



# 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 Jan. / Feb.

Meetings in the City  
Council Chambers at  
7:00pm

### Planning Commission

Jan. 5  
Feb. 2

### City Council

Jan. 12  
Feb. 9

### Parks Committee

Jan. 19  
Feb. 16

### Historic Review Board

Jan. 26  
Feb. 23

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

As we come to the close of a year that has been full of challenges and hardship, I want to take a moment to reflect on these past months. It's hard to believe that we have been living through the corona virus pandemic since the early days of 2020.

Many of us are separated from our loved ones and perhaps struggling to find something, anything to be grateful for. As distanced as we may be, we are more connected than ever because of all we have individually & collectively endured.

This holiday season looked a lot different than any of us wanted or planned, but I've been inspired by all the ways the community of Aurora has found to support each other, stay connected and keep each other safe throughout this difficult time. We'll get through this; we just need to hang in there for a while longer.

With the short days and darkness coming very early in the afternoon many of you are walking in the dark and it has come to our attention that you are not very visible. Please wear light-colored, reflective clothing or carry a flashlight or headlamp. These safety measures are very simple and will help with visibility and your safety, especially at night.

At the end of this month Councilman Tom Heitmanek will complete his term on the City Council. Please join me in thanking him for his hard work and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Another unsung hero is Nick Kaiser. He has volunteered many hours representing the airport noise abatement committee, planning commission, budget & parks committees, and served as mayor. Thank you for your dedication.

We are looking for a person to fill the airport noise abatement position. If you are interested please contact us at city hall.

2021 is fast approaching & it couldn't get here soon enough! The New Year can mark an opportunity to set New Year's resolutions, or a change for a fresh beginning. As we adjust to a next normal, masks and all, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccines are coming!

Keep all the positive thoughts and actions for into the New Year.  
Brian Asher, Mayor



## Notice of Budget Committee Vacancies

The City of Aurora has two vacancies for three-year terms on its Budget Committee.

- The committee typically has two to four meetings between late April and early June to examine and approve the city's projected revenues and expenses for the fiscal year that begins on July 1st. It is a great way to be involved in your local government.

Potential applicants must be registered to vote in the City of Aurora and cannot be an officer, agent or employee of the city. To apply, please send a letter of interest to city hall or email Mary at [finance@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:finance@ci.aurora.or.us).



## Upcoming City Hall Closures

Monday, January 18, 2021 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 15, 2021—President's Day



## MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JOE KAST, SHERIFF

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Marion County Sheriff's Office.**

At the request of our friends and neighbors in Aurora, I will have members from the Marion County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Unit (CRU) at the next Council meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the implementation of Neighbor Watch programs in our town. I would encourage anyone interested in joining a Neighborhood Watch to attend the meeting in-person or by phone to learn more.

Thefts from vehicles in and around the City of Aurora have continued to be a problem. This is a reminder to remove valuables from your vehicles or keep them out of plain view when left in the vehicle. Also, LOCK YOUR DOORS... this goes for your vehicles, homes, out building/ sheds etc... Bags of cans and other items of value should not be left in plain view from the street. If possible please place these items behind a fenced area or covered and out of view.

With the shorter days and cold weather coming more folks will want to warm-up their vehicles before leaving. Don't forget to lock doors when warming up vehicles (please don't lock your keys in your car). Vehicles left unattended while warming up are easy targets for car thieves. Also, with the daylight hours being shorter please check and make sure your exterior lights are in good working order. Lighting is a good deterrent from unwanted persons coming onto your property.

As always, if you see something suspicious please don't hesitate to call 911, or if you feel it's not an emergency please call the Marion County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at 503-588-5032. You can also contact your local deputy, Bill Ovchinnikov at 503-991-7055.

Thank You,

Deputy Bill Ovchinnikov  
Marion County Sheriff's Office



### **Aurora Community Preparedness**

Over the past 10 months around the nation and here locally we have seen that in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, emergency services can easily be overwhelmed and unable to respond to most calls. This is compounded by the fact that Aurora is a rural community. In the case of a long-term or wide spread disaster, such as a major earthquake or prolonged power outage, we may be on our own for several months or longer. Because of this, we must be able take care of ourselves and our community until outside help arrives.

We are Aurora Community Preparedness, and our mission is to educate the people of Aurora on emergency preparedness, coordinate with and provide resources to the town in the event of a disaster.

In coordination with the city, we are planning public events and programs to educate the citizens and grow our organization. These events range from CPR/First Aid, gardening and canning, Survival skills, HAM radio communications, food & water storage, and more. These skills will help the citizens of Aurora prepare themselves and build a culture of preparedness for the community.

Another objective is to help the people of Aurora grow closer and stronger as a community through the Map Your Neighborhood Program. This can help identify people with extra or special needs that require more care, as well as people with vitally essential skills – i.e., medical, engineering, food preservation etc. Aurora Community Preparedness seeks to foster a community that is ready and resilient. If you are interested in getting involved or preparing your family, please contact us. We are on Facebook @ Aurora Community Preparedness Team, or email us – [aurorapreparedness@gmail.com](mailto:aurorapreparedness@gmail.com)

Working together will give our citizens the best chance to make it through a disaster.

Thank you.

## Dear Aurora

It is with very mixed emotions that I leave the office of City Council President. It has been something over 5 years that I have been one of your Councilors. This time has been rewarding, challenging, and at times, frustrating. Much like life! When questioned over the last couple years if I would run for office again I've answered "if someone steps up who wants my position that I believe will do as good or better job, will fit well with the council and staff, and will make informed contributions to the city, I would support them". I believe Wendy Veliz meets all that criteria and more. She will be an asset to the council and our city.

I will not rule out public service in the future but for the short term I am going to enjoy being Tom Heitmanek, private citizen. I will attend some council meetings and contribute where I can. It is my intent to stay involved with improving Aurora City / Aurora Airport relations in any way possible. I believe the Airport is crucial to the long term economic health of the city and surrounding community. I am more than happy to discuss this topic with anyone interested.

We truly do have an amazing city government going into 2021. The city staff is seasoned and work well as a team. The Council, Planning Commission, and Historic Review Board all face some very difficult challenges involving growth and infrastructure. As a community I encourage you to get involved and interact with your elected and appointed officials. Please remember they are ALL volunteers and put forth a great deal of time and effort (and no small amount of personal finances) towards keeping our town running efficiently and with fiscal responsibility.

Thanks for a great ride!

Sincerely,

Tom Heitmanek



## Colony Museum News

### All Hands on Deck!

**Monday, January 18, 2021, from 10am to 2pm. "ish"**

The Old Aurora Colony Museum invites you to spend your "Day of Service" with us. We are planning to be digging deep, behind, in and around our exhibits for a deep-cleaning. We will have all materials needed, but you may bring your own gloves and a mask. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this team. We will be limiting numbers in accordance with current Covid restrictions. Thank you!

### Board Members Needed!

The Aurora Colony Historical Society is searching for a few people who would like to serve a term on the Society's Board of Directors. Most urgently needed is someone who would like to serve as the treasurer. We need a few members who are willing to attend meetings, serve on a committee, bring fresh ideas as well as help with the old ones. The ideal candidates will work well with others and desire to help the Aurora Colony Historical Society continue its forward motion with the Preservation and Research of the Aurora Colony. We would also value those with ideas to help us stay relevant to the current Aurora Community. If you would like to be considered, please contact us via email: [info@auroracolony.org](mailto:info@auroracolony.org). Check out our website for more information: [www.auroracolony.org](http://www.auroracolony.org)

Christina Leder,  
Program and Event Coordinator  
[christina@auroracolony.org](mailto:christina@auroracolony.org)  
Old Aurora Colony Museum  
(503) 678-5754





## The Gift Shop is Open

at the

## Old Aurora Colony Museum

**GIFT SHOP HOURS**  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays  
2<sup>nd</sup> & Liberty Streets, Aurora, Oregon

Gift Shop  
10% off  
with ad  
thru  
Jan. 31

Books by Jane Kirkpatrick,  
handcrafted items, Aurora  
Colony cookie cutters and  
cookbooks, and much more

**FOR COVID MUSEUM TOUR & EVENT UPDATES:**  
 @oldauroracolonymuseum [www.auroracolony.org](http://www.auroracolony.org) 503.678.5754



## Come visit the North Marion Community Library!

Yes, we're open Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. There is lots of new fiction, thought-provoking non-fiction, as well as books for toddlers to young adults. You can come in person to browse (with face coverings, social distancing, two patrons at a time) or go online to our catalog ([northmarionlibrary.org](http://northmarionlibrary.org)) and place a hold. If the item you want is available, we'll contact you, pull the book(s), and have it available for you to pick up during Saturday hours. If the library is closed, you can get books from the little library kiosks in the Aurora city park as well as near the corner of Walnut and Filbert. Take a book, leave a book; just be sure that what you leave is a title someone may want to read and is only gently used.

Our holiday greens fundraiser raised more funds for the library than ever before! A heartfelt thank you to all who ordered greens from us, as well as all the helping hands who made it all possible.

### 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 503-409-1434 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: Saturday : 10– 4 pm

### Colony Museum Hours

Currently only the Gift Shop is open  
Thursday—Saturday 11:00 am—4:00 pm  
The Museum is closed for all major holidays.



### City of Aurora Contact Information

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

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

**Stuart A. Rodgers, 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 J. 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 Veliz – [wveliz@ci.aurora.or.us](mailto:wveliz@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**