

The Aurora Colony Times

21420 Main St. NE · Aurora, OR 97002
503-266-1283 www.ci.aurora.or.us

**ALL WELCOME
City Meetings for
Jan. / Feb**

Meetings in the City
Council Chambers at
7:00pm

Planning Commission

Jan. 4
Feb. 1

City Council

Jan. 11
Feb. 8

Parks Committee

Jan. 18
Feb. 15

Historic Review Board

Jan. 25
Feb. 22

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

**City of Aurora
Website**

www.ci.aurora.or.us

Mayor's Corner

We hope that each and every one had a wonderful holiday time with family and friends.

Big thanks to everyone who came and participated in Aurora's first annual Christmas tree lighting, including all the participating local churches, White Rabbit Bakery and volunteers.

What a good time for all. The Giving Tree tags just flew off the tree, and City Hall was overwhelmed with the gifts the residents shared for the North Marion children. This is what makes Aurora so special. We help each other, show up when we are needed, and give what we can freely. I am so proud to be a part of this incredible community. From all of us Thank you.

Meeting Aurora's Long-Term Infrastructure Needs

Aurora's water and sewer systems play an essential role in the health and wellbeing of our community.

Tuesday, January 11th at 6:30 at the fire station, there will be a presentation to the community on the prospective Infrastructure Bond. Please come to learn and ask questions as to what the bond will do for our city's long term future.

As I am writing this the rain and cold (snow) mean winter is here. Take a little extra time to think before you leap into your next move. Drive slower and look out for others.

Let's also keep an eye out for your neighbors who may need some assistance. If you know of anybody that could use some help please reach out to City Hall or myself.

Mayor Brian Asher



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

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



I would like to thank everyone for attending our First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting! It was wonderful seeing everyone enjoy the treats, music, Santa, and of course the beautiful tree! Thank you so much to our local churches and volunteers for your generosity which made the event so special. It was heartwarming to see our community together and enjoying each other's company. We hope to have more events which bring us together throughout the year: stay tuned!

It appears that we should make this an annual event based on how much fun was had, so plan on attending again next year on the day after Thanksgiving! If you haven't seen the tree lit up at night, be sure to check it out next to the pavilion at the park!

I would also like to thank everyone who participated in our Giving Tree event this year. I am in awe and humbled by how our community showed up to help our North Marion children. The toy and gift pile outgrew an office in City Hall and had to be moved to Council chambers! What an incredible outpouring of love and generosity! This is what makes Aurora so special. We help each other, show up when we are needed, and give what we can freely. I am so proud to be a part of this incredible community of people. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Councilor Tara Weidman



Aurora Fire
District No. 63

VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS & SUPPORT WANTED!

Do you or someone you know want to serve their community?

Aurora Fire District is seeking dedicated members of the community to respond to emergencies and assist with community events. No previous experience or training required. All training is provided at no cost. Volunteers can become firefighters, EMT's or Support members. It all begins with an interest card. We look forward to helping you serve your community.

Please visit www.aurorafire.org for more information!

Scan the QR code to learn more and fill out an interest card.



Your community needs you, and we need you too!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



OLD AURORA COLONY MUSEUM JOIN US IN MAKING HISTORY

Explore the possibilities at our

Volunteer Open House

10:00AM - 11:30AM

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Will Family Preservation & Research Center



21555 Main St. NE

(Located Behind Tin & Paisley)

AURORACOLONY.ORG/VOLUNTEER

Notice of Budget Committee Vacancy



The City of Aurora has a vacancy for a three-year term on its Budget Committee. The term is from January 2022 thru December 2024..

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 Lambert at finance@ci.aurora.or.us. Council will appoint the new member at the January 11, 2022 meeting.



A heartfelt thank you to all who supported the North Marion Community Library's holiday greens fundraiser!

Besides generating funds for your local community library—think new books and paying for the library to keep functioning in its present space at the Aurora Presbyterian Church—we also connected with our neighbors and perhaps introduced some of them to the library. And can we dream a little here? Looking to the future, perhaps some of the funds we've raised this year will go towards outfitting a library presence in the new Aurora city hall.

New Year's Day closure: The library remains open most Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but we will be CLOSED on Saturday, January 1, 2022.

It's never too late to volunteer your time and talents for the library: we are looking for folks to help staff the library (which may mean more days/times open), or who are willing to participate in fundraisers, can help with social media or technology, or even just brainstorm ways to attract new patrons or recruit volunteers. Make it a New Year's resolution to contact the library by email (nmarionlibrary@gmail.com) or come by the library when we're open.

Preparing for a More Resilient Future 2022 Public Works Bond Headed to Voters

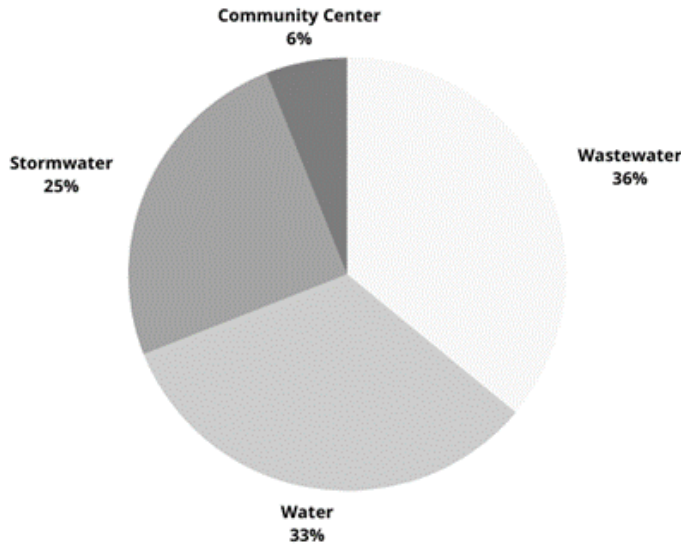
The City Council is planning to refer a bond measure in February for the May 2022 ballot. This bond would **replace** the existing wastewater bond to fund the continued maintenance and modernization of the City's water and wastewater systems, and a community center.

The original wastewater bond passed in 1997 and funded construction of our wastewater system. This bond will be fully repaid in 2024. Built in part by residents, maintained by the City, and supported by taxpayers, our wastewater system has served residents well for the past 20 years.

The current bond has provided services for Aurora through its growth from a city of roughly 400 people to more than 1,100.

The City has been planning for the 2022 bond for years, prioritizing: wastewater, water, stormwater, and a community center. A breakdown of the projects is as follows:

Aurora Capital Improvement Projects



The proposed projects address shortcomings in the City's infrastructure and facilities, recently highlighted by extreme weather events. The September 2020 wildfires showed how we will likely face greater fire danger and need more water capacity to protect the community. The February 2021 ice storms and extreme heat in June 2021 highlighted the importance of an emergency shelter for residents who are unable to shelter in place during extreme weather.

Additionally, the proposed projects will allow the City to:

- Avoid a maintenance backlog as costs get higher to maintain a failing system;
- Increase capacity to meet the needs of our current population and business demands;
- Ensure water supply, storage, and delivery.

If passed, the new bond will **replace** the current bond as it expires, retaining historic property tax rates. It will cost property owners an estimated \$3.00 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If the bond does not pass, the existing tax would no longer be assessed and proposed improvement projects could be deferred or eliminated.

Please visit www.ci.aurora.or.us/bond to learn more about the upcoming bond.



Upcoming City Hall Closures

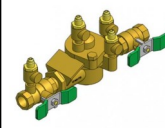
- Monday January 3, 2022 - New Year's Day Holiday
- Monday, January 17, 2022 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, February 21, 2022 - President's Day





Update Your Contact Info

If you've had a change of contact information (email address, landline, or cell phone number) please provide City Hall with current contact information. It is important for the City to have good contact information to be able to reach residents in the event of an emergency. Thank you !



Backflow Testing

If you have a backflow device and haven't had it tested yet this year, please have it done soon! A list of current testers is available at City Hall and is also on the City website.

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

Thursday-Saturday 11:00 am - 4:00 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

Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder
recorder@ci.aurora.or.us

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

Tammy J. 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 Veliz – wveliz@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