

Summer Banner!

ONE OF CLEVELAND MAGAZINE'S TOP 20 SUBURBS!

Summer 2016

Thank You!

Dear Neighbor,

I truly appreciate your overwhelming support for the Road and Bridge Levy Renewal which was on the ballot this spring. That levy generates about \$500,000 per year which goes toward our paving program. For 2016 we budgeted \$1.3 million for paving – obviously using levy money as well as general fund money. To better prioritize our road paving, we had an outside company rate the pavement quality on all of our roads this year, and paving in addition to the ODOT projects on 82 and 43 should begin later in the summer. These infrastructure projects are important for safety, appearance, and commerce.

The city is also benefiting this year from state paving projects on Routes 82 and 43 totaling about \$1.7 million. The city's contribution to these projects is \$352,000, an investment with a great return. Aurora has been waiting for ODOT to do these projects for about seven years, which is the typical length of time for a project to be evaluated and put in the queue when a city submits an ODOT funding request. And though I know that the road closings and detours have been painful, the end product should be worth the momentary inconvenience!



Ann Womer Benjamin
Mayor of Aurora

There is a new park in town!

On June 9, 2016, the City of Aurora and the Aurora Historical Society dedicated the new Pioneer Park and the circa 1805 Deed House to showcase Aurora's rich Western Reserve history and provide a beautiful oasis in the Town Center. The event culminated two years of work and collaboration during which the Deed House was moved from its Spring Hill Farm location and renovated by the city and the Historical Society. I want to thank Historical Society president John Kudley and his members for this unprecedented partnership, and the many city workers, volunteers and organizations participating in this exciting project.

Help Keep Aurora Beautiful...PLEASE DON'T LITTER

Aurora is a beautiful community and we are working hard to keep it that way. Many homeowners associations and neighborhood groups work to together each spring to clean up their developments. This spring, over the Earth Day weekend, the city was happy to help Aurora Shores clean up Aurora Lake and we hauled away many tires and other debris residents collected.

The following chart shows the very harmful and perhaps surprising long-term effects of littering. As part of our unending beautification efforts the city will be adding more anti-littering signage and trash and recycling receptacles around town.

Object	Decomposition Time
Styrofoam container	> 1 million years
Plastic jug	1 million years
Disposable diaper	550 years
Aluminum can	200-500 years
Tin can	90 years
Leather shoe	45 years
Cardboard	5-7 years
Cigarette butt	1-5 years
Candy wrapper	1-3 months
Paper bag	1 month
Banana peel	3-4 weeks

Together we can make a difference and...Keep Aurora Beautiful.

Water, water, water

The contractor installing the new water line on Shawnee Trail has finished connecting water line laterals to your homes, and paving may be completed in that neighborhood by the time you receive this newsletter. Meanwhile, a new water line installation has begun on Harmon Road as well. I know it is challenging having your road all dug up for any length of time, but because these projects are being done in the spring and summer, the disarray should not last as long as it did when my street was done six or seven years ago. That project was started in the fall and because it could not be completed during the winter months, the mud and mess seemed to last forever! Ultimately these new water lines are replacing old ones from 1925 and will help insure the quality of your drinking water for decades. Other such projects are slated for the next several years to replace this critical infrastructure.

Speaking of water, fairly new EPA regulations require every drinking water system to have a **backflow prevention program**. This is to protect the public water supply from being contaminated by a user's own plumbing system. In particular, residents with lawn irrigation systems need to have backflow prevention devices which must be inspected annually. The EPA requires the city to submit a report to the EPA regarding these regular inspections. To comply with this reporting, the city has contracted with Backflow Solutions Inc. to manage this inspection program. Residents can select their plumber or inspector of choice to do the inspection.

Connectivity Continues

The city's first major effort to improve connectivity took place last year when more than 2000 feet of sidewalks were installed on the north side of West Garfield Road between Route 43 and Bissell Road. In late April of this year, a new 875-foot long sidewalk on East Pioneer Trail which runs from Aurora Memorial Library to Willard Road was installed. And, the city's efforts continue in 2016 as about 3,050 additional feet are planned along portions of South Chillicothe Road, from Town Center to Aurora-Hudson Road, from Aurora-Hudson to Aurora Farms, and from Chatham to the Farms. Sidewalks are a welcoming feature, allowing people to safely reach places in town without driving and encouraging exercise and community connectivity.

The city also started a new sidewalk repair program which assists homeowners with both sidewalk repair and rehabilitation. City Council has set aside \$50,000 for the program and will pay up to 50 percent of the property owners' cost for repairs. After review of the 43 applications received, the sidewalk improvements will be publicly bid with the work expected to be done later this summer.

Hartman Plans Move Forward

Hartman Farm, the beautiful property on Townline Road, is in the process of becoming a park and recreation center. The recommendation made by Aurora's Ad Hoc Recreation Committee for the city to construct an outdoor recreation complex at Hartman is in the design stages. In May, the city hired GPD Group to provide civil engineering and design services for the athletic field portion of the project and construction should take place later this year. The project, which is being done in stages, will include four new ballfields; five multi-purpose fields for soccer, lacrosse and football; a cross-country course; a tree arboretum; hiking trails; and supportive facilities.

Aurora Transportation Program Underway: Call 330.995.8795

Aurora recently launched a new program designed to provide transportation for Aurora seniors who are at least 65 years of age and adults with disabilities. Transportation is available for medical appointments (except following a surgical procedure), routine errands, and senior events at the Walker Building.

Travel to medical appointments may be to locations within a 20 mile radius and including Hillcrest Hospital and University Suburban Health Center. Travel for routine errands and other events may be to locations within a 10 mile radius.

Transportation is available Monday through Friday with pick-up times from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except for designated city holidays on which the office is closed. There is no charge for locations within Aurora, a \$5.00 fee each way for distances of 10 miles or fewer, and an \$8.00 fee each way for distances greater than 10 miles.



Message from Council

(Written by Kathi Grandillo)

School is out and the weather has been beautiful, for the most part, so I thought we'd give you some updates from Council on what's been happening in the city the past few months as well as what we all have to look forward to for the summer months.

Council has updated its committee structure to allow Council to function in a more cohesive and progressive manner. Our Committee of the Whole meetings have been a great tool to keep all Council informed and on the same page as far as what is happening in the city. We'd love to have you join us for a meeting, the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at City Hall. All are welcome!

As I'm sure you have noticed, the city has continued with the sidewalk project and it is so nice to drive along Route 82 and see people taking advantage of the sidewalk there. Council has supported a budget which includes the next phase of the project which is underway. The sidewalks are all part of a large

connectivity project that has been part of the city's Master Plan for the past few years. And speaking of the Master Plan, a new Master Plan process is expected to start sometime later this year or early in 2017, so keep your eyes on the city's website, www.auroraoh.com, or the Aurora Advocate for updates and notices.

Enjoy the summer events that are available to all of us as residents of Aurora. Check out the latest Parks & Rec brochure or visit the website to see a calendar of events, including several concerts at the gazebo by Veterans Memorial Park.

Remember, Council is here to represent you, the citizens of Aurora, so please do not hesitate to contact your Ward representative or one of the three At-Large Council members if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. Donna Hawks, the Council Clerk, can put you in touch with your Ward Councilperson, and she can be reached at hawksd@auroraoh.com or 330-995-9125.

Aurora City Council



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Coming Up....

The city is working with the Ohio Treasurer's office to participate in Ohio's Online Checkbook. Aurora Finance Director Tim Clymer expects the Aurora program to launch this summer.

Later this year there will be a **renewal** of the 1.5 mill Fire/Paramedic Levy on the ballot. As a renewal this is **NOT** a tax increase and will generate about \$600,000 each year to help pay for needed equipment and personnel in the Fire Department. They provide incredible service to our community.

My office is open!

Thank you for your comments, thoughts and ideas.

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

Together, let's keep Aurora moving in the right direction!



Congressman Dave Joyce visits Aurora Farms Premium Outlets with General Manager Lisa Kusner-Hovanec and Mayor.



Mayor speaks to students at Harmon Middle School's Mock Congress program.



Jim Kraus, Dick Fetzer, Kathlyn Brown, John Kudley, Mayor and Council President George Horvat cut the ribbon at the Deed House and Pioneer Park dedication.



Mayor throws out the first pitch of ABL's 2016 season.



Mayor joins Ian Doemling, Kavya Kosana, Kameron Fry, Tyler Thieding and Barbara Ptackova of AHS's international champion Robotics Team TBD.