

# Crossroads

## Village of North Aurora Newsletter

2024  
April / May



## From the Mayor's Desk

I recently had the opportunity to speak with fourth graders at Schneider Elementary School for their unit on government. One of the questions I was asked was "What does the Mayor do?" Well, Mayors do a lot of things, from working with the Village Board to providing input on Village policies, budgets and codes, to attending Village events and traveling about the town. But one of the most important things a Mayor does is **be visible in their community**. Mayors (and Village Board members) all live in their towns, and I myself have lived in North Aurora my entire life. I've seen it change and grow over these many years, but the one thing that has always remained constant are the wonderful people that make up North Aurora and its incredibly important to me to be a part of that community and be there for our town.

Over the past several months you may have seen me about North Aurora at our community special events — like our Making Spirits Bright winter holiday event or Cruise Night — where I got to enjoy the festivities and community spirit in full force. I've been focusing on spending more time at our School District 129 schools in North Aurora and have gotten to enjoy book reading, tea times and engaging our young community members at their level. You may have even seen me shopping or dining at our many delicious restaurants in town! North Aurora is a bustling, vibrant community and I love being a part of it and it's important to me that you feel the same. I'd like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to join me at the upcoming Meet with the Mayor on Saturday, April 13 from 10am—11am at Village Hall. Bring your concerns, your ideas, and anything you'd like to discuss. I'll see you there!



*Mark G. Gaffino*

Mark Gaffino, North Aurora Village President

## Village Calendar

(find details at [northaurora.org/events](http://northaurora.org/events))

- April 1:** Village Board and COW
- April 2:** Plan Commission
- April 8:** NA Days Committee
- April 10:** Coffee with a Cop
- April 13:** Meet with the Mayor
- April 15:** Village Board and COW
- April 27:** Spring Bunny Chase
- May 6:** Village Board and COW
- May 13:** NA Days Committee
- May 16-18:** Community Garage Sale
- May 17:** Cops on Top
- May 20:** Village Board and COW
- May 24:** Cuisine at the Crossroads
- June 1:** Electronic Recycling Event
- June 8:** Scavenger Hunt Starts

## Village Hall Closed

**May 27:** Memorial Day



**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)

April / May 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

# Green Thumb Property Recognition Program Blooming Soon!

Do you think your property (or one in your neighborhood) has the prettiest flowers? The most upkept landscaping? Unique features? We want to hear from you!

The Village's Beautification Committee will be accepting nominations starting **May 6** for their Property Recognition Program, Green Thumb, that will judge the front yard landscaping of submitted properties based on overall maintenance, creativity, and appearance. Residents can nominate their own property or a deserving one in the neighborhood! Nominations can be made on the Village website.

The Beautification Committee will judge each property and will award the top four placing properties Woodmans gift cards in the respective amounts: \$100, \$75, \$50 and \$25!

The deadline to submit a property for Green Thumb is **Thursday, June 20** and Committee members will be judging from June 21—June 30.

**ONLY ONE NOMINATION** per address please. The Beautification Committee will be judging properties based on criteria; not number of submissions. Please also make sure the house number is easily visible for judging.



## Public Works News

**Holiday Garbage Pickup** - Due to the **Memorial Day Holiday**, Groot will be closed on Monday. Garbage pick-up will be **delayed by one day** from your normal pickup day. Please have items out by 6 a.m.

**Yard Waste Collection Program** resumes 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 pickups in April**, residents can put out an **unlimited** amount of properly packaged yard waste for **FREE!** No stickers will be needed during those two weeks on your yard waste on your regularly scheduled garbage day.

**Yard Damage from Plows** - Any damage to your lawn caused by the Village's snowplows will be repaired as the weather warms and the ground thaws. Please contact the Public Works Department as soon as you identify snowplow damage.

**Arbor Day** - Celebrate Arbor Day on April 26, 2024 by planting a tree! Trees provide shade, give off oxygen, reduce noise pollution, provide food and shelter for wildlife, and provide everyday products like paper, syrup, firewood, and building materials.



Arbor Day 2023 in the Village! Planting a tree on Marvo!

**Help Reduce Storm Water Pollution**—Water pollution prevention and control measures are critical to improving our water quality and reducing the need for costly wastewater and drinking water treatment. Water pollution can come from storm water runoff, which occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows driveways, sidewalks and streets rather than soaking into the ground. The runoff can pick up debris and pollutants and flow into the storm sewer system and then into our rivers, ponds, and wetlands. When water becomes polluted, the effects can be far reaching including creating unsafe drinking water.

**You can help prevent storm water pollution by:** keeping litter, pet waste, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains, applying lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions, disposing of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals properly, cleaning up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze, controlling soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover, and having septic systems inspected and pumped, at a minimum every three to five years, so that it operates properly.

## Electronic Recycling Event

The Village is partnering with Kane County Recycles to host an **Electronic Recycling Event** in North Aurora! Safely recycle electronics, clothing and shoes, books and more on **Saturday, June 1** from **9am—12pm** at the North Aurora Police Department. More details on the Village website!

**Note: Fees for monitors/TVs! Check Village website for info.**

# 2024 Community Special Event Calendar

**April 27 (9am—12pm): Spring Bunny Chase Family Scavenger Hunt** See post on page 4 for more details!

**May 16-18: Community Garage Sale: Spring Edition** See insert below on how to participate!

**May 24 (4pm—8pm): Cuisine at the Crossroads** Foodies of North Aurora, join us for an evening of 10+ food trucks to eat and enjoy!

**June 8—July 1: Scavenger Hunt** Grab your magnifying glass, lace up your running shoes and get ready to solve riddles and race around town! Guaranteed prizes for the first three teams to finish!

**June 22 (10am—4pm): Creativity at the Crossroads** Join us for an arts and craft fair at North Aurora Riverfront Park! Applications are currently being accepted first come, first served. See the Village website for details!

**July 3 (5pm—10pm): Independence Day** Fireworks launch ~9:30 pm and live music goes from 6—9pm. BYOB starts at 5pm!

**July 21 (~8:30pm): Movie in the Park** Disney's *Encanto* will begin playing ~8:30pm (once dark) at Fearn Park!

**August 1—3: Community Garage Sale**

**August 2—3: North Aurora Days** Our biggest annual community event that will have live music, entertainment, food, drinks and so much more!

**August 23 (6pm—8pm): Cruise Night** Toot your horn for Cruise night! We'll be revving our engines and checking out all the cool cars at Messenger Public Library!

**September 13 (4pm—8pm): Cuisine at the Crossroads**

**September 21 (1pm—4pm): Community Picnic** Join us for hot dogs and station tours at the Police Department for our annual picnic!

**October 19 (12pm—2pm): Trunk or Treat** Get your candy and a taste of the spooky season at the Police Department!

**November 11 (11am): Veterans Day Ceremony** Join us to honor our veterans at our Veterans Memorial.

**December 7 (5pm—7pm): Making Spirits Bright** The holidays shine bright at North Aurora Riverfront Park with beautiful holiday light displays, visits from Santa and more!

# GARAGE SALE

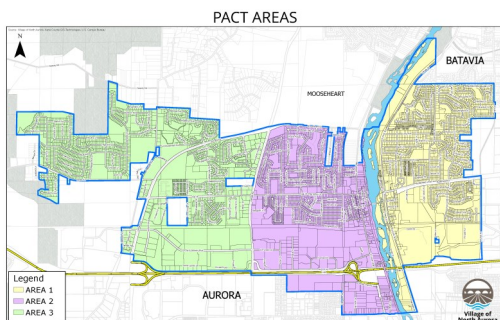
The Community Garage Sale: Spring Edition will take place over the dates of Thursday, May 16 - Saturday, May 18. All residences looking to participate will need to fill out the registration form (located on the Village website or available at Village Hall) and submit it to the Village no later than **Friday, May 3 at 4:30 pm**, to be included on the Garage Sale Map.

## Police News

The Police Department relaunched the Police and Citizens Together (PACT) program. PACT allows residents and business owners to reach out to the police department with questions and concerns regarding their neighborhood.

The updated program utilizes a team approach. Our four patrol teams are each assigned a portion of the community, with one patrol team dedicated to each of the three patrol beats and the remaining team assigned to businesses. Residents can go on our website at the following link [northaurora.org/departments/police-department/pact/](http://northaurora.org/departments/police-department/pact/) and request service or ask a

question, which then goes to a patrol sergeant assigned to that area of town. The sergeant then coordinates with their team to respond.



## Help us Help Our Community!

**COPS on Top:** Help the North Aurora Police Department raise money for **Special Olympics Illinois!** We've partnered with Dunkin' for the annual COPS on Top event that will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 6:00 am to 11:00 am at both North Aurora Dunkin' locations: 407 South Lincolnway and 257 Genesis Drive. **Get a free donut with any donation!** There will also be T-shirts, Hats and Pins for purchase on site and any time Monday—Friday 8am-8pm at the NAPD front desk!

**EMA Volunteers:** The North Aurora Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is seeking volunteers to join our disaster response team! No previous training or experience is needed; just the time, dedication and desire to learn and be part of a team. Volunteers are provided uniforms and equipment and are offered additional training opportunities including severe weather recognition, CPR/First Aid/AED use, triage, traffic control, damage assessment, ground search and rescue and more! Our volunteers are all ages, including retired and working people. Through knowledge learned in the classroom and during exercises, EMA members are able to help others in their neighborhood or workplace when professional first responders are not immediately available. For additional information, contact Emergency Management Coordinator, Joe Gorski at (630) 897-8705, ext. 753 or [jgorski@northaurora.org](mailto:jgorski@northaurora.org).



# Community Development News

As the weather warms up, residents should remember these common Village Codes:

- The **watering conservation ordinance** is in effect every day of the year. The ordinance **allows the use of a handheld device at any time** OR
  - All properties with **even** numbered street addresses can water on even numbered days between 6:00 am and 9:00 am and between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm.
  - All properties with **odd** numbered street addresses can water on odd numbered days between 6:00 am and 9:00 am and between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm.
- Lawns must be kept under 8 inches in height.
- Trash cans and lawn waste bags should not be placed at the curb until 3:00pm the day before trash pickup, and such containers must be removed from the curb no later than midnight of the day of collection.
- Campers, boats or other RV's can be parked on front driveways **Thursday at 6:00pm through Monday at noon only** with the exception being the beginning of April to April 15 they are allowed without hourly/day restrictions.
- All vehicles parked in the Village on private property must be operable, have current plates, and must be parked on impervious surfaces only — which means no parking on grass.

**Building permits** are required for sheds, decks, patios, pools, driveways, and fences. As you are planning your project, please allow up to **10 business days** from the time you submit the permit until it is ready for pick up. Permit applications can be downloaded on the Village website.

## Spring Bunny Chase Event

Hop along with Daisy the Bunny in a brand new family friendly event, the **Spring Bunny Chase!**

On Saturday, April 27, Daisy is moving quickly all over North Aurora and leaving clues and riddles behind for you and your family to try to catch her! If you can solve all of her puzzles and are one of the first **thirty teams** to finish your chase **before 12pm** and find Daisy at her final location, you'll win a prize box full of goodies!

The first clue for the Spring Bunny Chase will be released on the Village's website ([northaurora.org/community-information/spring-bunny-chase/](http://northaurora.org/community-information/spring-bunny-chase/)) at **9am**. Teams will have until **12pm** to complete the chase for prizes. The clues and riddles will remain up for about a week after and any team that completes it will be able to claim a prize box (while supplies last). Get hopping!



Psst! There are still a few spots open for artists and crafters to participate in Creativity at the Crossroads! Find information on how to apply on the Village website!

## Cuisine at the Crossroads

We hope you're feeling hungry because Cuisine at the Crossroads, the Village's food truck festival, is cruising back into town and serving up delicious food and community fun!

This year we're going to have TWO helpings of Cuisine at the Crossroads, both taking place at North Aurora Riverfront Park. First up on the menu is Friday, May 24 from 4pm - 8pm! The event will feature 10+ food trucks for you to try, yum! Our second course will take place on Friday, September 13! This year's events will also feature a beer garden in addition to the food options!

Stay tuned to the Village's Facebook for updates as to which food trucks we'll be eating from!

