

December seminars at Aurora Business Development Center

Call on the Aurora Business Development Center for your small business training needs! The following seminars will be offered in December and take place at the Aurora BDC unless otherwise noted:

Basics of Starting a Business

Tues.,Dec. 4, 10:00 AM- 12:00 - FREE
Want to know how to turn that business idea into a reality?

This two-hour overview will cover legal structure, trade name registration, business and sales tax licenses, basic business planning—and includes an entrepreneurial assessment! Recommended companion seminar: Obtaining Business Financing

Obtaining Business Financing

Wed., Dec. 5, 10:00 AM- 12:00 - FREE
This two-hour overview will cover the different sources of capital including SBA and micro-loans, lending criteria, and fundamentals of the loan application, package and process. A must-attend if you are seeking financing for your business!

HOW TO REGISTER:

Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. Call (303) 326-8690 or register by e-mail: info@aurorabdc.com. Payable at the door by cash or check to the Aurora BDC; credit cards are not accepted. A complete schedule is available on-line at www.aurorabdc.com or by calling the Aurora BDC at (303) 326-8690. Ask about the Chamber discount.

The Aurora BDC is located in the Florence Square building: 9801 E. Colfax Ave., Ste. 200 Aurora, CO 80010-2154

Martin Luther King, Jr. Library: 9898 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, CO 80010 (between Elmira and Emporia Streets in Original Aurora; across the street from the Aurora BDC).



Lift that ... pumpkin! – In assembly line fashion, Gary and Stacie May of May Farms hand off pumpkins to Tim Jeffries from the Aurora Police Department and on down the line through the Chamber of Commerce to Len Lyall Chevrolet to cover the lawn in front of The Children’s Hospital with a sea of orange for at the Aurora’s newest hospital to assure the kids there got to celebrate in the season as well

Renewals

401(k) Advisors USA
A Black Orchid, Inc.
AAA Colorado
Accurate Transmission
Don's Mailing Service
Aquila Business Services, LLC
Axis Commercial Realty, Inc.
BiznessDoor.com
Big D Pizza dba Blackjack Pizza
Blind Corners & Curves
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Colorado Carpet Cleaning
Colorado Oaks, LLC
Concentra Medical Centers
Dance Core
Dave Williams & Associates, LLC
David Evans & Associates, Inc.
Denver Federal Executive Board
Edwards & Taylor LLC
Emerald Isle Restaurant
ENT Federal Credit Union
Four Points by Sheraton Denver Southeast
Freund & Company
State Representative Michael Garcia
Hampton Inn & Suites Denver Cherry Creek
Handyman Matters of Central Denver & Aurora

Holiday Inn - DIA
The Honeybaked Ham Company
The Hypnosis Center
JC Penney - Southlands
Johnson's Automotive Repair
Keller's Professional Auto Service
Liberty Savings Bank
Lupita's Restaurant
Lupus Foundation of Colorado
M. Chase Group, LLC
Michael A. Sheldon & Associates, LLP
Montview Properties
Music Go Round
Arapahoe County Office

of the Public Trustee
Omnitech Industries, Inc.
Payment Alliance International
Precision Recruiting, Inc.
Residence Inn Denver Airport
The Royal Hilltop
Sailmates Enterprises
Sheraton DTC Hotel
Sinton Dairy
Springhill Suites by Marriott
State Farm Insurance
SubStop
Summit Steakhouse
Sunny Homes & Associates, Inc.
Suss Buick Pontiac GMC
Techno Rescue, LLC
The Way Home Realty
Cable-Safe, LLC
Waddell & Reed
Wal-Mart Stores #5334
Washington Mutual Bank
Washington Mutual Bank
WVC Company

NEW MEMBERS

Amberg Entertainment
Best Buy
Bright Now Dental
Denver City Restorations
Hyatt Place Denver South/Park Meadows
Laura Hansen, CCHT
Lend Lease Communities
LOGO ON
Mass Mutual Financial Group
Washington Mutul Bank



Upcoming Events

Business before Hours

Dec. 12 | 7:30 a.m.
Pinnacol Assurance
(On Lowry near Quebec & Lowry Blvd.)

Women in Business

Wine Tasting
Dec. 18 | 4:30 p.m.
The Bent Noodle (Dartmouth & Parker)

Annual Business after Hours

Holiday Party
Dec. 20 | 4:30 p.m.
Doubletree SE (I-225 & Parker)

Christmas Holiday Observed

Dec. 24-25
Chamber Closed

New Years Day

Holiday Observed
Jan. 1, 2008
Chamber Closed

Legislator's Breakfast

Jan. 7 | 7:30 a.m.
Community College of Aurora
Main Campus - Rotunda Room

Newsletter Online

Don't forget that the monthly *IMPACT* is on our Web site before you get it in the mail! The newsletter is sent via bulk mail at the end of every month, and can take up to 14 days to get into your hands.

The monthly package you receive in the mail is chock full of offers and information from your fellow Chamber members, as well as registration forms and meeting notices from The Chamber. Be sure to open it and look through the flyers as well as the newsletter!



Top businesses in Aurora honored

Five Aurora businesses were singled the 2007 out by the city of Aurora as the best of the best in 2007 by the Aurora City Council, the City Manager and Business Advisory Board.

Selected for special recognition in 2007 were **Suss Buick Pontiac GMC, Southlands, Gateway Mazda, La Cueva Restaurant** and Sunrise ArtWorks

“These are the city’s most exceptional examples,” said City Manager Ron Miller, “they are folks who are dedicated to making our city a great place to do business.”

The companies were selected for their proven longevity as an Aurora business, significant growth during the past year, exceptional customer service and proven contributions to the enhancement of the community. Other criteria for recognition by the city



All smiles — Winners of the City of Aurora’s 2007 Business Recognition Award show off their awards they earned for their exceptional contributions to the business vitality of the city. From left to right are Jim and Paul Suss, **Suss Buick Pontiac GMC**; Carol Scott and Emanuel Bugelli, **Gateway Mazda**; Joe Bellio, **Southlands**; Norma Nuñez, **La Cueva Restaurant**; Walt Weinberg, **Sunrise ArtWorks** and Karen Gilkey, **Southlands**. (Photo courtesy Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography)

included introduction of a unique product or service within the industry they represent and their role as a proven tax generator

The Chamber’s small business partner, the Aurora Business

Development Center conducts the program each year and works closely with the Business Advisory Board and The Chamber to identify deserving businesses.

State of the Base address date set

It is one of the metro area’s premier economic engines—a \$1 billion resource that sits in our back yard.

We are talking about Buckley Air Force Base, home of the 460th Space Wing and the Colorado Air National Guard’s F-16-equipped 140th Wing.

If you always wanted to know more about this lynchpin in our nation’s defense you might want to sign up to attend the annual State of the Base address featuring Buckley’s commander, Col. Wayne McGee.

Co-sponsored by The Chamber Defense Council and the Rotary Club of Aurora, this luncheon event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel SE (Iliff & I-225) on Wednesday, Jan. 16 beginning at noon. Cost for the lunch is \$25 and reservations are required since space is limited.

For additional information and to reserve you place at this important occasion please call Trisha at 303-344-1500.



What’s best for Buckley - U.S. Senator Ken Salazar expresses his support for the long-term viability of Buckley Air Force Base at a meeting that included Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer (center) and 460th Wing Commander Wayne McGee. The meeting was facilitated by The Chamber and was also attended by Chamber President Kevin Hougen, Defense Council Chair Craig Ward, Chamber Board members Diane Garcia and Jo Snell, and 140th Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Trulan Eyre as well as a host of other city and military officials. The Senator brought the group together to review encroachment issues at Buckley and was assured that the city and the business community were united in their support of the base.



Bob Barké
Chair

Now that I've gotten a couple of months at the helm under my belt, I'd like to share with you my thoughts on a subject that I hear more and more about – one that is near and dear to my profession and myself. I'm talking about the issue of healthcare in Colorado.

Since nearly 60 percent of Coloradoans rely on employer-provided healthcare benefits, I think it only appropriate that the companies who have stepped up should be strongly represented in the growing debate over reform of the state's healthcare system.

Faced with significant annual health-insurance premium increases, some employers—especially small and medium sized companies—are reducing benefits to current and retired workers, eliminating coverage of spouses and dependents and shifting more of the cost to the workers.

Consequently, a growing number of these workers and their families are joining the swelling ranks of the uninsured and seek care in the emergency rooms or under Medicaid. These costs are then shifted to companies and workers with health insurance—and to you and I, the taxpayers.

The Chamber's Mission

The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to serve as a voice for the business community, acting as an advocate for its members on issues that affect their growth and long-term economic vitality.

Chair's Letter

Meeting the Healthcare Challenge

Engaging in the debate

In states such as Massachusetts that have undertaken major healthcare policy reform, the business community has been an integral part of the process.

In Colorado, however, the business community has not—in the eyes of many experts, policymakers, philanthropic foundations, healthcare trade organizations and advocacy groups—been adequately engaged in the debate. There have been instances, however, where business leadership has been created around such specific issues such as small-group health insurance reform.

The time has come, in my view, for the statewide business community to participate fully in the discussion that is beginning over how to reform the state's healthcare system to address such major problems as:

- Major annual increases in healthcare insurance premiums;
- Increasing numbers of uninsured and underinsured; and
- Increasing numbers of small-and medium-sized firms that no longer offer healthcare benefits.

Meeting the challenge

Our biggest challenge in my view is to educate and mobilize the business community to engage in this debate in a sustained manner. It is important to understand that the business community, like our Chamber, is not a homogenous entity. It encompasses employers from the very small to the very large across a wide variety of industries statewide. Add to this the fact that the number of major companies headquartered in Colorado

has declined in recent years, resulting in the loss of high-profile business leaders able and willing to speak out on such major public-policy issues as healthcare. A number of competing local business organizations across the state complicates the problem of systematically securing business involvement.

To overcome these barriers, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce proposes an aggressive, focused strategy to successfully engage the broad business community in major healthcare policy reform. We hope to build on some of the proposals laid out for us by the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI) at their Business Healthcare Forum back in October. Our goal is to partner with CACI to help identify and direct the business community.

With the state legislature about to open their 2008 session; and with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Healthcare about to present their proposals, the time is right for us engage in the process to ensure the direction this state goes is in the best interests of the business community as well as the individual when it comes to healthcare. I look forward to hearing your thoughts in this regard.

Season's Greetings
I'd be terribly remiss if I missed this opportunity to tell each and every one of you how important you are to our organization. With this in mind let me wish you all the best for the holiday season. However you celebrate it, do it safely and with kindness for those closest to you. I look forward to serving with you in the New Year.

DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"

Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

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Culture Corner

Charles Dickens' Ghost Story of Christmas now playing at Fox

Seasonal carols along with original music provide a tuneful framework for the Aurora Fox's family-friendly production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Jack Casperson stars as Ebenezer Scrooge in a celebration of Charles Dickens' magical tale, a story of love and redemption often called "a theatrical holiday treasure to be cherished by family and friends for years to come."

The popular season production began on Nov. 23 and runs through Dec. 23 at the Fox Art Theater at 9900 E. Colfax. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. with additional matinee performances scheduled for Saturday, December 15 and 22.

For tickets all 303-739-1970 or go to the Fox Theater web site at www.aurorafox.org

Singers Holiday Concert

The Aurora Singers present their 30th anniversary "Christmas Extravaganza" concert on December 8th and 9th at East Middle School (1275 Fraser Street). Music will include traditional favorites such as "Silver Bells" and "Winter Wonderland" as well as newer songs with a jazzy feel. Other songs will feature traditional pieces with a contemporary twist, including a new work

written especially for the Singers. Everyone's favorite jolly man will be included as well, recounting his journey through music. Performances are 7:30 pm on Saturday, December 8 and 2 pm on Sunday, December 9. Tickets are \$8 with discounts available. Come help celebrate 30 years of The Aurora Singers!



Give us a "C" – The Aurora Singers look their best as they prepare for their 30th anniversary "Christmas Extravaganza" concert on December 8th and 9th at East Middle School (1275 Fraser Street). Music will include traditional favorites such as "Silver Bells" and "Winter Wonderland" as well as newer songs with a jazzy feel. Other songs will feature traditional pieces with a contemporary twist, including a new work written especially for the Singers. Everyone's favorite jolly man will be included as well, recounting his journey through music. Performances are 7:30 pm on Saturday, December 8 and 2 pm on Sunday, December 9. Tickets are \$8 with discounts available.

The Aurora Fox Theatre Company
presents
Charles Dickens'
Ghost Story of Christmas

A Christmas Carol

A family friendly and musical
production that instills a powerful
message about redemption
and the spirit of the
holiday season.

Opening Nov 23 thru Dec 23



Annual Symphony Ball date, theme set

Save the Date! That's the word from the **Aurora Symphony Orchestra** who asks you circle Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 6 p.m. on your calendar and plan on joining them for their 9th Annual Aurora Symphony Ball. According to Karen Middleton who is organizing the event, the theme will be **Caliente Nights!** "You'll enjoy a classic Latin evening featuring the Aurora Symphony Orchestra and Tango Quartet Extasis as well as a buffet dinner and dancing," said Middleton. Tickets for the Black tie event which will be at the Holiday Inn DIA at 40th & I-70 are \$60. For more information on tickets or sponsorships and advertising call 303-873-6622 send and email to ball@aurorasymphony.org.

The IMPACT is published monthly for the members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Subscription rate to nonmembers: \$50/year. Advertisers: The Chamber members—use the *IMPACT* to advertise your products and services to over 1700 Aurora Chamber members. Advertising space only available to members. The IMPACT also accepts preprinted inserts. Contact The Chamber for details. Deadlines: the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Member News

Ward featured on Fox 31

If you woke up and turned on you TV to Fox 31 recently, you may have seen someone from the Chamber. Craig Ward, owner of **Padgett Business Services** and a member of The Chamber Board of Directors, provided financial advice on the morning news Nov. 12. “They asked me about the top 3 money mistakes,” said the Aurora accountant. “I said not paying off your credit card monthly, having a car payment and making mistakes on refinancing your house. I also gave several strategies to keep from repeating these mistakes again.” Ward said the reporter, Shaul Turner, was pleased with his interview and would “invite him back.”

Aurora Housing Authority honored

The **Aurora Housing Authority** (AHA) won two of the top awards at the 19th Annual Housing Colorado NOW! Conference in Vail Oct. 1- 4.

AHA received the prestigious Eagle award for outstanding leadership and accomplishments related to affordable housing and supportive services in Colorado. The agency also received the People’s Choice Award, which was created in 1999 as an opportunity for conference attendees to evaluate cutting edge work in the affordable housing field.

APS adds new schools to lineup

Aurora Quest, one of the top performing schools in the state, is now accepting applications for an additional 300 students. According to **Aurora Public School** officials, Quest offers excellent learning opportunities for advanced learners and gifted and talented students. Opening in fall 2008, the new Aurora Quest K-8 will combine the current Quest Academy (1-5) and Summit Academy (6-8).

The new school will be located at 17315 E. 2nd Ave, just east of Airport Blvd. and just south of William Smith High School. For more information call 303-343-3664 or visit www.aps.k12.co.us/quest.

In addition, the APS Board of Education, working closely with the **Aurora Public School Foundation**, approved a plan to create innovative Pilot Schools in the district. Based on a successful model developed in Boston Public Schools, APS Pilot Schools will be an effective vehicle for school reform. Find out more about the Pilot School program at www.aps.k12.co.us/schools/pilot.

Arapahoe County kicks off annual Adopt-a-Family Program

Arapahoe County’s Department of Human Services (DHS) located in Aurora has once again stepped up to making the holidays much brighter for at-risk seniors, struggling families, children and adolescent in crisis. Their annual Adopt-a-Family program matches people who would like to donate gifts for the less fortunate with those who otherwise would struggle through the holidays. DHS officials say they are looking for gifts, money or gift certificates which can be dropped off at their Winter Wonderland gift drop-off site, 14988 E. Alameda (Arapahoe CentrePoint Plaza). They can also link generous people up with deserving families according to Stacia Schmied-Johnston who coordinates the program for the county. “Last year, we provided 6772 adults and children with a very special holiday,” she said.

Those interested in supporting the Adopt-a-Family program call 303-636-1150 for details or visit the county website at www.co.arapahoe.co.us for additional information.

National League of Cities to showcase City of Aurora Art in Public Places

Aurora’s burgeoning public art program joined 29 other programs from across the country at a national convention last month showcasing “best practices” in cities and towns across the country.

The City of Aurora’s Art in Public Places program was featured at the National League of Cities (NLC) annual Congress of Cities and Exposition Nov. 14-16 in New Orleans.

The NLC selected Aurora’s program based on its success, creativity and ability to be replicated in other municipalities. All participating programs focus on economic development, neighborhood revitalization, public safety, youth, public works, human services, environment, and recreation, just to name a few.

Registration underway for 2008 ‘Best Companies to Work For in Colorado’

The State Human Resource Management Council is once again looking for energetic and innovative companies like those in the Aurora Chamber to apply for the distinction of being the state’s best workplace, in the third annual ‘Best Companies to Work For in Colorado’ competition. The initiative is dedicated to identifying and recognizing organizations leading the

way in creating and maintaining excellent best practices that define the employee experience. Last year Aurora Chamber member, The Medical Center of Aurora was one of the companies selected.

The annual competition is presented by The SHRM Colorado State Council, in a partnership with Best Companies Group, ColoradoBiz magazine, Jobing.com, and six local chapters of the Society for Human Resource Management association. The evaluation surveys and analyses are conducted by ModernThink, LLC.

Organizations interested in learning about eligibility requirements, fees and entry procedures can call Best Companies Group at 877-455-2159 or visit www.coshrm.org. Registration deadline is February 29, 2008.

Diane Garcia named Woman of Distinction

Diane Garcia, President of **2G Associates**, has been named a 2007 Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts Mile High Council.

Since 1997, the Mile High Council has honored over 300 women of distinction, including Linda Bowman, President of the **Community College of Aurora**, in 2005. Diane was recognized for acting on her strong belief in giving back to the community, particularly Aurora.

“It is so inspirational to help impact the growth of young ladies through Girl Scouts,” she said. “My wish for girls is to be collaborative and cooperative, open-minded and worldly.”

2G Associates provides corporate development and business advisory services, and serves as a holding company for various investment projects.

Mull named 2006 Frazier Moon Administrator of the Year

Dave Mull, director of **Columbia College–Aurora** recently was selected as the recipient of the 2007 Frazier Moon Administrator of the Year award.

The award is given each year to a director of one of the college’s 32 Nationwide Campuses who exemplifies the virtues of the late Frazier Moon, a former Columbia College dean who played a significant role in the advancement of the college’s adult learning program. The recipient is selected by fellow campus directors and members of administrative departments

at the main campus in Columbia, Mo.

Mull was appointed director of the Aurora campus in 2005 after serving as the assistant director for five years. His association with the college began in 1999 when he became an adjunct faculty member.

“I am overwhelmed by this recognition from my colleagues,” Mull said. “It is because of our team in Aurora—along with the marvelous support we get from the main campus—that I am able to accept this award, and I do so on their behalf.”

E-470 opens new 1.4 mile flyover at I-70

Just in time for ski season, northbound E-470 drivers exiting to westbound I-70 at last can now bypass a slalom course of traffic signals at that interchange in order to head to ski areas – or other points west.

E-470’s new 1.4-mile-long, \$18 million flyover opened Oct. 25, creating a seamless connection for the northbound E-470 to westbound I-70 transition.

With completion of the new 7,645-foot ramp, which includes a curved and banked 1,616-foot bridge, motorists now are able to take a direct flyover ramp instead of proceeding through the traffic signals at the existing interchange.

“The new ramp seamlessly connects northbound drivers to westbound I-70 and will further reduce accidents,” said Jo Snell, E-470 manager of marketing and public relations.

“It is the latest stage in a long-term plan to create a fully-directional interchange unimpeded by traffic signals, and is the second flyover added at the interchange in the past 15 months.”

Aurora elects new APS school board members

Three new members of the **Aurora Public Schools** Board of Education were sworn in at the Nov. 13 board meeting. Amy Prince, Mary W. Lewis and Pete Cukale replaced Debbie Barton, Ed Lord and Susan Tabacheck. They join Jeanette Carmany, Matt Cook, Debbie Barton, and Jane Barber. The board addresses the concerns of the local community while working within the framework of state and federal laws. This vast assignment includes approving curriculum and instructional materials and adopting the annual budget.

The seven members of the board are elected at-large by registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the school district. Members serve four-year terms and receive no compensation.

Aurora again selected for Workforce program

The Aurora Chamber has been selected for the second consecutive year to participate in *When Work Works*, a nation-wide initiative on effective and flexible workplaces that is designed to share research and best practices on what makes work “work” in the 21st century. *When Work Works* is an ongoing program led by the Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Twiga Foundation.

The Eastern Metro area is one of 30 location selected from across the nation for special targeted efforts to share research and practical guidance on workplace flexibility as a critical ingredient of an effective workplace. “I’m delighted that the Aurora Chamber will once again oversee this prestigious national Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility,” said Kevin Hougen, Chamber President and CEO. “We had three winners last year and we are sure creative examples of making the workplace more effective in the Eastern Metro area

abound.” Hougen said he’s talked to companies that use creative approaches such as compressed work weeks to decrease turnover and give employees more concentrated time at work and at home, telecommuting to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, sabbaticals to re-energize employees, and phased retirement to retain the talent of older workers.

As members of a participating community in *When Work Works*, employers in the Eastern Metro area are encouraged to apply for the prestigious *Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility*, a premier national recognition program.

For information about *When Work Works* or about the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility in the Eastern Metro area, please contact Kevin Hougen or Stephanie McDonnell at The Chamber, 303-344-1500. For more information on *When Work Works* or the Sloan Awards at the national level, please contact Shanny Peer at (212) 981-2556 or at speer@familiesandwork.org.

2008 brings changes to Workers’ Compensation rules: Are you ready?

When the clock strikes midnight on December 31, more than just the year on your calendar is going to change. Some workers’ compensation rules are also changing and **Pinnacol Assurance** wants you to be prepared.

HB 1176, the Employee Choice of Physician law, requires Colorado employers to designate two medical providers to treat employees who are injured on the job. The two medical providers must be at two distinct locations without common ownership. In some cases, rural employers are exempt from the two-provider rule if there are a limited number of available providers. The law goes into effect on January 1, 2008.

In mid October, **Pinnacol** put in place a number of processes to ensure that its policyholders do not incur fines and penalties due to non-compliance with this new law:

- **A provider designation process** that ensures all policyholders will always have two providers listed on their policy.

- **A robust Web-based provider designation system** that allows for quick and easy provider selection and management.

For policyholders that did not have two designated medical providers, **Pinnacol** has been proactively designating additional providers and sending notification letters with the designation details.

For Aurora Chamber members, **Pinnacol** identified the four SelectNet providers located nearest to the address listed on your policy and added them to your policy. If you had a designated provider(s) listed on your policy, that provider remains on the policy as the preferred provider.

Additional information on the impact of this legislation is available at www.pinnacol.com. Questions about the provider designation process can be directed to 303-361-4960 or 1-888-852-2289.

Chamber picks up State award

The **Aurora Chamber of Commerce** earned a special achievement award from the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI) at the Colorado Chamber of Commerce Executives, (CCCE) Fall Conference. The Chamber was cited for their program called **“Flex in the City, When Work Works.”** Kevin Hougen, President & CEO of the **Aurora Chamber**, accepted the award and then explained the project to the group. “Our project is to promote effective and flexible workplaces in response to the changing economy and workforce.

Other top winners included: the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce for their development of the Grand Valley Young Professionals group; the West Chamber serving Jefferson County for their “Experience Jefferson County” tourism program; the Steamboat Chamber of Commerce for their Centennial Celebration and Chamber Legacy project as well as their Sustainability Program for Businesses; the Arvada Chamber of Commerce for their “Taste of the Holidays”, a premier community event that promotes area business and donates food to the local food bank; and the Brighton Chamber of Commerce for their “Community Shred Project” which allowed community members to shred documents and prevent identity theft.

“As the state chamber of commerce, CACI is happy to recognize and congratulate the successful programs of local chambers,” said Dave Tabor CACI Vice President of Membership Development and Marketing.

REMINDER

Please remember to add The Chamber stephanie.mcdonnell@aurorachamber.org and naomi.colwell@aurorachamber.org) to your address book to continue receiving our updates in your e-mailbox!

Ribbon Cuttings



Near Surgical Precision — Joined by friends and Ambassadors, Nancy McKinney Webster and her husband Bill prepare to cut the ribbon to mark the opening of their new business, **Medplayee Staffing**. Located at 10800 E. Bethany Dr. Ste. 575, the new small business provides temporary staffing to medical facilities and doctor's offices throughout the Metro area. Additional information on the business that anticipates the growing medical market in Aurora is available by calling 303-745-0770.



Opening the Villa Door — Kemmons Wilson Companies, Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the City of Aurora celebrate the opening of the clubhouse at Villas at Great Plains Park. Villas at Great Plains Park is an 80-home community designed for active empty-nesters located at 2015 S. España Parkway (near Tower and Iliff) in Aurora. Those participating in the ribbon cutting were (l-r) Ambassador Steve Morin; Kem Wilson, McLean Wilson, Rebecca Wilson Macsoyits, Ron Hickman Janey Felder and Dave Elliot all with Kemmons Wilson Companies. They were joined by Ward 6 Councilman Bob Broom (in back) and Chamber President Kevin Hougen (right).



Good for cutting rates, too? — Alan Peppers, president and CEO of **Westerra Credit Union**, re-opens their popular Gateway Aurora branch with a slice of his scissors. He was joined by Richard Dutton, Board Chairman and Branch Manager Kathy Presley as well as a host of other VIPs including former Aurora Mayor Paul Tauer (left). **Westerra** is a new credit union formed by the merger of DPS Credit Union, Safeway Rocky Mountain Credit Union and Gateway Credit Union. The Aurora Branch is located at 14305 E. Alameda Ave. across from the Town Center at Aurora. (Photo Courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Compassion focus for Leadership Aurora Class

By Chris Bray
Delphic Investigative Services
LA Class of 07-08



Our first session was an eye opener. As the holiday season fast approaches, sometimes we forget how worrisome and stressful this season can be to those who are less fortunate. The class spent the day touring several facilities in and around Aurora, facilities that are charged with helping those who are struggling with a myriad of challenges - from mental health issues to physical handicaps. What impressed me was how many people make it their life's calling to reach out

to those that need a hand. And we're not talking charity, but actual compassion to help somebody up after they've fallen, or give them that little boost that sends them on their way to a more successful life. In a society that often spends so much time pandering to class envy, it was heartwarming to see that so many people are dedicated to helping out their neighbors - regardless of their station in life.



Goin' to the "Y" — Members of the Leadership Aurora Class of 07-08 Shannon Youngquist-Lucy, Dianne Jordan and Amy Schultz-Pearn pose with some of the children from the YMCA they have just met as part of LA's Community Day activities.



Welcoming warriors all — Kevin Olmstead shows his best **Welcome Wagon** smile as he prepares to cut the ribbon marking his re-entry into the Eastern Metro market as the area's **Welcome Wagon** representative. A long-time Ambassador himself, Olmstead was joined by a large group of Chamber Ambassadors who excel in the art of welcoming. You can see what **Welcome Wagon** can do for you as a business or as a new resident by calling Olmstead at 1-800-737-4859 ext. 1048 or by going to www.welcomewagon.com. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Melcher Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award



Ambassador Extraordinaire honored — Ken Melcher is congratulated by Ambassador Chair Jerry Gray upon receiving his Ambassador Emeritus status at the November Ambassador meeting. Melcher was honored with what amounts to a lifetime achievement award for his many years of diligent service to the Chamber as an Ambassador. His new title is held by only two others in the Chamber, Bob Barké and Michelle Sedlak. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)