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Aurora, North Aurora meet in middle for fireworks

The City of Aurora and the Village of North Aurora are joining together to celebrate Independence Day 2009 with fireworks, food, family activities and music on Friday, July 3 on the grounds of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy and Aurora Central Catholic High School.

The schools are located between Edgelawn Drive, Randall Road, Sullivan Road and Indian Trail on Aurora's west side.

Officials from both municipalities say the partnership will allow each to save money while residents enjoy a magnificent fireworks show and entertainment for all ages. North Aurora's village board voted to suspend its July 4 fireworks this year to allow for a grander display during its North Aurora Days celebration in August.

North Aurora will provide police officers to help with crowd and traffic control as well as sponsor skydivers that will descend during the celebration, said Village President Dale Berman. North Aurora's contribution to the event will equal \$4,000.

"I'm happy we're working together with the City of Aurora," Berman said. "The celebration of Independence Day is meaningful to all of us. The site of the fireworks is easily accessible and visible from both communities. This is a very smart collaboration and I hope the citizens of North Aurora will respond to it and take advantage of the opportunity."

Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner said he, too, is pleased with the partnership. "Independence Day is a day to celebrate the freedom we enjoy in America," Weisner said. "The fact that we can commemorate the day with our neighbors to the north is symbolic of that freedom."

Gina Moga, special events coordinator for the City of Aurora, said two shuttle buses will be added to run between off-site parking lots and the school grounds to accommodate North Aurora residents. Remote parking will be available in the Woodman's Market at 151 Hansen Blvd. in North Aurora. North Aurora restaurant owners are welcome to apply for food vendor spots, she added.

"We look at the Aurora fireworks location at IMSA and Aurora Central Catholic as a destination because of the activities that will be going on there," Berman said. "There's an opportunity for people to partake of not only the fireworks, but games for the kids and cartoons afterward so that not everyone is trying to leave at the same time. There will be adequate parking at Woodman's. I think it's a win-win thing all the way around."

Berman said the public can call Village Hall at 630-897-8228 or e-mail him at [HYPERLINK dberman@vil.north-aurora.il.us](mailto:dberman@vil.north-aurora.il.us) with suggestions or questions.

The July 3 entertainment lineup includes:
6 to 6:45 p.m. Circus Boy (comedy and juggling)
7 to 8 p.m. DBL-SHOT
8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aurora Summer Concert Band and skydivers
9:30 p.m. Fireworks
10 p.m. Cartoons

The public also may call the City of Aurora Customer Service Line at 630-264-INFO (4636).

ABOUT THE AACVB:

The Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the tourism marketing and management organization for Aurora, Batavia, Hinckley, North Aurora, Montgomery, Plano, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. This not-for-profit organization provides numerous travel resources to visitors via the Web site at www.enjoyaurora.com and a toll-free number 1-800-477-4369