

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

<<NAME>>
<<ADDRESS>>
<<CITY>>, <<STATE>> <<ZIPCODE>>

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FOX VALLEY, IL
PERMIT NO. 398

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

SPREADING JOY, ONE TOY AT A TIME.



This Christmas season, Ward 8 is teaming up with Mutual Ground to spread cheer and brighten the holiday for children in our community. Together, we'll collect toys and gifts to make sure every child feels the magic of the season.

We are wrapping up the details...Stay Tuned!

Fall/Winter Ward 8 Community Meeting

When: Thursday, November 6, 2025
Where: Eola Community Center
555 S Eola Road
Time: 6:30pm-8pm

We would love for you to join us for a friendly chat about what is happening in the 8th Ward! We will have guest speakers from APD, Economic Development, and the Paramount Theatre.

Come be part of the conversation!



WARD 8 GRANT PROGRAM

The Ward 8 Alderwoman, 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 Ward 8 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 Ward 8 Alderwoman. 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.





8TH WARD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCT 2025

60 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60505
PH: (630) 341-1176
EM: SmithPC@aurora.il.us



A MESSAGE FROM
ALDERWOMAN PATTY SMITH

GREETINGS

Welcome to the City of Aurora Ward 8 Fall/Winter 2025 Newsletter. It is my pleasure to connect with you through this all-ward update. While it’s impossible to capture everything happening across our city, my goal is to share the highlights of what’s going on in Ward 8 and how I am working on your behalf to strengthen our community and the City of Aurora as a whole.

Our Annual Ward 8 Fall/Winter Community Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6th, and I hope you will join us. A tentative agenda is already in place, but I want to hear from you—if there’s a particular issue, you’d like me to address, or a City of Aurora department you’d like represented, please reach out and I will do my best to make those arrangements. This past September’s shred event was a huge success, we shredded a total of 11,380 pounds of paper. Our annual clean-up was also a major accomplishment, collecting more than 20 tons of junk from Ward 8 neighborhoods this past spring. Both of these events will return in 2026, and I’ll be announcing dates in the coming months.

Public safety remains a top concern for residents, and I want you to know I take it seriously. Speeding and distracted driving continue to be the most frequent complaints I hear, especially along McCoy Drive and Eola

Road. I regularly raise these concerns with our traffic engineers and the Aurora Police Department. With overall crime down citywide, APD has been able to dedicate additional details to the far east side, which has made a positive impact. We’ve also seen progress from traffic-calming measures such as the new signal at McCoy and Cheshire, new traffic light at Montgomery and White Eagle Drive, permanent solar speed signs on McCoy, Eola, and Commons, and the use of our mobile solar radar speed trailer. If you believe your area would benefit from the mobile trailer, please contact me and I will make the arrangements.

I am also committed to supporting Ward 8 families in meaningful ways. Last year, I launched a **school supply program for the eight District 204** schools located in our ward. By working directly with principals, we were able to ensure that students in need begin the school year with the tools they required, and each school received extra supplies for their resource rooms.

Another exciting development is the major expansion of the **Eola Branch of the Aurora Public Library**. This \$8 million project will add 34,000 square feet of new space, including quiet study rooms, expanded areas for children and teens, a baby play space, an updated technology center, and a 150-person com-

munity meeting room. Recognizing the ongoing need for gathering space in Ward 8, and the fantastic asset to every ward 8 resident, I directed \$300,000 from our infrastructure budget to support the new community room. I am proud that Ward 8 will have such a strong role in bringing this resource to life, and I look forward to the grand opening in summer 2026.

Looking ahead to the holiday season, **Ward 8 is partnering with Mutual Ground**, an Aurora-based nonprofit that provides critical services to families impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, and substance use. For their Winter Wonderland Shoppe, I will be reaching out to you, the residents of ward 8, to help fulfill holiday wish lists for children ages 6 through 12. I encourage you to consider joining me in ensuring these children feel remembered and cared for this holiday season. More details will be coming soon through mail and social media.

It is truly my honor to serve you. Thank you to everyone who has reached out with questions, concerns, and suggestions, your input is invaluable. As I always say, you are the eyes and ears of Ward 8, and my door is always open and your feedback is welcomed.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR - BE
KIND TO ONE ANOTHER.

PARAMOUNT~ACCA~COMMUNITY IMPACT & FINANCIAL FACTS

The Paramount Theater has long been a shining star in downtown Aurora, and it continues to play a big role in both our cultural life and our local economy. With its rich history and beautifully maintained architecture, the Paramount offers something for everyone—Broadway-caliber productions, nationally recognized concerts, comedy shows, film screenings, and community events that bring people together. Beyond the stage, the theater boosts business for nearby restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues, while also putting Aurora on the map as a cultural destination. Simply put, the Paramount is more than a theater—it’s a tradition, an economic driver, and a gathering place that strengthens our community.

But the Paramount is just one part of the Aurora Civic Center Authority (ACCA), which also includes the Copley Theater, Stolp Island Theater, the School of the Arts, and RiverEdge Park. Together, these venues have helped revitalize our downtown for more than 15 years through the power of the performing arts—and the results speak for themselves:

- In 2024, more than 630,000 patrons attended over 700 performances and events across ACCA venues.
- 83% of those visitors came from outside Aurora, spending money at our local businesses while they were here.
- Based on a national study, arts patrons spend an average of \$38 per person beyond their ticket. That added up to \$23 million in extra spending in Aurora in 2024 alone.
- Since our Broadway Series began in 2011, downtown has welcomed more than 60 new businesses, restaurants, and residential properties, along with several exciting renovations.
- Our School of the Arts welcomed more than 1,300 students in 2024, helping grow the next generation of artists and performers.

It’s clear that ACCA’s impact reaches far beyond the stage. The arts continue to enrich our lives, support local businesses, and create a stronger, more vibrant community.

For more details on ACCA’s financial impact, visit www.paramountaurora.com/acca-financial-facts. To see what’s coming up next at the Paramount visit www.paramountaurora.com.

BECOME A CITY OF AURORA SNOW ANGEL

Do you enjoy helping others during the winter months? Sign up to be a Snow Angel volunteer and support seniors and disabled neighbors with snow removal during qualifying snow events.

As a Snow Angel, you’ll be assigned one or more nearby homes to shovel whenever there is a snowfall of two inches or more. You’ll provide your own shovel or snow blower and have up to 48 hours after the snow ends to clear the walks—though we encourage doing it as soon as possible to keep residents safe. You’ll always help the same assigned homes throughout the season, making it a true “neighbors helping neighbors” program.

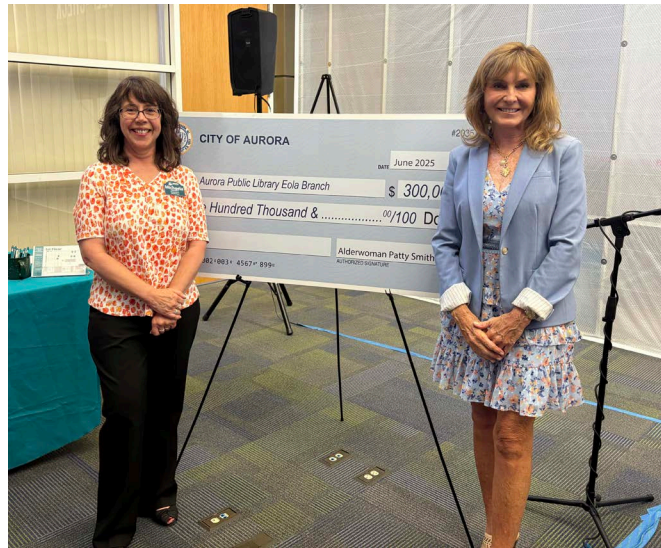
All communication and scheduling is done through the Better Impact app or browser.

To learn more or apply, visit:
aurora.il.us/City-Services/Senior-and-Disability-Resources/Operation-Senior-Shovel

PARKING RESTRICTIONS DURING SNOW EVENTS

As winter approaches, please remember the city’s parking rules during snow events. If there’s an accumulation of 2 or more inches,

parking on city streets is prohibited until cleared. Violators will be ticketed and towed. Due to potential off-street parking difficulties, residents may park on their front lawns or over sidewalks during or within 24 hours after a snowfall. However, parking on the parkway is not allowed. Also, please refrain from shoveling snow into the street, as it creates hazards for motorists and pedestrians.



CITY OF AURORA HOLIDAY SEASON LUMENAURA OUTDOOR LIGHT DISPLAY
10/10/2025 - 10/26/2025 Downtown Aurora
LUMENAURA FEST WEEKEND
10/10/2025 - 10/12/2025 Downtown Aurora

WINTER LIGHTS

- When: 6:00 p.m., Friday, November 21st, 2025, Parade steps-off at 6:30 p.m.
- Where: Downer Place, from Water Street to River Street, in downtown Aurora
- Parking: Free parking available in all public Downtown lots
- Tips: Be sure to arrive early, as streets will begin to close at 6:00 p.m. The tree lighting and fireworks display are best viewed from the East end of the Downer Place bridge.

As the City of Aurora’s official kick-off to the holiday season, this free family-friendly event will be filled with merry-making moments and a sleigh full of fun for the entire family.

Stepping off at 6:30 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will usher in the holiday season with an illuminated parade filled with reindeer, elves, special guests and other holiday favorites!

Following the Parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with Mayor Irvin will lead the crowd in a countdown to flip the magic switch and illuminate the City’s holiday tree!

After the tree lighting, the downtown Aurora sky will be brightened by a grand fireworks display along the banks of the Fox River, sponsored by the Chicago Premium Outlets!

After the fireworks, Stolp Avenue, between Downer Place and Galena Boulevard, will be filled with food vendors, roaming costumed characters, and musical entertainment at Millennium Plaza

CHRISTKINDLMARKET - AURORA AT RIVEREDGE PARK (360 N. BROADWAY)

- When: November 21st - December 24th
Open Thursdays - Saturdays
Thursdays: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sundays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Special Hours on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Special Hours from Monday (Dec. 16) through Wednesday (Dec. 18): 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Monday (Dec. 23): 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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.