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# THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUG 2016

## A day golfing is better than...

Some say that 'a bad day golfing is better than a good day at work.' Add a Caddyshack theme to the mix — and it made for a great day at this year's annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament on June 16!

The shotgun start at 8 am sent the golfers rolling out to the course to test their skills and to have some fun in the sun. After 18 holes, the participants were treated to a burgers and brats lunch, and the awards ceremony.

In line with the Caddyshack theme, the **MCPN** team received Leadership Aurora gopher club covers for 1st place, and **Legends of Aurora Sports Grill** team got camouflage golf hats for 2nd place. Denise Denton with **Aurora Health Access** was awarded "best dressed"

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Denise Denton was awarded "best dressed," accompanied by her (also best dressed) husband, Denny O'Malley.

## Get involved: Diversity and Inclusion Council

The Diversity and Inclusion Council is gaining traction — and members, with more than 50 attendees at the May 13 meeting.

Nita Mosby Henry, Chief Human Resources and Inclusion Officer at **Children's Hospital Colorado**, gave an inspiring presentation on inclusion in the workplace and what that means for businesses and their clients. She talked about diversity fatigue, the use of power in the workplace, and how to build inclusive systems. Mosby Henry explained the importance of being aware that no matter who is speaking and what message is being spoken, it is received differently by different



Nita Mosby Henry refers to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, relating it to the importance of how messages are delivered, and understanding that any message can be received and interpreted five different ways.

people. Nita ended with a final thought that 'diversity is everywhere, but inclusion is intentional.'

This same message carried over to the June 10 meeting with guest speaker Maria Velasco, Program Manager for Intercultural Training and Consulting at The Spring Institute. Velasco spoke about building a culturally competent organization and the difference between diversity and inclusion.

Velasco explained cultural competence as "a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies

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## 2016 AFRL honors Military Members of the Year and recognizes WWII Veterans

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Defense Council held its 40th annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on May 13, 2016, at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Hotel** to honor the military serving in the Metro area. The **Colorado Technical University**-sponsored event includes business, professional, and community leaders, honoring 11 military members representing each of the branches of service and their Reserve and Guard components, as well as one civilian from the community.

"This luncheon is our way of recognizing the members of the Armed Forces—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard—throughout Northern Colorado including the Denver-Aurora area," said AFRL Luncheon Chair Marissa Banker with Colorado Technical University. "They make such a significant contribution to our community and to our nation."



**Presenting the AFRL 2016 winners.** Back Row, left to right: Senior Airman Kevin Pedraza (USAF); Staff Sergeant Patrick Lippiatt (USA); Petty Officer Robert Thompson (USCG); Master Corporal David Shaefer (Canadian Forces); Sergeant Rjan Robertson (USMC); and Corporal Kandis Ruiz (USMC) Front Row, left to right: Staff Sergeant Frank Ellis (USA); Technical Sergeant Sabrina Connolly (USAF); Petty Officer Samuel Tomasik (USN); and Petty Officer Rachel Graves (USN). Unable to attend and missing from the photo is Technical Sergeant Amee Espinoza (USAF) (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

This year's keynote speaker was Major General (Select) Nina Armagno, Director of Strategic Plans, Programs, Requirements and Analysis, Headquarters Air Force Space Command. Gen. Armagno inspired

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facebook



**Kevin Hougen**  
President & CEO

# President's Letter

## Pay attention to these 'Unresolved Opportunities'

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has spent more than a century developing deep roots and trust in Adams, Arapahoe, and Denver counties. That strong foundation provides us with the resources, reputation and relationships needed to bring people

and organizations together to focus on improving lives and strengthening the business community.

We have many challenges in our communities, even with a fast growing economy in Colorado, we still have what we want to call 'Unresolved Opportunities.' These opportunities are what we work on every day, building relationships that benefit our business communities, to ultimately grow their active roles as good citizens. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is a business association that not only creates and produces wealth in the communities we serve, but we also become involved in solving problems and building partnerships.

We need to accept the fact that making big things happen requires involvement in the public policy arena. And yes, sometimes stepping up means you open The Chamber up to criticism. Communities need great champions and problem-solvers. Cities and regions that thrive in the long-term do so through leadership and purposeful engagement. This is the role our board of directors and staff need to accept and embrace.

The Chamber has taken the following positions that will be on the November 2016 ballot. ■

### Support:

#### SCFD Tax

Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) renewal of the local sales tax to support the arts in the metro area.

#### Cherry Creek Schools 3A, 3B

A \$300 million dollar bond, supporting the district and over 54,000 students in the district.

### Oppose:

#### Initiative/Amendment 78

2,500 set back on occupied structures/areas of special concern. Amendment 78 would make 90% of Colorado land UNAVAILABLE for oil and gas development. 102,000 high paying jobs at risk...\$1.6 billion dollars in tax revenue to the State and Local communities at risk...over 30% of downtown Denver leases are to the Oil & Gas industry.

#### Initiative/Amendment 69

Creates a health care payment system that provides coverage for all Coloradans. All people would have access to affordable health care regardless of their ability to pay. Creates \$25 billion in new taxes to fund a massive government-run health care system called ColoradoCare. No guarantee that patient care is improved, expanded access or it will reduce health care costs. A new 10% payroll tax increase will be added to working families, entrepreneurs, military, veterans and seniors.

## ChamberBoard

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

#### CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Ryan Simpson | The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthONE

#### CHAIR-ELECT

**& VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**  
Suzanne Pitrusu | Community Banks of Colorado

#### IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

**& VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES**  
Jason Altschuler | Westerra Credit Union

#### TREASURER

Renee Gullickson | Wells Fargo Bank

#### SECRETARY

Matt Weber | Kaiser Permanente

#### VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dale Mingilton | Adams 14 Education Foundation

#### VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

Dwight Taylor | Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC

### DIRECTORS

John Adams | Colorado Technical University  
Joe Barela | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center  
Randy Berner | Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
Lisa Buckley | American Automation Building Services  
Christy Dobson | Children's Hospital Colorado  
Chris Fasching | Felsberg, Holt & Ullevig  
Gian Gandolfo | Hilton Garden Inn - Denver Airport  
Tom Henley | Xcel Energy  
Kristi Kleinholz | Outback Steakhouse - Abilene  
Beth Kline | FirstBank - Aurora Havana  
Rich Kolberg | Boeing Corporation  
Peter Lee | Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership  
Courtney Morehouse | Your Castle Real Estate  
Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven | Community College of Aurora  
David Patterson | Falck Rocky Mountain  
Keith Peterson | University of Colorado Health  
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union  
Brittany Rodgers | Colorado Access  
Louis Salazar | ConocoPhillips  
Michael Sheldon | Aurora Highlands  
Todd Trace | Century Link

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Col. Floyd Dunston / 140th Wing Colorado Air National Guard  
Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development  
The Honorable Steve Hogan | Mayor, City of Aurora  
Bill Holen | Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners  
Paul Suss | Suss Buick GMC  
Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora  
Charles "CJ" Whelan | City of Centennial

### STAFF

Kevin Hougen | President and CEO  
Rene J. Simard | Executive Vice President  
Naomi Colwell | Director of Marketing  
Rachel Gruber | Director of Member Services  
Chance Horiuchi | Director of Business Development  
Linda Lillyblad | Director of Finance  
Tamara Mohamed | Director of Community Relations  
Paul Rosenberg | Vice President, Membership Development  
Mitzi Schindler | Director of Communications

### ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers  
Jeana Capel-Jones | Greater Metro Denver  
Healthcare Partnership

.....  
Mario Waller | Six & Six, inc. | Newsletter Design

## 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](http://www.aurorachamber.org), so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

### THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to give a voice to the business community and serve as an advocate for its members, creating a positive business environment that encourages their growth and long-term economic vitality.



# A successful partnership – creating a culture of health



Well-fed attendees of the Business for the Arts trip to Stanley Marketplace.

The Chamber's partnership with the **Tri-County Health Department** for the Worksite Wellness Initiative/Work Well Project is a very healthy collaboration. With the goal of engaging employers and employees to adopt best practices and policies for a healthy workplace environment, seven Chamber member businesses joined the Work Well Pilot Project in January 2016. These employers represent a broad brush of types and sizes of businesses, and include **Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter, Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Colorado AHEC, Community College of Aurora, Fitzsimons Credit Union, and Music Go Round**. Through a grant awarded to **Tri-County** by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, these businesses receive assessments, technical support, advising, funding, and recognition by the State of Colorado for their wellness efforts.

In June, all Chamber members were invited to an Experts Panel luncheon, to hear the latest about nutrition, tobacco cessation, physical activity, and chronic disease prevention. Sponsored by the Work Well Project, attendees were treated to a very

*“We established a team of motivated employees who are committed to growing our worksite wellness program from the ground up. The team represents all facets of our campus: faculty; staff; students; and administration.”*

*— Deborah Hoefler,  
Wellness Champion Steward  
Community College of Aurora*

healthy lunch provided by **FitPit Power Foods**, and fruit and dessert snacks by **Fruit Revival**.

“Healthy food options are something every employer should be thinking about,” said Jennifer Tellis, Worksite Wellness Specialist with **Tri-County Health Department**, and co-director of the Work Well Project. “And organizational policies supporting healthy foods and beverages at the worksite supports an overall healthy workplace.”

In an outreach effort, the Work Well Project also sponsored a healthy lunch for the Business for the Arts' Arts District Tour field trip to the **Stanley Marketplace**. The former

Stanley Aviation building and site at 2501 Dallas St. in Aurora, is being developed as a “food-centric, community-inspired marketplace,” and is scheduled to open fall 2016. The 40 attendees heard from Mark Shaker, developer of the Marketplace about how it will make a positive impact on north Aurora – and – were reminded how good food is good fuel, with lunch provided by Saj Mediterranean Grill.

“We want to educate Chamber groups about the benefits of the Work Well Project,” said Mitzi Schindler, Chamber Director of Communications, and co-director with Tellis. “It was inspiring and delicious!”

Phase II of the Work Well Project will begin fall 2016, and Chamber members are encouraged to join. There is no cost for businesses to join, and the benefits are priceless. These can include improved employee retention and morale, reduced sick days and healthcare costs, and increased productivity.

For more information, contact Jennifer Tellis at [jtellis@tchd.org](mailto:jtellis@tchd.org) or Mitzi Schindler at [Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org). ■

*“With a little encouragement from the Chamber staff, I joined the Work Well Project, even though I really didn't think I needed to try to fit anything else into my schedule. I am glad I joined. I learned and will continue to learn how worksite wellness is an investment, not an expense. The Chamber staff, the Worksite Wellness staff from Tri-County Health, and the people from HealthLinks have all been great to work with because of their knowledge and enthusiasm about the subject.”*

*— Ed Duggan,  
Wellness Champion Steward  
Music Go Round*



Worksite Wellness Specialists Jennifer Tellis facilitates the Work Well Project Expert Panel luncheon, and interacts with attendees.

## Aurora Interfaith Community Services receives grants, serves the community

**Aurora Interfaith Community Services (AICS)** is the recent recipient of several grants, including a **City of Aurora** Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$125,000 for capital improvements; and a \$50,000 Aid to Agencies grant and a \$15,000 (CSBG) grant for renovations from the **Arapahoe County Commissioners**. The CDBG funding will be used to replace the roof, upgrade the heating/air conditioning and electrical systems, and to resurface the loading dock.

**AICS** is conducting a capital campaign in 2016-17 to add space to the lobby in order to serve more clients, to modernize shelving in the client oriented food pantry, and to add space for community members to meet and receive nutrition and employment training.

**AICS** is the largest food and clothing bank in Aurora. It is a 501(c)3 emergency relief facility that has been at 1553 Clinton Street in Original Aurora for 31 years. In 2015, **AICS** served 6,576 Aurora residents with groceries and toiletries valued at \$309,920 and 1,449 persons with clothing and layettes valued at \$223,560. Ninety-eight percent of the persons served at AITF are at the lowest category of median income as designated by HUD.

For more information or to volunteer, contact **AICS** Executive Director Dr. Judith M. Barrow at office@aurorainterchurch.org or (303) 360-9938.



## Aman STEAM Academy to open August 2016

**Aman STEAM Academy**, a charter school within **Aurora Public Schools**, is slated to open the 2016-2017 school year. It will be located in a new shopping center at 15540 6th Ave. Upon completion, the school will house 18 classrooms, administrative offices, hives for partner organizations, and a nursing facility staffed by personnel from nearby **Children's Hospital Colorado**, said Farrah Martin, founder and executive director of the **Aman STEAM Academy**.

Pre-kindergarten through second grade classes will begin Aug. 15, 2016, and the Academy will add one grade each year until the schools services K-8 in 2022.

Aman — which translates to “believe” in Hebrew — will operate on the STEAM education model, which combines STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering, and math — with art. The **APS Board of Education** approved the charter school to join the district in 2014.

## Kim Robards Dance receives NEA funding



Kim Robards

Kim Robards Dance recently received \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Art Works category. The funding will support *Moving Possibilities to Performance*, a program providing professional dance performances of original choreography by Artistic Director Kim Robards, as well as a series of in-school, after-school, and summer interactive dance workshops and student performance opportunities. The program engages youth

through partnerships with Title 1 elementary and middle schools, and offers opportunities for youth and adults to participate in studio classes.

“We are honored to have been selected as one of only 15 in the State, and three dance organizations statewide, to receive funding in the spring cycle. We appreciate the national recognition of our program quality and effectiveness,” said Artistic Director/CEO Kim Robards.



National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. The Art Works category supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

## Transition at Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union

The **Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union** board of directors has named Robert “Bob” Fryberger, Jr. as the next president and chief executive officer of **Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union**, succeeding Sandy Neves who announced her retirement effective June 30, 2017. The board appointed Fryberger as president/CEO, and Neves as emeritus chief executive officer, effective July 1, 2016, to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.



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## Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islanders

At the May 9 City Council meeting, Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and City Council proclaimed May as Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. Several members of the **Aurora Asian Pacific Community Partnership** accepted the proclamation.

The **AAPI** community is the fastest growing racial group in the U.S., with a breadth of stories and experiences. From native Hawaiians to recent immigrants to third-generation Americans, and from artists to entrepreneurs to public service leaders, **AAPIs** are a fundamental part of the diverse mosaic of America.



Front Row (l-r): Past Co-Chair Sum Nguyen; Founder Kate Tauer; Alice Moy (holding the certificate for sponsorship from Asian Roundtable of Colorado); Immediate Past Co-Chair Nancy Tan (holding Mayor Steve Hogan's Proclamation); Co-Chair Chance Horiuchi, Past Co-Chair Juliana Laughter; Past-Co Chair and this year's winner of the CACEN Asian American Heroes of Colorado award Lily Shen; and Past Co-Chair Duane Wong. Back Row (l-f): Jennifer Cronk, Aurora History Museum; Roger Winn, Theatre Esprit Asia; Yong Zhou, Chinese Metropolitan News; Huyen-Thi Le, FirstBank; Yutai Guo, Asian Avenue magazine and new Aurora business owner; and Past Co-Chair Peter Lee.



## AFRL (con't)

the 500 attendees, and reminded them that the strength of America lies with our people; not only the people being honored at the AFRL, but also "community and military leaders, and family members who make it possible for the enlisted troops to do the fantastic job they do each and every day." ■

*These three WWII Veterans enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific Theater of Operations:*

*"I'll always remember how everyone stood and clapped for all of us WWII Vets."*

— Jack MacDade

*"A couple of decades after the war I eventually became an upper level executive in a large automotive company that permitted me to attend many official gatherings in Detroit, Chicago, New York, and several other major cities. I was very impressed with this Aurora event. It was terrific from beginning to end - the stage, electronics, the MC, and all of the military personnel, especially the General and her remarks. Of special note, the wait staff were incredibly attentive, courteous, helpful, and professional. This luncheon was better organized and executed than anything I ever experienced during my entire civilian career."*

— Rey Olson



Gian Gandolfo, general manager at the Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport, and a former Bob Cardenas Award winner who still exemplifies the award, hosted a group of World War II Veterans at this year's AFRL. The Veterans were honored to be recognized, and spoke highly of the event. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

*"What a wonderful day. We will never forget it. The lunch, program and the 500 people in attendance were more than I ever expected. The help given us getting on and off the bus at the hotel was like watching a group of excited "oldies" doing a hesitation waltz, "one step forward and two steps back." The highlight of the day was the standing ovation given by the attendees when our group of "old timers" stood to be recognized. The military people went out of their way to meet us, and you could tell this exchange pleased all of us. I even enjoyed finding the young "Battle Ship Sailor" who had served on BB-64, the same ship I did 70+ years ago."*

— Jim White

## MEMBER NEWS (con't)

"The board and I are honored to have had the opportunity to work with Sandy over the years," said Board Chairman Lyle Artz, with the **Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority**. "We are extremely grateful for her visionary and energetic leadership and very excited to



Robert "Bob" Fryberger, Jr.

recognize her distinguished service by having her serve in an emeritus role for the next year as we transition the duties of president/CEO to Robert Fryberger."

Neves began her credit union career with **Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union** as a teller in 1981, and became CEO in 1990.



Sandy Neves

Neves has held numerous leadership positions within **Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union** and has served on several boards and committees within the Aurora community and the Mountain West Credit Union Association. Sandy also is Secretary of the Aurora

Chamber of Commerce Foundation board, to which she has served since 2007.

Fryberger joined **Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union** team in 1989 as accounting supervisor. Throughout his tenure, he has held various senior positions including chief financial officer and executive vice president. In 2014 he was promoted to president, where he was

responsible for all areas of the credit union's operations.

### The Brew Hut celebrates turning 21 with expansion, and classes

**The Brew Hut** (TBH), Colorado's largest homebrew supply shop, is finally old enough to drink!

This monumental birthday coincided with **TBH's** expansion, which includes a grain room, a mill room, and a 40-person classroom with a full kitchen for on-site brewing demonstrations.

Customers can now sign up for a plethora of educational opportunities at the shop, including introduction to home-brewing classes (both extract and all-grain), wine and cheese-making classes, soda-making classes, beekeeping classes, and TIPS® certification classes taught by an in-house TIPS® certified instructor.



The Brew Hut classroom

For more information and to sign up for classes, visit [fareharbor.com/thebrewhut](http://fareharbor.com/thebrewhut).

### Westerra among Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions in America

**Westerra Credit Union** was named among the Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions in America by [depositaccounts.com](http://depositaccounts.com). **Westerra** was ranked number eight in the annual ranking of banks and credit

unions on the Deposit Accounts comparison website, known for helping consumers find the best rates. The ranking is based upon the [depositaccounts.com](http://depositaccounts.com) proprietary institution health rating algorithm that has been recognized and cited by hundreds of media outlets nationwide. The site features **Westerra's** 5-Year Flex CD Special and 12-Month CD among top deals for consumers.

"We strive to consistently provide our members good rates on their savings," said John McCloy, President/CEO of **Westerra Credit Union**. "As a local Colorado credit union, it is important to us to give back more to our members and to keep those funds working here in our community." **Westerra** has also earned the top 5-Star rating for financial strength every quarter consecutively since 1992 by [bauerfinancial.com](http://bauerfinancial.com). Learn more at about **Westerra Credit Union** at [www.westerracu.com](http://www.westerracu.com). ■

# RibbonCuttings

*Ribbon cuttings mean business:  
100 new jobs*

## There's a new Wells Fargo in town — in Parker, CO

With a backdrop of a mural representing the history of Parker, Colo., Town of Parker Mayor Mike Waid is assisted by Regional Banking District Manager Jodi Harmon, and Branch Manager Ferhad Bazyar, in cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of **Wells Fargo** at 17805 Cottonwood Dr., Ste. 101, Parker, CO 80134. **Wells Fargo** is one of the largest financial institutions, serving 70 million customers in more than 130 countries around the world. (720)907-0663 [www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com) (4.29.16)



**WELLS  
FARGO**



## Exceptional education in a place as nurturing as home!

Jenny Armstrong, school director, of **Cadence Academy** cuts the ribbon with much support from staff and preschoolers. **Cadence Academy** takes a hands-on approach to learning and provides quality programming and dedicated teachers for children from six weeks to 12 years old. Each child is treated as an individual and encouraged to progress at his natural ability, while still reaching desired age-level goals. In addition, the Academy provides before and after care for school-aged children, and transportation to and from local elementary schools. **Cadence Academy** is at 5637 S. Himalaya St., Centennial, CO 80015. (303)699-5072 [www.cadence-academy.com/schools/smoky-hill-aurora-preschool/](http://www.cadence-academy.com/schools/smoky-hill-aurora-preschool/) (6.1.16)

## Get smarter with your insurance!

Congratulations to Michele Yardeny on the grand opening of her **Farmers Insurance** office at 6235 S. Main St., Ste. 205, Aurora, CO 80016. Yardeny is dedicated to helping customers identify the insurance coverage that best fits their needs. She has the experience and knowledge to help customers understand their coverage options in a straightforward and personalized manner. (720)499-0021 <http://www.farmersagent.com/myardeny> (5.20.16)





### Creative Counseling Center expands

Teri Karjala, Licensed Professional Counselor and owner of **Creative Counseling Center**, is accompanied by therapists Danielle Polifroni, Brittany Green, and Sarah Senst, to cut the ribbon celebrating the expansion for their much-needed additional space. **Creative Counseling Center** provides counseling for children (2+), adolescents, and adults, to empower and inspire them to create a life of hope, harmony, and happiness. They specialize in treating individuals with childhood trauma, anxiety, and depression. **Creative Counseling Center** has several trained therapists to best meet the client's needs, using various counseling theories and techniques to treat the "whole" person. (303) 843-6000 [www.creativecounselingcenter.com](http://www.creativecounselingcenter.com) (2.29.16)



**Smart, fast repair for your smart phones** — Shane Blou, general manager of **In and Out Smart Repair**, accompanied by Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, cut the ribbon for their new location at 14401 E. Bayaud Ave., Unit. D, Aurora, CO 80012. **In & Out Smart Repair** offers expert phone repair services, and prides themselves on providing fast, quality work. They offer same-day turnaround on many repairs, and have in-store stock parts for most models of iPad and iPhone, and most Android phones. (303)344-8660 [www.inandoutsmartrepair.com](http://www.inandoutsmartrepair.com) (5.10.16)



### Something smells good in the neighborhood!

Owner Doug Chapman and staff are delighted to cut the ribbon and open the doors to **Kneaders of Serenity Ridge**, at 25771 E. Smoky Hill Rd., Aurora, CO 80016. The restaurant was founded in 1997 with the simple concept of European hearth breads made from scratch. This concept has evolved to more than 12 types of freshly baked breads and 42 pastries, and a variety of hearty soups. Their unique menu provides customers with a variety of fresh and wholesome options. (720)556-5158 [www.kneaders.com](http://www.kneaders.com) (5.19.16)



### Better Grades. Better Confidence. Better Future.

Rob and Olga Mead, owners of **GradePower Learning**, are excited about their first location in Colorado at Southlands, at 6235 S. Main St. Suite 210, Aurora, CO 80016.

**GradePower Learning** is the first supplemental education program of its kind, with an exclusive academic-based cognitive learning approach that affords students a lifetime of learning skills. Programs include: Little Readers for 3-6 year olds; Beyond Tutoring for 1st - 8th graders; Advantage for 9th-12th graders; SAT/ACT Test Prep; homeschool enrichment; summer advantage; and French and Spanish. (303) 928-7644 [www.gradepowerlearning.com](http://www.gradepowerlearning.com). (5.20.16)



### Growing, changing, and recovering at MHBH

— Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and **Mile High Behavioral Healthcare (MHBH)** Board President Susan Harris share the scissors to cut the ribbon for **MHBH's** new location and community garden. **MHBH** CEO Robert "Bob" Dorshimer is next to Harris.

The community garden ties in with **MHBH's** approach to wellness, addressing whole person care. Located at 4242 Delaware St., Denver, CO 80216, **MHBH** is a place to provide clients a hands-on opportunity to cultivate recovery. The new garden is sponsored by Aurora Gateway Rotary and Citywide Banks. (303) 825-8113 [www.milehighbehavioralhealthcare.org](http://www.milehighbehavioralhealthcare.org) (6/17/16) (Photo courtesy Kara Page, MHBH)



### Make Cleaning Simple!

Beverly Robinson, owner of **Maid Simple of Aurora, LLC**, is excited about her new business and cuts the ribbon celebrating with a few Chamber members! **Maid Simple of Aurora** will clean a customer's home on a day that works best for their schedule, and is committed to providing high-quality work. **Maid Simple of Aurora** is locally owned, reliable, affordable, provides green cleaning, and is pet friendly. (303)923-3050 [www.auroramaisimple.com](http://www.auroramaisimple.com) (5.24.16)



## DIVERSITY (con't)

that come together in an agency, enabling effective interactions in a cross-cultural framework." She elaborated on the cost of not being culturally competent, and how it can affect an organization's bottom line, such as: inability to communicate a message to intended audiences; inability to meet different clients' needs and/or reach out to potential clients; difficulty achieving the organization's mission; providing an unwelcoming work environment for new employees that can cause employee

turnover; and, increased cost due to low employee retention.

"I look forward to attending the Diversity and Inclusion Council of the Aurora Chamber every month. Between the speaker's presentations and the interaction with the members it 'sharpens my saw Mr. Stephen Covey.' Time well spent. ROI +," said Fire Chief Jerry Rhodes, **Cunningham Fire Protection District**.

As Aurora has become the most diverse city in Colorado, the Diversity and Inclusion Council

is dedicated to providing information, resources and awareness to Chamber members and the community.

The Diversity and Inclusion Council is planning a Resource Summit for October 2016. Details will be shared in upcoming eblasts and emails. The Council meets the second Friday of each month at 9 am. Check online calendar for details. [www.aurorachamber.org/events/calendar/](http://www.aurorachamber.org/events/calendar/). ■



# Congratulations Leadership Class 2015-16



John Adams  
R.J. Almagro  
Chris Amsler  
Kyla Antony  
Brian Arnold  
Sarah Avrin  
Sandra Bond  
Rene' Capron  
Gabrielle Cardwell  
Justin Clark  
Papa Dia  
Charles Dukes  
Ryan Dunn  
Morgan Gerdes  
Karen Goldman  
Jay Grimm  
Tom Isaacson  
Jen Just  
Kristi Kleinholz

Colorado Technical University  
Kaiser Permanente  
City of Aurora - Police Department  
Community College of Aurora  
High Point Ministries  
Aurora Mental Health  
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital  
Capron Law, LLC  
Innovage  
Visit Aurora  
African Leadership Group  
Aurora Public Schools  
Mile High Spine and Sport  
Southlands Shopping Center  
City of Aurora - Deputy City Clerk  
Aurora Public Schools Foundation  
Retired, Cherry Creek Schools  
Kevin Carlson Golf  
Outback Steakhouse

Noah Lawonn  
Renee' Leon  
Kathryn Lobdell  
Craig Lyle  
Farrah Martin  
Cole Mayer  
Marcia McGilley  
Tamara Mohamed  
Chad Nielsen  
Chanell Reed  
Joe Rockwell  
Ksenia Shishkovskaja  
Karlyn Shorb  
Brian Sowl  
Catherine Trouth  
Eric Ward  
Maya Wheeler  
Judith Williams  
Deborah Winans

Advantage Security  
AutoPros  
Procurement Technical Assistance Ctr.  
Aurora Public Schools - Vista Peak  
Aman STEAM Academy  
Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
City of Aurora - Small Bus. Development  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
Wagner Equipment Company  
City of Aurora - City Council  
City of Aurora - Fire Department  
FirstBank  
Aurora Sister Cities  
Nelnet  
Community College of Aurora  
Pickens Technical College  
City of Aurora - Community Relations  
Community Advocate  
Community Re-entry Place Inside/Out

## LA GOLF (con't)

for her efforts to emulate the theme of the day.  
(And yes, that is a gopher on her hat!)

**Citywide Banks** once again stepped up as the Event Sponsor for the tournament. Gold Sponsors were **Adolfson & Peterson Construction** and **Metro Community Provider Network**, and Silver Sponsors included **Advantage Security, Inc., American Portfolios, Aurora Mental Health Center, Axiom Strategies, City of Aurora Public Works, Colorado Technical University, Community Banks of Colorado, Fairmount Mortuary and Cemetery, Falck Rocky Mountain, FirstBank of Aurora, The GEO Group,**



*Karen Sivert with Wells Fargo Bank won the Women's Longest Drive at the June 16 Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament.*

**Hurricane Grill and Wings, Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, Max Effect Marketing, The Medical Center of Aurora, Nelnet, Visit Aurora, and Westerra Credit Union.**

The Leadership Aurora annual golf tournament is the primary fundraiser for the Leadership Aurora program, which is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 class through July 15. An online application can be accessed at <http://www.aurorachamber.org/leadership-aurora/leadership-application/>. ■



*Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, Citywide Bank's President Tom Flanagan, and Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen. Citywide was once again the Event Sponsor for this year's tournament.*



## Rachel Gruber joins Chamber staff

The Chamber staff welcomes Rachel Gruber to the team as the Director of Member Services.

Rachel has jumped — with both feet — into Chamber activities and will probably be the first voice you hear when you call The Chamber. She will be scheduling future ribbon cuttings, and has already experienced and staffed the annual Leadership Golf Tournament, attended the



Rachel Gruber

Diversity and Inclusion Council meeting, and is quickly “learning everything that goes into a Chamber, and how all the different aspects have work together in order to be successful.”

Rachel is a recent graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Business Administration. ■

## Did you know?



The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. Good business, and experiences you can't find anywhere else!

## MemberRenewals

AAA Colorado	Havana Business Improvement District
Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.	Holiday Inn & Suites DIA
Advantage Security, Inc.	Hungry Howie's Pizza
American National Insurance - Doug Robinson	Hurricane Grill & Wings
Ameristar Casino, Resort & Spa	Insula Design Studio, PC
Aurora Dentistry	Kaiser Permanente
AutoPros, LLC	Kim Robards Dance
Backflow Consulting Testing & Repair, Inc.	Lawson, Angela
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.	McGrath, Jane
Belef, Ellen P.	Meat Truck Jones BBQ Catering
Boeing Company, The	Publication Printers Corp.
Brock Publishing	RE/MAX Success
Camp Bow Wow Aurora	Regis University
Cherry Creek Nursing Center	Sable Cove Condominium Association, Inc.
Cherry Creek School District # 5	Shalom Cares
ClearPath Accountants, LLC	Solidyn Solutions, Inc.
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Rapp	Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
Colorado Gaming Association	Specialty Incentives
Comitis Crisis Center, Inc.	Stillwater Resources & Investments
Community College of Aurora Foundation	Technical Petroleum Services, LLC
Core Contractors	Tenaker Pet Care Center, Inc.
Courtyard by Marriott - Denver Stapleton	The Fields Foundation
Creative Counseling Center, LLC	The GEO Group
Cruise Planners-Live 2 Travel	The Meadows at Dunkirk, by Pedcor
Cunningham Fire Protection District	Management
Darcy Truppo - Brokers Guild Cherry Creek	The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthONE
Escape to Serenity Massage	The Shops at Northfield Stapleton
Farmers Insurance - Jolene Johnson Agency	Town Center at Aurora
Farmers Insurance Group - Matthew Hunting	Tri-County Health Department
Fields, Rhonda State House HD-42	Tyco Integrated Security
Fogg System Company, Inc.	United Veterans Committee of Colorado
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.	University Physicians, Inc.
Garden Plaza of Aurora	Wave Audio Visual, Inc.
GOAL Academy	Workwell Occupational Medicine, LLC - Aurora
Grand Design, Inc.	Xcel Energy
Grandma's Handyman Service, Inc.	Xerox State & Local Solutions, Inc.

## NewMembers

Acct-Tech Consulting LLC  
 AVI Systems  
 Big Dreams 4 U  
 Panera Bread  
 Buffalo Wild Wings Southlands  
 Cadence Academy  
 Colorado Harvest Company  
 Divine Mercy Catholic Church  
 Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Southeast  
 Fairfield Inn & Suites - Aurora/Parker  
 Farmers Insurance - Yardeny Agency  
 Fruit Revival  
 Gabrielle Cardwell  
 Galloway Group  
 Gershman Mortgage  
 In & Out Smart Repair  
 Invisible Fence Brand of Colorado  
 Kelly Educational Staffing  
 Ken's Auto Service  
 Kerry Simkins - Select Accounts Manager  
 Maid Simple of Aurora, LLC  
 Mutual of Omaha - Marcus Balsley  
 New Hope Family Chiropractic  
 Paychex Inc.  
 Perry and Co. - Olivia Taylor  
 Rita's Italian Ice  
 Sessions Group - Real Estate Services  
 Sprightly Escapes - Escape Room/ Entertainment  
 The Flying Locksmiths - Denver Metro East  
 Transamerica Financial Advisors - Brian McCurdy  
 Xcelerated Signs & Graphics

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