

# Crossroads

## Village of North Aurora Newsletter

2023 / 2024  
December / January



## From the Mayor's Desk

Season's greetings, North Aurora! As we wrap up 2023 and look to the future, this seemed like a wonderful time of the year to introduce you to the updated version of the Village's newsletter! We strive to provide our community with the information about our events, programs and initiatives and we are delighted to be able to highlight even more of these items for you going forward.

While I'm speaking of wonderful things to highlight, I would like to invite you to join me in donating to the [Village's Holiday Food Drive](#) to benefit the Aurora Area Inter-faith Food Pantry. It is a wonderful feeling to give back and help those in need and I love seeing our community come together. Donations can be dropped off at Village Hall through Monday, December 18 in the lobby.

This time of year always fills me with such joy as I reflect back on all the many things I am thankful for and all of the wonderful and new things to come. We have accomplished much this year in the Village — community events with a bevy of new ones, a successful road program and other infrastructure improvements, business and residential growth, a continued excellent financial rating, just to name a few — and 2024 is looking even brighter. I wish you and yours a wonderful and warm holiday season and a happy new year!

Mark Gaffino, North Aurora Village President



## Village Calendar

**Dec. 4:** Village Board and COW

**Dec. 5:** Plan Commission

**Dec. 11:** North Aurora Days Committee

**Dec. 15:** Nominations for Holiday Decoration Program close

**Dec. 18:** Village Board and COW

**Dec. 18:** Last day to donate to holiday food drive

**Jan. 8:** North Aurora Days Committee

**Jan. 10:** Coffee with a Cop

**Jan. 12:** Business Scavenger Hunt

**Jan. 12:** Last day to recycle holiday lights

**Jan. 15:** Village Board and COW

**Jan. 15:** Beautification Committee

**Jan. 24:** Public Works Open House

## Village Hall Closed

**Dec. 25 & 26:** Christmas Holiday

**Jan. 1 & 2:** New Year's Holiday



**North Aurora Village Hall:** 25 East State St. | 630-897-8228  
**North Aurora Police:** 200 S. Lincolnway | 630-897-8705  
**Website:** [www.northaurora.org](http://www.northaurora.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/villageofnorthaurora](http://www.facebook.com/villageofnorthaurora)

December 2023 / January 2024

## Village Board

Village Board and COW Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 7:00 pm.

Plan Commission meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

All meetings are held at the North Aurora Village Hall (unless otherwise posted).

Mayor Mark Gaffino  
mgaffino@northaurora.org

Trustee Jason Christiansen  
jchristiansen@northaurora.org

Trustee Laura Curtis  
lcurtis@northaurora.org

Trustee Mark Guethle  
mguethle@northaurora.org

Trustee Michael Lowery  
mlowery@northaurora.org

Trustee Todd Niedzwiedz  
niedzwiedz@northaurora.org

Trustee Carolyn Bird Salazar  
csalazar@northaurora.org

Village Clerk Jessi Watkins  
jwatkins@northaurora.org

## Village Departments

Steve Bosco, *Village Administrator*  
sbosco@northaurora.org

Nathan Darga, *Community Development Director*  
ndarga@northaurora.org

Jason Paprocki, *Finance Director*  
jpaprocki@northaurora.org

Brian Richter, *Public Works Director*  
brichter@northaurora.org

Joe DeLeo, *Police Chief*  
jdeleo@northaurora.org

Natalie Stevens, *Community & Board Relations Coordinator*  
nstevens@northaurora.org

Mike Toth, *Business & Administrative Services Manager*  
mtoth@northaurora.org

# Business Scavenger Hunt

We're leaping right into the new year with a brand new Village event for all of our community riddle solvers, local business supporters, and adventure seekers! Starting on **January 17, 2024**, we will be releasing **10 riddles** on the Village website and Facebook that will lead you to 10 business in town. Full details of the hunt are on the Village website and see below for a quick overview!



At each business you will need to present your scorecard (physical copies at Village Hall or download on the website) to be checked in. If you can visit **all 10 businesses** and turn your card in at Village Hall by **February 21** you will be entered into a raffle for a prize from one of the participating businesses!

This event is **not** a race and all finished entries will have an equal chance at being drawn for a raffle prize. You do **not** have to purchase from any business to participate, but we definitely encourage everyone to support **our awesome local businesses!** Best of luck and have fun!

## Let it Snow! How Public Works Tackles Winter Weather



The Village has a total of 9 snow plows: 6-pick up trucks and 2 one-ton trucks. Of these, 5 are converted from leaf vacator trucks used for the fall leaf collection and that process takes about 1 week to complete.

Snow removal is based on street usage and levels of traffic. Priority Streets are plowed first followed by secondary streets that collect and distribute vehicle traffic between the local street system and priority streets. Cul-de-sacs, alleys, and dead ends will be plowed last, as they are the least traveled. Cul-de-sacs are plowed by a contractor.

Public Works wants residents to know that vehicles parked in the street are the biggest issue with plowing as it does not allow them to plow curb to curb and sometimes leaves them unable to access streets if cars are parked on both sides of the street as the plows range from 11-12 feet wide. Please give the plows as much room as possible and, whenever possible, park in driveways or garages.

What about salt? The Village has 2 salt domes that hold about 2,500 tons of salt to treat the roads. Salt is used during freezing rain events and snowfalls of less than 1". Roads are plowed and salted after 2" snowfall; however, plowing and salting may begin sooner depending on conditions. During heavy snowstorms main roads and intersections are prioritized to help conserve salt. Salt can also be put down prior to the start of a storm to give crews a head start on melting the snow.

## Public Works News

**Garbage Pickup:** Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays falling on Monday this year, Groot will be closed. Garbage pick-up will be **delayed by one day** from your normal pickup day. Please have items out by 6 a.m. There will be no delay due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

**Damaged Mailboxes:** During snow removal operations it is not uncommon during some snow events that mailboxes are damaged. Mailboxes are typically damaged by the snow that is being cleared from the roadway. In these circumstances the Village does not replace the resident's mailbox. However, if damaged to the point where mail will not be delivered, then the Village will provide a temporary mailbox until the damaged one is replaced by the resident. If the mailbox is struck by the plow, the Village will reimburse the resident up to \$100 for the replacement and installation of the new mailbox. **Please call within 48 hours of the damage to allow the Village time to inspect the mailbox to see if the Village is liable.**





# 2024 Community Event Lineup

Check out some of the events we've got planned for 2024! Dates/times to come!

**Community Garage Sales... x2!** We love a good sale as much as anyone so this year the Village will be organizing not just the annual community garage sale over North Aurora Days but another one in the spring! Sounds like a great time for some early spring cleaning!

**Creating at the Crossroads** It's our very first craft fair! It will be held at the North Aurora Riverfront Park likely sometime in summer. Interested artists/crafters stay tuned for registration information!

**Cruise Night** We don't quite have details yet, but we are looking forward to a fun time of cool cars once again this year!

**Cuisine at the Crossroads... x2!** We heard so many wonderful things about the Village's first food truck festival that it whet our appetite for more! Keep an eye out for information on both a spring **AND** a fall food event. Yum!

**Community Picnic** Join us for hot dogs and station tours at the police department for our annual picnic!

**Independence Day Fireworks** We're bringing the heat on July 3, 2024 with fireworks, live music and BYOB!

**Making Spirits Bright** We just wrapped up our 2023 event and can't wait for next year! Santa, Reindeer, beautiful lights; we're already ready for another jolly holiday season!

**Movie in the Park** Come watch a movie with us in a local park this summer! Title TBD!

**North Aurora Days** Our biggest annual community event will take place on August 2 & 3 and we'll have live music, entertainment, food, drinks and so much more! (Want to be a sponsor? Check out [northauroradays.org](http://northauroradays.org) for information!)

**Scavenger Hunt** Back for it's **fifth year** area gumshoes will get to once more test their riddle-solving skills this summer! In the meantime, check out the Business Scavenger Hunt launching in January; details on previous page!

**Spring Bunny Chase** For our above riddle-lovers, this event is themed more towards families for a one-day event of riddles that will make you "hop" to it and potentially get a delicious chocolate prize! Look for details in spring!

**Trunk or Treat** You can never have enough candy and our officers and Village staff are ready to bring on the sugar during the Halloween season!

**Veterans Day Ceremony** One of our personal favorite events, we take this time to honor and acknowledge our veterans and the sacrifices they've made to protect us all each year on November 11.

## Police News

### Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

With the holidays coming up and shopping increasing, here are a few tips to best protect your purchases.

#### **Retail Shopping:**

- Put packages and bags you purchase out of sight in your car or place in trunk.
- Make sure to always lock your vehicle when exiting.

#### **Online Shopping:**

- Bring packages inside as soon as possible or have a neighbor pick them up so they are not unattended.
- Sign up for delivery alerts with the delivery company and request signature confirmation on deliveries.

## Help us Help Our Community!



The North Aurora Police Department is once more participating in helping out two fantastic area charities: Maddie's Mitten March and Kane County Toys for Tots!

**Maddie's Mitten March:** Drop off your gently used, not ripped winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, snowpants, snow boots, and mittens (of course!) so Maddie's Mitten March can find a home that need them! We're collecting all winter!

**Toys for Tots:** Bring in a new, unwrapped toy that Toys For Tots can use to make some kids happy this holiday season! The last day to donate toys will be Dec. 4th.

The lobby is generally open 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except Holidays.

# Community Development News

If you are planning any upcoming construction, please be aware that the Village is currently reviewing building codes that would go into effect on **January 1, 2024** if approved. Make sure your designers and contractors are aware of the potential change! The following codes being adopted are:

- 2021 International Building Code (IBC)
- 2021 International Residential Code (IRC)
- 2021 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
- 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC)
- 2021 International Mechanical Code
- Illinois Plumbing Code (2014 as adopted by the State)
- International Energy Code (as adopted by the State in the Illinois Energy Conservation Code)
- 2021 International Fuel Gas Code
- 2021 International Property Maintenance Code
- 2021 International Swimming Pool & Spa Code
- Illinois Accessibility Code (2018 as adopted by the State)
- 2021 International Fire Code
- National Fire Codes NFPA Codes 10-1194

## Christmas Light Recycling & Christmas Tree Collection

### Christmas Light Recycling

If you have any Christmas (or holiday; like Halloween!) lights that you'd like to be rid of the Village of North Aurora has collection boxes at Village Hall to safely recycle those strands of lights. Lights can be dropped off at Village Hall through **Friday, January 12, 2024** in the recycling boxes located in the lobby near the customer service counter. **PLEASE** do not put decorations, garland or plastic bags in the boxes. **JUST** the lights!

### Christmas Tree Collection

**Christmas trees** will be collected the first four full weeks of January FREE of charge on your regular service day. These weeks will include starting on Mondays of: **January 1, January 8, January 15 and January 22.**

Christmas trees **cannot** be in plastic bags and must be free of **ALL** decorations. Trees over 6' need to be cut in half. Starting the week of January 29, any Christmas trees at the curb for pick-up will require **1** refuse sticker to be collected.

## Public Works Building

In 2019 the Village had a space needs study conducted on the current Public Works facility (314 Butterfield Road), which showed a significant amount of additional space was needed. The photo to the right shows the Public Works garage at the end of the day. Not shown are over 10 additional vehicles and equipment that must be parked / stored outside or at other locations due to the limited space. Currently, the Village is finalizing the design of the new building. The public is invited to an open house to tour the existing facility to see the current set up and learn about the new site plan and design. Join us for an open house on **January 24, February 21 and March 14.** Additional details on the Village website!



## Village Photos



A few photos taken at recent Village events including Trunk-Or-Treat and the Veterans Day ceremony.

