



AURORA BOREALIS

Aurora/Naperville partnership enhances safety, saves millions

It's not often that a municipality can enhance safety, introduce the latest technology and save taxpayer money, but that is exactly what happened with Aurora's new citywide radio system.

The system is the result of a joint purchasing agreement with the City of Naperville and came after the establishment in 2006 of the Northeast Illinois Communications Consortium (NICC), a group of eight local government agencies tasked with upgrading their radio systems to make them interoperable. Aurora and Naperville are the first in the consortium to purchase new radio systems effectively putting two systems on one network. Because both communities simultaneously purchased the new technology, more than \$2.5 million in taxpayer money was saved. Aurora spent about \$14 million on the new radio system.

"The new radio system enhances the safety of our citizens and our first responders," said Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner. "Because of the close partnership forged between Aurora and Naperville, we also saved a significant amount of taxpayer money, which demonstrates a real 'win-win' for everyone involved."

Although mainly used by the police and fire departments, the system is also utilized daily by employees who perform essential City services such as street and sewer maintenance. All City departments will be able to effectively communicate on the new radio system in the event of a major catastrophe.

The new radio system seamlessly integrates with Aurora's new 911 system, which consists of new technology for 911 call delivery; along with the digital audio recording of all radio traffic and 911 telephone calls, GPS mapping and fire station alerting.

Aurora's new radio system offers first responders:

- Enhanced in-building and outdoor coverage.
- Elimination of personnel "walking over" one another's radio transmissions which frequently occurs during "hot" emergency calls which enhances first responder safety.
- More than double the "talk paths" allowing simultaneous communication on different channels.
- Easy adaptability to communicate with other agencies who may not operate on the same digital frequency.

Both systems operate in large part off of the City's 43-mile fiber optic ring and coincide with the move of Aurora's emergency 911 Center to the Aurora Police Department's new headquarters at 1200 E. Indian Trail Road. Operators at the center dispatch emergency calls to first responders in both Aurora and North Aurora. The move was completed Nov. 30.

The systems work in tandem to not only replace outdated equipment but also address nationwide consensus in the emergency response professions that municipal police, fire and emergency management agencies be interoperable by 2012. The consensus were the result of the 9/11 terrorist

attacks in 2001.

Both systems feature several layers of built-in redundancy including microwave and 4G wireless communication backup to greatly minimize the chance of total communication breakdown. Because of their similar size, 911 calls placed to Aurora will be rerouted to Naperville in the event of a major telephone system malfunction. Aurora's first responders can also utilize Naperville's radio system if needed.



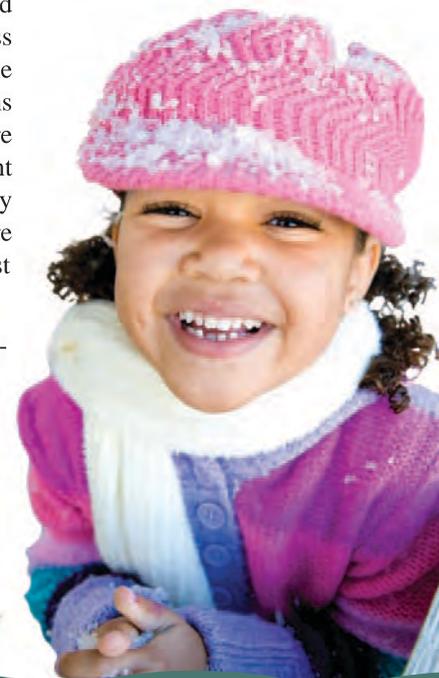
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From the Mayor's Desk

City to maintain high standard of safety despite harsh economic realities

Fighting crime in Aurora has been my top priority as Mayor, and I believe the men and women of the Aurora Police Department have done an outstanding job during the last five years. We have experienced impressive results — in 2009 crime dipped to its lowest levels in 30 years. The Aurora Police Department and its partners — neighborhood groups, community organizations and City employees in other areas that have worked diligently to provide the APD the support it needs, including a new state-of-the-art police headquarters — have had much success.

During strong economic times in the early 2000s, the police unions and several other employee groups bargained and received generous compensation packages with annual increases reaching 8 percent or more. Add benefits such as health insurance, retiree health insurance, health club memberships and the generous state granted pensions, and the cost to the City for a typical patrolman today totals more than \$130,000.

Today, our country finds itself in one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression. A quick read of “2011 budget proposes \$1.1M reduction in property taxes” on pages 2 and 3 provides an excellent overview of the challenges we face.

Given that nearly 85 percent of the City’s general fund costs are personnel related, we must look to reduce employee costs. Last year, many employee groups including the members of Association for Professional Police Officers (APPO) worked with the City by agreeing to wage and benefit concessions. As a result, not a single police officer was laid off, although other departments experienced both concessions and layoffs.

This year, in order to save jobs and minimize impacts to services, the City

has asked all employees groups for a 10 percent reduction in compensation through wages and benefits. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, union leaders from all non-police bargaining groups across the City have agreed to consider concessions; all bargaining groups, that is, except APPO, which is the City’s single largest employee group. Unfortunately, they have informed us that they will not agree to work with the City toward any concessions whatsoever. As a result, the City recently issued layoff notices to eight officers.

While it is unfortunate that Aurora officers chose layoffs over concessions, the City will maintain the same number of officers in the areas of community policing, school resources and gang prevention. The police reduction will have a minor impact and affect only the patrol ranks. By changing our hiring and training procedures and transferring officers from a security detail at Hollywood Casino, **Aurora will have eight more officers on the street in 2011 than it had in 2008**, when the City achieved a record low crime rate with only two homicides.

When economic times were good in the past, City employees were rewarded with generous compensation packages. Given the current economic situation, it is my hope that all City employee groups will choose to share the sacrifice to minimize layoffs and reductions in essential services. But should employees choose to forget the past and ignore today’s economic realities, layoffs will be necessary in order to maintain a balanced budget.

Sincerely,

Tom Weisner
Mayor, City of Aurora

2011 budget pro

In the midst of one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, City officials once again cut costs to balance the 2011 budget. Falling property values and weak revenue projections for 2011 resulted in an \$18 million projected budget shortfall heading into the new budget year. This is the second consecutive year the City was faced with a significant revenue shortfall.

Recognizing the changing economy, the City began working diligently to reduce costs in 2008. Last year, the city reduced its workforce by 73.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (through voluntary separation programs, as well as layoffs). The 2011 budget reduces the City workforce by an additional 98 FTE positions, bringing the total reduction over two years to more than 171 FTE positions. Today, there are 25 percent fewer executive employees as the City had just three years ago. During the last two years, the City has cut nonessential service levels, consolidated City departments, implemented pay freezes, instituted furlough days and negotiated wage concessions from various bargaining units.

Unfortunately, the economic situation facing cities across the nation, including Aurora, has not improved – in fact it has worsened. The 2011 budget projects a 4 percent decrease in the City’s equalized assessed value (EAV). A look at five main sources of revenue shows an \$11.1 million reduction for 2011, when compared to actual revenues from those same sources in 2007.

Given that nearly 85 percent of the Aurora’s general fund costs are personnel related, the City was forced to also look at reducing employee costs to balance the budget. Officials are currently seeking a 10 percent reduction in personnel costs through wages and benefits from all employee groups in order to minimize layoffs. Employee groups unwilling to make concessions will experience significant reductions in personnel.

The proposed 2011 budget reflects dramatic cuts across the city, including the elimination the Office of Special Events, historic preservation incentives and other non-essential services. City officials hope to continue a limited number of special events in 2011 by partnering with community organizations and volunteer groups to

poses \$1.1M reduction in property taxes

reduce costs. In fact, the Aurora Civic Center Authority, the non-profit that owns the Paramount Theatre, has already stepped up to produce Aurora's summer music festivals, Blues on the Fox and Downtown Alive.

At the same time, many revenues are flat or declining, the City is experiencing pressure on the cost side of the ledger, mainly due to increases in health care costs and state-mandated pensions for police and fire personnel. In fact, in the last 10 years, the

"By cutting city costs, we were able to hold the line on property taxes. As a result, the average homeowner should pay less in city collected property taxes in 2011."

Mayor Tom Weisner

For the second consecutive year, Aurora joined together with cities around the state to lobby for reform of public safety pensions, which are determined by the state legislature. While state officials have approved legislation that will go before the governor, therefor only will impact police officers and firefighters hired after Jan. 1, 2011. However, the City of Aurora can no longer absorb these current pension cost increases. Therefore, Aurora is taking the

lead among cities across the state to separate public safety pension costs, which are not within its control.

The 2011 budget recommends separating pension costs from the City's general operating tax rate. Many of the county treasurer offices, with the exception of those in Will County, already separate these costs on residents' tax bills. Historically, however, Aurora has absorbed pension increases by reducing its operating budget. For example in 2009, Aurora's operating property tax rate for the general fund was \$1.15. In 2010, increases in public safety pension costs caused Aurora's operating tax rate to drop to \$1.07. If the City continued to absorb pension cost increases in 2011, the operating property tax rate would have dropped another four cents, resulting in a total decrease of \$7.2 million over two years.

Aurora cannot continue to absorb unfunded pension mandates without drastic cuts in essential services, including public safety.

By the numbers

Proposed Property Taxes in Dollars

\$1.1M Total reduction in property tax dollars paid to the City in 2011

\$69.4M Total property tax dollars paid to the City in 2010

\$68.3M Total property tax dollars the City is requesting in 2011

Proposed Property Taxes by Rate

\$1.07 Tax rate supporting the operations in 2010

\$1.07 Tax rate supporting the operations in 2011

\$.4875 Tax rate for state-mandated pension costs in 2010

\$.5281 Tax rate for state-mandated pension costs in 2011

Therefore, despite seeing a reduction of \$1.1 million in the City's actual tax levy, citizens will see a slight four-cent increase in the overall local property tax rate due state-mandated pension costs. However, because property values have dropped, taxes paid by property owners for both City operations and state-mandated pensions will be less than they were in 2010.

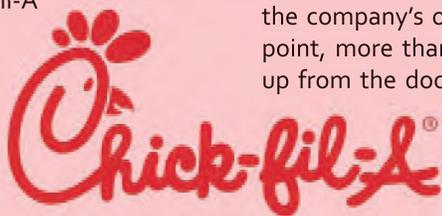
During Mayor Tom Weisner's administration, the City has paid 100 percent of identified pension costs each year. Other communities, as well as the state, have responded to pension challenges by underfunding their pension obligations. This is a fiscally irresponsible practice, which compounds the problem and creates a larger bill for future generations.

The City Council is expected to consider the budget this month with approval by Dec. 31.

First Illinois Chick-fil-A restaurant lands in Aurora

They may not have spent overnight in a tent in the parking lot, but Aurora residents Erin Miller and Mary Gumz were not about to miss the first breakfast being served up at the new Chick-fil-A restaurant.

Both women had previously eaten at the fast food chicken chain, which is popular in the south, but were anxious to see the first Illinois location open Sept. 16 on Route 59 in the Westfield Fox Valley Shopping Center.



"I'm very excited that they are finally here," Gumz said.

Doug Lockwood, the owner/operator of the Aurora restaurant, said the first-day sales exceeded his expectations by smashing the company's opening day records. At one point, more than 300 customers were lined up from the door to the road waiting more than 40 minutes to get their order.

The hype surrounding Chick-fil-A's opening started Sept. 15 when people began setting up tents to camp overnight to be one of the first 100 customers to receive

vouchers for a free sandwich every week for one year.

During a grand opening ceremony, Mark Cathy, grandson of Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy, and Lockwood said Aurora is a very special town that has become a great shopping and dining destination.

"This is a dream come true to open in Aurora," Lockwood said.

Mayor Tom Weisner and 10th Ward Alderman Lynda Elmore welcomed the new eatery to Aurora's Far East side. Elmore, who grew up in the south with Chick-fil-A, was happy the restaurant chain found her once again.

Christmas Tree Collection

The City will collect Christmas trees during the week of Jan. 10 during residents' regular collection day. Make sure you run through this checklist before you part ways with your tree

- ☑ Trees must be free of plastic bags, decorations and tree stands
- ☑ Place trees at the curb on your normal collection day*
- ☑ Wreaths and garland will not be collected for recycling and must be stickered as garbage

*Visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org for more information

City Holiday Hours

City Hall and all city buildings except the Police and Fire Departments:

Open until noon
Thursday, Dec. 23
and Dec. 30

Closed
Friday Dec. 24 and Dec. 31

AURORA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

HOLIDAY HOURS

NOON TO 4 P.M.
WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY
THROUGH DEC. 23

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THE LATEST GALLERY OR HOURS,
CALL THE COMMISSION,
20 E. DOWNER PLACE, AT
(630) 256-3340 OR VISIT

WWW.AURORA-IL.ORG

Aurora twinkles with magic!

DECEMBER

Through Sunday, Dec. 26 Festival of Lights

5-9 p.m. Sunday to Thursday; 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive
Carloads of families will be entertained by more than a mile of lighted holiday displays at Phillips Park each night during the holiday season. Admission is free for the fourth annual event, which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Aurora and the City of Aurora. Donations will be accepted to raise money for local charities. For more information, visit www.aurorafestivaloflights.com.

Through Wednesday, Dec. 22 Visits with Santa

Noon-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday, Dec. 11-12, and Saturday to Wednesday, Dec. 18-22
Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive
Aurora children who want to give their Christmas wish list to Santa Claus in person can visit jolly St. Nick in December at the Phillips Park Visitor's Center. The free event is sponsored by the Friends of Phillips Park. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras. For more information, call the Phillips Park Visitor's Center at (630) 256-3750 or visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

Through Friday, April 1 Art at City Hall

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday
City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place
Two-dimensional works from Aurora Art League members will be featured on all five floors of City Hall and is open to the public for viewing during regular business hours. The free exhibit is sponsored by the Aurora Public Art Commission. For more information, visit www.aurora-il.org.

Friday, Dec. 17 Visit Mrs. Claus on the Aurora Public Library Bookmobile

3-4 p.m.
Church Road/Edison Avenue Bookmobile Stop, 1100 Church Road
Mrs. Claus and her favorite elves will visit the Bookmobile for a holiday bilingual story time. Children will receive a takeaway craft and have their photos taken with Mrs. Claus for free. For more information, call the Aurora Public Library at (630) 264-4100.

Winter Garden of Youth Art Opening Reception

5-7 p.m.
David L. Pierce Art and History Center, 20 E. Downer Place
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 Jan. 14, 2011.

Sunday, Dec. 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. More information at www.aamou.org.

JANUARY

Friday, Jan. 21 Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board Community Breakfast

7:30-9 a.m.
Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road
The Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board will honor students who have achieved excellence in academics, athletics and leadership. Young artists, writers and Hispanic individuals making a difference in the community will be recognized. Tickets are \$18. For more information visit www.hispanicheritageaurora.com or call the City's Special Events Office at (630) 256-3370.

FEBRUARY

Thursday, Feb 24 African-American Heritage and Awards Breakfast

7:30-9 a.m.
Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road
The City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board will be presenting the 2010 Outstanding African-American Award at its annual celebration. The award is given to an Auroran who exhibits leadership, volunteerism and service to the African-American community. Tickets are \$18 with a portion going to the Henry Cowherd Scholarship Fund. For more information, call the Special Events Office at (630) 256-3370.

Foster homes needed for Aurora cats, dogs

The number of paws and wet noses is staggering. But last year, Aurora Animal Control was the recipient of 3,296 furry bundles of energy in the form of 958 cats, 802 kittens, 1,382 dogs and 154 puppies.

While a good number of the cats and kittens are strays, many have "belonged to someone at some point," said Ellen Wullbrandt, president of the Fox Valley Animal Welfare League. "They have been handled and they are friendly."

Linda Nass, Aurora's director of Animal Control, said the shelter can receive 15 or 16 cats on a busy day.

"They are dropped off in boxes, laundry bags

and pillowcases," Nass said.

That is when Nass calls Wullbrandt, who then goes to work to find foster homes for the animals.

Currently, there are about 20 foster homes for adoptable pets. Wullbrandt and Nass would like to beef up that number and hope interested residents will contact them to see if fostering is right for them.

Animals needing foster homes may be too young to be adopted, injured, sick or under-socialized, Wullbrandt said. Volunteers who want to get the process started can go to the League's website at www.fvawf.org/programs.htm. An application is available online. The process includes a home visit and



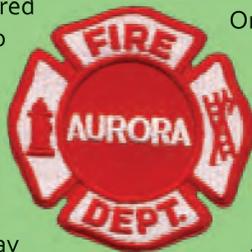
a discussion about a foster's experience with animals. Foster "parents" also must become licensed through the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The cost is \$25.

Fosters receive assistance in the form of food and litter from the Animal Welfare League, and there is always someone available to call for support when needed.

For more information, call Wullbrandt at (630) 256-3640 or e-mail info@fvawf.org.

Aurora Firefighters of the Year honored

Two Aurora firefighters and three paramedics were honored as the City's 2010 Firefighters of the Year for their life-saving efforts after a toddler had fallen into a swimming pool.



Lt. Jack Westphall, Pvt. Randy Durham and Paramedics Ray Torres, Jeremy Allway and Dave Heinke received the prestigious honor Oct. 26 during the Exchange Club of Aurora's

annual Firefighter of the Year luncheon.

On Nov. 8, 2009, the firefighters were dispatched to a home in the 200 block of Hampshire Avenue for a call of a 3-year-old, who was not conscious or breathing after being found in a swimming pool. Two Aurora Police officers, Joe Orosco and Pete Rodriguez, were the first responders to the home and had performed CPR on the child in the front yard.

The paramedics performed advanced life support procedures in the yard and en route to Rush Copley Hospital in Aurora. From the time firefighters first arrived at the home to the hospital took 12 minutes. The child survived the incident and is expected to make a full recovery. Other firefighters nominated for the award included:

- Paramedics Kevin Becker and Jason Mosshamer – The duo resuscitated a dehydrated baby who had gone into respiratory arrest at a medical clinic on Aurora's West side Jan. 22.
- Battalion Chief Tim Pogue, Lt. Javan Cross, Firefighters Steve Koeberl and Scott Schuster, and Paramedics Ricardo Torres

and Luanne Whitmer –

Firefighters responded to an athletic center on the City's Far West side to save a 4-year-old found unconscious at the bottom of the pool Jan. 29.

• Lt. Steve Kish, Firefighters Mark Long and Jeff Kerley and Paramedics Matt Anslow and Andrew Smith – Firefighters performed advanced life support measures to a patron who had collapsed in a barber chair Aug. 10 on the City's East side.

"The definition of a hero is overused for police and firefighters, but it is very nice to be recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty," Fire Chief Hal Carlson said.



Dave Heinke



Ray Torres



Jeremy Allway



Lt. Jack Westphall



Randy Durham

New City phone system ringing loud and clear

Did you know that you only need to remember two phone numbers when seeking City of Aurora services?

For emergencies, dial 911. All other inquiries can be directed to Customer Service at (630) 256-INFO.

If dialing a specific department, experience enhanced convenience with a common "256" prefix.

The new voice-over-internet protocol phone system will save the City about \$225,000 in the next year.

For a most commonly called listing of City phone numbers, visit www.aurora-il.org or call (630) 256-INFO.

Aurora tackling foreclosures one home at a time

The nationwide economy has resulted in gluts of foreclosed and vacant homes, which are not only eyesores but also lead to decreased property values along with an increased threat of crime and vandalism.

Hoping to minimize the financial impact felt by property owners in areas especially hard hit by foreclosures and vacancies, Aurora's Neighborhood Redevelopment Division received more than \$3 million in federal funds geared toward neighborhood stabilization. The money was used to buy and rehabilitate 14 foreclosed or abandoned homes and rental units.

After the properties were brought into compliance with City building and property maintenance code requirements, the homes are either resold at or below 120 percent of the area median income or rented at or below 50 percent of the area median income. People who purchased a home from the City have to complete a responsible home-buyer's course, which is required by HUD, with the Joseph Corp. at no charge.

"The spending of these funds elevates the property values of everyone living in a targeted area," said Karen Christensen, Manager of Neighborhood Redevelopment. "Rather than investors purchasing and flipping the properties, which is common in these difficult financial times, the City is spending money to ensure all properties are brought completely up to code. When the homes are sold, the funds from the sales are recycled to buy other vacant or foreclosed properties across Aurora, which results in further increased property values in wider areas across the City."

More information on the program is available by calling the Neighborhood Redevelopment Division at (630) 256-3320 or by logging onto www.aurora-il.org and going to the Neighborhood Redevelopment site under the Community Services tab. ❄️

RiverEdge Park plans progressing



Aurora received an early Christmas gift when Gov. Pat Quinn announced in October the state is providing an \$8 million redevelopment grant for the City's RiverEdge Park project, which could see construction start next spring.

In recent years, Aurora has made numerous advancements to create a City prepared for the future including a renewed focus on the environment, creating a more sustainable community, and revitalizing the historic downtown. The RiverEdge Park project supports that theme with 30 acres of land along the Fox River adjacent to the downtown and Aurora Transportation Center.

"RiverEdge Park will be Aurora's economic engine that can have the same impact here as Millennium Park, which spurred unprecedented economic development in Chicago," Mayor Tom Weisner said.

Stephane Phifer, AICP Planning Director for the City, said the park is not only providing a new area for festivals and events, it will also work to clean up and restore the river, connecting residents with the natural features of the area. An iconic pedestrian bridge spanning the Fox River will link the west neighborhoods to the train station.

"We put a lot of thought into this process," Phifer said. "The bridge can be accessed on the west side at a stop light and pedestrian walkway, allowing Aurorans who opt to bike or walk to the train station safe and convenient access to the bridge."

The \$8 million state grant will create an

Park Highlights

Once completed, the downtown park will feature a:

- Music venue*
- Concession stand*
- Children's play area*
- Fountains*
- Pedestrian bridge and walkways*
- Open areas*

estimated 150 construction jobs, 34 full-time jobs at the park and between 450 to 600 private-sector and non-retail jobs in Aurora. Funding will be used for design/engineering, grading, storm-water retention, utility work, landscaping, construction of public facilities and restoring a portion of the City's shoreline.

The City also has secured \$3 million from the Fox Valley Park District for trails and a park and \$2 million from the Kane County Forest Preserve District for the bridge. Pending receiving the grant money, the City will move forward with construction next spring. The project is expected to take between 18 to 24 months to complete, according to Phifer. ❄️

Wood Street bridge reopens



The Wood Street bridge on Aurora's East side was opened in October after being closed in 2002. The bridge spanning the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway tracks between Rural and Front streets was rebuilt after the City secured a \$2.88 million federal grant. The structure's life expectancy is at least 75 years.

Dinosaur eggs, babies a blast from the past



Many people's perception of dinosaurs is larger than life, but SciTech Hands on Museum patrons are getting another vantage point on these prehistoric creatures.

The Aurora museum is hosting a rare and exciting exhibit called "Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs and Babies" through the end of February. The exhibit features real and replica fossils and eggs from a variety of dinosaurs located on several different continents.

"I think people are surprised and amazed," said SciTech Museum Executive Director Carol Rehtmeyer. "When you think of dinosaurs, you don't think of babies and the eggs. There is something very real and very tangible to see the eggs. This has a strong family appeal."

The interactive experience for all ages allows visitors to touch real dinosaur bones and reconstructed nests – one that is more than 8 feet in diameter – dig for eggs, experience hands-on exploration stations and view animated video presentations. The eggs offer fascinating details into the behavior, growth and evolution of dinosaurs.

Visitors also can see artist depictions of early dinosaur development and life and also learn more about some living dinosaur relatives, including baby alligators and hatching chickens.

AT A GLANCE:

WHAT:

SciTech Hands on Museum

WHERE:

18 W. Benton St., Aurora

HOURS:

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday

FOR MORE INFO:

Call (630) 859-3434 or visit www.scitech.il.us

Energy conservation grant being put to good use

After receiving a \$1.57 million U.S. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, the City of Aurora is looking at high-profile projects that save money and conserve energy.

The City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Division is responsible for administering the grant and has worked with other City departments and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to develop plans.



Two projects being funded with this money focus on traffic lights. One endeavor will be traffic signalization LED upgrade/signal coordination that will reduce energy consumption and increase car travel efficiency for residents. Wind turbines will be installed to provide renewable energy for traffic lights at Frontenac Road and McCoy Drive and Fifth Street and Waterford Drive. A wind turbine also will be installed near the Aurora Police Department.

Other energy efficiency upgrades will take place at municipal facilities including the Water Treatment Plant, City Hall, Central Garage and the Stolp Island parking garage. The City also can distribute grant money to commercial and residential property owners to improve energy efficiency in their buildings.

Code training and education on the new International Energy Conservation Code and International Building Code will be conducted to enhance the skills of City officials and the development community. Another grant-funded program will be a "Greenworks" partnership with Waubensee Community College to help local contractors and new entrepreneurs to undertake residential and commercial building audits.

In an effort to boost the local economy, the City is encouraging emerging technologies and sustainable development through the rehabilitation of existing structures for maximum energy efficiency. The block grant funds must be spent by 2012, according to the federal government. ❄️

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public notices and
much more

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AURORAINFO
ALL THE TIME
www.aurora-il.org

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

Aurora ready to tackle snow plowing season efficiently



Q&A with Rosario DeLeon

Title: Chief Operations Officer

Years with the City: 25

Q. How many routes does the city plow and what are the priority levels?

A. There are 35 snow routes evenly distributing personnel and equipment throughout 2,100 City road miles requiring plowing. The snow routes are divided into two roadway classifications based on traffic volume. The primary portion of the snow route is typically streets that have been designated by the City's Engineering Division to carry the highest

volume of traffic. The second part of the snow route is the residential portion, which is what we consider neighborhood streets.

Q. When can residents expect their street to be plowed?

A. The first streets that are maintained during a snow or ice event are the primary streets. Once the primary streets are in a safe condition for vehicular traffic, we then move into the residential portion of the snow route. Cul-de-sacs, courts and dead-ends are the last streets to be cleared. The City's goal for an average snowstorm up to 4 inches is to have all streets cleared of snow and ice within 12 hours after it has stopped snowing. Heavier snowfalls may take longer to remove.

Q. What should residents do to help in this effort?

A. The City's snow ordinance prohibits parking on public streets when 2 or more inches have accumulated until

the snow has been plowed to the curb. By adhering to this ordinance, the snow removal operation will be expedited – and be less costly – because there will be less obstacles for the drivers to contend with while plowing.

Q. Can you explain the City's sensible roadway salting strategy?

A. To minimize the environmental and infrastructure impact, the City has had all snowplow operators certified on the proper use and application rates of roadway salt. The City used 30 percent less salt in 2009-10 than the previous comparable snow year, which resulted in an annual savings of about \$410,000 in salt purchases. Future infrastructure costs are anticipated to be lower because of the decreased volume of salt used on the streets. High amounts of salting can damage streets, negatively impact vegetation and be an environmental hazard when running off into water sources.

Your Elected Officials

Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

630-256-3010

mayoroffice@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

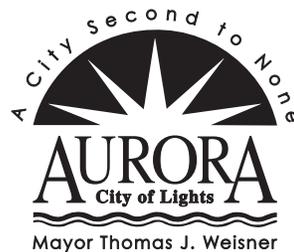
Ward 6: Mike Saville

Ward 7: Scheketa Hart-Burns

Ward 8: Rick Mervine

Ward 9: Leroy Keith

Ward 10: Lynda Elmore



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