



Upcoming Events

MARCH

Member Orientation

March 11 | 4 p.m.
Aurora Chamber Conference Room

Aurora Day at the Capitol

March 12 | 7:30 a.m.
Old Supreme Court Chambers
Capitol Building (RSVP required)

Business before Hours

March 18 | 7:30 a.m.
William Smith High School

Move Week

March 23-27
Chamber moves offices to Westerra Building
14305 E. Alameda (call for details)

Business after Hours

March 26 | 4:30 p.m.
aLoft Hotel DIA

Safety Seminar at Pinnacol

March 31 | 8:30 a.m.
Pinnacol Headquarters at Lowry

APRIL

April Fools Day

April 1 -Don't ask

Business before Hours

April 8 | 7:30 a.m.
Fish City Grill, Southlands

Lunch 'n Learn on Facebook 101

April 9 | 11:30 a.m.
Aurora Chamber

Safety Committee

April 10 | 8:30 a.m.
Pinnacol Assurance, Lowry

Lunch 'n Learn on Facebook 201

April 16 | 11:30 a.m.
Aurora Chamber

Chamber Awards Banquet

April 17 | 6 p.m.
Red Lion Hotel, Parker & I-225

Lunch 'n Learn on Facebook 301

April 23 | 11:30 a.m.
Aurora Chamber

Business after Hours

April 23 | 4:30 p.m.
City Lights Apartments, Sable & 4th

Lunch 'n Learn on Facebook 401

April 31 | 11:30 a.m.
Aurora Chamber

Chamber finds little to love in Employee Free Choice Act

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to closely examine the merits and implications of the so called Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) legislation pending before Congress.

"We think the legislation as currently written would curtail the rights of both employees and employers and would hamper economic recovery and growth," said Kevin Hougen, Chamber President and CEO. "As an organization representing hundreds of businesses from across the eastern metro area, we are encouraging our membership to oppose EFCA".

Hougen said he felt the EFCA would effectively eliminate the secret ballot election for union organizing. "That would force workers to make the important decision about whether or not to unionize in front of union organizers,

during a stealth campaign," Hougen continued, "and that is of great concern to many of our members." Hougen said Colorado made the right choice when it chose to continue under the Labor Peace

Act. "I think the cooler heads in Colorado understood that businesses and labor unions both could work well under this great umbrella that has covered our relations for more than 65 years."

According to the U.S. Chamber, the EFCU would force workers to make the important decision about whether or not to unionize. "That would invite intimidation and coercion; lead to widespread disenfranchisement of workers who may oppose unionization by cutting them out of the process; and limit an employer's ability to counter false and misleading rhetoric," the U.S. Chamber said in a letter to Congress.



They also pointed out that the EFCA could radically alter collective bargaining by allowing unions to end good faith negotiations and force employers into binding interest arbitration to set all the terms and conditions of a union contract, not just wages and benefits, but work rules, management rights clauses, and how union dues are collected.

Hougen said the Government Affairs and Education Committee has studied the legislation closely and was expected to again recommend to the Board of Directors that they again oppose the legislation as they have in the past. "Given these difficult times, it is more critical than ever that businesses have the flexibility necessary to meet the needs of a challenging economy if we are to create an environment in which businesses can grow and create jobs," Hougen stated. "I just don't think the EFCA is consistent with this critical goal and for these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose EFCA."

Nominees sought for Annual Awards

Nominations are now open for the best of the best businesses and individuals in the Eastern Metro area says Kevin Hougen, President of the Aurora Chamber.

"Economic challenges tend to bring out the best in the business community," said Hougen, "and we would like to honor those feisty people and companies who continue to make this area a great place to live and work in."

The awards will be presented at the Chamber's 54th Annual Awards Banquet on April 17. Taking the theme, "Spring Forward" the gala evening, sponsored by **Pinnacol Assurance** and **First Bank**, will feature the Chamber's famous silent auction, a lavish dinner, a "changing of the guard" ceremony introducing the new Chamber Board leadership as well as the recognition of shining stars of the community.

Other community-minded sponsors for Aurora's best night out include the **University of Phoenix**, **Wells Fargo**

Banks, Merrick & Company, Kaiser Permanente and Westerra Credit Union.

The banquet will be held at the **Red Lion Hotel** at I-225 and Parker. Those honored will be the Business of the Year, Businessperson of the Year, Chamber Leadership, Humanitarian, Community Leader, Business for the Arts, Small Businessperson and Man and Woman of the Year.

Additional sponsorships, tables and donations for both the silent and live auctions are still available. Please call Naomi at 303-344-1500 for go online at www.aurorachamber.org for details.

"If you only do one big event during the year," Hougen said, "this is the one you definitely want to do!"



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!



Jo Snell
Chair

Chair's Letter

Stepping up: New Chamber Board Directors named

mission and outstanding service to our business community. I appreciate their support and dedication to the business community. They will be sorely missed.

Our nominating committee has named the following replacements to fill the vacant board positions:

- Tammy Fernandez, **University of Phoenix**
- Karen Gilkey, **Alberta Development**
- Carol Gregory, **The Medical Center of Aurora**
- Dave Gruber, **Nortel Government Solutions**
- Erin Lilly, **Kaiser Permanente**
- Jeff Thompson, **University of Colorado Hospital**

In addition, the nominating committee has selected the following to serve as the 2009-2010 executive leadership:

- Chair, Craig Ward, **Padgett Business Services**
- Chair Elect (2010-2011), Mark Moses, **Outback Steakhouse**
- Secretary, Judy Booth, **Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union**
- Treasurer, Dave Maxwell, **FirstBank of Aurora**
- Immediate Past Chair (2008-2009), Jo Snell, **E-470 Public Highway Authority**

- Immediate Past Chair Once Removed (2007-2008), Bob Barké, **BAR-K Insurance**

Also accepting leadership roles on the executive committee are:

- Public Issues Chair, Jim Suss, **Buick Pontiac GMC**
- Membership Services Chair, Tammy Fernandez, **University of Phoenix**
- Business Development Chair, Harrison Cochran, **Aurora Sentinel**
- Community Service Chair, Dave Gruber, **Nortel Government Solutions**

I am proud to say that this group of dedicated, hard working board members will powerfully represent the broad diversified membership of the Chamber. I hope you will join us when these dedicated individuals are formally inducted at the Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet on the evening of April 17, 2009. Please take the time to join me in welcoming and thanking both our new and renewing members for their willingness to spend their valuable time in this particularly challenging era to serve as your Chamber's Board of Directors for this next year 2009—2010.

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

Chair of the Board

Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

Chair Elect

Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

Secretary

Diane Garcia | 2G Associates

Treasurer

David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

Immediate Past Chair

Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Past Chair Once Removed

Dr. Linda Bowman | Community College of Aurora

Vice Chair-Business Development

Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sentinel

Vice Chair-Community Services

Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

Vice Chair-Public Affairs

Jim Suss | Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC

Vice Chair-Member Services

Judy Booth | Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union

Directors

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**

Harrison Cochran | **Aurora Sentinel**

Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | **140th Wing COANG**

Tammy Fernandez | **University of Phoenix**

Diane Garcia | **2G Associates, LLC**

Karen Gilkey | **Alberta Development**

Carol Gregory | **The Medical Center of Aurora**

Mark Gouin | **Wells Fargo Banks**

David Gruber | **Nortel Government Solutions**

Todd Landgrave | **Northrop Grumman**

Erin Lilly | **Kaiser Permanente**

Dave Maxwell | **1st Bank of Aurora**

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**

Dan Sandos | **401(K) Advisors**

Ken Smith | **Qwest**

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

Jim Suss | **Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC**

The Honorable Ed Tauer | **Mayor, City of Aurora**

Jeff Thompson | **University of Colorado Hospital**

Craig Ward | **Padgett Business Services**

Frank Weddig | **Commissioner, Arapahoe County**

Executive Staff

President & CEO

Kevin Hougren

Marketing & Visitors' Advisory Board

Naomi Colwell

Leadership Director

Kimberly Curtis

Special Events

Debbie Lynch

Secretary

Janice Cooper

Membership Director

Marci Maxwell

Administration Director

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George Peck

VP, Membership Development

Paul Rosenberg

Membership Services

Mary Beth Sharp

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Member News

Arapahoe County hires new Human Resources Director

After a nationwide search, the **Arapahoe County** Board of Commissioners selected Patrick Hernandez, as their new Human Resources Director. Hernandez, who brings more than 20 years of HR experience to the position will oversee a 13-member department is responsible for the recruitment, career development and training of employees, as well as overseeing the County's personnel policy development, benefit administration, employee relations and classification and compensation of the County's 1,900 employee workforce. "We are excited to have Patrick Hernandez join our team," said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as chairman of the Board. "Patrick brings a wealth of human resources experience to **Arapahoe County**. His background in staff development and talent management, leadership coaching and development, employee relations, as well as his law degree, makes him the perfect candidate to lead our Human Resources department and oversee the recruitment and development of our workforce."

Previously, Hernandez spent eight years at Time Warner Telecom as their Vice President of Organizational Learning and Development.

Pinnacol schedules Safety Training Seminars

Pinnacol Assurance, partners with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in the workers' compensation insurance program, has scheduled their next round of Safety Training Seminars according to Stephanie McDonnell who administers the program for The Chamber.

Set for March 31 at the **Pinnacol** facility on Lowry Boulevard, the seminars will cover accident investigations and provide the latest worker comp case law updates.

McDonnell said those who participate in the workers' comp program through The Chamber are required to attend at least on safety training session each year.

For additional information contact McDonnell at 303-344-1500.

Aurora Mental Health Center takes top award in HR Best Practices

Aurora Mental Health Center's Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development (LEAD) program has been selected as the first place winner of the 2009 Mountain States Employers Council, Inc. (MSEC) Human Resources Best Practices Contest.

The Center was singled out for their creation of the Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development or LEAD program to improve employee satisfaction, enhance continuity of care, and provide opportunities for staff at all levels to develop their leadership and entrepreneurial skills. With 68 graduates so far, the LEAD program has become the core of the **AuMHC** culture said Dr. Randy Stith, Executive Director of the Center. "Since implementing LEAD, our staff turnover rate declined drastically and we have also increased employee satisfaction and morale, staff innovation, and developed strong leaders."

Merrick's Cruz receives military engineers recognition

Ruben D. Cruz, PhD, PE, of **Merrick & Company**, was the recipient of the 2008 Pikes Peak Post Goethals Medal awarded by the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), the firm announced. The



Ruben D. Cruz,
PhD, PE

award, named in honor of U.S. Army Col. George W. Goethals, is given, annually, to an individual for eminent and notable contributions in engineering, design or construction in the past five years.

The medal was awarded to Dr. Cruz for his work on a multi-year, extremely complex investigation into the causes of structural distress in a one million-square-foot, multi-story major military and academic building. As a result of his investigation, the facility will continue to be in use for the foreseeable future and the alternative concepts for repairs he developed will save the U.S. Air Force an estimated \$30 million as compared to the previously considered repair options.

Aurora-based **Merrick & Company** is a leader in the planning and design of military projects including their current work on a \$750 million U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training Complex at Lackland AFB in Texas.

Taylor offers help to small businesses

A long-time member of The Chamber, Dwight Taylor of the law firm **Edwards & Taylor, LLC**, has started a new counseling service. "Small business



Dwight Taylor

owners need to think through the options and choices available in this new financial climate," Taylor said. With more than 30 years experience in advising banks and other businesses in making critical decisions regarding organization, risk management, financing and bankruptcy, Taylor said he holds a special appreciation for the efforts and investments made in a business. "These are challenging times that demand clear thinking and good information," he said.

Taylor said that if you would like to sit down for a private, frank discussion about the issues confronting your business without worrying about the clock or a fee, to give him a call at 303-750-2303. "If you can't get away from the shop during the business day," Taylor said, "give me a call anyway and we can make arrangements to meet during the evening or on weekends for the price of a cup of coffee." Additional information is available at the **Edwards & Taylor** web site at www.et-law.com.

Aurora Singers set Spring Concert

The popular **Aurora Singers** will hold their Spring Concert on March 7-8 at East Middle School. Featuring great hit tunes captured from modern Broadway shows, the Saturday concert will be at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee will begin at 2 p.m. More information including group rates are available by calling 303-343-3377 or by going to the Aurora Singers web site at www.aurorasingers.org.

Hazard County featured at Fox

A play that delves into the complexities of life in rural Kentucky sheds new light on the so called Southern culture often parodied on television. Hazard County, will run through March 15 at the **Aurora Fox Theater**. The action of the play is framed by monologues from the TV show "Dukes of Hazard" creating a vivid portrayal of the contemporary South, "where reality meets head-on with mass media, politics and racism." Tickets and additional information are available online at www.aurorafox.org.

Aurora Rotary schedules State of the City

The annual report on the State of the City by Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer will be April 22. The luncheon, a traditional fundraiser for the **Rotary Club of Aurora** and the **Aurora Rotary Foundation**, will be held at the **Red Lion Hotel**, I-225 and Parker, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$50. For more information contact Dave Williams at 303-435-2207.

Doyle wins broadcast award

Patty Doyle, Administrative Coordinator for the **High Five Plains Foundation** and KAVD-FM Station Manager in Strasburg has been named to receive an award from the Colorado Broadcasters Association at their annual Awards of Excellence banquet March 14. Doyle was chosen for the Broadcast Citizen Award for her contributions to her community in which she serves not only as a radio personality and station manager, but as an active supporter of the non-profit **High Five Plains Foundation**.

Aurora photographer Lyn Gamber passes from scene

Longtime Aurora portrait photographer, Chamber member and Rotarian Lynden Gamber died Feb. 10. He was 91.

Gamber, born in 1917, was an Aurora resident for 54 years and involved throughout the Aurora community.

Brad Mikel, of **Mikel-Gamber Photography**, purchased the photo business Gamber ran with his wife, Arline in 1983. He said Gamber was his mentor for many years both in the photography business and in Rotary. "You know Lyn had perfect weekly attendance at **Rotary Club of Aurora** for 48 years," said admiringly of his friend.

Gamber is survived by his daughter Lynda Bewley, three grandsons — Daren, Damon and Devin — and three great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to **Aurora Rotary Club**, Burns Methodist Church or the American Heart Association.



Lyn Gamber

AmbassadorSPOTLIGHT

Who IS this member?!?



Brian Molitoris,
Photographer

Rarely does someone like to have their picture taken, but when it comes to **Brian Molitoris, Photographer** you can be sure he'll capture your best side. Molitoris, who has been in business more than ten years, is a regular contributor to

The Chamber newsletter, providing many of the ribbon cutting and other special event pictures. While Molitoris is a regular at most

Chamber functions he's also very involved in other Chamber activities. He participates in a Tips & Leads group, serves as vice chair of the Business for the Arts committee, and is active in the Aurora Events Connection. He is also an Ambassador. "I enjoy being involved, so it's not like work," Molitoris stated. Describing his work, Molitoris said that images that customers have in their minds, he puts into a physical form. His scope of work ranges from portraits, awards/event photography and interior architectural photography. If you are interested in learning more about Molitoris' services, look for the man with the big camera snapping pictures at Chamber Business Before or After Hours or check out his web site at www.bmp.digitaleventsonline.com.



They are not all inflatables...

Even when the economy seems to be heading further south, there is still good things happening in The Chamber. After five years in the business, **Amberg Entertainment** is growing.



Amberg Entertainment is growing.

Dawn Legge, president of the entertainment firm and one of the founding members of the Events

Connection at The Chamber announced that her company has partnered with another Denver company, **All 4 Fun**, to bring all kinds of exciting ideas to companies for events.

"We are busting at the seams with excitement about this new addition to our family. We have doubled our warehouse size and can offer all kinds of new and exciting entertaining things," Legge proclaimed.

"You can talk all you want about the down economy," Legge said, "but opportunity is always abundant --harder to see sometimes, but there." The ever energetic Legge said that this opportunity was the perfect purchase. "It brings a new level of excitement and passion for what I love doing," she bubbled. An unfailing optimist, Legge said with a wink that the only negative aspect of the entire purchase was the paperwork. "But that is minor when you get to play with inflatables, bungee jumps, a green screen and our new 'Airborne Adventure!'"

A full rundown on the happy world of **Amberg Entertainment** can be found at www.ambergentertainment.com.

Women in Business

Seeking "Unsung Heroes"

The Chamber Women in Business Committee has begun preparations for the annual Unsung Heroes Making a Difference Breakfast March 13 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.

Sponsored by the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance**, it is a magnificent event honoring women in our community.

"We need to hear from the community," said WIB Chair Patie

Jansen. "You know who these wonderful behind the scenes women are so get a nomination to us right away."

**"Unsung Heroes"
Making a Difference
Luncheon
March 13
Doubletree Hotel SE**

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.

Ribbon Cuttings



Bringing it on home — Sandy Montano, General Manager; and Celeste Delahanty, Director of Sales are joined by a large group of well-wishers as they cut the ribbon formally marking the opening of Homewood Suites DIA at 4210 Airport Way. The suite-style hotel, part of the Hilton chain, offers large, comfortable and well-designed suites with big, comfy beds and is close to DIA and the metro area. Additional details can be found at www.HomewoodSuites.com or by calling them at 303-371-4555. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



You got stuff, we got space — Al Smith, manager of Extra Space Storage at 2997 N. Ulster in Denver is joined by friends as he cuts the ribbon for his new facility near MLK Boulevard and Roslyn. Smith said he could not only provide clean, ready-to-rent units but would help renters select just the right size safe and secure storage for their needs. For more information call Smith at 303-329-7365. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Cut, copy and paste — Terrina Deay-Reusch shows the hands off approach to a ribbon cutting as The Chamber and Ambassadors mark the membership of Lewan & Associates into The Chamber family of fine businesses. A tradition in the community since 1972, Lewan & Associates provide businesses with complete, customized technology solutions from network integration to digital multifunction copiers to printer service & supplies and VoIP systems. Located at 1400 S. Colorado Boulevard in Denver, Lewan is the largest office technology company in the Rocky Mountain West and serves the entire metro area with more than 300 professionals. For more information give them a call at 303- 968-2476 or go to their web site at www.lewan.com. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Getting it just right -- Assistant Vice President for Public Relations for the Public Service Credit Union, Jane Willard pulls the ribbon tight in preparation for a ribbon cutting by PSCU President and CEO David Maus at their brand new Anschutz Branch on the Fitzsimons Campus. The beautiful new offices (inset), are located at 12501 East 17th Avenue, right in the middle of the Anschutz Medical Campus. Open from 8 a.m. 'til 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, the facility is full service and features free wireless internet access and a free coffee bar. For more information on PSCU visit www.pscu.org or call 303-691-2345.

Room to spare — Showing off their new digs, the staff of the Stapleton Storage Center and Chamber Ambassadors help Manager Takesheka Ross-Hopkins cut the ribbon at their 9591 E. 22nd Avenue location. Catering to the needs of those who have run out of space in their own place, the Stapleton Storage Center is located near Montview and Dallas near both the Fitzsimons medical complex and the Stapleton housing development. Call 303-364-6032 for additional information. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)





Northrop Grumman to sponsor 2009 AFRL

The Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon, set for May 15, celebrates 33 years of honoring the best of the best in the Metro area military community.

This important event, coordinated by the Chamber's Defense Council and the City of Aurora, not only recognizes the growing number of active duty service members here, it also reaches out to those who serve in the National Guard and the Reserve. Included are awards for our Military Persons of the Year—11 individuals serving in the Metro area who have been selected for their outstanding achievements over the past year.

"This luncheon is our way of recognizing members of the armed forces—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—in the Metro area," said Chamber President Kevin Hougen. "They make a great contribution not only to our community but to our nation as well."

Nearly 7,000 military people serve at Buckley AFB and other military organizations around the metro area, Hougen said.

"I'm really pleased that the business community is really stepping up to help us

recognize our very deserving troops," said Craig Ward, Chair of the Chamber Defense Council that organizes the luncheon. "I'm particularly touched by the many small business that contribute prizes for each of the winners. I think that speaks to the depth of the support we have out there."

More than 500 people are expected to attend the special luncheon including around 200 uniformed guests from military organizations throughout the area. Nominees for the Top Troops Award are nominated by their units and the eleven winners represent active duty, National Guard and Reserve components from all the services.

The 2009 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon will be held on May 15 at 11 a.m., the day before Armed Forces Day, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near Chambers and I-70. A formal flag ceremony kicks off the luncheon at 11:45 a.m.

Additional information is available by calling George Peck at the Aurora Chamber at 303-344-1500 or by going on the Chamber web site and clicking the AFRL Save the Date art.



Launching into an explanation — Andrew Aldrin, Director of Business Development and Advanced Programs at the United Launch Alliance in Centennial briefs nearly 100 members of The Chamber Defense Council and National Defense Industrial Association on some of the work ULA has been doing in support of the U.S. government. A partnership between **Boeing** and **Lockheed Martin**, ULA is the premier satellite launch organization in the world. Aldrin was part of a Defense Council program on Jan. 29 that also included recognition of last year's Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon sponsors, including title sponsor Northrop Grumman, and corporate sponsors **Boeing**, the **City of Aurora**, **Lockheed Martin**, **Raytheon** and **Sam's Club**. (Photo courtesy of Judy Yunt, ULA)

We're moving!

When: March 25-27

Where: Westerra Building, Third Floor

New Address: 14307 E. Alameda, Aurora CO 80012

Phone: Same (303-344-1500)

Fax: Same (303-344-1564)

Email address: Same (info@aurorachamber.org)

Staff: Same great people with even better connections to you!

The move of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce offices to the Westerra Building near Sable and Alameda is on track for the week of March 23-27 said move planner Marci Maxwell.

"We've been meeting weekly with the construction people who are building out our new space and we haven't seen any real show stoppers," she said. "The way we have things planned, we shouldn't have to miss a single meeting—although we may have to move them around a bit..."

The new offices on the third floor of the building at 14305 E. Alameda will give The Chamber additional meeting space and allow for some upgraded technology to more effectively meet members needs in the 21st century said Chamber President Kevin Hougen.

"We've worked closely with chamber members **Qwest**, **QSE Technology** and **Image Audiovisual** to make sure we have some very cost effective solutions to the greater demands that we have to meet today," Hougen said.

The final move from the Sixth and Sable location is expected to be finalized on March 27. "We are working hard to minimize the impact this will have on members," said George Peck who is coordinating the technology upgrades. "We hope to have our computers and phones down only briefly on the 26th as we make the switch to several new systems."

"Bear with us," Hougen said. "I think you'll find the brief confusion well worth it in the long run."

Citizen input needed for ArapCo Fairgrounds and Regional Park Master Plan

Arapahoe County Commissioners have invited citizens, public agencies and other interested parties to share their ideas on the future needs, activities and facilities of the **Arapahoe County Fairgrounds** and Regional Park in Aurora.

"We want to hear from residents regarding the ongoing use of the County's Fairgrounds and Regional Park," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as the Board's Chairman. "This information will be used to develop a master plan for the future of the Fairgrounds and Regional Park and will guide our decision-making."

Those unable to attend the meeting can still submit their ideas on the use and preservation of this section of the County's heritage through an online survey that will be posted on their web site in late February.

The meeting will be held in Aurora, March 3, at 7 p.m., **Arapahoe County Fairgrounds** - Paintbrush Room, 25690 East Quincy Ave., Aurora, 80016.

Aurora's favorite golf tourney set for June 18

The premiere golf event of the summer will be held on Thursday, June 18, says Kimberly Curtis, Director of the Leadership Aurora program for The Chamber. "We will return to the beautiful and challenging Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club," she said. "We've held our prices the same as last year at \$150 individual golfer fees that include cart, green fees, lunch, and a player ditty bag."

Rural/Metro Ambulance and **Sam's Clubs** will co-sponsor the event this year. **Qwest Communications** has agreed to be the Food and Beverage Sponsor. Other sponsors to date include **Adolfson & Peterson Construction**, **FirstBanks of Aurora**, **Metro Community Provider Network**, **Pinnacle Assurance** and **University of Phoenix**.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available Curtis announced. "You can still be our \$2,000 Gold Sponsor that includes golfer fees, signage, promotion and website links," she said, "or maybe a \$200 Fairway sponsor would work best for you."

This premier tourney can also help you advertise your business by donating items for ditty bags and door prizes Curtis pointed out. "For the ditty bags, we need small items such as golf balls, tees, pens, and other advertising specialty-type items." At least 160 of each item are needed for the ditty bags.

Larger items such as gift certificates, gift baskets, restaurant dinners, golf shirts, golf bags or clubs, or any non-related golf items will be used as door prizes. "It's a great way to market your business!" Curtis exclaimed.

Go to www.aurorachamber.org to register online for the tournament or e-mail kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org for more information.




"Golf — a passion, an obsession, a romance, a nice acquaintanceship with trees, sand and water . . ."

— Bob Ryan

Doing the Defense Council – a Leadership community exploration

By Tony Martin, HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center

Tony visited the Defense Council as part of his Community Exploration requirements.

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Every day I am amazed at what else there is to learn. This last September 25th I learned a lot as a visitor to the Aurora Chamber Defense Council. I would recommend that any of the Leadership Aurora team attend one of their monthly meetings. As a retired Air Force member and a current Air Force civilian employee, I found the interaction between and the mutual support for, the Aurora local community and the military community both enlightening and encouraging.

The Defense Council works with the local military installations, the aerospace industry and other business and professional representatives to provide support and interaction among the respective communities. This is one of Aurora's oldest councils... continuously maintaining those important military ties. What struck me on this day was two-fold. First was the true commitment from each entity for the well being and support of the other. Second was the enormous size of

the military community, with over 13,000 employees just at Buckley AFB, and with a supported population of over 90,000. Speaking from personal experience, many of those 90,000 are retired military. They made a choice to pick Aurora as a long-term residence. As a community we should be proud of that fact...and encourage it.'

There are many military members assigned to Buckley AFB who are in career fields that must deploy

six months out of each year. I encourage us all to consider the pressures placed upon them and others, what they do for our country...and our community, and for our Leadership Aurora team to do what we can to support the goals and mission of our Aurora Chamber Defense Council.

Respectfully,
Tony Martin

2009 Leadership Aurora Class donates 15 new violins to City Strings

By Scott Pasternack
Leadership Aurora Class of 2009


The Leadership Aurora class of 2009 has donated 15 brand new violins to the City Strings non-profit organization. The idea was formed from the Community Day session the class participated in on December 11, 2008. The 35 member class broke up into groups and visited eighteen various community organizations. City Strings is an organization that works closely with **Aurora Public Schools** to provide free music classes for the violin, cello, and other instruments to inner city children. The group learned that they currently only have three classes available



and want to expand the program to more children. City Strings also had very few instruments on hand and the kids already enrolled in the class were using them.

Class member, Scott Pasternack, owner of Pasternack's Pawn Shops in Aurora was in the group that visited City Strings. The shop sells both new and used musical instruments. He was so touched by this organization and their mission, that he asked each Leadership Aurora class member to donate \$10 each. He agreed to match the amount received and order a couple of new violins for City Strings. To

Pasternak's delight, everyone in the class stepped up to the plate and instead of just getting 3 or 4 violins for the children, he was able to order 15 new violins! City Strings now has enough instruments for two new classes.

SAVE THE DATE

Graduation
June 4, 2009

Small business for football fans at ABDC

For those who continue to yearn for anything that might evoke the great spirit of football, the **Aurora Business Development Center** has just the ticket for you. **ABDC** is holding the "Aurora Bowl," a series of seminars with a football theme.

Four are designed for seasoned businesses--called the "Pro Bowl"--and four geared more toward the start-up venture on its way to the "Super Bowl" of business success. Additionally, the Aurora Bowl includes "Special Teams", seminars that address specific topics, and

the "Concession Stand", designed for food-related businesses. Their tag line is, "Let us join your team huddle and help lead your business toward the championship!"

All four classes taken as a series is only \$60/person, a savings of \$15.

Kick-Off Your Business, FREE
Thurs., March 5th, 9:00 AM - 12:00

Build a Good Offense: Marketing Smarts I
\$25/person if taken by itself
Thurs., Mar. 5th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Know Your Stats: Financial Smarts I
\$25/person if taken by itself
Thurs., March 12th, 9:00 AM - 12:00

A Winning Game Plan
\$25/person if taken by itself
Thurs., March 12th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

The Aurora Bowl series is also on-line at www.aurorabdc.com. The "Super Bowl" and the "Pro Bowl" alternate from month to month, so the next complete "Pro Bowl" series of seminars at \$75/person will be in April.

Other classes taking place in March not listed with the "Super Bowl" are:

Go Pro! with QuickBooks Pro
\$45/person
Tuesdays, March 10th and 17th
1:00 - 4:00 PM

And a business start-up class held in Spanish:

Fundamentos de un Negocio
GRATIS
Miercoles, 18 marzo, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

For more information call the
ABDC 303.326.8690.

City of Aurora adds vibrancy to city buildings with fine art

The City of Aurora's Art in Public Places program has selected eight fine art exhibits for the 2009 municipal gallery schedule. Seven local artists and one group exhibit will grace the walls of city buildings through Dec. 15, including Jeff Ball, John Curtis, Sharon Feder, Chris Lombardi, Theresa Lugo, Jeff Richards, Cynthia Thomas and **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts**. All were selected to provide a compilation of artwork for exhibition in one of four municipal galleries at various times.

Aurora's fine art exhibit galleries are free and open to the public, contributing to Aurora's cultural vibrancy while supporting local and regional artistic activity.

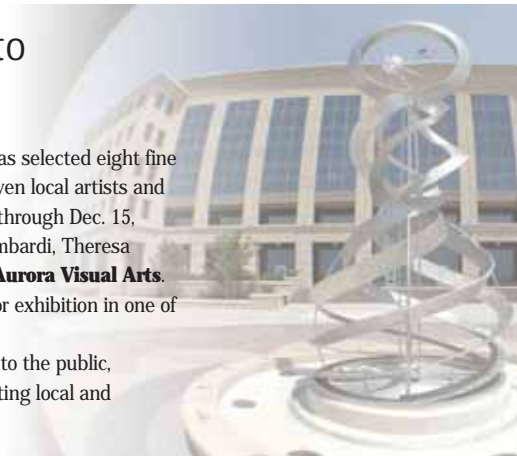


Exhibit Schedule

Aurora Municipal Center, 2nd floor | 15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Jan. 26 to April 7: Jeff Richards, Denver
April 7 to June 19: Sharon Feder, Denver

Tallyn's Reach Library, circulation / 23911 E. Arapahoe Road
Feb. 3 to June 26: Downtown Aurora Visual Arts Youth, Aurora
June 27 to Dec. 15: Jeff Ball, Aurora/Denver

Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, lobby / 9898 E. Colfax Ave.
Jan. 26 to June 26: Cynthia Thomas, Aurora
June 27 to Dec. 15: Theresa Lugo, Parker

Aurora Municipal Court, jury waiting room / 14999 E. Alameda Parkway
Feb. 2 to June 26: Chris Lombardi, Denver
June 27 to Dec. 15: John Curtis, Englewood

Renewals

460th Space Wing
A Helping Hand
Air Force Association
American Family Insurance - Rose
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Town of Bennett
Best Western Gateway Inn & Suites
Blackjack Pizza
Blind Corners & Curves
City of Centennial
Data Pathways
Michael D. Dawson
Eagle Legacy Credit Union
Edwards & Taylor LLC
Egan Printing Company
Engineering Service Company
Floor Coverings International
Full House Construction & Design
House of Flowers
Liberty Savings Bank
Loading Dock Restaurant
M. Chase Group, LLC
Marquis Marble, Inc.
Merry Maids
Metro Community Provider Network, Inc.
Precision Glassblowing of Colorado
Ryden & Associates
Summit Interiors
Technical Glass, Inc.
Valley Country Club
White Glove Car Wash

NEW MEMBERS

Aurora Academy Charter School
Compass Rose Concierge, LLC
Data Pathways
Denver Home Approval
Francis Peter Maks
Magnum Accounting Solutions
Servpro of Aurora
Snelling Professional Services
The Little Clinic
Tutor Doctor
Weston Solutions, Inc.