

NEWSLETTER

For the 5th Ward

CONTACT INFO

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 Alderman Carl Franco



Facebook Page

Check out my Facebook page, entitled "Alderman Carl Franco" for a great way to stay informed about news and updates in the 5th Ward.

The Facebook page can be accessed either from my contact information on the city's website or going to Facebook and typing "Alderman Carl Franco" in the search bar.

The West Branch Library is a convenient resource for computer and internet access if you don't have internet access at home.

Dear 5th Ward Residents,

Happy New Year! There has been a lot of buzz and excitement in the 5th Ward since I sent out the Ward's last newsletter. I am happy to say that the new 5th Ward meeting space located in West Plaza has been a great success. The meeting space, which is located at 1921 W. Galena Boulevard, is utilized by several 5th Ward organizations including the ward neighborhood groups, the local boy scouts, 5th Ward homeowner associations, and the Salvation Army. While a resource for local community groups, the location also serves as both a productive and convenient space to meet with residents whom now no longer need to travel to the downtown alderman's office for a meeting.

In positive news for the Aurora University (AU) area, a new parking garage that will accommodate up to 500 vehicles is scheduled to be constructed in the Fall of 2019. The project, which is being completed in a coordinated effort between City staff, the 4th Ward Alderman, myself, and the AU administration, should help to relieve parking challenges that occur during the Aurora University school year. While the City has made efforts to restrict parking to one side of the street on certain city blocks, it never diminished the overall street parking volume. Thank you, Aurora University, for working with us and listening to our residents.

Speaking of residents, I want to give a shout out to resident Cletus Rettenmeier. Cletus's expertise and dedication has been instrumental in the maintenance of the native prairie area just south of the Cherry Hill subdivision and the butterfly gardens west of Orchard Road on Galena Boulevard. We in the 5th Ward are fortunate to have an abundance of green spaces for passive recreation. The City has now hired a company to maintain, enhance, and beautify our natural areas through plantings, mowings, and controlled burns.

In the Spring of 2018, Invest Aurora, the City's public-private economic development arm, surveyed 5th Ward residents to ascertain their desires for commercial development in the ward. Survey results showed that our residents would like to see more casual dining, entertainment, a fresh food market, fine dining, art and entertainment focused business, shoes and clothing stores, and a dessert shop (in order of priority). The City and I take these survey results under consideration when attracting potential new business to the 5th Ward. To view the complete survey results, please visit my Facebook page.

Economic development in the Ward is an ongoing challenge. As you are aware, there are vacant buildings along the Galena Boulevard corridor and **(over)**

Upcoming Meetings

Invested Neighbors

When: First Tuesday of odd months at 7:00 pm

Location: 1921 W. Galena Boulevard

West Aurora Concerned Citizens

When: Odd number months on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Location: 1921 W. Galena Boulevard

Washington Neighbors

When: Odd number months on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Location: 1921 W. Galena Boulevard

Please check the Facebook page "Alderman Carl Franco" for changes or updates.

New 5th Ward Meeting Space

1921 W. Galena Boulevard

The new space may be used as a meeting space for 5th Ward community groups and individuals as well as office hours for the Alderman.

Dear 5th Ward Residents Continued..

vacant land on and near Orchard Road where the City would like to see development. Although vacancies occur, there has been some positive progress in the last 12 months, including the opening of Rush Copley and Anytime Fitness at West Plaza Shopping Center. A-Town Pizza and Pub will open in the old Brody's next month. A-Town Pizza and Pub will be a similar type of establishment with some cosmetic changes and a specialization in pizza.

Also coming to West Plaza this Spring will be a family fun center called Mega Fun Park. Mega Fun Park will occupy the old Hobby Lobby retail space and consist of several entertainment options including a four-lane bowling alley, trampolines, an obstacle course, virtual reality games, electric go-carts, a restaurant, and party rooms. The games will be state of art and have been procured them from all over the world. I have been working closely with the developer and am very excited for the opening of this business. My hope is that the family fun center will act as an anchor establishment that will benefit all other businesses in West Plaza.

Further, the recently approved rezoning and special use designation of the West Plaza Shopping Center has created commercial out lot development areas along Galena Boulevard. This approval has allowed McDonald's to move their restaurant from behind the old Walmart to a newly created out lot closer to Galena Boulevard, which should occur this Spring.

Across Galena Boulevard, a new restaurant called AC's Pub opened in the space previous occupied by Hound's Blue Moon. AC's Pub is a sports bar type of establishment and has daily specials.

Further north on Orchard Road, Lou Malnati's and Potbelly's have opened near the Hampton Inn & Suites. Just south, Shine Bright Car Wash has opened and on Indian Trail between the CVS and Arby's and soon there will be an ATI physical Therapy and a Jersey Mike's sandwich shop in this location as well. This is all good news and shows that there is a positive trend for growth in the 5th Ward.

Additionally, there has been some interest in both the old Party City and Office Depot tenant spaces. It is a priority for the City to fill these vacant buildings and we will continue to work hard to attract the right fit for our community. The City and I believe that an exciting development will be coming to the old Cosmopolitan Market Place. There has been some delays, however, the City hopes to make an announcement soon. I will keep the residents of the 5th Ward updated on this development through my Facebook page.

Carl Franco
5th Ward
Alderman



Street Lights

Over the last year or so, the City has been replacing the old street lights from a high-pressure sodium light to LED. The LED lights provide an improved look and savings on energy costs. So far, we have replaced about 75% of the lights in the 5th Ward with LED lights. With an incentive program from Com Ed and Ward funds, the City thinks we can upgrade the remaining lights this Spring.

As I have mentioned in an earlier newsletter, please advise me if you feel your block is in need of more illumination. I would like to have additional street lights installed where needed. Well-lit neighborhoods are less likely to experience crime than those that are not. Please keep in mind that there are standards for distance between street lights. We have had a few recent requests for new street lights where our electrical engineers found that new lights were appropriate, and lights were installed.

Street Resurfacing

Our Ward is scheduled to have the greatest amount of linear feet of street resurfacing in the City with 17,810 linear feet of streets to be resurfaced. I have asked our City engineers to schedule roadwork around our schools during the summer, however, because of the number of schools and the efficiency and cost savings of doing these projects geographically from the east side to west side (or visa versa), it may not be possible to avoid construction during the school session. If that is the case, we will work with the schools to develop a plan to mitigate the potential traffic congestion. Once begun, roadway resurfacing can take anywhere from 30 to 45 days.

Garbage Pickup Day

As you probably know, we conduct a "garbage pick-up day" each Spring for 5th Ward residents to dispose of garbage/clutter than may have accumulated over the year. We rotate each year between the north side and south sides of the Ward. In 2019, the pick-up will be for residents living on the south side of Galena Boulevard. The date has yet to be determined. A mailer will go out to those residents affected with the date, times, and locations. Also, as we have done the past few years, we will be conducting a paper shred event for all 4th, 5th, and 6th Ward residents. Again, a mailer will go out with the details. Historically, we have held this event during the summer months.



The streets in the 5th Ward scheduled for resurfacing in 2019 are:

Raven Drive from Blackberry Trail to Blackberry Trail

Blackberry Trail from Blackberry Lane to Raven Drive

Westchester Court off of Canterbury Road

Plum Street from Edgelawn Drive to Evanslawn Avenue

Laurel Drive from Bradford Lane to Richard Street

Heather Drive from Laurel Drive to Crestwood Court

Redwood Drive from Lilac Lane to Heather Drive

Central Ave. from Marseillaise Place to Downer Place

Westlawn Avenue from Kensington Place to Garfield Avenue

Kensington Place from Westlawn Avenue to Rosedale Avenue

Evanslawn Avenue from Kensington Place to Garfield Avenue

City of Aurora Customer Service Call Center

A great way to get information and make service requests is through the City of Aurora's Customer Service Call Center.

Below are examples of the information and services provided:

- Zoning violations
- Abandoned vehicles
- Overgrown grass/weeds
- Garbage, trash, or debris
- Unsafe structures
- Street maintenance and repairs, such as, streetlight outages, and damaged street signs.
- Notary
- City of Aurora services county, state, and federal services
- Ideas for improving your neighborhood
- Crime prevention information
- Planning and conducting neighborhood improvement projects
- Support and assistance to neighborhood and business associations
- Water bill payments

Customer Service can be reached by calling (630) 256-INFO (4636).

For police emergencies call 911, for non-emergencies call (630) 256-5000.



Alderman Carl Franco
 44 E. Downer Place
 Aurora, IL 60505

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Shop Local!

Shop local and come check out the 5th Ward's businesses!
 An inventory of 5th Ward retail is listed below.

Store	Address	Category
Jewel Osco	1952 W Galena Boulevard	Grocery
Burger King	2100 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Dunkin Donuts	2112 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
7 Eleven	2130 W Galena Boulevard	Convenience
Taco Bell	2140 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Kirhofer's Sports	2112 W Galena Boulevard	Sporting goods
Subway	2112 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Little Caesars	2112 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
The UPS Store	2112 W Galena Boulevard	Shipping, printing, office
AC's Pub	2124 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
A & E Vacuum	2124 W Galena Boulevard	Other
Robinson Auto Repair	2114 W Galena Boulevard	Auto
Torres Tacos	2124 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Salon	2124 W Galena Boulevard	Beauty
Ace Hardware	2144 W Galena Boulevard	Hardware/ Home Improvement
BP	2200 W Galena Boulevard	Gas
KFC	2240 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Cricket	2150 W Galena Boulevard	Cell phone
Papa Johns	2150 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Hair Cattery	2150 W Galena Boulevard	Beauty
Mother's Pancake House	2290 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Walgreens	22 N Constitution Drive	Pharmacy
Aldi	2758 W Galena Boulevard	Grocery
Browns Chicken and Pasta	2115 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Mexican Tacos and Burritos	2115 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Kenny Corn	2005 W Galena Boulevard	Other
China Buffet	2009 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
McDonalds	2011 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Cigarette Hut	1989 W Galena Boulevard	Other
Rosin Eyecare	1987 W Galena Boulevard	Optical
Sally Beauty Supplies	1985 W Galena Boulevard	Beauty
NV Foot Spa	1983 W Galena Boulevard	Beauty
Big Lots	1971 W Galena Boulevard	Department
Colonial Café	1961 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant

Store	Address	Category
Auto Zone	1017 W Galena Boulevard	Auto
Shear Talent with Color	1951 W Galena Boulevard	Beauty
A-Town Pizza and Pub	1941 W Galena Boulevard	Restaurant
Dollar Tree	1925 W Galena Boulevard	Dollar store
Barber Shop	1911 W Galena Boulevard	Beauty
Orchard Valley Golf Club/ Restaurant	2411 W Illinois Avenue	Restaurant
CVS	2360 W Indian Trail	Pharmacy
Arby's	2330 W Indian Trail	Restaurant
Home Depot	1250 N Orchard Road	Hardware/ Home Improvement
Wendy's	1260 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Chili's	1290 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Panera	1330 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Great Clips	1330 N Orchard Road	Beauty
Pockets	1330 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Pizza Hut	1330 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
AT&T	1330 N Orchard Road	Cell phone
FedEx Office	1330 N Orchard Road	Shipping, printing, office
T Mobile	1460 N Orchard Road	Cell phone
Supercuts	1460 N Orchard Road	Beauty
Buffalo Wild Wings	1460 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Starbucks	1480 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Jimmy Johns	1480 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Red Wing Shoes	1480 N Orchard Road	Apparel
Papa Saverio's	1480 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
Chipotle	1480 N Orchard Road	Restaurant
The Joint Chiropractic	1480 N Orchard Road	Other
7 Eleven	2411 W Sullivan Road	Convenience
Jiffy Lube	2428 W Sullivan Road	Auto
Discount Tire	2445 Augusta Way	Auto
IHOP	2455 Augusta Way	Restaurant
Randall Liquors	1660 N Randall Road	Liquor
Gigabyte PC	1664 N Randall Road	Other
Cole's Styling Salon	1670 N Randall Road	Beauty

