

Crossroads

Village of North Aurora Newsletter

2024
October / November



From the Mayor's Desk

As we enter this autumn season that sees our town's scenery change from bright summer greens to crisp and refreshing reds and golds, I would like to highlight some exciting changes that are on the horizon for a very special place in North Aurora: Our Veterans Memorial.

The Village of North Aurora Veterans Memorial is located on Willow Way at Farview Drive and was originally built in 2007. It features items including a fountain, a curved stone wall, inscribed bricks and a plaque honoring all those from North Aurora who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I am looking to expand and enhance the Veterans Memorial to create a further, even more beautiful and peaceful space, for our community to gather to honor our veterans. I have begun this process by establishing a committee comprised of veterans, residents, and Village staff to provide feedback and insight to these expansions that are being overseen by a landscape architect and look forward to sharing those plans in the future. During this time, the memorial brick program is still active and you can find details for such on the Village website.

The Veterans Memorial is where we host our annual Veterans Day Ceremony, which this year will take place on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 11:00 am. I invite the community to join me as we honor our veterans and thank them for their service. Following the ceremony, coffee and refreshments will be available at the North Aurora Police Department. I look forward to seeing everyone there and at other events throughout the community!

Sincerely,

Mark Gaffino, North Aurora Village President

Village Calendar

(find details at northaurora.org/events)

Oct. 1: Plan Commission

Oct. 1: Nominations Open for Halloween Property Contest

Oct. 5: Meet with the Mayor

Oct. 7: Village Board and COW

Oct. 14: NA Days Committee

Oct. 19: Trunk or Treat

Oct. 21: Village Board and COW

Oct. 21: Village Board and COW

Oct. 24: Nominations Close for Halloween Property Contest

Nov. 4: Village Board and COW

Nov. 5: Plan Commission

Nov. 11: Veterans Day Ceremony

Nov. 18: Village Board and COW

Nov. 25: Food Drive Begins

Dec. 2: Village Board and COW

Dec. 3: Plan Commission

Dec. 7: Making Spirits Bright

Village Hall Closed

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 28-29: Thanksgiving



North Aurora Village Hall: 25 E. State St. | 630-897-8228
North Aurora Police: 200 S. Lincolnway | 630-897-8705
Website: www.northaurora.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/villageofnorthaurora

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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
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Trustee Laura Curtis
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Trustee Mark Guethle
mguethle@northaurora.org

Trustee Michael Lowery
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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 Relations Coordinator*
nstevens@northaurora.org

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

All Things Spooky in North Aurora

Trunk-Or-Treat at North Aurora Police Dept.

Join us for a ghoulishly delightful afternoon at the North Aurora Police Department on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 12:00 pm — 2:00 pm. Costumes are encouraged, so dress up in your most boo-tiful or fang-tastic outfit, enjoy the fun and collect plenty of treats—no tricks, we promise!

Halloween Spooktacular Property Decoration Contest



Do you think your property has the spookiest Halloween decorations? Nominate your home for the Village's Halloween Spooktacular Property Decoration Contest!

The Village's Beautification Committee will be accepting nominations for the contest from October 1—October 24 and judging will take place October 24—October 27. Prizes will be awarded to the top three ranked spookiest and most creative Halloween-themed homes as well as a **Community Choice Award** that will be chosen by residents online! If you are interested in submitting your property or a spooky one in your neighborhood fill out the form by visiting the Village website or scanning the QR code!



FREE Leaf Disposal Options and Information

Option One - Paper Bags: Residents may bag their leaves in paper lawn bags and Groot will pick them up for **FREE** on their service day during October and November. Yard waste (other than leaves) requires stickers and will also be picked up through November. **After November yard waste will not be picked up until April.**

Option Two - Leaf Vector: Residents may rake leaves to the curb for the Village's free curb-side leaf pick-up. The Village's leaf vector program will run based on the schedule below and starts each week on Mondays. The Village changes which side of town the leaf vector will start on each year.

- Residents on the **WEST** side of the river: **October 21, November 4 and November 18**
- Residents on the **EAST** side of the river: **October 28, November 11 and November 25**

Leaves **MUST be out by 6 a.m. on Monday** during the pick-up week with leaves being picked up at any time throughout the entire week. Leaf piles should be less than 2' in height, free of foreign materials (branches, plants, rocks, and landscape waste) and raked in a row parallel to the street, at least 1' and no more than 5' back from the curb. Residents are encouraged to park in driveways or garages during this operation, to allow better access for the leaf collection equipment. Please **keep leaves away from parked cars, garbage cans, mailboxes, ditches, streetlights, and fire hydrants.**

The Village keeps a log of streets that have been serviced and the leaf-vector truck will not go down streets a second time. If leaves are not raked to the curb by Monday, 6:00 a.m. of your pick-up week, residents will either have to wait for their next scheduled pick-up week or bag the leaves for pick-up. **Snow, rain, below freezing temperatures or mechanical difficulties may delay or halt curbside leaf collection.**

Police News

Alert! Alert! CodeRED Replaces Nixle Emergency Alert System



The Village has recently enhanced our emergency alert system by switching from Nixle to OnSolve CodeRED to provide more effective notifications during emergencies such as water boil advisories, gas leaks, missing persons, road closures, and other urgent, time-sensitive situations. Registering for this free service is a simple yet crucial step to ensure your family stays informed and prepared for any local emergencies.

Our alerts can be community-wide or location-based, targeting only residents in the affected areas. You can customize the types of alerts you wish to receive, ranging from general community information to critical emergency alerts.



To register for alerts, visit <https://accountportal.onsolve.net/northaurora> or scan the QR code. You may also receive the registration link by texting **NORTH-AURORA** to 24639. Please note, alerts will be sent via text from the above 24639 SMS number and phone call alerts will come from either 206-536-3695 or 206-536-3696 if you would like to add

those numbers to your contact list. More information on the program is available on our website.

Register for Government 101 - FREE Local Government Education Program

Government 101 is an educational opportunity for residents to learn more about how the Village of North Aurora operates.

The two-class program will feature aspects of how village government is structured and will include topics on each department: Administration, Community Development, Finance, Police, and Public Works!

Government 101 is a two-part class meeting from 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Tuesday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 17. The first class will take place at Village Hall, 25 East State Street, and the second class will take place at the North Aurora Police Department, 200 South Lincolnway.

Register for Government 101 on the Village website starting **November 4**. If you have any questions about the program please reach out to nstevens@northaurora.org.

New Public Works Facility - The Village's new Public Works facility is in the works! The Village approved more than two dozen bid packages — which includes everything from demolition of existing structures on the property to roofing to electrical work to fencing — in August that allowed construction to begin starting in September. The new Public Works Facility, seen in the rendered drawing to the right, is expected to be completed by early 2026. It will be adjacent to the current facility at 314 Butterfield Road.

Ride Along with these Bicycle Safety Tips

Did you know the North Aurora Police Department has a Bicycle Patrol Unit? Being on bikes allows officers to respond quickly to areas such as the Fox River Trail during events and allows maneuverability through a crowd as well.



Bicycle safety is crucial for everyone, whether you're commuting, exercising, or just enjoying a ride. Always wear a properly fitting helmet to protect your head in case of a fall. Make sure your bike is in good

condition by regularly checking the brakes, tires, and chain. Wear bright or reflective clothing to increase your visibility, especially at night or in low-light conditions. Follow traffic rules, ride with the flow of traffic, and use hand signals to indicate your turns and stops. Plan your route, stay alert and be aware of your surroundings to anticipate any potential hazards, such as fallen branches, animal crossings or pedestrians. Additionally, be sure to record the serial number on your bike in case it goes missing.

To prevent bicycle theft, always lock your bike with a sturdy U-lock or heavy-duty chain/cable, securing both the frame and wheels to a fixed object. Park your bike in well-lit, busy areas and avoid leaving it unattended for long periods. Consider removing accessories like lights or saddlebags when parking.

By following these tips, you can safely enjoy the stunning fall scenery along the Fox River Trail and other paths around North Aurora. Happy cycling!

Public Works News

Holiday Garbage Pickup - Pick-ups will **not** be delayed due to Columbus Day or Thanksgiving.

Mailboxes - During the winter unstable mailboxes and deteriorating wood posts are more likely to be damaged from heavy snow coming off the snow plows. Residents are reminded that they are responsible for the maintenance and proper installation of their mailbox and post. If damage is done by a snow plow, residents should call the Village as soon as possible so the Village can assess the damage, provide a temporary mailbox and reimbursement of up to \$100 if qualified.



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

A holly jolly holiday season is upon us and we're kicking it off with the annual **Making Spirits Bright** event! Please join us on **Saturday, December 7** at North Aurora Riverfront Park for a festival full of holiday and community spirit!

The event begins with a **Holiday Vehicle Parade** and this year **you** can be a part of it! The parade starts from the North Aurora Police Department at 5:00 pm and finishes at North Aurora Riverfront Park and we are inviting all residents and businesses in North Aurora to decorate their own vehicle for the holidays — lights, wreaths, inflatable snowmen, etc. anything holiday-themed **and** appropriate! — and join our parade procession! The parade is driving only; all participants will remain within their vehicles and no giveaways or handouts are allowed for everyone's safety. The Mayor will choose one vehicle as the **Best Holiday Spirit Vehicle** and that winner will receive a **\$50 Target gift card** and be able to park their vehicle on-site at North Aurora Riverfront Park! You **must** pre-register your vehicle to be a part of the parade and enter the best holiday spirit vehicle contest. Please find registration information on the Village website starting on November 12.

Following our Holiday Vehicle Parade, we're cruising right on into a **Park Lighting** led by Mayor Mark Gaffino where you'll be the first to see all of the beautiful holiday lights and decorations. The lights will be left up through the entire holiday season. And just like the parade, we're inviting the community to be a part of our decorations this year too by **Sponsoring a Tree**! See below for more details!

From **5:30 pm—7:30 pm** you'll be able to visit and take pictures with **Santa**, pet real live **reindeer** and take photos with them, make an **ornament** in our **Santa's Workshop Craft Corner** to decorate our brand new **community tree**, and listen to **holiday music** to make your spirits bright! Hot chocolate will be for sale throughout the event and in the spirit of this giving season we'll also be accepting donations for the Village's Holiday Food Drive at the entrance to the park to benefit the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry! We can't wait to see you there!



Sponsor a Tree

North Aurora Riverfront Park is bright with holiday cheer and this year we're planning to have real ever-green trees to build a Christmas Tree grove! Interested businesses or organizations in North Aurora are able to sponsor one of these pre-decorated trees to help make the park beautiful.

Tree sponsorships cost \$100 and at this time will be limited to the first 25 respondents. Each sponsor will get a sign with their name placed in front of the tree. Registration opens November 4 on the Village website.

Psst! Speaking of decorations, the Beautification Committee will be hosting their Holiday Decoration Property Contest in December! Stay tuned to the Village website and Facebook page for details!

Giving Back to Our Community

Last year the North Aurora community came together to donate an overflowing SUV's worth of groceries to the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry. We're looking to keep that same spirit of generosity and giving back to our local community going with the return of the Holiday Food Drive!

The Village will be collecting donations to benefit the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry starting on November 25. Donations can be dropped off at Village Hall (25 East State Street) through Monday, December 16 at the box in the lobby and will be delivered to the food pantry shortly thereafter. Please find a list of highly requested donation items at: www.aurorafoodpantry.org/donate/donate-food.

We will also be collecting for the food drive at Making Spirits Bright on Saturday, December 7, at North Aurora Riverfront Park.



Cruise Night Winners

2024 Cruise Night was a horn-tooting success with over 90 vehicles showing off their stuff in North Aurora! Check out the winners of the Police Chief's Choice, Library's Choice and Mayor's Choice awards below!



Police Chief's Choice

1972 Chevy Nova | Owner: Joe Lock of Warrenville



Library's Choice

1967 Chevy Camaro | Owner: Patti Coleman of North Aurora



Mayor's Choice

1946 Fire F1 Rat Rod | Owner: Don Utich of Warrenville



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