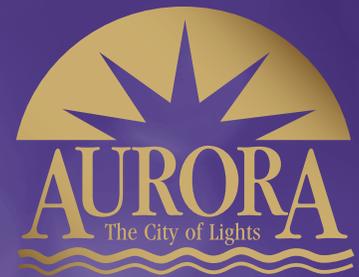


Aurora BOREALIS



WINTER 2014

Mayor Thomas J. Weisner



**PARAMOUNT BRINGS HUNDREDS
OF THOUSANDS TO AURORA** PAGE 4

ALSO INSIDE THIS EDITION

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Mayor Weisner

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Construction Projects

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National Awards

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To Rake or to Shovel?



**Bigger! Better!
Holiday Parade,
Christkindlmarket,
Fireworks,
and More!**

Winter *It's a Jolly Holiday!* LIGHTS

Friday, November 21, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Extended shopping hours
at participating downtown businesses.

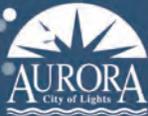
Christkindlmarket
a shopping wonderland filled with gifts and good things to eat!

Twinkling Streets
filled with live music, costumed
characters, ice sculpting, local art, festive photo ops,
live reindeer, train rides, and much more!

5:45 p.m.
Holiday Parade on Downer Place featuring
Mary Poppins, Aurora's "Grinch," and Santa & Mrs. Claus!

6:00 p.m.
Light Aurora's official tree with Mayor Weisner,
Miss Merry Christmas and Mr. Jack Frost
at the GAR Museum.

Winter Lights Fireworks
A magical aerial display
best viewed from the Downer Place bridge.



Experience bright holidays in the City of Lights.
For more information: 630.256.INFO | www.aurora-il.org





From the Mayor's Desk



Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

Dear Neighbor,

As it comes to a close, if I had to describe the year 2014 in Aurora in just one word, I would have to choose the word "constructive."

It has certainly been that way in terms of our transportation infrastructure. State, city and private utility construction projects – some of them unexpected emergencies – have kept the eastern two-thirds of Aurora in a state of temporary inconvenience for much of the year. Our favorite travel routes were more likely to be congested and less desirable secondary routes were busier than ever.

Progress is sometimes a little painful, and if we wish to keep our transportation grid where it needs to be for the next 30 to 50 years, we must all suffer some inconvenience now. An update on the many Aurora projects is included on page 5.

It's been a "constructive" year, too, in terms of the progress Aurora has made on several other fronts. Aurora University's STEM Partnership Academy opened in September, accepting a diverse population of students, grades 3 – 8, from School Districts 129, 131 and 204. These same school districts, plus District 308, continue to work with the City, Waubensee Community College, the Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Community to develop the Pathways to Prosperity Initiative into a STEM-based opportunity for students grades 9 – 12 and beyond to attain the skills and certifications needed for well-paid careers in Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Health Care. Aurora is developing a reputation as an innovative, education focused, STEM-based community.

Our City Council has "constructed" a tight budget for 2015. City of Aurora's portion of your property tax bill has dropped over the past several years to only about \$2 of every \$10 you pay. Our property tax levy will go up 4.7% (\$3.5M) next year, due, almost entirely, to ever-increasing public safety pension costs,

which are dictated – and have been regularly enhanced – by Illinois State Legislators. Pension costs for other City employees went up only slightly. Our operating fund levy, minus the cost of these state controlled pensions, is below 2005 levels.

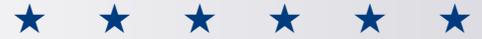
In September, Aurora's unemployment rate fell to 5.3%, among the lowest of all major Illinois cities. Business growth and jobs are coming to Aurora.

As we turn to the Holiday Season and gentler thoughts of festivities and family, I thank you for a great 2014 in Aurora, and wish you the best for the coming year.

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



On Tuesday, November 11, the City of Aurora and Aurora's Veterans Advisory Council hosted the Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony. As always, it was a moving tribute for our veterans. The keynote speaker was Army veteran Erica Borggren, Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary and former Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. Mayor Weisner presented a 1920's era book that lists all World War I soldiers from Aurora to Mary Clark Ormond, president of the Aurora Historical Society.



Paramount Brings Hundreds Of Thousands To Aurora

Live theater is back and bigger than ever in Aurora, and it's quickly turning downtown into a new entertainment hub for the region. This season the Paramount Theater will host 295 shows and draw 350,000 people to the city – an impressive increase from 50 shows and just 80,000 people a few years ago!

The Paramount's 2014-15 season has already started on a purr-fect note with a smashing run of the hit musical, **CATS!** Lush orchestration, heart-pounding dance, complex costumes, and soaring sets left the audiences spellbound.

Next up in the Broadway series is a fantastic way to enjoy live theater with your family over the holidays for an extended six-week run of **MARY POPPINS!** The classic tale of family and love is told in a way only the Paramount can – with towering backdrops, enormous dance numbers, and special effects to leave audiences flying high.

The new year will kick-off with **THE WHO'S TOMMY** – the rock-opera triumph of the pinball wizard, filled with soaring anthems and mind-exploding imagery. It will be followed by what has been hailed as one of the greatest musicals of all time – **LES**

MISERABLES. Nominated for 12 Tony Awards, taking home 8 including Best Score and Best Musical, you'll want to see what the Paramount's creative team brings to life in this grand production!

Beyond the hit musicals, the Paramount has already drawn such celebrities as the legendary Donny & Marie, the "Bad Boys of Magic" Penn & Teller, and the Grammy-nominated Jim Brickman! Still to come to downtown Aurora are the likes of John Lithgow, and Vicki Lawrence – just to name a few!

From concerts to comedy shows to community events, the Paramount is a magnet for exciting entertainment! No longer just a stage for traveling productions, the Paramount Theatre underwent a transformation beginning in 2011, when it first became home to spectacular in-house productions that employ actors



The 2014-15 Broadway Series began with a stellar run of **CATS!**

and musicians, costume designers and stage crew, and drawing fans from all over Chicagoland.

Since then, Aurora's downtown triple crown of live performance venues -- the Paramount, the Copley Theatre, and RiverEdge Park -- have experienced a remarkable seven-fold increase in shows. That includes extended runs of wildly popular Broadway series performances like

ANNIE to sell-out crowds of over 9,000 at RiverEdge Park for Lady Antebellum.

Don't miss the excitement! Join the hundreds of thousands of others and visit www.paramountaurora.com or call 630.896.6666 for all the details!

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS
SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPALIDOCIOUS

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S

MARY POPPINS

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

NOVEMBER 26 thru JANUARY 4

tickets 630.896.6666 or PARAMOUNTAURORA.COM

BMO Harris Bank DUNHAM FUND PACE ComEd GERALD AUTO GROUP AURORA

Road Construction: Temporary Inconveniences, Permanent Improvements

Some may say that orange is the new color in Aurora with the amount of construction projects that are taking place throughout the city. While the projects vary from city to state to township, each is designed to bring significant improvements to traffic flow and ensure the safety of travelers on our roads and bridges. Visit the City's website at www.aurora-il.org for an interactive construction map. Here are some of the major projects that are currently underway:

Church Road Bridge Deck Reconstruction

Overview: Total reconstruction of the bridge deck on Church Road over I-88. The existing bridge is being replaced with a reinforced concrete deck. The new bridge will be slightly wider with a higher clearance over the Tollway. Portions of Church Road on either end of the new bridge are also being reconstructed.
Start: August 2014
End: November 2014
Cost: Paid for by Illinois Tollway Authority
Agency: Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
Traffic: Complete closure of Church Road at the bridge, plus intermittent off-peak traffic stops on I-88.

Farnsworth Water Main Project

Overview: The project is taking place along Farnsworth Avenue from Indian Trail Road to Molitor Road. Crews are replacing more than 4,000 feet of 12-inch water main, and providing new service to the area.
Start: May 2014
End: December 2014
Agency: City of Aurora
Cost: \$1 million
Traffic: Delays and occasional lane closures along Farnsworth Avenue. Intermittent lane closures are limited to the hours between 6:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Farnsworth is expected to stay open for the duration of the project.

Indian Trail Bridge Reconstruction

Overview: Complete reconstruction of the Indian Trail Bridges, including replacing the concrete deck and widening both bridges crossing the Fox River, plus new curbs and gutters, sidewalks, railings, street lighting, and improved drainage, pavement markings and landscaping.
Start: Summer 2014
End: November 2014 for the East Bridge. The West Bridge will be constructed in Spring/Summer 2015
Cost: \$10 million, with \$8.7 million in

Federal funding, and the City of Aurora contributing \$2.18 million in Local Motor Fuel Tax funding
Agency: Contracted through Illinois Department of Transportation
Traffic: Complete closure of Indian Trail Road at the bridge until November 2014. Complete closure for the West Bridge is tentatively scheduled for March 2015.

New York Street Reconstruction

Overview: Total reconstruction of New York Street from Asbury Drive to Welsh Drive, widening the entire stretch to five lanes, including two thru lanes in each direction with a landscaped median and left turn lane. Plus new sidewalks, water main, storm sewer, multi-use path, and traffic signals.
Start: Fall 2013
End: November 2015
Cost: \$9.4 million, split 50/50 between the City of Aurora and IDOT.
Agency: Illinois Department of Transportation
Traffic: Access will be limited to one lane in each direction.

Route 34/Ogden Avenue and Canadian National Railroad Grade Separation

Overview: Construction of a new overpass, sidewalk, multi-use path, traffic signals, and retaining and noise abatement walls to improve safety and relieve train-related congestion.
Start: Summer 2014
End: November 2016
Cost: \$40 million, with the City of Aurora contributing \$300,000 from the Local Motor Fuel Tax fund and an additional \$300,000 from the Water and Sewer Fund for water main work. Roughly two-thirds of the grade separation will be paid by Canadian National Railway.
Agency: Illinois Department of Transportation
Traffic: Access will be limited to one lane in each direction. Expect delays.



Route 59 Widening

Overview: Total reconstruction of Route 59 between New York Street and Ferry Road, widening the entire stretch to three lanes in each direction with a raised median and turn lanes at each major intersection. The project also includes 21 new concrete retaining walls, 6,300 feet of noise abatement walls, reconstruction of the I-88 to Route 59 Interchange, utility relocations, BNSF pump station replacement, and widening of the following cross-streets: New York Street, Liberty Street, Meridian Parkway, North Aurora Road, Brookdale Road, and Diehl Road.
Start: Spring 2012
End: Fall 2015
Cost: \$85 million, of which the City of Aurora will contribute \$240,000 from the Local Motor Fuel Tax fund.
Agency: Illinois Department of Transportation
Traffic: Occasional daytime lane closures. Expect long delays and consider alternate routes.

Additional small-scale projects, including neighborhood road resurfacing and improvements for bike lanes, sewer systems, and green infrastructure are ongoing throughout the City.

Embrace The Orange

Please keep the following safety tips in mind when driving through work zones:

- Slow down and always follow posted work zone speed limits. Reduced speeds are applied when normal conditions do not exist for the motorist (narrow lanes, changing conditions, edge drop offs). Posted speed limits throughout work zones are not a suggestion—they are the law! There is a Zero Tolerance policy against violations in work zones and fines have increased.
- Pay attention. Workers and heavy equipment may only be a few feet from passing vehicles.
- Be patient. Most of the time work zones require lane closures. Remain alert in case you need to slow down or stop due to traffic or construction work.
- Follow the signs. Arrow boards and flaggers are not there to make your life more difficult, they are there to help guide you safely through the work zone.
- Don't follow too close. One of the most common crashes in a work zone is a rear-end.
- Turn on your headlights. Workers and other motorists driving through the work zone need to see your vehicle. Large truck operators should use emergency flashers to warn trailing motorists that they are slowing down.
- Plan ahead. Leave a few minutes early when traveling through a work zone in order to reach your destination on time.
- Drive smart and **Embrace The Orange**. See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives.





November/December

NOVEMBER

November 21

2014 Winter Lights

5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Downtown Aurora

Bring the family to kick off the holiday season here in Aurora with our third annual Winter Lights celebration, "It's a Jolly Holiday," featuring live entertainment, an outdoor gift market, food and fun for the whole family, plus a visit from Mary Poppins and Santa!

November 21

Gifts from Home Deadline

5 p.m.

Submit names of active military personnel to receive a special gift from the City of Aurora by 12 p.m. on Friday, November 21.

November 25

Aurora City Council Meeting

6 p.m.

Aurora City Hall | 44 E. Downer Place.

November 26

Mary Poppins

Paramount Theatre | 23 E. Galena Boulevard

The Paramount Broadway series presents 'Mary Poppins,' a show filled with special effects and magical moments that will leave kids and adults alike wide-eyed and in awe. Runs through January 4. Times and tickets available at www.paramountaurora.com.

**November 27
through November 28**

Thanksgiving

City of Aurora offices will be closed

November 28

through December 28

Festival of Lights at Phillips Park

5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday

5 p.m. – 10 p.m. Friday & Saturday

Phillips Park | 1000 Ray Moses Drive

The Rotary Club of Aurora and the City of Aurora present one of the largest outdoor light festivals in Chicagoland in a scenic drive through Phillips Park. Admission is free, but donations help support several Aurora-area non-profit organizations. Through December 28.

Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive

DECEMBER

**Every Saturday & Sunday in
December**

Photos with Santa!

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phillips Park Visitors Center | 1000 Ray Moses Drive

Bring your children and your cameras to take your holiday photos with Santa!

Thru January 2

Lehnertz Avenue Lights

5 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Join in on the tradition of the suburb's largest neighborhood coordinated Christmas celebration with religious scenery and your favorite Peanuts characters.

December 5

First Fridays

6 p.m. – 11 p.m.

A night of art, fun, music and community at local businesses and venues in downtown Aurora on the first Friday evening of the month. First Fridays in Downtown Aurora invites the community to enjoy art, music, food, theater and more on the first Friday of the month. For more information and for a map of participating venues, www.auroradowntown.org.

December 6

Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Customer Service Center | 3770 McCoy Drive, Aurora

Bring your electronics to be disposed of properly. For a complete list of items that are accepted visit www.aurora-il.org

December 9

City Council Meeting

6 p.m.

Aurora City Hall | 44 E. Downer Place

December 13

Low-Cost Animal Wellness Clinic

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Animal Control and Care Facility | 600 S. River Street

Reduced price services to keep your pet healthy!

December 19

Winter Garden of Youth Art

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

The 17th Annual Winter Garden of Youth Art spotlights the artistic talents of Aurora's students from elementary school through high school. The artwork, which features a wide variety of media, will be on display at the David L. Pierce Art and History Center through January 24, 2015.

December 20

Electronics Recycling

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Aurora's Central Garage | 720 N Broadway Avenue

December 23

City Council

6 p.m.

Aurora City Hall | 44 E. Downer Place

2014 Calendar

December 24

Christmas Eve

City of Aurora offices will close at noon

December 25

Christmas

City of Aurora offices will be closed

December 26

Kwanzaa Celebration

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Prisco Community Center | 150 W. Illinois Avenue

Sponsored by the African American Men of Unity, the Kwanzaa Celebration will offer inspirational speakers, food and entertainment for youth and adults.

December 31

New Year's Eve

City of Aurora offices will close at noon

JANUARY

January 1

New Year's Day

City of Aurora offices will be closed

January 5 – 9

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 13

City Council

6 p.m.

Aurora City Hall | 44 E. Downer Place

January 14

The Who's Tommy

Paramount Theatre | 23 E. Galena Boulevard

The Paramount Broadway series presents 'Tommy,' the rock musical about the pinball wizard featuring music from The Who. Runs through February 15. Times and tickets available at www.paramountaurora.com.

January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute

6:30 p.m.

Waubonsie Valley High School | 2590 Ogden Avenue

Aurora's MLK Planning Committee and the City of Aurora will hold its annual tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The youth-focused event will include performances from Aurora students and a special guest speaker. Doors open at 6 p.m.

January 27

City Council

6 p.m.

Aurora City Hall | 44 E. Downer Place

January 30

Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board

Community Breakfast

7:30 a.m.

Gaslite Manor | 2485 Church Road

The annual community breakfast will honor the achievements and leaders of Aurora's Hispanic community. Visit www.aurorahispanicheritage.com



PHOTOS with SANTA

Every Saturday and Sunday in December

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Phillips Park Visitors Center
1000 Ray Moses Drive

BRING YOUR CAMERA!

FREE!



GIFTS FROM HOME AURORA

SENDING SPECIAL GIFTS TO ACTIVE AURORA MILITARY PERSONNEL



Each year for the holidays, the City of Aurora honors our [Aurora residents who are on active duty in the military](#) by sending them a special gift of a one-pound box of mixed nuts and a holiday greeting card.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO THANK OUR ACTIVE AURORA MILITARY PERSONNEL!

If you are a family member or friend of an Aurora resident who is currently on active military duty in the United States or abroad, please send us the following information:

- **First Name & Last Name**
- **Branch of Military & Current Rank**
- **Complete Military Address**
- **Complete Aurora Address**

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:

City of Aurora Special Events
630.256.3370 (M-F 8:30a-4:30p)
events@aurora-il.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014



Jereniah Anderson Perez - City of Aurora, IL, Government
11 hours ago via mobile · 48

Thank you City of Aurora for the awesome Christmas gift. Your support is truly appreciated! 🙏

Like · Comment · Share

Michael Hallinan, Sherry Thainier, Michelle Pennington Rappinger and 5 others like this.

Jereniah Anderson Perez shared mixed nuts. A holiday cheer!

Like · Reply · 1 · 11 hours ago via mobile

Susan Hall- Miller what did you get?

Like · Reply · 1 · 11 hours ago via mobile

Write a comment...

Aurora Receives Governor's Sustainability Award

The City of Aurora was recently honored for its significant achievements in protecting the environment, helping sustain the future, and improving the economy. One of just five municipalities in Illinois to earn this distinction, Aurora received the 2014 Governor's Sustainability Award presented by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC).

"Investing in sustainability creates jobs, boosts our economy, and is an investment in our future," Governor Pat Quinn said. "These awards foster innovation and help us build a stronger, greener Illinois."

The City of Aurora was recognized for many of its sustainability efforts, including retrofitting lighting in two-thirds of City of Aurora buildings, converting 320 City-owned vehicles to ethanol or soy-mix fuels, going paperless for City Council agendas and minutes, and creating a computerized traffic signal management system to limit engine idling, reduce CO₂ emissions, and improve the flow of traffic. Also highlighted were the LEED Gold-Certified Aurora Police Station and the new RiverEdge Park which was constructed on a reclaimed, former brownfield site along the Fox River.

"We are very proud to accept the 2014 Governor's Sustainability Award. The City of Aurora has worked very hard to maximize our sustainability efforts," said Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner. "Most recently, we have established the Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board to assist us with these continued efforts that are now being recognized locally, regionally, and nationally."



Left to right: Eric Heineman - Illinois Director of Sustainability, Mayor Tom Weisner, Bill Wiet - Aurora Chief Development Officer, Kevin O'Brien - Director of Illinois Sustainability Technology Center.

CFO of the Year: Brian Caputo

For his commitment to a career of learning and implementing new financial strategies to better govern the City's budget, Aurora's own Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Treasurer Brian Caputo has been recognized by the Daily Herald Business Ledger as a CFO of the Year.

Under Caputo's guidance, Aurora has received recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association for "Excellence in Financial Reporting" every year since his arrival in 1998, and for "Distinguished Budget Presentation" since 2000. Caputo's professional reputation has prompted the Metropolitan Mayor's Conference to consult him on complicated issues such as electrical aggregation and sales tax sourcing. He is a frequent speaker at professional training sessions on new developments in accounting and local government financial reporting, and instructs seminars on government finance fundamentals for newly elected officials.



In addition to his accomplishments in the field of government finance, Caputo is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Army Reserve, and a PhD Candidate, currently working on his dissertation in political science at Northern Illinois University. He also volunteers his time and financial expertise to serve as the treasurer for the Warriors Varsity Hockey Team at Waubonsie Valley High School.

Building & Permits Team Receives National Honors

Aurora's Building and Permits Division has received three national recognitions this year. Honored by peers in the industry, this award-winning team is proving that Aurora is definitely second to none.

"Our team is striving to build a reputation for customer centered, high-quality and timely development services. Aurora residents all benefit from our improved service, project status updates, and management aides," said Building and Permits Director John Curley.

This year's awards include:

DGAA Achievement Award

Aurora's Building and Permits team received the 2014 Digital Government Achievement Award (DGAA) Award in the Driving Digital Government category for its implementation of Broadcast Real-time Inspection Transparency Emails, or BRITE Inspection Communications, an automated email system designed to broadcast email inspection activity to all private sector parties upon schedule or result.



ICC COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The City of Aurora and Rebuilding Together Aurora was awarded the 2014 ICC Community Service Award for installing smoke detection systems, replacing unsafe electrical services and providing off-hours inspections and advice on how to comply with building code standards for seniors and residents in need throughout Aurora.



ICMA CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) honored the City of Aurora with a Certificate of Achievement for performance management and demonstrating leadership in continuous improvement and community engagement.



2014 Firefighters Of The Year

In recognition of their dedication and life-saving work, three members of the Aurora Fire Department have been named 2014 Firefighters of the Year. Awards were presented at a recent annual luncheon hosted by the Aurora Exchange Club.

Captain Gary Krienitz, Private Jason Larson and Private Dan Murphy, the crew of Engine 5, were chosen for the honor from a pool of nominees whose efforts in the line of duty helped save lives.

Their nomination stemmed from a January 10 fire in a motel room in Aurora. Upon arrival, the crew of Engine 5 worked quickly to get a hose line to the motel room. As Private Larson manned the hose line, Captain Krienitz searched for victims, locating one unconscious on a bed and pulling him from the room. On a second search, Krienitz and Private Murphy located a second victim unconscious and under a pile of clothes and rescued that victim too. Both victims

were taken to a local hospital by Aurora paramedics and transferred to the burn unit of Loyola University Hospital. They have since recovered.

“While it may be the everyday work of a firefighter to go into harm’s way, it is still important for us to commend the fine work the Engine 5 team has done in rescuing the lives of two people,” Fire Chief John Lehman said. “Captain Krienitz, and Privates Larson and Murphy exemplify selfless service to others.”

Other nominees included Lieutenant Jason Demas, Private Jeff Dehler, and Private/Paramedic Dan Kveton, of Engine 9, who responded to a fiery crash involving a semi-truck, IDOT Help Truck and an Illinois State Trooper.

Also recognized as nominees were Paramedics Mike Donato and Kevin Leverage, of the Fire Station 8 ambulance team, who started and for one hour maintained chest compressions on a woman whose heart had stopped just after a hospital transport on Christmas Eve.



2014 AFD Firefighters of the Year (l to r) Private Dan Murphy, Captain Gary Krienitz, Private Jason Larson

Aurora Police Department's App Available To Community

Citizens will find communication with the Aurora Police much more convenient with the introduction of the “My PD” app that was recently introduced by the department.

The free app is available for both iPhone and Android devices.

The app allows users to communicate with APD administrators, ask general questions, commend employees, obtain sex offender information, and more. It also features links to both the Aurora Police Facebook page and the City of Aurora website.

According to Intelligence Division Lt. Rick Robertson who oversaw its implementation, one of the biggest advantages to the app is the

ability for citizens to text crime-related tips to the APD. “It’s obvious we live in a mobile society and it seems that everyone is texting and taking pictures,” said Robertson. “With the app, the citizens we serve have the ability to give us information they know about criminal activity and they can choose to either do so anonymously or submit their contact information in the event they want to talk to us in person.”

Aurora is the third Illinois police department to use the My PD app. It is available free of charge through iTunes, the Android Market, and Amazon App Store. Simply search for “My Police Department” and find the “Aurora Police” to download.



Money available to restore your subdivided home

If you own a single-family home that has been subdivided into multiple units, you may be eligible for up to \$30,000 to restore that home to its original single-family structure.

In an effort to reduce overcrowding and improve the quality of the City's housing stock, the City of Aurora offers the Single Family Restoration Program.

The Single Family Restoration Program offers soft loans to homeowners to pay the costs related to converting subdivided homes back into single-family homes. Those costs can include engineering or architectural services, building fees, and construction costs.

If residents refrain from selling their home or violating building codes for five years,

the loans are forgiven.

Homes are eligible for up to \$10,000 in subsidies per subdivided unit, with a maximum of three units.

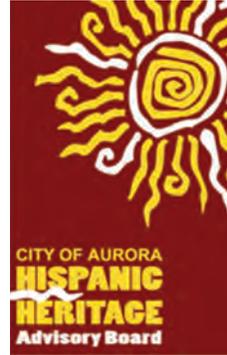
Applications will be taken now through Dec. 1.

Interested? Call the Department of Neighborhood Redevelopment at 630-256-3320, or find a downloadable information packet at aurora-il.org/nrd/downloads.php.

Nominations Open For Heritage Board Awards

The City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board (AAHAB) and Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board (AAHAB) honor exemplary Aurorans each year with their respective heritage awards. Nominations are open for the 2015 award recipients.

The Pete Perez Award is presented by the Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board in honor of Pete Perez, a pioneer in professional football and a beloved member of the Aurora Police Department. Nominees must volunteer in and demonstrate a dedication to the Aurora Hispanic community and the



Aurora community as a whole and must serve as a positive role model to youth. The honoree is awarded at the AAHAB's Community Breakfast in January.

The African-American of the Year Award, presented by the African-American Heritage Advisory Board, is awarded to an outstanding African-American leader who has had a lasting impact in Aurora and who has made significant achievements in his or her field and the community. The honoree is awarded at the AAHAB's Heritage Dinner in February.

Nominations for both awards are due on Friday, December 19. Nomination materials can be found on the City's website or obtained by calling Customer Service at 630-256-INFO.



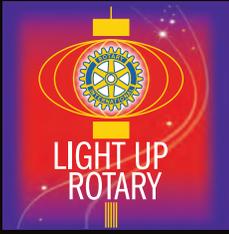
Diwali Festival Draws Thousands

The City of Aurora and Aurora's Indian American Community Outreach Advisory Board held the city's first Diwali Festival. Thousands of participants traveled from miles around to attend India's Festival of Lights held in the City of Lights.

Diwali, India's largest annual festival, is celebrated by people throughout India, Nepal and other South Asian countries, regardless of religion. The festival, observed in India by lighting homes with oil lamps and candles, exchanging gifts and lighting firecrackers, celebrates a mythical victory of good over evil, of light over darkness, and for some it marks the start of the new year.

Aurora's Diwali Festival was held at Waubonsie Valley High School and included a dance troupe showcasing classical, modern and Bollywood-style dancing from across India; live classical Indian singing; a henna artist; modern Indian music by a DJ, and vendors selling cuisine, clothes and jewelry from across India. The event concluded with a spectacular fireworks display.





2014 Festival of Lights



Aurora Rotary Club

Presented by
THE ROTARY CLUB OF AURORA
in Partnership with the
CITY OF AURORA

NOVEMBER 28, 2014 - DECEMBER 28, 2014

Sunday - Thursday 5 PM - 9 PM * Friday - Saturday 5 PM - 10 PM

FREE Drive Through Holiday Experience!

* **PHILLIPS PARK** 1000 Ray Moses Dr., Aurora, IL 60505



www.AuroraFestivalofLights.com



Mayor Thomas J. Weisner

Aldermen

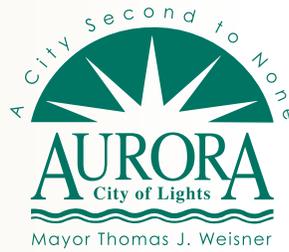
AT-LARGE: Robert O'Connor
AT-LARGE: Richard Irvin
WARD 1: Kristina "Tina" Bohman
WARD 2: Juany Garza
WARD 3: Ted Mesiacos
WARD 4: Bill Donnell
WARD 5: John "Whitey" Peters
WARD 6: Mike Saville
WARD 7: Schequeta Hart-Burns
WARD 8: Rick Mervine
WARD 9: Edward Bugg
WARD 10: Lynne Johnson

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TO RAKE OR TO SHOVEL? THAT IS THE QUESTION

Free Fall Leaf & Yard Waste Collection

Each fall, the City provides an unstickered leaf collection program. This year's leaf collection runs through December 5, with collections on your regular garbage day. Leaves must be placed in a 30 gallon Kraft paper yard waste bag and placed at the curb on your regularly scheduled garbage date. A waste sticker will not be required.

Yard waste collection also continues through the Friday, December 5. Yard waste must be placed in a 30-gallon Kraft paper yard waste bag weighing less than 60 lbs and must have a garbage sticker attached. Stickers used for garbage are the same at those used for yard waste, however, yard waste mixed with garbage will not be collected.

Leaves and yard waste will be collected on the same day as your garbage and must be at the curb by 6 a.m.

Snow Procedures and Tips

- 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. The goal is to have all roads cleared within 12 hours of a three-inch snowfall, from the time snow stops falling. However heavier snowfalls, as we experienced last winter, can take longer.
- Parked vehicles must be moved off-street during snow accumulation of 2 inches or more, per city ordinance. Cars may be ticketed or towed if they are not moved. Cars cannot be parked on the street again until the snow has been plowed to the curb or road edge.
- Residents are responsible for clearing their own sidewalks and driveways and doing so can reduce the chances of someone slipping and falling on your property.
- Residents can help by assisting elderly and disabled neighbors with snow removal and helping to keep fire hydrants clear of snow so they can be accessed quickly in an emergency.