In the meantime, the library continues to donate books for North Marion students and their families by teaming with the North Marion PTO, the Backpack Buddies program, and others, so if you'd like to donate gently used books—Spanish language ones are especially appreciated, send an email to [nmarionlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:nmarionlibrary@gmail.com) or bring them by the Aurora City Hall.

Also, in the works: a couple of Little Free Libraries are being built by local craftsman Tim Corcoran. We are currently soliciting suggestions for their placement. If you have a location you think would get lots of foot traffic, let us know. And last but not least, the library may collaborate with the local chapter of the Knights of Pythias to sponsor a Read and Ride competition later this summer; details will follow.

### ELECTRONIC WATER ACCOUNT ACCESS

You can make payments and view your water/sewer account online at the following website <https://cityofaurora.merchanttransact.com/>. If you choose to pay your bill with a credit or debit card, there is a small convenience charge of \$3.50 for each transaction. This site also provides the option to sign up for electronic bill delivery.

If you need assistance, please call City Hall at 503-678-1283 for help getting set up.

### 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.**

### 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**