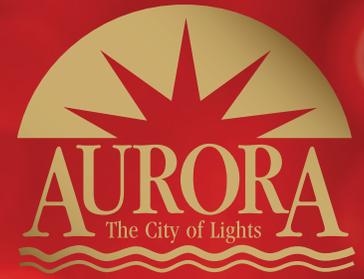


Aurora BOREALIS



WINTER 2013 -2014

Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

Aurora Shines into the New Year

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The Aurora MLK Planning Committee and the City of Aurora
present

Remembering the Life & Legacy of

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

featuring his devoted student



Dr. Julian Bond

Co-Founder, SNCC · Chairman Emeritus, NAACP · Civil Rights Icon

Monday, January 20, 2014 · 6:30 p.m.

West Aurora High School · 1201 W. New York Street · Aurora, IL 60506

FREE ADMISSION



ENTER DOOR # 18



From the Mayor's Desk



Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

Aurora Continues to Shine into the New Year

This is a season of remembrance, thankfulness, and family. As I look back on our year, I am reminded just how much we have to be thankful for because our community has been blessed in many ways.

It was truly an honor and a privilege for Aurora to host the Vietnam "Moving Wall" Memorial over the entire Veterans Day weekend. Thousands visited the Wall and attended events on West Aurora High School's campus, which included both the somber, but powerful Moving Wall and the Healing Fields – 2013 American Flags making an indelible visual impression as they flew together in a large open field. It was a time to remember our military personnel who fell in Vietnam (18 Aurorans gave their lives), as well as to honor all of our Vets who have returned home. It was a Veterans Day weekend that will be long remembered. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible. (See pg. 11)

At long last, the negative economic impacts of the housing scandal and resulting recession are beginning to loosen their grip on Aurora. Data for the first eleven months of 2013 from Mainstreet Organization of Realtors shows nearly a 16% increase in housing sales in Aurora, compared to 2012. The average sale price rose by 15.4%. Unemployment in our City fell from 10.2% in January, to 7.7% in October, less than similar Illinois cities.

Our Downtown area continued to improve in 2013 with the opening of RiverEdge Park and its exciting Dunham Stage energizing our summer. Locally produced "Miss Saigon", part of the Paramount's slam-dunk Broadway Series, gained four stars from Theater Critic Chris Jones of the Chicago Tribune – his highest compliment. (See pg. 6)

Through careful budgeting for 2013 and a watchful eye on expenditures, the city will come in slightly under budget this year. The tax levy for the 2014 General Fund Budget will be lower than the 2013 levy. Although the State Legislature recently reformed State-paid pensions for teachers and others, it has yet to reform police and fire pensions. The funding formulas for these public safety employee pensions are

dictated by the State Legislature, but local governments are obligated to fund them through property taxes. This part of your property tax bill – over which the city has no control – is likely to increase significantly each year going forward, unless and until the State Legislature takes necessary action.

Aurora also reorganized its Economic Development Team this year, bringing on David Hulseberg as its new Economic Development Director and tapping Seize the Future – an established not-for-profit composed of local business leaders – to oversee the effort. One of Mr. Hulseberg's first jobs is to finalize plans with Simon Property Group for a significant expansion of the Premium Outlet Mall at I-88 and Farnsworth. All of which reminds me to remind you to "shop locally" this Holiday Season and keep Aurora strong! (See pg. 4)

Special thanks to the Aurora Noon Rotary and the Lehnertz Avenue Community for also keeping Aurora strong with the annual traditions of the Festival of Lights at Phillips Park and the Lehnertz Avenue Lights Show. They are joys to the entire community as they quite literally help Aurora continue to shine!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, a Joyful Kwanzaa, and, of course, a Very Happy New Year!



Mayor Weisner congratulates Miss Merry Christmas Kaitlyn Ramos and Jack Frost Samuel Gonzalez.



Meet Tina Bohman

Alderman for Aurora's
First Ward



On Nov. 5, the Aurora City Council approved the appointment of lifelong Aurora resident Kristina "Tina" Bohman to the vacant Ward One seat.

"I'm excited to have this opportunity. It's something I've always wanted to do," Bohman said. "I love Aurora and I look forward to working with residents and the ward committee to continue to move forward on issues from economic growth along the Farnsworth corridor to working with the city and other entities on flooding prevention to maintaining and expanding the ward committee structure to ensure all the First Ward's voices are heard."

Bohman has devoted two decades to the North East Neighbors, where she helped implement a neighborhood patrol and sewer infrastructure upgrades. She also helped found the First Ward Committee, where she has worked to engage residents, construct the ward budget, and prioritize improvements.

Previously, Bohman worked to promote Aurora Police programs, such as "National Night Out," and is a past president of the Citizens Police Academy. She is a current member of the Fox Valley Park District Foundation Board and a past Fox Valley Park District Trustee.

Mayor Tom Weisner selected Bohman from among eight applicants to fill the seat left vacant when former Alderman Abby Schuler took a position with the City of Aurora's Finance Department.

Bohman will serve until voters choose a new alderman in 2015.



In October, David Hulseberg was named the new CEO of Seize the Future, a public-private partnership between the City and its business community to spur economic development across Aurora. Hulseberg served as the village manager of Lombard since 2008 and prior to that worked as the village's community development director. He has a Master's in Public Administration and a background in urban planning, and is noted for his work on Lombard's Butterfield Road corridor, including Fountain Square of Lombard, the Shops on Butterfield, Yorktown Mall and the Highlands of Lombard.

Q What excited you the most about the opportunity to work in Aurora?

A The fact that at Seize the Future we're a non-profit organization – I'm looking to better a community, and I saw Aurora as a place with some unrealized opportunities. I wanted to be a part of that, to make a difference.

Q What are some of your priorities for Seize the Future?

A We'll be looking at redevelopment opportunities and proposals, and filling vacancies; as well as how to allow the existing business community to stay and expand, while at the same time encouraging other businesses to relocate here.

Q What major assets attract businesses to Aurora?

A There's a number of factors – a high speed fiber optic network, a municipal airport that we can provide access to, wonderful infrastructure across the city, great access in terms of transportation, and an able workforce.

In June, the City Council approved a new public-private partnership with Seize the Future to allow the City and business community to work cooperatively to encourage economic development in Aurora. You can reach David directly at 630-256-3161, or hulsebergd@investinaurora.org.



Winter Weather Fun

Bring your sleds and ice skates and enjoy a blizzard of family fun in the snow and ice at Phillips Park and Garfield Park. Sledding hills and ice rinks are open sunrise to 10 p.m., depending on the weather.

Sledding

Sledding Hill near the Phillips Park Aquatic Center, 828 Montgomery Road

Ice Skating

Ice rink located near the Phillips Park Aquatic Center, 828 Montgomery Road
Ice rink located at Garfield Park, 817 Forest Avenue

Branding Aurora!

Take the online survey

This fall, Aurora began an exciting new branding initiative. The Branding Aurora team is led by a group of community stakeholders throughout the city working with North Star Destination Strategies, a nationally recognized community branding firm that has worked with more than 150 other municipalities.

The benefit of an *integrated brand* is far-reaching, affecting the economic stability of the residential and business communities. Proactive communities brand themselves to be *distinctive* and to be *destinations of choice* for businesses, industry, visitors, residents, families and others.

What's the Big Deal about a Brand?

It's just a logo, right? No, not at all. A slogan? Not really. A brand is far more than either of those. And everyone, every product, and every community has a brand. A BRAND is what "they" say about you when you're not around. So our brand is not just what WE here locally think— but what others think about the Aurora experience. BRANDING is what we do to affect what people are saying

about Aurora, and it can elevate the regard that residents, tourists, and business prospects have for our community.

What is Aurora's Brand?

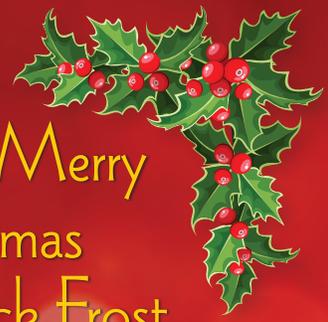
That is exactly what we are working to develop! A brand for Aurora is not a campaign theme, tagline, or slogan. It's an expression of a compelling, unique experience that Aurora offers. It will exist as a message or promise that is seen and heard through multiple channels of communication.

Our brand will reflect an experience throughout our community and our ability to deliver on the promise of that experience.

How Can You be a Part?

Everyone who lives and works in Aurora will have an opportunity to share their perspective! **A COMMUNITY SURVEY IS NOW ACTIVE ONLINE AT WWW.AURORA-IL.ORG**. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and ask family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to do the same. We look forward to receiving your responses to the survey!

2013 Miss Merry Christmas and Jack Frost



The annual Miss Merry Christmas and Jack Frost Contest was one for the record books. With thousands of votes cast via newspaper ballots and online, the twelve contestants brought unprecedented levels of support for their quest for the crowns.

Mayor Weisner and members of the Aurora City Council welcomed the young stars to City Hall to congratulate them and to present them with certificates and gifts. After the final tallies, Kaitlyn Ramos was crowned 2013 Miss Merry Christmas and Samuel Gonzalez donned the crown as the 2013 Jack Frost. They both joined Mayor Weisner for the annual Winter Lights Celebration and were given the honor of helping the mayor to 'light' the official Holiday Tree for the City of Aurora.

Contestants joined Mayor Weisner at City Hall.

L to R:
Kaitlyn Ramos
Ripley Walton
Autumn Zink
Joey Leonard
Eduardo Zepeda
Morgan Romanow
Diesel Getz
Samuel Gonzalez
Erik Longo
Jack Myers.

Not pictured:
Lauren Kowal
Paige Kowal



Paramount's Broadway Series wows audiences, critics alike!

Give your regards to Broadway if you want, but critics and crowds alike are hailing the Paramount Theatre's Broadway Series as better than anything New York City has to offer.

The third season of the Paramount Theatre's Broadway Series opened to rave reviews this fall with the country's first off-Broadway production of "In The Heights," and a lauded restaging of "Miss Saigon," both featuring top-notch casts of local and Equity actors, a full pit orchestra, and sets designed to bring song and story to life.

Chicago theater critics have deemed the Paramount productions "remarkable," "inspired," and "powerful."

Two shows remain in the Broadway Series this season. Opening Jan. 15, "42nd Street," aptly enough, tells the classic tale of making it big on Broadway, with show-stopping tunes

"We're in the Money," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," and "42nd Street."

"Rent," winner of three Tony Awards and Pulitzer Prize for Drama, tells the stories of young musicians and struggling artists living under the threat of the early HIV/AIDS epidemic, in a season closer unlikely to leave any audience unchanged. It opens March 12.

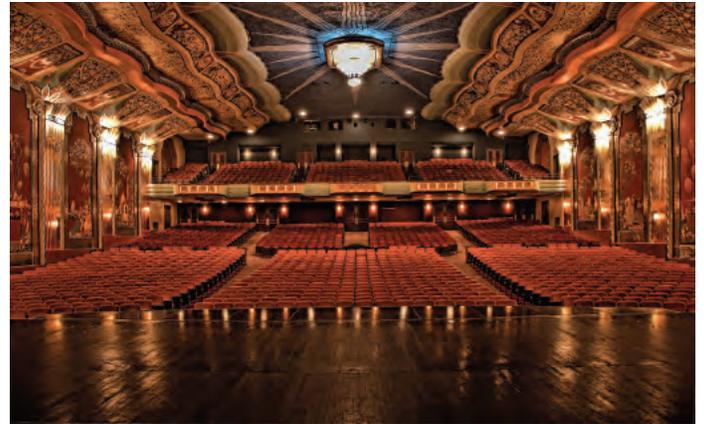
Following record-breaking seasons at the Paramount, this year's Broadway Series shows each have an expanded four-week run. Tickets for the final two shows are available online, at paramountaurora.com, or by calling the Box Office at 630-896-6666.

WHAT CRITICS ARE SAYING:

"Truly remarkable"
CHRIS JONES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Broadway-caliber work"
SCOTT MORGAN, DAILY HERALD

"Breathtaking production"
BROADWAYWORLD.COM




PARAMOUNT
THEATRE

EXPERIENCE WHAT CRITICS CALL

BETTER THAN BROADWAY

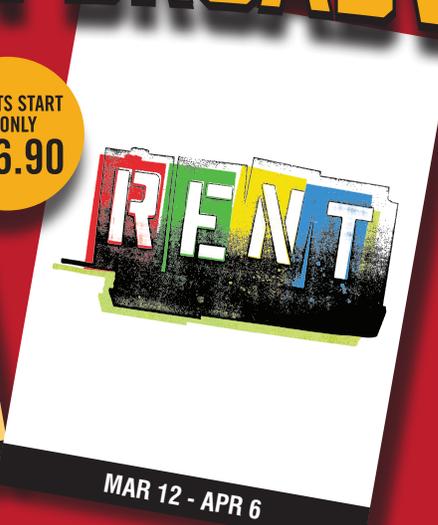
"NOTHING SHORT OF SPECTACULAR"
— DEAN RICHARDS / WGN-TV & RADIO

"WORTH THE DRIVE TO AURORA"
— CHRIS JONES / CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"BROADWAY AT ITS MOST GOLDEN"
— HEDY WEISS / CHICAGO SUN-TIMES



JAN 15 - FEB 9



MAR 12 - APR 6

TICKETS START AT ONLY **\$36.90**

BROADWAY SERIES SPONSORED BY
BMO  Harris Bank

630.896.6666**ParamountAurora.com**

First Responders Honored For Life Saving Heroics

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT



Six Aurora firefighters received “Firefighter of the Year” awards from the Exchange Club of Aurora for their heroic efforts that saved the life of a 14-year-old Aurora girl in March.

Privates Dan Kveton, Jerry White, and Tom Contreras; Paramedics Dan Ahasic and Brett Svendsen; and Lieutenant Kris Tappendorf were honored for their teamwork that led to the rescue of Annie Prosser from a retention pond just off I-88 at Diehl Rd. Annie was a passenger in a vehicle driven by a 20-year-old woman who had lost control of the car and crashed it into the pond.

Lt. Tappendorf and Pvt. Kveton were the first fire personnel to arrive at the scene of the March 9 crash. While still in his work uniform, Kveton jumped into the mostly-frozen pond and joined several Aurora Police officers as they searched for victims. Within seconds, Lt. Tappendorf, who had donned a buoyance suit, and Kveton, located Annie and removed her from the vehicle.

After the police officers and fire personnel rushed Annie to the waiting ambulance,

Paramedics Ahasic and Svendsen; along with Pvts. White and Contreras, began advanced live saving procedures on Annie, who was unconscious, not breathing, and did not have a pulse after having been underwater for an estimated 20 minutes. While en route to the hospital, the firefighters immobilized Annie, performed CPR, and initiated the rewarming process using blankets, hot packs, and a warm IV.

The firefighters’ immediate actions, along with those performed by seven Aurora Police officers, are credited for reviving Annie and allowing her to resume a normal life after her lengthy hospital stay and rehabilitation regimen. The police officers were recognized in April and received Medals of Honor (see the Summer *Aurora Borealis*).



L to R: AFD’s Contreras, Kveton, Tappendorf, Ahasic, White, Svendsen with Annie Prosser.

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Sgt. Rowley surprise both Abby (holding) and her sister, Emma with a special visitor during a recent press conference.

Proving that a police officer is never off-duty, Aurora Police Sergeant Bill Rowley was named the October Employee of the Month for saving the life of a 2-year-old Montgomery girl who had been critically injured in car accident on Oct. 13.

Rowley came across the crash while traveling to a Joliet pumpkin farm with his family. The little girl, Abby Schmidt, and her family, were ironically on their way to the same pumpkin farm when their minivan was hit by another vehicle traveling about 60 M.P.H. after its driver had blown a stop sign. Rowley immediately began CPR on the girl and continued his efforts until paramedics arrived several minutes later.

Abby went on to spend 10 days in ICU and 18 days in the hospital but has fully recovered, thanks to the early efforts of Sgt. Rowley.



Winter 2013-2014 Calendar

DECEMBER

Thru December 26

Festival of Lights at Phillips Park

5-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
5-9 p.m. Sundays thru Thursdays

Bring family and friends and drive through more than one mile of magical light displays featuring Santa, his reindeer, and other holiday favorites. The Festival of Lights, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Aurora and the City of Aurora, is free, but donations are accepted and proceeds benefit Aurora-based charities. The lights shine nightly through Dec. 26. For more information, visit aurorafestivaloflights.com.

Thru December 29

Christmas at the Tanner House

1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays at the Tanner House Museum, 305 Cedar Street

Celebrate Christmas from 1857 with the Aurora Historical Society at the Tanner House Museum! Vote for your favorite room decorated by our volunteers. Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors, \$3 Students, Free for children under 12, and for AHS members. Closed Dec. 25.

Thru January 3

Lehnertz Avenue Lights

5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (displayed nightly)

Join in on the tradition of the suburbs' largest neighborhood-coordinated Christmas celebration, with religious scenery, carolers and your favorite Peanuts characters.

City Hall Holiday Hours

For City Hall and all city buildings

Christmas – Offices will close at noon Dec. 24 and reopen Dec. 26

New Year's – Offices will close at noon Dec. 31 and reopen Jan. 2

Police and fire stations will be open



Thru January 24

Winter Garden of Youth Art

David L. Pierce Art and History Center, 20 E. Downer Place

The 16th annual Winter Garden of Youth Art spotlights the artistic talents of Aurora's students from kindergarten through high school. The artwork, on display at the David L. Pierce Art and History Center through January 24, features a wide variety of media chosen by teachers and school faculty. For more information, go to aurora-il.org and click 'Public Art Commission.'

December 26

Kwanzaa Celebration

4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Prisco Center, 150 W. Illinois Avenue

All are welcome at the 12th annual Kwanzaa celebration, hosted by African-American Men of Unity. Kwanzaa celebrates the principles of unity, self-determination, responsibility, cooperation, purpose, creativity and faith in African American communities, and this year's celebration will include food, music and inspirational speakers.

JANUARY

January 6 – January 10

Holiday Tree Collection

Trees will be picked up on your regular garbage day for recycling. Trees left at the curb this week will be collected free of charge. After this week, residents will need to attach a garbage sticker to have their trees collected.

January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute

6:30 p.m.

West Aurora High School
1201 W. New York Street

The MLK Planning Committee and the City of Aurora will hold a tribute honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The youth-focused event will include performances from Aurora high school students and encourage them to live Dr. King's dream. Doors open at 6 p.m.

January 31

Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board Breakfast

7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road

The annual community breakfast will honor the achievements and leaders of Aurora's Hispanic community. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from the Aurora Community Services Department at 51 E. Galena Blvd.

FEBRUARY

February 21

African-American Heritage Awards Dinner

6 p.m. at Piper's Banquets, 1295 Butterfield Road

The Aurora African-American Heritage Advisory Board will present the 2013 Outstanding African-American Award at its annual celebration. The award is given to an Auran who exhibits leadership, volunteerism and service to the African-American community. To nominate an outstanding leader in our community, contact Toussaint Smith at tou828@gmail.com. The deadline to nominate leaders is Jan. 14. For more information, or to purchase tickets for the dinner, contact Community Services, at 630-256-3400.

City Council Meetings

Due to the holiday schedule, some Aurora City Council Meetings have been adjusted for January. Please note the following changes:

Monday, January 6, 2014

- Buildings, Grounds, and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 7

- Finance Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Government Operations Committee Meeting 3:00 p.m.
- The Committee of the Whole Meeting has been rescheduled to January 14.

Thursday, January 9

- Planning and Development Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 13

- Building, Grounds, and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14

- Finance Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Government Operations, 4:00 p.m.
- Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Regular City Council Meeting immediately following Committee of the Whole Meeting in Council Chambers.

Thursday, January 16

- Planning and Development Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Please note: After these dates, City Council Meetings will resume regular schedules. Please visit www.aurora-il.org for exact dates, times, and locations.

JUST A FEW MORE DAYS...

Bigger and Better than Ever!

7th Annual

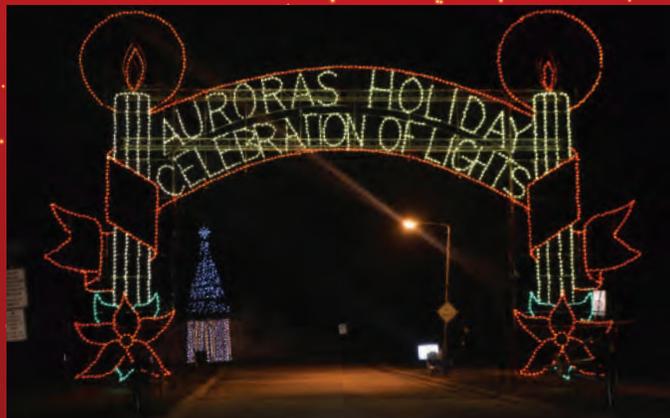
Festival of Lights

The largest free outdoor light display in Northern Illinois

Through December 26

Sun-Thur 5 to 9 p.m. • Fri-Sat 5 to 10 p.m.

Phillips Park • 1000 Moses Drive • Aurora, IL 60505



Drive through over 1 mile of light displays

**Marvel at more than 40 displays and
125 snowflakes hanging from trees**

5 NEW displays and 50 new holiday trees added!

FREE to drive through. Enter on Smith Blvd.

Donations accepted that will benefit local charities

*Presented by the Rotary Club of Aurora
in partnership with the City of Aurora*



Looking to Live Downtown or on the Near East Side?

Up to \$2,000 in down payment assistance may be available for you!

In an effort to improve overall homeownership rates in Aurora's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NSRA), the City is offering down payment assistance to income-eligible, first-time homebuyers.

Down payment assistance of up to \$2,000 is available to cover reasonable and eligible down payment and closing costs for single-family homes in the NRSA, which includes most of downtown Aurora and parts of the near East Side.

Although the City of Aurora enjoys a 70% homeownership rate, the rate in the NRSA is only 44%. This program will offer a small incentive to improve the overall homeownership rate for the area. As housing costs in the NRSA are slated to rise, this program will enhance housing affordability. It is estimated that this program will attract 25 grant recipients per year.

For more information, contact the Neighborhood Redevelopment Division at 630-256-3320, or visit aurora-il.org, and click on "Community Services" and then "Neighborhood Redevelopment."

Snow Plowing Q and A

Q Why does my street always seem to be the last one plowed?

A When it snows, city crews plow primary streets first. Once those major thoroughfares are safe for traffic, crews move to residential streets. Cul-de-sacs, courts, and dead-ends are the last to be cleared. This helps our crews work the most efficiently and helps reduce accidents on well-traveled and high-speed roadways.

Q When can I expect my street to be plowed?

A The goal of our Snow Operations team is to have all roads cleared within 12 hours of a three-inch snowfall, from the time the snow stops falling. Heavier snowfalls or otherwise dangerous conditions can take longer, however.

Q What can residents do to help?

A Move your cars and all other obstructions, such as garbage cans and basketball hoops, from the street, regardless of how much snow has fallen. Ensure that mailboxes are installed according to code – with the box no less than nine inches from the back of a curb or no less than 18 inches from the edge of street pavement. Keep children away from playing or building snow forts in streets and parkways – the strip between the street and sidewalk.

Q I live on a cul-de-sac. Why does it take so long?

A Cul-de-sacs are challenging for snow plows to maneuver through, and can take up to eight times longer to plow than

a regular street. Cul-de-sacs also offer only limited space to dump snow without burying driveways, mailboxes and fire hydrants. The goal of the Snow Operations team is to get all streets – including cul-de-sacs – cleared within 12 hours of a 3-inch snowfall, but sometimes cul-de-sacs can take a little longer. You can help by ensuring that your mailbox meets standards, and by removing all vehicles, basketball hoops and other obstructions from the street.

Q Who clears sidewalks and driveways?

A Residents and property owners are responsible for clearing their own sidewalks and driveways, and doing so can reduce liability should someone slip and fall on your property. Remember to shovel snow into your yard – not the street – and consider waiting until after your street is plowed to shovel your driveway drape. City crews try to avoid plowing snow into driveways, but sometimes this is unavoidable. Help elderly neighbors when you are able, and take frequent breaks when shoveling especially heavy snow to avoid injury.

Q What are the parking restrictions during snowfall?

A Parked vehicles must be moved off-street during snow accumulations of 2 inches or more, per city ordinance, and may be ticketed or towed if they are not moved. Motorists are prohibited from parking on the street again until the snow has been plowed to the curb or road edge. Motorists are also encouraged to move their vehicles off-street for any snowfall, to help speed the clearing of the roadways.



Rush-Copley Joins City's Fiber Optic Network

First Healthcare Facility to Partner with OnLight Aurora

Rush-Copley Medical Center has become the first healthcare facility to utilize Aurora's 60+ mile fiber optic network through a partnership with OnLight Aurora, a not-for-profit organization which brings the advantages of the network to the City's community anchor institutions.

Rush-Copley joins a multitude of Aurora businesses, non-profits and educational institutions enjoying an alternative path to the Internet made possible by the fiber optic ring. The connectivity positively impacts Rush-Copley's service to patients and increases opportunities to collaborate with other organizations in Aurora.

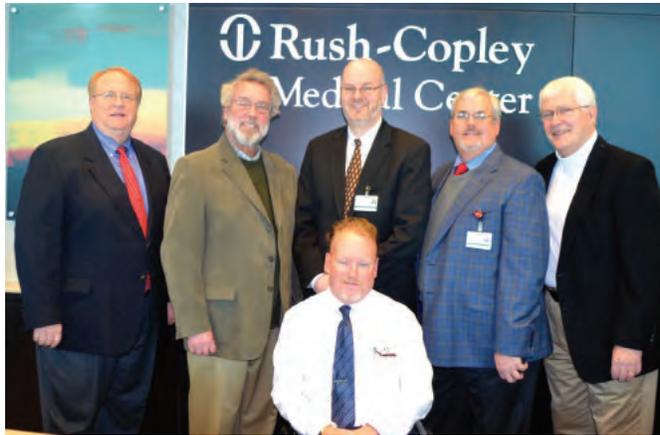
"Rush-Copley prides itself on being a technology leader with the high level of medical care we provide the community, according to Rush-Copley Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Diederich. He added, "The OnLight initiative is in total keeping with our commitment to advanced medicine and our promise of extraordinary care to our patients and guests. The speed and reliability of the fiber optics is enhancing real-time patient care efforts and bringing direct Internet access to those that make daily use of Internet access throughout our facility."

Connectivity to the fiber optic network will allow Rush-Copley access to two-way audio and video conferencing which has the potential to provide both patient and medical service providers with a very efficient tool to diagnose and treat patients. In addition, the hospital will have access to the network's data center to store volumes of information in an approved secure setting.

Rush-Copley will also have direct and immediate access to schools, social service agencies, and businesses that are also connected to the network which will result

in collaborative education and training that will benefit the entire community.

"Rush-Copley has been a significant part of the fabric of the Aurora community for generations. Its use of cutting edge technology as a regional healthcare and



L to R: OnLight Aurora Board Member and 8th Ward Alderman Rick Mervine, OnLight Aurora Board Chairman and Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner, Rush-Copley VP/COO John Diederich, OnLight Aurora Board Member and City of Aurora Chief Technology Officer Ted Beck, Rush-Copley VP/CIO Dennis Demaise, OnLight Aurora Board Member Peter Lynch

research institution is further enhanced by its connectivity to the fiber optic network ring," said Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner.

"While the hospital will benefit from faster broadband connections at lower costs, patients will benefit from greater access to information and education, and the area business community will see that Aurora is not just the City of Lights, but the City of light speed," Weisner continued.

In 2013, OnLight Aurora has provided connectivity to educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and an array of businesses including West Aurora School District 129, the Illinois Math and Science Academy, Aurora University, Alarm Detection Systems, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and PDS. Aurora Christian Schools, Indian Prairie School District 204, and a number of Downtown Aurora entities are expected to be connected in the near future.

Popular 50/50 Parkway Tree Program Returns this Spring

Back by popular demand, the 50/50 Parkway Tree Program will return in Spring 2014 to the City of Aurora to replace parkway trees devastated by the Emerald Ash Borer.

The 50/50 Parkway Tree Program allows residents to purchase trees and have them planted in parkways for half the typical cost.

The City began the 50/50 Parkway Tree Program as a pilot program in Fall 2013, with the goal of planting 250 trees. The pilot was an overwhelming success, with 304 trees planted this fall and revenue from the program helping to more quickly replant the city's urban forest.

In 2014, the 50/50 Parkway Tree Program will include a spring and a fall planting, with the goal of planting an additional 500 trees.

Spring-planted trees will include tulip trees, oaks, thornless hawthornes and hybrid elms. Ginkgos, elms, maples, and other trees more suited to fall planting will be offered in the Fall program. Residents should consider which species of tree they would like in their parkways and plan to order accordingly.

The discounted cost of the trees will range from \$125 to \$225, depending on species and size, and the cost includes planting and mulching. Trees must be planted in parkways on the front or sides of a resident's property, and must be set back from utilities, intersections and other trees. More information, including species and price lists, is available on the City's website, aurora-il.org.

Tree orders will be taken first-come, first-served. To be added to the waiting list for spring planting, call the City of Aurora's Customer Service line at 630-256-INFO before Feb. 28.



Veterans Day Weekend One to be Remembered

Aurora Salutes Veterans with Vietnam Moving Wall and Field of Honor

Two-hundred motorcyclists led a cavalcade to usher the Vietnam Moving Wall into Aurora Nov. 7.

The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC, complete with the names of the 58,282 dead or missing veterans of the Vietnam War, returned to Aurora Nov. 7 through Veterans Day, Nov. 11, for the first time in 24 years.

More than 1,000 volunteers donated their time and effort to erecting and watching over the wall 24 hours a day while it was in Aurora. Thousands more came from across Chicagoland to view the wall and remember those lost in the Vietnam War, including 18 Aurora-area veterans, whose memories were honored in a ceremony the morning of Nov. 8.

Ceremonies at the Wall commenced throughout the weekend, including a non-denominational healing ceremony Sunday morning, a wreath-laying on Monday afternoon and a closing ceremony with a march, candlelight vigil, and fireworks Monday night.

In addition to the wall, volunteers planted 2,013 American flags at West Aurora, and visitors were invited to 'tag a flag' in honor of a hero of their choosing. Students collaborated in the show of patriotism, lining the grounds of West High with hundreds of additional flags.



Veterans Day Parade

The City of Aurora honored our local military men and women on Veterans Day with a processional through downtown Aurora, followed by a ceremony on the steps of the Grand Army of the Republic Hall.

Grand Marshal and Vietnam Veteran Wesley Yi, remembered fallen friends and soldiers in a tearful address to the gathered crowd of veterans and their supporters.

The ceremony included a rifle salute, comments from Mayor Tom Weisner and Congressman Bill Foster, and remembrances of Aurora-area veterans who died in 2013 from the Roosevelt-Aurora American Legion

Post 84, Waidley VFW Post 468, AMVETS Post 103, and the Fox Valley Marines. Country singer Ricky Lee book-ended the ceremony with performances of the national anthem and "God Bless America."

The ceremony was followed by a reception at the David L. Pierce Art and History Center, featuring the exhibit, "Aurora in the Vietnam Era: 1961-1975."





New Years
@
The Comedy Shrine

4:00 Family Show
\$20.00 Mock Countdown, Party Favors

6:00 Family Show
\$20.00 Mock Countdown, Party Favors

8:00 Whose Line Improv
\$35.00 Mock Countdown, Party Favors

8.00 Stand Up
Rick Overton (Groundhog Day, The Office, and Dinner for Schmucks) & Taylor Negrón (Reno 911, Stuart Little, and Nothing But Trouble)
\$35.00 Party Favors

10:00 Stand Up **10:00 Whose Line Improv**
Rick Overton & Taylor Negrón \$40.00 Party Favors, Champagne toast at midnight
\$40.00 Party Favors, Champagne toast at midnight

\$5.00 per ticket discount for all reservations made by December 16th, using code word *aurora*

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- \$.50 Jumbo Wings
- FREE Poker

Tuesday:

- \$2.00 Domestic Pints
- \$2.50 Premium Pints
- \$3.50 Craft Pints
- Pub Trivia

Wednesday:

- \$2.00 Domestic Pints
- \$2.00 You Call It Well Drinks
- \$3.50 You Call It On–Bacardi Rum, Captain Morgan, Jim Beam or Svedka Flavors
- Dj Night Lots of Giveaways

Thursday:

- \$2.00 Domestic Bottles
- \$6.00 Select Martinis
- 1/2 Price House Wine
- FREE Poker

Friday:

- \$2.50 Bud & Bud Light Pints
- \$4.00 Select Bombs

Saturday:

- \$2.50 Miller Lite & Coors Light Pints
- \$3.00 Heineken Bottles
- \$4.00 Captain Morgan Drinks
- \$4.00 Select Bombs

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- Sunday FUNDAY Club

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Each Category Has
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9-Week Contest to motivate YOU to get FIT!

Categories

- Total Body Weight% Lost - Male
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- Best Male Before/After Muscle Definition
- Best Female Before/After Body Sculpting
- Best Male 40+ Before/After
- Best Female 40+ Before/After
- Grand Champion

Participants are automatically entered in all eligible categories.

Rules

- All participants must participate in bi-weekly weigh-in
- Contest for each participant begins when all data is taken
- Results are due 9 weeks after initial entry
- All participants must attend Red Carpet Recognition Day at Fox Valley Nutrition

Overview

- 9 week contest to transform your body
- Only \$15 entry fee
- Hundreds in prize \$\$\$
- 7 categories of competition
- Top 3 win from each category
- Participants can enter between Jan. 6, 2014 through Feb. 17, 2014
- Entry forms and instructions can only be accepted here
- Payout and Red Carpet Recognition will be held at Fox Valley Nutrition on April 19, 2014
- Last challenge had 71 participants. Our goal for February's challenge is 100! Be a part of the challenge! Start 2014 strong!

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NEW YEAR. NEW YOU.



Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

Aldermen

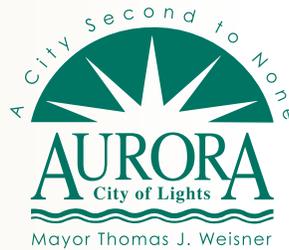
AT-LARGE: Robert O'Connor
AT-LARGE: Richard Irvin
WARD 1: Kristina "Tina" Bohman
WARD 2: Juany Garza
WARD 3: Ted Mesiacos
WARD 4: Bill Donnell
WARD 5: John "Whitey" Peters
WARD 6: Mike Saville
WARD 7: Schequeta Hart-Burns
WARD 8: Rick Mervine
WARD 9: Edward Bugg
WARD 10: Lynne Johnson

Mayor's Office

630-256-3010 – mayorsoffice@aurora-il.org

Aldermen's Office

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44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507

www.aurora-il.org

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Si usted desea recibir una versión en español de Aurora Borealis, por favor solicítela llamando al 630-256-4636.

Put **SAFETY** at the top of your to-do list this winter with these tips from the City of Aurora:

Winter Safety

DO NOT park on any street after a snowfall of two inches or more until the street has been plowed.

DO NOT leave warming cars unattended, whether locked or unlocked.

DO NOT shovel snow into the street when clearing driveways.

DO keep fire hydrants cleared of snow so they can be accessed quickly in an emergency.

DO drive safely. Busy primary streets are cleared first before residential roads are cleared.

DO check your mailbox posts for signs of deterioration. The City is not responsible for damage resulting from snow plowed onto the parkway.



Fire Safety

DO check the water levels in your holiday tree daily to keep it from drying out.

DO take down live trees, even if they are watered well, after four weeks.

DO inspect warm or hot outlets, which can indicate unsafe wiring.

DO NOT place space heaters on non-level surfaces or near children or pets.

DO NOT overload electrical outlets with decorations, extension cords, or power strips.

DO NOT place candles on shaky or cluttered surfaces, near children, or within 12 inches of anything that can burn.