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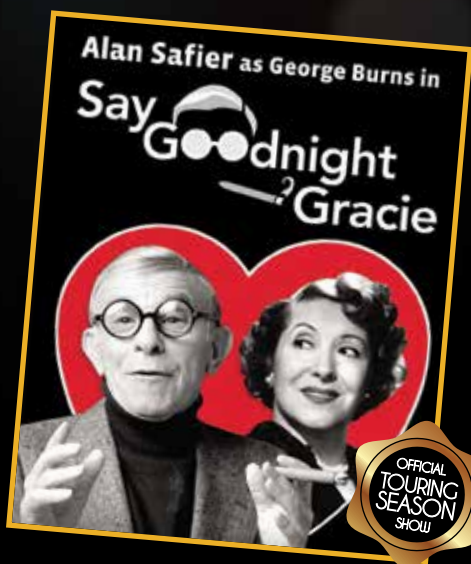


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3. **Write** – Have a community story idea? Please contact us. We would like to hear your ideas. And you can contribute online at neighborsofnorthaurora.com
4. **Save** – With all the resource information in each issue, you just might want to save your copy for future reference.
5. **Shop** – Please take a look at the local businesses advertising here. They make this magazine possible.
6. **Learn** – Chances are, you will learn something new about North Aurora in every issue.
7. **Participate** – There are many programs and upcoming events in and around North Aurora. We hope you find something for you and your family in every issue.
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9. **Critique** – Of course, we want to hear that you love your new community magazine. If you don't, tell us why.
10. **Recycle** – Neighbors reduces paper usage in two ways: it is a smaller page size, and it delivers all community news in one package, so others don't have to print as much. When you finally decide it's time to for it to go, recycle, so the paper can be used again.

How to contact us.

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NeighborsTM
Magazines

Publisher's Letter

North Aurora, a shining example of a "blended" community

It is my great pleasure to give you "*Neighbors of North Aurora Magazine*." Through the support of North Aurora organizations and local businesses, we will be delivering this content-rich publication to your mailbox every other month, **FREE**. Each issue will be packed with timely and useful news and information from the village, schools, fire and police, library, park district, clubs and organizations. There will be features of the people in North Aurora. We'll cover lifestyle, health, arts and entertainment. There will be a two-month community calendar in every issue. And you'll meet many of the great local businesses who are here to serve you when you need them.

Community is an amazing phenomenon. It isn't until you see it all together, that you begin to understand just how amazing it really is. North Aurora is no exception. As much as the many organizations of this community work independent of each other, they each play a role in contributing to the community as a whole. In this regard they blend together to create "*North Aurora*," a community like no other.

Of course, community starts with YOU. Each and every one of you plays some role, small or large, in defining this community of North Aurora. You may be a mother raising young responsible citizens; a teacher providing education; a fireman or policeman protecting us; a local business person bringing us goods and services; a clergyman to guide us; a doctor to heal us; a librarian to enrich us; a park employee keeping open spaces ready for us to enjoy; a caregiver helping those less fortunate in our community, or a village employee keeping the streets clean, and the snow plowed; you may be a good neighbor who watches out for others; or someone who just enjoys dining and shopping locally.

What is so incredibly amazing is how all the pieces ultimately blends together to form one community. On these pages, then, we bring you "*North Aurora*."

This publication is made possible by local business advertising. Your support is critical to their survival and success. We hope you will take an extra moment to look over the "ads." They depend on your support. And North Aurora depends on their success.

Sincerely,
Tim Sullivan
Publisher

***PS. Don't forget to visit neighborsofnorthaurora.com.
And please "Like" us on Facebook.***



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About the cover:

The fox sculpture on the bridge crossing the Fox River on Route 56 is a fitting introduction to the first issue of Neighbors of North Aurora magazine. This is a special community with many hidden treasures that make North Aurora a great place to live, work, and play. But what is it that makes this community tick? Find out what your community leaders have to say in our first feature story starting on page 6. Photo by Tim Sullivan.

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A photograph of a winter scene. In the foreground, there is a large, dark tree trunk on the left. The ground is covered in snow. In the background, there is a bridge with a single arch, and more trees without leaves. The sky is a pale blue.

What Makes North Aurora Tick?

By Shirley Mott



Village President Dale Berman

So, what does make North Aurora tick? We turned to community leaders from the village, fire district, schools, library, parks and the police department for the answer. From their responses, North Aurora's slogan, "A Village with a View to the Future," not only makes sense, it is a theme that runs through this village as clearly as the Fox River itself. There is always one oar in the water, so to speak, as this village works together, and keeps moving forward, to build a better future.

"Our ability to plan, and then work the plan, has kept North Aurora financially strong, even as we grew exponentially," says Village President Dale Berman.

Having moved to North Aurora in 1962, Berman has seen the population zoom from around 1,500 to approximately 17,000 currently. The 1980 census listed North Aurora's population at 5,240. Ten years later, 5,940 people called North Aurora home, a figure that ballooned to 10,585 in 2000 and hit 16,760 in the 2010 Census.

Berman explained that without a well thought-out mix of commercial, retail and residential, growth at that rate would result in a major tax burden on the residents. Location is a major reason North Aurora grew so fast.

Location, Location, Location

The Village lies along the integral east-west I-88 corridor, making it desirable for commercial development. Although he hasn't been involved with North Aurora nearly as long as Berman, the new village administrator, Steven Bosco, is impressed with what the Village has to offer.

"Our proximity to I-88 allows us to attract all types of commercial development," says Bosco. "We have a mix of commercial development areas that would be attractive to any type of business. If you're a business, you can fit somewhere in town."

One example of recent commercial growth is the North Aurora Town Center, which lies just north of I-88 between Randall and Orchard Roads. With a number of national retailers, including Target, J.C. Penney and Best Buy, this growing shopping center not only serves North Aurorans, but also attracts shoppers from nearby Aurora and Batavia and beyond.

Within the same general area, Woodman's Markets is a draw for grocery shoppers, while the North Aurora Auto Mall serves as the largest auto shopping center in the Fox Valley.

Recently, the Village annexed an area in Batavia Township on either side of Orchard Road. This land carries a flex zoning designation, which gives a potential developer more options to consider without necessitating a zoning change. The Village hopes this will attract lucrative development offers.

Berman also says that although the Village's commercial development along the Randall Road corridor lags behind its neighbors to the north, it is filling in. He says the commercial growth is because the Village is "easy to deal with" from the standpoint of looking at new business.

He cited the recent groundbreaking on a 600,000 square foot. light-industrial facility off Orchard Gateway Boulevard as one example.

Once completed, a second facility will offer 400,000 square feet. Bosco added that the financial stability of the Village is a draw.

"Our reserves are very strong," explains Bosco. "The board (Board of Trustees) has done a fine job over the years, as has our finance director, of making sure our budget has always been on point."

"If you compare us to other communities in the area, we're much better off financially than they are," adds Berman.

Berman also complimented the staff, calling them "fantastic." "They are an integral part of our success in developing a sound strategic plan and carrying it out."



David Summer, Police Chief

Room to Grow

Part of the strategic plan previously referenced was the building of a new home for the police department. Prior to its completion on South Lincolnway in 2010, the 28 members of the North Aurora Police Department worked out of the Village Hall at 25 E. State St.

Police Chief David Summer says the building was designed "to be our last spot," with future growth of North Aurora taken into consideration. Chief Summer spent many years in the North Aurora Police Department, beginning his career as a patrol officer in 1986.

He is no stranger to the inner workings of the government either as he worked double-duty as the police chief and as the village administrator for nearly a year prior to the hiring of Bosco. Although a challenge at the time, he sees it as a long-term benefit.

"I saw the bigger picture," says Summer. "I realize that although the Police Department is a large part of the fiscal budget, it isn't the whole thing and we all need to work together."

It turns out that working together is a part of the department's mission. They are developing ways to become more community focused. Within the past several years, the department initiated the Police and Citizens Together (PACT) program to improve the communication between the police department and those they serve.

"PACT holds officers accountable for the relationship with the public in their (assigned) PACT area," Summer explains. "If there is a problem, we're here to help, not make things more difficult."

The PACT officer helps citizens to be proactive rather than reactive against crime by educating and building on the Neighborhood Watch programs. Additionally, an Honor Guard created in 2011 also helps fulfill the department's core values: worthy of trust, respect others, community focused, and always improving. Most recently, the Honor Guard participated in Veterans Day activities and the opening ceremonies for the Vietnam Moving Wall.

Technology Updates

Ask Kevin Davis, administrator of the Messenger Public Library, what makes North Aurora tick and he'll quickly point out that the library serves as a hub of many activities. The North Aurora Lions Club and a garden club are two of the many organizations who hold meetings in the Library's three meeting spaces.

"The library continues to grow because our patrons appreciate the service we provide," notes Davis. "They can check out materials, utilize our meeting rooms, and participate in programs, use computers and much more.

"They get a good value for what they pay in property taxes."



*Kevin Davis, Administrator of the
Messenger Public Library*

Much like the other taxing bodies in North Aurora, Messenger Library is not content to maintain the current level of service. They, too, have a view to the future.

The library board is actively working to create a long-range comprehensive plan based on the results of an independent study. In September, three focus groups (staff, Board of Trustees, and a diverse group representing the community) identified areas the library could improve. The board is now working on a plan that incorporates the suggestions.

Already the library is working on revamping the website to make it more “user friendly” on mobile devices, as well as on a computer. Because of the increased popularity of e-books, Messenger Library joined a grant project, eRead Illinois, which will provide a secondary platform for e-books that patrons can download.

Besides keeping up with technology changes, the board is also working on making improvements to the interior space in the library and completing preventative maintenance work on the exterior; all without the need for a referendum. According to Davis, being fiscally responsible is one of their priorities.

“The board has been putting aside money for improvements,” says Davis. “We work hard to live within the tax dollars we receive.”

Three School Districts

As with any town, for North Aurorans with children, the quality of the schools their children attend is of utmost importance. In North Aurora, three different districts serve the community, Batavia #101, Kaneland #302, and West Aurora #129. By far, the majority attend West Aurora schools, which is covered in this article.

North Aurora students attend Fearn, Goodwin, and Schneider Elementary Schools, Herget and Jewel Middle Schools, and West Aurora High School. According to Mike Chapin, community relations director for District #129, North Aurora students account for about 20% of the entire student population.

He also said that exciting new academic initiatives are on the horizon. With their own view to the future, the school district is participating in a program along with Waubensee Community College, the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce and the City of Aurora. “Pathways to Prosperity” is an initiative that will educate students; preparing them to fill the science-, technology-, engineering-, and math- (STEM) related jobs that area businesses struggle to fill locally.

“During a week-long session with area businesses, we found out that the employers couldn’t find STEM-related workers with business acumen,” explains Chapin. “We are working with Waubensee to develop a curriculum that will launch in the fall (2014) to help fill this void.”

Computer science courses in the high school will be added as dual-credit classes. Chapin said that in the future, a student in the West Aurora School District could possibly graduate with an IT associates degree if they follow the IT pathway. Others will likely earn industry certifications that will make them job-ready when they graduate from high school. Eventually, the IT pathway will be available to students beginning in the sixth grade.



*Mike Chapin, Community Relations
Director*

Developing pathways in health sciences and advanced manufacturing (robotics) will follow. With all pathways, the goal is to have the business community involved every step of the way. Learning tasks are to be based on real-world business applications.

"In sixth grade, students may receive an orientation program by a business, such as a visit to Cabot Labs," explains Chapin. "At upper levels, we may even see internships being offered to the pathway students."

Also of interest to North Aurora parents is the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School on the Aurora University campus. This school will serve students in the third through eighth grades in the Aurora East, Aurora West, Indian Prairie and Oswego school districts. They, too, are aiming for a fall 2014 start.



Jeff Long, Public Relations Manager

The Fox River Runs Through It

Ask many community leaders, and they'll say that the Fox River is an integral piece of the fabric of the community. With picturesque parks and the Fox River Trail, it is an asset, not an obstacle. In North Aurora, all views to the future likely include the Fox River.

"We recognize that the Fox River is one of the most beautiful things we have in the community," says Village President Dale Berman. "We want to utilize it better."

North Aurora was originally known as Schneider's Crossing. A mill built on the east bank of the Fox River in 1837 by German immigrant John Peter Schneider is the foundation of North Aurora. A commercial success, the mill attracted more people to the area. By the turn of the century, about 300 people lived in the town.

Perhaps the river is no more important among the various taxing bodies serving North Aurora than to the Fox Valley Park District. Originally founded in 1947 to protect the land along the river, there are currently 22 miles of Fox Valley shoreline (including islands) under the jurisdiction of the Fox Valley Park District.

North Aurora is home to two of the district's top outdoor educational venues: Lippold Park and Red Oak Nature Center, both lying along the east bank of the Fox River.

During 2013, Phase II improvements were completed in the 30-plus acres of Lippold, including the construction of a shelter-styled "tree house" structure. It is set amid an amphitheater setting with interpretive displays and observation areas. According to Jeff Long, public relations manager for the district, Lippold is "an environmental gem for all who experience it."

Red Oak Nature Center adds another 40 acres of parkland to North Aurora and is just south of Lippold. The popular wildlife room and other parts of the center are currently undergoing modernization. Red Oak is also home to Devil's Cave, a popular spot for exploration and is rich in folklore.

According to Long, the improvements to these nature areas follow a recent trend, which is to integrate an appreciation for nature while having fun.

"We are building many new trails shorter and suitable for moms with strollers," says Long.

Although the Village doesn't have its own park district, Village officials don't see that as a negative.



Steve Miller, Fire Chief

"We have a good working relationship with the fire, school and park districts," says Berman. "By being part of the Fox Valley Park District, residents have access to the facilities and programs of the second largest park district in Illinois."

New Fire Station in the Future?

The North Aurora Fire Protection District has also seen its share of changes as the community grew. Like their counterparts in the other taxing bodies, they have their own view for the future – one that may eventually mean a new fire station.

When Station #1 was built on the corner of State and Monroe Streets in 1963, volunteers manned the district. Fire Chief Steve Miller became the first fulltime employee in 1993. Now, the district has grown to 26 fulltime firefighters and paramedics, and 18 who work part time. Miller points out that besides the aging infrastructure, the station was never built for people to live in.

"It may be time to begin discussions about this station with the Village," says Miller. "It could be that this land is more valuable to the Village for other uses, in which case we could build a new station on the site of the Southern Kane County Training Association on Butterfield Road."

What comes of this idea is anyone's guess now. Chief Miller is on record that he is retiring at the end of his current contract, which ends in 2015. A new station may be his goal, but it may not come to fruition prior to his retirement.

The rapid community growth necessitated an additional station, which was built in 2007. Station #2 was located on Tanner Road to improve response time to citizens living in the western portion of the fire district. Because of its location, it currently provides a lot of mutual aid to Sugar Grove and western Batavia.

Like other community servants interviewed, the North Aurora Firefighters Association gives back to the community in many ways. Throughout the year, they contribute to various community organizations, raising much of the money at their annual turkey raffle held the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Poised for the Future

No matter which taxing body interviewed, they were all positive about North Aurora's future. No doubt, they are all planning: TIF Districts, comprehensive plans, strategic plans, river plans, pathways; all have something going on.

"We're poised for growth and we're actively seeking businesses," summed Berman. "We may not make a big splash with a large economic development department, but the developers know we're interested in talking with anyone."

Village of North Aurora

Winter Reminders...

Garbage pick up, Christmas trees, snow removal and mailboxes

Garbage Pick Up: Due to the Christmas holiday, garbage pickup will take place on Saturday, Dec. 28 (one day later). Due to the New Year's Day holiday, garbage pickup will be on Saturday, Jan. 4. Please note that there will be no delay with garbage pickup due to Martin Luther King Day on Monday, Jan. 20.

Christmas Trees: Christmas trees will be collected free of charge through the last pick-up in January (Friday, Jan. 31). Christmas trees must be free of all decorations and cannot be in plastic bags. After the last pick-up in January, Christmas trees will require one (1) refuse

sticker visibly affixed for trash collection.

Snow Removal: The priority process of plowing streets is based on street usage and levels of traffic. Please note that cul-de-sacs, alleys and dead-ends will be plowed last. Residents are reminded that they may not dump, shovel or blow snow into the roadway. Residents should also be aware of Village Ordinances and fines of up to \$750 for any violations pertaining to snow removal and parking during and after 2 inches of snowfall.

Mailboxes: Please be sure your mailbox is secure enough to sustain the pressure of snow

coming off the snowplow prior to our upcoming winter season. If a snowplow hits a mailbox during snow removal, the mailbox will be replaced at the Village's expense. The Village is not responsible for damage from snow coming off the plow.

All replacement mailboxes will be a standard metal box and a treated 4" x 4" post. If a resident prefers a decorative or different mailbox, the additional cost will be the responsibility of the homeowner. Keep in mind that the installation of mailboxes and supporting structures should be no closer than 9" to 12" from the edge of the street pavement or curb.



If you own a recreational vehicle or trailer, read this

There have been recent changes to North Aurora's Code of Ordinances regarding the storage of trailers and recreational vehicles on residential properties. If you own a recreational vehicle or trailer, including boats, rafts, campers, motor homes, pickup coaches, snowmobiles, jet skis, or other types of utility trailers, you will want to familiarize yourself with these recent changes.

It is important to note that a utility trailer may also include trailers not intended solely for recreational purposes, but also trailers used for

commercial purposes. Recreational vehicles and trailers can only be parked on a residential driveway during the following periods: Friday 12pm to Monday 12pm and only during Apr. 15-30 and Oct. 1-15.

According to the Village Code, recreational vehicles and trailers may only be stored on residential properties if they are located within a fully-enclosed permanent structure or are completely screened from view by a solid wood fence or masonry screen wall at least six feet in height. Only one recreational vehicle or trailer

may be permanently stored on a residential property and it must be parked or stored on a hard surface. A recreational vehicle or trailer parked over a public sidewalk or in the street is prohibited.

Please be sure to observe these important changes to the Village Code as you plan for your vehicle/trailer storage needs. By observing these codes, you help us create a safer environment and community for our residents and neighbors. For questions or concerns, contact the Community Development Department at 630-897-1457.

Police Academy begins in February

The North Aurora Police Department, as part of its community oriented policing program, is offering the Citizens Police Academy beginning in February 2014. After completing the course, citizens will have a better understanding of what police officers do, the challenges of the work and how they can partner with police to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Classes will be held on Thursday nights from 6:30–8:30pm, beginning Feb. 20, 2014, and will go for approximately 10 weeks. Participants must be 18 years of age and live in the Village of North Aurora.

Pick up applications at the North Aurora Police Department from 7am–10pm. More information about the program and an application are available on the Village of North Aurora website at vil.north-aurora.il.us/forms.aspx. Direct any questions concerning the Citizens Police Academy program to Officer Robyn Stecklein at 630-897-8705, ext. 716 or rstecklein@vil.north-aurora.il.us.

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North Aurora Fire Department



NORTH AURORA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Station #1

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Assistant Chief

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Fire Marshall

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Administrative Assistant

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Welcome!

Congratulations to North Aurora on the inaugural edition of Neighbors magazine. I want to welcome you to the North Aurora Fire Protection District's section of the magazine and hope you will find the information we present to be both informational and educational. It is our hope that each edition will spotlight some of the services and programs that we offer, as well as highlight activities that are happening in the community. I would also suggest that you visit our website at nafd.org to get a better perspective on who we are and what we do. Both the magazine and the website will offer contact information and a calendar of events, as well as pertinent district information. From all of us to all of you, we are wishing you a happy and safe holiday season.

The North Aurora Firefighters Association is the philanthropic division of the fire department. It is comprised of all the firefighters and governed by a five-member board consisting of a President, Vice



President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Board Trustee.

Throughout the year, the North Aurora Firefighters Association contributes to several community organizations. These include the North Aurora Lions Club, the North Aurora Mothers Club, School PTA/PTOs and the North Aurora Baseball Association. Additional money is given to the community through support of Operation Christmas, three \$1,000 scholarships toward the first year of college tuition, our Public Education Program and numerous charitable events and causes. Lastly, a number of contributions are made to community events such as the Pet Parade, the North Aurora Community Parade and North Aurora Days.

The Association's main fundraiser is the annual Turkey Raffle held the weekend before Thanksgiving. The success of the Turkey Raffle continues to increase as community participation grows. The Association also hosts an annual golf outing to raise funds. The 2014 golf outing will be our 15th annual.

As well as assisting the community, the Association provides funding for the wellness of firefighters through the purchase of workout equipment, training equipment and specialty equipment.

The North Aurora Fire Department prides itself in reaching out to the community through Public Education. Throughout the year, the firefighters offer/participate in many events to create awareness and promote education.

Sincerely,
Fire Chief Steve Miller

North Aurora Police Department

New Mass Notification System

The North Aurora Police Department is implementing a new mass notification system to replace the old Reverse 911 system.

The police department has been using Nixle Connect, a free service that uses emails and text messages to deliver messages. The new system, which is called Nixle 360, includes the existing database of subscribers and adds voice calling. All Village departments will use this system.

Testing of the new system is ongoing. The department will notify all subscribers that the system is operational once testing is completed. In the meantime, additional test calls, emails, or text messages may be sent.

The department thanks North Aurorans for your understanding as they work to serve its constituents better with improved emergency warning capabilities.

Police Department

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North Aurora, IL 60542
Non-emergency phone 630-897-8705
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Herget School Offers Paper Recycling Site to Community

Don't throw out those holiday card envelopes just yet. Instead, gather up all your paper that is ready to be discarded and head to Herget Middle School at 1550 Deerpath Rd., Aurora.

Herget is raising funds for school programs by providing a community paper-recycling site. Community members can drop off newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogs, office and school papers and mail at the green-and-yellow paper recycling bin in the school parking lot just to the north of the building (near the football field).

The school is working with a recycling company that compensates the school based on the weight of the paper it collects from the bin. The program also teaches students about environmental stewardship. Through the recycling of paper, the school helps reduce landfill use, saves water and energy.

The Herget recycling bin only takes paper. It does not accept plastic, metal, glass or trash. So please add recycling to your errand route and bring your paper by once a week – help Herget students and the environment.

For more information, log on to PaperRetriever.com or contact Herget teacher Julie Medeles at 630-301-5750 or jmedeles@sd129.org.

63 West Aurora High School Students Named State Scholars

Sixty-three West Aurora High School students have earned 2014-15 State Scholar recognition from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

The State Scholar Program recognizes Illinois high school students for outstanding academic achievement. Approximately the top 10 percent of Illinois high school graduates become State Scholars each year. Selection is based on SAT and ACT test scores and the student's class rank at the end of the junior year.

West Aurora's State Scholars are:

Michael Abbate, Christopher Abell, Miranda Aldrich, Martin Avila, Margaret Bailey, Samantha Bennett, Kristen Butler, Matthew Carder, June Castro, Katherine Cheng, Kamolchanok Cheung, Grace Currie, Alyssa Debolt, Jacob Dewar, Rebecca Flynn, Zachary Flynn, Randy Golembeck, Anne Johansen, Emily Kay, Max Kim, Sarah Knauf, Abigail Kott, Samuel Kott, Laura Kovanic, Emily Krasinski, Brandon La, Sabrina Leal, Donnie Lemley, Dana Lingel, Erin Lisac, Alexandra Martinez, Michael Mascetti, Joshua Morano, Ryan Newendyke, Jessica Nguyen, Kerri Olson, Dylan Oncken, Madeline Patrick, Natalie Pavlik, Matthew Pilmer, Arvinto Pratomio, Samara Renovato, Ariana Rodriguez, Reid Roos, Alicia Rotolo, Stephen Ryder, Theresa Santos, Hiba Shahid, Tyler Shliff, Tyler Simpson, Jessica Smith, Lisa Stone, Jessica Strunk, Shannon Sullivan, Erik Torres, Kendra Triplett, Matthew Urness, David Vanmaldegiam, Kimiya Vatani, Brianne Whipple, Caitlin Wisniowicz, Miles Woods and Abriya Zeitz.

Don't forget to visit
neighborsofnorthaurora.com.

And please "Like" us on Facebook.



The combined bands from Jewel and Herget middle schools perform in a holiday concert recently at West Aurora High School.



Fearn's Environmental Club Makes Ornaments for the Animals

On December 7, about 75 Fearn Environmental Club fifth grade students and their families created nature friendly ornaments at Red Oaks Nature Center. They then hung their ornaments on trees in North Aurora Park for the Village's Evergreen Holidays presented by the North Aurora River District Alliance.

Emergency closing information

With winter's unpredictable weather, the best defense is to be prepared. Here is how the district will communicate with parents and staff if schools are closed due to inclement weather.

By telephone:

If you have a current phone number on file at the school, our system will automatically call you as soon as the decision is made by the superintendent's office early in the morning. If a parent does not receive a school-closing call, it is because the phone number is not listed properly in the database. The parent would need to contact the school office on the next valid school day to update the files.

By e-mail:

Dist. 129 also will notify parents and staff of school closings via e-mail and text. Those following "SD129" on Twitter will receive a text message.

On the Web:

Check the district website at sd129.org or emergencyclosingcenter.com for updates as well.

Local media:

For emergency closing information, please listen or watch local radio stations WBIG 1280 AM, WKKD 580 or 95.5 FM, WSPY 107.1 FM, WFXW 1480 AM, WGN TV Channel 9 or 720 AM, WMAQ 670, WBBM 780, FOX TV Channel 32 News, and CBS TV Channel 2.

News and Notes from the Administrator

The Library Board's Fiscal Year 2013 audit with Sikich LLP went smoothly. The Board is pleased to report that the Library's financial health is excellent with a positive Audit outcome.

Two facility enhancement projects are underway. In September, the Library Board approved bid solicitations for some exterior maintenance work on the building. The work includes maintenance on the exterior EIFS/stucco panels and refurbishment of the cedar siding.

After ten years of Chicago area weather, both are in need of some preventive maintenance. Cedar siding will be re-stained and some of the white EIFS/stucco panels on the east and north sides of the building will be replaced. The estimated cost for this project is \$56,500.

Additionally, in November the Board began to review options to renovate the Youth Services area of the Library. As presented in the May Master Facility Plan proposals, there is a need to expand the Youth Services Program Room, to provide additional off-desk workspace for staff, and to relocate/expand the Youth Public Services desk. Probable and preliminary cost estimate for this project is \$399,750.

The money to finance these two projects will come from the Library's Special Reserve Fund and from a recent donation from the Estate of Barbara Messenger Tinker Family to the Messenger Library Foundation Fund.

Focus Groups Fall: The Library Board conducted three focus groups this past fall in preparation for the formulation of strategic objectives and goals for a revised Long Range Plan (2014–2016). Facilitated by an outside consultant, the groups included not only the Library Board and staff, but also a group of North Aurora residents and taxpayers.

Each group listed the library's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The results?

- Strengths include a well-maintained and nice looking facility, a dedicated and helpful staff and a supportive Board of Trustees and administration.
- Areas of improvement (weaknesses) include the need for more parking, a larger e-book collection, the retention of quality staff, the improvement of staff workspaces, the marketing of the library and improved access to the exterior book drop.
- Opportunities include collaborating with the schools, businesses and organizations; evaluating new technologies to enhance services, implementing radio frequency identification (RFID) to improve library material handling efficiencies for both patrons and staff and the recruitment of residents to run for the Library Board in 2015.
- Threats include maintaining adequate library funding, keeping up with technology and making the corresponding changes in services.

Based on these results, the Board will work on the planning document this winter.

Finally, the Library Board of Trustees wishes to thank all of our residents for their continued support of the library and for their ongoing feedback on our programs, services and collections. As I begin my seventh year as administrator for the library, I especially want to thank you for your support of our work.

Library Hours

Monday–Thursday 9am–9pm
Friday– Saturday 9am–5pm
Sundays (September to May) 1– 5pm

Telephone

630-896-0240 – Main
630-801-2345 – Administration – G. Kevin Davis
630-896-0240, Ext 3 – Adult Services / Programs and Reference Services / Interlibrary Loan Services
630-896-0240, Ext 2321 – Administrative Assistant Office/ Meeting Room Reservations – Judith Jarvis
630-896-0240 – Circulation Services / Library Card Accounts
630-801-2347 – Youth Service / Program and Reference Services

Library Director

G. Kevin Davis

Library Trustees

Marguerite Treest, *President*
Shannon Rapp, *Vice-President*
William Middleton, *Secretary*
Tanya Berley, *Treasurer*
Dominick Leo, *Trustee*
Justin Kline, *Trustee*
Dr. Mary Beth Hutches, *Trustee*

Winter Reading 2014 – Soar with Books!

Jan. 6–Feb. 28

For adults and children of all ages. Fly into the library for winter reading fun. Stop by the Adult or Youth desks to pick up your reading log. Read, listen or watch to win prizes!

Who-o-o's in the Library? Come to the library during Winter Reading, and follow the clues on a scavenger hunt for the library owls. Everyone who follows the clues and finds all our feathered friends gets a prize. For all ages.

Programs and Activities for Youth

Registration for all youth and teen programs began November 25 (unless otherwise noted).

Babies and Preschool

Storytimes

Jan. 15–Feb. 20

Read and Play Baby Thursdays • 10–11am

Ages 6–23 months

Drop in anytime for stories and free play. No registration necessary.

Toddler Time

**Wednesdays • 9:30–10 OR
11–11:30am**

Ages 2–3 years, come with an adult to hear stories, songs and rhymes. Registration required.

Preschool Pals

Wednesdays • 10:15–10:45am

Children 3–5 years listen to stories, songs and rhymes. Registration required.

North Aurora Preschool Fair Saturday, Feb. 1, 10am–12pm

Visit with area preschools to learn about their programs. No registration necessary.

Gradeschool

Barks and Books

**Mondays, Jan. 27 & Feb. 24
6:30–7:30pm**

Grades 1 – 6, reading on their own. Read to a dog! Sign up for a 15-minute time slot to practice reading aloud with your new furry friend from the Fox Valley Therapy Dogs. Registration required by phone or in person.

All Ages

Lego Club

**Thursdays, Jan. 9 & Feb. 13
6:30–7:30pm**

Drop in to build your own creation to display in the Library! No registration necessary.

Programs and activities for Tweens and Teens

Page Turners

Saturdays • 10–11am

Dec. 21: I, Emma Freke

Jan. 18: Wonder

Feb. 15: Candy Bomber: The Story of Berlin Airlift's 'Chocolate Pilot'
Grades 4–8

Read, talk, eat! Join our book discussion to share your thoughts, and then enjoy an activity and snacks. Register at the Youth Services Desk to pick up a copy of the book.

Brainstorm and Brunch

**Saturdays • 10:30–11:30am
Jan. 11 & Feb. 8**

Grades 6–12

Stop by the Library to brainstorm future programs for teens, enjoy a fun craft or activity and eat snacks! Registration required.

ACT Practice Test

**Sunday, Jan. 19 • 1:30–4:30pm
Grades 9–12**

A Kaplan representative will provide a proctored ACT practice test and return scores with analyzed results. Don't forget #2 pencils, a healthy snack, and your calculator. Registration required Dec. 27–Jan. 10.

Programs for Adults

Please stop in, or visit our online website calendar or Messenger & More blog for information and registration or call us at 630-896-0240, ext. 3. Programs are free and open to everyone, unless noted. Space is limited and registration required. Programs with low registration may be cancelled.

Book Discussion Groups

Love to read and discuss books? Join one of the Library's book groups, and enjoy lively discussions of fiction and non-fiction titles. Copies of the books will be available at the Check-out Desk.

Messenger Evening Book Discussion Group - Meets 1st Wednesday of the month • 7 – 8:30pm

Jan. 8: The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian

Feb. 5: Luck Dog Matchmaking Service by Beth Kendrick

Morning Coffee Break & A Book - Meets 4th Tuesday of the month • 10:30–11:30am

Dec. 17: The Autobiography of Santa Claus by Jeff Guinn

Jan. 28: The Lifeboat by Charlotte Rogan

Feb. 25: Panorama City by Antoine Wilson

**Visit our website for a
complete listing.
www.messengerpl.org**

North Aurora Park District News

Plenty of reasons to love snow, ice and cold

For those who rank winter recreation among their favorite outdoor activities, this is a time of year to be enjoyed. Snow, ice and cold are recreational gifts to be enjoyed with skis, sleds, snowshoes and skates.

With 164 parks, 27 lakes and 45 miles of interconnected trails, the Fox Valley Park District is a 2,500-acre playground for winter activities and cold-weather fun. Here are the best places to find it:

Sledding

It's one of the joys of childhood, but please remind the young ones to sled down the middle of the hill and walk up the sides to avoid the dreaded "bowling alley" scenario and potential injury. Here are the go-to hills:

Lincoln Park – Located at Russell Avenue and Lakewood Place in Aurora, this is a gentle hill suitable for young children and beginners.

McCullough Park – Launch from the Prisco Community Center parking lot at 150 W. Illinois Avenue and enjoy Fox River views on the way down.

Waubonsie Lake Park – A bit steeper, this sled area at Montgomery and Kautz roads is rated as intermediate.

Oakhurst Forest Preserve – The big hill on Fifth Avenue, just west of Kautz Road, offers the fastest and steepest sledding in the area and is maintained by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County.

Ice Skating

New this year, the Park District has constructed a pair of ice rinks on a portion of the parking area



at Waubonsie Lake Park on Kautz Road in Aurora. Rinks are free and open to the public. One rink is utilized for hockey, the other for general skating.

Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing is permitted in any of the District's 164 parks and throughout the 45-mile network of trails. Enjoy the peace, beauty and serenity of winter in the parks.

Whenever the snow cover is three inches or more, snowshoes are available for rent seven days a week at the Red Oak Nature Center. For \$5, you can rent a pair of Atlas 925 snowshoes – poles included – to navigate across the white stuff and explore the many backwoods hiking trails around Red Oak Nature Center and along the Fox River.

Cross Country Skiing

Where there's snow, there's skiing. Unlike downhill, Nordic skiing requires no expensive lift ticket. Free fun is literally right out the door. Here are some personally tested favorites with minimal road crossings:

Fox River Trail – Start in North Aurora on either side of the State Street Bridge and stride northward. Both sides are wooded, peaceful and beautiful. The more ambitious can travel a loop to Batavia, crossing the river at the Clark Island bridges.

Virgil Gilman Trail – Either trailhead at Prairie Street or Galena Boulevard is a good starting point. Heading westward, skiers will enjoy a rustic glide, all the way to Waubensee College. Blackberry Creek parallels much of the route, further enriching the scenery.

Waubonsie Lake Trail – This popular network of trails can be accessed at Waubonsie Lake Park (off Kautz Road) and from the parking lot at the Eola Community Center. One tour around Waubonsie Lake on skis is all it takes for this destination to be added to the favorites list.

Stuart Sports Complex/Jericho Lake – A sprawling expanse of snow – 400 acres worth – provides plenty of room for skiers to roam to their heart's content.

The above trails are not groomed, relying instead on skiers to carve tracks – so, the more skiers who use the trails, the better the tracks.

Jeff Long is the public relations manager for the Fox Valley Park District. Contact him at jlong@fvpd.net

Giving thanks for our communities, and all we share

In writing about all there is to be thankful for, I could fill a library. In this case, I'll limit my thankfulness to the Fox Valley Park District and some of the many fabulous amenities it provides for our residents and our communities.

Lippold Park:

Though tucked in for the winter, nature's bounty will again be on full display next spring amid this park's spectacular riverside setting. Phase II improvements – completed this fall – have brought educational enhancements to the 30-acre natural area, making it the perfect setting to gain greater understanding and appreciation for nature. Whether it's a Mom with young children or a Scout group identifying flora, Lippold is an environmental gem for all who experience it.

Trails: It's not exactly news that the trails around here are terrific. As it turns out, the Fox River Trail and Illinois Prairie Path are among the state's best. That's according to a recent Rails-to-Trails survey of Illinois trail-users. And that's saying a lot, considering Illinois has more than 70 trails and 800 trail miles. It's always gratifying to hear out-of-town residents rave about the great trails we have here.

South River Street Trailhead:

Speaking of great trails, this new project will create a "hub of recreation." From this central point where the Fox River Trail and Virgil Gilman Trail intersect, users can travel north, south, east or west.

It's all part of the ongoing quest to further create a trail network that's connected and convenient, allowing safe and enjoyable travel between myriad destinations.

Stuart Sports Complex: It's already among the best sites for

new, modern touch that makes it especially enjoyable for young families. From the steam-engine replica train to the ponies and carousel and all the rides in between, Blackberry is a celebration of all the good things in life – including such things as blacksmith

shops, butter churns and wool spinning from yesteryear.

NO tax increase: In December, the FVPD Board of Trustees unwrapped a big gift by NOT increasing the property tax levy for a third consecutive year. That should translate to a \$12 reduction in what the average homeowner pays to the District. To hold the line on increases – again – is a testament

to the FVPD's financial stewardship and its consideration for residents during these fragile economic times. Community and collaboration: To have an effective partnership with residents is invaluable. Residents' input and feedback provides direction for the Park District and guides decisions that best reflect the community's interests as a whole. Together, it's a winning combination for all involved. Thank you, partners!

*Jeff Long is the public relations manager for the Fox Valley Park District. Contact him at jlong@fvpd.net
Fox Valley Park District
101 W. Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
630-897-0516*

*www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube*



A new boardwalk at Lippold Park makes it possible for visitors to explore and learn about wetlands and wildlife – up close. It's among the Fox Valley Park District's many new highlights, for which we give collective thanks.

games, practices and tournaments. Now it's going to get even bigger and better. A 135-acre expansion to the south will make Stuart a premier destination for sporting events. Once completed, Stuart will feature 37 soccer fields, 8 ball fields – all with lights – and a dog park. Fields will start to become playable in mid-2014. Game on!

164 parks: That's an impressive statistic, but the meaning is not in the number. The greater importance is where. Throughout the Park District, neighborhood parks are strategically located nearest to where we live, work and play. Making parks easily accessible and available to the residents who enjoy them most is foremost. As they say, location, location...

Blackberry Farm: Uniquely special, this historic re-creation of Pioneer times also features a



If you are a local business, we'd like to share your news with everyone in North Aurora. Keep your story to 50–75 words. Be sure to include contact information. The deadline for the February issue is January 5. Email your information to info@emeraldmarketing.com.

Ciaccio Accounting has relocated to 232 S. Batavia Avenue (Route 31) in Batavia. The historic building, originally known as the Shumway house, was built in 1914. Steve Ciaccio, Founder and Certified Public Accountant, said "Moving to this beautiful and historic location will provide a pleasant experience for our clients and will also provide room for our expanding firm."

Ciaccio Accounting provides income tax preparation, tax planning, accounting, and estate planning services to residents and businesses in Batavia and surrounding communities. They can be reached at 630-240-6826, Steve.Ciaccio@CiaccioAccounting.com, or CiaccioAccounting.com.

As an owner of a collision repair shop who really cares about her customers and providing quality repairs, Marcia Boyce, owner of **Boyce Body Werks** in Batavia, would like to remind everyone that it is VERY important to choose a body shop that will be YOUR advocate during the repair process. Make certain they use quality (OEM) parts, and will fight for you if they feel it is not in your best interest to repair the car. Even though your insurance company wants you to have "ABC Body Shop" repair your damaged vehicle, they may not be the best option. Do your homework. Make it your choice who repairs your car after an accident! Boycebodywerks.com

Discount grocer ALDI has launched a new brand, "SimplyNature," that features simple foods made with only all-natural or organic ingredients. The new line of SimplyNature products is available in select markets, including Chicago-area stores, with a national rollout planned for early next year.

Free credit checks will be available to first time homebuyers and veterans on Sat. Jan. 18 at **Kettley Realtors**, 125 S. Batavia Ave. in Batavia from 10am–2pm. Loan officers also will be available as well as credit repair information.

Delnor Glen is the first in the Nation to receive the prestigious Planetree Designation for Excellence in Resident-Centered Care. Planetree Designation is the only award that recognizes excellence in person-centeredness across the continuum of care, essentially signaling to healthcare consumers that Delnor Glen Senior Living is a community where providers partner with residents and families, and where resident comfort, dignity, empowerment and well-being are prioritized with providing top-quality clinical care.

Kluber Architects + Engineers celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013 with the opening of a new office in Lake County in an agreement with Daniel Robison Architects. Kluber is a full-service architectural and engineering firm serving Northern Illinois with planning and design services in the areas of municipal, education, corporate, and health services. Kluber is currently working with Messenger Public Library in North Aurora to update building maintenance and for space use.



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Elgin Symphony Orchestra

Scottish Fantasy – Experience ESO

Jan. 10 at 7:30pm at Schaumburg Prairie Center

Jan. 11 at 7:30pm and January 12 at 2:30pm at Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin

Tour of Italy – Experience ESO

Feb. 7 at 7:30pm at Batavia Fine Arts Centre

Feb. 8 at 7:30pm and Feb. 9 at 2:30pm at Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin

ElginSymphony.Org Box Office:
847-888-4000 for more information

Water Street Studios

Water Street Studios Programs

3rd Sundays, 7pm: Waterline Writers: curated readings in the gallery at Water Street Studios, 160 S. Water St., Batavia. Wine by Gibby's Wine Bar & Market; filmed by BATV.

4th Fridays, 7-10pm: Wordplay at Water Street led by poet Adam Gottlieb: writing workshops, open mic and featured performer each month; at Water Street Studios.

2nd & 4th Saturdays, 9:15-11:45am: St. Charles Writers Group led by Richard Holinger, novice and experienced writers with a desire to become better writers while helping others reach their potential. St. Charles Library, 1 S. 6th Ave. Contact Richard at rholinger@att.net

2nd Mondays, 6:30-9pm: Batavia Writers Workshop led by Frank Rutledge welcomes aspiring and published writers, adults or teens, to exchange advice and support fellow writers. Batavia Library, 10 S. Batavia Ave. Contact Frank at weatherbone@comcast.net

4th Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm: Nightriders new writers' group begins Jan. 28, facilitated by Richard Holinger. DEcisions about structure to be determined at first meeting. Geneva Public Library, 127 James St.

Water Street Studios is located in Batavia at the corner of Water and First Streets.

Meet Fox Valley's own author – William Hazelgrove

By Kish Pisani

When author William "Bill" Hazelgrove moved from Oak Park to the western suburbs six years, he had no idea how much writing material he could gather from his new surroundings. While living in Oak Park, this contemporary author was the Ernest Hemingway Writer in Residence and used Hemingway's attic as a writer's retreat. A search for a larger more affordable home lead Hazelgrove and his family on a path ending in St. Charles, and a life very different from Oak Park.

"It was a weird migration," said Hazelgrove. He said the move has been good for his writing, but sometimes he feels like a "man on an island." A best selling contemporary author of five novels, Hazelgrove is constantly writing, marketing his books or writing about writing. He's also a dad of two and a husband.

His move to the suburbs prompted the book *Rocket Man*, a novel that loosely mirrors his own life.

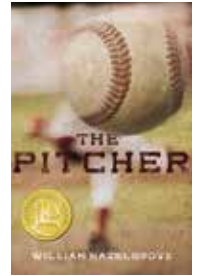
Hazelgrove is a hip middle-aged white guy trying to acclimate to the suburbs. "All the craziness of the suburbs and having the kids and being in all of these organizations I had no idea I would be into," said Hazelgrove. *Rocket Man* is the story of Dale Hammer, a dad trying to fit in amongst the landscape of homogeneity of the suburbs. Some have called this book the *Catcher in the Rye* of the Great Recession.

Hazelgrove has recently launched another book, *The Pitcher*. A classic baseball story, *The Pitcher* is uplifting and nothing like *Rocket Man*. It's about Ricky, a Mexican-American boy who dreams of pitching for his high school team. His pitches are fast, but not so accurate. He lives across the street from *The Pitcher*, a grumpy, beer drinking old man who wants nothing to do with his neighbors, let alone the rest of the world. *The Pitcher* ultimately agrees to coach Ricky.

"I wanted to get my arm around kids' sports," said Hazelgrove when explaining why he wrote the book. In the suburbs he saw how camps and trainers could help propel a young athlete and he thought about the kids with incredible talent and no training. After spending lots of time in ball fields coaching his son and watching dedicated parents, he wrote *The Pitcher*. "The pitcher is what you do when a dream is all you have," he said.

While he's not writing in Hemingway's attic today, he does write in a room above his garage. He structures his day to write in the morning and in the afternoon maintains a presence on social media outlets. Hazelgrove updates his own website [HYPERLINK "http://www.williamhazelgrove.com"](http://www.williamhazelgrove.com) williamhazelgrove.com and his blog the viewfromhemingwaysattic.com. He's completed another novel, *Real Santa*, which is scheduled for Fall 2014. Hazelgrove is a hands-on author very involved in spreading the word as the business of book publishing has changed over the years. In addition to book signings, Hazelgrove also offers to attend book clubs (visit his website for information).

Cubs or Sox? "North side all the way," said Hazelgrove.



What is Around the Block?

Neighbors of North Aurora is full of things to do and places to go. But Around the Block is where you'll find upcoming events, activities and news submitted by charities, churches, community organizations, service clubs and other local not for profit organizations. First we'll list activities IN North Aurora, followed by activities related directly to North Aurora, and if there is room, we'll add other area events and activities that we think may be of interest to the residents of North Aurora.

If you are involved with a local organization, we'd like to share your news with everyone in North Aurora. Keep your story to under 100 words. Be sure to include contact information. The deadline for the February issue is January 5. Email your information to info@emeraldmarketing.com.

Be sure to add your event to our NEW Community calendar. Go to neighborsofnorthaurora.com

NAMC Annual Fundraiser to be held February 22

The North Aurora Mothers Club presents "The Derby, An Elegant Night at the Races."

The public is invited to the 17th annual Winter Gala on Saturday, Feb. 22. The festivities, held at Pipers Banquets, Aurora, begin at 6pm. Enjoy an amazing evening benefiting the NAMC's community outreach programs.

Tickets are \$60 each and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, open bar, dessert, photo booth, DJ and dancing. Also available are a silent auction, a live auction, basket raffles and 50/50 cash raffles. namothersclub.org

NOARDA hosts Evergreen Holidays

The community visited Riverfront Park for this fun family event on Sunday, Dec. 8. Decorated Christmas trees illuminated the pathway and holiday music filled the air. Children enjoyed a cookie walk, balloon artist, craft tables

as well as making snow angels in the freshly fallen snow. Coordinated by the North Aurora River District Alliance, the event would not be possible without The North Aurora Mother's Club, Crossway Chapel and the North Aurora Lions Club.

Attendees could warm themselves by two fire pits, or under patio heaters. NOARDA thanks everyone for helping or visiting the beautiful riverside park during this annual event. The Christmas trees remain lit at night until a few days after Christmas.

H.E.L.P. abandoned and abused animals in our community

Visit helpinganimals.org to find veterinarians and retailers that accept cash donations for H.E.L.P. (Finding Homes for Endangered and Lost Pets) and/or accept items for drop off.

Some of the items on H.E.L.P.'s (as well as most other local shelters') wish list include: dry and canned dog and cat food: Purina Pro Plan, Purina ONE,

and lams; dry and Friskies canned cat food; Kongs or Nylabones for dogs, all sizes; nylon leashes and dog collars; Milk Bones and rawhide chips; puppy pads; dog and cat toys; cat litter: scoopable and clay; heating pads (no automatic shut off) and receiving blankets for orphaned kittens; cardboard scratchers or scratching posts; cat condos. Visit helpinganimals.thegivingeffect.com to make arrangement for donations.

Time to order your Girl Scout Cookies!

Girls will take orders for the Cookie Program Jan. 1-22. Customers can choose to donate cookies to the military or other community organizations through the Gift of Caring program. Interested customers can email cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org to have their order passed on to local Girl Scouts. Girls will be at area cookie booths from Feb. 14-March 9 and fans can find nearby cookie booths with a free mobile app downloadable at girlscoutcookies.org.



You are always welcome to come worship with us in North Aurora!

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Services
Sunday 10 am
Nursery Available

Bible Study & Prayer
Tuesday 6:30pm

FVTV Channel 17
Saturday 5 pm
www.CCBC7.org

307 Banbury Rd., North Aurora 630-896-8010 Across from Schneider Elementary School

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Pastor Frank & Barb Russo

Third annual Strikes for Strays fundraiser

H.E.L.P. (Finding Homes for Endangered & Lost Pets) will hold a fundraiser on Sat., Feb. 22 at Fox Valley Bowl, 1101 Butterfield Rd., Wheaton, 3-5:30pm. Enjoy unlimited bowling, pizza and soda; silent auction for Sox tickets, Disney Park Hopper passes, two round-trip tickets anywhere in the US on Southwest Airlines, and many more items; cash raffle; and FUN while raising money for animals in need. \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door; kids 13 and under \$20, kids three and under free.

History Speaks Lecture Series: The Last Year of Mary Todd Lincoln

Donna Daniels, as Mary Todd Lincoln, will speak of her marriage to Lincoln and the traumatic years of the Civil War. She will focus on the period of her life after the assassination during this presentation of the History Speaks Lecture Series, 4-5pm on Sun., Feb. 9 at Naper Settlement's Century Memorial Chapel. The audience will learn about her insanity trial and subsequent hospitalization at Bellevue Place, a private, upscale sanitarium in Batavia. For ticket information, visit napersettlement.com.



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For more information or to schedule a tour call 630-443-8220 or visit delnorglen.com

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Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners

This group meets on the third Tuesday of each month Sept.-June in the meeting room at the Batavia Public Library. Refreshments are at 6:45pm, followed by a brief business meeting and the evening's speaker. Jan. 21: Deb Notaro, owner of My Secret Garden design and consultation service. Feb. 18: Holly Kammes of the Backyard Farm Girls will speak on backyard chickens.

Batavia Cares Receives American Flag Flown in Afghanistan

The flag was carried by six different units from September through October, including Task Force Black during a capture operation, on a combat sortie aboard an F-16, over hostile territory during a combat mission on board a C-130J Hercules, and other airborne combat missions.

Be sure to add your event to our
NEW Community calendar.
Go to neighborsofnorthaurora.com

Resolving to Succeed

by: *Jennifer Bucko Lamplough*

Everyone does it. You're not the only one. You make New Year's resolutions every year and Martin Luther King Day rolls around and they're already a memory. Most resolutions don't make it to Valentine's Day and there's a good reason – resolutions are often unattainable and overwhelming. Instead of resolving to completely overhaul your diet, exercise and mental health all in one month, this year, resolve to succeed. Think about starting small and then working in additional resolutions throughout the year.

How can you do this? Pick one item from the following list to start and each month or two, add one on. By the end of the year, you will be in the "Habit of Healthy" rather than drowning your sorrows in a huge box of chocolates on Valentine's Day because you just couldn't overhaul your life in one month.

Resolve to Succeed List

1. Plan to cook a couple of meals at home each week that are healthy and will yield leftovers for your lunch. Start with the Hearty Lentil Soup recipe here.
2. And speaking of lunch, resolve to pack your lunch at least one day a week instead of running out for fast

food. If you do #1 on this list, it will be even easier because you'll have leftovers!

3. Start a Couch to 5K jogging program or join a class at your gym or park district. It will slowly incorporate exercise into your routine and having a plan or obligation to a class will keep you on task.
4. Set an attainable financial goal such as saving \$50 a month. If you cook a few meals at home and pack your lunch at least one day a week, this should be an easy one! At the end of the year, use the money for a weekend getaway or a little shopping spree to celebrate your new healthy lifestyle.
5. Detach from technology. Plug in your phone away from where you sleep so that you are not distracted by it all night. It will improve your sleep and lower your stress level. You might have to invest in an alarm clock, but the stress free sleep will be worth it. Being well rested also makes it easier to workout.
6. Declutter. Pick a room, a drawer, your purse – any one thing. Don't resolve to declutter everything in your life at once, do one. When you declutter the physical aspects of your life, it will declutter the mental aspects of your life, opening up room to think about healthy cooking, working out and destressing.



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296 Randall Road, Geneva, Illinois 60134

Hearty Lentil Soup

Yield: 9 servings

Serving Size: 1 cup

Prep Time: 20 minutes

175 Calories Per Cup

Ingredients:

14 ounces lean smoked turkey sausage, sliced

1 cup celery, medium dice

1 medium onion, medium dice

1 carrot, medium dice

3 cups water

1 (14.5-ounce) can reduced-sodium, fat-free chicken broth

2 (14.5-ounce) cans no-salt added diced tomato

1 cup dried lentils

½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

1 Bay leaf

Directions:

Coat a large soup pot with cooking spray. Over medium-high sauté sausage until lightly brown.

Remove from pan.

Add celery, onions and carrots to pot and sauté over medium-high heat for approximately 4 minutes.

Add the sausage and all remaining ingredients.

Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer for 1 hour.

Remove bay leaf and serve.

Recipe Copyright © 2012 American Diabetes Association. From Healthy Calendar Diabetic Cooking, 2nd Edition by Lara Rondinelli-Hamilton, RD, LDN, CDE and Chef Jennifer Bucko Lamplough. Reprinted with permission from The American Diabetes Association. To order this book, please call 1-800-232-6733 or order online at www.store.diabetes.org

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Important Contacts

If you would like your club or organization listed, forward contact information to: info@emeraldmarketing.com

Community clubs & organizations

Forest Preserve District of Kane County kaneforest.com
 Fox Valley Park District foxvalleyparkdistrict.org
 Fox Valley Special Recreation Association fvsra.org
 Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois girlscoutsnl.org
 Kane County Cougars kccougars.com
 Kane County Health Department kanehealth.com
 League of Women Voters lwvkc.org
 Messenger Public Library messengerpl.org
 North Aurora Baseball Association eteamz.com/naba
 North Aurora Fire Protection District nafd.org
 North Aurora Lions facebook.com/NALionsClub
 North Aurora Mothers Club northauroramothersclub.org
 North Aurora River District Alliance noarda.org
 Village of North Aurora vil.north-aurora.il.us
 Waubensee Community College waubensee.edu
 West Aurora School District #129 sd129.org

Emergency Batavia 911

Village 630-897-8228
 Police (Non-Emergency) 630-897-8705
 Fire (Non-Emergency)
 Station 1 630-897-9698
 Station 2 630-907-9569
 North Aurora Activity Center 630-897-1457
 Park District 630-897-0516
 Public Library 630-896-0240
 Public School, Admin 630-301-5000

Utilities

J.U.L.I.E 811 or 800-892-0123
 (call 48 hours before you dig)
 Water Utility 630-897-8228 ext. 223
 Fox Metro Water Reclamation District 630-892-4378
 ComEd 800-334-7661
 Comcast Cable 630-288-1940
 (call for residential problems)
 NICOR Gas 888-642-6748
 (24-hour natural gas emergency)
 Waste Management 800-796-9696
 (garbage pickup)
 AT & T 800-244-4444

Kane County

County Clerk 630-232-5950
 Sheriff (Non-Emergency) 630-232-6840
 Voter Registration 630-232-5990
 Kane County Forest Preserve 630-232-5980
 Kane County Cougars kccougars.com
 Kane County Health Department kanehealth.com

Other

Aurora Driver's License Bureau 630-896-1911
 U.S. Post Office (North Aurora) 630-896-3836

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Have an event coming up?

You can add it to the community event calendar.

Go to: www.neighborsofnorthaurora.com. Or scan this



NORTH AURORA					JANUARY 2014	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more events visit: neighborsofnorthaurora.com Times and dates of all events are subject to change.			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4 <i>Affordable Health Care Act Seminar</i> 10am-12pm Library
5	6 <i>Winter Reading Begins</i> Library	7	8 <i>Book Discussion</i> 7-8:30pm Library	9 <i>Lego Club</i> 6:30-7:30pm Library	10	11
12	13 <i>Genealogy Drop-In</i> 7-8:30pm Library	14	15 <i>Toddler Time</i> 9:30-10am or 11-11:30am Library <i>Preschool Pals</i> 10:15-10:45am Library	16	17	18 <i>Page Turners</i> 10-11am Library <i>Credit Checks</i> 10am-2pm Kettley Realtors Batavia
19 <i>ACT Practice Test</i> 1:30-4:30pm Library	20 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	21	22 <i>Toddler Time</i> 9:30-10am or 11-11:30am Library <i>Preschool Pals</i> 10:15-10:45am Library	23 <i>Read and Play Baby</i> 10-11am Library	24	25
26	27 <i>Barks and Books</i> 6:30-7:30pm Library	28 <i>Coffee Break & A Book</i> 10:30-11:30am Library	29 <i>Toddler Time</i> 9:30-10am or 11-11:30am Library <i>Preschool Pals</i> 10:15-10:45am Library	30 <i>Read and Play Baby</i> 10-11am Library	31	

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NORTH AURORA				FEBRUARY 2014		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more events visit: neighborsofnorthaurora.com Times and dates of all events are subject to change.						1 <i>Preschool Fair</i> 10am–12pm Library
2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	4	5 <i>Toddler Time</i> 9:30–10am or 11–11:30am Library <i>Preschool Pals</i> 10:15–10:45am Library <i>Book Discussion</i> 7–8:30pm Library	6 <i>Read and Play Baby</i> 10–11am Library	7	8 <i>Brainstorm and Brunch</i> 10:30–11:30am Library
9 <i>History Speaks Lecture</i> 4–5pm Napier Settlement	10 <i>Genealogy Drop-In</i> 7–8:30pm Library	11	12 <i>Toddler Time</i> 9:30–10am or 11–11:30am Library <i>Preschool Pals</i> 10:15–10:45am Library <i>Book Discussion</i> 7–8:30pm Library	13 <i>Read and Play Baby</i> 10–11am Library <i>Lego Club</i> 6:30–7:30pm Library	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>	15 <i>Page Turners</i> 10–11am Library
16	17 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	18	19 <i>Toddler Time</i> 9:30–10am or 11–11:30am Library <i>Preschool Pals</i> 10:15–10:45am Library <i>Book Discussion</i> 7–8:30pm Library	20 <i>Read and Play Baby</i> 10–11am Library <i>Citizens Police Academy</i> 6:30–8:30pm Police Department	21	22 <i>Strikes for Strays</i> 3–5:30pm Fox Valley Bowl, Wheaton <i>Winter Gala NAMC</i> 6pm Pipers Banquets, Aurora
23	24 <i>Barks and Books</i> 6:30–7:30pm Library	25 <i>Coffee Break & A Book</i> 10:30–11:30am Library	26	27 <i>Citizens Police Academy</i> 6:30–8:30pm Police Department	28	

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Suzanne Gillingham, Broker
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and Rental Property Manager
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