THE
Beacon-News

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026 | CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/SUBURBS | $2.00

No timetable yet for reopening roads

Galena Boulevard and Broadway impacted by partial building collapse in downtown Aurora

By Addison Wright
AURORA BEACON-NEWS

Days after a building collapsed in the 100 block of East Galena Boulevard in downtown Aurora, city officials say normal traffic flow has yet to be restored near the site and there is no specific timetable for when the affected roads downtown will return to normal.

City officials also said the investigation into the cause of the incident continues, as of midday Monday.

City officials said they are working with building ownership to fast-track the recovery process within the downtown area, according to a press release from the city late Sunday.

The city is awaiting a final evaluation of the building from the building owner's insurance company, according to the release. The insurance company recently visited the site to assess the damage and evaluate the building's future, the release said.

An independent structural engineer has also visited the site to determine the structural integrity of the building, according to the release. Temporary fencing has been installed around the building to shield both pedestrians and vehicles from the affected area, city officials said.

Obtaining the insurance company's final decision and restoring downtown traffic flow is a top priority for the city, officials said.

The collapsed building and closed roads come ahead of several holiday events in downtown Aurora this week. Those events include the city's annual Winter Lights celebration downtown and the opening of Christkindlmarket Aurora at RiverEdge Park on Friday, as well as performances of "A Christmas Carol" at the Paramount Theatre, the venue's current Broadway Series show running through Jan. 3.

The holiday schedule of shows at the Paramount Theatre, located near the collapsed building on Galena Boulevard, will go on as planned, said Tim Rater, president of the Paramount, Friday. Rater advised patrons to build in some extra travel time for increased traffic when coming to the theater.

Officials said city staff have traffic control plans in place to accommodate the events and will release

See **ROADS** on Page A2



Aurora city staff with the Development Services Department block off a section of Galena Boulevard in downtown Aurora on Nov. 12 near the site of a partial building collapse on the 100 block of East Galena Boulevard. **ADDISON WRIGHT/THE BEACON-NEWS**



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to the crowd while on a float during the Winter Lights Parade in Aurora last year. This year's Winter Lights Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday in downtown Aurora. **SEAN KING/FOR THE BEACON-NEWS**

It's that time of year

Winter Lights Parade, Christkindlmarket opening set for Friday in Aurora

AURORA BEACON-NEWS

The holiday season is beginning this week in Aurora, with the annual Winter Lights Parade downtown and the opening of this year's Christkindlmarket at RiverEdge Park set for Friday, Nov. 20.

The city's Winter Lights Parade will step off at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Downer Place and Water Street in downtown Aurora. The parade will head west down Downer Place to River Street, with a tree lighting ceremony immediately following the parade, according to a press release from the city of Aurora.

Close to 7:20 p.m., a drone show featuring 300 drones will be held at the event, the release said.

The downtown festival will include holiday specials from participating businesses and pop-ups, giveaways and photos with Santa at the Grand Army of the Republic Military Museum following the parade and drone show.

Earlier on Friday, the Christkindlmarket will open at RiverEdge Park, 360 N. Broadway.

The popular Christmas-time German-American market has made RiverEdge Park in Aurora its suburban home since 2022.

Aurora's Christkindlmarket saw 220,000 visitors last year.

The holiday market in Aurora is organized by German American Events, a group which will also operate the Christkindlmarkets at Daley Plaza and Gallagher Way in Wrigleyville in Chicago during the holidays.

See **PARADE** on Page A2

GENEVA

Portion of 3rd Street downtown to close for repairs

Temporary closure will address section of damaged pavement

AURORA BEACON-NEWS

A one-block stretch of Third Street in downtown Geneva will be closed to traffic and parking temporarily starting Tuesday, Nov. 17, so that a section of damaged pavement can be repaired, city officials said.

The closure will extend from Fulton to South streets and is expected to last for seven days, a news release from the city said. The Fulton and South street intersections, however, will not be blocked, and the sidewalks will remain open for downtown pedestrians.

Over the summer, a section of Third Street's pavement heaved due to extreme heat, the city news release said. Crews will be removing and replacing the damaged concrete, as well as repairing the adjacent curb and brick crosswalk.

The city said increased noise is expected on Wednesday, Nov. 18, as crews saw cut and jackhammer the damaged concrete. Once the concrete is poured, the new surface will need time to cure, per the release.

Impacted businesses will be notified about the closure by the Geneva Public Works Department, the news release said, but all downtown businesses will remain open during construction, and customers can continue to access the stores along the block by sidewalk.

According to the city, the block is expected to reopen on Nov. 23, weather permitting.

Illinois veto session puts Bears stadium and data centers in play

By Jeremy Gorner and Olivia Olander
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois lawmakers return to the Capitol on Tuesday with Democrats fresh off sweeping election victories that will give them their largest legislative majorities in modern history but no settled answer on who will lead them in the House.

Legislators will have six days of the fall veto session to work with: three this week and three more in the first week of December. In that time, they face a short list of big unfinished business. They need to decide how to try to keep the Chicago Bears from leaving for Indiana, how to regulate power-hungry data centers and whether to find more money for public schools.

That work has to fit into the time left before the current two-year General Assembly ends in early January and a new one, with fresh faces in both chambers, is sworn in.

Other issues, including ethics reform and Gov. JB Pritzker's plans to build more housing, are expected to wait. "Generally speaking, we don't get a lot done in a veto session just because it's so, so short," Pritzker said in October when he was asked about ethics legislation.

Although it's called a "veto session" and is designed to give the legislature the opportunity to override a governor's vetoes, the legislature isn't expected to tackle any high-profile vetoes by Pritzker.

That's largely because Democrats rule Springfield across the board. Indeed, Democrats expanded their supermajorities in the Nov. 3 election. Their 78-40 advantage over Republicans in the House could grow by about a half dozen seats once all votes are counted, and their 40-19 edge in the Senate will grow by at least five seats.

Uncertainty over the House's

See **VETO** on Page A3



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Chicago Bears President Kevin Warren, right, chat before a game between the Bears and the Jaguars in London on Oct. 13, 2024. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

WEATHER FORECAST
TODAY H:56 L:39 | WED. H:58 L:45 | THU. H:63 L:44
Complete Chicagoland forecast on back page

©2026. All rights reserved.

Vol. 179 No. 248