



April 2024

Apply now for the Aurora Civic Engagement Academy

Take part in the Aurora Civic Engagement Academy and learn about your local government. The eight-week program helps residents deepen their knowledge of the city and its operations.

The program aims to develop and cultivate leaders in the community and provide insights into council's decision-making process. In 2023, 20 people graduated from this academy.

This year's Civic Engagement Academy takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays from May 1 through June 19 at different locations in the city.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Aurora's council/manager government structure
- Duties and responsibilities of elected officials
- Role of HOAs and other neighborhood groups
- How city boards and commissions can influence policy
- Steps for a proposed ordinance to become law
- City Council meeting process
- City budget and its importance
- City departments and their role

Participants will also engage in a community project after completing the program.

The class is limited to 25 participants who must be residents of Aurora or be employed at a business with a physical presence in Aurora. To learn more and apply, visit AuroraGov.org/CivicAcademy. The application opens April 1 and closes at 5 p.m. April 30.

Questions? Contact Community Engagement Coordinator Johnathan Harris at jmharris@auroragov.org or call **303.739.7923**.

Upcoming Aurora City Council Town Meetings

This publication went to print in early March. Please call **303.739.7015** or visit AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings to confirm details (hybrid meeting links are available on the webpage).

Mayoral Town Meeting

Mayor Mike Coffman

- April 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Central Library

Ward I Town Meeting

Council Member Crystal Murillo

- April 25, 6-7:30 p.m.
Aurora Fox Arts Center
- May 23, 6-7:30 p.m.
Moorhead Recreation Center (hybrid)

Ward II Town Meeting

Council Member Steve Sundberg

- April 18, 6:30-8 p.m.
Central Recreation Center (hybrid)

Ward III Town Meeting

Council Member Ruben Medina

- April 9, 6:30-8 p.m.
Central Library
- May 14, 6:30-8 p.m.
Aurora Center for Active Adults

Ward IV Town Meeting

Council Member Stephanie Hancock

- April 11, 6:30-8 p.m.
(budget town meeting)
Colorado Early Colleges (hybrid)

Ward V Town Meeting

Council Member Angela Lawson

- April 16, 6:30-8 p.m.
Central Recreation Center (hybrid)
(budget town meeting)
- April 20, 10-11:30 a.m.
Heather Gardens Clubhouse
(budget town meeting)
- May 18, 10-11:30 a.m.
Heather Gardens Clubhouse
- May 21, 6:30-8 p.m.
Mission Viejo Library

Ward VI Town Meeting

Council Member Françoise Bergan

- May 15, 6-8 p.m.
Tallyn's Reach Library
(budget town meeting)

At-large Town Meeting

Council Members Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Danielle Jurinsky and Dustin Zvonek

- April 18, 6-8 p.m.
Southeast Recreation Center



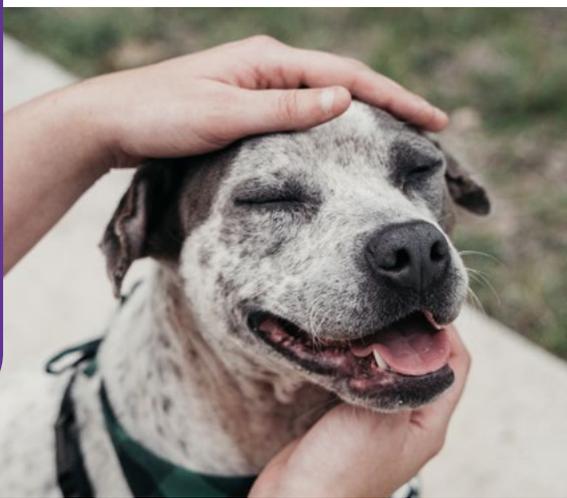
New police technology designed to enhance customer service

The Aurora Police Department has contracted with SPIDR Tech to launch a new technology that provides certain Aurora911 callers with regular updates about their calls for service and ongoing investigations.

The platform automatically sends customized text messages, emails and mobile-friendly surveys to Aurora911 callers and victims of crimes to keep them informed about the status of their call for service or an ongoing investigation. Messages will be offered in English, Spanish and Amharic.

Whether the caller receives a customized message with additional information and resources depends on the call type. Upon the conclusion of the call or ongoing investigation, residents can expect to receive a link to a brief, mobile-friendly survey to provide feedback about their experiences with Aurora911 dispatchers and officers.

Foster pets from the Aurora Animal Shelter



The Aurora Animal Shelter is urgently seeking foster families to open their homes and hearts to various animals, including large dogs that need space to stretch their paws, shy cats seeking comfort outside of a kennel environment, and underage kittens who require bottle-feeding or medication.

Foster parents must be at least 18 years old or have a guardian co-signer; pass a background check; own home or have approval from the landlord; participate in training for neonatal and feral kittens (if applicable); submit to an annual home inspection by shelter staff; and have an isolated room in the home. The shelter provides all required supplies and training.

If you're interested in fostering, register at AuroraGov.org/Volunteer. Questions? Email fosteranimal@auroragov.org or call 303.326.8395.

Nominate outstanding volunteers for Community Spirit Awards

The city of Aurora needs your help recognizing and celebrating community volunteers who make Aurora a great place to call home. The nomination period started in March and ends May 31. Awardees will be recognized at a ceremony in the fall.

Award recipients are chosen by the Aurora Volunteer Committee—made up of city of Aurora employees—based on community service impact rather than the number of nominations submitted for an individual or organization. More than one nominee can be recognized in each category.

Visit AuroraGov.org/CommunitySpiritAwards to learn more about award categories and submit a nomination form.

New customer portal available for select services

The city of Aurora has upgraded an existing software platform to improve its online customer portal technology that primarily serves building, planning and development customers. However, neighborhood and community groups will use the portal to register their group with the city.

The new portal—DevPortal.AuroraGov.org—launched March 15 with the neighborhood and community group registration and Office of Development Assistance pre-application services.

Neighborhood and community groups are encouraged to register with the city to be notified about development projects happening in their area, and to qualify for neighborhood grant opportunities or book meeting room space at libraries and fire stations for free.

Services related to land development review, including licensing for fiber optic and small cell installations, will be added to the portal by the end of April.

Future phases will include the addition of other commercial business online services like temporary use permits, code enforcement, and public review and comment on development projects.

For now, business and residential customers should continue using Aurora4Biz.org and BuildAurora.org—along with AuroraGov.org—for online services unrelated to neighborhood and community group registration, pre-application services and land development review.

Dive into opportunity with lifeguard and swim instructor positions

The city is seeking diverse and dedicated lifeguards and swim instructors—from students to retirees—for both indoor and outdoor pools. Enjoy flexible schedules, a competitive rate of \$17.50 per hour and perks like free access to city recreation centers, equipment, uniforms and career advancement prospects.

All interested candidates ages 15 and older are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit AuroraGov.org/Pool.



Commemorate fallen soldiers at Colorado Remembers

Join the community at Colorado Remembers in May to commemorate those who have made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for our country.

Activities begin at 8 a.m. May 25 with a free pancake breakfast at the Colorado Freedom Memorial, 756 Telluride St. The heartfelt ceremony and tribute will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m., followed by special tours of the memorial, the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument and various static military displays for all to experience. For details, visit AuroraGov.org/ColoradoRemembers.

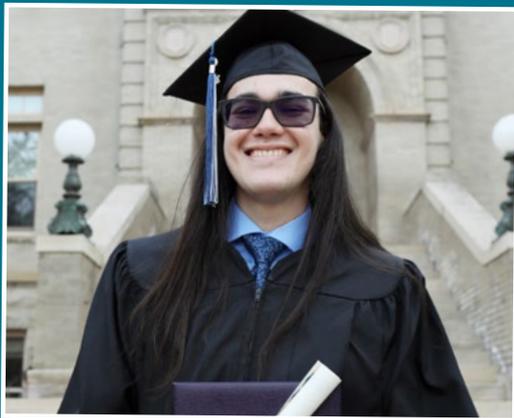
Help shine a light on the importance of organ and tissue donation

As Colorado's first Donate Life Community, the city encourages residents during National Donate Life Month in April to help shine a light on the power of registering to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.

In Colorado and Wyoming alone, there are 1,300 people on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant.

Aurora resident Jaime Tellez experienced the powerful impact of donation firsthand. When he was six years old, he developed aggressive cataracts on both eyes. Within four weeks of diagnosis, he was nearly blind.

Tellez underwent surgery on both eyes, but unfortunately, his right cornea sustained damage and required a cornea transplant. Thanks to the generosity of an organ donor, Tellez received a successful partial cornea transplant, giving him a new lease on life. Today, Tellez sees the world through a fresh perspective, and his family is forever grateful for the opportunity he has been given.



More lives can be saved and healed. Your decision to become an organ donor has the potential to create beautiful stories like that of Jaime Tellez. Visit DonateLifeColorado.org for fun activities, to learn more and register your decision today.

Mark your calendar for SUMMER FUN

A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Nepali Community

Explore the Aurora History Museum's latest exhibit, in partnership with the city's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs, and learn about your Nepali neighbors and their culture, including popular music, art, dance, religion and foods. The exhibit will run from May 7, 2024, to April 6, 2025, at 15051 E. Alameda Parkway. Admission is free. More details are available at AuroraMuseum.org or **303.739.6660**.

Tickets on sale for county's Chalk Lines and Vines

Arapahoe County's fourth annual spring wine and chalk art festival returns May 18 and 19 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 E. Quincy Ave. Tickets for the event for ages 21 and older include heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine by the glass. Visit ArapahoeCountyEventCenter.com for information.

Swim beach, outdoor pools and spraygrounds open Memorial Day weekend

Get ready for summer swimming starting May 25 in Aurora.

While the Aurora Reservoir, 5800 S. Powhatan Road, is open year-round, the swim beach is only open during the summer months. Find out more at AuroraGov.org/Reservoirs.

The city's six outdoor pools feature unique amenities like waterslides, splashgrounds and diving areas, with a daily admission fee. The pool locations are:

Aqua Vista, 18700 R. Wagontrail Circle; Del Mar Aquatic Center, 12000 E. Sixth Ave.; Meadow Hills, 3609 S. Dawson St.; Parklane, 13003 E. 30th Ave.; Pheasant Run, 14971 E. Pheasant Run Parkway; and Village Green, 1300 S. Chambers Circle. In addition, the city's spraygrounds located at Great Plains Park, 20100 E. Jewell Ave., and Red-tailed Hawk Park, 23701 E. Hinsdale Way, will be turned on during park hours. Visit AuroraGov.org/Pool for details.

Park Lights & Movie Nights returns

Enjoy free family friendly films under the stars in city parks this year. Each film starts promptly at 6 p.m. Be sure to arrive by 5:30 p.m. to claim a spot, and bring your chairs, blankets and treats. Film titles will be available at AuroraGov.org/Events. The schedule is as follows: May 28, Spencer Garrett Park, 1600 Joliet St.; May 29, Norfolk Glen Park, 15800 E. 17th Place; May 30, Del Mar Park, 12000 E. Sixth Ave.; June 4, Rocky Ridge Park, 16200 E. Mississippi Ave.; June 5, Hilltop Park, 3242 S. Richfield St.; and June 13, Larkspur Park, 22551 E. Plymouth Circle

Summer of Imagination: "Adventure Begins at Your Library"

Explore your library and participate in the summer reading program for children, teens and adults from June 1 to Aug. 3. Sign up to receive a free book (while supplies last) and an activity log filled with reading challenges and adventure-themed activities. Complete your log for a chance to win exciting raffle prizes. Learn more at AuroraGov.org/SummerofImagination.

Summer of Imagination: "The Lightning Thief"

Watch Rick Riordan's best-selling fantasy novel come to life on stage with dazzling special effects and a riveting pop-rock score. Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays from June 1 to 23 at The Aurora Fox mainstage, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. The show is appropriate for all ages. Tickets are available at AuroraFox.org.

Online dashboard provides tools to help monitor water use

Aurora Water has almost finished upgrading the city's water meter system to replace meters that are approaching the end of their useful life and improve our water system. These advanced meters use a time-tested technology that gives us the ability to spot large leaks more quickly and manage our extensive water distribution system better. Customers can use a secure, web-based portal that allows you to monitor your water use, identify ways to conserve and even set leak alarms for your home or business. Visit AuroraGov.org/EyeOnWater to learn how you can sign up for this portal.

We anticipate having every property on these new water meters by the end of 2024. For more information on Aurora Water's meter replacement program, visit AuroraGov.org/Meter.

Flood hazard information available

Mile High Flood District offers an online map to view if a property has a flood hazard, as well as nearby stream conditions and watershed changes at Confluence.MHFD.org/login. At times, residents, banks, mortgage companies, insurance and real estate agents may need additional flood hazard information. Aurora Water can provide maps for properties that appear on the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map for Aurora. The following information is available upon request for each property location:

- Community Number Panel Number and Suffix
- FIRM zone such as A, C, X, AE, AO
- Base flood elevation (the depth in AO zones)
- Date of the FIRM'S Index (cover panel)
- Floodway information
- FHAD study information

Copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map and other detailed maps are available from Aurora Water by calling **303.739.7532** or emailing cperl@auroragov.org.

Get a GRIP on your grass

Aurora Water wants to help you get an attractive, lower-maintenance yard that can withstand drought and provide a habitat for pollinators. Join us in saving water and money by installing a water-wise landscape through the Grass Replacement Incentive Program (GRIP) and receive up to a \$4,000 rebate.

This program will be structured in two cohorts—one in the fall and the other in the spring. The spring cohort application is open until June 1. To apply, fill out an application form and submit three to five photos of the grass in your front yard during the cohort's application time frame. For more information on the program's requirements and manual, go to AuroraGov.org/GRIP.

City Council and Aurora Water to host first Water-wise Day Expo

Join City Council and Aurora Water Conservation at the first Water-wise Day Expo from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, in the beautiful Aurora Water-wise Garden, located southeast of the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway. The event will feature educational sessions beginning at 9 a.m. and going through 1 p.m. Have questions about water efficiency? Come interact with local professionals and get your questions answered. Learn about programs and services offered by Aurora Water's conservation team, including rebates, free landscape designs and water use assessments. Be sure to stick around for the multiple drawings for awesome giveaways.

Water conservation as a sustainable innovation

Aurora Water operates, maintains and develops a complex, highly integrated water supply system that balances reservoir storage, municipal demands and varying water supply conditions to meet the current and future long-term water needs of its customers. Water conservation is one of the main tenants of Aurora Water, helping to sustain the buffer between supply and demand. Water is a finite resource and water conservation and demand management are integral elements of the city's water resource system.

Aurora Water's supply system relies on runoff from the mountain snowpack, and includes reservoirs, and the Prairie Waters system, which recaptures water from the South Platte. At full capacity, Aurora can have about 30 months of water supply available through this system.

To help accomplish this, the Aurora Water Management Plan provides a framework for Aurora's water use to meet long-term sustainability, especially in the event of drought or other water emergencies. Aurora Water promotes efficient use of its water resources through water conservation programs and city codes.

Water use and the savings achieved through water conservation programs vary year to year. Savings are calculated by measuring customer water consumption the year prior to and the year after program participation. Outdoor savings are normalized for weather conditions. In 2022, Aurora's residents saved more than 58 million gallons (outdoor savings are normalized for weather conditions). And, although Aurora's population has increased by approximately 40% since 2002, annual city water demand has remained relatively flat.

Recognized as a national leader in water conservation, Aurora Water has the largest conservation team in Colorado. Dozens of free programs are available to customers, such as the grass replacement incentive, water-wise landscape designs, outdoor water assessments and personalized advice for customers.

For additional information on water conservation and Aurora Water's programs, visit AuroraGov.org/Conservation, call **303.739.7195** or email conservation@auroragov.org.

