



MAY 2022

8TH WARD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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ALDERWOMAN
Patty Smith

A MESSAGE FROM ALDERWOMAN PATTY SMITH

GREETINGS

Hello City of Aurora Ward 8 resident.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health. Although COVID-19 still lingers, it has been so wonderful to see all the smiling faces of Aurora residents throughout our city. Also, please continue to respect each other's choice of masking or not masking.

Much has occurred in the City of Aurora since our last newsletter including a 2022 balanced budget with no tax increase. In 2020 and 2021, like many businesses, the city became very short staffed. In 2022, we have been diligently increasing our staffing to ensure all city services can adequately address the needs of our citizens.

Typically, I hold a Ward 8 Community Meeting at the Eola Center in March. Due to COVID-19 uncertainty, I decided to hold your next Community Meeting in the Fall at the Eola Center. Date and time TBA.

FIRST ANNUAL WARD 8 NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-OUT DAY

Per the request of many of you, I have scheduled the FIRST ever clean-out day for Ward 8 residents. It's time to clean out those junk areas of your house and garage and drop it off with me on Saturday, May 21st, in the parking lot of Our Lady of Mercy Church located at 701 S. Eola Rd. The trash compactor trucks will arrive at 8am and will finish at 11am. A list of acceptable items is on the back of this newsletter.

This clean-out day is for Ward 8 residents only. No appointment necessary.

MCCOY DRIVE UPDATES

Since I was elected, I have been working hard to facilitate traffic lights that were promised to Ward 8. I am happy to report the light at McCoy/Kautz/5th Avenue is being installed. Kautz/Montgomery is scheduled next, and I am pushing hard to get McCoy/Cheshire's installation date moved up.

The McCoy pedestrian bridge is scheduled to be replaced this summer. During a routine inspection, city officials noticed deterioration of the bridge. The bidding process determined the cost to rehab the bridge was nearly the same as the cost to replace it. The good news is a replacement bridge will allow for less down time of the bridge and conflicts on McCoy Drive. A crane will be used to remove and replace the existing bridge with a brand-new bridge.

SAFETY

As discussed in my previous newsletter, one of the most frequent concerns/complaints I receive from you is about speeding. It's important to understand this is not just a Ward 8 issue or an Aurora issue, it's a nationwide problem. There is no absolute solution to eliminate speeding. I continue to work with the Aurora Police Department to conduct targeted area speed monitoring which only works while APD is present. In an effort to

slow traffic in Ward 8, I purchased a SPEED TRAILER. This trailer will consistently rotate throughout Ward 8 to remind drivers of their speed. We must all acknowledge that most of the speeding vehicles are our own. To keep our community streets safe, I challenge all of you to be the example and keep an eye on your own speedometer.

BLOCK PARTIES, HOA & PTA

Ward 8 residents, if you are looking to throw a block party this summer, the Alderman's office staff will assist you in the process. Call the Alderman's office at (630) 256-3020 about four weeks in advance of your gathering. Don't forget to invite your Alderwoman!

HOA(s) and PTA(s) – I would love to periodically attend your meetings. I'm eager to hear what's going on in your neighborhood and in our schools! Please reach out to me and we will make the arrangements.

IT IS MY HONOR AND PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU, THE RESIDENTS OF WARD 8!

I hope you find this newsletter informative. If ever there is a topic you would like me to discuss, please let me know. Thank you to those who have taken the time to reach out to me with neighborhood suggestions and concerns. Your input is important to me. As I have said many times, you are my eyes and ears of the Ward. My door is always open to receive your feedback

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR ~
BE NICE TO ONE ANOTHER**

FIREWORKS - IF YOU LIGHT IT, WE WILL WRITE IT

The City of Aurora recently amended the city code with the goal of more effectively addressing illegal fireworks. In addition to calling 9-1-1, residents may now also submit complaints after the fact through our Customer Service Center. Reports may now also be submitted online at www.aurora-il.org through the Info Aurora portal or by calling 630-256-INFO (4636). This allows residents to submit photos or video of the infraction (if available), and submit a narrative supporting the complaint. Violations are now monitored through our Administrative Hearing process which will allow us to track locations with consistent complaints/violations.

Hearing officers have the ability to impose higher fines for repeat offenders and utilize the noise ordinance when determining fines, among other changes.

How can I report violations?

Call 9-1-1 to report

OR

Collect all pertinent information: time, date, location and any other specific information you are able to provide (photos, videos, etc.) and report to Customer Service at www.aurora-il.org or by calling 630-256-INFO (4636).

A city inspector may contact you for additional information to support the complaint.

Committee of the Whole:

Meets on the 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays of the month
at 5:00 p.m.

City Council:

Meets on the 2nd and 4th
Tuesdays of the month
at 6:00 p.m.

Both meetings take place
in the Council Chambers
on the second floor of
City Hall, 44 E. Downer
Place, Aurora.

To speak at a COW or Council
meeting, please notify the City
Clerk's office at 630-256-3070
prior to the start of the meeting.

PARKWAY TREES

Parkway tree planting in Ward 8 is ongoing. The COA does its best to offer free trees to each Ward in the Spring and Fall, however the city's free tree allotment NEVER covers the need for trees in the 8th Ward. This shortfall leaves many residents in Ward 8 without a parkway tree. In 2021 Ward 8 residents requested a total of 74 parkway replacement trees. 23 of those trees were denied based on COA criteria. Nine of the parkway trees were planted by the COA's free tree replacement program. That leaves 42 residents without a parkway tree. Because I see trees as being an important factor to the beautification of our community and the good of our environment, I purchased 20 trees out of the Ward 8 budget. In the end, there were 22 residents left without a parkway tree. If you are one of these 22, it's important to understand the list does not carry over. You do need to contact customer service at 630-256-4636 and get back on the list. HOA Presidents are discouraged in pressuring homeowners to request parkway trees. It's been proven those who do not want them do not care for them. If you have any further questions about parkway trees, please contact me.

WARD 8 NEW SPEED TRAILER

WARD 8 2022 STREET RESURFACING SCHEDULE

City of Aurora Street Resurfacing Program on our side of town will begin in August. If you travel one of these streets during resurfacing, please take note as delays will occur. Be patient or plan to use a different route.

STREET	FROM	TO
BRECKENRIDGE DR	CHESHIRE DR	INVERNESS DR
CHARLOTTE CR	WILKES DR	TARA BELLE PKWY
CHESHIRE DR	BRECKENRIDGE DR	S OAKHURST DR
CLARENDON LN	INVERNESS DR	KAUTZ RD
INVERNESS DR	MCCOY DR	CLARENDON LN
NORMANTOWN RD	MONTGOMERY RD	KEATING DR



Summer Fun In Downtown Aurora

FIRST FRIDAYS

First Fridays in Downtown Aurora invites the community to enjoy art, music, food, dance, theater, and more at local businesses and venues. First Fridays is FREE! All Ages Welcome! First Friday venues have staggered times typically ranging from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. For a list of events and a business/venue map visit auroradowntown.org.

AURORA FARMERS MARKET

The 110th Season of the Aurora's Farmers Market – the oldest farmers market in Illinois begins Saturday, June 4th and runs every Saturday through October 8th from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Water Street Square across from Aurora City Hall.

CITY OF AURORA 2022 PARADE SCHEDULE

Memorial Day Parade, Downtown, Monday May 30th, step off 12:00 noon.

4th of July Parade, Downtown, Monday July 4th, step off 10:00am.

Aurora Pooch Parade, Phillips Park, Sunday October 2nd, paw off 11:00am.

Veterans Day Parade, Downtown, Friday November 11th, step off 10:00am

FIREWORKS

Join the City of Aurora as we celebrate Independence Day by living up to our "City of Lights" name with a spectacular firework display on the evening of Monday, July 4th, 2022, in downtown

Aurora! Best viewing is available at RiverEdge Park (gates opening at 7:00 PM) and McCullough Park. DJ Pena will be spinning at McCullough Park from 7:00 PM - 9:45 PM.

PARAMOUNT THEATER

The Paramount Theater will begin its new Broadway Series of shows beginning August 31.

Dreamgirls – August 31 to October 16

The Sound of Music – November 9 to January 8

Into the Woods – February 1 to March 19

School of Rock – April 12 to May 28

COPLEY THEATER

After nearly a decade of planning, Copley Theatre has undergone a major renovation, transforming into an intimate, contemporary space to house our next creative adventure.

Hand to God – May 25 to July 10;

Fun Home – August 3 to September 18

Bull: A Love Story – October 5 to November 20.

THE VENUE/MUNDY PARK

The Venue has reserved Mundy Park for three weekends between June – August.

Blues & Brews Fest, June 10, 11 & 12

Jazz in the Park Fest, July 8, 9 & 10

A third music fest – official name TBD, August 12, August 13 & August 14th

RIVEREDGE PARK

Blues on the Fox 2022

Jun 17, 2022 - Jun 18, 2022
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

The Chicago Experience

Jun 24, 2022
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Live to Rock Tour: Skid Row, Warrant, Quiet Riot

Jun 25, 2022
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Blue Öyster Cult with Foghat

Jul 2, 2022
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Satisfaction: The International Rolling Stones Show

Jul 8, 2022
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Stayin' Alive: One Night of the Bee Gees

Jul 22, 2022
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Tedeschi Trucks Band

Jul 26, 2022
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

I Love the 90's: Vanilla Ice, Coolio, Rob Base, Color Me Badd, Tone Loc, Young MC

Aug 7, 2022
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Fitz and the Tantrums

Aug 12, 2022
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Travis Tritt and Aaron Lewis & the Stateliners

Aug 13, 2022
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Get The Led Out

Aug 19, 2022
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Boz Scaggs: Out of the Blues Tour 2022 with Robert Cray Band

Aug 20, 2022
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Tusk: Fleetwood Mac Experience

Aug 26, 2022
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM



Aldermwoman Patty Smith
44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60505

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NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-OUT DAY

Ward 8

Aldermwoman Patty Smith

A clean-up day will take place on

Saturday, May 21, 2022, for residents of Ward 8.

Trash compactor trucks will be arriving at

8:00 AM and will leave promptly at 11:00 AM.

Trucks will be placed at the following location in your neighborhood:

- **Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church—701 S. Eola Road**

Acceptable Items: building materials, empty or dried out paint cans, discarded furniture, large & small household appliances, carpet & pads, grills, wood, metal, old toys, bicycles, mattresses & similar items.

For questions, please call the Aldermen's Office at: **630-256-3020**

NO ELECTRONICS

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Ward 8 Neighborhood Clean-Out

May 21st - 8am - 11am

Our Lady of Mercy Parking Lot
701 S Eola Ave.

Ward 8 Fall Community Meeting

Date TBA - Eola Center

Ward 8 School Supply Pick Up/ Food Pantry

Date TBA - Location TBA

Blood Drive

August 7, 8, 9 and 10

Faith Lutheran Church

3000 Liberty St., Aurora, IL 60502

Ward 8, 9, 10 Shred Event

October 1st - 8am - 12pm

Fire Station 8, 3770 McCoy Drive

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Phone:

630-256-INFO (4636)

Monday - Friday 8 AM to 5 PM

App: InfoAurora App for iPhone
and Android

Website:

www.aurora-il.org home page,
click the InfoAurora link in the
gold menu bar to the left.

Pet Owners

I often receive complaints concerning our neighborhood dogs. Some complaints are more nuisance oriented, but a few are more serious situations.

Pet owners, me included, need to be reminded there are City, County, and HOA rules, regulations, Ordinances and laws we need to follow as it pertains to our furry family members. Much of this information is common courtesy and commonsense, but sometimes we need a little reminder.

The City of Aurora pet ordinance can be found in its entirety on the COA website: www.aurora-il.org/1157/ordinances

For more information on Animal Control, call 630-256-3630.



Ward 8 Grant

The Ward Committee comprised of 8th Ward residents and their Aldermwoman, shall receive, review and approve requests for grants for community enhancements and/or improvements in the 8th Ward. The program, without limitations, will be geared around the following:

- Enhancements and/or improvements, such as, landscaping or infrastructure projects for public use.
- Demonstrate a benefit for the immediate area.
- Promote the character and integrity of the neighborhood and community.

The Ward Committee may also consider other information when approving or denying grant requests such as previous approvals, past history, and future development plans.

Qualifications:

Applicants must be residents of Aurora's 8th Ward or conducting business in the 8th Ward.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and funds will be distributed based on availability of annual budgeted funds at the discretion of the 8th Ward Committee and their Aldermwoman. Any application(s) received after the funds are depleted, will be placed on a waiting list.

For additional details or to apply for the Ward 8 Residential Grant, contact me at SmithPC@aurora.il.us.