



AURORA BOREALIS

Leveraging Partnerships Key to Continued Success

Forming and encouraging partnerships radically leverages the value brought to the city and its residents especially in light of the current economic downturn, explained Mayor Tom Weisner at an upbeat State of the City address in March.

“In good times, partnerships are a smart thing to do. In tough times — when financial resources are limited, partnerships are indispensable,” said Weisner. “They leverage resources and create a whole that is much greater than the sum of its parts.”

To illustrate, Mayor Weisner used dozens of examples of partnerships the city entered into in 2009 that improved the quality of life, bolstered economic development and enhanced community safety.

Partnerships are allowing Aurora’s long-term commitment to the city’s youth to continue after federal grant funding expired resulting in the loss of several youth-related positions. Through a collaboration forged with Communities in Schools as a third party administrator, the city’s youth will still be able to take advantage of the majority of programs formerly administered by Aurora.

Tom Berlinger summed up the success of this new collaboration in a May 9, 2010 *Beacon News* column noting:

“The youth can continue to enjoy quality physical, mental and emotional activities while in the safety of supervised programs. The municipality saves money. The taxpayers save money. The providers find opportunities to successfully deliver their services. What’s not to love?”

Partnerships with Aurora Downtown, the

Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, Rebuilding Aurora Together and the Friends of Phillips Park have resulted in everything from summer flowers and holiday decorations, to community cleanups, home repairs for the elderly and less fortunate and several amenities at Phillips Park.

Economic development advances included teaming with DuPage County and Illinois Tollway authorities to make the long-awaited Eola Road Interchange at I-88 a reality. The new route reduces traffic congestion and encourages new economic development to strengthen Aurora’s tax base. In addition, through partnering with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Department and the Choose DuPage organization, McKesson Corporation, FHP and Peerless Industries were all brought to Aurora’s far East Side resulting in hundreds of jobs for Aurora-area residents.

In the area of public safety, Aurora worked with neighborhood groups, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and reduced crime to a 31-year low. Officials also collaborated with the City of Naperville to purchase a radio system used by police, fire and other city departments. Not only will Aurora and Naperville be able to better communicate with one another in the event of a major emergency, the negotiating leverage brought by the joint purchase by two of Illinois’ largest cities resulted in millions of tax dollars being saved.

Aurora also took advantage of federal and state dollars to continue the expensive, but necessary, separation of combined sanitary and storm sewers

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**Independence Day
Celebration**

**NEW
DATE!**

July 2 - Fireworks
See pages 4 and 8

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From the Mayor's Desk

As I write this letter, it is a beautiful mid-May morning complete with sunshine, blue skies and the lush and vibrant green that emerges with the season. Just as the cold, gray months of winter may wear on our general outlook, spring tends to lift our spirits and helps us to recognize all that's good.

Although 2010 has presented us with many challenges, there is also much to celebrate.

Aurora's determination to establish itself as a green community was recently recognized by the Conservation Foundation, one of our area's most accomplished and respected environmentally focused organizations. Aurora was chosen from among scores of other area communities to receive the Sustainable Development Award for its multifaceted efforts to make our city a truly sustainable community.

It is gratifying to know that our work to clean up our riverfront, build a LEED gold level police facility, conserve our precious water supply and pursue other green initiatives is being recognized throughout the area. Speaking of sustainability, you won't want to miss

Aurora's 1st Annual Summer Solstice Celebration "Growing Greener Every Day" on June 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Prisco Center.

This will be just one of several exciting summer events taking place in Aurora. Our popular *Downtown Alive!* music series leads off on June 18 & 19 with our signature Blues on the Fox festival featuring headliner Jimmie Vaughan. You can see an entire summer's worth of events on pages 4 and 5.

Despite the unemployment and economic displacement caused by the recent recession, serious crime levels continue to drop in our city to numbers not seen since the 1970s. Measured on a per capita basis, it gets even better.

So it is with confidence, as well as optimism, that I wish you and all your loved ones a safe and exciting summer in our city that is second to none.

Sincerely,

Tom Weisner
Mayor, City of Aurora

Summertime Events 'Second to None'

Summertime in Aurora brings with it an exciting variety of activities and events throughout the city. Celebrations of culture, community, history, family and fun are represented through a wide assortment of events each month.

The 2010 calendar includes a series of longstanding events such as the Aurora Farmers Market (1912), Annual Puerto Rican Heritage Parade and Festival (1967), Blues on the Fox (1997) and *Downtown Alive!* (1999) to the more recent, Fiesta de Luces (2005), Aurora ArtWalk (2008), Groove on the Fox (2009) and the Historic Auto Row car show (2009).

Perhaps the most widely recognized of Aurora's events is the free summer concert series *Downtown Alive!*, which is celebrating its 12th season this year. "*Downtown Alive!* is definitely the anchor of our summer schedule and Blues on the Fox is the anchor of that," said Gina Moga, Manager of the city's Special Events Division. "*Downtown Alive!* started with several hundred people and has grown to thousands. Over the years we have had many regionally and nationally known entertainers. We're very fortunate to have the full support of the city and many generous sponsors which has allowed us to bring in quality entertainment all with no admission fee." The concert series also includes a classic car show, food and beverage vendors and merchandise.

The city is also proud to welcome back its longest running summer attraction — the Aurora Farmers Market. The weekly event is celebrating its 98th year and continues to bring a variety of fresh produce from local family farms. It is staged twice a week, Saturday mornings at the Aurora Transportation Center and Wednesday afternoons at the West Plaza Shopping Center.

Groove on the Fox will also return this summer, performing free shows on a regularly scheduled basis at Millennium Plaza from June through August.

Outside of the downtown, there are a number of additional exciting events for the summer season. Phillips Park recently announced the summer movie lineup for Super Screen Saturday Nights 2010. The popular free family

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That Knock at Your Door is Worth \$\$



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Results from the 2010 Census mean millions of dollars each year to the City of Aurora

for schools, hospitals, parks, roads, and many other amenities. If you did not mail back the census form you should have received in the spring, you will be visited in person by a U.S. Census Taker. Please take a few minutes to answer their questions.

More information is available at www.2010census.gov or 866-872-6868; Spanish: 866-928-2010; TDD: 866-783-2010

All information is strictly confidential.

Aurora Crime at 31 Year Low

The last year that major reported crime in Aurora was as low as in 2009, Dallas premiered on CBS, a first class stamp cost 15 cents, "Saturday Night Fever" was album of the year and "Huggies" disposable diapers were introduced. The year was 1978 and approximately 80,000 people called Aurora home.

In 2009, the city's population was estimated to be about 180,000. Despite the massive increase in residents, the city reached a three decade low in major reported crime for the second consecutive year.

Chief of Police Greg Thomas said the hard work of all Aurora Police employees is the major reason behind the continued crime decline. "Every single officer and support employee shows their passion for protecting the city and its residents each time they report for work. The statistics are proof that they're fulfilling their mission."

Mayor Tom Weisner credited the partnerships police have formed with citizens and other law enforcement agencies as additional contributing factors. "When you have a police department that is second to none, citizens who are actively involved in what goes on in their neighborhoods and outside agencies willing to assist in any way they can, good things are going to happen."

Anyone who lived in Aurora during the

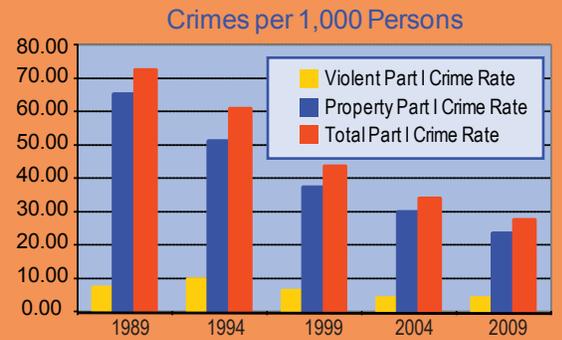
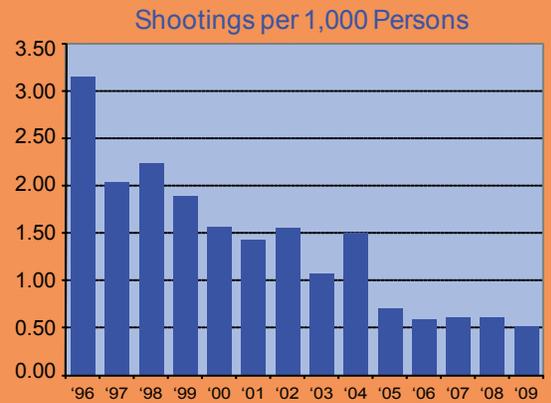
1990's and early 2000's appreciate that the record crime lows are dramatic and have not come easy. By illustration there were 357 reported shootings in 1996; and in both 1996 and 2002, 26 people were murdered in the city. While the fight against crime and violence has been long, Aurora continues to make major strides over the long haul. Over the past five years, major crime is down 15.16%, over ten years 13.92% and in the 20 year trend, 28.70%.

In 2009, major crime decreased 3.24% with violent crime down 3.91% and property crime down 3.13%, over 2008. Major crimes, known more commonly as "Part One Index Crimes," include the violent crime categories of murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault/battery; and the property crime categories of burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Criminal sexual assaults were down 14.86% last year, while robberies were down 10.39%. Aggravated assaults/batteries decreased 1.12%, burglaries were down 14.11%, motor vehicle theft declined 22.62% and arson dipped 36.36%.

Other "lows" achieved in 2009 included:

- The lowest number of shootings, 93, since Aurora Police began keeping those



statistics in 1996 and a 15.5% decrease over 2008.

- Traffic crashes fell 16.4% from 5908 in 2008 to 4940 in 2009.

Only two major crime categories showed increases in 2009. Homicides were slightly higher from the recent record low of two in 2008, to five in 2009. Thefts were up by 1.74% in 2009. 🌸

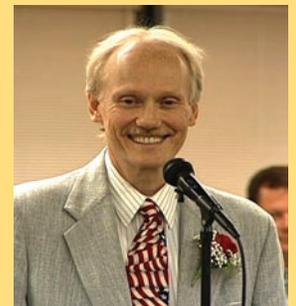
New Eateries Join Restaurant Row Downtown Aurora

Food options expand around the city

The City of Aurora's continued expansion of Restaurant Row, located in the first block of West New York St., embodies the spirit of meeting challenges and creating positive change. The focus on revitalization provides longtime residents the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with all the city has to offer, particularly the downtown. For new residents, the changes provide the opportunity to become engaged in re-creating the city's center.

"What we are experiencing is the culmination of a vision that we have been working toward for a long time. Each piece of the development puzzle is meeting or exceeding the vision that has been a dream for years," commented 6th Ward Alderman and Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee Mike Saville on the development of Restaurant Row. "My constituents are very excited about being able to go downtown to have an enjoyable evening of dining and entertainment."

Downtown Aurora continues to grow with several new eateries coming to Restaurant Row. Joining Ballydoyle Irish Pub, visitors can now enjoy the recently opened Comfort Zone Bar-B-Que and 33 West Trattoria, an Italian eatery from the famed Chef Amaury on the city's far East Side. Comfort Zone Bar-B-Que has already begun to expand its dining area and added live musical entertainment on the weekends.



Alderman Mike Saville

Coming soon are Chicago-based Billy Goat Tavern & Grill and a second location for the Aurora classic, Luigi's Pizza. The Billy Goat will reside on the lower level of 29-33 W. New York St. offering a sports friendly atmosphere as well as their famous "Cheezburgers."

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Aurora Comes Alive in Summer 2010!

JUNE

Saturday, June 5 Aurora ArtWalk

2 - 7 p.m.
Downtown Aurora
Aurora Downtown and "Cultural Creatives" showcase visual and performing artists displaying their talents in numerous downtown venues. Information at www.auroraartwalk.com.

Super Screen Saturday Night*

Pre-movie activities begin at 7:30 p.m.
Phillips Park-1000 Ray Moses Dr.
Free, Hollywood hit movie follows pre-movie activities. Bring your own seats and eats! Parking available in the Aquatic Center lot. Information at www.auroramoviesinthepark.com. *For a full list of dates and movies showing see ad on page 6.

Friday, June 11 Groove on the Fox

3 - 9 p.m.
Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.; Downtown Aurora
Free, live music in downtown Aurora on select Friday and Saturday nights during the summer.

Saturday, June 12 Farmers Market*

8 a.m. to Noon
**Aurora Transportation Center
233 N. Broadway Av.**
(Each Saturday until October 23)
Celebrating its 98th year, the Aurora Farmer's market features farm-fresh produce, fresh-cut flowers, perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, flats of flowers, along with lawn ornaments, bird baths and much more! *For additional dates at this location see the ad on page 7.

Paddle Sports Festival

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Phillips Park-1000 Ray Moses Dr.
A two-day canoeing and kayaking festival featuring on-water and on-land activities at Mastodon Lake. Information at www.illinoispadding.org.

Summer Solstice Celebration

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Prisco Community Center-150 W. Illinois Av.
A free, citywide eco-fest providing great environmental ideas featuring over 30 exhibitors and great speakers offering ways to "green" your home and save money on utility bills. Kid's games and prizes, art shows, live music, food and fun are all part of the festival. Information at www.aurora-greenlights.org.

Sunday, June 13 Paddle Sports Festival Continues

Phillips Park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

American Legion Band Flag Day Concert

3 to 4:30 p.m.
McCarty Park-East New York St. and West Park Pl.
The first of three summertime "Concerts in the Park" co-sponsored by the Fox Valley Park District and City of Aurora. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets!

Monday, June 14 - Friday, June 18 Bike to Work Week

Aurora is an 'eco-friendly' city! Show your support by dumping the car keys and pedaling to work! Sponsored by the Active Transportation Alliance, a not-for-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and transit to engage people in healthy and active ways to get around. Information at www.activetrans.org.

Thursday, June 17 Spoken Word Poetry Slam

7 to 8:30 p.m.
**Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.;
Downtown Aurora**
Sponsored by the African American Men of Unity, the first of three summer nights featuring poetry and jazz acts along with an artist showcase.

Friday, June 18 - Saturday, June 19 Downtown Alive! Festival Series- "Blues on the Fox"

6 to 10 p.m.
Galena Blvd. between Broadway Av. and River St.; Downtown Aurora
Celebrating its 12th season, "Downtown Alive" has become an Aurora tradition evolving into a festival series featuring "Blues on the Fox," "Rock on the Fox" and "Fan Favorites." "Blues on the Fox" celebrates Aurora's rich heritage of blues music dating back to the 1930s when Chicago blues artists began recording on the 16th floor of the Leland Hotel in Downtown Aurora.

Beyond the main stage entertainment are food and drink vendors, a classic car show, festival merchandise and much more. Set along the beautiful Fox River, it is a friendly, must-attend festival experience like no other. Information at www.downtownaliveaurora.com.

Friday's Main Stage Entertainment:
6:30 p.m.-Tinsley Ellis
8:30 p.m.-Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue

Saturday's Main Stage Entertainment:
2:00 p.m.-Hix Brothers Junior All Stars
3:30 p.m.-Guy King and his "Little Big Band"
5:15 p.m.-Ronnie Baker Brooks
7:00 p.m.-"Joined at the Hip" featuring Pinetop Perkins and Willie "Big Eyes" Smith with special guests Hubert Sumlin and Bob Margolin
8:30 p.m.-Jimmie Vaughan

**Friday, June 25
Groove on the Fox**
3 to 9:00 p.m.
Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.; Downtown Aurora

JULY

Thursday, July 1: Fox Valley Park District Concert in the Park

7:30-9 p.m.
Phillips Park-1000 Ray Moses Dr.
Co-sponsored by the City of Aurora and featuring music from the Yorkville Big Band.

**Friday, July 2:
Groove on the Fox**
3 to 9 p.m.
**Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.;
Downtown Aurora**

Independence Day Celebration

6 to 10 p.m.
**Illinois Math and Science Academy and
Aurora Central High School Campuses**
Featuring food vendors, children's attractions and live music, the area bounded by Sullivan Rd., Edgelawn Dr., Indian Trail and Randall Roads become the place to celebrate America's independence! Of course, no 4th of July would be complete without fireworks which will go off at dusk. Parking, free shuttle bus service and other information available on Aurora's website at www.aurora-il.org, under the "Special Events" tab. The event is co-sponsored by the Village of North Aurora. See page 8 for more details.



Sunday, July 4 Independence Day Parade

Noon
**Corner of Benton and River
Streets; Downtown Aurora**
From the step-off point, the parade goes to Broadway Av., Galena Blvd., Stolp Av., Downer Pl. and ends at Middle Av. The

parade program begins at 11:15 a.m. in front of the Paramount Theatre, 8 E. Galena.

Wednesday, July 7 Farmer's Market*

2 to 6 p.m.

West Aurora Plaza- 1951 W. Galena Blvd.

(Each Wednesday until September 15)

Similar to the Saturday Farmer's Market downtown, "Farmer's Market West" brings farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers and more to Aurora's far West Side. *For additional dates at this location see the ad on page 7.

Thursday, July 8: Spoken Word Poetry Slam

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.,

Downtown Aurora

Friday, July 9 Downtown Alive! Festival Series-"Rock on the Fox"

6 to 10 p.m.

Galena Blvd., between Broadway Av.

and River St.; Downtown Aurora

Main Stage Entertainment:

6:15 p.m.-DBL-SHOT

8 p.m.-Creedence Again

ROCK ON THE FOX

Saturday, July 10 City Golf Championship

Tee Times Begin at 7 a.m.

Fox Valley Golf Club-Rt. 25; North Aurora

Another summertime Aurora tradition open to all amateur golfers, male and female. 72 hole stroke play event flighted after 36 holes by score. Entry fee of \$35.00 per player with entry forms available at Fox Valley Golf Club or Phillips Park Golf Course, 1001 Hill Av., Aurora. Information at (630) 499-0670.

Sunday, July 11 City Golf Championship continues

7 a.m.

Phillips Park Golf Course, 1001 Hill Av.

Friday, July 16 Groove on the Fox

3 to 9 p.m.

Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.;

Downtown Aurora

Saturday, July 17 City Golf Championship continues

7 a.m.

Fox Valley Golf Club; Rt. 25-North Aurora

Sunday, July 18 City Golf Championship continues

7 a.m.

Phillips Park Golf Course, 1001 Hill Av.

Friday, July 23 Downtown Alive! Festival Series-"Fan Favorites"

FAN FAVORITES

6 to 10 p.m.

Galena Blvd., between Broadway Av.

and River St.; Downtown Aurora

Main Stage Entertainment:

6:15 p.m.-Winner of the Battle of the

Ballybands as determined in a contest

sponsored by Ballydoyle Irish Pub and

Restaurant and 95.9 "The River."

8:00 p.m.-ARRA

Thursday, July 29 Fox Valley Park District Concert in the Park

7:30-9 p.m.

Phillips Park-1000 Ray Moses Dr.

Co-sponsored by the City of Aurora and

featuring the American Legion Band.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 1 Puerto Rican Heritage Festival and Parade

Noon to 9 p.m.

Downtown Aurora

Sponsored by the Aurora Puerto Rican Cultural

Council, the 39th annual festival celebrates

Puerto Rican heritage and culture. The festival

is held on Downer Pl., between Broadway and

Stolp Aves. The parade steps off at noon at

the corner of Benton St. and Broadway and

then travels on Broadway to Galena Blvd.,

then to Stolp and finally along Downer.

Saturday, August 7 Groove on the Fox

3 to 9 p.m.

Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.;

Downtown Aurora

Sunday, August 8 2nd Annual Historic Auto Row Car Show

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LaSalle St. between Downer Pl. and

Benton St.; Downtown Aurora

Sponsored by the Friends of LaSalle Street,

dozens of classic and show cars are on display

to commemorate the original "auto row"

when automobiles were first sold in Aurora.

Information at www.lasalle-auto-row.org.

Thursday, August 12 Spoken Word Poetry Slam

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.;

Downtown Aurora

Friday, August 20 Groove on the Fox

3 to 9 p.m.

Millennium Plaza; Stolp Av.,

Downtown Aurora

Saturday, August 28: Alley (Art) Festival

Noon to 5 p.m.

Water St., between Downer

Pl. and Galena Blvd.

Art, music, performances,

puppets, food and more!

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 18 Fiesta de Luces

2 to 7:30 p.m.

Aurora Transportation Center Parking

Lot- Lincoln Av. and Spring St.

Sponsored by the City of Aurora Hispanic

Heritage Advisory Board, Fiesta de Luces

("Festival of Lights") commemorates

Hispanic Heritage Month. Music, cultural

events, children's activities, arts and crafts

are all part of this free family event.

Friday, September 24: CERT Training

6:30 to 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 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.

Saturday, September 25: CERT Training continues

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Phillips Park Fall Festival

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phillips Park-1000 Ray Moses Dr.

Pony rides, a petting zoo, hay rides, fire trucks,

face painting, a stilt-walker, caricatures,

temporary tattoos, super slide, jumping

castle, pumpkin painting, live music, magic

and family-oriented comedy acts.

Sunday, September 26: CERT Training continues

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Super Screen SATURDAY NIGHTS

Free, Hollywood hit movie
7:30 p.m. - Pre-movie activities
Movie starts at 8:45 p.m.

JUNE

5th *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* (PG)
Sponsored by the Visiting Nurses Association

26th *Hairspray* (PG)
Sponsored by Waubensee Community College

JULY

17th *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (PG)
Sponsored by Allied Waste Services

31st *The Blind Side* (PG-13)
Sponsored by Montgomery Landscaping

AUGUST

4th *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* (PG)
Sponsored by Citizen Bank

28th *How to Train Your Dragon* *(PG)
Sponsored by HR Green Company
(*Tentatively scheduled pending availability)

Phillips Park - 1000 Ray Moses Dr.
Parking available in Aquatic Center lot.
www.phillipsparkaurora.com

Leveraging Partnerships Key to Continued Success *Continued from page 1*

to reduce basement backups and pollution in the Fox River. State and federal funds also helped facilitate the rebuilding of the Wood Street Bridge, ongoing improvements of East Indian Trail near the new police headquarters and connecting traffic signals to a new, computerized traffic management system that synchronizes traffic lights and expedites traffic flow.

Mayor Weisner also announced a new partnership that will result in much-needed downtown parking. Under the agreement, the YWCA property on South River Street will be demolished and a new parking lot will be built (with funding assistance from Waubensee Community College) to meet parking demands from patrons along Restaurant Row on nearby West New York Street and students using the soon-to-be-completed Waubensee downtown campus.

Mayor Weisner promised that Aurora will keep moving forward despite difficult economic realities by continuing dozens of partnerships with civic and social organizations, other governmental agencies and volunteer groups.

"I have never seen a community in which people so much believe in each other and I

2009 Major Accomplishments

New Aurora Police Headquarters Opens

City Council Passes Balanced Budget

Standard & Poors Rating Services Raises City's Waterworks Revenue Bonds to AA+

Aurora Completes Record Amount of Street Resurfacing

Aurora's Water Named Best in Illinois for 3rd Year in a Row

Aurora Municipal Airport Experiences 28% Growth Despite FAA Projection of Drop in Air Traffic Nationwide

Railroad Quiet Zones Established Along EJ&E and BN Rail Lines

Fred Rodgers Community Center Dedicated

Successfully Lobbied for \$30 Million in State Capital Funding to be Set Aside in Four RiverEdge Redevelopment Communities Including Aurora

Aurora Recognized with Several Awards for Sustainability Efforts

have never seen a community that gets so much done without having to spend a ton of money," said Mayor Weisner. "The people in this community are such fine people individually and collectively that I believe we have nothing to fear even in these difficult times."

A transcript and streaming video of the Mayor's State of the City address is on Aurora's website at www.aurora-il.org. ✨

DOWNTOWN ALIVE! 2010 FESTIVAL SERIES



BLUES ON THE FOX
JUNE 18 & 19
NATIONAL BLUES ARTISTS

ROCK ON THE FOX
JULY 9

FAN FAVORITES
JULY 23



Check out this year's lineup at www.downtownaliveaurora.com or call 630-264-INFO

Summertime Events 'Second to None', *continued from page 2*

event returns this season thanks to six local sponsors, whose support offsets the cost to the city and also allows the event to add some exciting additions. The concession stand will now offer hot food and the variety of pre-movie entertainment will be expanded to encourage families to come early and enjoy a full evening of entertainment. Rosario DeLeon, Aurora's Chief Operations Officer explained, "It was a good business decision to partner

with sponsors throughout the community as it will allow us to screen current, popular movies and keep the event free."

The summer season at Phillips Park also includes a two day canoeing and kayaking festival, a big band concert and Fall Festival to wrap up the season.

For a full schedule, please see the Events Calendar on pages 4 and 5. ✨



Aurora Sustainability Efforts Recognized

Aurora's continued efforts to "green" the city were recognized for the second time by the Conservation Foundation. The city received the Sustainable Development Award at the organization's winter meeting.

Of the city's efforts, Conservation Foundation President and CEO Brook McDonald said, "From water conservation to clean fuel fleets, LEED certified buildings and protecting and restoring the Fox River, the City of Aurora has become a leader in the suburbs for green initiatives and green development." Mayor Tom Weisner added, "We are working hard to make Aurora a sustainable community not simply because it's the right thing to do, but because it's the smart thing to do. Aurora will continue to 'raise the bar' as far as our green initiatives are concerned but we also want to acknowledge the good work our neighbors are doing. We are all in this together."

Two current examples of the city's ongoing green endeavors are the recent installation of solar panels at the Aurora Transportation Center (ATC) downtown and the updated Green Fleet Policy.

The solar panel project began in 2008, when the ATC was identified as a location that may benefit from the use of solar energy. The new panels work in partnership with existing equipment to offset conventional energy

usage minimizing the buildings demand for electricity and natural gas, reducing costs and harmful emissions produced by the building. In addition, the use of solar panels allows Aurora to support the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which focuses on utilizing proven technologies on public buildings to reduce energy use and costs.



The project was supported largely by two grants awarded to the city by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Superintendent of Maintenance Services, Joseph Hopp said, "Solar will buffer this portion of the city budget against rising energy costs, ensuring that we are able to continue to provide a vast number of other public services that might otherwise be marginalized or jeopardized all together."

The second "green" project for the city receiving notice is Aurora's Green Fleet Policy. The policy implements a number of efforts to minimize greenhouse emissions produced by the roughly 780 vehicle fleet that supports the city. A number of strategies were implemented including the reduction of vehicle emissions, optimization of fleet size, reduction of vehicle size, increased use of alternative fuel vehicles and equipment and utilization of best practices to minimize vehicle miles traveled. The new policy expands previous efforts, such as the city's use of E85 and biodiesel fuels since 2004.



SATURDAYS

JUNE 12TH TO OCTOBER 23RD
8 AM TO NOON

AURORA TRANSPORTATION CENTER
233 N. BROADWAY

WEDNESDAYS

JULY 7TH TO SEPTEMBER 15TH
2 PM TO 6 PM

WEST AURORA PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER
1951 W. GALENA BOULEVARD

PRESENTED BY AURORA'S SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION
630-264-INFO (4636)
WWW.AURORA-IL.ORG/SPECIALEVENTS

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New Eateries Join Restaurant Row, *continued from page 3*

The latest additions, both slated to open during the summer months, continue the theme of offering residents and visitors a great sense of variety when visiting downtown.

The growth of Restaurant Row is not limited solely to new offerings. In anticipation of warmer weather, Ballydoyle has recently expanded and now offers outdoor seating with a view of the Fox River.

Outside of Restaurant Row, there are additional dining options joining the city this summer. The West Side will soon welcome Chipotle at 1480 N. Orchard Rd. and a second Canton Chinese Restaurant location at 209 W. Galena Blvd. Both are slated to open in July.

Aurora's far East Side will soon be home to some southern flair in its restaurant offerings. Chick-fil-A broke ground April 21st for the company's first stand alone restaurant in the Chicagoland area. Mayor Tom Weisner welcomed CEO Dan Cathy and a number of Chick-fil-A, Inc. employees to the city during the ceremony. Cathy expressed excitement regarding the move into the Chicago region, noting that the restaurant will employ between 60 to 80 residents. The restaurant will be located at 4435 Fox Valley Center Dr. and is expected to open in August. The second helping of southern hospitality will be provided by Golden Corral at 4270 E. New York St. and is also slated to open in August.

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

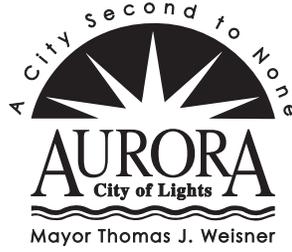
Ward 6: Mike Saville

Ward 7: Scheketa Hart-Burns

Ward 8: Rick Mervine

Ward 9: Leroy Keith

Ward 10: Lynda Elmore



Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507

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Aurora Community Television: Comcast Channel 10



SCHEDULE:

6 to 9 p.m. Food vendors, Moonwalks and clowns

6 to 6:45 p.m. Circus Boy

7 to 8 p.m. Band, 28 Days

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aurora American Legion Band

9:30 p.m. Fireworks

For July 4th parade and event details, see page 4.

Free! Shuttles to Fireworks

Park and ride locations:

A. Home Depot

1250 N. Orchard Rd.

B. Lowe's

2372 W. Indian Trail Rd.

C. West Aurora Plaza

W. Galena Blvd. at Edgelawn

D. West Aurora High School

1201 W. New York St.

E. Cermak Fresh Markets

Lake St. at Indian Trail

F. Provena Mercy Outpatient Lot

1325 N. Highland Ave.

G. Woodman's Market

151 Hansen Blvd.

Handicapped parking reserved at IMSA (P1) and Aurora Central Catholic High School (P2)

Shuttle Bus and Parking Locations



Free! Fireworks Parking

Park and walk locations:

P1. Illinois Math & Science Academy

1500 W. Sullivan Rd.

P2. Aurora Central Catholic High School

1255 N. Edgelawn Dr.

P3. Hyundai

1705 Sequoia Dr.

P4. Milgard Windows & Doors

1785 N. Edgelawn Dr.

P5. Kraft/Excel

1700 N. Edgelawn Dr.

P6. Vaughan Athletic Center

2121 W. Indian Trail Rd.

P7. Rosary High School

901 N. Edgelawn Dr.