

Aurora

From the Mayor's Office



Dec. 2017



2017 Election

Congratulations to Jim Vaca, Reva Barner, Kathi Grandillo and Amy McDougald who were all re-elected to City Council.



What is the Wee House?

The city was able to purchase a well maintained and charming historic property located at 487 N. Chillicothe Road in September. The house has long been known as the "Wee House" with a history stretching back to the 1800s. Although there are no immediate plans, this house and acreage are adjacent to the railroad right-of-way and would be a perfect trailhead at such time as the hike and bike trail is extended from Mantua.

Thank You!

Dear Neighbor,

Our mettle and our character were certainly put to the test this fall following the November 5th storm which devastated much of the city. Our residents, staff, businesses, neighbors and power crews rallied to help immediately, and I cannot thank everyone enough for their cooperation, assistance, good cheer and patience throughout the emergency. We were fortunate that no injuries were reported, and with a few exceptions limited structural damage was experienced. FirstEnergy mustered power crews from Missouri and Kentucky, among other locations, and Streetsboro Mayor Glenn Broska loaned his city's service crews and equipment to help with the cleanup. I send my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who assisted.

Many exciting projects are in various stages of completion in our great city, thanks to the support of Council and all of you. We have just finished the first set of sidewalks on S. Chillicothe, making a total of about 6,000 new feet of sidewalks in Aurora since I first became Mayor. We are working on easements to fill in the gaps

on S. Chillicothe and to install a sidewalk on Aurora Hudson to the schools. We have more to come in 2018!



Ann Womer Benjamin

For those of you who use Eldridge Road as a cut-through, you surely noticed that it was closed for much of the fall as an emergency culvert replacement

Aurora Awarded Auditor of State Award in October by Ohio State Auditor David Yost.

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was undertaken. Since nothing is ever easy, toward the end of the project a gas line was hit, resulting in fumes spreading as far as 43 and Pioneer. Fire and Service were on the scene, however, and confirmed there was no danger, and the line was quickly closed off and the project completed on November 22.

At year-end we are bidding several projects for the new year, including a Chatham culvert replacement to improve stormwater management and a water line replacement on Hurd Road. The latter will not be started until school is out next spring,

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however, so that school traffic will not be impacted. We also hope to install a traffic light at the Treat Road/43 intersection, which has seen increasing traffic in recent years, and to reconfigure the E. Pioneer/43 intersection to improve traffic flow.

Some personnel changes will take place in January, including a new Parks and Recreation Director, Laura Holman, subject to Council approval. Laura has most recently been the executive director of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and had previously been with Parks and Rec as events coordinator. She brings a wealth of managerial experience, commitment to the city, and enthusiasm to the position, and I am so pleased

she is joining the team.

I was greatly humbled to have earned your confidence to be re-elected this November, and I thank you for your trust. Every decision I make is made to serve you in the best way possible, strengthening our tax base through commercial and industrial growth, protecting our beautiful neighborhoods, wisely using tax dollars, and making city government accessible and accountable to you. I look forward to the next four years working with you to make Aurora even better.

Ann Womer Benjamin,
Mayor of Aurora

Continued Economic Growth Benefits Residents

A vibrant commercial/industrial sector is critical to our tax base and supplies about 80% of our tax revenue. Our city has continued to grow in 2017 as a result of over \$20 million in new residential construction, \$11 million in the industrial sector and \$5 million in the commercial sector. New businesses relocating to Aurora include Liberty Ford, which is relocating from Solon with an expected opening in spring 2018, bringing approximately 100 new jobs to Aurora. Other new retail/commercial business includes Tire Max, Dom-

ino's Pizza, Explore Family Chiropractic, and a renovated office complex in the former Mario's building on N. Chillicothe.

The industrial sector has also seen exciting growth. McMaster-Carr Supply Company, a private, family-owned supplier of maintenance materials, is currently building a warehouse and distribution facility on Route 43 at Lena Drive. Trelleborg, a global engineering group, is about to break ground for a new headquarters on Lena Drive, bringing 80-100 jobs

Sign Up for Reverse 911!

Following the November 5th storm, many residents received information on road closures and voting location changes via reverse 911 calls the city made. This is an emergency warning tool the city employs to make rapid emergency telephone notifications to residents and businesses in Aurora, but you have to sign up to get the calls. If you are interested in registering, please visit the Police Department web page at www.auroraoh.com or call City Hall at 330-995-8795 with any questions.

45 Years of Committed Service



Great things are continuing to happen in the Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Dave Barnes.

The Fire Department applied for and received a \$180,000 federal grant which was used to purchase new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), which includes the latest technology to keep our firefighters safe. The city also took delivery of a new 2017 Horton ambulance this year.

In celebration of 45 years of excellence in EMS service to Aurora, the Aurora Firefighters Association has minted a commemorative collectible coin featuring the newest 2017 rescue squad. The coins are available for purchase at Fire Station #1 to fund additional EMS equipment.

Many Exciting Things are Happening in Aurora

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our great community. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we invest in

our future. Please feel free to stop by or contact my office at City Hall at 330-995-9126 or mayor@auroraoh.com



The Aurora Inn held a grand re-opening in October.



Mayor and City Engineer Justin Czekaj brainstorm with The Crazy Rhinos Robotics team.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the 2017 Cleveland Home Builders Association Homearama in Aurora.



Aurora Truck Day featured a fly-in by the Metro Life Flight crew, pictured with Mayor.



Mayor and Ward 3 Council member Reva Barner pose with Officer Riley and canine officer Nero.



City Council President George Horvat, Finance Director Tim Clymer, State Auditor Dave Yost, Council Representative Jim Vaca, Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin and County Auditor Janet Esposito as Aurora is awarded the Auditor of State Award.

Message from Council

George Horvat, Council President

It has been a very productive year for Council and for Aurora. We are welcoming many new businesses and continuing to grow at a nice pace while maintaining our small town feel. Plans are in place and underway for a few engineering studies to be done. The connectivity projects will continue and are being planned for the new year and some of our traffic concerns will also be reviewed to see what can be done to alleviate some congested areas. Council and the Administration have a very nice working relationship, something I am very proud to have helped cultivate over the past four years.

Speaking of Council – we had 4 Council seats that were up for election this past November: Amy McDougald (At-Large) and Kathi Grandillo (Ward 5) ran unopposed while Jim Vaca (Ward 1) and Reva Barner (Ward 3) were opposed. All four incumbents will be returning for another four-year term and Council will be holding its organizational meeting after the New Year.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday and a very Happy New Year.



Aurora Awarded Auditor of State Award

Ohio State Auditor David Yost was at Aurora City Hall in October to present the city with the Auditor of State Award. The award recognizes Aurora for its recent clean audit report which is one of many the city has achieved in the last decade.

Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin and Finance Director Tim Clymer accepted the award. A group of employees and local officials, including Portage County Auditor Janet Esposito, were also on hand to greet the Auditor of State. To earn the award, Aurora filed timely financial reports and had no findings of deficiencies, questioned costs, or material citations, among other items.



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Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin
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Please call me at 330-995-9123,
or email me at mayor@auroraoh.com.
Thank you for working with us!

- Police/Fire Emergency** – 911
- City Hall** – 330-562-6131
- City Council** – 330-995-9125
- Mayor's Office** – 330-995-9126
- Parks & Recreation** – 330-562-4333
- Planning, Zoning & Building** – 330-562-9564
- Service** – 330-995-9116
- Water & Utilities** – 330-995-9109



Photo taken by Jeff Gerber

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to Aurora. Orazen Extruded
Polymers, a leader in extruded
polymer products for commer-
cial construction, relocated from
Ravenna to a building at 999 S.
Chillicothe Road. Natural Essen-
tials, a leading supplier of natu-
ral ingredients, has acquired the
Eaton Building at 115 Lena Drive,
and after a renovation, will bring
200 jobs to Aurora. Finally, Pip-
ping Rock, a vitamin and health
supplement supplier, is expected
to bring 350+ jobs over the next
5 years to Aurora.

City and Chamber Team Up for Fall Festival

This year the city and Cham-
ber of Commerce joined forces
to combine two of Aurora's
most popular events into
one wonderful day of family
fun. Aurora's Fall Festival and
Business Showcase was held
at Sunny Lake Park on Sat-
urday, October 7th. The city
provided hayrides around the
lake, bounce houses, fall crafts
and a visit by Jungle Terry
and Friends. The Chamber
showcased local businesses
and organizations under a
large tent, offering informa-
tion, giveaways, and a trick-or-
treat opportunity for all who
stopped by.