City launches new Aurora Eats dining guide

Aurora is one of Colorado’s most diverse cities, and that diversity brings with it one of the state’s most global dining scenes.

For years, the city of Aurora has offered a comprehensive dining guide to highlight the abundant lineup of local, independent eateries and markets available throughout the community. The latest iteration, Aurora Eats, is now available via an interactive map online at AuroraEats.org and as a printed publication at city facilities or by request by emailing auroraeats@auroragov.org.

This updated guide features nearly 200 authentic, specialty restaurants to enjoy within our boundaries, representing countries on nearly every continent around the world. As you explore Aurora Eats, you’ll have no doubt that Aurora is the world in a city.

Build Up Aurora: Neighborhood street repairs coming soon

The city plans to address a top priority of our residents—transportation and roadways—with a strategy to improve the condition of Aurora’s residential streets over the next two years.

Rehabilitation roadwork is planned in 35 neighborhoods with the greatest need for improvement.

The condition of 58% of the city’s neighborhood streets is rated as fair or below, according to national standards. The Aurora City Council recently approved the plan to fund the work—ranging from concrete repair to street reconstruction—to bring the city’s neighborhood streets back to good condition. Projects will be prioritized based on the severity of street conditions.

The city’s limited street maintenance dollars have been dedicated primarily to arterial and collector roads in recent years. The use of certificates of participation will allow the city to borrow funding by pledging several city assets as collateral until the funding is repaid over time, much like a resident might buy a car through a lease-purchase agreement. This financing will allow the city to address critical neighborhood roadway maintenance.

Moving forward, residential streets citywide will continue to be part of Aurora’s annual roadwork, with a continued focus on caring for what we have.

Additional details will be shared in the coming months, including a project schedule and interactive map, at EngageAurora.org/BuildUpAurora.

Upcoming Aurora City Council Town Meetings

This publication went to print in early August. Some meetings are available in a hybrid format on WebEx. To confirm details, please visit AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings or call 303.739.7015. To look up your council member and view the council ward map, visit AuroraGov.org/PropertyInfo.

Meet with Mayor Mike
• Sept. 10, 2-3:30 p.m. Hoffman Library
• Oct. 15, 2-3:30 p.m. Aurora Central Library

Ward I Town Meeting
Council Member Crystal Murillo
• Sept. 22, 6-7:30 p.m. Martin Luther King Jr. Library
• Oct. 27, 6-7:30 p.m. Moorhead Recreation Center

Ward II Town Meeting
Council Member Steve Sundberg
• Sept. 15, 6:30-8 p.m. Central Recreation Center

Ward III Town Meeting
Council Member Ruben Medina
• Sept. 7, 6:30-8 p.m.
• Oct. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. Both at Aurora Center for Active Adults

Ward IV Town Meeting
Council Member Juan Marcano
• Sept. 8, 6:30-8 p.m.
• Oct. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Both at Colorado Early Colleges

Ward V Town Meeting
Council Member Alison Coombs
• Sept. 20 (cancelled due to city budget presentations)
• Oct. 18, 6-7:30 p.m. Heather Gardens Clubhouse

Ward VI Town Meeting
Council Member Françoise Bergan
• Sept. 14, 6-8 p.m. Heritage Eagle Bend Clubhouse
Fall Into Fun brings family festivities to the Aurora Municipal Center

Get ready for pumpkin spice and everything nice. The city of Aurora’s newest fall festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway.

Enjoy energetic live performances, delicious food trucks and unique vendors, fall-themed activities perfect for the family and a GOURDgeous pumpkin patch. Learn more about this event and others at AuroraGov.org/Events.

New interim fire chief takes helm

The city of Aurora is preparing to launch a national search for its new fire chief following the June 14 retirement announcement from Chief Fernando Gray, who served Aurora Fire Rescue and the community for five years.

“I recognize the value that Chief Gray brought to Aurora Fire Rescue and his contributions are sure to be lasting and impactful for the organization, its members, and for our community,” said City Manager Jim Twombly. “During his time in Aurora Chief Gray led the city’s Fire/EMS agency through the COVID-19 pandemic with professionalism and grit. Additionally, the city has earned two distinguished awards; being accredited through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) as well as receiving an ISO Class I designation.”

The Aurora City Manager’s Office has announced that Deputy Chief Allen Robnett will serve in the role of interim fire chief during the next few months of the hiring process.

“We know that Chief Robnett will serve Aurora well in the position of interim chief. He has both the professional experience and the personal values to lead the department in service to our community,” Twombly said.

Robnett was born in Aurora and has served the city as a member of Aurora Fire Rescue for more than 33 years. During his career, he has served in various positions including firefighter, fire investigator, lieutenant, captain, public information officer, battalion chief, commander, and most recently deputy chief of professional development and personnel support.

Robnett has publicly expressed his personal dedication to the members of AFR and to the community. He is committed to serving through training, education and a constant pursuit of excellence. Continuous learning is a priority for the interim chief, too. In addition to encouraging others to further their knowledge, he has reached a number of personal educational goals he set for himself. Robnett holds a bachelor’s degree in organizational management from Ashford University and is a graduate of both the Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute and the International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Service Executive Development Institute.

The nationwide search process for a new fire chief will use a similar selection process as the one the city of Aurora is undertaking with the chief of police position. It will include key stakeholder input and an opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Learn more about a plan for Aurora’s parks, recreation and open space

The city’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department has launched a planning process over the coming months to look at all the parks, open spaces and recreation within the city.

The process aims to identify current and future needs to ensure the long-term resilience of Aurora’s places, programs and amenities. The planning process is organized around the five key themes of equitable access, community connections, health and safety, operational efficiencies and sustainable growth. To find out more, visit EngageAurora.org/AuroraParks.

Apply now for boards and commissions

Volunteer for a board or commission, and get engaged in local government. The resident’s point of view provides valuable insight to the operations of the city and council’s decision-making process. Most boards and commissions meet once a month.

The city of Aurora is accepting applications now for vacancies on the Public Defender Commission, the Aurora Fox Arts Center Board, the Election Commission, the General Employees Retirement Board, the Human Relations Commission, the Independent Review Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

To apply or for more information, visit AuroraGov.org/Boards or call Tristen Sheptock at 303.739.7635.
Sign up for our Antique Appraisal Fair

Have your antiques and collectibles evaluated by local appraisers Sept. 24 at the Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway. The appraisal cost for the first item is $10, and each additional item is $5. A maximum of five items can be appraised. All proceeds benefit the Aurora History Museum.

To sign up for an entrance time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., visit AuroraMuseumFoundation.org/Events to click on the event appointment link or call 303.739.6705. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

If you miss the September event, the next Antique Appraisal Fair is scheduled April 22, 2023. Visit the Aurora Museum Foundation website to watch for details and the next opportunity to sign up.

Theatrical adventures coming to Aurora Fox

The Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., will kick off its 38th season in October, providing productions that celebrate the human spirit through nostalgic and, at times, challenging looks into the history that has made us what we are today. Visit AuroraFox.org for tickets, dates, times and other details.

- **Futurity**: This new folk-rock musical imagines a place where we could generate world peace with the simple flip of a switch.
- **The Jedi Handbook**: Experience the epic adventures of Star Wars anew through the eyes of two young best friends facing something scarier than Darth Vader and uglier than Jabba the Hutt—getting older!
- **Acts of Faith**: A young woman named Faith who gets mistaken for a prophet is the focus of this tale about the eternal struggle between good and evil, the disillusionment of youth and the power of belief.
- **The Year of Magical Thinking**: This stunning one-woman play brings Joan Didion’s memoir to the stage with the compelling story of how she transformed the sudden and unexpected loss of her husband and their only daughter into a powerful journey down the pathway to healing.
- **Toni Stone**: Discover the story of the first woman to play baseball in the Negro Leagues and the first woman to play professionally in a men’s league anywhere in the United States.
- **Treasure Island**: Bring the whole family to enjoy this swashbuckling good time in a musical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s thrilling tale of pirates, treasure maps and mutiny on the seven seas.

Take part in the 9 p.m. routine for safety

The Aurora Police Department is encouraging residents to adopt the 9 p.m. routine every night to deter residential burglary and theft.

At 9 p.m., check your vehicles and your home to make sure they are secure before you turn in for the night. Set a reminder on your smartphone to remember the 9 p.m. routine.

Remove your keys, wallets, purses, garage door openers and other valuables from your vehicles. Secure or bring inside any tools, firearms and bikes. Make sure everything is closed and locked, including doors, windows and overhead garage doors. Turn on exterior lights and security systems. And don’t be afraid to let your neighbor know if you notice their garage door is still open at 9 p.m.

Block party permits and movie kit rentals still available

There is still plenty of warmer weather to enjoy this year and take advantage of the city’s block party permits and new movie kit program.

Both efforts are designed to encourage neighborhood gatherings that build trust among neighbors and strengthen community connections so neighbors may learn to rely on each other for information or a helping hand.

Block party season runs through Oct. 31. To find out more, visit AuroraGov.org/BlockParty.

Movie kits are available for checkout Thursday through Sunday year-round at AuroraGov.org/MovieKit.

Provide input on design of Gartrell/E-470 interchange expansion

The city of Aurora is developing plans to improve travel for all types of users through the Gartrell Road and E-470 interchange and needs public feedback as part of the design process.

To find out more and take a survey anytime between Sept. 12 and Oct. 3, visit EngageAurora.org/Gartrell. Potential improvements include widening the bridge to provide more travel lanes, improving safety and incorporating multi-use paths for bicyclists and pedestrians.

With construction funding still pending, it’s not yet known when construction might start. But finalizing the project design will allow construction to move forward once funding is secured.
**QUESTIONS? 303.739.7195**

**CYCLE-AND-SOAK TECHNIQUE**
Depending on your sprinkler head type, water for the suggested number of minutes above, wait an hour, then repeat two more times.

**In October, Aurora Water has a new online customer portal called SpryEngage. This is not a replacement for Paymentus or our other customer portals. Rather, it provides a single platform that consolidates tools. SpryEngage, gives you the option to set up multiple ways to pay your account, access to your water use summaries over time, the ability to monitor and pay multiple accounts and more.**

Visit AuroraGov.org/SpryEngage for additional information.

**Get a grip on your grass**
Join us in saving water and money by installing a water-wise landscape through the Grass Replacement Program (GRIP). This program will be structured in two cohorts – one in the fall and the other in the spring. Joining with a group of people also replacing their thirsty turf, you’ll have three classes to attend to learn more about the installation process and how you can get a rebate of up to $4,000. We want to help you get an attractive, lower-maintenance yard that can withstand drought and provide a habitat for pollinators. To apply, fill out an application form and submit three to five photos of the grass in your front yard during the cohort’s application timeframe. For more information on the program’s requirements and manual, go to AuroraGov.org/Rebates.

**New Payment System Online**

**Water wisely this fall**
Even though our watering restrictions that prohibit watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. expire on Sept. 30, it’s important we all do our part and continue to conserve water this fall. We are facing a drought in Colorado, so being responsible for our water consumption is a high priority. Use our recommended watering times and keep an eye on the weather to help save water and be more efficient. Our permanent conservation rules prohibit watering more than three days per week. For more information on the drought, visit AuroraGov.org/Drought.

**Landscape award winners announced**
This year, we have three water-wise winners for our annual Water-wise Landscape Award. This award recognizes customers who are committed to conserving Aurora’s water resources by installing a low-water landscape. Patricia Cox won first place (photo above), Jeff Adams won second place and Jon Doyle won third place in this year’s contest. Recipients received credits on their water bills and the right to brag about their efficient landscapes.

To view award-winning Water Wise Landscapes, visit AuroraGov.org/LandscapeAward.