



May / June 2020

The Aurora Colony Times

21420 Main St. NE · Aurora, OR 97002

503-266-1283 www.ci.aurora.or.us

ALL WELCOME City Meetings for May / June

Meetings in the City
Council Chambers at
7:00pm

Planning Commission
May 5
June 2

City Council
May 12
June 9

Parks Committee
May 19
June 16

Historic Review Board
May 28
June 25

Budget Committee
May 6
May 13

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

**City of Aurora
Website
www.ci.aurora.or.us**

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

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

Mayor's Corner



When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Lemonade!

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the great way you are handling the COVID-19 pandemic. From the long walks and bicycle rides to keeping social distances and limiting our interactions with others, this current new norm has been a challenge for all.

Let's all give a gigantic round of applause to all the front-line workers and first responders who put their lives and families on the line for our community. Thank you to all for assisting those who may be at a higher risk by grocery shopping, running errands and just staying connected.

The playground at the park remains accessible to use at your own discretion. Please practice safe hygiene. The restrooms will also remain open at this time. There is a box in front of City Hall for your use with food, puzzles, entertainment and diapers etc. compliments of your neighbors. Please take what you need and give what you can.

The sharing of the bears in the windows and vehicles around town is a take-off from the book "We're going on a bear hunt". All the hearts and rainbows along with the bears in the windows and porches bring cheer and smiles to those passing by. The fun chalk drawings on the sidewalk shows young artists at work. The posts on social media are great too.

At times like these we find gaps in our systems. Currently there is not a Meals-on-Wheels program in place serving the North end of Marion County. The Mayors of Donald and Hubbard, Brad Oxenford and Charles Rostocil, the Fire Chief of Aurora, Josh Williams, Pastor Craig of Christ Lutheran Church and I are collectively working together for a solution. If you know of anyone who could benefit from a service such as this please contact City Hall or me.

Just a reminder to please complete your 2020 Census if you have not already done so. Make Oregon count! The data collected during the census is used for congressional reapportionment and to determine the distribution of federal dollars. We need to make sure Oregon continues to receive the funding it deserves for the programs that help sustain our community.

City Hall has been and will continue to be open to serve you, Monday – Thursday.

Let's all "Stay Connected."

Mayor Brian Asher
mayor.ci.aurora.or.us.



Take an Armchair Historic Tour with Muffy Loves Aurora

Inspired by the Aurora 2020 "bears in the windows," Muffy VanderBear is leading Facebook posts (Muffy Loves Aurora) around our national historic district. Originally begun as something for children to look at on a walk in town, the posts plan to feature all of the district's streets this spring. On the city's website you can follow along and see many more photographs in the Historic Review Board's, Aurora Colony Historic Resources Inventory, and a short history and architectural description of EVERY property in the district.

Muffy is a small bear sold for years in Aurora and the page is written by Historic Review Board member Karen Townsend. You can see Muffy on the Townsend's door or shared on the I Love Aurora Facebook group. We would love to have any of your stories about these properties as they come up. Of particular interest, the Inventory was recently updated by Patrick Harris with an HRB federal grant, adding some historical information about original owners. To access the document, click this link:

https://www.ci.aurora.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/historic_review_board/page/857/1_final_approved_historic_inventory_2016.pdf



Parks - Past, Present and Future

Over the past couple of years, we have removed several dead or diseased trees and many dead branches to keep the fir grove safe for all to enjoy. Most of the park structures have received a new coat of paint and the Second Street bathrooms got a new roof. The focus now will turn to the inside of some of these facilities. We would like to

thank the Parks Committee for their vision of the future and the time they put into creating a safe and livable community with great parks.

Public Works

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Messages from City Council ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hello, Aurora!

As I write this, I know that we are all facing so much. So much uncertainty, fear, sadness and the enormity of the suffering many are enduring. My heart hurts for our businesses, our children unable to graduate on stage, those of us who have lost our jobs, and so many more losses I am not even aware of. These feelings are real, and I believe allowing them is important as we manage our day-to-day tasks. Mourn these losses... It is ok...



And at the same time, I see my neighbors more than I have in the past. I see children, (and adults!), making sidewalk chalk art in front of their houses. I see people jogging, biking, roller skating. I see front yards being transformed into beautiful spaces. I see many very happy dogs. :-) Amidst the pain, there is beauty. I am treasuring this time with my family, as we eat together, play games, and do art... I am holding the people I love close and using these precious slow moments to love them up. My prayer for our town is that you find some peace. We have a great many resources available to help us, and a team of incredible people working to create a safety net for the more vulnerable among us. Please reach out to our local pastors or City Hall if you have a need.

We will get through this. And my prayer is that on the other side we will take some of the lessons we have learned to create a more peaceful planet.

Pastor Craig shared this quote with me, and I will leave you with it. "Our greatest gladness meets the world's greatest need." May we find ways to lift each other up, and in doing so, create joy in our own lives. Be well.

Councilor Tara Weidman

Making Highway Crossings Safer



The wide curve of Highway 99E that cuts through Aurora has long created a bit of a barrier to an easy back-and-forth between most of our homes on the east side and most of our businesses to the west. It has put a spotlight on the existing crossings and a desire to see each of them made more visible. That is the plan.

The City is working anew with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and taking some steps of our own to make it easier for local chickens – and citizens -- to get to the other side!

On our own, we are about to locate bright colored flags on either side of the crossings at Second and at Main Street. Pedestrians can use the flags to better draw the attention of motorists on 99E. Simply take the flag from one side, wave it as you cross, then place it in a designated bin on the other side of 99E.

We view it as a low-tech, short-term solution to pedestrian safety. It is an approach that has been successfully implemented in the U.S. and abroad.

In conjunction with ODOT, we are seeking more high-tech solutions. Not all, but some of our 99E crossings' needs could be addressed with an array of flashing beacons, fresh striping and yellow warning signs. This is a necessary step as development, on both sides of 99E and throughout the City, will increase cross-highway pedestrian and bicycle at a time when highway and development projects will add more traffic to the highway.

The goal of the effort is to increase visibility and safety, not just at those crossings now most in use, but at others that are increasingly important. As you know, In Oregon, any corner is a crossing, but people who cross at Bob's Avenue or at Third see the need for better visibility. So do we.

As this project – set of projects, really – take shape, the details will be found right here.

Councilor John Berard

Together We Can Triumph Over Adversity

When I looked out my office window last month, I saw grey skies and looked down upon buildings. On occasion a hawk would stop, floating in the otherwise empty sky. I heard the muffled sound of the street below. Buses. Cars. The indistinguishable masses.

Now I look out my home office (dining room) window and I see community. I see people walking with loved ones. People jogging. I hear children playing and laughing as they race and ride bikes. I hear neighbors saying hello to neighbors. I see and hear optimistic people facing adversarial times together.

As I write this, I look out my home office window and I see you, Aurora. I see you brave these uncertain times. I see you find the good.

Like many in our community, I am juggling working from home with my new role as teacher's assistant (I can confidently say I will not be awarded teacher of the year) and stay at home mom. I am fortunate though, I have my health and my job. My family has food to eat and books to read. We have access to the internet and the boys' school has provided them with Chromebooks and online learning opportunities. We are fortunate and grateful.

Yet, like many in our community, I worry. I worry for the health of my grandmother and the elderly in our community. I worry for the unemployed, the underemployed, and those struggling to meet their basic needs in our community. But I find comfort when I look out my home office window and I see you, Aurora.

For the past few years, the City of Aurora has been working in partnership with Pastor Craig Johnson, the North Marion school district, community members and service providers to establish the North Marion Service Team (NMST). NMST is a non-profit organization modeled after service integration teams and its mission is to connect individuals and families in North Marion County with resources and service providers. If you or your family need help to get through these times, NMST may be able to assist you. NMST has compiled a resource guide; copies are available for pick up at City Hall and online at: <http://www.clcaurora.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NORTH-MARION-Resource-List-Online.pdf>. Our partners periodically post information about resources on our Facebook, and I encourage everyone in our community to like North Marion Service Team on Facebook to help us all stay informed about resources available to our community. If you need assistance finding resources available to you or your family, please email me at mfeely@ci.aurora.or.us

So many of us are also looking for ways we can help. The North Marion School District is working to get books in the hands of students. The library is donating books and the City of Aurora asks any community members who are able to join in this effort to drop off **new or gently used books** at City Hall through May 31. Other resources which your community needs right now are **shampoo, conditioner, shower soap, diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene products**. If you are looking for a way to help right now, please purchase one or two of these products and drop them off at City Hall. NMST will facilitate distributing them to families in need.

You are a gem, Aurora. Thank you

Councilor Rhoden-Feely



Social Distancing Vs Social Interaction



Social Interaction is as important (possibly more!) to your health as social distancing is in these difficult times. Simply put—People need People! Weather permitting get out and walk, maintain your distance and wear a mask. ENGAGE your neighbors, friends and, yes, even strangers. This might be an opportunity to meet your next best friend! Small gatherings, outdoors with appropriate space (100 sq ft per person) is still within reason. Call your friends and relatives and loved ones out of the area

more often, especially those that are housebound or elderly. Use Facetime if available—if you don't know how, **Learn.**

Be creative in your relationships, the habits and practices you develop now will serve you well into the future.

For more on this topic visit <https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/maintaining-human-connection-in-time-of-social-distancing>

Finally, for all you car guys and gals within earshot, use some of this down time to get those classic cars, hot rods, or whatever vehicles you love freshened up and out of the garage! Drive them! You will make my day if I see them cruise by and if you do, please slow down and honk between Bobs and 3rd street on Liberty! If my shop door is open or I'm out stop, I promise I'll keep my distance!

Councilor Tom Heitmanek, Position 4



Although the North Marion Community Library, presently located in the basement of the Aurora Presbyterian Church, 21553 Liberty St. NE, Aurora, remains closed for the foreseeable future, library volunteers are teaming with the North Marion PTO, the Backpack Buddies program, and others to provide donated books for North Marion students and their families. When the library reopens, we'll post the news on our Facebook page, and to the Facebook pages of Hubbard, Aurora, and Donald, so stay tuned!

If you currently have books checked out from the library, rest assured that you're not getting any overdue fines. Once we reopen, you'll receive an email message reminding you what books you have that need to be returned. Any questions? Send them to nmarionlibrary@gmail.com.

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

Mary Lambert, Finance/Court Clerk
finance@ci.aurora.or.us

Tammy Grimes, Administrative Specialist
assistant@ci.aurora.or.us

Mark Gunter, Public Works Superintendent
pws@ci.aurora.or.us

City Council Contact/Information

Mayor Brian Asher – mayor@ci.aurora.or.us

Councilor Berard – jberard@ci.aurora.or.us

Councilor Feely – mfeely@ci.aurora.or.us

Councilor Heitmanek – theitmanek@ci.aurora.or.us

Councilor Weidman – 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

Aurora/Marion County Police Department

Anonymous Tip Line: 503-540-8079

Non Emergency: 503-588-5032

Emergency: Dial 911