

Ribbon Cuttings



A clip and a perm — *The mother/daughter team of Roxie Specht and Tammy Jimenez (center) are joined by other employees, friends, and Chamber members at the grand opening of Hair Rx on Jan. 5. Formerly HairColorXperts, the duo saved and reopened the salon after the franchise went bankrupt. Specht and her daughter are taking the salon a completely different direction, replacing corporate coldness with family, infusing class with preeminent service. "The freedom we've gained now that we are an independent operation has allowed us to remodel and come up with several innovations like the Relax Room," said Specht. "It is a private room that allows clients to have their coloring process while enjoying complimentary wine, wireless Internet and satellite television." Hair Rx is located in the Pioneer Square Center, 5496 S. Parker Road in Aurora. Appointments are available by calling 303-680-7121 or by going to their website at www.HairRx.net (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)*

Renewals

Balancing Books, Inc.

Black-Eyed Pea

Body Beautiful Collision Repair

Component Specialties, Inc.

Creskide Homes, LLC

Custom Home Loans, Inc.

Hilton Garden Inn DIA

Holiday Inn Select -
Denver Cherry Creek

Hunky Dory Screenprint

JCPenney

La Cueva Restaurant

Mountain West Printing

Optima Batteries, Inc.

Renaissance Denver Hotel

Residence Inn by Marriott -
Denver Tech Center

Silpada Designs
Fine Sterling Silver Jewelry

Springfield Construction, LLC/
Creskide Homes, LLC

T. Charles Wilson Insurance

TGDanzport Studio

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Westerra Credit Union

WIB to single out HERoes

The Chamber Women in Business Committee has begun preparations for the annual Unsung Heroes Making a Difference Breakfast March 14 at the **Doubletree Hotel SE**. The event celebrates women who have made a difference in their corporate environment and community and who have not received significant recognition.

"We need to hear from the community," said WIB Chair Janine Little. "You know who these wonderful behind the scenes women are so get

a nomination to us right away."

Last year's winners included Deanne Criswell, Patti Forthofer, Kelly O'Conner, Connie Vandenberg, Linda Witulski and Andrea Graham.

"You won't want to miss this breakfast," said Naomi Colwell, event coordinator. "It has really become the feel-good gathering of the year." Colwell said both event and table sponsorships are still available. Call her at 303-344-1500 for details.

Save the date—Leadership Golf Tourney on calendar

The snow may be flying, but golf season is almost here! According to Kimberly Curtis, Executive Director of the Leadership Aurora program, the 10th Annual Leadership Aurora Golf

Tournament will be one of the most exciting Aurora tournaments of the season. "We have some changes in store that will provide more fun, more excitement, and an even more enjoyable experience than you've had at this tournament in the past," Curtis said.

The tourney, presented by Rural/Metro Ambulance, will once again be held at the beautiful and challenging Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club, E-470 and Gartrell Road, on June 19, 2008. Registration is at 7:00 a.m. with a Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m.

"Sponsorship opportunities are still abundant right now and range from \$2,000 to \$200," Curtis urged. "Individual golfer fee is \$150. Hurry and sign up as this tournament sells out very quickly!"

Contact Curtis for more information at 303-344-1500 or email her at kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org.



NEW MEMBERS

America on the Move

Cover Your Assets Inventory

CPR Technicians, Inc.

HairColor Rx

Hawk Construction, Inc.

HGX of Pioneer Hills

Junior Achievement of Rocky Mountain, Inc.

Red Lobster

SERVING THE EASTERN
METRO COMMUNITIES



Upcoming Events

Business Before Hours

Feb 12 | 7:30 a.m.
Courtyard by Marriott DIA
6901 Tower Rd.

State of the Economy

(see story on page 1)
Feb. 20 | 7:30 a.m.
Radisson SE (I-225 & Parker)

Business after Hours

Feb. 28 | 4:30 p.m.
Country Inn and Suites
40th & Airport

Aurora Symphony Ball

March 8 | 6 p.m.
Holiday Inn DIA (Chambers & 40th)

Women Making a

Difference Breakfast
March 14 | 7:30 a.m.
Doubletree Hotel SE (I-225 & Iliiff)



Save the Date Aurora Day at the Capitol

Feb. 29 | 7:30 a.m.
State Capitol Building

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!

aurora | centennial | commerce city | denver

Panel to discuss Eastern Metro Area economic outlook

Area business leaders will gather for an economic outlook on Wednesday, Feb.20 at 7:30 a.m. when the Aurora Chamber of Commerce holds its 2008 Eastern Metro Area Economic Breakfast.

Co-hosted by the **Aurora Board of Realtors**, the event will be at the **Radisson Hotel SE**, 3200 S. Parker Rd. near I-225 and Parker Road.

Keynote speakers will be Dr. Richard Wobbekind, Associate Professor of Finance and Director of the Business Research Division for the University of Colorado at the Boulder's Leeds School for Business.

Dr. Wobbekind will be joined by **Aurora Economic Development Council** Vice President Dick Hinson and Corri Spiegel, Economic Development Manager for the **City of Centennial**.

Chamber President Kevin Hougen said the panel will give Eastern Metro areas businesses excellent insight into this area's economic future as well as how it fits in Colorado's plans. "I think the information these economic professional will provide will prove invaluable for our business members," he said.

As director CU's Business

Research Division, Dr. Wobbekind's has developed annual consensus forecasts of the Colorado economy and performed various strategic analyses and economic impact assessments of the Colorado economy. Dr. Wobbekind also produces a quarterly economic indicator series for Boulder County and a quarterly Business Leaders Confidence Index® for Colorado.

Hinson, a 25-year veteran in the

2008 Eastern Metro Area Economic Breakfast

Feb. 20, 7:30 a.m.
Radisson Hotel SE
(I-225 & Parker)

Speakers:

Dr. Richard Wobbekind
UC Leeds School

Mr. Dick Hinson
Aurora Economic Development

Ms. Corri Spiegel
Centennial Economic Development

economic development arena, joined the Aurora Economic Development Council in 1992. He is responsible for the financial operations of AEDC and he works with the President in formulating strategic initiatives for the organization. He is involved in

developing strategic alliances with other economic development groups and he provides support for the business development, investor development, and marketing activities of AEDC. Hinson was previously the Economic Development Manager for the city of Thornton, the Executive Director of the Englewood Urban Renewal Authority, and an economist with the Knoxville/Knox County, Tennessee Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Spiegel joined the City of Centennial last year after working in economic development in Arizona. She was brought aboard to help the new city develop and implement a comprehensive long-term Economic Development Program and Plan that will attract new commercial and retail businesses as well as and retain existing businesses. She also has a lead role in identifying and attracting key strategic annexations for future growth and sustainability for the Centennial. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Arizona State University and is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute.

And the walls come tumblin' down — Although hidden from sight by his heavy equipment operator, Mayor Ed Taver is behind the controls as he begins the process of tearing down Buckingham Square Mall Jan. 8. Part of the Aurora scene since 1971 the mall will give way to a new development called Havana Gardens that will include many new "big box" stores, retail space, restaurants and new residential properties. The project is part of a larger effort to redevelop all along Havana in Aurora led by the newly formed **Havana Business Improvement District**, headed up by Gayle Jetchick. The Havana BID is an outgrowth of a Chamber initiated effort that dates back to 2003 led by Paul Suss of **Suss Buick Pontiac GMC** to find ways to improve the Havana corridor business climate.





Bob Barké
Chair

Each year, a nominating committee made up of Aurora Chamber members, along with the president, suggests future Board members to fill the slots of the retiring members. As you'll note, several of our board members' three-year terms expire on May 31, 2008. A member can serve a second three-year term under the Chamber's bylaws.

The following board members have been asked to serve additional three-year terms.

- Jim Suss, **Suss Buick Pontiac GMC**
- Honorable Randy Pye, **Mayor of Centennial**

We want to thank retiring board members Kim Harrell, **East End Applied Arts**, Tom Allee, **Frontier Airlines**, Dr. Peter Durante, **The Children's Hospital**, for their outstanding service to our business community. Their contributions to the Chamber have been extremely valuable.

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

I've asked the following people to fill the vacant board positions: David Maxwell, **1st Bank of Aurora**, Maren Stewart, The Children's Hospital, Ken Smith, **Owest Communications** and Derrick Barnett, **Pepsi Bottling Group**. I'm hopeful they will be able to join us since they would add greatly to the depth and breadth of the board.

I'm also pleased with the work of the nominating committee. They have selected the following individuals to be on our executive committee and fill the positions indicated:

- Chair, 2008-2009: Jo Snell, **E-470 Public Highway Authority**
- Chair-Elect, 2009-2010: Craig Ward, **Padgett Business Services**
- Secretary, 2008-2009: Diane Garcia, **2G Associates, LLC**
- Treasurer, 2008-2009: David Patterson, **Rural/Metro Ambulance**
- Immediate Past Chair, 2007-2008: Bob Barké, **BAR-K Insurance**
- Immediate Past Chair, 2006-2007: Dr. Linda Bowman, **Community College of Aurora**

Also accepting leadership roles on the executive committee are:

- Public Issues Chair, 2008-2009: Jim Suss, **Buick Pontiac GMC**

- Membership Services Chair, 2008-2009: Judy Booth, **Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union**.
- Business Development Chair, 2008-2009: Margo Jamieson, **Kaiser Permanente**.
- Community Service Chair, 2008-2009: Craig Ward, **Padgett Business Services**.

I can proudly say that this group of dedicated, hard working board members represent the broad diversified membership of the Chamber. Our slate of candidates will be formally presented to you, the membership, at the Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet on the evening of April 11, 2008. Please help me welcome the new and renewing members of your Chamber's Board of Directors for this next year 2008—2009.

And don't forget, if you have someone – a Chamber member of course – who you think would be a good candidate for our hard-working Board of Directors, don't hesitate to contact me or the Chamber President Kevin Hougen. With more than 1200 members we certainly have many highly-qualified people to choose from.

Board of Directors

Chair of the Board
Bob Barké | **BAR-K Insurance Solutions**

Chair Elect
Jo Snell | **E-470 Public Hwy. Authority**

Secretary
Diane Garcia | **2G Associates**

Treasurer
David Patterson | **Rural/Metro Ambulance**

Immediate Past Chair
Dr. Linda Bowman | **Community College of Aurora**

Past Chair Once Removed
Dale Mingilton | **FirstBank Holding Company**

Vice Chair-Business Development
Margo Jamison | **Kaiser Permanente**

Vice Chair-Community Services
Craig Ward | **Padgett Business Services**

Vice Chair-Public Affairs
Jim Suss | **Suss Pontiac - GMC**

Vice Chair-Member Services
Dr. Kathy Boyle | **University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Center**

Directors

Tom Allee | **Frontier Airlines**
Rich Allison | **Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company**
Bob Barké | **BAR-K Insurance Solutions**
Joe Barela | **Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center**
Bill Becker | **Adams County Economic Development**
Judy Booth | **Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union**
Dr. Linda Bowman | **Community College of Aurora**
Dr. Kathy Boyle | **University of Colorado Hospital**
Peter L. Durante, MD, JD | **The Children's Hospital**
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | **140th Wing COANG**
Diane Garcia | **2G Associates, LLC**
Elyse Gellerman | **The Medical Center of Aurora**
Mark Gouin | **Wells Fargo Banks**
Kim Harrell | **East End Applied Arts**
Margo Jamieson | **Kaiser Permanente**
Todd Landgrave | **Northrop Grumman**
Kelly Leid | **Oakwood Homes**
Dale Mingilton | **FirstBank Holding Co.**
Wendy Mitchell | **Aurora Economic Development Council**
Mark Moses | **Outback Restaurants**
Alfonso Nunez | **La Cueva Restaurant**
David Patterson | **Rural/Metro Ambulance**
Alan Peppers | **Westerra Credit Union**
The Honorable Randy Pye | **Mayor, City of Centennial**
Katie Roche | **Raytheon**
Dan Sandos | **401(K) Advisors**
Jo Snell | **E-470 Public Hwy. Authority**
John Stanton | **Prudential Colorado Real Estate**
Jim Suss | **Suss Pontiac**
The Honorable Ed Tauer | **Mayor, City of Aurora**
Craig Ward | **Padgett Business Services**
Frank Weddig | **Commissioner, Arapahoe County**

Executive Staff

President & CEO
Kevin Hougen

Marketing & Visitors' Advisory Board
Naomi Colwell

Leadership Director
Kimberly Curtis

Special Events
Debbie Lynch

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Trisha Rose

Membership Director
Marcie Maxwell

Administration Director
Stephanie McDonnell

Vice President, PA&O
George Peck

VP, Membership Development
Paul Rosenberg

Membership Services
Mary Beth Sharp

562 Sable Blvd., Suite 200
Aurora, CO 80011-0809
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564
website: www.aurorachamber.org

Member News

Stewart named to CBCA Board

Maren Stewart,
Vice President for
External Relations at

The Children's Hospital in Aurora has been named to the board of directors of the **Colorado Business Committee for the Arts**. The CBCA is a partner with The Chamber's Business for the Arts Committee.



Maren Stewart

Rocky Mountain Honor Flight seeks donors

The Rocky Mountain Honor Flight is looking for some monetary support. The non-profit organization, which flies primarily World War II veterans to Washington DC at no cost to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Founder Jay McMaster said he started the program because "every veteran deserves to visit their memorial. Additional information is available at their web site www.rockyhonorfliht.org.

Local Counselor goes Worldwide

Michael D. Dawson, MA, LPC, and Aurora author, speaker and professional counselor, has launched a new business website, www.michaeldawsoncounseling.com.



Michael Dawson

The site provides information about the services he offers but also provides:

- Dates for upcoming workshops and seminars
- Featured articles
- Information on his latest book, *Horses Healing Grief*
- A wealth of other resources.

Dawson, who opened his Aurora practice in 2001, specializes in resolving issues such as mood disorders, co-dependencies, relationship and family challenges, depression and anxiety. He also started a special program, Heaven Sent Horses, which promotes a special day camp for children experiencing grief utilizing Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. Dawson can be reached at 303-481-4257 or through his website.

On the other hand... — *State Senator Suzanne Williams describes some of the bills she hopes to push through the 2008 Legislative session at the annual Legislators' Breakfast Jan. 7. Sen. Williams was one of seven eastern metro legislators who shared their hopes for Colorado and the Eastern Metro's future at a breakfast hosted by the Community College of Aurora. Joining the crowd of more than 100 were Senator Williams, Senator Nancy Spence, and Representatives Mary Hodge, David Balmer, Debbie Stafford, Nancy Todd and Michael Garcia. Government Affairs and Education Committee Chair Jim Suss told the crowd, that the morning was part of efforts by the Chamber "to ensure our business and professional community is informed on critical issues that could affect them."*

(Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Committee gears up for Awards Banquet

More than 15 volunteers gathered at the Chamber Jan. 10 to begin preparations for the 53rd Annual Chamber Awards Banquet. Set for April 11 at the Radisson Hotel SE, the gala evening is once again expected to be the social event of the year in the Eastern metro area.

Theme for this year's evening is "Phantom of the Chamber" said Chamber event liaison Naomi Colwell. "We had so much fun with the Bond theme of last year we decided stay with a theatrical approach."

Colwell said the black tie affair, the Chamber's major fund raiser for the year, would once again feature a first class silent auction as well as

recognition of the "best of the best" in the community during the past year.

Chamber President Kevin Hougen encouraged chamber members to begin identifying those who should be singled out for the annual awards. "We all know individuals who have risen above the rest this past year as community and business leaders," Hougen told the committee. "Let's start the process of identifying them now." He pointed out that past award winners read like a "Who's Who" in Aurora and the surrounding communities.

Sponsorships for the event are still available. Call Colwell at 303-344-1500 or go to The Chamber website at www.aurorachamber.org for details.

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