

NEWSLETTER

For the 5th Ward

CONTACT INFO

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 Alderman Carl Franco

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Dear 5th Ward Residents,

Let me start out by saying that I am honored to represent the 5th ward where my wife and I have lived the past 26 years and raised our family. I recently retired after working as an air traffic controller at the FAA facility on Indian Trail for over 32 years. Many of you I have known for a number of years as we worked together with a variety of community organizations. I look forward to meeting and working with all our neighbors to meet the challenges facing our ward and city.

While campaigning, I heard a desire to have more meetings and vehicles for communication. I recently met with some Homeowners Association groups and members of the community to help develop a structure for meetings and communication. The meetings would consist of 5th ward news and happenings along with city staff members in attendance to answer questions about their particular department. Aurora community police officers would also be present to give updates and answer questions. The initial plan is to have two to three



meetings per year. The first is scheduled for August 12 at 6:30 PM at Washington Middle School. While the first meeting is in the 5th ward, future meetings may be elsewhere. Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to visit a number of impressive facilities that most of our residents have probably not had the opportunity to visit. I am considering scheduling meetings at places such as the Aurora Fire Museum, the new main Aurora Public Library, and the Police Station. In addition, I am working with the City of Aurora's Information technology department to create a link on the website for the 5th ward so residents can see a calendar of events just for 5th ward residents and news pertinent to our ward.

Reminder !

1 5th Ward meeting

at Washington Middle School.

2 In addition the West Side Area of Concerned Citizens (WACC) will be meeting on _____ in the multi-purpose room (2nd floor) in the Vaughan Athletic Center.

Dear Neighbor Continued...

I will be forming a committee of 5th ward residents from different neighborhoods for input as to how to spend 5th ward funds. Each alderman is allocated money to spend in their ward. Historically those funds have been used for clean-up days, tree planting, resurfacing streets, mailings, and such.

Finally, I met recently with business owners from the Prairie Street area, West Plaza, and our economic development arm for Aurora called "Seize the Future". There is concern for these areas which are now being addressed. It's no secret that the empty store fronts in West Plaza are unsightly and not reflective of our expectations. All of us will be working to remedy this. It won't be easy. All local communities are in competition for business retention

and growth. Our role is to create an environment attractive to business. We understand that the taxes generated by business ease the tax burden put on the residents. I just paid my tax bill. Ouch! I don't believe that I am the only one who feels this way. I am encouraging all Aurora residents to Shop Aurora when possible. If you have choices, choose Aurora. We need to keep our tax dollars at home when able.

As I mentioned earlier, the city's website www.aurora-il.org is a wealth of information. It is fairly easy to navigate and will be even easier as the city plans to give it a face lift.

Sincerely,

Carl Franco
5th Ward Alderman

Mission Statement

To serve the residents and businesses of the City of Aurora in a responsive and effective manner through leadership and legislative action for the present and future well-being of the community.

What do Aldermen do?

Common issues handled by the Alderman's office include:

- Junk and/or trash in a neighbor's yard.
- A house or garage that is not kept up to code standards.
- Junk vehicle(s) parked in a driveway.
- More than one (1) unlicensed vehicle parked in a driveway.
- Cars parked on the grass or lawn.
- Vehicle parked on the street over the 48-hour parking limit.
- Dead trees in yard or on public right of way.
- Tall grass over 8 inches or weeds in a lot or yard.

Aldermen also handle requests such as:

- Additional street lights.
- Stop and yield signs or other signage such as handicapped parking, no parking and disabled child.
- Special Service Areas (SSA): Residents can request an SSA for their street, which could involve storm sewer, sidewalks, curb and gutter, street lights, and a rebuilt street. This is done on a 50/50 basis with the city paying 50% and the residents paying 50%. It can be done by the residents paying their share through their taxes over a period of years.

Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

Keeping with tradition, I have scheduled a clean-up day for Saturday June 27 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Because of the size of the 5th ward we separate the ward into north and south of Galena. We rotate year-to-year. This year 5th ward residents south of Galena will be able to dispose of their items. Next year it will be for those north of Galena. There is a significant cost involved with this operation. We ask that each household participating have proof of residency when they arrive at the clean-up site.

Trash compactor trucks will be placed at the following locations:

- Washington Middle School on S. Constitution
- Cherry Hill, corner Amy Ln and Manchester Way
- Lake Side San Souci at Coach & Surrey and Wyckwood Ct
- The Linden Park at Suncrest and Summerhill

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this project contact me at **630-631-4296**. Again this is for 5th ward residents residing south of Galena only.

Please follow these guidelines

Acceptable items include:

building materials, empty or dried out paint cans, discarded furniture, large and small household appliances, carpet and pads, grills, wood, metal, bicycles, mattresses, and similar items.

Prohibitive items include:

yard waste, dirt, sand, concrete, gravel, tires, batteries, computers, any electronic device, all liquid chemicals and paints. No commercial vehicles.

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, streetlights out, 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



Street Repairs

Each year the Public Works Department engineers schedule streets to be resurfaced and patched throughout the City of Aurora. The list can be quite long as the winter weather can be extreme. In the 5th ward for this year there are 43 areas designated to be patched. In addition there are 11 slated for resurfacing. Those are listed below.

- ALMOND DR from ILLINOIS AV to W MULBERRY CT
- ALMOND DR from MULBERRY CT to CORAL AV
- ALMOND DR from CORAL AV to INDIAN TR W

- ALSCHULER CT from ALSCHULER DR to WEST END
- ALSCHULER DR from ALSCHULER DR W to KENILWORTH PL
- ALSCHULER DR from W CONSTITUTION DR to ALSCHULER DR
- BAINBRIDGE CT from PINEHURST DR to EAST END
- DENSMORE RD from GALENA BL W to CITY BOUNDRY
- GREENLEAF CT from WEST END to ALMOND DR
- PINEHURST DR from CANTERBURY RD to CANTERBURY RD
- RANDALL CT from RANDALL RD N to WEST END

* Please contact me if you observe a road in your neighborhood in need of repair. Each alderman has the ability to have additional streets repaired.

Did you Know...

1 First Fridays

It's a night of art, fun, music and community at local businesses and venues in downtown Aurora on the first Friday evening of the month. First Fridays in Downtown Aurora invites the community to enjoy art, music, food, theater and more on the first Friday of the month. First Fridays are the first Friday of every month.

First Friday venues have staggered times ranging from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. First Friday events are FREE! (Theater performances not included.)

2 FREE Electronics Recycling

Need to get rid of old electronics? No problem. The City offers twice monthly collection sites for you to conveniently dispose of unwanted electronics. For a complete list of accepted items and future collection dates, call 630-256-INFO or visit the recycling page on the City's website.

3 Farmers Market Main

Eat fresh with produce, meat, dairy and bread all straight from the farm, some as close as just 25 miles away. Plus live music, demonstrations and more every weekend at Illinois' oldest market.

Every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Aurora Transportation Center, 233 N. Broadway. Thru Oct. 17.

4 Aurora Farmers Market West

West Aurora Plaza, 1901 W. Galena Blvd, Aurora, IL 60506 Wednesdays, July 8 through September 30* from 12:00 p.m.* to 5:00 p.m. (*New hours & extended season)

5 3rd of July Fireworks Extravaganza

At approximately, 9:30 p.m., The City of Lights will live up to its name with a pyrotechnic extravaganza illuminating the night sky with a rainbow of colors! Fireworks can be viewed from both McCullough and RiverEdge Parks and along the banks of the river.

FREE Family Activities & Fireworks!
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

6 Independence Day Parade

The annual July 4th Parade will take place on Saturday, July 4, 2015, with step-off at 10:00 a.m.

This year's theme is "Proud to be an American". The parade route will be east on Benton Street, north on Broadway, west on Galena Boulevard, south on Stolp Avenue, west on Downer Place and ending at River Street. The July 4th Reviewing Stand will be in front of the Paramount Theatre at 23 East Galena Boulevard for best viewing.



City Events

- 1 First Fridays**
First Friday of every month. 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. @ Downtown Aurora
- 2 Free Electronics Recycling**
Twice monthly
- 3 Farmers Market Main**
Every Saturday from 8am to noon thru Oct. 17 @ Aurora Transportation Center
- 4 Farmers Market West**
Wednesdays, July 8 through Sept. 30 from 12pm to 5pm @ West Aurora Plaza
- 5 3rd of July Fireworks Extravaganza**
Friday, July 3rd, approximately 9:30pm @ RiverEdge Park
- 6 Independence Day Parade**
Saturday, July 4th, 10am @ Downtown Aurora