

Friday  
November 28

Holiday  
Magic 2008

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the city of aurora, illinois - [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)

# aurora

## borealis



WINTER  
2008

## Silent night?

*Aurora in final  
stages of creating  
railway quiet zones*



Train horns blasting throughout the city at all hours of the day and night will be a thing of the past by the end of the year as plans to create two “quiet zones” in Aurora are near completion, according to Mayor Tom Weisner.

“I’m pleased to announce that because several city council and city staff members have spent many hours working toward establishing quiet zones on both rail lines that run through our city, we should truly have a lot more silent nights in this town by Christmas,” Weisner said.

One of the final steps toward establishing the quiet zone on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway line was the permanent closure of McClure Road on the city’s east side, according to Eric Gallt, city traffic engineer. “The closure allows for the establishment of a quiet zone along the BNSF line that runs east and west from Illinois Route 59 to Barnes Road,” Gallt said.

As part of the agreement, BNSF Railway will provide \$100,000 and the Illinois

Commerce Commission’s grade crossing fund will provide \$70,000 toward the project.

Gallt said 147 trains pass through the McClure crossing on the BNSF line daily. Another 14 pass through the same area on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) tracks. “The quiet zone will not bring the horns to zero, but there should be at least an 85 percent reduction in train horn noise. So instead of hearing the horns blow 160 times a day, residents would only hear them once an hour, on average.” Engineers retain the authority to sound horns in emergency situations.

“Aurora has been working for three years with Naperville and Warrenville to get a quiet zone on the EJ&E in place,” said

*continued on page 2*

*2009 goals set*

## Citizens give thumbs up in NIU survey

A survey conducted by the Northern Illinois University Public Opinion Laboratory to help the City of Aurora measure the effectiveness of its Wildly Important Goals shows that nearly 80 percent of those who have contacted the city in the past 12 months rate their overall experience as excellent or good.

Using random-digit dialed numbers, 802 telephone interviews were completed last summer. The last time a similar survey was conducted was 2002, said Dan Barriero, director of community services. “When we compared 2002 to 2008, opinions on customer services and public safety saw a significant upward trend,” Barriero said.

Objectives for conducting the survey included establishing baselines for city goals as well as gathering opinions about a number of topics

*continued on page 3*

*Silent night, continued from page 1*

Carie Anne Ergo, assistant chief of staff to Weisner. "We certainly expect that whatever happens with Canadian National, the Surface Transportation Board requires the rail industry to do whatever it takes to respect that public investment."

## Quiet Zone FAQs

### 1. When will the quiet zones be in place?

The EJ&E should be in place by Thanksgiving.

The BNSF should be in place by Christmas.

### 2. What crossings will this affect?

On the EJ&E:

- Diehl Road, Liberty Street, Odgen Avenue, Montgomery Road, Keating Drive, Hafenrichter Road, Wolf's Crossing and 111th Street

On the BNSF:

- McClure Road, Terry Avenue, Edgelawn Avenue, Prairie Street and Barnes Road

### 3. Does this mean the horns will never sound?

No. The railroad engineer still has the responsibility to sound the horn if a situation warrants it for public safety.

### 4. Does the City of Aurora enforce the quiet zones?

No. The enforcement of the quiet zones is the sole responsibility of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

### 5. What do we do if we suspect a railroad engineer is purposely ignoring the quiet zones?

A resident can inform the city (630-264-INFO) or the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) directly at 312-353-6203.

## What's next for the CN-EJ&E purchase

If the Canadian National purchase of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern railway is approved, train traffic could increase three to four times in Aurora. The city has taken a strong stand against the sale with Mayor Weisner testifying before Congress in Washington D.C. on the negative impacts to our region. The final environmental impact statement (FEIS) is expected to be released at any time. The Surface Transportation Board, the governmental body with jurisdiction over rail transactions, is likely to make its final decision after it reviews the FEIS. Go to [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org) for more information. 🐾

**Aurora Borealis, Winter 2008**

# TRANSFORMING AURORA

*a message from Mayor Tom Weisner*



Before I review what has generally been a good year for our community, I want to acknowledge a recent tragedy. I'm sure you are aware of the unfortunate Air Angels helicopter crash Oct. 15, in which three men and a 14-month-old child died. As the holiday season approaches, our hearts and our prayers go out to their families.

This year has not been without its challenges, but I believe Aurora has done well in many areas, including public safety, quality of life and image.

Here are a few highlights:

1. Aurora was named one of America's Top 100 small cities in which to live by *Money* magazine in August for the second consecutive time.
2. Crime continued to drop significantly in Aurora during the first six months of 2008, and in 2007, statistics showed the city had the lowest number of reported crimes in 22 years.
3. For the second year in a row, the City of Aurora's water has been named "Best Tasting in Illinois" by the Illinois Section American Water Works Association (ISAWWA). The city won this honor in 1999, 2000 and 2007 as well.
4. The top-attended attraction in Kane County for 2007 was Chicago Premium Outlets in Aurora, with 5.5 million visitors, according to the Illinois Board of Tourism.
5. *Chicago* magazine listed Aurora as offering some of the best-priced homes in the Chicago real estate market in its October 2008 article, *Where to Buy Now*. The article listed Aurora as one of 14 "up-and-coming Chicago neighborhoods and suburbs where prices are relatively low and the promise for future growth is strong."
6. *Fire Chief* magazine awarded the Gold Medal Award for Station Style in the shared facilities category to Fire Station #8 on Aurora's far east side at 3770 McCoy Drive.

7. The city's 2008 Blues on the Fox and Downtown Alive Rocks the Fox festivals were the best-attended music festivals in the city's 10-year Downtown Alive! history.

8. HondaJet Midwest, a sales and service representative for Honda Aircraft Company, announced this summer that Aurora Municipal Airport will be home to the exclusive HondaJet Sales and Service facility serving the Midwestern United States.

9. Aurora hosted GreenTown: The Future of Community, a one-day conference to help create eco-effective communities, on Oct. 2. Speakers were Terry Tamminen, former secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency, and Dean Kubani, manager of the City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability. Attendees came from 16 states and Canada.

10. The City Council moved forward with the creation of quiet zones city-wide for those who live along both the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and EJ&E rail lines. If plans stay on track, the quiet zones will not bring the horns to zero, but there should be at least an 85 percent reduction in train horn noise by the end of this year.

In short, 2008 has been a year in which our community has continued to move forward. On behalf of myself, our City Council and our staff, I would like to wish you and your loved ones the Happiest of Holiday Seasons! 🐾

# The 'beet' on the street: Geomelt

City officials are looking for innovative ways to save money and tread lightly on the environment this winter.

They may have come up with a "sweet" solution for downtown streets in the form of sugar beet juice.

Director of Public Properties Steve Meyer said this winter, the city will test a sugar beet-based product called Geomelt on downtown streets, bridges and sidewalks.

A number of municipalities already have used the product, including the villages of Oak Park, Hanover Park, Carol Stream and Glen Ellyn and the cities of St. Charles, Evanston and Lake Forest. Geomelt is a natural, agricultural product blended with sodium.



For those worried that their cars, shoes or clothes might take on a red stain from the solution, have no fear.

First, the beets used to make the product are not the common red variety that people eat. Sugar beets are white in color and much larger than red beets. A mature sugar beet measures up to a foot long and weighs three to five pounds.

Second, according to the distributor, the solution does not leave a residue,

and therefore won't leave marks on shoes or cars. It also cuts down on floor maintenance in buildings. And because it is not as corrosive as salt, it's easier on infrastructure, like bridges, as well as cars.

The mixture isn't sugary, because the product is made by extracting the sugar from the beets so that only a waste product remains. The deicing formulation was devised when growers noticed that the sugar beet waste did not freeze.

Because the solution prevents ice and snow from sticking to pavement, snow plows can make fewer passes through neighborhoods. That means less wear and tear on the plows, less fuel consumption and the possibility for fewer potholes.

Meyer said the city used 24,000 tons of salt during the winter of 2007-2008.

"If there's a product out there that can help us use less salt that would be better for the environment, we certainly want to try it," he said.

## 'Snow Command' safety tips

The City of Aurora Department of Streets and Sanitation's Snow Command has compiled the following tips for safe snow removal:

- Motorists should move their vehicles off the street to facilitate plowing efforts during any snowstorm. For snow accumulations of two inches or more, residents are prohibited from parking on any city street until the snow has been cleared to the curb or road edge.
- Remove all obstructions away from the street such as basketball hoops, trash cans or any other items that would prevent snow cleanup.
- When clearing driveway approaches and sidewalks, do not put



snow in the street, as this can cause icy patches.

- Do not allow children to play in or around snow piles or to make snow forts in the public right-of-way.
- Stay back at least 75 feet from the rear of any snowplow, and do not pass these trucks at any time.

For more information, contact the City of Aurora Street Department at 630-801-5240 or go to [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

# FREE CFL BULBS

Residents who stop by City Hall at 44 E. Downer Place or the Customer Service Center at Fire Station 8, 3770 McCoy Drive, can pick up free CFL bulbs. Senior citizens (age 65 and older) will receive five bulbs. All other resident will receive one. Bring proof of age and residency. The CFLs were made available to the city through a grant. Using them is a way residents can be part of Aurora's Clean City, Green City initiative.



*Citizens give thumbs up, continued from page 1* including customer service, safety, economic development and quality of life.

Eighty-five percent of residents polled reported that the quality of life in their neighborhood is excellent or good. Eighty-one percent say Aurora is a better place to live today than it was five years ago. And 85 percent of respondents would recommend moving to Aurora to a friend or family member.

The survey also found that residents' perception of public safety and crime have improved since 2002, with the majority of residents (more than 80 percent) giving the Aurora Police Department an excellent or good rating in the city and in their own neighborhoods.

A substantial proportion of residents contacted said they had attended some type of event in downtown Aurora. Three in ten (30 percent) have gone to a Downtown Alive! event in the past year, nearly a quarter (24 percent) have attended a parade, and one in ten (10 percent) attended Holiday Magic last year.

Based on the entire report, the city's Wildly Important Goals for the coming year are:

1. To improve the citizen customer service satisfaction rating 3% by December 31, 2009.
2. To improve the citizen public safety satisfaction rating 3% by December 31, 2009.
3. To attract and expand \$50 million\* of development by December 31, 2009.

\*Calculated through approved development agreements or submitted final plan land use petition values.



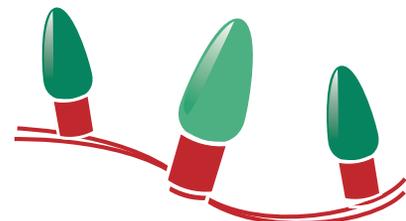
Aurora Public Art Commission  
**MUSEUM SHOP**  
*an artful place for the holidays*

**David L. Pierce Center**  
 20 East Downer Place, Aurora

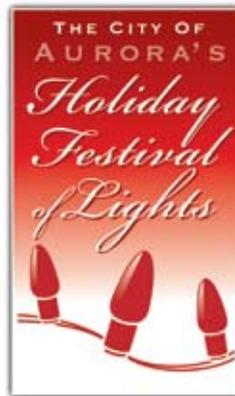
**Holiday Hours**  
 Nov 25 - Dec 24  
 Wed - Sun  
 Noon - 5:30 pm

Holiday Greeting Cards	Quotables
Art Books	Mixed Media
Ceramics	Photography
Collage	Works on Paper
Fiber	Wire Sculpture
Jewelry	Museum Music
Glass	World Music
Prints	Stationery
Wood	Literary Luminaries
Sculpture	

# Phillips Park hosts annual Holiday Lights Spectacular



One of the largest outdoor holiday light displays in Chicagoland – a mile of Santa, reindeer, candy canes, Old Man Winter, hundreds of lighted trees and more – will delight carloads of families from Nov. 28 through Dec. 28 at Phillips Park, 615 S. Smith Blvd., Aurora.



Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 10 p.m. Representatives of the Rotary Club of Aurora will accept donations at the exit of the event with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting local charities.

The majority of festival costs are underwritten through corporate and local government sponsorships.

The Rotary Club of Aurora, in partnership with the City of Aurora, stages the massive “Aurora Festival of Lights” event to raise money for charity.

The free festival, which features animated light displays, will shine nightly Sunday through

Thursday. Event organizers expect more than 50,000 people to visit the festival over the course of the four-week event. Visitors looking for more information including directions should visit the event Web site at [www.AuroraFestivalofLights.com](http://www.AuroraFestivalofLights.com).

# I ♥ my library branch

## WEST BRANCH

233 S. Constitution Dr.  
**33rd Annual Holiday Celebrations in Many Lands**  
 Dec. 1-31

This display includes multicultural exhibits and 20 trees decorated in the traditions of various countries around the world. The display is open during regular library hours. Call 630-264-3600 to arrange for tours.

### Holiday Open House

Attend an old-fashioned holiday celebration from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 and enjoy live music, trees of many lands, refreshments, family crafts, face painting and a visit from Santa. Call 630-264-3600. No registration required.

## MAIN LIBRARY

1 E. Benton St.  
**Winter Holiday Storytime**  
 Ages 3-5  
 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16  
 Call 630-264-4123 for information and registration.

### Drop-in crafts

For all ages  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30  
 No registration required.

## EOLA ROAD BRANCH

555 S. Eola Road  
**Read around the Tree**  
 For all ages  
 10 to 10:30 a.m. Monday - Friday, Dec. 4-23.  
 No registration required.  
 Call 630-264-3421 for information.

### Finals Week Study Nights

Students ages 16 and up can take advantage of after-hours studying for finals from 9 to 11 p.m. Dec. 15 through 17 in the Computer Lab. Free pizza and drinks. Call 630-264-3420 for information or to register.



## Aurora Public Library Holiday Hours

All locations will:  
 close at 5 p.m. Nov. 26  
 be closed Nov. 27 and 28  
 be closed on Dec. 24 and 25  
 close at 5 p.m. Dec. 31  
 be closed Jan. 1

### Bookmobile Winter Break

No bookmobile stops from Sat., Dec. 22 through Sat., Jan. 3

Saturday, December 6 thru  
 Tuesday, December 23

*Santa's House*

Don't Forget Your Camera!

**Visit With Santa**  
**Phillips Park Visitors Center**  
 1000 Ray Moses Drive - Aurora, Illinois

**Weekdays**  
 4:30 - 8:30 pm

**Weekends**  
 3:00 - 8:30 pm

(630) 978-4774  
[www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)

Aurora Public Art Commission  
December 12, 2008 – January 11, 2009

# Winter Garden of Youth Art

2008  
Art by Aurora Students K-12

**Holiday Hours**  
Dec 3 – Dec 24  
Wed – Sun  
Noon – 5 pm

## Opening Reception with Santa

Friday  
December 12<sup>th</sup>  
5 – 7 pm

**Free Admission**  
to Galleries During  
Month of December

**Free Parking**  
Validate Parking Ticket  
at Museum Shop



630.906.0654  
www.aurora-il.org

**David L. Pierce Center**  
20 East Downer Place, Aurora

### A FINE ARTS Dual Credit Scholarship Program For Aurora High School Students

### Earn Dual Credit Both High School and College Credit

In Partnership with Waubensee Community College  
and Aurora Community Cable Television



**Spring Semester 2009**  
January 26 - May 28

**Free!**  
Classes!



**See  
Your  
High School  
Guidance  
Counselor  
to Register  
Today!**

#### ARTWorks

is a fine arts career exploration initiative in which high school students work with professional artist/mentors from a variety of fields. Since fall of 2003, the Aurora Public Art Commission has offered classes in:

**Drawing Design  
Sculpture Mural Painting  
Public History/Historic Preservation  
Television Production**

ARTWorks instructors are working artist/mentors who are familiar with current trends within their fields. The mentoring system allows participants to see that the skills that they learn are valuable and can lead to successful careers. In addition, it provides opportunities for students to network with many people within the art community.



## City Holiday Hours

City Hall at 44 E. Downer Place and The Customer Service Center at 3770 McCoy Drive will be:

- \* Closed Nov. 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- \* Open until noon on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31
- \* Open until noon on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
- \* Closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1
- \* Closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25

5

# Holiday Magic 2008

**Friday  
November 28**

6:00 pm

## Parade of Lights

Downer to Broadway to Galena  
to Stolp

## Tree Lighting

North Island Center  
Galena Boulevard

## Fireworks Spectacular

Downtown Aurora



Presented by  
**AURORA**  
Mayor's Office Of Special Events  
Thomas J. Weisner, Mayor  
(630) 844 - 4731

**Discover *the* Wonder**

# Crime Free Housing Ordinances now law



A package of four ordinances designed to help keep neighborhoods free of illegal activity is now law after more than two years of research and development by Aurora aldermen, Community Oriented Policing officers and staff with the Department of Neighborhood Standards.

Sponsored by aldermen Leroy Keith (9th Ward) and Mike Saville (6th Ward), the ordinances serve to create a partnership among residents, rental property owners and police. Known as the Crime Free Housing Initiative, the ordinances require the owners of rental units to license their properties and attend landlord training.

“These ordinances evolved through the efforts of police officers who needed tools to convince landlords to take responsibility for their properties,” Alderman Keith said. “Most landlords will not be adversely affected by this new approach since they conduct their businesses responsibly. For those who don’t, we want to give them tools to make better choices. But we also want to give police officers the tools they need to keep our neighborhoods safe.”

While Aurora has had a rental property licensing ordinance for several years, properties fewer than 25 years old were exempted. Today, all rental properties,

both residential and commercial, must be licensed. “We want landlords to learn ways to avoid mistakes that could end up costing them,” said Alderman Saville. “Under these new guidelines, fines can be imposed upon landlords if police receive excessive calls about tenants engaged in chronic nuisance activity.”

Under the Crime Free Housing Ordinance, chronic nuisances include drug and gang activity and illegal consumption, sale or possession of alcohol, among others. ☺

## Attention landlords

New licensing requirements for residential property were adopted by the Aurora City Council on October 14.

All non-owner occupied single-unit residences, condominiums and townhomes must be registered and licensed, even if no rent is paid. All two-unit and multiple-unit residences must be registered and licensed. There are no longer any licensing

exemptions for owner-occupied two-unit and multiple-unit residences or any type of residence fewer than 25 years old.

If you own a non-owner-occupied residential dwelling, you should register your property with the Department of Neighborhood Standards as soon as possible. To avoid a \$250 late entry fee, register before April 17, 2009.

All tenants are required to sign a landlord-tenant lease addendum. Call 630-897-4589 to verify if your building is licensed. Go to the quick link entitled, “Property Registration Help Desk” that is posted on the home page of the city’s Web site ([www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)) for more information.

## ‘City of Lights’ tournaments draw hundreds of students

The City of Aurora’s Youth Services, in partnership with the Fox Valley Park District and Aurora’s middle schools, concluded their fall tournament series in October. The goal of the program is to provide an opportunity middle school athletes to compete among their peers while promoting sportsmanship.

Seventh Annual Round Robin Football Championships were claimed at the seventh grade level by Jefferson Middle School and by Jewel Middle School at the eighth grade level. Jefferson was 6-3 for the year. Jewel finished the year at 7-1-1. Aurora’s seven public schools participated, fielding 217 seventh graders and 182 eighth graders.

The Seventh Annual Aurora “City of Lights” Cross Country Meet was held Oct. 7 in Lincoln Park. Jewel Middle school won the 3,000-meter boys’ race while Herget Middle School captured the girls’ title. Daniel Talancon from Herget was first with a time of 8:54, while Herget’s Rachel Cavender repeated as girls’ champion with a time of 9:59. Eleven schools participated with 164 boys and 102 girls.

The 22nd Annual Volleyball Championship concluded Oct. 8 at West Aurora High School. Fox Valley Park District facilities



hosted the first round matches at the Vaughan Athletic Center while the “bracket of eight” competition was held at the Prisco Community Center. The seventh grade champion was St. Rita, which defeated Washington in the finals 23-25, 25-6, and 15-13. Leading the way for St. Rita was Andrea Goyoa with 13 points and April Valenzuela adding 11. Demi Heiss and Erin Jacobsen paced Washington with eight points each. The 16-team tournament had 201 female participants.

The eighth grade champion was Jewel Middle School. Jewel defeated Herget 25-9 and 25-16. Leading the way for Jewel was Jessica Karwoski with 23 points. Jewel finished the year with a perfect 21-0 record. This 16-team tournament also had 201 girls participate.

The Ninth Annual “City of Lights” Soccer Tournament was held at The Stuart Sports Complex on October 6, 7, 9 and 11. Simmons Middle School won the championship with a 5-3 victory over Waldo. Leading the way for Simmons was Abraham Gomez and Ignacio Perez with two goals each. Eleven teams and 239 players participated.

For information, contact Al Miller at 630-768-6893. ☺

## Police celebrate milestone

A steel topping-off ceremony that was held on the grounds of the new Aurora Police Headquarters facility at 1200 East Indian Trail this fall marked the end of the steel raising phase and celebrated the project's exemplary safety record.

The steel beam that was hoisted into place during the ceremony will remain visible from both the inside and outside of the headquarters building once it is completed. Members of the construction team, city officials, members of the Aurora Police Department and others who have a stake in the project signed the beam.

The headquarters is one of three structures that make up the public safety campus that is set to open in phases beginning early in 2009. The facility consists of:

- The 164,000-square-foot main headquarters building which will house the detention facility, 911 center, Kane County Branch Court, records division and offices.
- A 200,000-square-foot parking facility.
- A 42,000-square-foot training and support building, which will be home



to the forensic labs, shooting range and evidence storage.

Mayor Tom Weisner said that "for too long, our police department has languished in an outdated and dilapidated facility.

"With the steel in place, the headquarters will move quickly and safely toward completion."

The project is the largest public works project in the state of Illinois at the moment, according to Project Manager Barbara Kattermann.



Michael Nilles, an Aurora police officer who was instrumental in securing charges against suspects in a plethora of cold case homicides, has been named 2008 Police Officer of the Year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and Parade magazine.

Nilles was chosen from among hundreds of nominees from around the nation for his work on the year-long, multi-agency investigation dubbed "First Degree Burn," which resulted in 179 counts of first degree murder being lodged against 31 gang members or associates. The award symbolizes the highest level of achievement among police officers in the United States.

"While I am honored by the recognition, it's important to remember that this was a total team effort," Nilles said. "Other Aurora police officers, the FBI, especially Paul Bock, the Kane County State's Attorney's Office directed by John Barsanti, and the Kane County Sheriff's Department were all instrumental in the success of the operation."

"The number of hours that Mike and the others expended on investigating these crimes will never be known," said Aurora Chief of Police Greg Thomas. "They missed family and other personal events to put those victimized by gang violence first. This recognition is not only good for all of the agencies involved but also for the entire City of Aurora."

Nilles, 43, began his career with the Aurora Police in 1988. He has received 18 official department commendations along with numerous letters of appreciation from citizens and other law enforcement agencies. He was named the 2005 Exchange Club of Aurora's Police Officer of the Year and the 2005 Aurora Police Department's Employee of the Year. He also has been named Employee or Co-Employee of the Month three times at the Aurora Police Department.

## Firefighters honored for bravery

Aurora Fire Department Battalion Chief Matt Perez and Lt. Steve Oros have been named 2008's Firefighters of the Year by the Exchange Club of Aurora.



Lt. Steve Oros and Battalion Chief Matt Perez

The pair jumped into a pond off Sullivan Road on May 23 to rescue an unconscious woman from a submerged car.

When they pulled the woman out, she was not breathing and had no pulse. She survived the incident, but without the efforts of Perez and Oros, she likely would have died on the scene, according to Fire Chief Tim Oelker.

Also nominated for the honor were Lt. Greg Frieders, Paramedic Al Torres and Private Andrew Smith, who also jumped into a pond near Riverbirch Drive to save a woman trapped in her car on Sept. 28. Other nominees included Battalion Chief Ed Oros, Captain Tim Bradley, Paramedics Steve Matthias, Kevin Noble, Jim Podbregar, Clint Rafac and Larry Nelson and Private Roman Azua for their actions after a Sept. 6 rollover accident.

Five Aurora residents were presented with Outstanding Citizen Awards:

- Michael Kuhn was honored for climbing into a burning car to save the driver.
- Hannah Kurtz, Jason Turner and Richard and Jolanta Oczko were honored for directing firefighters on Sept. 28 to the location of the car submerged in the pond near Riverbirch Drive.



# See you at Holiday Magic

Zack and Peyton Kellett, grandchildren of Gary and Joy Kellett, stand on the stump in their grandparents' yard that moments before supported a 46-foot, 4,800-pound evergreen tree.

The tree, which was planted in 1961, was moved to North Island Center on Galena Boulevard to be decorated for the holidays. Kellett, who worked for the city for 35 years, used to be part of the crew that cut the city's Christmas tree each year. "We'll miss our shade tree," he said. "But we'll plant another one in its place." Each year, street maintenance crews cut down a tree that a resident donates to the city. The lighting of the tree will take place Nov. 28 during Holiday Magic 2008. For more information, see page 5.

## Christmas Tree Collection

Week of Jan. 12

Residents may place live Christmas trees near the curb to be recycled on their normal garbage collection day the week of Jan. 12 through 16. Trees must be free of all decorations including tinsel, and must not be bagged.



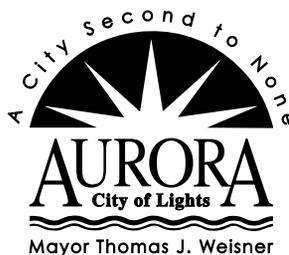
## Your Elected Officials

### Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

630-844-3612  
mayorsoffice@aurora-il.org

### Aldermen's Office

(630) 844-3619  
At-Large: Robert O'Connor  
At-Large: Richard Irvin  
Ward 1: Abby Schuler  
Ward 2: Juany Garza  
Ward 3: Stephanie Kifowit  
Ward 4: Rick Lawrence  
Ward 5: John "Whitey" Peters  
Ward 6: Mike Saville  
Ward 7: Scheketa Hart-Burns  
Ward 8: Rick Mervine  
Ward 9: Leroy Keith  
Ward 10: Lynda Elmore



44 E. Downer Place  
Aurora, IL 60507

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