



AURORA BOREALIS

Aurora rolls out new telephone numbers

As of September 15, 2010, Aurora residents will need to remember only two telephone numbers when seeking City services: 911 for police, fire and medical emergencies, and (630) 256-INFO (4636) for everything else.

Thanks to the implementation of a new voice-over-internet protocol (VOIP) telephone system that operates over the City's 43-mile fiber optic ring, communication with Aurora government has been greatly simplified. The new telephone system will enhance operations and greatly reduce costs, providing a higher level of reliability, voice quality and overall customer service. Cost savings in the first year of operation will approach a quarter of a million dollars.

Because of the diversity of City building locations

and technological requirements, ten different prefixes were assigned with City government telephone numbers throughout the years. The new VOIP system shifts all departments, divisions, and employees to a single, convenient prefix: 256.

While phone numbers for the various city departments will all have a common and convenient "256" prefix (see listing on page 7), residents with non-emergency calls can simply dial our new Customer Service Call Center number, (630) 256-INFO for assistance. Questions about the phone number changes can be directed to the Customer Service Division.

Complete information on the new phone numbers is prominently displayed on Aurora's homepage at www.aurora-il.org. 



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Aurora offers electronics recycling thru November

A wide array of electronic goods, including old computers and peripherals, entertainment and office equipment, even microwave ovens, can now be dropped off at two locations in the City where they will be recycled safely and ecologically.

On certain Saturdays in September, October and November, electronic recycling services will be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at either Aurora's Central Garage, 720 N. Broadway Ave., or at the rear parking lot of Aurora's Customer Service Center, 3770 McCoy Drive.

Items accepted for recycling include PC's, monitors, printers, scanners, modems, tapes, discs, CD drives, cables, keyboards, mice and plotters; TV's, VCR's, DVD players, camcorders, cameras,

stereo equipment without speakers, game players and joysticks; telephones, cell phones, pagers, answering machines, typewriters, calculators, adding machines, fax machines, shredders, copiers and postage meters. Microwave ovens are the only kitchen appliance accepted. Toasters, coffee makers and other appliances will not be taken.

The recycling centers are staffed; however, residents have to unload their materials themselves. For the recycling center schedule, see the advertisement on page 3. 





From the Mayor's Desk

Economic Decisions Won't Be Easier

In almost every way, our city is doing well. Crime continues to fall, and we are able to attract businesses and jobs to Aurora (see page 6), despite a flagging economy. And although the downturn has been causing our revenues to drop, the City of Aurora completed 2009 with a balanced General Fund budget and is on track to do so, again, in 2010.

This was accomplished through restructuring of City government, cutbacks, an early retirement program, layoffs, pay freezes, furlough days and short-term cooperative concessions from City unions.

Unfortunately, national economic woes persist, and normal City revenues continue to trend downward. It has become very clear that this is no quickly passing storm. The clouds of this recession will hang over us for the next several years.

Our Director of Finance is projecting a significant revenue shortfall for 2011. Our options in response to this situation are limited. On the revenue side of the ledger, we are mindful that most families would find it difficult to absorb a property tax increase. On the expenditure side of the ledger, there are several major cost categories that we cannot cut – for example, employee pension obligations, most of which are mandated and controlled by the state of Illinois.

Of course, we will be taking a second look at making more cuts in non-essential services, and we are preparing to sell off certain city assets.

Nonetheless, with personnel-related costs constituting more than 84 percent of the General Fund budget, it will be impossible to balance the 2011 budget

without some moderation of personnel-related costs.

Clearly, our employees and their bargaining units will have a major role in this discussion. They may decide to take a holistic approach, sharing the realities of the new economy across the board. This would cause some sacrifice on the part of every City employee, but would help sustain employment for most, if not all, employees. The alternative to this approach will be layoffs across every City department. Through reorganization and a strategic approach to last year's layoffs, important services to the public were not impacted. It would be disingenuous of me to suggest that significant layoffs in the future won't impact service levels.

The purpose of this letter is not to project a sense of doom-and-gloom. We will get through this situation...but it won't be easy, and it will require fundamental changes. Politicians like to assure people there are simple solutions to big problems, and they can be achieved without trade-offs. I can only assure you that the Aurora City Council and I will work with diligence, thoughtfulness and candor to adjust to new economic realities and create City operations that are sustainable, not just in 2011, but well into the future.

Sincerely,

Tom Weisner
Mayor, City of Aurora

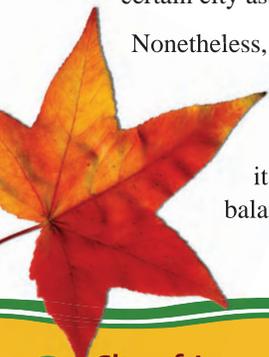
The City of Aurora has kicked off its "Green Power Challenge" that is designed to encourage residents and businesses to choose green power over brown power for their electricity needs.

"Aurora's leadership in sustainability initiatives is well-respected in the entire region," said Mayor Tom Weisner. "By encouraging the community to choose green power, we solidify our commitment to becoming part of the solution in protecting our environment for generations to come. I challenge everyone in Aurora to join us in this worthy effort."

The challenge teams the City with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and BlueStar Energy Solutions, Illinois' only independent provider of green power to residences. Ultimately, the City hopes to become Illinois' first "Green Power Community" and to illustrate its leadership in the challenge, has become a "Green Power Partner" by making a commitment to purchase at least three percent of its annual electricity consumption as green power.

Green Power is electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass or low impact hydro rather than from traditional sources such as the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil which, according to the EPA, are the nation's single-largest industrial source of air pollution. Green power purchases also support the development of new renewable energy generation sources nationwide.

Green Power Communities are cities and towns where local governments, businesses and residents collectively buy green power in



ity's er Challenge"

amounts that meet or exceed the EPA's purchasing requirements.

To become a Green Power Community, at least 2,600 households citywide would have to sign up to voluntarily purchase green power by December 14, 2010. Aurora businesses can also elect to purchase green power and the more that do, the less the number of households that will be required in order for Aurora to earn the designation.

Since Illinois' electricity market is deregulated, consumers and businesses can purchase power through both their electric utility and competitive suppliers. Both the utility and the suppliers in turn, purchase power from the same wholesale market, and in most cases, some of this power is designated as green power. A list of these suppliers can be found on the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/greenpower. More information on purchasing green power is also available on a special website developed for Aurora's Green Power Challenge at www.gogreenaurora.com.



Aurora water nationally recognized

The City of Aurora's Water Production Division has already been recognized for producing Illinois' best tasting water five times in the last eleven years, winning in three consecutive years from 2007-2009. Now, in 2010, the Water Production Division has again received a major award — this time in the area of Water Safety and Quality.

The Directors Award, conferred by the Partnership for Safe Water with the US Environmental Protection Agency as the chief partner, recognizes Aurora's efforts at continuous improvement of water production processes and safeguards to assure optimal water quality to its residents.

"It's just another feather in the cap of our top-notch water production team," said Mayor Tom Weisner, upon hearing of the water production unit's latest award. "This is a highly dedicated group of employees and it is nice to see their excellence is recognized."

The Director's Award was the culmination of a voluntary effort that included data collection and two-year analysis, assessment of potential areas of improvement and implementation of corresponding improvement measures. Asked what motivated Aurora's voluntary involvement in the program, Superintendent of Water Production David Schumacher stated, "It's our constant goal to improve the taste, quality and safety of our water for the residents of Aurora."



ALL
AURORA INFO
ALL THE TIME

www.aurora-il.org

City events, city news,
online bill payments,
public notices and
much more

Why wait for Aurora news
when you can have it e-mailed to you?

Sign up online by entering your e-mail
address and select your topics of interest

Aurora Electronics Recycling Saturdays, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

TWO LOCATIONS!

Central Garage

720 N. Broadway (Rt. 25)

- September 11
- October 2
- November 6

Customer Service Center

3770 McCoy Drive

- September 25
- October 23
- November 20



Aurora Fall Events!



the actions they take make a difference. The 20-hour, free program includes training in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, team organization, terrorism, medical principles and treatment and more. Information is on the City's website at www.aurora-il.org under the "Emergency Management" tab on the left side of the homepage.

SEPTEMBER

Through Friday, October 1

Art At City Hall:

Greg Governale, Photography

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Aurora City Hall; 44 E. Downer Pl.

Presented by the Aurora Public Arts Commission, Greg Governale, a Chicago native, became known for his captivating photographs of wild animals in their natural habitats.

Saturday, September 11

Farmers Market

8 a.m. to Noon

Aurora Transportation Center;

233 N. Broadway Ave.

(Each Saturday until October 23)

Celebrating its 98th year, the Aurora Farmers market features farm-fresh produce, fresh-cut flowers, perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, flats of flowers, along with lawn ornaments, bird baths and much more!

Drop-Off Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Aurora Central Garage; 720 N.

Broadway Ave. (Rt. 25)

Recycle your old computers, peripherals, entertainment and office equipment, and microwave ovens safely and ecologically! Details at www.aurora-il.org or *see story on page 1*.

Sunday, September 12

Rebuilding Together Aurora Benefit Concert

2 p.m.

East Aurora High School

Auditorium; 500 Tomcat Ln.

Featuring Disney's Choo Choo Soul, an educational music group for children 1-7. Tickets are \$18-\$30. Proceeds benefit Rebuilding Together Aurora, a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to helping low income families through home renovation and repair. Information at www.rebuildingtogetheraurora.com.

Wednesday, September 15

Farmers Market

2 - 6 p.m.

West Aurora Plaza; 1951 W. Galena Blvd.

Don't miss this final "Farmers Market West" for the season! Similar to the Saturday Farmers Market downtown, "Farmers Market West" brings farm-fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers and more to Aurora's far West side.

Saturday, September 18

Fiestas Patrias

Noon to 10 p.m.

200 & 300 Blocks of North River St.

Sponsored by the Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board and the Aurora Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Fiestas Patrias commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month. Music, cultural events, children's activities, arts, and crafts are all part of the fun-filled event which will be staged across the street from the former police headquarters at 350 N. River St.; and the former YWCA parking lot at 201 N. River St.

Catch a Bunch of Authors Local Authors Book Fair

1 - 4 p.m.

Eola Road Community Center;

555 S. Eola Rd.

Participants can meet more than 25 authors who either live in the area or who have written about the Fox Valley; purchase their books and have them signed. The authors work in a variety of genres including fiction, nonfiction, mystery, romance, and others.

Sunday, September 19

Fiestas Patrias Continues

Noon to 8 p.m.

Including a parade that steps off at noon from Benton and River Streets, then goes to Broadway Ave., to Downer Pl., and ends at Middle Ave.

Friday, September 24

CERT Training

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Aurora Emergency Management

Training Facility; 1100 Mitchell Rd.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is about people helping people and is a realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and

Saturday, September 25

CERT Training continues

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Drop-Off Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

City of Aurora Customer Service

Center; 3770 McCoy Dr.

Recycle your old computers, peripherals, entertainment and office equipment, and microwave ovens safely and ecologically! Details at www.aurora-il.org or *see story on page 1*.

Sunday, September 26

CERT Training continues

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 2

Drop-Off Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Aurora Central Garage; 720 N.

Broadway Ave. (Rt. 25)

Friday, October 15

Donnell Collins, "Skilllets" exhibition

Noon to 4 p.m.

David L. Pierce Art and History

Center; 20 E. Downer Pl.

Renowned photojournalist Donnell Collins examines the theme of race and the beauty industry- how negative messages and stereotypes pervade the so called "beauty world," and how African-American children are made to feel less than beautiful for having Afro-centric features. The exhibit is open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Friday until December 3.



NOTE!
New Number

Saturday, October 23
Drop-Off Electronics Recycling
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 City of Aurora Customer Service
 Center; 3770 McCoy Dr.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 3
Works By Dr. Charles Smith

Noon to 4 p.m.
 David L. Pierce Art and History
 Center; 20 E. Downer Pl.
 Presented by the Aurora Public Art Commission,
 the exhibit features more than 25 pieces of
 work from Dr. Charles Smith, the founder
 and curator of the African-American Heritage
 Museum and Black Veterans Archive, which
 he established on land surrounding his Aurora
 home. The exhibit is open from noon to 4 p.m.
 Wednesday to Friday until December 31.

Saturday, November 6
Drop-Off Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Aurora Central Garage;
 720 N. Broadway Ave. (Rt. 25)

Thursday, November 11
Veterans Day Parade & Ceremony

10:15 a.m.
 Downtown Aurora
 The parade will step off at 10:15 a.m. at
 Benton and Water Streets, proceed north on
 Broadway Ave. to Downer Pl., and west to the
 G.A.R. Memorial Hall at 23 E. Downer where
 the ceremony, "Honoring All Who Served,"
 will take place at approximately 10:30 a.m.
 Local veterans organizations will conclude the
 ceremony with a military rifle salute at 11 a.m.

Saturday, November 20
Drop-Off Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 City of Aurora Customer Service
 Center; 3770 McCoy Dr.

Tuesday, November 23
**Christmas Tree Lighting; Miss
 Merry Christmas/Jack Frost
 Introductions**

An Aurora tradition continues! Details will be
 announced on the City's website:
www.aurora-il.org; and in the local media.

Friday, November 26
**Rotary Club Holiday
 Festival of Lights**

5 - 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday;
 5 - 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
 Phillips Park; 615 S. Smith Blvd.
 (Nightly through December 26)
 Sponsored by the City of Aurora and the Rotary
 Club of Aurora, Phillips Park comes alive with
 over one mile of 40 holiday light displays. Drive
 through and experience the magic with your
 family and friends. See Santa and his reindeer,
 watch penguins play, see teddy bears in a
 snowball fight! Information at:
www.aurorafestivaloflights.com.
 Free/donations accepted.

DECEMBER

**Wednesday, December 1 -
 Sunday, December 26**
**Rotary Festival of Lights
 continues at Phillips Park.**

Friday, December 17
**Winter Garden of Youth
 Art Opening Reception**

5 - 7 p.m.
 David L. Pierce Art and History
 Center; 20 E. Downer Pl.
 An annual exhibit of works of art by Aurora
 students in grades K-12, sponsored by the
 Aurora Public Art Commission. The exhibit
 is open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday
 to Friday until January 14, 2011.

Sunday, December 26
Kwanzaa Celebration

4 - 7 p.m.
 Prisco Community Center; 150 W. Illinois Ave.
 A celebration of family, community and
 culture centered on seven basic values as
 building blocks for peace and progress within
 neighborhoods, the event features inspirational
 speakers, food and entertainment for youth and
 adults. Sponsored by the African American Men
 of Unity. For information: www.aamou.org.



**SATURDAYS
 THROUGH OCTOBER 23
 8 A.M. TO NOON
 AURORA TRANSPORTATION CENTER
 233 N. BROADWAY AVE.**

**FARM-FRESH PRODUCE
 ORGANIC FOOD
 FRESH BREAD & BAKED GOODS
 FINE WINES
 FRESH-CUT FLOWERS
 FRESHLY COOKED SNACKS**

PRESENTED BY AURORA'S SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION
(630) 256-INFO (4636)
WWW.AURORA-IL.ORG/SPECIALEVENTS



Call (630) 256-INFO for event information



APD Promotions Include First Female Commander

Aurora Chief of Police Greg Thomas has announced several promotions including the first female ever to be elevated to the rank of Commander.



Kristen Ziman

Former Lieutenant Kristen Ziman has worked her way up through the ranks of the Aurora Police, starting as a Cadet in 1991. She was sworn in as a Patrol Officer in 1994, worked as an Investigator in the Domestic Violence Reduction Unit in 1998, and was assigned to the Support Services Bureau in 2002. She was promoted to Sergeant in 2003 and became the first female Aurora Police Lieutenant in 2008. Aside from supervising in the Patrol Division, Ziman most recently worked in the Administrative Services Division. She serves on the Aurora Police Foundation Board and has also been a member of the department's Honor Guard and was a Field Training Officer. In her new rank, she will command the Aurora Police Department's Patrol Division.



Paul Nelson

Another former Lieutenant, 23-year Aurora Police veteran Paul Nelson, was also elevated to Commander. He will continue to oversee

the department's Investigations Division, where he has been assigned since 2008. Nelson was promoted to Lieutenant in 2004, and also supervised the department's Office of Professional Standards, Support Services and Patrol Divisions. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1996 where he served in the Patrol Division. Prior to his supervisory duties, Nelson worked as an Investigator in both the General Assignment and Gang Units; and was a Patrol Officer. During his career, Lieutenant Nelson also worked as a Field Training Officer and was a member of the Special Response Team.

The latest promotions resulted from the retirements of long-time Commanders John DoBran and Mike Langston, who served over 31 and 27 years respectively.

Other promotions included Sergeants Mike Abbs, Rick Robertson and Keefe Jackson being elevated to Lieutenants; and Officers

Timothy Ciochon, Donald Flowers and Mark Moss, are the newest Aurora Police Sergeants. ★

Israeli contingent visits Aurora

Three executives from an Israeli engineering firm recently visited the Aurora Police Department's new headquarters to see its state-of-the-art fire suppression system up close.

Maya Shalev-Rozen, Yodi Rei, and Iddo Zamir are employed by Poran Shrem Engineering in suburban Tel-Aviv and are currently working on several planned government advanced data facilities in Israel. They were accompanied by Bella Treyger, a consultant with EYP Mission Critical Facilities in New York City and one of the foremost fire protection engineers in the United States.

The Hi-Fog[®] water mist protection system installed at the APD extinguishes fires by discharging a fine mist at high velocity without damaging electronic equipment. It uses up to 90% less water than traditional sprinkler systems and is used on large cruise ships, tunnels, hotels, data centers and hospitals. It is manufactured by Marioff which is headquartered in Finland.

The Israeli contingent, along with a representative from Marioff and Orr Protection Systems, the company which sold the system to the City, were welcomed by Mayor Tom Weisner, Aurora Police Commander Joe Groom, Temple B'nai Israel Vice President Gary Ramond, and Dr. Ron Ramer and Art Sheridan, two temple members. ★

Aurora welcomes new retailers

Aurora residents will be able to add two more destinations to their shopping checklist in September.

Garden Ridge will be opening its home décor superstore in the former Expo Design Center building at 956 Route 59, located just north of the Westfield Fox Valley Shopping Center. The new business will encompass nearly three acres and feature more than half a million pieces to decorate the home, including a large variety of Christmas and other seasonal merchandise.

"Chicago truly doesn't have anything like it," said Garden Ridge Chief Executive Officer Tom Kibarian, who compared his business to the size of a Wal-Mart filled with only home décor items.

Garden Ridge will occupy 109,000 square feet of vacant retail space and hire 30 full- and part-time employees.

Just down the road, Von Maur plans to debut its first specialty chain store called Dry Goods at the Fox Valley mall. Dry Goods will have a vintage, turn-of-the-century feel but plans to cater to young women with "fashion-forward" clothing and accessories, according to store officials.



Ald. Lynda Elmore

The news of two big retailers landing in Aurora was welcome news to 10th Ward Alderman Lynda Elmore.

"New retailers opening is especially exciting in light of the economic downturn," Elmore said. "Von Maur and Garden Ridge, along with the opening of the neighboring Golden Corral and Chick-fil-A restaurants are great additions to Aurora's far East side." ★



Attention Families with Active Military Members!

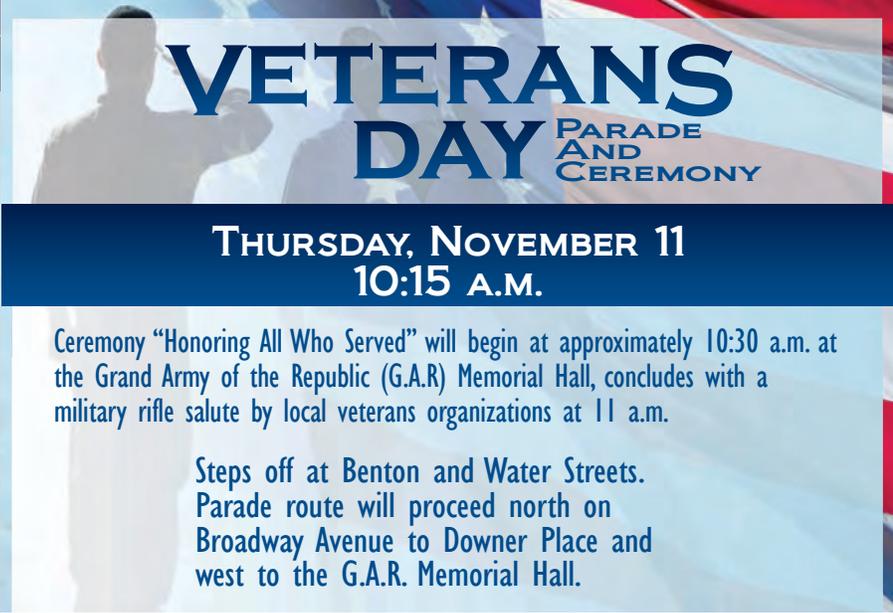
Aurora offers service members "Gifts From Home"

They protect our freedom and liberty by placing their lives on the line. The least we can do is say "thank you."

Each year, the City of Aurora sends Aurora residents serving in the military a one-pound gift box of mixed nuts along with a holiday greeting card on behalf of the community.

Families of service men and women are encouraged to contact the Special Events Division at (630) 256-3370 between 8 a.m and 5 p.m. and supply their family member's name, rank, complete military address as it should appear line-by-line, along with their address in Aurora; in order for them to receive their holiday gift. The program is limited to citizens of Aurora in active service in the United States and overseas.

Questions should be directed to the Special Events Division at (630) 256-3370. 



VETERANS DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 10:15 A.M.

Ceremony "Honoring All Who Served" will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. at the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R) Memorial Hall, concludes with a military rifle salute by local veterans organizations at 11 a.m.

Steps off at Benton and Water Streets. Parade route will proceed north on Broadway Avenue to Downer Place and west to the G.A.R. Memorial Hall.

Included in this year's parade:

Marmion Academy Flannigan Rifles
East Aurora High School NJROTC
Chicago Highland Rifles

Aurora Lamplighter Chorus
Many Veterans Organizations

Sponsored by Roosevelt-Aurora American Legion Post #84

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SPECIAL EVENTS AT (630) 256-3370

Aurora Signs Military Community Covenant

Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner and City aldermen were joined by members of the military and their guests earlier this year for the signing of a Military Community Covenant to demonstrate Aurora's formal commitment of support to active, Guard, and Reserve soldiers and their families.

Mayor Tom Weisner said, "The covenant demonstrates our partnership with all branches of the military to improve the quality of life for service members and their families now and in the future."

The Community Covenant symbolizes

the relationship between the military and community in both the public and private sectors. It spells out the strength of service members comes from the strength of their families. The strength of the military families in turn, is influenced in large part by the strength of the community through support from employers, educators, civic and business leaders and citizens.

The US Army initiated Community Covenants in 2008 as a way to strengthen ties between military personnel and their local communities and later included all

branches of service. Since then, more than 460 signing ceremonies have taken place in 48 states, three territories and the District of Columbia.

More information on Military Community Covenants is available by visiting www.army.mil/community. 



City of Aurora Telephone Numbers as of September 15, 2010

POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY 9-1-1

(For Instances of immediate threats to life or property only!)

ALL CITY-RELATED NON-EMERGENCY INQUIRIES (630) 256-INFO (4636)

Fire Department Non-Emergency(630) 256-4000

Police Department Non-Emergency(630) 256-5000

Mayor's Office(630) 256-3010

Or you can dial direct using the following numbers:

Alderman's Office(630) 256-3020	Property Standards(630) 256-3770
Animal Control(630) 256-3630	Public Works(630) 256-3200
Building & Permits(630) 256-3130	Revenue & Collection ... (630) 256-3560
City Clerk(630) 256-3070	Water Billing(630) 256-3600
Economic Development(630) 256-3160	Water & Sewer(630) 256-3710
Human Resources(630) 256-3430	Street Maintenance(630) 256-3680
Neighborhood Redevelopment ..(630) 256-3320	



More information on new phone numbers www.aurora-il.org

TEAR OUT AND SAVE!



Your Elected Officials

Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

(630) 256-3010

mayorsoffice@aurora-il.org

Aldermen's Office

(630) 256-3020

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

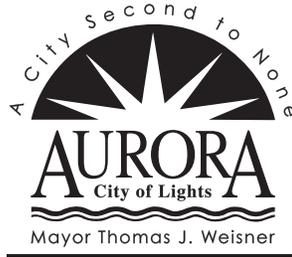
Ward 6: Mike Saville

Ward 7: Scheketa Hart-Burns

Ward 8: Rick Mervine

Ward 9: Leroy Keith

Ward 10: Lynda Elmore



Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AURORA, IL
PERMIT NO. 2

Postal Customer

Aurora Borealis is published four times a year through the City of Aurora's Public Information Division. Address correspondence to:
Newsletter Editor - City of Aurora
44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507-2067
or publicinfo@aurora-il.org
City Web site: www.aurora-il.org
Aurora Community Television: Comcast Channel 10

Yard Waste, brush and leaf collection reminders

Yard Waste

Yard waste collection began in April and ends the first Friday in December (Dec. 3). Yard waste (up to 60 pounds) must be placed in a 30-gallon Kraft paper yard waste bag and have a waste sticker attached. The stickers used for yard waste are the same as the stickers used for garbage; however, yard waste mixed with garbage or yard waste in a garbage can or plastic bag will not be collected. Yard waste will be collected on the same day as your garbage and must be at the curb by 6 a.m.

Unbundled Brush

Unbundled brush collection began in April and ends the first Friday in November (Nov. 5). Branches and limbs ½-inch to 4 inches in diameter and 2 feet to 4 feet in length can be placed at the curb without a waste sticker. Brush less than ½-inch in diameter is considered yard waste and must be placed in a Kraft paper yard waste bag with a waste sticker attached. Brush must be in neat, manageable piles with the cut side of the limbs facing the street. Brush that is in unmanageable piles will not be collected. Brush which results from contracted services will not be picked up. It is the responsibility of the contractor to remove and dispose of such material.

Leaf Collection

Each Fall, the city provides an unstickered leaf collection program. The program's start date is weather dependent but usually starts in mid-October and runs through the first week in December. An exact date will be announced on the City's website: www.aurora-il.org and through the local media. A waste sticker is not required.

Yard Waste Collection
ENDS Friday, December 3

Unbundled Brush Collection
ENDS Friday, November 5

Leaf Collection
BEGINS Mid-late
October