Aurora Valley Times

Aurora Valley Times Holiday Issue

Holidays



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Aurora Valley Times

In This Issue Our Town News Cooking with Howard Sports Community Calendar

Aurora Valley Times Holiday Issue



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Plainfeild News

November 22, 2024

143rd Street West Extension

Paving on Ridge and Johnson Roads is scheduled for tomorrow, November 23. Traffic delays are expected while this work takes place. Next week, the contractor plans to pave 143rd Street, place stone shoulders along Ridge and Johnson Roads, and potentially place the pavement markings. Traffic signal work will continue throughout next week as well. 143rd Street Corridor project website.

143rd Street East Extension

Work within and along the DuPage River continues with the contractor pouring deep foundations and installing reinforcing steel for the supporting bridge substructure. The base of the bridge pier shown in the attached photo is one of six pier units which will support the nearly 1,000 foot long bridge. 143rd Street Corridor project website.

Indian Boundary Bridge & Roadway Reconstruction

The contractor is replacing unsuitable materials in the roadway base to prepare for paving. New streetlight poles are being installed along the section of Indian Boundary Road. Asphalt placement has been rescheduled for next week, followed by parkway grading, temporary restoration, and pavement markings. Indian Boundary Road remains closed to through traffic between Rowley Road and Creekside Drive. Please continue to follow the designated detour route.



Old Town North Roadway Reconstruction





Work is expected to begin soon on the concrete bump outs on the south half of Lockport Street. During this work, oneway westbound traffic will be maintained on Lockport Street; however, the lane configuration is expected to taper throughout the work zone. Please be aware of shifting traffic control. On the north side of Lockport Street, crews are finishing up concrete sidewalk and concrete driveway aprons. <u>Project Information</u>.

River Restoration Project

The project contractor, RES, installed soil erosion and sediment control measures in the DuPage River and around the project site this week. They also started earthwork operations by stripping and stockpiling topsoil and then began removing the failing retaining wall on the west bank of the DuPage River. For more information, visit the <u>project</u> <u>website</u>.



Envision a Better Transportation Network for Will County

Thanks to your feedback last year, the Will County Division of Transportation gained valuable insights into transportation challenges. Now, the County is excited to take the next step in the Long-Range Transportation Plan—with solutions designed to meet the needs of everyone, whether you walk, bike, drive, or take public transit. Your voice is essential! <u>Take the County's 10-minute survey</u> to share your thoughts.



Pace Survey

As travel patterns continue to evolve, Pace is rethinking its network to meet the changing needs of suburban communities. The ReVision project is designed to create a more accessible, equitable, and productive transit system. Share your ideas by completing the <u>online survey</u>; more information can be found at <u>www.pacebus.com/revision</u>.

REIMAGINING THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT

Thanksgiving Reminders

-The Village Offices will be closed November 28-29.

-Refuse collection will be delayed for those with Thursday collection due to the holiday. Instead, refuse, recycling, and yard waste will be picked up on Friday, November 29.

-Buckle up! The Police Department is participating in the <u>Thanksgiving Click It or Ticket campaign</u>.

Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste collection ends in December. This year, the last day for yard waste collection will be December 9 for Monday routes, December 11 for Wednesday routes, and December 12 for Thursday routes.

As a reminder, brush, grass clippings, and leaves should be placed in Kraft yard waste bags or a Waste Management yard waste cart. Branches must be tied in 4 foot bundles weighing 50 pounds or less.



Toys for Tots

With the holidays right around the corner, the Village Hall is serving as a collection site for Toys for Tots. New, unwrapped toys for children of all ages can be dropped off at the Village Hall through Monday, December 16. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season!



Meeting Information

- The Village Board has a workshop on November 25; click here to view the agenda.
- All Village Meetings are streamed live on the <u>Village website</u> (click In Progress when available) and broadcast on Comcast Channel 6 and AT&T Channel 99.

NEW PROGRAM: Inside 44 With Alex Alexandrou!

The City of Aurora is launching a new, bi-weekly podcast with Chief Management Officer, Alex Alexandrou!

The program will provide residents with an inside look into day-to-day operations at City Hall. In the show's first episode, A.A. sits down with Communications Manager, Jon Zaghloul, to detail development in Aurora, including the Residences at Eastbank Apartments and the new Hollywood Casino Aurora!

Alex also provides insight into the process behind making deals in Aurora, and how ideas transform into reality!

Aurora Hosts First-Ever Rocket League Tournament!

The City of Aurora is excited to announce the launch of the Aurora Gaming Series (AGS), featuring a competitive, head-to-head Rocket League Tournament, taking place at U-Time Gamers inside of the Fox Valley Mall on December 30 from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M.!

This 2v2 team tournament is FREE to enter! Teams will have a chance to compete for a \$500 grand prize, custom-designed trophy, and the honor of being named the first-ever winners of the Aurora Gaming Series!

The entire tournament will be LIVE-STREAMED on ACTV (Xfinity Channel 10/AT&T Channel 99), YouTube, Twitch, and the FREE City of Aurora app.

To register your team, please click on the button below! Space is limited and will fill up fast, so be sure to sign up today!

Register Your Team Today!





Presented By: UTime

REMINDER: City of Aurora Snow Parking Regulations



SNOW PARKING REGULATIONS

REGLAMENTO PARA EL ESTACIONAMIENTO EN LA NIEVE

hen there is 2" or more of snow cars must be moved off of the street: may pack on the front lawn of a residential property ig or within twenty four (24) hours after a snowfail, may park over the sidewalk during or within twenty-fou

Cars may not park on the parkway. Cars may not park on the street when there are 2" or more inches of snow on the ground and are at risk of being ticketer

oi towed Cuando ha caído 2° o más de nieve, los autos deben retirarse de la calle:

Ol os automóviles pueden esta (24) horas posteriores a una nevada. © Los automóviles podrán estacionarse sobre la acera duarate o dentro de las venticuarto (28) horas posteriores a una nevada. © Los automóviles no podrán estacionarse en un lado de la

avenida @Los automóviles no pueden estacionarse en la calle cu

hay 2° o más de nieve en el suelo y comen el riesgo de recibi una multa o ser remolcados.

With snow in the forecast this week, the City of Aurora would like to remind residents that cars must be moved off the street when two or more inches of snow are present.

Cars CAN PARK on the front lawn of a residential property during or within 24 hours after a snowfall. Car CAN ALSO PARK over the sidewalk, too, during or within 24 hours after a snowfall.

Cars CANNOT park on the parkway, and cars CANNOT park on the street when two or more inches of snow are on the ground!

As snow approaches, please remember that Aurora's Senior & Disability Services Division is still recruiting snow angels for Operation Senior Shovel! If you would like to volunteer, please click on the button below.

TONIGHT: Winter Lights Fest In Downtown Aurora!

Join the City of Aurora TONIGHT for the 2024 Winter Lights Fest!

Taking place from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. in Downtown Aurora, the City will be lighting up the streets with a nighttime parade, lighting up the official Christmas tree with a countdown, lighting up the night sky with an amazing new drone show, and lighting the way into the holiday season!

The parade begins at 6:30 P.M. at Downer Place and Water Street and heads west on Downer Place to River Street.

The Christmas tree lighting will commence immediately following the parade at the G.A.R. Memorial Hall, located at 23 E. Downer Place, with a community countdown before the flipping of the big switch!

The new drone show will then light up the night sky over the downtown district!

After the trifecta of fun festivities, everyone is invited to enjoy the rest of the family-friendly evening downtown with:

- FREE photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Paramount School of the Arts
- Music and Dancing with DJ Suavesmooth
- Live Music at the Millennium Plaza Gazebo on Stolp Avenue
- Photos with costumed characters and special backdrops on Downer Place and Stolp Avenue
- Food trucks and food vendors on Stolp Avenue
- Special holiday shopping deals at multiple downtown businesses



The Census bureau is now hiring for the following positions to assist with the City of Aurora Special Census.

Field Representative \$21.00/HR Field Supervisor \$24.50/HR Clerk \$21.00/HR

SAVE THE DATE: Aurora's 2025 Special Census Will Begin On February 3, 2025!

Get ready, Aurora! The City of Aurora's 2025 Special Census, which will cover portions of each of the City's 10 Wards, will begin on February 3, 2025!

Currently, the U.S. Census Bureau is hiring Field Supervisors, Field Representatives, and Office Clerks to assist in completing the Special Census. With pay ranging from \$21-\$24.50, the positions provide you with the opportunity to lead Aurora's efforts in accurately counting the population and recovering key funding for important City services.

To submit your application, please visit: <u>www.aurora-il.org/SpecialCensusJobs</u>.

Learn More About The 2025 Special Census!

Animal Care and Control Launches "Home For The Holidays" Adoption Special!



Aurora Animal Care & Control is launching <u>"Home For The Holidays,"</u> a new adoption special! Through the end of the year, dog adoption prices are just \$100 and cat adoption prices are just \$50!

Over 60 dogs and cats are available for adoption and looking to become a part of your family!

Visit <u>Aurora Animal Care and Control</u> today at 600 S. River Street to adopt your new forever friend! Adoption hours are Monday through Saturday between 12 P.M. and 4 P.M.

Oswego News

November Business of the Month



Congratulations to the American Legion Post 675 for being named Oswego's November Business of the Month.

With a mission to support veterans, service members and their families, Post 675 has been a cornerstone of our community since 1932. From their popular weekly events like Bingo Wednesdays and Fish Fry Fridays to hosting moving Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, they bring Oswego together in a meaningful way.

American Legion Post 675 is located at 19 W. Washington Street in Oswego. Please join us in thanking Post 675 for their incredible contributions to our community! <u>Learn more about their impact and other</u> <u>Business of the Month award winners</u>.

Free December yard waste collection



Get rid of your landscape waste for free the week of December 2, on your regularly scheduled garbage day. Place leaves, brush and grass clippings in 30-gallon Kraft paper bags and put out with your recycling and waste containers. Stickers are not required for this bonus yard waste collection. Learn more about the free December yard waste collection.

Snow preparedness

Oswego's Public Works crew works diligently to keep our roads safe. Our snow crews work tirelessly to salt and plow streets, but we need your help to keep things running smoothly—and to save yourself from winter hassles! Here's how you can prepare:

- Secure your mailbox before the ground freezes.
- Shovel parkway snow near your driveway's apron so plows don't leave extra slush blocking your cars.
- Keep snow piles in your yard, not the street!

Plowing Responsibilities:

- Oswego Public Works: Main roads (Douglas Rd., Boulder Hill Pass) first, then neighborhood streets.
- State of Illinois (IDOT): Routes 30, 31, 34, 71 & 25.
- Kendall County: Orchard Rd., Grove Rd. & Plainfield Rd.
- Oswego Township: Roads in unincorporated areas.

Remember: Plow visibility is limited. Stay safe, keep your distance and remind kids to steer clear of the plow trucks.

Visit our website for more snow removal information and tips.

Thankful for our sponsors



With the spirit of Thanksgiving in the air, we're feeling thankful for our <u>Christmas</u> <u>Walk</u> sponsors! Thanks to their generosity, Oswego's favorite holiday event is ready to light up the season on December 6.



Thank you Servbank, TR Miller Heating, Cooling & Plumbing, and First Place Rental.

Learn more about this event.

Oswego Christmas Walk is presented by Servbank.



Thanksgiving reminders

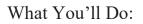


Village offices will be closed November 28 & 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Garbage collection will be delayed by one day.

Help shape Oswego's digital future

Are you or someone you know ready to take on a key role in enhancing technology across a community-focused organization?

As an Enterprise Application Support Analyst on our IT team, you'll be essential in driving efficiency, supporting end-users, and managing our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software with precision and innovation.



- Serve as our ERP system expert
- Lead integration and maintenance efforts
- Provide hands-on support and training to end-users
- Collaborate on budget planning and tech solutions with strategic impact

Why Choose Us?

We offer competitive pay (\$79,535 - \$112,940) and comprehensive benefits, including health insurance, IMRF pension and more. Join a team that values your expertise, encourages growth and supports your career goals!

Apply by December 20 and take the next step in your IT career with the Village of Oswego! Learn more and apply.

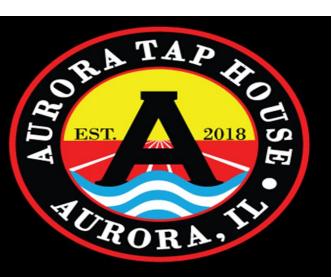
Upcoming dates

November 28 -- Thanksgiving | Village offices closed; garbage services delayed by one day November 29 -- Village offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving Week of December 2 -- Free yard waste collection December 6 -- Oswego Christmas Walk December 10 -- Committee of the Whole & Village Board Meetings December 24 -- Village offices closed in observance of Christmas Eve; garbage services unaffected December 25 -- Village offices closed on Christmas Day; garbage services delayed by one day December 30 -- Free Christmas tree collection through January 10





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info@aurorataphouse.com Email

www.aurorataphouse.com/

Merry & Bright Kicks Off with the Tree Lighting and Visit from Santa on Sunday, December 8



The more, the merrier. Montgomery Merry & Bright lights up the night starting Sunday, December 8. Festivities begin with the Tree Lighting and visit with Santa at 5:00P on Sunday, December 8, in front of Village Hall (200 N. River St). The event will feature Santa, giveaways, musical performances, and the opening of the Festival of Trees, which will run through December 26 at Village Hall and along River Street.

Together with the Greater Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce (GMACC), the Village of Montgomery has hosted this event for twenty-seven years. The annual Tree Lighting & Visit with Santa event will kick off the festivities on Sunday, December 8, with Santa and Mrs. Claus's grand arrival on the Montgomery-Countryside Fire District fire engine just after 5P on River Street. Santa and Village President Brolley will be lighting the Village tree this year and another 20 trees along the street, decorated by local businesses and organizations. Next, Santa and Mrs. Claus will head indoors at Village Hall for visits and pictures, along with the Oswego East Tri-M Music Honor Society, who will perform in the Board Room for those waiting in line or looking to warm up. In addition, guests can watch live musical performances outdoors from local Oswego East Jazz Ensemble students and enjoy professional strolling carolers, the Festive Singers, along River Street.

The 200 Block of North River Street businesses are also in on the festivities. Guests can wander to <u>Atrevete Confections</u> (216 N. River St.) for a free hot chocolate or head to <u>Gray's Mill</u> <u>Estate</u> (211 N. River St.) for a cookie. Organizations like the Rotary Club of Montgomery will also be onsite in the Village Hall Multi-Purpose Room with giveaways, crafts for kids, and letters to Santa. Additionally, the Rotary will give a special treat to children who bring non-perishable items to fill up the Rotary Free Little Pantry located at Village Hall for families needing food throughout the year. The Toys for Tots will also have collection bins at the Hall during the event for those interested in donating a new toy for a child this holiday season.

The event, parking, and activities are free thanks to our sponsors: Orchard Road Animal Hospital, Fox Valley Park District, Ozinga, Dieterle Memorial Home, and the many business partners who have agreed to fund an outdoor tree and activity. A few outdoor tree spaces are available for the Festival of Trees. Businesses, families, or organizations looking to support this event or show some holiday spirit can visit the Village website to find out more or email **rboeing@montgomeryil.org**. Space is limited, first-come, first-served. For more information on the event, visit **montgomeryil.org** or the **Village's Facebook Page**.



Nominate Your Home or a Neighbor for the Holiday Decorations Contest,



Montgomery, IL –The <u>Montgomery Beautification Committee</u> will host its annual Holiday Decorations Contest to recognize homes and businesses for outstanding Holiday decorations that contribute to making "Montgomery Merry & Bright." Registration is now open for the contest, which kicks off the holiday season in the Village. Residents can nominate their home or someone else's by submitting the property address online at <u>montgomeryil.org</u>. Nominations for the 2024 contest will be accepted through December 8, the same night as the Annual Tree Lighting & Visit with Santa planned for Village Hall on Sunday, December 8, beginning at 5P.

"The Village Holiday Decorations Contest is one of the Beautification Committee's favorite times of the year," says Ben Brzoska, Village Trustee and chair of the Beautification Committee. "The entries are amazing and we enjoy driving around and seeing the incredible effort put into the displays."

Only one nomination per address is required for the judges to review a home or business's display. Committee members will visit all the nominated addresses on December 11 to recognize participants who meet and exceed the requirements. Residents are encouraged to ensure their lights are on and displays are complete by 5:00 that evening. In addition, the committee will place a sign recognizing participants in front of the property.

Addresses of the homes will be available online after judging is complete for the community to drive around and see the winning home and business locations. Brzoska adds, "Thank you to our residents for helping make Montgomery 'merry and bright', we love being able to recognize those that do their part in making Montgomery an awesome place to live."

The Village of Montgomery Beautification Committee will accept nominations through Sunday, December 8. Nominate a property via the Village website, <u>montgomeryil.org</u>, or email <u>rmason@montgomeryil.org</u>.



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It is not taken lightly, that you are trusting us with a loved one. You and your family will be treated as if you are part of our family. We are honored to serve you, our friends and neighbors.

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Aurora Valley Times Local Sports



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North Side Report by Howard Krick

Gerald

VISSA

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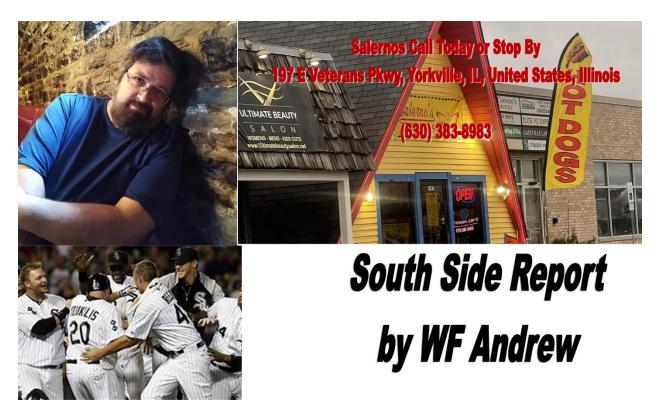
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North Side Report by Howard Krick

Cubs and bull pen help and are looking to trade Cody Bellinger. Well, those are two important decisions that the Cubs front office face here in the off season. Finishing 7 games out of the playoffs but finishing with a winning record for the 2nd time in two seasons shows that the Cubs are a good team but can not find a way into the post season. Hitting is the biggest issue with no power in the lineup and streaky hitting is the reason. Cody Bellinger had a lack luster 2024 season and if he does stay with the Cubs, they need to move him to first base and he needs to focus on his offense and get back on track. The Cubs play in the NL Central, and pitching is a strong focus and the Brewers and Pirates have plenty of that. The Reds are trending in the right direction rebuilding their squad and the Cardinals are always in the hunt and find a way to be there.

So how do the Cubs look to improve for next season with the emergence of Pete Crow Armstrong? The Cubs have speed at the top of the lineup, Dansby Swanson and Seyeu Suzki are good middle of the order hitters and if we maintain Cody Bellinger this is a formidable middle of the order lineup. What we lack is the big hitter who can come up and offer power to get runs driven in. This team will look to address these issues here in the offseason.



South Side Report by WF Andrew

Well as we are now in the offseason the Sox named Will Venable and his background is impressive working with Bruce Bouchey with the Giants and Rangers and winning a few World Series. The White Sox need to get the organization heading in the right direction after last season's record losing as the worst team in History. We need to focus on the assets we have in place with Dylan Crochet and Lewis Roberts and start building around the established talent these guys are in their prime and have a lot of years ahead of them. We have a strong farm system that should improve last season's performance and with new manger Will Venable the Sox have a manger who knows how to build a team and succeed.

Stop talking about the new stadium and focus on the ball club and get serious about getting the Southsiders back on track and focus on winning ball games. Stop talking about rebuilding and selling off your assets and focus on what are doing and we are rebuilding but build around the talent you have already developed.

With Chris Sale winning the CY Young show that the things you did in the past are not the best practice but rather focus on winning and the future. In my opinion, with the moves we have already made and keeping Roberts and Crochet gives us a chance to improve by 15 games. Yes, we are not going to be a wining team this year but we can improve and develop the talent we have in house like the 1990 White sox did and surprised allot of people that Summer.



Bear Down by Martin Flowers

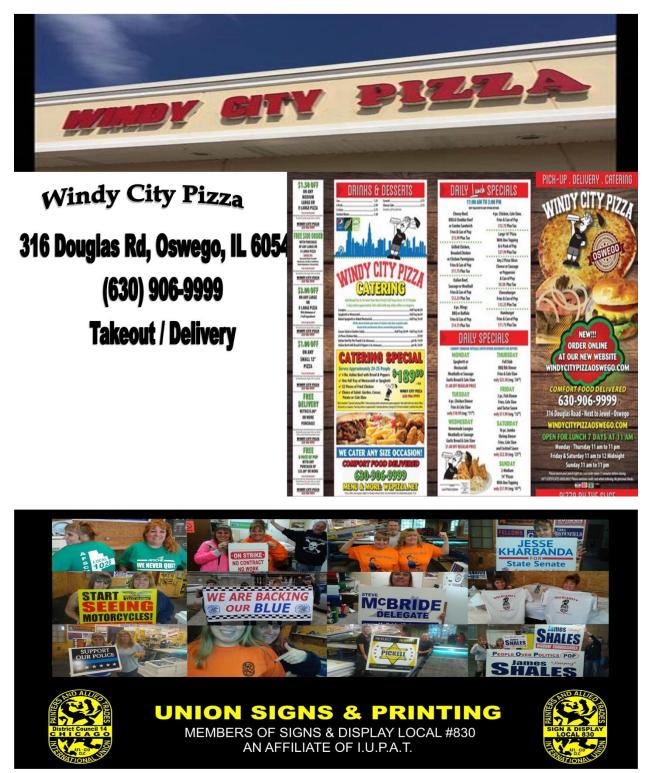
Bear Report by Martin Flowers

Bears come into Sunday's game on a four-game losing streak and continue to lose close games because of coaching of Matt Eberfluess. So, at 4 and 6 the Bears continue to struggle in the first half and have to some back and just cant finish. In the four game losing streak Bears have already fired Shane Waldron the offensive coordinator and still cannot find a way to win. With the Vikings coming in the Bears need to improve and get the running game going early to take pressure off Caleb Williams who has been sacked 41 times this year. The game plan needs to get Cole Kmet going at tight end and focus on getting DJ Moore his touches, Keenan Allen can help with catching the football and helping to create yards after the catch.

The Defense has been hurt and are getting heathy and if the Bears defense shows up, they will keep the Bears in the game. Special teams outside of the blocked field goal last week has been solid. If the Bears are going to win, they need to play well on both sides of the football.

So the keys to the Bears winning is simple run the ball and open up the slot across the middle with Cole Kmet. By doing this you might be able to open up so long ball

opportunities. The Vikes are tough upfront and rush the quarterback but have trouble stopping the run. The season is on the line today and the bears need to win. Bear Down!





Sunday December 8th 5pm to 7 pm Pig Dogs Pub located 1250 S Broadway Montgomery Illinois 60538 Holiday Chili Cookoff all proceeds go to Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry Visit www.aurora-valley-times.com







On the Court by Jack Flowers

Bulls come into the week at 7 and 10 with improved play on defense the Bulls are starting to find themselves and with the impending return of Lonzo Ball this is shaping up to be a fun team to watch. Zach Lavine has found his stride and is again leading the team in scoring. What is interesting is that the Bulls are playing as a team. Newcomer Jason Giddy was a pleasant surprise. Big Men Frank White and Nica Vezxuec have been dominating on the Boards.

The Bench is supporting as well with the play of Ayu Dominznia and Coby White offering constant scoring and timely defense. The Bulls still need that dominate presence in the paint to lock down the inside to help shore up the defense. The team is scoring and driving the ball down the court.

So the week ahead includes Wizards, Celtics, Nets and Magic the Bulls need to continue to evolve as a team and focus on getting themselves on a run now to gain ground in the Eastern Conference. Right now, they sit at 10th spot which means they will have to play in the playoffs and over the past two years this has not been fared well for the Bulls.

Ok the key to getting this week to be successful is simple again keep the ball rotation going on offense and focus on defense and controlling the boards and the Bulls should be ok the Celtics are going to be a real test to see if the Bulls are able to make in a run this season.

COOKING WITH HOWARD BY HOWARD KRICK

MAKES 4 SERVINGS PREP TIME 10 MINUTES COOK TIME 8 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound boneless chicken tenderloins
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup Frank's RedHot® Buffalo Wings Hot Sauce
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS

- 1. PLACE chicken and flour in large resealable plastic bag; toss to coat. Place eggs in shallow dish. Place panko in separate shallow dish. Dip chicken into eggs, then into panko, turning to coat well.
- 2. HEAT oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high. Cook chicken 6 to 8 minutes or until cooked through and crispy, turning once.
- 3. TOSS chicken in Buffalo Wings Sauce. Serve immediately.

Euffalo Chicken Tenders Recipe



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