

AURORA BOREALIS



City celebrates the past while planning a vision for the future

Aurora has taken time to remember the city's rich and vibrant history this year as part of its 175th anniversary, but that has not stopped community leaders from keeping an eye on the future.

During Mayor Tom Weisner's annual State of the City speech, he credited Aurora's success to its schools, institutions, business community, and other local organizations "working together to create a promising future for Aurora's youngest generation."

As the world depends on a growing technology base, Mayor Weisner announced plans to close the digital divide by leveraging the City's fiber optic network. OnLight Aurora, an independent non-profit group comprised of City and community leaders, has been formed to oversee the leasing of high-speed, broadband access for non-municipal use with schools, health care facilities and businesses.

In May, Aurora's City Council approved a 20-year fiber lease and financial support for OnLight Aurora to offer enhanced broadband Internet access at affordable rates.

"By developing the infrastructure of the future and preparing our children, we drive economic

development, strengthen our tax base and address our community's most fundamental needs: jobs, quality of life and global competitiveness," said Mayor Weisner.

The other major announcement Mayor Weisner made was a proposal to create a technology-

based skill center by fall 2013 at the former Waubensee Community College campus in central downtown. The tech-based workforce development center would fill a critical need to prepare about 300 students annually for skilled jobs offered by Aurora area companies. The center would be open to students from school districts 129, 131, 204 and 308.

Funding to purchase the former Waubensee campus would come

from the proposed sale of the City's Fred Rodgers Community Center to District 131, according to Mayor Weisner. The sale would allow District 131 to centralize and expand its current magnet school.

For more details on Aurora's exciting future, watch Mayor Weisner's State of the City address by visiting the City's website at www.aurora-il.org and clicking the "Mayor's Office" tab. 🌟

Other State of the City highlights:

- Despite a growing population, violent crime continues to drop by 2 percent in 2011
- The City remains fiscally strong thanks to cost-cutting measures in recent years
- Businesses continue to invest in Aurora bringing more than 1,150 jobs into the area last year
- RiverEdge Park, which will serve as a catalyst for economic growth, will open in 2013

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From the Mayor's Desk

Electrical Aggregation Will Provide Significant Savings for Aurora Residents and Businesses

Dear neighbor,

For most of the previous century, Aurora residents have had no choice when it comes to supplying their home or business with electricity. Commonwealth Edison evolved into a "regulated monopoly" which meant they were the "only game in town." ComEd prices were tempered and regulated not by competition, but by a faceless commission in Springfield.

More recently, buyers of electrical service in Illinois have had the option to choose an alternative provider. For example, my wife, Marilyn, and I have been purchasing our power from Blue Star, which is cheaper than ComEd and also utilizes renewable energy sources.

At last, in 2012, we have electrical aggregation: the ability to harness the buying power of our entire community – business and residential – in order to secure competitive energy services and prices for Aurora.

Our citizens approved a referendum in March to allow the City to seek an alternative source of electricity to serve our entire community.

By representing the bulk buying power of the entire city, we hoped to attract highly competitive pricing offers. Results were even better than we expected. First Energy Solutions of Akron, Ohio offered us a price well below ComEd's rate, and our City Council has accepted the offer.

What does this mean to you? City of Aurora households with typical use should save \$200 to \$300 per year during the 24-month life of our contract with First Energy. Citywide, this amounts to as much

as \$30 million in savings during the next two years.

There is also good news on the sustainability side of this story. One hundred percent of the purchased power will come from renewable alternative power markets, supporting and encouraging renewable energy development.

Two more things you should know about electrical aggregation in Aurora. First, the City acts simply as the buying agent for our aggregated residential and commercial users of power; the City makes no revenue from aggregation. Second, you can opt out of this arrangement and continue services with your current provider.

For those of you who take advantage of electrical aggregation – enjoy your savings!

Blues on the Fox this weekend

Aurora's next entertainment event this summer is Blues on the Fox, Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16 featuring Kenny Wayne Shepherd, the Nevilles, Shemekia Copeland and others. Blues on the Fox will be located on River Street, north of New York Street. Come on down. In 2013, Blues on the Fox will premiere at the new downtown RiverEdge Park, which is now under construction across from the Aurora Transportation Center on Route 25.

Respectfully,

Tom Weisner
Mayor, City of Aurora

Catch the buzz

A recent study named Aurora as one of the top cities in the state when it comes to E-Government and connecting with residents. The summer is chock full of events and things to do in Aurora, so stay on top of the latest news on:



Facebook



Twitter



Email updates

Sign up today at www.aurora-il.org

Electrical aggregation savings By the numbers

4.71 cents

New electricity supply rate per kilowatt hour effective August 2012. The current average summer rate is 7.03 cents and the non-summer rate is 8.53 cents.

25 percent

Average monthly savings per household.

\$300

Average estimated savings annually per household.

\$30 million

Total estimated savings for Aurorans over two years.

100 percent

Total power purchase supporting green energy.

2

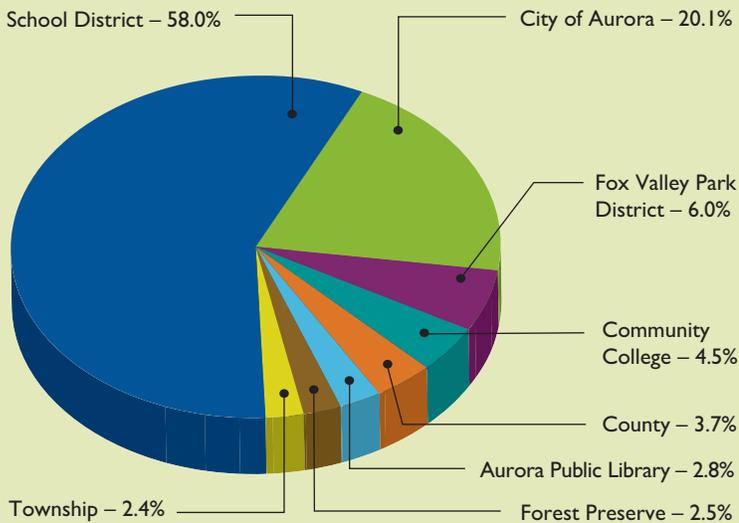
Number of opportunities to opt out of the two-year program. Both First Energy and ComEd will mail customers opt-out notices.

1

Number of electric bills Aurorans will receive. ComEd will continue to maintain the power lines, distribute electricity and bill customers.

More info: www.aurora-il.org.

Breaking down your tax bill



*Given Aurora is located in four counties, six public school districts and two community colleges, averages are shown to provide a general overview of the tax bill breakdown. Actual percentages will vary slightly depending where you live.

KEY POINTS TO NOTE

After receiving your tax bill in the mail this spring, the chart illustrates the percentage breakdown of where your tax money goes to on an annual basis. When you look at your tax bill, you should know:

- More than half your taxes are paid to your public school district.
- The City of Aurora can control only the City's portion of the tax bill – approximately 20 percent of the total.
- The City reduced the amount of property tax collected from residents and businesses from \$66.7 million in 2011 to \$63.5 million in 2012, a 4.8 percent decrease.
- On average, City property taxes have risen only 6.67 percent over six years, far less than the rate of inflation.
- Your property taxes may be impacted by any change in valuation, as determined by your local Township Assessor.

Farmers Market serving up fresh produce and more for 100 years

As Aurora's 175th anniversary celebration continues, the City's Farmers Market is also recognizing a significant milestone.

For the past 100 years, generations of local residents have shopped Aurora's Farmers market, which opened on River Street on April 2, 1912 making it the oldest continually operating market in all of Illinois. A commemorative celebration is planned for National Farmers Market Week in August.

The original farmers market drew lots of advance publicity, however, only one farmer showed up that first day, due to wet weather and muddy roads. According to media reports, a crowd of 19 women had been waiting patiently and purchased the farmer's entire wagon of produce within 10 minutes.

Aurora's Farmers Market is just as popular today as it was a century ago, and 2012 marks a return to its River Street roots with a new permanent location on the west side of the Fox River. The market will be open from 7:30 a.m. to noon every Saturday through October at Wilder Promenade, 350 N. River St.

Satellite farmers markets on the East and West sides will be open Wednesdays starting July 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Lake Park, 3500 McCoy Drive, and from 2 to 6 p.m. at West Plaza Shopping Center, 1901 W. Galena Blvd., through Sept 12.

The 2012 Farmers Market is sponsored in part by the Kane County



Teachers Credit Union. Each market will continue to offer a wide assortment of seasonal farm-fresh produce, baked goods, fine wines, fresh flowers, garden ornaments and much more.

Children in preschool through fifth grade can learn about the importance of nutrition as part of the Sprouts program that will be held at the downtown market from June through August. Patrons who shop the market during its centennial year will be encouraged to participate in a Healthy Living Initiatives with special theme programs monthly. For more information about Aurora's Farmers Markets, visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

NEW LOCATION, SAME GREAT SELECTION

The Downtown Farmers Market has a new home this year at Wilder Promenade, 350 N. River St., the site of the former Aurora Police Department. The market will be held on River Street between Vine Street and West Park Avenue.

AURORA at 175

A look back at the City's history

Editor's note: As Aurora celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2012, the Aurora Borealis will take a look back on key moments that shaped the City's history. The second in the four-part series focuses on Aurora's first large industry boom: the railroad car shops.

Aurora is often called "the Birthplace of the Burlington."

One of the major factors in Aurora's development in 1850 was the railroad, which infused new life into the tiny settlement that had incorporated only 13 years earlier. The tracks began as a small 12-mile branch line from Aurora to Batavia. By 1855, the line had merged and grown into the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q) railroad.

CB&Q located train industry shops in Aurora that year, which made the Village a railroad center (Aurora became a City in 1857 when it merged with the West Aurora community.) The downtown shops employed more than a 1,000 men by the late 1860s – Aurora's biggest employer – and boosted the population with more families moving to the area.

The original shops included the Roundhouse, which eventually grew to 40 stalls by the mid-1860s, a machine shop, car shop, paint shop and carpenter shop. Complete passenger coaches and steam locomotives were built here in Aurora along with repairs

and maintenance work. The Aurora shops often built cars for Pullman during the 1860s, including the first American diner car.

The Aurora train shops continued to be the most important factor in the City's growth as it entered the 20th century. At its peak, the complex covered more than 70 acres and employed up to 2,500 people.

However, Aurora's train industry began to decline in the 1920s as work was fielded out to other companies, and the local shops became more of parts suppliers and parts centers. With highways being built across the region in the 1950s and 1960s, the automobile and trucks also contributed to a lesser reliance on trains.

The Aurora shops closed in 1974 and all but two of the buildings were demolished. The machine shop was renovated and reopened in 1988 as the Aurora Transportation Center, which is the final stop on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. The adjacent Roundhouse, the only full limestone roundhouse in the country, was restored as a restaurant in the mid-1990s. ☀



Alderman Irvin honored

Aurora At-Large Alderman Richard Irvin was a 2012 Nia Award recipient at the African-American Heritage Advisory Board (AAHAB) Breakfast held in March. Nia in Swahili language means purpose. Irvin also gave the presentation for the groups Outstanding African-American Award winner Kane County Circuit Court Judge Keith Brown.

WE WANT YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS

- ❁ The City holds twice-monthly collection events at the Customer Service Center, 3770 McCoy Drive, and Central Garage facility, 720 N. Broadway Ave.
- ❁ Residents with ground-level front doors can schedule a home collection appointment (max 10 items) by calling Vintage Tech Recyclers at 630-305-0922.

For more info: www.aurora-il.org or call 630-256-INFO.

Aurora celebrates Arbor Day citywide



In honor of Aurora's 175th anniversary, the City expanded its Arbor Day program to plant eight trees at four schools throughout the community. Ceremonies took place at Granger Middle School, West Aurora High School featuring the Greenman School kindergarten class, Bednarcik Junior High and the East Aurora Math & Science Magnet Academy.



Crime on the decline

Aurora: A City 'Second to None' when it comes to public safety

If you were to ask someone today about their perception of Aurora as a safe city, you would probably receive an answer much different than you would have 10 years ago.

According to 2011's final crime statistics released this spring, violent crime not only decreased again in the City, but confirmed firearm discharges were at an all-time low.

Murders fell from four in 2010 to only two in 2011. Sexual assaults were down by 9.38 percent and aggravated batteries by 8.17 percent. Confirmed firearm discharges were down another 20 percent in 2011 to 60, the lowest number since 1998 when Aurora Police first began keeping those statistics.

Burglaries and robberies were the only major crimes that saw an uptick last year over 2010, but both declined again the first quarter of 2012.

Long-term crime trends, as measured by the City's crime rate per 100,000 population, continued to plummet in all of the major crime categories. Violent crime is down 30.12 percent over five years; 50.43 years over 10 years and 64.86 percent over 20 years. ☀



Senior Focus: Utility bill rebate applications

Did you know that senior citizens and disabled residents are eligible for rebates on their utility taxes paid on gas and electrical service?

When the municipal electricity and gas use taxes were implemented in 1998, the City's elected officials were sensitive to the financial impact this would have on residents living on a fixed income. The City Council decided when passing these taxes to simultaneously provide rebates to senior citizens and disabled individuals.

Eligible residents can apply for the standard rebate of \$25 for the municipal gas use tax and \$25 for the municipal electricity tax by filling out an application and supplying a copy of their December 2011 bill(s).

In order to receive more than the standard rebate, residents have to

WHERE CAN I GET A REBATE APPLICATION?

Rebate forms were mailed to residents in March but also can be found on the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

prove they paid more than \$25 for either the municipal gas use tax or municipal electricity tax. People applying for more than the standard rebate must include copies of all 12 bills from 2011 for electricity and/or gas.

To be eligible for a City rebate, a person must:

- ✓ Be 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2011 or possess an Illinois Disabled Person's Identification Card;
- ✓ Have lived at an Aurora residence and paid the municipal taxes for the entire 2011 calendar year.
- ✓ Have their name listed on the utility bill(s).

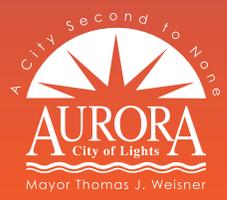
Interested residents must apply every year for the rebates and provide the supporting documentation (including proof of disability, if applicable). Only one rebate will be issued per residence, per year.

Rebate applications and supporting documentation should be filed or mailed by Monday, Dec. 3, 2012 to the City of Aurora Finance Department, City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507.

Residents who have questions about the Municipal Electricity and Gas Use Tax Rebate Program can contact the City's Finance Department at 630-256-3510 or visit the City's website. ☀

PARAMOUNT
THEATRE

2012 Blues ON THE FOX



\$5 per person
per day

At New York &
River Streets

June 15
Friday, 6-10p.m.

Shane Dwight
Kenny Wayne Shepherd

June 16
Saturday, 2-10p.m.

Shemekia Copeland
Lee Boys
Chicago Blues:
A Living History

Featuring:

Billy Boy Arnold,
John Primer
Billy Branch
Lurrie Bell &
Carlos Johnson
The Neville's

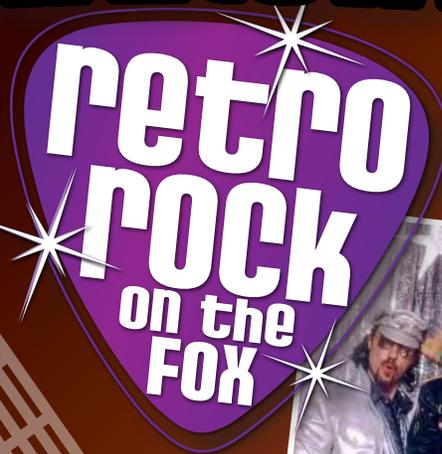
Featuring Art, Charles & Cyril

BluesOnTheFox.com

2012 Downtown Alive!

July 14
Retro Rock
on the Fox

2:30 p.m. - Hey Jimmy
4:30 p.m. - ARRA
6:30 p.m. - Chasing the Day
8:45 p.m. - The Village People



August 18
Jam on the Fox

2:30 p.m. - Red Woody
4:30 p.m. - Heartsfield
6:30 p.m. - The Georgia Satellites
8:30 p.m. - The Charlie Daniels Band



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE



\$5 per person per day at New York and River Streets
www.DowntownAliveAurora.com

Aurora Summer Events!



JUNE

Friday, June 15

Blues on the Fox

6 to 10 p.m.

North River Street Park, Cedar and North River streets

The scenic banks of the Fox River in downtown Aurora serve as the backdrop for the 16th annual Blues on the Fox summer concert series. Shane Dwight will open the evening followed by the headliner Kenny Wayne Shepherd, who has garnered numerous Grammy nominations, two Billboard Music Awards and two Blues Music Awards. Admission is \$5 to the concert, which is sponsored by the Paramount Theatre and the City. For more information on Blues on the Fox, visit www.downtownaliveaurora.com.

Saturday, June 16

Farmers Market

7:30 a.m. to noon

Wilder Promenade, 350 N. River St.

Aurora's Farmers Market will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year in a brand new location. The market, which will be held each Saturday through Oct. 27, features farm-fresh produce, a variety of flowers, food demonstrations, knife sharpening and more. For more information, visit www.aurora-il.org.

Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Central Garage Facility, 720 N.

Broadway Ave.

Take advantage of the free electronics recycling program, this time in downtown Aurora. For a complete list of accepted items and future collection dates, call 630-256-INFO or visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org. Residents with ground-level floors also can schedule a front-door collection appointment (maximum 10 items) by calling the City's vendor, Vintage Tech Recyclers, at 630-305-0922.

Blues on the Fox

2 to 10 p.m.

North River Street Park, Cedar and North River streets

Blues on the Fox returns for a second day with a huge lineup to cap off the summer concert series. Artists scheduled to perform are Shemekia Copeland, Lee Boys, Chicago Blues: A living history featuring Billy Boy Arnold, John Primer, Billy Branch, Lurrie Bell & Carlos Johnson, and the headliner the Neville's. Admission is \$5 to the concert, which is sponsored by the Paramount Theatre and the City. For a complete Blues on the Fox schedule or for more information, visit www.downtownaliveaurora.com.

Saturday, June 23

Movies in the Park

8 p.m.

Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive

Pre-event activities begin at 8 p.m. and the featured presentation, "How to Train Your Dragon," starts around 9 p.m. The free movie is rated PG. For more information, visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

JULY

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day Parade

9:15 a.m.

Downtown Aurora

A patriotic ceremony will kick-off the festivities outside the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., before the parade steps off at 10 a.m. from Benton and River streets. The parade will march east to Broadway Avenue, north to Galena Boulevard and concludes heading west to Hoyt Place. The event is sponsored by the Roosevelt-Aurora American Legion Post 84 in partnership with the City of Aurora. For more information, visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

Independence Day Fireworks

5 to 10 p.m.

Illinois Math & Science Academy,

1500 Sullivan Road

The celebration continues with a night of family fun, entertainment, live music and culminates with an impressive fireworks display, which for the first time will be simulcast to music courtesy of 95.9 FM The River. The fireworks display is scheduled to start around 9:30 p.m. The event is being co-sponsored with the Village of North Aurora. For more information, see Page 16 or visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

When the Burlington Railroad introduced the streamlined diesel electric Zephyr with a record-setting dawn to dusk run from Denver to Chicago on May 26, 1934, the engineer at the helm for that historic ride was Aurora's own Jack Ford. The trip covered more than 1,000 miles in just over 13 hours, averaging 77 mph. The restored Pioneer Zephyr, which revolutionized train travel, can be seen today at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.





Wednesday, July 11

Farmers Market East

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spring Lake Park, 3500 McCoy Drive

The Farmers Market on the City's Far East side returns for its second year and will be held on Wednesdays through Sept. 12. For more information, see the story on Page 3 or visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

Farmers Market West

2 to 6 p.m.

West Plaza Shopping Center, 1901 W. Galena Blvd.

Aurora residents have a second mid-week option to select the freshest produce. This market will run Wednesdays through Sept. 12. For more information, see the story on Page 3 or visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

Saturday, July 14

Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Customer Service Center, 3770 McCoy Drive

Need to get rid of old electronics? No problem. The City offers twice monthly collection sites for you to conveniently dispose of unwanted electronics, this time on the Far East side. For a complete list of accepted items and future collection dates, call 630-256-INFO or visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

Louche Puce Market

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Downtown Water Street Mall next to City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place

The outdoor European-style vintage and collectable market will be held in the heart of downtown on the second Saturday of each month through September. Just a reminder, the Downer Place bridges will be closed. Visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org to learn more about downtown parking. For more information on the market, contact Jeannie Norris at norrisjeanne@gmail.com.

Downtown Alive!

2 to 10 p.m.

North River Street Park, Cedar and North River streets

Downtown Alive! is prepared to go retro for one night along the Fox River when 70's favorite The Village People take the stage. Other artists scheduled to perform beforehand include Hey Jimmy, ARRA, and Chasing the Day. Admission is \$5 to the concert, which is sponsored by the Paramount Theatre and the City. For a complete concert schedule or for more information, visit www.downtownaliveaurora.com.

Movies in the Park

8 p.m.

Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive

Pre-event activities begin at 8 p.m. and the featured presentation, "Hugo," starts around 9 p.m. The free movie is rated PG. For more information, visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

Saturday, July 28

Movies in the Park

8 p.m.

Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive

Pre-event activities begin at 8 p.m. and the featured presentation, "Tangled," starts around 9 p.m. The free movie is rated PG. For more information, visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org.

AUGUST

Saturday, Aug. 18

Downtown Alive!

6 to 10 p.m.

North River Street Park, Cedar and North River streets

Aurora's Downtown Alive! summer concert series winds down to a close but not before a few more jams rock the Fox River. Bands scheduled to take the stage include the Georgia Satellites, Heartsfield, Red Woody and the Charlie Daniels Band. Admission is \$5 to the concert, which is sponsored by the Paramount Theatre and the City. For a complete concert schedule or for more information, visit www.downtownaliveaurora.com.

Saturday, Aug. 25

Alley Art Festival

Noon to 5 p.m.

Water Street Mall, between Galena Boulevard and Downer Place

A fun, free community art festival will be held in downtown Aurora next to City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place. Patrons can enjoy art, music, crafts, a children's tent, food and more. For more information, visit the Alley Art Festival on Facebook.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

The City of Aurora permits residents to water lawns between 5 and 9 a.m. and 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 for even addresses on even calendar days.

More info on the City's water conservation ordinance can be found at www.aurora-il.org.

Phillips Park continues to sparkle thanks to some 'Friends'

Phillips Park is often referred to as the “crown jewel” of Aurora’s parks, but that jewel always shines a bit brighter thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers.

The Friends of Phillips Park has been working behind the scenes to help preserve, restore and promote the park’s amenities since forming in 1985.

Mollie Millen, former group president and current member, said hiring a zookeeper in the early 1990s was a big milestone for the group, which also planned many annual events to promote the park.

After celebrating Phillips Park’s centennial year in 1999, the Friends’ mission changed with increased attention put toward fundraising and ambassadorship for park projects and programs. Funds raised in the past decade were used to purchase a snow-making machine for the sledding hill, the park tram, fountains in Mastodon Lake, the golf course beverage cart, the Sunken Garden’s Millennium design, and the historic waterfall restoration just to name a few.

“You would be amazed how the

people of Aurora loved that park when they were younger and are so happy to see the park returned to its pristine condition,” Millen said.

Today, the Friends of Phillips Park continues its support by funding annual visits from Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny to greet children, tree plantings and the Movies in the Park series. Aurora residents can help the Friends with its most recent endeavor in



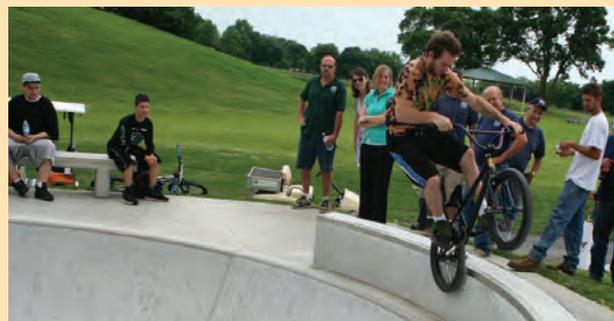
helping tell the history of the Phillips Park. The group is working with the Aurora Historical Society to do a “History of the Park” that will consist of short vignettes of people’s favorite memories at Phillips Park.

The Friends of Phillips Park meets at 11 a.m. the third Friday of each month from March to November at the park’s David and Karen Stover Visitors Center, 1000 Ray Moses Drive. Anyone is invited to attend. If you would like to contribute to the Friends, you can mail them at Friends of Phillips Park, P.O. Box 1683, Aurora, IL 60507. For more information on the Friends, call the Visitors Center at 630-256-3750 or find them on Facebook.

Don't forget to check out these new additions

Several new and free recreational amenities have opened at Phillips Park during the past year and are a great way to spend a summer day with your friends or family.

- **Skate Park** – The 8,000 square-foot facility offers two avenues of entertainment – and plenty of challenges – for both skate boarders and BMX bike riders (below). The skate park opened to big reviews and has been labeled one of the premier venues in the Chicago area.
- **Dog Park** – Bring your favorite four-legged friend for some fun and exercise at the City’s three-acre dog park. Fido will be allowed to roam off-leash and play with some other friends in this gated facility.
- **Boat Dock/Mastodon Trail** – Water enthusiasts can launch their boats, canoes and kayaks easily into Mastodon Lake from the floating boat dock. For those who prefer land, the walking path now features five fitness stations.
- **Splash Pad** – Located near the park’s Visitors Center, children under age 13 are able to beat the summer heat by running through jets of water.
- **Sand Volleyball Court** – A third court was built next to the playground, and bean bag platforms replaced the old horseshoe pits.
- **Softball Fields** – Both fields were upgraded with new outfield fencing, scoreboards, lights and an ADA accessible concourse.



Cut the fat out of your drain's diet

Pouring fat, oil and grease down your drain may seem like a simple solution, but do you know where it really goes?

These byproducts stick to the inside of your home’s plumbing pipes as well as the sewer pipes leading to serious problems ranging from home damage to sewage overflows. Here is how you can help sewers flow properly:

- **Pouring fat, oil and grease into plastic containers like milk jugs or coffee containers before discarding them in the trash.**
- **Scraping food, sauces and oils from plates and pans into the trash.**
- **Putting a strainer in sink drains and emptying the strainer into the trash.**



For more information, call the City’s Water and Sewer Maintenance Division at 630-256-3710.

AURORA BOREALIS

Question: How do advertisers reach and saturate the entire Aurora marketplace?

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1837-2012

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Pepsi would like to Congratulate the City of Aurora on your 175th Anniversary, we are proud to be a member of the community.

Proud to be part of Aurora's 175th Anniversary

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Community Foundation Awards \$949,000 in Scholarships

In May 2012, the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley awarded scholarships to 239 local, college-bound students. A total of \$949,000 will be available to these students over the next four years. A record 560 students applied for these scholarships.

Citizens interested in supporting this wonderful community resource are invited to contact the Community Foundation at (630) 896-7800. The 2013 scholarship program will be launched in December 2012.

Please visit www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org for further information.

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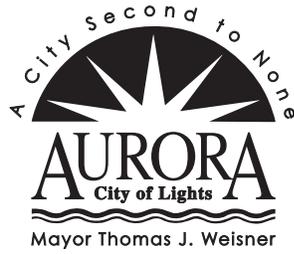
Your Elected Officials

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: Allan Lewandowski
 Ward 10: Lynda Elmore



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Fourth of July Celebration

SCHEDULE, July 4

All events at the Illinois Math & Science Academy, 1500 W. Sullivan Road, unless noted

9:15 a.m. Independence Day pre-parade ceremony downtown
 10 a.m. Independence Day Parade downtown

(Parade sponsored by the American Legion; see calendar for more event details)

5 to 9 p.m. – Free inflatables, rides for children 12 and under
 5 to 10 p.m. – Local food vendors
 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. – Bradley Keven Green Band
 6 to 7:30 p.m. – Historical Society activities and games
 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. – American Legion Post 84 Band
 8 to 9:30 p.m. – Captains of Industry
 9:30 p.m. – Fireworks with 95.9 FM The River musical simulcast

Entertainment stage sponsor: HR Green

Free shuttles to fireworks – 6 to 11 p.m.

- Park and ride locations**
- A Home Depot, 1250 N. Orchard Road
 - B Party City/Office Depot, 2302 W. Indian Trail Road
 - C West Aurora Plaza, West Galena Boulevard at Edgelawn Drive
 - D West Aurora High School, 1201 W. New York St.
 - E Cermak Fresh Markets, Lake Street at Indian Trail Road
 - F Provena Mercy Outpatient lot, 1325 N. Highland Ave.
 - G Woodman's Market, 151 Hansen Blvd., North Aurora

Free Fireworks Parking

- Park and walk locations**
- P1. Illinois Math & Science Academy, 1500 W. Sullivan Road
 - P2. Aurora Central Catholic High School, 1255 N. Edgelawn Drive
 - P3. Hyundai, 1705 Sequoia Drive
 - P4. Life Storage, 1650 N. Randall Road
 - P5. Kraft/Excel, 1700 N. Edgelawn Drive
 - P6. Vaughan Athletic Center, 2121 W. Indian Trail Road
 - P7. Rosary High School, 901 N. Edgelawn Drive

Handicapped parking reserved at IMSA (P1), Aurora Central Catholic High School (P2) and Randall Park (P8). Please arrive early!

Fireworks Parking

