

# Crossroads

## Village of North Aurora Newsletter

2024  
February / March



## From the Mayor's Desk

While winter months tend to be a little slower going, we are rolling right along here in North Aurora! This is the time of the year where my fellow Village Board members and myself meet to discuss the Village's Strategic Plan, which is used to guide North Aurora into the future and help determine where the Village wants to go as a municipal government, as an organization, and as a community over the next several years. We create overarching goals for our Strategic Plan that are then supported by various objectives. Our current goal categories include: Community Vitality, Economic Development, Efficient and Effective Delivery of Core Services, Continue Maintenance and Capital Resource Planning for Village Infrastructure, and Revitalize the Route 31 Corridor and Create a Community Focal Point.

One of the objectives of the 'Continue Maintenance and Capital Resource Planning for Village Infrastructure' goal is to build a new Public Works facility. One way the Village is looking to raise funding for this project and other initiatives in this goal is with a sales tax referendum. Please see the insert to this newsletter for further information and I also invite you to read the feature story on page three about the new Public Works facility being considered.

Stay warm and safe during the rest of the winter and, as a PSA from Public Works, please keep your vehicles off the roads during snowfall so they can plow!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark G. Gaffino".

Mark Gaffino, North Aurora Village President



## Village Calendar

**Feb. 5:** Village Board and COW

**Feb. 6:** Plan Commission

**Feb. 12:** North Aurora Days Committee

**Feb. 19:** Village Board and COW

**Feb. 20:** Public Info. Meeting for Sales Tax Referendum

**Feb. 21:** Last day to submit Business Scavenger Hunt scorecards

**Feb. 21:** Public Works Open House

**March 4:** Village Board and COW

**March 5:** Plan Commission

**March 11:** North Aurora Days Committee

**March 12:** Public Info. Meeting for Sales Tax Referendum

**March 13:** Public Works Open House

**March 18:** Village Board and COW

**April 1:** Village Board and COW

**April 2:** Plan Commission

## Village Hall Closed

**March 29:** Spring 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](https://www.facebook.com/villageofnorthaurora)

February / March 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

# Calling All Crafters and Artists!

The Village is hosting its first ever arts and craft fair, **Creativity at the Crossroads!** The event will take place on **Saturday, June 22 from 10:00 am— 4:00 pm** and we are currently looking for interested artists and crafters to sell their artistic wares!

Please find all information as well as a downloadable application on our Village website at [www.northaurora.org/community-information/creativity-at-the-crossroads](http://www.northaurora.org/community-information/creativity-at-the-crossroads) Applications will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis. We can't wait to see your creations!



## Yard Waste Collection Program



Yard Waste Collection begins in **April**. Residents can put out yard waste in Kraft paper bags not exceeding 50 lbs. Brush and branches/less than 3" in diameter should be bundled up to 4' in length in less than 2' bundles, and twined not exceeding 50 lbs. per bundle.

**For the first two weeks of April**, residents can put out an **unlimited** amount of properly packaged yard waste for **FREE** on their regularly scheduled garbage day!

This applies to the weeks beginning on Monday, April 1 and on Monday, April 8.

No stickers will be needed for these **first two weeks of free pick-up**. This is a great opportunity for any stubborn leaves that fell after leaf collection last year as well as early yard maintenance. Stickers will be required after the first two weeks of free pick-up.

Groot also offers a subscription program for yard waste, which allows for the rental of a 95-gallon toter exclusively for yard waste during the yard waste collection season. This toter would be billed annually and anyone interested will want to call Groot for details and pricing at 630-892-9294.

## Public Works News

**Garbage Pickup:** Trash pick-up will **not** be delayed due to Presidents Day. Trash service will be on your regular service day.

**Snowplow Damage:** During snow removal operations it is not uncommon during some snow events that there may be damages. If there is any damage caused to your **lawn** by Village snowplows it will be repaired as the weather warms and the ground thaws. Please contact the Public Works Department at 630-897-8228 ext. 260 as soon as damage is found.

**Mailboxes** are typically damaged by the snow that is being cleared from the roadway, not the plows themselves. 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.**



# New Public Works Facility in the Works

The Village of North Aurora is currently in the process of working on designing a new Public Works facility. The current Public Works site (314 Butterfield Road) was updated in 2001 with a building that provided garage space and minimal office space and it has not had any upgrades or changes to it since then. The Village has grown significantly in that time (from 10,585 people per the 2000 census to over 18,200 as of the 2022 census) and so have the needs of the Public Works Department.

In 2019 the Village began the process by conducting a space needs study, which would determine if a new building and additional space was needed, which was the confirmation of the study. In 2021 the Village hired a civil engineering firm to begin to assist with the project and in January 2022 the design process began when the Village hired an architect to design the new facility.

That process involved reviewing the space needs study to see what, if anything, could be utilized from the current structure or if a brand new one would be best. It was ultimately determined that building a new facility on a new site would be the best option and the Village has been working to design a new facility at a location close in proximity to the current site. In May 2022 the Village hired a construction management company to oversee the project, which has included many discussions with architects, the construction manager and engineers to analyze costs. In the design elements of the new building, it was important to make sure that the facility would not only house all of the Village's Public Works equipment that does not fit in the current garage — which includes over \$400,000 worth of Water Division vehicles, over \$125,000 worth of Street Division vehicles and over \$275,000 of general equipment — that must be stored outside, but is adequate for staffing levels. For some examples, members of the Water Division meet at the westside water treatment plant, but that facility was not built to house employees, and the current Public Works facility has just 900 square feet of space for the 14 other Public Works employees to share, which includes office space, lockers, bathrooms and the lunch room. As you can see, it's more than a little cramped!

The new Public Works facility will provide much needed space for Village operations as well as include additional features like a training room and a new salt dome that Public Works employees will be able to utilize. The new Public Works facility is expected to cost in the area of \$18 million for the building's construction. One of the ways the Village is looking to fund the project is through a Sales Tax referendum that will go towards not just the Public Works facility but other capital improvement projects around the Village. We will be hosting several Open Houses at the current Public Works facility so the community can see how our current operations are set up and why a new facility is being explored. See you there!



A design of the new Public Works Facility.

## Police News

March is **Severe Weather Preparedness Month** so let's talk about making a plan! We've compiled some of our best tips and advice below!

- Make sure everyone in your house knows where to go to take shelter, preferably an interior room on the lowest level (a basement if you have one).
- Make sure you have a way to contact your family members. Texting often works better than calling in an emergency and don't rely on your cell phone contact list. What if your phone is damaged or the battery is dead? Keep a list of contact information in your safety plan.
- Build an emergency supply kit. Scan the QR code for a guide on how to do it!



## North Aurora Police Station Tours

Police station tours are available to groups of all ages including school groups, scouting organizations, and other local organizations.

We provide a personalized, interactive tour of the facility and also hand out giveaways such as badges, pencils, or coloring books to the kids.

Interested parties can contact officer Robyn Stecklein at 630-906-8146.



Meeting Pawfficer Zelda!



Checking out the gun range!



# What's that Building Under Construction?

It may be winter but construction season never truly stops and there's a lot going on in North Aurora! If you've seen buildings going up or being worked on in town and wondered what it was, we're happy to help you out!

**Fire Station 1** (Pictured to the right) is located at 23 North Lincolnway (which is between the corners of Oak and State Street). This will be the North Aurora Fire Protection District's new Fire Station 1 once it is completed.

**Riverfront Ram** (1851 Orchard Gateway) is a new car dealership going in. You'll see it under construction along Orchard Gateway right across from Towne Center Drive.

**Fortunato** (2040 West Orchard Road) will be a new Italian and seafood restaurant.

**Randall Square** (71-81 Miller Drive and 20 - 28 South Randall Road) is a new center going in. It will contain both an office building and retail locations.

**Verilife** (2080 West Orchard Road) will be moving to a new location at the corner of Orchard and Oak.

There are several **Warehouses** also going in town. Those include **Valley Green - Building C** (320 Overland Drive) that will have one more building unit and **Park 88** (400 and 410 Smoketree Plaza), of which there will be two buildings.

A few **Residential** building projects are also in the works. **Seasons of North Aurora** (1780 West Orchard Road) is an apartment complex consisting of 13 20-unit buildings and a clubhouse. **Moose Lake Estates** (Moose Lake subdivision) is also currently under construction and will have a total of 36 single-family home new units in the Unit 3 location as well as additional homes being built in other vacant lots throughout the subdivision.



## Congrats to Holiday Decoration Program Winners!

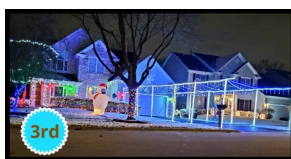
The Village's Beautification Committee had a most wonderful time of the year when they drove around town looking at all the beautifully done holiday displays submitted for the annual holiday decoration property recognition program! The winning properties were:

**1st Place:** 91 Pine Hill Drive

**2nd Place:** 220 Larchwood Lane

**3rd Place:** 617 Hammer Lane

**4th Place:** 2744 Moutray Lane



## Making Spirits Bright

The Village hosted its second annual Making Spirits Bright winter holiday event in December that featured the North Aurora Riverfront Park holiday light display turning on for the first time in 2023, visits from Santa and reindeer and a holly jolly good time!



February / March 2024