

# AURORA BOREALIS



## RiverEdge Park construction slated to start this summer



**T**he City of Aurora is expected to start construction in July on the new RiverEdge Park. The park will be a destination hotspot for community events and help bolster economic development in the downtown.

The Aurora City Council recently approved hiring Aurora-based R.C. Wegman Co. as the project's construction manager. The firm built the Aurora Police Department's Training and Support building and parking deck, Fox Valley Park District's Cole Center, the Phillips Park Visitors Center and many area parks.

RiverEdge Park will be located along the Fox River between New York Street and Illinois Avenue. The Music Garden, which will be the first phase of construction, will be built across the street from the Aurora Transportation Center, 233 N. Broadway Ave. The entertainment venue will serve as a cultural events hub within a natural setting of the Fox River and downtown.

Once completed, the Dunham Pavilion will host the Blues on the Fox and Downtown Alive! concert series and other community events for

up to 9,500 people with flexible modular seating, lawn area and rooftop viewing area. The Music Garden also will contain a guest services building with a ticket window, concessions and restrooms. The venue is expected to be completed in October 2012.

Aside from the Music Garden, other park amenities will include a children's play area, fountains, walking paths, a pedestrian bridge and open natural areas.

The City has secured \$15 million in grant money to use toward the public/private venture, including \$8 million from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) River Edge Revitalization Zone program, \$3 million from the Fox Valley Park District, \$2 million from the Kane County Forest Preserve District and \$2 million from the Dunham Fund.

For more information about RiverEdge Park, visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org). \*



**Come Celebrate  
Independence Day  
July 4**

*Parade and Fireworks  
See pages 4, 6 & 8*

### INSIDE

**Farmers market opens for the season with a fresh new look**  
pages 2 & 3

**Recycle those unwanted electronics for free**  
page 3

**City going green to combat pesky mosquitoes this summer**  
page 3

**Shape Aurora's future sewer improvements by taking survey**  
page 6





## From the Mayor's Desk

Plenty of exciting changes coming to Downtown Aurora this summer

The flowers that grace our downtown each summer were already in bloom on Memorial Day as a record crowd lined the streets for the biggest and best **Memorial Day Parade** in recent memory.

Less than a week later, we celebrated the opening of the beautiful new **Waubensee Community College Downtown Aurora Campus**. The campus includes a block-long 135,000-square-foot building full of classrooms and state-of-the-art labs. The lovely riverfront campus includes two levels of FoxWalk, Aurora's riverwalk.

Our downtown continues to improve, although the overall economy, tight credit, and a weak housing market have slowed progress in some cases.

The former Walter Payton's Roundhouse should be the **Two Brothers Roundhouse** by the time you read this letter. Brothers Jim and Jason Ebel already own a rapidly growing micro-brewery and a highly successful restaurant in Warrenville. It was "love at first sight" when Jim and Jason visited the Roundhouse, the only full-standing limestone railroad round house in North America. Their commitment to high-quality food (often locally grown and organic) and top-notch beers like Domaine DuPage should make the Roundhouse better than ever. Banquets and musical entertainment will continue under Two Brothers.

**Restaurant Row** on New York Street really began with Ballydoyle Irish Pub and Eatery, which opened in 2009. Along with great food and entertainment of both Irish and Rock-n-Roll genres, Ballydoyle's outdoor deck overlooking the river is now in full swing. Across the street, Chef Amaury's Bistro provides gourmet dining, the Comfort Zone serves scrumptious barbeque and La Quinta de los Reyes makes fresh salsa and guacamole at your table. The long

awaited Billy Goat has now become an ownership partner in the project, but legal wrangles with a local property holder in foreclosure are currently keeping the project from completing the next phase.

The new **"Paddle and Trail"** canoe, kayak and bicycle sales and rental store has opened at the corner of North River and Spruce streets, close to both the Fox River and Fox River Bike Trails. This great new riverfront amenity had almost ninety rentals on its first weekend in business.

An Aurora firm, R.C. Wegman Construction, will serve as construction manager for **RiverEdge Park**, the long-awaited new riverfront recreation and music venue that is scheduled to begin construction in July. The site is directly across Route 25 from the Aurora Transportation Center, on the northern edge of our downtown. RiverEdge Park will serve not only as Aurora's primary riverfront open space and event venue, but also as a major attraction to nearby private investment in the riverfront area.

Funding for construction of the first phase of the multi-phased RiverEdge Park project has been provided by the Dunham Fund, Fox Valley Park District, Kane County Forest Preserve and the State of Illinois.

This issue of the Aurora Borealis highlights a number of exciting events taking place in downtown Aurora this summer. I encourage you and your family to mark your calendars and experience all downtown Aurora has to offer.

Enjoy your Summer.

Sincerely,

Tom Weisner  
Mayor, City of Aurora



## Farmers Market serves up new additions this year

The 2011 Aurora Farmers Market will offer plenty of fresh food and flowers this year along with a brand new location on the Far East side.

The City's market enters its 99th year bringing a wide assortment of:

- Farm-fresh produce
- Organic food
- Fresh bread and baked goods
- Fine wines
- Fresh flowers
- And more!

For more information, visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

## Get City news, events and alerts delivered right to your inbox

Whether you have big travel plans or are staying close to home this summer, the City's email updates will keep you in the loop on what is going on in your community. Sign up on our website by entering your email address and selecting your topics of interest.

[www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)  
All Aurora INFO  
All the Time

**2011**

**Farmers Market Schedule**

**SATURDAYS**

**7:30 a.m. to noon**

**NOW THROUGH  
OCTOBER 22**

Aurora Transportation Center,  
233 N. Broadway Ave.

**TUESDAYS (New!)**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**JULY 12 THROUGH  
AUGUST 30**

Spring Lake Park, 3500 McCoy Drive

**WEDNESDAYS**

**2 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**JULY 6 THROUGH  
AUGUST 31**

West Aurora Plaza Shopping Center,  
1901 W. Galena Blvd.

**WANTED**



**YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS  
FOR RECYCLING**

**When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Central Garage facility  
720 N. Broadway Ave.**

**Customer Service Center,  
3770 McCoy Drive**

July 9

July 23

Aug. 6

Aug. 20

Sept. 10

Sept. 24

Oct. 8

Oct. 22

Nov. 5

Nov. 19

Dec. 3

Dec. 17

**For a list of accepted items and complete information:**

**CALL 630-256-INFO OR VISIT  
WWW.AURORA-IL.ORG**

**Aurora going green to keep mosquito population lean**

**T**he City of Aurora is going green this year to help ward off pesky mosquitoes during its annual abatement program.

The City's Street Maintenance Division has placed 12,000 Natular tablets that last up to 180 days into catch basins and other large sources of standing water. These tablets, which are a certified-organic product that mosquito larvae feed upon, will prevent the insects from growing into adults.

"Aurora actively seeks out the best environmental profiles in the products we use," said Brett Weiler, Street Maintenance Division superintendent. "Natular is categorized as a reduced risk larvicide, and it is a smart addition to our mosquito control arsenal."

Aurora and Bolingbrook are the first two communities in the Chicago area to be using the Natular tablets. The product received

**Want more information?**

For more details on Aurora's Mosquito Abatement program, visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org) or call Clarke Environmental at 800-942-2555.

the 2010 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award.

Clarke Environmental, a private contractor hired by the City, also will monitor five mosquito traps placed throughout the community. If the number of female mosquitoes exceeds 30 in a particular trap – the female mosquitoes are the ones that bite – the Street Maintenance Division will spray insecticide in the area to reduce the mosquito population. \*

# Aurora Comes Alive in Summer 2011!

## JUNE

### Saturday, June 25 Homeownership Expo

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Quad County Urban League,  
1685 N. Farnsworth Ave.

Residents interested in owning a home are invited to attend a workshop sponsored by the Quad County Urban League and the City of Aurora. The program will provide homebuyer counseling, mortgage approval and credit counseling. For more information, call Neighborhood Redevelopment Division Manager Karen Christensen at 630-256-3321 or email her at [kchristensen@aurora-il.org](mailto:kchristensen@aurora-il.org).

### Starting Saturday, June 25 Farmers Market ATC

7:30 a.m. to noon

Aurora Transportation Center,  
233 N. Broadway Ave.

The Farmers Market returns to downtown each Saturday through Oct. 22. See ad on pages 2 and 3. For more information, visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

### Super Screen Saturday Nights — "Avatar"

8 p.m.

Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive

Pre-event activities begin at 8 p.m. and the movie starts 30 minutes after sunset (between 9 and 9:15 p.m.) The featured movie is rated PG-13 and is sponsored by Citizens First National Bank. See the ad on page 5 for more information.

## JULY

### Monday, July 4 Independence Day Parade

9:15 a.m.

Downtown Aurora

A patriotic ceremony will commence the festivities before the parade steps off at 10 a.m. from the corner of Benton and River streets. The parade will march east to Broadway Avenue, north to Galena Boulevard, west to Stolp Avenue, south to Downer Place and conclude heading west

to Middle Avenue. The event is sponsored by the Roosevelt-Aurora American Legion Post 84 in partnership with the City of Aurora. For more information, visit [www.post84.com](http://www.post84.com) or [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

### Independence Day Fireworks

6 to 10 p.m.

Illinois Math & Science Academy,  
1500 W. Sullivan Road

The celebration continues with a night of family fun, entertainment, live music and culminates with an impressive fireworks display, which is scheduled to start around 9:30 p.m. The event is being co-sponsored with the Village of North Aurora. Check out the story on Page 8 for a full schedule along with information on parking and shuttle locations.

### Starting Wednesday, July 6 Farmers Market West

2 to 6 p.m.

West Plaza Shopping Center,  
1901 W. Galena Blvd.

Farmers Market West returns on Wednesdays through Aug. 31. See ad on pages 2 and 3 or visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

### Saturday, July 9 Louche Puce Market

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Downtown Water Street Mall between  
Galena Boulevard and Downer Place

This new outdoor European-style vintage and collectable market will be held in the heart of downtown on the second Saturday of each month through September. For more information, contact Jeannie Norris at [norrisjeanne@gmail.com](mailto:norrisjeanne@gmail.com).

### Super Screen Saturday Nights — "Diary of a Wimpy Kid"

8 p.m.

Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive

Pre-event activities begin at 8 p.m. and the movie starts 30 minutes after sunset (between 9 and 9:15 p.m.) The featured movie is rated PG and is sponsored by VNA of Fox Valley and the Aurora Public Library. See the ad on page 5 for more information.

### Electronics recycling

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

City's Central Garage facility,  
720 N. Broadway Ave.

The City of Aurora's popular electronics recycling program continues as a safe way to dispose of unwanted electronics at the Central Garage facility. See the ad on page 3 for more information. For a complete list of accepted and prohibited items, visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

### Starting Saturday, July 9 City Golf Championship

Tee times begin at 7:30 a.m.

Phillips Park Golf Course, 1001 Hill Ave.,  
and the Fox Valley Golf Club, 2500 N.  
River Road, North Aurora

Come take your best swing to capture the Aurora City Golf Championship, a four-round amateur golf contest open to both men and women. Participants will play a 72-hole stroke play event that is flighted by score after the first two rounds. The first and third rounds will be held Saturday, July 9 and 16 at the Phillips Park Golf Course and the second and fourth rounds will be held Sunday, July 10 and 17 at the Fox Valley Golf Club. The entry fee is \$35 per player, and appropriate green fees will be charged for each round. Entry forms are available at either golf course.

### Starting Tuesday, July 12 Farmers Market East

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spring Lake Park, 3500 McCoy Drive

A brand new Farmers Market East makes its debut and will be held Tuesdays through Aug. 30. For more information, see the ad on pages 2 and 3 or visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

### Friday, July 15 Downtown Alive!

6:15 p.m.

North River Street Park, Cedar and  
North River streets

The British Invasion will hit the Fox River for the 2011 Downtown Alive! concert series presented in conjunction with the Paramount Theatre. Dbl-Shot will open the night with high energy '80s rock followed by the Beatles tribute band American

English at 8 p.m. For more information, visit [www.downtownaliveaurora.com](http://www.downtownaliveaurora.com).

### Saturday, July 16 Super Screen Saturday Nights — “The Sandlot”

8 p.m.  
Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive  
Pre-event activities begin at 8 p.m. and the movie starts 30 minutes after sunset (between 9 and 9:15 p.m.) The featured movie is rated PG and is sponsored by Waubensee Community College. See the ad on page 5 for more information.

### Saturday, July 23 Electronics recycling

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
City's Customer Service Center, 3770 McCoy Drive  
The twice-monthly electronics recycling program continues with a second location, this time in the at the Customer Service Center. See the ad on page 3 for more information. For a complete list of accepted and prohibited items visit the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

### Super Screen Saturday Nights — “The Tooth Fairy”

8 p.m.  
Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive  
Pre-event activities begin at 8 p.m. and the movie starts 30 minutes after sunset (between 9 and 9:15 p.m.) The featured movie is rated PG and is sponsored by Luigi's Pizza and Fun Center. See the ad on page 5 for more information.

### Saturday and Sunday, July 30 & 31 Puerto Rican Festival & Carnival

11 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 30 and  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m. July 31  
Downtown Aurora  
The 40th anniversary celebration will feature a festival, live entertainment, parade and carnival celebrating Puerto Rican culture and heritage. The festival will be staged at North River Street Park at Cedar and North River streets. The parade steps off at noon Sunday at the corner of Benton Street and Broadway Avenue. For more information, visit [www.aurora-prcc.org](http://www.aurora-prcc.org).

## AUGUST

### Friday, Aug. 12 Downtown Alive!

6:15 p.m.  
North River Street Park, Cedar and North River streets  
The last Downtown Alive! concert promises to “Rock the Fox.” The Chicago-based cover band 28 Days will open the night followed by headliner 7th Heaven, when entertains with a harmony filled rock style. For more information, visit [www.downtownaliveaurora.com](http://www.downtownaliveaurora.com).

### Saturday, Aug. 13 Teen Talent Show Competition

2 p.m.  
Copley Theatre, 8 E. Galena Blvd.  
Local teenagers will take the stage to showcase their talents in the third annual Teen Talent Show Competition. This event is free and no registration or tickets are required. Live auditions are set for June 22 to 25 at the Aurora Public Library, 1 E. Benton St.; Eola Road Branch, 555 S. Eola Road; and West Branch, 233 S. Constitution Drive. Check out “Aurora Public Library Teen Space” on Facebook for more information.

### Louche Puce Market

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Downtown Water Street Mall between Galena Boulevard and Downer Place  
This new outdoor European-style vintage and collectable market will be held in the heart of downtown on the second Saturday of each month through September. For more information, contact Jeannie Norris at [norrisjeanne@gmail.com](mailto:norrisjeanne@gmail.com).

Call 630-256-INFO  
for event  
information

TEAR OUT AND SAVE!



## SUPER SCREEN SATURDAY NIGHTS

COME TO PHILLIPS PARK  
TO SEE MOVIES FOR FREE!

Watch Hollywood-hit movies  
on the big screen

All you need to bring is  
a chair or a blanket

Concessions are available

Parking is available in the  
Aquatic Center parking lot

For weather updates or  
for more information, visit  
[www.auroramoviesinthepark.com](http://www.auroramoviesinthepark.com)

JUNE 25 “Avatar” (PG-13)

JULY 9 “Diary of a Wimpy  
Kid” (PG)

JULY 16 “The Sandlot” (PG)

JULY 23 “The Tooth Fairy”  
(PG)

Pre-event activities start  
at 8 p.m. and movies  
start around 9 p.m.

Movies are shown by Sunset Cinema in  
partnership with the City of Aurora

## Watering restrictions

With summer finally here, take time to familiarize yourself with the City's water conservation ordinance regarding watering lawns, automatic irrigation systems, filling a swimming pool and car washing.

**The City of Aurora permits residents to water lawns between: 5 and 9 a.m. & 6 to 10 p.m.**

Residents with an odd last digit in their street address are allowed to water lawns on odd calendar days; and the same rule applies with even addresses on even calendar days.

More information can be found on the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).



## Legion partnership fortifies Independence Day Parade

Residents will celebrate the red, white and blue again this year at a downtown parade sponsored by the Roosevelt-Aurora American Legion Post 84 in partnership with the City of Aurora.

When the Fourth of July Parade originally was cut from the City's 2011 budget as a cost-savings measure, the American Legion pledged support to save the community event. The Legion raised \$15,000, which the City matched dollar-for-dollar, to pay for the parade.

"Given the difficult economic times, we had to make tough budget decisions and hope that civic and volunteer organizations would partner with us to preserve traditions like the Fourth of July Parade," Mayor Tom Weisner said. "We are excited Post 84 has stepped up to the forefront to make the parade a reality this year."

The Independence Day event will start with a patriotic ceremony at 9:15 a.m. Monday, July 4 outside the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. The parade will step off at 10 a.m. at the corner of Benton and River streets, marching east to Broadway Avenue, north to Galena Boulevard, west to Stolp Avenue, south to Downer Place and conclude heading west to Middle Avenue.

The City's commitment to the Fourth of July Parade was welcome news to Legion Post 84 Commander Norris "Doc" Erickson.

"I'm glad that we the people have come together to pull this thing off," Erickson said. "The parade means family, neighbors and friends will be able to come together to celebrate America's freedom."

After honoring service men and women who gave their lives for our country's freedom during the Memorial Day Parade, the City will recognize military personnel once more this year at a Veterans Day parade celebration in November.

For more information on the Fourth of July Parade, visit the Legion's website at [www.post84.com](http://www.post84.com) or the City's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

## City wants feedback on basement flooding survey

During the past several years, the City of Aurora has completed many improvements to the municipal sewer system to minimize basement backups and flooding. Now officials are seeking feedback from residents to gauge the effectiveness of previous construction projects and to help determine future work priorities.

A City survey is being offered online at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org). The survey has 11 questions and should only take a few minutes to complete.

Residents experiencing a sewage backup in their basement should call the City prior to contacting a plumber.

If the basement backup is caused by a

blockage in the City's sewer main, the Water and Sewer Division will fix the problem, and the resident will save money by not having to hire a plumber. If the City's sewer line is functioning properly, the resident will be notified the problem is within their private sewer service line that runs from the home to the sewer main.

Residents experiencing a basement sewage backup can call the City's Customer Service Center at 630-256-INFO or the City's Water and Sewer Division at 630-256-3710. ☀



## DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Aurora's Website can provide you with information on your local schools, elected officials and zoning information. Visit [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org) and click on the "My Place" tab at the top of the homepage. By entering your address, you can obtain useful information and links to county, township, and school district bodies to which you belong.



# Six incumbents win re-election, Council fills vacant seat

**W**ith six seats up for election in April, Aurora voters brought back all six incumbents to serve another four years on the City Council.

Aldermen winning re-election included Abby Schuler, 1st Ward; Stephanie Kifowit, 3rd Ward; John “Whitey” Peters, 5th Ward; Mike Saville, 6th Ward; Rick Mervine, 8th Ward and Richard Irvin, Alderman-at-Large.

However, it was Mayor Tom Weisner’s appointment a month earlier that is the newest member on the City Council.

Allan Lewandowski was chosen out of a pool of five candidates who applied to fill the vacant 9th Ward seat of former Alderman Leroy Keith, who resigned in December to take a job out of state. The Mayor’s appointment was approved by the City Council in March.

“My goal in this process was to respect the will of 9th Ward residents by choosing a candidate whose views on city government were similar to those of Alderman Keith,” Mayor Weisner said.

Lewandowski thanked the City Council, City staff members and residents for their support during his first few months in his new role. He said his strengths of being detail-oriented and working with various community groups will serve Aurora residents well.

“Given the struggling economy, continuing the City’s efforts to attract and retain businesses is going to be a priority in both the 9th Ward and the City at-large,” Lewandowski said. “I want to strive to make Aurora better and will work hard to contribute to that effort.”

Lewandowski will fill the rest of Keith’s term, which expires in 2013. ☀



## Profession

Allan Lewandowski has spent the past 17 years working as a senior database administrator/technical senior infrastructure architect for Aon Hewitt, where he manages enterprise applications for his company’s clients.

## Background

Lewandowski has lived in Aurora for the past 12 years with his wife and two daughters.

## Hobbies

In his free time, Lewandowski has served on his homeowners’ association board, volunteered at Oswego East High School sports events and has been a member of the St. Charles Sportsmen Club. He also has volunteered his time with Habitat for Humanity.

# City taking steps to combat pesky Emerald Ash Borer

**T**he City of Aurora received a \$40,000 federal grant this year to help combat a problem that is spreading across the nation – the Emerald Ash Borer.

Aurora was one of 58 Illinois communities to receive funding through a grant program spearheaded by the Morton Arboretum and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. With the assistance of the Arboretum’s expertise, municipalities will now be able to acquire trees to replace those ash trees threatened or destroyed by the bug.

In Aurora, the first signs of the Emerald Ash Borer were found in late 2008 on Liberty Street east of Commons Drive. Since then, the bug has spread to other areas of the City.

The infestation has been compared to the Dutch elm disease of the 1960s that resulted in the loss of most elm trees throughout the region. Chemical treatment options do exist but have not proven to be

100 percent effective and can be costly given the widespread nature of the bug.

## Signs of EAB infestation

- Thinning of the canopy at the top
- “D” shaped exit holes
- Splitting of the bark on the trunk
- Woodpecker damage since the birds feed on larvae that tunnel under the bark

“We are working to diversify our urban forest, which is the best way to prevent large losses in the future,” said William Pauley, the City’s Forestry Supervisor and an International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist.

Residents should consult the City’s website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org) to help identify if they have an ash tree in the parkway and for signs of infestation. If residents suspect a parkway ash tree may be infested, they can call the City’s Customer Service at 630-256-INFO.

If a tree has been confirmed to be infested, it will be added to the list for future removal by City crews free of charge. It is the owners responsibility to remove infested ash trees located on private property. ☀

