

*Happy holidays
everyone.*

*May the
spirit of the
season bring you
peace, love
and joy.*

Town meetings

Ward II Town Meeting

Council Member Renie Peterson
December 11, 7 p.m.
Aurora Municipal Center,
Aurora Room
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Call 303-739-7015 for
more information.

Ward III Town Meeting

Council Member Larry Beer
December 19,
7:30-9:30 p.m.
Aurora Room, Aurora
Municipal Center
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Call 303-739-7015 for
more information.



NEWS *for neighbors*



DECEMBER 2006

VOLUME 11 NO. 12

Danbury Park gets kudos for caring

Danbury Park residents aren't the kind to come and go without saying hello to a neighbor. There is game night, a book club, even a Care and Concern Committee that supports neighbors who need help.

The residents in the neighborhood get involved, not just to monitor, but to make friends. And that's one of the reasons they were named Homeowner Association of the Year.

The Danbury Park HOA was one of four in the state honored by the Community Associations Institute. Jeff Arnold, executive director of the institution's Rocky Mountain Chapter, said Danbury Park's HOA found successful avenues to create a true sense of neighborhood by organizing numerous neighborhood events and gatherings.

"These associations truly serve as a model for other communities," Arnold said. "Each made significant investments into its community's viability and took an innovative approach to manage its community."

Seymour Loftman, 79, has lived in the neighborhood, located near Yale Avenue and Peoria Street, for about seven years. As a past president of the Danbury

Park homeowners association, he said residents in his neighborhood have always been involved. The average association meeting draws as many as 75 people, he said, and many of them want to volunteer their time and skills to improve the neighborhood or organize gatherings.

"The people are just wonderful," Loftman, a retired dentist, said.

In addition to game night, the neighborhood has a garden club, a Neighborhood Watch program, a monthly movie for women referred to as "Chick Flick" night, and a program that delivers flowers and a welcome basket to new residents. Loftman said the HOA's effort to make residents feel welcome and part of a larger neighborhood is one of the reasons for its great success.

Loftman said he understands that many people have negative connotations about HOAs, but he has found that working cooperatively with residents, and helping them participate in the process, goes a long way toward building strong community ties.

"We are like family here," Loftman said.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Between Dec. 26 and Jan. 14, residents can drop off their Christmas trees at any of the following locations:

- Del Mar Park, 6th Ave. and Peoria St. (west parking lot)
- Olympic Park, 15501 E. Yale Ave. (east of Chambers Road)
- Murphy Creek Golf Course, 1700 S. Old Tom Morris Rd.
- Saddle Rock Golf Course, 21705 E. Arapahoe Rd.



Trees should be free of nails, decorations and stands. They will be turned into mulch, which will be available free of charge between Dec. 28 and Jan. 13, at all of the tree drop-off locations. Residents wanting to get mulch should bring their own bags, containers and shovels. Call 303-739-7177 for more information.

News for Neighbors changes format

News for Neighbors, the publication that has been distributed to homeowners associations for nearly two decades, is changing its format. Now, instead of receiving a newsletter in the mail, you will soon be able to find useful tips and resources on the city's website by going to auroragov.org, clicking on Department, then on Neighborhood Services

The website will include feature stories, meeting announcements and tips on everything from code enforcement to Xeriscaping.

For more information, call 303-739-7181.

Keeping your furry friends safe during the holidays



Dogs and cats can get into a heap of trouble during the holidays, so here are some tips to help keep them safe:

- Cats love to climb, so make sure Christmas trees are securely anchored.
- Christmas tree water can be dangerous, even fatal to pets because of the pine resin and bacteria, so make sure animals don't have access to it.
- Protect pets from possible electrocution from holiday lights by piping them through PVC pipe.
- Avoid tinsel because it can be dangerous if ingested by pets.
- Remember that chocolate can be deadly for animals.
- Do not change pets diets over the holidays by giving them extra helpings of meat, gravy or table scraps. Bones can carry bacteria, and can splinter, so avoid giving them to your pets if there is any chance a small piece can break off.
- On New Year's Eve, bring pets indoors in case there are fireworks. You might consider containing them in a small room, and playing calm music for them.
- Make sure pets always wear their collars, rabies and license tags so they can be easily returned if they get out of the house.
- Reflective tape on pet collars will help motorists see them at night.

If your pet does eat or drink something dangerous, consult your veterinarian immediately.

Senior center closes temporarily for renovation

Aurora Senior Center classes and programs will relocate to temporary facilities for several months beginning Dec. 18 when the center closes for remodeling.

The center, located at 30 Del Mar Circle, will reopen in the spring of 2007. During the remodeling, classes will move to Beck, Expo and Village Green recreation centers, Morning Star Adult Day Program and Hoffman Heights Library (formerly North Branch). Silver Sneakers classes will take place at Central Baptist Church of Aurora, 29 Del Mar Circle.

For more information, call 303-739-7950.

Urban oasis for kids opening at Utah Pool

Expect even better birthday parties now at the City of Aurora's Utah Pool with the addition of a new outdoor sand/beach playground, scheduled to open in December.

The play area features digger and sand tables and shaded picnic tables. It's designed for children six months to 8-years-old and will be available to regular swimmers as well as birthday party attendees.

Utah Pool, located at 1800 S. Peoria St., offers birthday party packages priced at \$55 and up for eight or more children. Party packages include invitations, a reserved table, admittance to all pool amenities and lifeguard supervision, and can be enhanced with food, themes such as Spiderman or Lil' Bratz, birthday t-shirts and more.

In addition to the new sand/beach playground, the pool features a water slide, sprayground, diving boards and plunge slide. For more information on the sand/beach playground or birthday parties at Utah Pool, call 303-696-4303 or visit www.auroragov.org/recreation.

Beck's price gets nice, new unlimited use fees

Pay one price and enjoy many amenities at Beck Recreation Center with its new unlimited use fees.

The daily drop-in fee is just \$5 (\$4 for Aurora residents) for ages 18 to 61, and includes use of the cardio/weight room, most group fitness classes, aqua fitness classes, arthritis aquacise, deep water aerobics, open/lap swim, sauna/hot tub and racquetball. Youth ages 2 to 17 and seniors ages 62 and older receive a dollar discount.

The new unlimited use fee does not include fitness specialty classes, martial arts, massage, personal training and learn-to-swim classes.

A 10-punch card for \$40 (\$32 resident), a one-

month pass for \$50 (\$39 resident) and a six-month pass for \$250 (\$200 resident) also are available. Customers must show proof of Aurora residency to receive the resident rate. Call for youth and senior prices on passes.

Beck Recreation Center is located at 800 Telluride St., one mile east of Airport Boulevard off of Sixth Avenue. Its newly expanded hours are from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

Call Beck Pool at 303-739-6894 for pool hours. For more information, call 303-739-6886.

Heat up the holidays

Xcel Energy's website provides a ton of useful tips for saving energy - and money on your heating bill. Here is a sampling of just a few of things you can do:

- Close your fireplace damper when the fireplace isn't in use to prevent up to a 5 percent heating loss.
- Repair leaky faucets, especially those supplying hot water. One drop per second from a leaky faucet wastes up to 400 gallons of water a year.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's full.
- Raise and lower window coverings to allow heat in during the cold weather and keep heat out during hot weather.
- Install or add attic insulation if existing insulation is less than six inches thick. Poor insulation means losing up to 25 percent of your heating energy.
- Install ceiling fans for air circulation.
- Change to compact fluorescent light bulbs, especially for lights you use frequently and for long periods of time
- Keep the doors inside your home open to improve air circulation and the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems.
- Don't forget to turn off a kitchen or bathroom ventilation fan – in just one hour, all the heated air in your home can be drawn out through the exhaust vent.
- Plant trees for shade. Deciduous trees – those that have leaves in the summer and lose them in the fall – share your home from the sun and let the sun warm your house during the winter.

For more information, go to Xcelenergy.com

Street Light Outage Reporting Streamlined

Now you can report street light outages with an easy online form. Go to xcelenergy.com, click on the Residential tab and you'll find a link to our street light outage report form. Or, you can type 'report street light outage' in the search tool from anywhere on the Xcel Energy website. Online reporting is fully integrated with street light repair and maintenance to provide you with better service. You can still call our 24/7 customer service number at 1-800-895-4999. Phone representatives use the same online reporting system.

OUT & ABOUT

The Aurora Fox presents "Escanaba in da Moonlight"

Through Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday
The Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave.
303-739-1970 or www.aurorafox.org

"1960s Suburban Empire"

Experience the next installment of the popular exhibit about Aurora and the American suburb
Admission is free.
Through Feb. 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
Aurora History Museum,
15051 E. Alameda Parkway
303-739-6666 or www.auroramuseum.org

The Nutcracker Ballet

Purchase tickets at the door or at Meadowood Recreation Center, 3054 S. Laredo St. \$10 evening (\$5 matinee)
Dec. 1, 7 p.m., and Dec. 2, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Robert Troutman Theatre at Aurora Central High School, 11700 E. 11th Ave.
303-326-8308

Victorian Holidays at Centennial House

Take a free tour of Aurora's 115-year-old Victorian house decorated for the holidays. Cider and cookies will be served. Presented by the Aurora Historical Society.
Dec. 2 and 16, 1 to 4 p.m.
Centennial House, 1671 Galena St.
Call 303-289-0141 for information.

Heritage Handcrafts: Christmas Ornaments

Ages 8 to adult
\$7 (\$5 resident)
Dec. 9, 1 to 3 p.m.
Aurora History Museum,
15051 E. Alameda Parkway
303-739-6666 or www.auroramuseum.org

Christmas Tea at Centennial House

Presented by the Aurora Historical Society.
\$15 per person.
Dec. 9, 2 to 4 p.m.
Centennial House, 1671 Galena St.
Call 303-289-0141 for reservations.

Meet the Author

Ages 5 and older
Colorado author Sammy Shu will read from her children's book, "There's a Season for All." Free.
Dec. 9, 1:30 to 2 p.m.
Mission Viejo Library (formerly South Branch), 15324 E. Hampden Circle, Aurora
303-326-8600 or www.auroralibrary.org

AYC Holiday Party

Ages 13 to 17
Meet your local Aurora Youth Commission members and Aurora City Council members, find out about community service activities and how to be a volunteer, and enjoy free food and drink. Learn how to get involved in Aurora to make a change for the better.
Dec. 12, 6 to 8 p.m.
Aurora Municipal Center, Aurora Room, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway
303-739-1908 or ayc@auroragov.org

Yoga and Body Image for Teens and Parents

Grades 6 and up
Barbara Moroney will discuss the positive effects yoga can have on teens. Free.
Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Mission Viejo Library (formerly South Branch), 15324 E. Hampden Circle, Aurora
303-326-8600 or www.auroralibrary.org

Brown Bag & White Linen Lecture Series: Donald Fletcher

Historian William Convery tells the story of Donald Fletcher, who incorporated Aurora.
\$4 (\$3 Aurora residents).
Bring a sack lunch.
Dec. 20, noon to 1 p.m.
Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway
303-739-6666 or www.auroramuseum.org

Your area neighborhood liaisons

Aurora's Neighborhood Liaison Program provides a critical link between residents and municipal government. The city's liaisons help neighborhood associations organize clean-up projects, schedule development meetings and apply for mini-grants that can be used for a variety of communication projects. Here's how to contact the neighborhood liaisons in your area:

AREA 1: Margee Cannon - Neighborhood Liaison Coordinator

Neighborhoods north of Jewell Street and west of Interstate 225
303-739-7287

AREA 2: Shawn Wright - Neighborhood Liaison

Neighborhoods east of Interstate 225 and north of Jewell Street
303-739-7442

AREA 3: Marsha Osborn - Neighborhood Liaison

Neighborhoods south of Jewell Street
303-739-7402

Aurora City Council policy committees

The city's policy committees discuss policy issues brought forward by council members from concerned citizens or city staff. Committee recommendations are taken to city council meetings where action by the full city council is taken on the matter.

Committee meetings are open to the public. Agenda items listed for discussion are subject to change prior to the meeting day.

Policy committee meetings and dates are listed on the City of Aurora Web site at www.auroragov.org. Click on City Hall, then City Council and then Policy Committees. Information on upcoming meetings also may be obtained by calling 303-739-7000.

AURORA CITY COUNCIL 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO 80012 • office) 303-739-7015 fax) 303-739-7594

Ed Tauer, Mayor 303-739-7015	Larry Beer, Ward III 720-939-2337	Bob FitzGerald, At-Large 303-739-7514
Brad Pierce, At-Large, Mayor Pro-Tem . . 303-739-7522	Molly Markert, Ward IV 303-739-7516	Ryan Frazier, At-Large 303-739-7518
Deborah Wallace, Ward I 303-739-7502	Sue Sandstrom, Ward V 720-748-2626	Steve Hogan, At-Large 303-632-8095
Renie Peterson, Ward II 303-739-7506	Bob Broom, Ward VI 303-693-2733	

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