



March / April 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 Mar. / Apr.

Meetings at the City  
Council Chambers at  
7:00pm

### Planning Commission

Mar. 3  
Apr. 7

### City Council

Mar. 10  
Apr. 14

### Parks Committee

Mar. 17  
Apr. 21

### Historic Review Board

Mar. 26  
Apr. 23

### Budget Committee

Apr. 22

**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  
March 10th**

\*\*\*

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

## Mayor's Corner

Now that we have taken care of all our sweethearts on Valentine's Day, it is time to take care of our city. Colony Days is just around the corner and to make it as successful, fun, and enjoyable as possible for everyone, we are looking for volunteers and community input. We need help finding new

vendors for the park, help contacting groups and organizations to march in the parade, help running stops along the trolley route, help procuring items for the auction, and help booking musical groups or bands. There are lots of committees to join for everyone interested in making the Aurora Colony Days celebration exciting and memorable for people of all ages.



Second, put this on your radar: We are going to need help with the airport fly in on August 1st and 2nd. Interested???

Mayor  
Brian Asher



## Council News

The Aurora City Council voted unanimously at its Tuesday, January 14 meeting to appoint Jim Stewart to the Planning Commission. Stewart's appointment was unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission at its January 7 meeting.

"I am concerned that development in Aurora is not growing to the extent it could, so would like to be involved in what I perceive to be the initial stage of any such activity," Stewart said. "I have been attending Planning Commission and City Council meetings since we moved to Aurora in 2018 and I feel that I have a good understanding of the broad aspects facing the city at this time."

Stewart fills the vacancy that was created when former Planning Commissioner John Bernard was appointed to the council at its November meeting. His term expires in January 2021.

There is still one vacancy remaining on the Planning Commission, for a term that expires January 2021, and applicants are being sought.

Requirements are that a candidate must be a registered voter who has resided within city limits for at least six months. Responsibilities of the position include a willingness to serve on any committee that the commissioner is appointed to by the chair, having a vote on all questions before the commission, carrying out the body's rules as they are outlined in the Aurora Municipal Code and a commitment to attending at least one meeting per month, which usually lasts about two and a half hours.

Any interested applicants must submit a letter of interest along with a resume to City Recorder W. Scott Jorgensen at [recorder@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:recorder@ci.aurora.or.us). The position is open until filled. In other news, the council:

- Voted unanimously to appoint Richard Bellinger and Joseph Schaefer to three-year terms on the city's budget committee
- Voted unanimously to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Marion County for a Community Prosperity Initiative. That initiative is through the county's Economic Development office, and will provide three installments of \$15,000 of funding to the city between now and July 2021. Under the IGA, the funds must be spent on projects intended to enhance economic development opportunities for the city, its residents and local businesses.





# The Aurora Fire District Spot



## Firefighter BINGO Fundraiser

March 7, 2020

Donald Fire Station  
20909 Feller Street  
Donald, OR



The District #63 Firefighters will be hosting a bingo fundraiser to raise funds for their organization. Firefighters will also be selling hamburger and hot dog meals at the event, along with dessert. So please come and support your volunteer firefighters.

## Easter Egg Hunt

April 11, 2020

Aurora City Park  
21170 Main Street

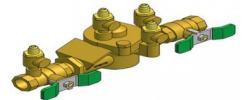


The District 63 Firefighters host the Easter Egg hunt every year at the Aurora City Park. Firefighters organize each hunt by age groups and allow all children to have an opportunity to collect eggs full of candy and prizes.

Bring your own basket and win some prizes!

**Egg hunt starts promptly at 1pm! Don't miss out.**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Backflow testing \*\*\*\*\***



If you have a backflow device installed on your property, now is a good time to schedule your annual testing in preparation for the upcoming growing season. Some of you may have backflow devices but do not have anything that requires one. If you don't want to have to test it every year please contact City Hall about possible deactivation. Additional information is available on the City website: [www.ci.aurora.or.us](http://www.ci.aurora.or.us).

## North Marion Community Library FAQs

**What is the North Marion Community Library?:** We're a local, community library run by volunteers from Aurora, Donald, and Hubbard. Library cards are available and free to those who live or work in North Marion County or surrounding areas, but we are not associated with any public libraries.



**Where are you located?:** We're currently located in the basement of the Aurora Presbyterian Church, 21553 Liberty St. NE, but we hope to have a bigger space someday, so stay tuned for a future address change.

**What are your hours?:** We're open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m.

**Do you take book donations?:** The short answer is yes. But—the library has limited storage space and we have to pay for it. If you can hold on to your donation until our annual book sale in August—held during Aurora Colony Days—that would be ideal. If you **do** have book donations and can't wait until August, then please bring them to the library during our open hours. That way, we can assess whether we can use the books for our collection or whether we can sell them.

### **What kinds of books are you looking for?**

- Gently used and newer (the last 5–10 years) fiction, either paperback or hardcover.
- Non-fiction categories of biography, history.
- Collectibles and/or vintage books: we would sell these at our book sale(s).
- Please, no magazines, journals, pamphlets; older science or technology books/pamphlets; reference books; or non-fiction such as self-help or religion.
- Also, please no dirty, scribbled-in, water-damaged, falling-apart books. If you wouldn't want to touch them, neither would we nor would our library patrons.

**A heartfelt thank you to those folks who have donated books, especially those that are in demand, for our library collection. Yes, sometimes you're able to borrow a popular book without being on a lengthy "hold" list. Come check us out !**

## Community Events

### Spring Events Downtown

Spring breaks are perfect times to bring your guests 'into town'! Aurora is a national destination (yes!) for antiques, vintage décor and our historic story. **Pick up a color map/brochure in the shops or at city hall.** From the Aurora Colony Flea on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month to our special events or just a quiet day alone, you'll find our 20+ shops and eateries something really special.

**March** – Look for the shamrocks and “Find Your Lucky Deal”.

Catch a glimpse of our shops on **Garden Time**, Saturday mornings 9-10am on Channel 12

**April 25-26 Jane Austen Tea & Faire (& Ball!)** Celebrating our beloved author and her Regency world, make plans to visit the Faire or add a real Regency style tea (4 seatings over the weekend). Details at [AuroraColony.com](http://AuroraColony.com).



Aurora Colony Handspinners' Guild ♦ 38<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Antique Spinning Wheel Showcase

March 14, 2020 ♦ 10am~4pm

March 15, 2020 ♦ Noon~4pm

Old Aurora Colony Museum  
15018 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE, Aurora, OR 97002

The Aurora Colony Handspinners' Guild welcomes all to the annual **Antique Spinning Wheel Showcase**. This event transforms the Old Aurora Colony Museum into a beehive of spinning activity. This family-friendly event features antique and historical spinning wheels, plus hands-on activities like drop spindle techniques and carding. Visitors can

watch the wheels at work and talk to their operators as they learn about the art and craft of spinning. There will be refreshments in the 1876 Steinbach Log Cabin, and all buildings of the museum will be open for viewing. See [www.auroracolony.org](http://www.auroracolony.org) for additional details.



### “Emma Day” is coming May 9

Tickets will be available soon for this year's celebration of Emma Day at the Old Aurora Colony Museum, with beloved author Jane Kirkpatrick. This year's event will feature a picnic “down by the river” at the site of Emma's parents' home! Contact the museum at 503-678-5754 to reserve a ticket, as they are limited to 100 guests.

### Parks Committee News

At its January 21 meeting, the Aurora Parks Committee voted unanimously to appoint Sunny Weidman as its youth member.

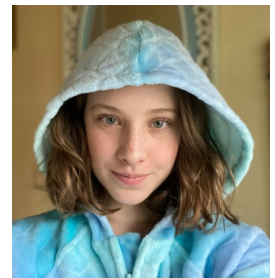
Weidman said she's wanted to be involved in city government since her mother, Tara, joined the city council just over a year ago.

“Just seeing how much she loves being a part of this wonderful community has inspired me to get involved as well,” Weidman said. “I love this little town and would like to help make it a fantastic place for all people to live. Also, I am considering a career in politics and thought this would be a great place to start!”

Weidman has grown up in Aurora and said she knows many of its younger residents, “so I could gather many youth opinions on matters.”

City Recorder W. Scott Jorgensen said he applauds Weidman's involvement in the committee.

“Sunny said during the most recent meeting that community youth are among the biggest users of the park facilities,” he said. “Having her on the committee will help ensure that that they have a strong voice. The committee members and city staff will also benefit from having that perspective represented.”



## Sheriff's Office Speed Data Available

Over the past few months, Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) set up a radar speed control sign at various intersections around town. That was done in response to citizen requests and concerns about excessive vehicle speeds in some areas. It also allowed the city to collect data, which has been submitted to city officials and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Locations were determined by input from citizens. All of the sets of data collected by the sign are available on the city's website at: <https://www.ci.aurora.or.us/community/page/sheriff's-office-speed-data-city-hall-park-main-street-locations-available>.

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

### 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**