



A community newsletter serving the Town of Aurora including: Jewettville, Griffins Mills, West Falls, South Wales and East Aurora.

Visit our website for more information:

www.townofaurora.com

THE AURORED

Fourth Edition

FALL/WINTER 2013

TOWN HALL

Southside Municipal Ctr.
300 Glead Avenue
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-7590

TOWN BOARD

Jolene M. Jeffe
Town Supervisor
supervisor@townofaurora.com
652-7590

James J. Bach
Town Councilman
jbach@townofaurora.com
652-8800 or 867-0290

James F. Collins
Town Councilman
jcollins@townofaurora.com
652-4203

Susan A. Friess
Town Councilwoman
sfriess@townofaurora.com
655-6068

Jeffrey T. Harris
Town Councilman
jharris@townofaurora.com
714-9601



Dear Aurora Resident:

It is hard to believe that my four years as Supervisor are coming to a close. While I am sad to see it end, I am looking forward to handing the responsibilities off to such an honorable and hard-working person as Mr. James Bach. Please know that I will do everything I can to aid in the transition over the next several months and, as Councilwoman, still be available to assist any way I can. I would like to highlight a few happenings in the Town since our last newsletter.

Financial Update

We adopted the 2014 budget at the November 12 Town Board meeting. For the third year in a row, we remained well under the NYS tax cap. We controlled taxes by continuing to evaluate staffing and to take advantage of opportunities to streamline our operations. The Adopted Budget, in its entirety, is available on our website at www.townofaurora.com.

Technology—Website

If you have visited our website recently, you may have noticed that we completed the transition to a new host and the site has an entirely new look. It is easier to navigate and is much more user friendly. Further, we will

have the capability to search by key word through such things as meeting minutes or for specific topics of interest.

Grants

As we continue to find ways to do more with less, we have tried to take advantage of several grant opportunities. First, we are now on the list for a State Recycling Grant that will provide a 50% reimbursement on approved expenditures related to recycling in the Town. While there is a several-year waiting period, we are now in the cycle for reimbursement related to the recent recycling truck purchase. Second, I am pleased to say that the Town was recently awarded a State Archives grant for over \$35,000. Thank you to Town Clerk Martha Librock for her efforts to put together this successful application. Lastly, we are waiting to learn if we were successful in obtaining a Community Development Block Grant for the Senior Center. We submitted an application for over \$78,000 of improvements. Thank you to Donna Bodekor for working diligently to complete this application. We are hopeful that our application will be viewed favorably and that we will be able to make these needed improvements in 2014.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season!

Supervisor Jolene M. Jeffe

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Our leaf cleanup crews have finished for the year. Just as a reminder regarding your weekly trash pickup: Waste Management will take small brush piles if they are neatly bundled and are no more than 4 feet long. They will also take bagged-up yard waste with your regular pickup.

As winter approaches, please be cautious around our snow plows. They will be working hard to keep our Town roads clear.

A note from our Dog Control Officer:

Make sure your dog always wears a collar with identification on it. Many times we have

difficulty locating a pet owner because there are no tags on a dog. Microchips are helpful too, should the dog manage to get its collar off. Check with your veterinarian about getting your pet microchipped. To help us get your dog home safely, please be sure to report if your dog runs away. You can call the Highway Department at 652-4050 during business hours or the police department any other time.

Did you know that the Erie County Department of Health offers FREE rabies clinics throughout the year? Check out their website at www.erie.gov/health (click on 'rabies' under Hot Topics) for further information.

SENIOR CENTER:

Donna Bodekor, Senior Rec. Leader

The Town of Aurora Senior Center is again busy with our fall/winter programs and activities. One suggestion recently proposed is to offer chair volleyball. We hope to begin after January 1st and will be looking for players, so let us know if you are interested. As always stop or call Monday thru Friday for additional program information.

We are very excited about our application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the possibility of new exercise equipment coming to the center. The good news is that we are busy and have put many miles on the treadmills to warrant new equipment. In the grant, we also requested funding for a new generator to provide for the needs of the Town residents in case of emergency. Please be aware that the Senior Center is the designated emergency site for the Town and all are welcome if the emergency need arises.

Our center is also looking for volunteers. If you have an extra hour or two to spare, please consider signing up. Give us a call or just stop in.

On another note, many of the seniors in our community have a bit of difficulty when the snow flies and could use assistance when shoveling their sidewalks. If you have a neighbor, especially one who lives alone, please check on them. A little good will goes a long way!

PARKS & RECREATION:

Peggy Cooke, Dir. Of Parks & Recreation

In an effort to continually find better ways to serve the public, we implemented online registration more than two years ago. It has proven to be very successful. Families are able to review the program offerings and register at their convenience, with an average of 50% of the programs now being registered online. This convenience has led to an increase in program participation and the up-to-date reports, rosters, notices, and email blasts have reduced postage and time, allowing us to offer more programs without increasing staff. For those who prefer to do business in person, the Recreation Office can be accessed by entering at the back of the building at 300 Glead Ave. Door #5.

Independent Health and BCBS both offer family plans that include wellness cards that cover the cost of many of our programs, such as Community Pool memberships and day camp. If you are not sure about your plan, just call or come in.

Another service we provide is the Senior Citizen Going Places Van, which is funded by the Town, Erie County, and rider donations. The van is available to seniors over 60 who do not otherwise have transportation and live in the Town of Aurora or Elma. Medical appointments are the priority, followed by grocery shopping, hair appointments and social events. Detailed information and scheduling is conveniently accessed by calling 652-8866 Mon—Fri, 8:30 am—4:30 pm.

Thank you from Councilman Collins

Dear Aurora Residents,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Councilman for the past five years. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this community.

I am thankful to have worked with such a great Town Board whose decisions were always based on the best interests of our residents.

Together we accomplished a great deal with creative solutions and operational efficiencies.

To my friends, neighbors, and citizens of our great Town and Village, thank you!

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

Thelma Hornberger, Assessor

Exemptions Application Deadline:

March 1st

It is that time of the year when all exemptions are being collected and processed. We have mailed out the renewal applications, so, if you didn't receive one or have misplaced it, please call or stop in for a new one. We can only accept applications until March 1st for the coming tax year so don't miss out!

New Basic STAR information:

New this year is the registration for Basic STAR with the NYS Taxation and Finance Department. Anyone who was receiving the Basic STAR should have received a registration form by now. If you haven't, you need to contact Taxation and Finance at 518-457-2036 or visit the website www.tax.ny.gov. You have until December 31, 2013 to register in order to continue receiving the STAR exemption for 2014 and subsequent years.

Building Department

Patrick Blizniak, Superintendent of Building

The Building Department welcomes Liz Cassidy to our office staff, which also includes Patrick Blizniak, Superintendent of Building and Code Enforcement Officer William Kramer.

Important Update

In April of this year, a new Recreation Vehicle code was adopted by the Town of Aurora. In essence, it allows one recreation vehicle (RV), travel or camping trailer, to be stored on a lot upon which a dwelling has been lawfully erected or in an enclosed permanent building on such lot, provided the trailer is owned by the occupant of the premises. While it is in storage, the RV is not to be used or occupied for sleeping or dwelling purposes and shall not be connected to electric, sewer, water or other utilities. The code identifies the specific required distances from lot lines and the road right-of-way for seasonal storage (April 15—October 15) and off-season storage (October 15—April 15).

Please feel free to review this Town Code in its entirety on our website at www.townofaurora.com or call the Building Department office at 652-7591.



Receiver of Taxes:

Barbara Halt

The Town of Aurora Tax Office collects Town/County and School taxes. Here are some important dates and other information for your reference:

- Town/County bills are mailed Jan. 15 and payment is due Feb. 15.
- School tax bills are mailed Sept. 15 and payment is due Oct. 15.

Please remember:

- Village Taxes are collected by the Village of East Aurora at 571 Main St.
- Sometimes tax bills do get lost in the mail, but the property owner is still responsible for the tax so watch for your bills around the dates above.
- If you wait until the last day to mail your tax payment, please stand in line at the post office and have your envelope hand cancelled/post marked by a postal employee. In accordance with Real Property Tax Law, payments bearing a US postal mark of a day or more later than the tax due date must be charge a penalty. Postage machine meter marks are not acceptable and penalties can not be waived.
- Online banking for tax payments is discouraged by most banks because they cannot guarantee your payment will be delivered to our office by the due date. If you utilize online banking, do so at your own risk. Also make sure your payment is being sent to our current Gleed Avenue address.
- Credit cards can now be used for payment of taxes. Please note that there is a convenience fee/service charge of 2.45% on the amount being paid.

Questions? Call 652-7596 or email tax@townofaurora.com at any time.

Town Clerk:

Martha Librock, Town Clerk

October 1, 2013 marked the one-year anniversary of the Town offices moving to the Southside Municipal Center (300 Gleed Avenue). Most residents coming in for Town business have given positive feed-back on the new location. Easy access to our offices is through door #2 or the main entrance. The Town Clerk's office is enjoying the open space and much-needed storage.

During the past year, the Clerk's office began accepting credit card payments for dog licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, birth and death certificate and other items. There is a \$3 convenience fee/service charge for purchases up to \$122. Purchases over \$122 incur a 2.45% fee/charge.

2014 will bring about several changes in the Town Clerk's office. The tax collection duties will now be the responsibility of the Town Clerk (the result of a 2012 referendum that was approved by the voters to consolidate the duties of Tax Receiver into the Town Clerk's office). Although there will be a shift in responsibilities, the faces will remain the same. Barb Halt will (*Continued below*)

Are you interested in serving on the Town Board?

Have you ever considered serving your community by serving on the Town Board? We would like to hear from anyone who wishes to be considered for appointment as Town Councilman to fill Supervisor-elect Jim Bach's vacancy. Please submit your resume or letter of interest, by **Dec. 18**, to the Supervisor at 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY 14052 or via email to jjeffe@townofaurora.com. The initial appointment is for one (1) year ending December 31, 2014.

TOWN HISTORIAN:

Robert Lowell Goller, Historian

Concerned that the history of New York was in danger of being lost following World War I, the State Legislature approved—and Governor Alfred E. Smith signed—the “Historian’s Law” in 1919. The law, which is still in effect today, requires each city, town and village in the state to designate an official historian to preserve valuable local records, advise government officials, and serve as a resource for research and as an advocate for the community’s heritage.

Politically non-partisan, the Historian serves both the Village and Town and is appointed by the Village Mayor and Town Supervisor. Aurora has had eight historians since the law was enacted in 1919.

In Aurora, the Historian oversees the Town Archives, which are located in the Southside Municipal Center along with the Aurora Historical Society’s History Museum. The Archives, which are open for research each Friday from 1-4 p.m. and by special appointment, include family history files, obituaries, cemetery records, photographs and searchable digital files, including issues of the East Aurora Advertiser dating back to 1872.

The “Historian’s Law” requires the Historian to file an annual report each January. The annual report summarizes the official activities of the Historian, as well as statistical data regarding the research center and archives. Annual reports for the past several years are available on the Historian’s page on the town website: www.townofaurora.com/departments/historian, along with additional information about the resources that are available in the Town Historian’s Office.

Town Clerk (*continued*): be appointed as Deputy Town Clerk and we will continue to provide residents with the same professional and friendly service they have come to know and expect. In the coming year, we look to provide on-line access to Town tax bill information with the possibility of on-line tax payments. Our records storage room should be completed in late spring of 2014. This is being made possible with a grant received from the NYS Archives. Also in 2014, the New York State DEC will be rolling out a new hunting/fishing licensing program. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the Town’s website.

As always, we are happy to accommodate residents with after-hours appointments for marriage licenses and other Town business. There are two Notaries Public on staff— myself and Deputy Town Clerk Sheryl Miller. If you have any questions or concerns, please call 652-3280 or email townclerk@townofaurora.com.



TOWN OF AURORA
 Southside Municipal Center
 300 Glead Avenue
 East Aurora, NY 14052

PRE-SORTED STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 EAST AURORA, NY
 PERMIT NO. 47

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

Town Hall, 300 Glead Avenue
 Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am—4:30 pm
 Phone: (716)652-0011
 assessor@townofaurora.com

BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

Town Hall, 300 Glead Avenue
 Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am—4:30 pm
 Phone: (716)652-7591
 building@townofaurora.com

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Highway Garage: 251 Quaker Road
 Office Hours: M-F, 7:00 am—3:30 pm
 Phone: (716)652-4050
 highway@townofaurora.com

PARKS & RECREATION:

Town Hall, 300 Glead Avenue
 Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am—4:30 pm
 Phone: (716)652-8866
 recreation@townofaurora.com
 www.aurorarec.com

SENIOR CENTER:

Senior Center, 101 King Street
 Office Hours: M-F, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
 Phone: (716)652-7934
 seniorcenter@townofaurora.com

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE:

Town Hall, 300 Glead Avenue
 Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am—4:30 pm
 Phone: (716)652-7590
 supervisor@townofaurora.com

TAX OFFICE:

Town Hall, 300 Glead Avenue
 Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am—4:30 pm
 Phone: (716)652-7596
 tax@townofaurora.com

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE:

Town Hall, 300 Glead Avenue
 Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am—4:30 pm
 Phone: (716)652-3280
 townclerk@townofaurora.com

TOWN HISTORIAN:

Town Hall, 300 Glead Avenue
 Office Hours: Friday, 1 pm—4 pm
 Phone: (716)652-7944
 historian@townofaurora.com

*****ECRWSS*****
TOWN OF AURORA RESIDENT
EAST AURORA, NY 14052

THE AUROREDAN

Fourth Edition
 FALL/WINTER



MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES
 ARE POSTED ON
 WWW.TOWNOFAURORA.COM

Welcome to the fourth edition of the 'Aurorand'. We have included updates from many of the departments that we expect you will find beneficial and informative.

We hope to see you at one of our Town Board meetings and would like to hear from you. Be sure to keep this newsletter handy for future reference.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Jolene Jeffe
 Town Supervisor

Town Board Meetings

The Town Board meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 300 Glead Ave., 7pm. All are welcome.

Zoning Board Meetings

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets the third Thursday of the month at 300 Glead Ave., 7pm.

Planning Board Meetings

The Planning Board meets the first Wednesday of the month at 300 Glead Ave., 7pm.

Town Work Sessions

The Town Board meets the third Tuesday of the month at 300 Glead Ave., 7pm, for a work session. This is a less formal meeting which the public is invited to attend.

Visit the Town of Aurora website for additional meeting information, times and locations, and Notices of Public Hearings.

www.townofaurora.com