



Upcoming Events

Banks in Harmony

June 19 | 6:30 p.m.
Pan Jumbies
Bicentennial Park

Business after Hours

June 24 | 4:30 p.m.
Aurora Events Connection @ The Summit
Conference and Events Center

Banks in Harmony

June 26 | 6:30 p.m.
Deja Blu
Bicentennial Park

Business before Hours

Business Before Hours
July 17 | 7:30 a.m.
TCF Bank
Mexico and Havana

Chamber Tradeshow/ Business after Hours

July 24 | 5 - 8 p.m.
The New Red Lion Hotel SE
Parker Rd & I-225

Banks in Harmony

July 3 | 6:30 p.m.
Hot Tomatoes
Bicentennial Bank

Member Orientation

July 9 | 4 p.m.
Chamber Offices

Banks in Harmony

July 10 | 6:30 p.m.
Del Mar Park

Banks in Harmony

July 17 | 6:30 p.m.
Dean Bushnell Orchestra
Del Mar Park

Banks in Harmony

July 24 | 6:30 p.m.
Queen City Jazz Band
Meadowood Park

Arapahoe County Fair

July 24-27, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
(near Quincy and Gun Club Rd.)

Banks in Harmony

July 31 | 6:30 p.m.
Western Flyer
Meadowood Park

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!

Eleven Honored as Top Metro Military



And the winners are...! — Congressman Ed Perlmutter is surrounded by the winners of the Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Aurora May 16. Rep. Perlmutter was the keynote speaker for the event. (from left): Air Force Reserve Technical Sergeant Lee Milburn, Colorado Army National Guard Sergeant Kyle Brown, Marine Reserve Corporal Nathan Miller, Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class Monica Finnegan-Miles, Marine Active Duty Sergeant Manuel Perez, Congressman Ed Perlmutter, Army Active Duty Staff Sergeant Robert Phillips, Air Force Active Duty Technical Sergeant Trevor Dunn, Navy Reserve Hull Technician First Class Adam Nord, Colorado Air National Guard Senior Airman Katy Driesenga, and Navy Active Duty Petty Officer Second Class Erika Gomez.

Eleven junior enlisted people from all branches of the service in the Metro area we singled out for special honors today. The best the military had to offer were singled out by their peers and honored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at their 32nd Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon.

Winners included Army Staff Sergeant Robert Phillips, Army Reserve Staff Sergeant Samantha Pettay, Colorado Army Guardsman Sergeant Kyle Brown, Navy Petty Officer Second Class Erika Gomez, Navy Reserve Petty Officer First Class Adam Nord, Marine

Corps Sergeant Manuel Perez, Marine Corps Reservist Corporal Nathan Miller, Air Force Technical Sergeant Trevor Dunn, Air Force Reserve Technical Sergeant Lee Milburn, Colorado Air Guard Senior Airman Katy Driesenga, and Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class Monica Finnegan-Miles.

Also singled out for special recognition was Diane Garcia of 2G Associates who was named winner of the Bob Cardenas Award for exceptional support of the military in the Metro area.

More than 400 people from

businesses and government turned for the Northrop-Grumman sponsored event which included a bill signing ceremony by Governor Bill Ritter and remarks from Seventh Congressional District Representative Ed Perlmutter.

Nominees for the Military Persons of the Year were selected by their peers for their outstanding achievements during the past year. They are named by their units, with the 11 winners represented Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve components.

Alfred P. Sloan Award Aurora Chamber selected as finalist

Aurora Chamber of Commerce has been selected as a finalist for the 2008 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility in the greater Aurora area.

To reach this stage, applications were measured against nationally representative data from Families and Work Institute's National Study of Employers and had to score in the

top 20% — at or above the 80th percentile of employers nationally.

"I'm very pleased that once again The Chamber and local businesses have been singled out as the kind of workplaces that people really want to be in," said Kevin Hougen, president and CEO of the Aurora Chamber.

The U.S. Chamber, that conducts

the competition, said the next and final step in the process is the Employee Survey, a brief questionnaire that asks employees (or, for larger organizations, a sample of employees) about their access to flexibility programs and the overall workplace culture. Winners will be named sometime in August.



Jo Snell
Chair

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's fiscal year ended May 31, and I'm pleased to share that we have experienced another year of growth and positive cash flow. As I prepare to take the gavel as your new board chair, I have to admit I'm both excited and challenged as we look ahead. While the economy remains soft, the trends appear to be positive. Our success will be a direct reflection of the strong business and community involvement and commitment our members continue to exhibit.

Anticipating and planning for change is part of doing business today, and doing everything better than the year prior is a survival "must". I'm looking forward to meeting our Aurora Chamber of Commerce members and seeking their advice and learning from their experiences on how we can make the Chamber even a stronger and more vibrant business association that meets their needs in a changing environment.

Despite the eastern metro area's many economic successes over the past years, at no time in our history

have there been more challenges when it comes to our economic future. This next year we will see decreased support and funding for the state's higher education systems and budget shortfalls for critical transportation construction projects. We are looking at anti-business initiatives that threaten our entire state wide business and economic competitiveness.

To meet these ongoing challenges now facing our business members, we will be working to cultivate and engage more Chamber members and civic leaders to shape our community's economic future.

Last week the Chamber Board held our annual "Chamber Advance" at the beautiful **Heritage at Eagle Bend Golf Course** conference center. We concentrated on two upcoming opportunities and the expansion of the Chamber's business plan. The two opportunities are:

Working with the City of Aurora on the start-up of a full-time Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Chamber's current office lease expires in January of 2009 and we are researching what would be the best possible site for the Chamber's office to relocate to.

With our ongoing business plan, we need to remember that the ultimate mission of the Chamber has to do with the economy and that our members are businesses who every

day are trying to stay relevant, profitable and poised for growth. The "Chamber Experience" must be designed to serve that mission. This year we will continue to partner with **Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Center** and **Adams County Workforce & Business Center**, building a quality workforce, for the future retention and recruitment of businesses to our communities.

On a personal note, I want to thank our outgoing **Chairman Bob Barké** for his leadership not only this past year but for the many years he has volunteered his valuable time and energy. We could not have been as successful without the Thanks to the full support of the board of directors and the hundreds of volunteers who that made the last year 2007-2008 year one of the most successful years that the Aurora Chamber has experienced. I also wanted to thank the **Leadership Aurora Class** of 2007-2008 on the tremendous year they had and a special thank -you to the Chairman of the Leadership Board, Mr. **Sam McGhee** and to Class President, **Deanne Criswell**.

The 2008-2009 Board of Directors will be looking forward to serving you this next year. "Our job is to create your next customer", so please feel free into contacting me or the staff for any help or input!

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.

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!

Board of Directors

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Directors

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Diane Garcia | *2G Associates, LLC*
Elyse Gellerman | *The Medical Center of Aurora*
Mark Gouin | *Wells Fargo Banks*
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Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*
Kelly Leid | *Oakwood Homes*
Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*
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The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*
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Executive Staff

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VP, Membership Development
Paul Rosenberg
Membership Services
Mary Beth Sharp

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Ribbon Cuttings



How many editors... — Harrison Cochrane (center), publisher of the Aurora Sentinel, cuts the ribbon at their new digs on the second floor of the Westerra Building located at 14305 E. Alameda Avenue. In addition to a new location, the Sentinel was kicking off celebrations marking their Centennial anniversary, an event that drew a large number of dignitaries including Secretary of State Mike Coffman and Aurora city council members Bob Broom, Larry Beer and Brad Pierce. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



NAIFA does ribbons — The Greater Aurora Chapter of the National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors, a group of independent insurance brokers and financial advisors, show they have the right stuff to cut the ribbon marking their union with The Chamber. The professional group of 65 members meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:15 a.m. at the Valley Country Club off Arapahoe Road. Interested in becoming a member? Give Steve Sellers a call at 303- 696-2698. For more on NAIFA go to their website at www.naifa.org.



Church's is for chicken – Executives from the Havana District's newest restaurant, gather together to mark the opening of the Church's Chicken Restaurant at 2181 S. Havana. Famous for their spicy southern style chicken and honey butter biscuits the fast food restaurant adds a bit of spice to the upwardly mobile Havana Corridor. Additional information and take-out is available by calling 303-368-8514.



Double Take – Cutting the ribbon to mark the a fantastic remodel at the Doubletree Hotel DTC, is the General Manager and sales department as well as The Chamber staff and Ambassadors. The hotel, located at I-25 and Orchard Road underwent a complete renovation as well as a name change. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

Member News

Support group gets new commander

Col. Vincent Jefferson assumed command of the 460th Mission Support Group in a ceremony at Buckley Air Force Base, May 9. Colonel Jefferson comes to the Aurora base from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., where he was the director of operations and exercises for 14th Air Force.

Aurora Chamber members invited to apply for Leadership Cherry Creek

Members of the Aurora Chamber are invited to apply for Leadership Cherry Creek, a community outreach program that gives business leaders, community members, and elected officials an in-depth look at one of the state's most successful school districts, according to recent graduate Paul Rosenberg of the Chamber staff.

"Participants spend one morning a month going behind the scenes and meeting with district leaders to learn first-hand about a wide variety of important educational issues – from curriculum development, classroom

instruction and student achievement, to budgeting, staffing and transportation," Rosenberg said. Meetings are held from 8 to 10:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month from August to June, with the exception of December. For more information or to get an application, call Anna Osborn at 720-554-4957.

Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld reappointed to the Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board

Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld recently was reappointed to another term on the Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board by Governor Bill Ritter.

"I am honored to serve under two different Governors," said Bockenfeld, who was appointed to the Board in 2006 by former Governor Bill Owens. "I'm looking forward to serving on this Board for another three years."

Cruzin' Havana car show set for June 21

Fun on Havana is the plan and the means to that end is an event called

of Cruzin' Havana says Gayle Jetchick executive director of the Havana Business Improvement District.

"We are on track for a huge success now that Stevinson Toyota East & Scion has stepped up to be exclusive "Presented By" sponsors," she declared. "And in keeping with the theme we expect to have – count 'em—3,000 classic cars on Havana. We also have the great Colorado band Opie Gone Bad which will perform live on stage from 3-5 p.m. at Stevinson's."

There will also be a five stop poker run and KOOL 105's Tracy Taylor and the Princess Patrol will be at Gibby's from 5-7 p.m. with free giveaways. Free Kidz Zones will feature inflatables, RC car test track, and a climbing wall.

"Havana Street Restaurants have stepped up with great offers for 'Cruzin' Cuisine,'" said Jetchick, "so you won't want to miss this great way to spend Saturday!" The event is free, there is no entry fee. Show entrant parking begins at 3 p.m. with the entertainment and poker run kicking off at 5 p.m.

Aurora public art to interpret the intersection of art and function

Functional art will soon adorn the streets of the Aurora's East End Arts District with the planned installation of the public art project titled "The Intersection of Art and Function," artist-designed public art benches.

Eight artists were selected to design the functional artwork including Béatrice Caron of New York, John Davis of Arizona, Jim Gallucci of North Carolina, Matthew Kargol of South Dakota, Joseph McGrane of Colorado, Valerie Theberge of Maryland, Cameron Van Dyke of Michigan and Madeline Wiener of Colorado.

Artwork will be placed at Lacewing Art, 9724 E. Colfax Ave.; Red Delicious Press, 9901 E. 16th Ave.; Beto's Beauty Salon, 10245 E. Colfax Ave.; Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave.; East Colfax Ave. at Dallas St.; Florence Square, 9801 E. Colfax Ave.; The Other Side Arts, 1400 Dallas St.; and East Colfax Ave. at Dallas Street.

Leadership Aurora application due July 15

The deadline for one of Colorado's premier Leadership programs, Leadership Aurora, is looming says Kimberly Curtis, director of the highly successful training program.

"The benefits of participating in the Leadership Aurora program are many," said Curtis. "You can be instrumental in helping to foster a healthy and vigorous business community by ensuring that Aurora's future leadership is diverse, committed and engaged."

Curtis pointed out there are a number of good reasons to apply. She said feedback from our graduates indicates participants benefit by:

- A strengthened sense of personal vision and power
- Development of an awareness of issues and challenges facing the community
- Discovery of leadership strengths, an increase in leadership skills, and a recognition of where your own unique contribution can be utilized



- The rewards of networking with a diverse group of community leaders
- An opportunity to make a difference in the community
- Establishing a network of people with shared experiences and a common frame of reference

In addition she pointed out that the entire community benefits by:

- An ever-increasing source of quality leaders
- An improved communications network among civil, social, education and business leaders
- An informed group of leaders willing to make a difference in the community
- A leadership base with a broadened perspective prepared to more effectively guide Aurora into its future

To apply for Leadership Aurora, contact at 303-344-1500 or email kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org for an application. "You may also go to our website at www.aurorachamber.org and click on the 'Leadership Aurora' tab to complete an online application or print a downloadable version," Curtis said.



And that says it all — *Gian Gandolpho, General Manager of the Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport and member of the Visitors Promotion Advisory Board briefs members of the Aurora Chamber Board of Directors at the annual Advance. Pictured (l-r) are Ken Smith, Qwest; Bob Barkè, Bar-K Insurance Solution and past chair; and Jo Snell, E-470 Public Highway Authority who assumed the chair position at the meeting on May 28.*

Winning the big one – *Diane Garcia, President of 2G Associates accepts the prestigious Bob Cardenas Award from The Chamber Defense Council Chair Craig Ward. Garcia, past chair of the Defense Council has worked tirelessly to bring the military and civilian community closer together in the Aurora-Denver metro area. The award is named for the late Bob Cardenas, who, as an outspoken advocate of the military and, chair of the Defense Council for nearly 10 years, brought a renewed vigor and relevance to the organization.*



Leading ladies – *Newly elected officers of the Aurora Business and Professional Women, put on their best smiles as they pose for their official 2008 photo. Installed on May 1, 2008, the officers include (l-r) Kathy Minister, President; Cheryl Derman, President Elect; Christine Aguilar, Vice President of Membership; Felicia Stanton, outgoing Past President; standing in for Janine Little as Corresponding Secretary, Jacqueline Healy, Corresponding Secretary; MaryEllen Lewis, Co-Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter editor; and Teresa McElDowney, Treasurer.*

Arapahoe County Fair looking for demolition drivers, caring volunteers

Red, White and Moo! The Arapahoe County Fair wants you... for all the metal mashing, full throttle excitement of our first ever Demolition Derby. Drivers are wanted to compete at the derby held 6 p.m. Sunday, July 27 at the 2008 Arapahoe County Fair.

To enter, participants must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license. Those under 18 must provide a notarized parent/guardian signature giving consent for the driver to participate. Each driver must submit a completed entry form. Visit www.tommygproductions.com for build rules, payout breakdown and entry forms.

"The Demolition Derby is just one of the exciting events being held at the 2008 Arapahoe County Fair," said Val Purser who is helping coordinate the event. "With a Pay ONE price admission, attendees receive free parking, unlimited carnival rides, all concerts, activities

and entertainment. This means you don't pay extra to watch the rodeo, huge fireworks displays or to participate in the City of Littleton mutton bustin', and you don't fork over any cash for face painting, camel rides, or the brand new demolition derby. Just pull out your wallet when you're hungry, are tempted to play the midway games or ready to take a souvenir home. Otherwise, keep that cash in your wallet and enjoy!"

Purser said that if driving a car in the Demolition Derby sounds a bit intimidating, guests could enter into the open class competition instead. "Try your hand at the baking, painting, quilting, photography, knitting or gardening categories and win bragging rights that last a year," she suggested.

The increasingly popular Arapahoe County Fair runs July 23 – 27 at the new fairgrounds east of Gun Club Road on Quincy.

Volunteers also needed

Purser also said volunteers are still needed for children's activities, information guides, admission greeters and managing entertainment. "We need volunteers to sign up by July 11," she stated.

Volunteering at the County Fair is a terrific way to get involved in your own community. As a volunteer, you receive a t-shirt and free admission to the fair on the day(s) you work (excludes carnival rides). Volunteer orientation is 10 a.m., July 19 at the fairgrounds Purser said.

For complete details, visit www.arapahoecountyfair.com,

"Direct Your Own Fun" at the 13th annual KidSpree July 19 and 20

Wander among giant ice cream cones in a life-size board game, meander through a giant maze, dress up and dance, create a masterpiece and more at the 13th annual KidSpree July 19 and 20.

Join 35,000 others at Colorado's largest outdoor festival for children from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at Aurora's 29-acre Bicentennial Park, 13655 E. Alameda Ave. Admission is free.

The award-winning festival features more than 60 hands-on activities and entertainers including stilt walkers, face painting, magicians, balloon artists, art activities, a musical petting zoo and more.

This year's theme is "Direct Your Own Fun," meaning lots of activities related to movies.

Find old favorites and discover new ones at this giant play land for kids. Let the littlest visitors play in their own safe haven at WeeSpree for infants and toddlers. Reach for the sky on a climbing wall. Paint a giant paint-by-numbers masterpiece. Sing like a star on the karaoke stage.

Parking is free at the Town Center at Aurora's southwest parking lot, with a free shuttle transporting visitors to the park located at East Alameda Avenue and Potomac Street, just west of Interstate 225. For more



information, call 303-326-8FUN or visit auroragov.org/kidspree.

With ongoing revitalization and development efforts happening throughout Aurora, metro-area businesses find KidSpree to be a valuable way to reach new target audiences. KidSpree is produced by the **City of Aurora**, and sponsored by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, **The Children's Hospital**, Pepsi, Papa John's, **Rural/Metro Ambulance**, **SUSS Buick-Pontiac-GMC**, **Bellco Credit Union**, Radio Disney, Kids Pages, 92.5 The Wolf, Mix 100, 1150 AM La Buena Onda, **The Aurora Sentinel**, 9News and ColoradoKids.com.



And the veterans will love this — Governor Bill Ritter signs into law House Bill 08-1078 which restores the Veteran's Trust Fund in Colorado. Ritter chose the Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on May 16 to do the signing since its effect would be greatest among the many veterans and future veterans that attended the gathering. Joining him were bill sponsors Senator Bernie Buescher from Grand Junction and Representative Nancy Todd of Aurora as well as a number of other veterans attending the annual event. (Photo courtesy USAF)

Renewals

2G Associates, LLC
Acme Tent & Canvas Company
Advanced Healthcare, P.C.
Advantage Security, Inc.
Air Force Association
Aurora & Cherry Creek Educ. Assn.
Aurora Denver Cardiology Associates, PC
Barbara's Custom Floral & Gifts, Inc.
The Boeing Company
Broadview Animal Clinic
Budget Car Sales
Butler Rents, Inc.
Cambridge College
Cherry Creek Jaycees
Columbia College
Comfort Inn & Suites
Crider & Company
Cunningham Fire Protection District
Denver International Airport
Domino's Pizza
Drury Inn - Denver East
EMI Automotive Group
Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center
Gateway Business Park
Grand Design, Inc
Hampton Inn - DIA
Hyatt Place Denver Airport
Kaiser Permanente
Kaleidoscope Aurora Council
Mr. Greenjeans' Landscaping
Bill Murray
Nelnet
Net Rangers LLC
Oakwood Corporate Housing
Pillar to Post
Ponderosa Vision Clinic, P.C.
Public Service Credit Union
RAM Industrial, Inc.
Schulz & Company, P C
University Physicians, Inc.
Watson & Co., Inc.
WEM Services

NEW MEMBERS

B & R Plastics, Inc.
Britt Honda Powersports
Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows
Eastco Interiors
Executive Merchant Services
Hi-Tec Moving and Storage
Teri Karjala
Merry Maids - Boulder
Pollos Del Centro
SolSource, LLC
Wolf Investigative Network