

THE HUB

APRIL 15, 2020

**YOUR SOURCE FOR WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND SOUTHERN CAYUGA
PRESENTED BY THE AURORA FREE LIBRARY**

If you'd like to submit content for the next issue, please send information to greaterauroracommunity@gmail.com by April 25.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreaterAuroraNewsletter/>

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit the Village of Aurora Website for COVID-19 Resources and Updates

Please check the Village of Aurora website, <http://auroranewyork.us/>, for updates and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. There, you can find links and information from the Aurora Fire Department, Cayuga County, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and Senator Pamela Helming. You can also find updated information on village office operations, meetings, and the village election.

To get on the Aurora municipal e-blast list for news updates and emergency alerts, send a request to VillageClerk@auroranewyork.us or DeputyClerk@auroranewyork.us.

Below, we have reprinted information on the importance of wearing facemasks and instructions on how to make facemasks at home taken from the village website:

“Thank you to all who contributed in compiling the information below regarding the benefits and necessity of wearing face masks, strongly advised by the CDC.

The wearing of face masks in public places is now strongly recommended. Homemade cloth face masks are indeed protective. The extent of protection varies with material and kind in reducing viral exposure but does add a significant margin of safety to hand-washing and social distancing.

4 layers is optimal for cloth face masks and the thinner the material, the less effective. A good rule of thumb is if light easily passes through it, and you can see the fibers, it is not a good fabric; a 600-count cotton pillowcase is better than a bandana. Alternating the cloth with filter material such as vacuum bags, air filters, even coffee filters, has shown effective if it does not interfere with breathing. Make sure that the cloth material is next to your face, so you are not inadvertently inhaling fibers from the filter materials.

There is another important benefit to face masks, especially in this community with its high percentage of older people. Everyone should know by now that it is possible to carry the virus without symptoms. Anyone who visits a vulnerable individual, whether for a friendly chat or even to drop off necessities at the door, needs to be wearing

a mask. The same is true whenever we are in a shared public space, even “just” the Post Office, the Market, or on any other little errand. Each of us depends on the other for this margin of safety.

Almost everyone can make enough masks for their own household: one or two masks per person (wash in hot water between uses, and when dry keep in paper bags, not ziplocs). A pattern for a sewn mask is here: <https://sarahmaker.com/how-to-sew-a-surgical-face-mask-for-hospitals-free-pattern> (note: this is not really for hospitals, but it is a good mask.)

A pattern for a no-sew mask is here: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VqHHViHKfrg>
Both have size measurements to fit adults and children. There are hundreds more on-line, as well. Choose a tightly woven, smooth material if you can. If you have blue shop towels at home, they make excellent filters to tuck inside a mask. Remember, ‘my mask protects you; your mask protects me.’”

Message from the Ledyard Town Clerk

Hello! I hope you all are safe and well.

As we have all altered our lives and made it our top priority to stay home, we encourage residents to continue to practice good social distancing to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. To get up to date information, please visit the Cayuga County Health Department’s website at <https://www.cayugacounty.us/153/Health-Department>.

To receive **DAILY ALERTS** from the health department, please follow the instructions here: <http://www.cayugacounty.us/list.aspx>. You can also visit the Town of Ledyard website at www.townofledyard.com for additional resources and information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic along with the adjustments we have made at our office. We are also trying to update you on a daily basis through our Facebook page, find us at <https://www.facebook.com/townofledyardNY>. Please contact Clerk Bailey at townofledyard@outlook.com or call 315-364-5707 if you would like to purchase garbage stickers, hunting/fishing licenses, dog licenses/renewals, or you have any questions. Finally, if you need help with groceries, prescriptions, or anything else, please do not hesitate to ask. We will get through this together, in the meantime stay healthy, safe, and home.

Notice from the Aurora Volunteer Fire Department

The Aurora Volunteer Fire Department would like all of the Aurora-Ledyard Fire District to know that we are still here and covering calls like normal.

Please follow CDC and government guidelines to keep yourself safe and healthy. Follow good hand-washing techniques, and social distancing. Stay home if possible! Check on the elderly and homebound—from a distance.

Don’t hesitate to call 911 if you are experiencing a true emergency. Always report symptoms to dispatch so we can protect ourselves before our arrival.

Call your doctor: If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html?fbclid=IwAR3svXt71fRTRwix3aVH_JiHxxl1LomMR8sY3deEr_1hLYvYZUc3tEuQpgM

Stay safe and healthy.

Message from NY State of Health

As we work through these challenging times together, NY State of Health is committed to ensuring access to affordable, quality health insurance for all New Yorkers so they can get the care they need during this state of emergency. With the recent closure of businesses across the state, many New Yorkers are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage as a result of COVID-19. Many are likely to be eligible for health coverage with financial assistance through NY State of Health due to their loss of coverage and income. NY State of Health opened a Special Enrollment Period last month for people who are uninsured, and the Marketplace has started an awareness campaign to let people know that NY State of Health is there as a safety net in difficult times like these.

New Yorkers who are without health insurance should apply now through NY State of Health. If you lost employer coverage, you must apply within 60 days of losing that coverage. Because of a loss of income, New Yorkers may also be eligible for Medicaid, the Essential Plan, Child Health Plus, or subsidized Qualified Health Plan coverage. Thousands of assistors are ready throughout the state to help consumers enroll by phone. NY State of Health is committed to helping New Yorkers get the coverage they need so they can get the care they need. Visit us at: www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov and let us help you find a health care plan that works for you. If you have additional questions you can contact the Marketplace directly at 518-486-9102 or NYSOH@health.ny.gov.

COVID-19 Fraud Alerts from Senator Pam Helming

Dear Friend:

During times of uncertainty New Yorkers and Americans band together. People from every walk of life and every corner of our nation step up and do what they can to help their fellow citizens.

Unfortunately, there are still those who look to prey upon the fears and vulnerabilities of our citizens, especially seniors.

Please be advised that several fraud alerts specific to COVID-19 have been issued.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have issued an alert that scammers are offering **fake COVID-19 tests** to Medicare recipients in exchange for their personal information. From there, these scammers use this personal information as part of a broader identity theft scam to drain the bank accounts of their victims.

The New York State Office of Aging has also issued an alert that scammers are offering grants for home repairs. Older adults are receiving postcards from the National Residential Improvement Association addressed to “resident” offering to help secure a grant for home repairs. **This is not a government program and the company does not currently have a business license.**

Here are some basic steps that can help you avoid these schemes:

- DO NOT TRUST ANY unexpected calls or visitors offering coronavirus tests, supplies, or grants;
- BE CAUTIOUS AND SKEPTICAL of all unsolicited requests of personal information over the telephone, like your Medicare number, Social Security number or banking information;
- IGNORE ANY AND ALL social media offers or advertisements for coronavirus testing or treatments or messages or posts from people excited to share the thousands of dollars they claim to have received from an organization that secures grants for homeowners;
- Remember that ONLY a physician or trusted health care provider should assess your condition and approve requests for COVID-19 testing;
- NEVER PAY a fee to a company that says it will help you get a grant;

- Only use local contractors with validated references to do work in your home.

IF YOU SUSPECT FRAUD, complaints related to COVID-19 should be reported to:

- The National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or e-mail disaster@leo.gov;
- The New York State Attorney General's Office: 800-771-7755;
- The AARP Fraud Watch Network: 877-908-3360;
- The Better Business Bureau: <https://www.bbb.org/consumer-complaints/file-a-complaint/get-started>.

Additional information can be found here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/stay-cyber-safe>. More information regarding programs and resources can be found on my [website](#) at Helming.nysenate.gov.

Please know that I will continue to share information with you as it becomes available.

I urge you to pass this information onto anyone you think might find it useful.

I know that these are challenging times. But by working together, staying well-informed, and remaining vigilant, we will overcome these challenges.

Be safe, be well,
Sincerely,



Senator Pam Helming
54th District

Message from the King Ferry Food Pantry

Dear Southern Cayuga Community Members:

It has been nearly one month since the local landscape in Southern Cayuga changed because of COVID-19. Since then the King Ferry Food Pantry (KFFP) has received offers from many community members expressing their desire to help in some way. Although we are serving more people at the pantry, we are intentionally operating with fewer volunteers, as we all try to stay far apart and safe. One of the best ways to support the KFFP at this time is through a monetary donation, which allows us to purchase exactly what we need at any point in time.

Understandably for many of us though, making a financial contribution might not be possible during these difficult economic times. Another impactful way to support the KFFP is to spread the word about the pantry so potential neighbors in need and donors are made aware of our program. One easy way to accomplish this is by liking KFFP Facebook posts (<https://www.facebook.com/KingFerryFoodPantry/>) and sharing those posts through your Facebook page. One of the greatest gifts the KFFP receives is being on the receiving end of the kind and caring individuals who reside in our Southern Cayuga community. No matter the way in which one helps, all gifts of time and resource bring us together as members of a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" team. Donations may be made payable to the King Ferry Food Pantry and mailed to P.O. Box 242, King Ferry, New York 13081. Alternatively, you may go to our website at <https://kingferryfoodpantry.org/> and click on the donate button in the top right corner. Options are provided. We send good wishes to all in our community to remain healthy and well during this challenging time.

Free Grab and Go Breakfast and Lunch for Students

The Southern Cayuga Central School District will be offering free grab and go breakfast and lunch to all students who need it beginning March 18 on a daily basis. These meals will be available between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the high school loading dock for pick up. There will be signs to guide you where to go and someone to greet you at your vehicle. Please do not exit your vehicle as the meals will be delivered to you. There will be free wifi access for students in the vicinity of the meal pickup point to allow students to download classroom information if needed.

Local 4H Group News

Eight-year-old Kennedy Kulis knows her way around the kitchen. She has just started her own Kennedy's Kitchen YouTube videos, teaching kids and adults alike how to cook from scratch. Come learn how to make cinnamon rolls, peach cobbler, yogurt, and more. Find her on "Kulis Hillside Pasture" YouTube channel.



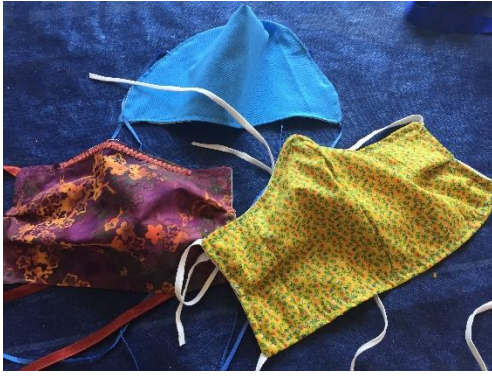
The Southern Cayuga Barn Stormers 4H Club has been collecting items for the King Ferry Food Pantry to help support our community in this unprecedented time of need. Donation boxes were put in place March 21 at six different locations and a truck load of food was collected. Thank you for each and every donation. Thank you to Aurora Fire Department, Genoa Fire Department, Scipio Fire Department, Wilcox's, King Ferry Pizzeria, and King Ferry Corner Store for allowing us to put donation boxes at their businesses.

The donation boxes will remain at King Ferry Corner Store throughout the month of April. Please consider donating non-perishable food items to support families in our community.

12-year-old Benjamin Kulis now owns 7 goats!

Benjamin bought his first goat, Esmeralda, on June 2, 2018. Last year, she had two doelings that he will be selling to his sisters. On Tuesday, April 7, Esmeralda surprised everyone with quadruplets, one buck and three does. You can see videos on YouTube channel "Kulis Hillside Pasture."





Help Make Masks

Interested in making masks for the local community? Need phone instructions?

Or, do you have fabric or elastic bands that you could donate?
Or any other way you'd like to help...

Contact rebeccalruggles@gmail.com or
401-903-9498



The Aurora Free Library is offering **VIRTUAL STORYTIME with Miss Sandy** Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook Live on the Aurora Free Library Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/aurorafreelibrary/?ref=br_rs.

Join Miss Sandy for fun books, songs and other activities. If you miss it, don't worry you can take a look at the videos on our Facebook page.



Need Yard Work or Any Outdoor Work Done?



If you need yard work or any outdoor work, give Jurassic Pete a call. He lives in Aurora and has many references.

Check his Facebook page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/Jurassic-Pete-102996021372256/>

Wells College Seed Exchange

Since Wells College moved to remote classes and the campus library is closed to the public, we have retrieved the remaining seeds in the Wells College Seed Exchange. We are making full packets of seed available to interested parties on a first-come, first-served basis.

The link below will open a Google document where you can find the current stock of seed remaining in our exchange. Note that there are two pages to this spreadsheet: one for flowers and herbs, and the other for vegetables.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11Rg9nsIUy1NJz-P_bqUITT1Lb9NWtwNBf12M5hiyLqE/edit?usp=sharing



You can view but not edit this spreadsheet. Please email me seed requests (mbrown@wells.edu) and I will do my best to fulfill your orders in the date/time order they come in and will update the spreadsheet accordingly.

We know in most cases, packets contain many more seeds than you can use this year; however, in order to limit your exposure to pathogens, we are sending full packets only. Please feel free to share excess seed with friends and neighbors. Most seeds are from this year so if stored in cool, dry conditions, excess seed may well be good for next year's growing season as well.

Please also send me your mailing address so I can mail packets to you.

Note that I will be taking precautions to sanitarily pack the seed packets for you, but I would still recommend that you not open the received packet for a couple days, just in case.

Thanks!

Marian M. Brown, Director
Center for Sustainability and the Environment
Wells College, 170 Main Street, Aurora NY 13026
Phone: 315-364-3304
email: mbrown@wells.edu



Our Bloom Box Kits are available on our website: <https://wineandblooms.com/shop/>.

- All kits are \$25 or less
- Kits include all supplies
- Step by Step instructions
- Local Pickup (free) or can be shipped anywhere in NYS*

Furthermore, we curated these specific projects intentionally with no live plants, so you don't have to worry about anything perishable. We want our fellow 'Bloomers' (wink, wink) to have peace of mind and fully enjoy the time to craft something beautiful for your home.

*Each box is packed and shipped with Covid-19 precautions in mind – gloves, sanitizer, and Clorox wipes will be used during the entire packing process.

Two Cayuga County Youth Selected for Farm Bureau Scholarships

Rebecca Colgan advances to State-level competition

Two Cayuga County youth were recognized for their commitment to agriculture in an essay contest, held this winter by New York Farm Bureau.

Jacob Schmitt was named Cayuga County winner in a statewide Farm Bureau contest. Rebecca Colgan was named winner of for the multi-county district.

Colgan is one step closer to winning one of three scholarships that will be presented by New York Farm Bureau's statewide Promotion and Education Committee. The grade 12 student at Union Springs High School will now compete against other finalists from across the state. Scholarship winners will be awarded \$1,000; \$1,200 and \$1,500 prizes.

Colgan has participated in a range of extracurricular activities, including soccer and track and field at Union Springs High School.

Colgan has also been active in her community, including serving on the Cayuga County Dairy Princess court.

Schmitt, a grade 12 student at Southern Cayuga High School, is active in soccer. He is president of the South Cayuga School chapter of FFA. Earlier this year, he was part of a team of students that took first place in a multi-school district FFA competition in Ag Issues. The Southern Cayuga team presented on issues in agricultural labor.

The Farm Bureau competition begins at the county level where students wrote an essay discussing an issue facing agriculture in their county. The essay must include suggestions for how Farm Bureau can support members who deal with this issue. Each students' application and essay were reviewed by judges. One student is named the winner for each county.

At the district-level competition, Colgan competed against winners from other counties in the Finger Lakes region. She will move on to the state finals.

"The world of agriculture has many bright young leaders," said Ray Lockwood, chair of the Cayuga County Farm Bureau board of directors. "These students have clearly demonstrated their depth of knowledge and commitment to agriculture. With such talented and intelligent leaders on the horizon, the future of New York agriculture seems particularly bright. We are thrilled that our scholarship money will be put to good use in helping these students to reach their full potential."

New York Farm Bureau is the State's largest agricultural lobbying/trade organization. Its members and the public know the organization as "The Voice of New York Agriculture." New York Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving the economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural community.

San Pedro Sister Community News

The San Pedro Sister Community has decided to sell down its current inventory until the movement restrictions ease up and it is safer to do more commerce. We look forward to providing you with fine organic fair trade coffee, tea, nuts, dates, and chocolate as soon as we are able. For more information, contact Cathy Mullarney at cathy.mullarney@gmail.com.

A huge thanks to those who have contributed in the past. We are again in need of donations! Plans for our annual fundraiser are on hold, and they provide the balance of the funds needed for the San Pedro scholarship students. Most of you may know that our delegation trip set for March 19 had to be postponed. Most of the other remaining delegation trips to El Salvador have been canceled. The funds from these trips provide a large part of FUNDAHMER's income, which supports their ongoing programs with communities and students. If donations exceed our need for scholarships and other earmarked San Pedro projects, we may decide to contribute to FUNDAHMER's general fund to benefit the larger Salvadoran sister community.



We welcome any donations at this time. Checks made out to San Pedro Sister Community can be sent to our treasurer Kay Burkett at P.O. Box 343, Aurora, NY 13026. You, the greater Cayuga-San Pedro Sister Community, are our friends' lifeline in San Pedro, and while we know not everyone is in a position to help, we hope many of you are able. Every little bit helps.

If you prefer, you can send tax deductible money to FACES via their website

<https://faithinactiones.wordpress.com/>, with a note indicating it is for the San Pedro Sister Community scholarships. If you do so, please email Kay Burkett at jkburkett@bright.net to let her know so we can keep track of transactions made on our behalf.

El Salvador's President Bukele wisely closed their borders to all incoming travel on March 20 and as of this writing, the US Embassy website <https://covid19.gob.sv/> reports there are currently 51 active cases of COVID-19 in El Salvador with 3 deaths (up from last week's 19 cases). Happily only 6 so far are in the Salvadoran population -- all others are in the foreign population, quarantined in a facility. The cases are in Santa Ana, Usulután, La Libertad, and unfortunately one is in Morazán (San Francisco Gotera) near San Pedro. All Salvadoran citizens are quarantined in their homes until April 21.

We have received well wishes for all of you from our friends in San Pedro, and love, blessings, and virtual hugs have been returned to them. We are united in solidarity for a world of peace and good health.

Aurora Gardening Tips from Erin Weber

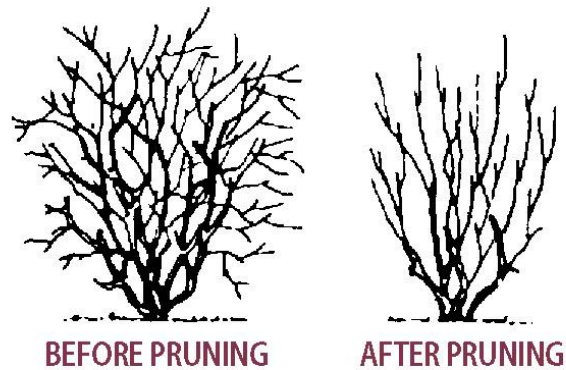
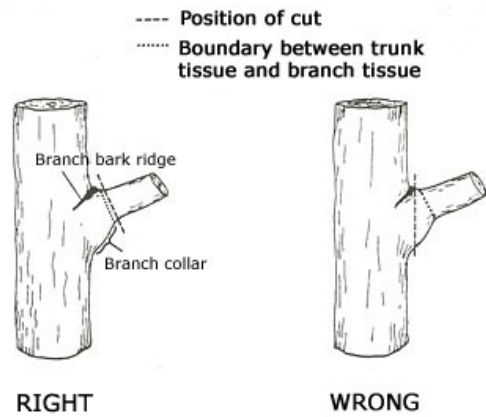
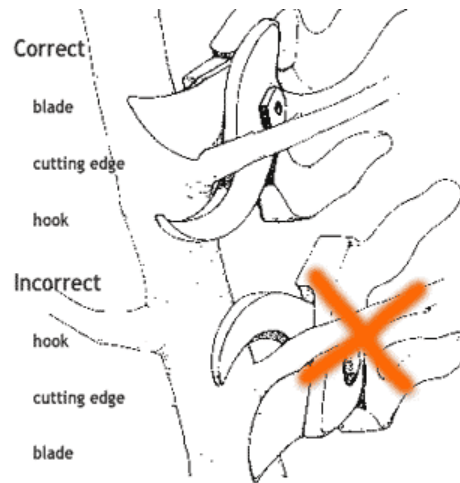
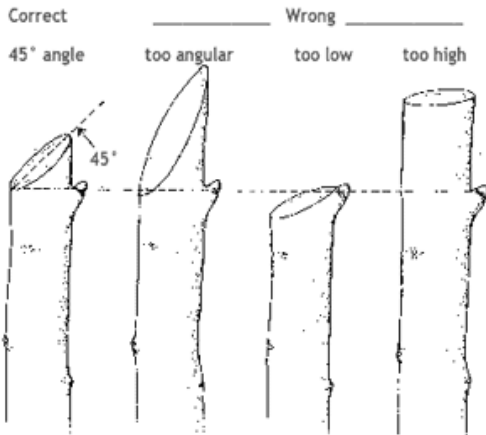
Let's focus on pruning

Pruning is a task that often gets pushed off, however, healthy shrubs need regular maintenance to help their structure and overall health. Shrubs often become overgrown and unsightly without this maintenance. Late winter and early spring is the perfect time of year to take care of the shrubs in your yard. It is considerably easier to get deadwood out and see the structure without the leaves. There is also a better chance for the wounds to heal with new spring growth and without the higher insect population and disease risk.

The best pruning method does not use power tools. Use clean hand tools such as sharp pruners, loppers and hand saws to prune. There are many kinds of pruning methods, but for our purposes we will discuss depth pruning. The idea is to remove dead branches where insects and diseases can populate rapidly, relieve stressed branches, get light and air circulation into the center of the shrub and provide shape and structure.

- Stand back, look at the shrub and think about what shape you desire. Look for branches that are crossing, going back into the center or ones that don't belong and consider removing them.
- Reach into the shrub, the branches are typically quite flexible. Remove branches at the joint, when the cut is made at this intersection or elbow it will make for healthier new growth. Cutting part way down a branch will create a "witches broom" effect that can cause poor growth habits and become unsightly.
- Avoid removing more than 1/3 of the shrub. However, there are exceptions, such as mounding *Spirea*, which can be pruned more heavily.

- Remove both large and small branches and if you need to make a choice over which branch to remove, choose the older or unhealthier branch.



- https://fuf.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/prune_cut1.gif
- https://www.fuf.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/prune_shears1.gif
- <https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/images/pruningcuts1.gif>
- <https://www.starkbros.com/images/dynamic/1120.jpg>

A Few Specifics

Roses – *Forythia* is blooming all over town, that means it is time to prune the *Roses*. Focus on removing dead and crossing branches. Also, prune to an outward facing bud. This encourages the shrub to grow out instead of back into itself.

Hydrangeas – The kind of *Hydrangea* you have depends on how you prune it. If your *Hydrangea* is a *Macrophylla* variety, meaning it had pink, blue or purple blooms, you do not want to prune anything other than dead stems. They have already set their flowers for this year. If your *Hydrangea* is a *Paniculata* variety, with white blooms, then you can prune for shape and height.

Need Help?

If you need help in your garden, please contact Erin Weber 315-246-0928 or eweber89@gmail.com. I have a Horticulture degree and am certified through NYS Landscape Association as a Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (CNLP). I would be happy to help prune your shrubs and get your garden ready for the season.

Operating Information for Local Restaurants, Wineries, and Breweries

Many of our favorite local restaurants, breweries, and wineries are still open for take-out and delivery! Check the links below for updated hours, menus, and availability:

Aurora Brewing Co. - packaged beer for takeout.

Call or text 315-294-0447 or visit

[facebook.com/aurorabrewco](https://www.facebook.com/aurorabrewco).

Bright Leaf Vineyard – wine for pick up or delivery,

visit <https://www.brightleafvineyard.com/>.

Dugan's Country Grill - food for takeout. Call 315-

364-5500 or visit [facebook.com/Dugans-Country-](https://www.facebook.com/Dugans-Country-Grill-371693684609)

[Grill-371693684609](https://www.facebook.com/Dugans-Country-Grill-371693684609).

Fargo Bar & Grill - food and beverages for takeout.

Call 315-364-8006 or visit

[facebook.com/fargobargrill](https://www.facebook.com/fargobargrill).

Genoa Hotel - food for takeout. Call 315-497-9565.

King Ferry Corner Store – 315-364-5300 or visit

[facebook.com/kingferrycornerstore/](https://www.facebook.com/kingferrycornerstore/)

King Ferry Pizzeria - food for takeout. Call 315-364-8084.

Long Point Winery - wine sales only. Call 315-364-

6990 or visit [facebook.com/longpointwinery](https://www.facebook.com/longpointwinery).

Treleaven Wines - food from Simply Cookie and

wine for takeout. Call 315-364-5100 or visit

[facebook.com/treleavenwines](https://www.facebook.com/treleavenwines).

Village Market – call 315-364-8803 or visit

[facebook.com/villagemarketaurorany/](https://www.facebook.com/villagemarketaurorany/).

Wilcox General Store – call 315-364-8076 or visit

[facebook.com/wilcoxgeneralstorekingferry/](https://www.facebook.com/wilcoxgeneralstorekingferry/).

For information on more local businesses, please see *The Citizen's* frequently updated list: https://auburnpub.com/news/local/list-cayuga-county-area-eateries-offering-takeout-delivery-during-covid/article_73e38fa2-98c5-5e94-a3d1-7a89e0f58609.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1.

Wells College Postpones Commencement Ceremony to Late Summer

The 152nd Commencement ceremony is tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8 on the College's campus.

Wells College President Jonathan Gibraltar announced to the campus community this morning that the College's 152nd Commencement ceremony—originally slated for May 16, 2020—has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8 due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

“Our seniors have been deprived of their final semester on campus due to this international health crisis,” said President Gibraltar. “I have promised the class of 2020 that I have no intention of moving to a ‘virtual’ Commencement or canceling it entirely, as some other colleges have chosen to do. Our students and their families deserve to gather at a ceremony that celebrates their accomplishments in a safe way that also pays tribute to the College’s longstanding traditions,” President Gibraltar added.

President Gibraltar also noted that the new Aug. 8 date is tentative, and will depend on what course the pandemic takes in the next several months.

New York state has been hit especially hard by the coronavirus pandemic, particularly in and around New York City. Wells College was forced to send its students, faculty and staff home in mid-March after Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued a statewide ban on all “non-essential” businesses and gatherings. The majority of students have not been on

campus since departing for spring break in early March, and nearly all faculty and staff will be teaching and working remotely for the remainder of the spring semester.

The names of this year's Commencement speakers will be announced at a later date. For more details about Wells College's 2020 Commencement ceremony, please visit wells.edu/commencement. For more information on announcements and developments related to the College's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit wells.edu/covid-19-updates.

Poetry of Southern Cayuga

James Burkett is new to poetry and recently discovered the online publication [aaduna](#) and its annual effort to celebrate [National Poetry Month](#). [Bruce Bennett](#) encouraged him to submit a couple of poems for this annual poetry feature. (And that is what community does best...share and open up avenues for folks who may not already know...to enable them to establish pathways that work best for them.)

Mr. Burkett is a retired social service administrator, having worked with emotionally disturbed, behavior challenged children and their families his entire life. Only recently (three years ago), he began to write poetry in a challenge to write a poem a day. It is during the summer when he can go barefoot all day that is the best season of his life.

"The Veteran"

He would appear at the station
where I worked as a gas jockey
to earn money for college.
Dark complexion and short graying hair
a wrinkled face with kind brown eyes
and always a smile.

He never asked for much,
occasionally bought a pack of cigarettes.
He never offered much,
just the smile.

He walked slowly
with a slight limp.
The guys gave him wide berth,
said he fought in the Great War.
I don't recall that he ever mentioned it.
I do recall his smile.

"Gentrified Neighborhood"

Three billion birds gone
Lost their home
Expelled!
Their neighborhood - gentrified
Property values increased
Couldn't pay the rent
Oak Towers, torn down
Hedge Row, bulldozed
Insect Diner, closed
Seed Smorgasbord, gone
Clear Water Bar, a toxic mess

There's no reason to stay
There's nowhere to go
Neighbors are in the same boat
Ergo, fade away!



EVENTS

“Protecting Birds and the Places They Need at Cayuga Lake and the Montezuma Wetlands Complex”

**Wednesday, April 15
6:30 p.m.**

Looking for ways to help our local environment and get outside in a time of social distancing? Chris Lajewski, Center Director of the Montezuma Audubon Center, will be hosting a Zoom presentation **in partnership with the Aurora Free Library**. The talk will highlight the birds of conservation priority within the Cayuga Lake Watershed and the Montezuma Wetlands Complex and how you can help protect them.

To attend email Ed at ecaster@aurorafreelibrary.org by Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. and you will be sent the link to join.

Aurora Free Library April Board Meeting

**Thursday, April 16
5:30-6:30 p.m.**

The meeting will be held using remote meeting software. For a call-in number, please send your email address to aurorafreelibrarycny@gmail.com. All are welcome to attend remotely.



First Meeting, Aurora Free Library’s Virtual Build-A-Book Club (For Ages 7-17)

**Tuesday, April 21
4:00 p.m.**

Do you have Legos, cardboard, paper, or other building supplies at home? We want you to be creative and use whatever materials you have at home to design and build a creative creation to share with others. It can be as big or small as you wish.

First Challenge: Think of a book that you enjoy and build or make something based on that book. We will spend the beginning of our meeting having attendees showcase what they have built (if you have the book that inspired your creation that would be wonderful).

Next, we will read a story that will inspire everyone to build something for our next meeting.

Spread the word and start building your creative constructions! Email staff@aurorafreelibrary.org for the link to our meeting by Tuesday, April 21 at 3 p.m. Happy building!

Wells College Virtual Open House

Saturday, April 25
10:45-11:45 a.m.

Prospective students should register and participate via videoconference, but the presentation will also be streamed live. More information is available on the College's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/255727802100277/>

Southern Cayuga Book Club

Wednesday, May 6
7:15 p.m.

We are postponing the Community Read Discussion of *Haven* by Ruth Gruber for May. Instead, we will discuss the Big Library Read title: *Funny, You Don't Look Autistic: A Comedian's Guide to Life on the Spectrum* by Michael McCreary. See more information at www.biglibraryread.com.

Please contact aurorafreelibrarycny@gmail.com for a link to join us for Book Club on May 6. New members are always welcome.



APRIL AND MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 UMA Easter Concert, 10 a.m.	13	14	15 Virtual Storytime, 9:30 a.m. “Protecting Birds and the Places They Need at Cayuga Lake and the Montezuma Wetlands Complex,” 6:30 p.m.	16 Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.	17	18 King Ferry Food Pantry, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
19	20	21 Virtual Build-A-Book Club, 4 p.m.	22 Virtual Storytime, 9:30 a.m.	23	24	25 Wells College Virtual Open House, 10:45 a.m.
26	27	28	29 Virtual Storytime, 9:30 a.m.	30	MAY 1	2 King Ferry Food Pantry, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
3	4	5	6 Virtual Storytime, 9:30 a.m. Southern Cayuga Book Club, 7:15 p.m.	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Virtual Storytime, 9:30 a.m.	14	15	16 King Ferry Food Pantry, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
17	18	19	20 Virtual Storytime, 9:30 a.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Virtual Storytime, 9:30 a.m.	28	29	30