



Greetings, City of Aurora Ward 8 residents and welcome to your WARD 8 NEWSLETTER. I view communication as a way to develop great relationships, therefore, I will periodically send out a newsletter like this to keep you informed as to what's happening in Ward 8 and the highlights of what's transpiring in downtown Aurora.

As I took office on May 7th my predecessor, Rick Mervine, had several projects in the works that were completed over the summer. Our streetlights were successfully switched to brighter, more efficient LED lights. With funds from a construction grant, the Montgomery road multi-use path is now completed.

 This path connects to the Kautz Rd. path by crossing Ogden Ave. and Eola Rd., traveling down Montgomery Rd., and terminating at Middle West Park in the Georgetown neighborhood. There are two additional multi-use paths in the works along with a pedestrian crossing across the CN tracks on Montgomery Rd.

 This summer Ward 8 received \$1.1 million in residential and main arterial road resurfacing. A Pulte Homes 80-unit townhome community is underway at the corner of 75th St. and Meadowridge Dr. The long-awaited construction for a new traffic light at the corner of Montgomery Rd. and White Eagle/Meadowbrook has begun.



The City of Aurora engineering department has approved and budgeted for three other intersection traffic lights at the following locations: McCoy Ave. and Kautz Rd., Montgomery Rd. and Kautz Rd., and McCoy Ave. and Cheshire Dr. to be completed within the next three years.



Ward 8 underwent an important improvement to our utility system with a sanitary sewer upgrade in an area that frequently had severe basement sewer backups. Lastly on a minor but equally important note, the salt dome along Montgomery Rd. was repainted.



I collaborated with Calvary and Faith Lutheran Churches to supply backpacks and school supplies for students in need at Ward 8 elementary schools.



As I evaluate the continued needs of Ward 8, I do so by assessing the service requests and complaints submitted daily/weekly by you, the residents. At the top of your list are requests about trees and neighborhood traffic safety. Ward 8 continues to recover from the devastation of the ash tree disease. Several residents still have stumps in their parkway and others never replaced the lost trees. Trees not only beautify our community, they provide several ecological benefits to our environment. Investing in trees is investing in our community. This spring I will begin a Ward 8 Tree Grant Program. The details of this Grant Program will be available in my next newsletter March/April and on my Patty Smith Alderman Ward 8 Facebook page. In general, the grant will provide for a 50/50 shared cost for a replacement tree.

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Monday - Friday 8AM to 5 PM



Neighborhood traffic issues occur in every neighborhood, even those that have 24-hour private security. The majority, but not all, of these issues come from us, the residents. Therefore, the first steps to neighborhood traffic safety is to be attentive to our own speedometer, always commit to putting down our cell phones, and drive safely in and out of our neighborhoods. Know the school zones and follow all posted traffic signs. It's up to us to make our neighborhood streets safer!

To get to know you and our community better I have been making my rounds to your Homeowner Association and Neighborhood Group meetings. If your organization has a meeting you would like me to attend, please contact me. As the school year gets underway, I will be communicating with Ward 8 principals and our school's PTAs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ WARD 8 NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

At the end of last year, the Economic Development Department in the City of Aurora presented a draft for the Rte. 59 corridor. The draft was approved by City Council as a "plan", and there is much work ahead. At the Ward 8 Neighborhood Meeting on Thursday, October 24th, The City of Aurora's Executive Director of Economic Development, David Dibo, will be our guest speaker. David will share with us the already underway Yorkshire Plaza turned Pacifica Square design to become one of the largest Asian-themed lifestyle malls in America. He will outline the vision for the future of the crumbling Fox Valley Mall to be revitalized into a mixed-use live-work-play concept, discuss the details of the Cedarwood Senior Living development at Ogden Ave. and 75th St. and the long-term plan for the Broch Brody property. This Ward 8 Neighborhood meeting will be at the Eola Center from 7-8 pm on Thursday, October 24.

Although the Rte. 59 corridor is not in Ward 8, the impact on our home values and taxes are greatly affected by the success and/or failures of these blighted properties. I strongly encourage you to take the time to attend this meeting. This is your opportunity to ask questions and learn firsthand the facts and details about this economic development right in our front and backyard.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN AURORA

Since Mayor Irvin has taken office, much has transpired in downtown Aurora. If you wish to keep up with the daily events, notifications, and development, follow City of Aurora, IL, Government on Facebook. We are seeing a successful trend of new restaurants in our downtown. Mora will become three restaurants on four floors including a rooftop located at Water Street Mall. Altiro Latin Fusion will be located on S. Stolp Street. Amy Morton will soon be opening her new restaurant right next door to the Paramount. Charlie's Silver Spoon Creamery on E. Downer Place is open for delicious homemade ice cream and Popculture Gourmet Popcorn is ready for business on the first floor of the Leland Tower on Stolp Street. The Historic Terminal Building at Broadway and Galena is being redeveloped and will feature 20 residential loft apartments and a ground floor restaurant. Neotech, an \$850 million company, recently relocated from Naperville to Galena Blvd. Phase I has been completed on the old Copley Hospital, now called Avalon Heights. Plans for Avalon Heights will include a mixture of medical offices and housing for adults with disabilities and seniors.

Alderwoman Patty Smith
Phone: 630-341-1176
Email: pcsmith@aurora-il.org
Ward 8

FALL SEASON - WINTER'S COMING!

As fall sets in we turn to inside entertainment. The Paramount has an outstanding line up for the 2019/2020 season with Beauty and The Beast being a highlight. The Venue on Broadway Avenue, a not-for-profit music foundation offers nationally recognized talent in all genres of music. Keep mentally and physically in shape during the cold months by exercising at the Fox Fitness Center and spend time in literary bliss at the Eola Public Library. Both are located in Ward 8 at the Eola Community Center.

Speaking of changing weather, fall brings our FREE leaf pick-up which start in October and ends in December (specific dates TBA). Once the leaves are raked away old man winter will settle in. Don't forget with 2 or more inches of snow, there is no parking on any street and vehicles need to be moved until 24 hours after the snow stops. Vehicles will be ticketed and/or towed.

I look forward to seeing you as I make my way through our neighborhood groups, events, and schools. Please take the time to attend our Ward 8 Neighborhood meeting on Thursday October 24th, details within this newsletter. It is my pleasure to serve you as your Ward 8 Alderwoman. If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached at 630-341-1176 or pcsmith@aurora-il.org. My Facebook page is Patty Smith Alderman Ward 8.

Sincerely,



Ward 8 Alderwoman

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Ward 8 Neighborhood Community Meeting:

Eola Community Center - 555 S. Eola Road

Guest Speaker COA Executive Director of Economic Development - David Dibo will discuss the Rt 59 corridor Plan. Ward 8 C.O.P will be available to discuss traffic & safety issues

Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 8AM-Noon
Rain or Shine

Far East Aurora Shred Event in collaboration with COOL DuPage; Ward 8, 9 & 10 residents and DuPage County residents

Fire Station #8 at 3770 McCoy Drive

Coming March/April 2020 - Next newsletter and Ward 8 Neighborhood Community Meeting-Guest Speaker

Mayor Richard C. Irvin

PATTY SMITH, WARD 8, ALDERWOMAN
44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois 60505