

STAY HOME, AURORA!



The Covid-19 pandemic is serious, and I implore all Aurora residents and businesses to heed the Governor's Order to stay at home. I take the Governor's Order very seriously and the city will enforce its provisions during the next two weeks and as it may be changed from time to time. While our parks currently remain open, playgrounds and restroom facilities are closed. Any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited except for limited

purposes. All non-essential businesses must be closed and businesses which are open must comply with "Social Distancing Requirements" as defined in the Order, including by maintaining six-foot social distancing for employees and members of the public. And by the way, that means at the grocery store or pharmacy, too! City Council and I are working hard to continue the city's business and operations, but we are looking to you for your cooperation and understanding. Some city responses may not be as prompt as usual, but if you have an urgent matter for which you need assistance, please contact my office or City Hall. We will get through this together.....at an appropriate distance of six feet! Please keep checking the city's website at www.auroraoh.com for updates.

Aurora just spent 2019 celebrating our 220th birthday, filled with fun events and many accomplishments. I particularly want to thank the Aurora Historical Society, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and Heinen's for partnering with the city on this milestone. We celebrate our history, but thanks to teamwork between Council and my administration, Aurora is firmly in the 21st century. We have made great strides in the last six years, and we will make more as we enter into the third decade of this century. Our shared vision is for a quaint and beautiful Western Reserve town which values its historic roots and continues to attract business and visitors that help us thrive.

I have maintained my focus on infrastructure in 2019. We invested \$1.1M in road paving, we widened E. Pioneer in front of the library for about \$226,000, and we completed a new stormwater culvert on Chatham and replaced a failing one in Geauga Lake for just under half a million dollars. Pipes are not cheap! We are finishing the engineering to launch the first in a series of major wastewater treatment improvements, and we engineered a new E. Pioneer Trail water line to be constructed in 2020. We also installed 3,200 feet of new sidewalks, and you can now walk from 82 south on 306 and 43 all the way to the Outlets and Chatham and Four Seasons on sidewalks. Since I have been Mayor we have installed 1.8 miles of sidewalks in the city! Our strong financial management and our growing economy have enabled these accomplishments, along with a City Council which has supported these critical projects. Collaboration produces results.

Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin

Aurora was recently ranked Ohio's 15th safest city by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. Thank you to our safety forces who work around the clock to keep us all safe!



Aurora's Finances Continue to Meet the Highest Standards

Once again, the city has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The city works hard to protect taxpayer dollars and advance the city's best interests. The city also relies on its strong business community which provides 82% of the city's income tax revenue.

General COVID-19 and FLU Precautions

CDC recommendations for minimizing the spread of communicable diseases include the following:

- **Washing your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, including when coming and going from home.
- **Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Covering your mouth and nose** with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- **Avoiding contact with people** who are sick.
- **Staying home if you are sick** and contacting your healthcare provider.

You can find more detailed recommendations on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

Police Department

The Aurora Police Department continued to remain actively involved in the community. Aurora collaborated with Twinsburg and Macedonia Police Departments and the Aurora School District for a community discussion aimed at educating parents and children on social media awareness and new drugs aimed at targeting our youth. The police department also partnered with the Rotary Club of Aurora for the third annual citywide cleanup event, which enlisted approximately 50 volunteers who went throughout the city collecting discarded trash, resulting in hundreds of bags of collected trash. We also held our third annual National Night Out in August. This annual community-building campaign continued to be a huge success with hundreds of residents enjoying food, entertainment, and prizes.

The Mayor visiting local company rpGatta, pictured next to owner Ray Gatta, with Mechanical Engineering Manager Joe Alexander and Portage Development Board President Brad Ehrhart. They are standing in front of the enclosure containing a soldering robot for an electric car company.



2019 Year in Review

- **Happy 220th birthday, Aurora!**
- **Five** charter changes passed.
- **Paddock River Preserve** was dedicated.
- **Chief of Staff/Personnel Director** Karen Aldredge moved to Georgia and Aurora resident Karen Pope was hired to replace her, bringing 20 years of HR experience.
- **3,200 feet** of new sidewalks were installed.
- **Aurora Transportation Program** provided 601 round-trip rides and 122 one-way rides to Aurora residents.
- **The following roads were paved:** Aurora Lake Road, Circlewood, Prestige Woods Blvd., Regal Oaks Circle, Hampton Circle, Aurora Hudson Road.



Chief of Staff/
Director of
Personnel
Karen Pope



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What to Look for in 2020

- **Hartman Farm athletic field complex** will be open for soccer, cross country and baseball, and restrooms will be completed.
- **Cupola will be restored** to Town Hall roof.
- **Traffic signal at Treat Road** will be installed.
- Two community **shred days** will be held on July 18th and October 17th.
- **Major water line replacement** will take place on E. Pioneer and sidewalk to New Hudson will also be installed.
- **Chillicothe** northbound at Route 82 will be widened.
- **Industrial expansions** will occur at OEM Miller, R.P. Gatta, Auburn Land Co.
- **ThornCreek Winery** is expanding.
- **Pulte** expected to break ground for its mixed-use development at Geauga Lake.
- Ongoing **discussions with FirstEnergy** regarding its transmission line proposal.

Department of Public Services

- Collected **5,675 cubic yards** of brush.
- Collected **4,627 cubic yards** of leaves.
- Supplied **60,882,506 gallons** of drinking water.
- Performed **pavement preservation** crack sealing on 14.71 lane miles of roadway.
- Replaced **1,793 linear feet** of curbs.
- Installed **3,200 linear feet** of sidewalks.
- Cleared area for an additional salt dome – **1,157 cubic yards** of soil moved and graded, **543 tons** of recycled concrete installed for the base of the asphalt pad.
- Created **298 new grave sites** through Aurora Cemetery expansion.
- Completed **numerous engineering projects** including East Pioneer Trail widening and waterline reconstruction at Library, Chelmsford culvert and California Street project.

Keep In Touch

Police/Fire Emergency - 911
City Hall - 330-562-6131
City Council - 330-995-9125
Mayor's Office - 330-995-9126
Parks & Recreation - 330-562-4333
Planning, Zoning & Building - 330-562-9564
Service - 330-995-9116
Economic Development - 330-995-8867

City Finances: General Fund Review

	Expenses	Revenue
2018 Actual	\$16,992,795	\$18,274,778
2019 Actual	\$15,853,943	\$19,408,406

2019 Building Stats

Residential Construction	\$30,807,616
Commercial Construction	\$ 2,305,500
Industrial Construction	\$18,215,851
Total Construction	\$51,328,967

FIRE and EMS Stats

- Answered **2,445 total calls**, 1,816 EMS and 629 fire. Average response time to fire calls was 5.28 minutes and 4.10 minutes to EMS calls.
- **Firefighter/Paramedic David Justus was promoted** from part-time to fulltime to fill an existing vacancy.
- **Assistant Chief Matthew McBirney and Captain C.W. Hudson taught fire extinguisher classes** to approximately 650 employees of businesses and 150 eighth grade students.
- **Firefighter Mike Overholt taught CPR training** and by year-end had certified 664 people in either Health Care Provider CPR or Heartsaver AED and trained another 182 in first aid.
- **Assistant Chief McBirney** received a Master of Public Administration degree from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts.
- **Purchased a new LIFEPAK 15 heart monitor/defibrillator**, which can perform a 12 lead EKG with interpretation, monitor heart rate and rhythm, blood pressure, oxygen concentration and carbon monoxide level, breathing rate and gas exchange, deliver shocks to fibrillating hearts, and pace hearts with conduction problems.
- Continued to **teach fire safety** to children through education at the schools, visits to the fire station, community block parties and Safety Town.



Cross country runners enjoying a beautiful day at Hartman last fall.