

Serving the east-metro
area including:

Aurora
Bennett
Centennial
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THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

MAR/APR 2013

Upcoming Events

MARCH

Young Professionals

March 1 • 12 pm
Chamber office

Business for the Arts

March 5 • 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

March 5 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Transportation Committee

March 6 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee

Cancelled for March 7, because of
Aurora Day at the Capitol

Aurora Day at the Capitol

March 8 • 8 am
Colorado State Capitol
Old Supreme Court Chambers
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Tips and Leads 3

March 11 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 2

March 12 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Doing Business With Arapahoe County

March 13 • 11:30 am-1 pm
Chamber office

Member Orientation

March 13 • 12-1 pm
Chamber office

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I-225/Colfax/17th Place Interchange Open for Business



The ribbon cutting for the I-225/Colfax/17th Place Interchange took place on February 11. On hand to do the honors were (from l.), Shaun Cutting, Federal Highway Administration; Don Hunt, CDOT; Congressman Mike Coffman; Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan; Congressman Ed Perlmutter; Aurora City Council Member Bob Broom; Aurora City Council Member Brad Pierce; Aurora City Council Member Debi Hunter Hoken; and Arapahoe County Commissioner Bill Hoken. CDOT officially opened the interchange on February 21. (Photo courtesy City of Aurora)

Public Issues Committee fully engaged for 2013

The Public Issues Committee of the Aurora Chamber Board, under the leadership of Board Vice Chair Tom Henley from **Xcel Energy**, provides oversight to the Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee; the Transportation Committee; and the Healthcare Committee. These groups are responsible for exploring any additional topics Chamber members feel it is important to take a position on.

The Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee has moved into its two-meetings-a-month mode to stay on top of ever-changing legislative activity at the State Capitol. Co-chaired by Polly Page and regularly attended by Eastern Metro Area legislators, the committee meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month. In addition, the Transportation Committee, headed by Chris Fasching with **Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig**, is actively tracking legislation related to transportation.

They meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Also under Public Issues is the Healthcare Committee, chaired by Bob Barké of **BAR-K Insurance Solutions**, which is responsible for tracking the broad range of healthcare issues. They gather on the second Thursday of the month.

Broadly, the committees track issues of importance to the business community. They have created White Papers on key issues including Transportation, Healthcare, Education, Economic Development, and Initiatives. Full White Papers are available on the Chamber web site. A summary follows:

Transportation: (Provided by the Transportation Committee)

- Investment in infrastructure growth that balances robust business expansion and quality of life for the workforce
- A statewide approach to highway funding that places first priority on maintenance and upgrade of current highways and in key east metro corridors as defined by The Chamber Priority Projects list
- Continued high priority support for full funding of I-225 and southeast corridor improvements
- Continued support for the FasTracks program

[continued on page 7]

Safety Group Earns Dividend

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce proudly announces that our

PINNACOL
ASSURANCE

Pinnacol Assurance Safety Group has earned a dividend for the 2011-12 workers compensation program period. This helps pave the way for our program to thrive under Pinnacol's new guidelines for these Safety Groups. To learn more about the Safety Group and the discount that Aurora Chamber members earn on their Pinnacol Assurance workers compensation policy, contact Stephen Brunston or Jay Oliver at Colorado Insurance Professionals; Fred Bailey at Associates Insurance Group; Scott Asbury or Scott Carlson, at Cherry Creek Insurance; or Mark Carlson at T. Charles Wilson Insurance Service. ■



facebook

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS YEAR'S
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION
BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
AT THE
MAJESTIC COMMERCCENTER
19755 E. 35th Drive, Building #26, Aurora, CO 80011
APRIL 19, 2013
5-9 PM
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!



Jeff Thompson
Chair

Chair's Letter

Aurora is literally moving forward

It's already February of 2013! Either I'm getting old and time is flying by, or as they say – and I think it's true – that it's a combination of both! However, it is what it is and here we are, and now we can really focus on growing and moving Aurora forward.

Without belaboring the obvious, 2012 was not one of the best years for Aurora. But being optimistic for the future, I also believe a lot happened to lay the foundation for some great things to come. One thing in particular was the announcement by the Regional Transportation District that as a result of an unsolicited, confidential bid submitted by Kiewit Construction (followed by a quickly organized competitive bidding process); the RTD Board awarded a contract to Kiewit to construct the I-225 Corridor Light Rail line. The total construction phase of the project is scheduled for completion by November of 2015, followed by five-to-six months of test runs, making it ready for passenger service by April of 2016.

Here in February of 2013, April of 2016 may sound like a ways off, but this is actually a very aggressive timeline – and way ahead of what was anticipated from RTD prior to Kiewit stepping forward when it appeared that the I-225 corridor would not see light rail travel until mid-to late 2020's (or later)!

Now, we have the City of Aurora, RTD, and Kiewit putting final details on construction plans and timelines, which includes a lot of basic infrastructure preparation work before the rail can even be laid. Hats off to all involved for pulling together to make this happen for the future of Aurora and the Eastern Metro Area.

This leads me to address the real opportunity this presents the City – a term we are all now getting used to: Transit Oriented Development (TOD). And this ties in directly with part of what I addressed in my November/December 2012 Chair's Letter – the creation of the Aurora "Business Leaders Group," established by Mayor Hogan; now formally known as "Alliance to Advance Aurora" or "A3." If you recall, A3

includes the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Economic Development Council, Visit Aurora, Adams County Economic Development Council, the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, and of course, City of Aurora Administration. The board chairs, CEO's, and leaders of these organizations meet on a regular basis in the Aurora City Manager's Office to discuss innovative ways that we can promote the city to landowners, developers, businesses, and community and government leaders; encouraging them to look at the many opportunities that the City of Aurora offers. In addition, this group can be a powerful advocacy organization in reaching out to our local, state, and federal elected officials, to encourage support of legislation and other initiatives that help with business development and support – and of course, job creation.

If we look specifically at the potential opportunities presented by the construction of light rail on I-225 between the Nine Mile Station at Parker and I-225 all the way around the loop to Peoria and Smith Rd. near I-70, we have identified about a half dozen sites that are ready for significant TOD – mostly at the major stations/stops along the light rail route. These include Iliff, Centre Point/City Center, several sites between 2nd and 13th Avenues, Colfax Avenue, Montview Boulevard and Ursula Street; and the terminal at Peoria Street/Smith Road/I-70, where it connects with the East Rail commuter line from DIA to Downtown Denver. These are sites that offer significant potential for major business development in Aurora, and we need to create a plan to promote and drive business to these locations. We have the right people and organizations at the table working together to put this plan together and make it operational.

As I keep saying, it's an exciting time to be in Aurora!

In relation to that, it's also an exciting time for me, not only regarding my work for University of Colorado Health – as the healthcare environment continues on trajectory of phenomenal change – but also with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in representing and serving Aurora's business community. In combining both the rapidly changing healthcare landscape and the need

for the Aurora Chamber to keep members apprised of the many forthcoming changes, we are planning a "Healthcare Summit" for November 1, 2013. This will be an exciting opportunity – at an ideal time – to provide Chamber members with the latest updates on the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as well as trends in healthcare. We intend to provide vital information for employers (large and small), employees, and any of us who are healthcare consumers... OK, that's EVERYONE! Stay tuned for further details on what will be a most informative half-day summit.

A couple final notes:

So, we need to keep moving Aurora forward and keep our Chamber members informed and engaged. In that regard, I'm extremely honored and humbled that because we now have a vacancy in our Board leadership at the position of Chair-Elect (and after a little arm twisting by Kevin), I have agreed to serve a second term as your Chamber Board Chair. Given where we are with the City and A3, and within the Chamber itself, I'm excited to help maintain some continuity as we address the needs of Aurora's business community. I look forward to carrying forward through June of 2014 with an outstanding Board of Directors and an equally outstanding and dedicated Chamber Staff!

Lastly, I would like one more moment of "personal privilege" to recognize Governor John Hickenlooper, Denver Archbishop Samuel Aquila, Cinemark President and CEO Tim Warner, and especially our Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, for their consoling, heartwarming, and inspiring words expressed at the January 17 reopening of the Century Aurora Theater. We in Colorado, Aurora, and the Metro area are very blessed to have such outstanding and truly compassionate leaders, who not only lead but have the ability to aid us through our healing. Strong shoulders on which we can lean our collective heads. Thank you, Gentlemen!

Thank you all for your support of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce! ■

MemberNews

Arapahoe County Assessor Sakdol is 2012 Assessor of the Year

Arapahoe County Assessor Corbin Sakdol was named 2012 Assessor of the Year by the Colorado Assessors' Association at its 70th annual winter conference in December 2012.



Corbin Sakdol

Sakdol has been the **Arapahoe County** Assessor since November 2006, and is the first assessor from **Arapahoe County** to receive the honor. He leads a staff of 66 employees at two Arapahoe County locations, with the main office in Littleton, and a satellite office in Aurora. The Assessor's office values all property in the county, including homes, condos, apartments, commercial properties, land, and personal property, and certifies the values to approximately 350 different taxing jurisdictions.

Aurora Mental Health Center Selected for Payless Shoes for Kids Program

Aurora Mental Health Center is one of non-profit organizations throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and 11 Latin American countries, whose clients benefitted from the \$1.5 million *Payless Gives™ Shoes 4 Kids* program. The actual benefactors were a group of children served by **Aurora Mental Health Center** who participated in a shoe-shopping trip in January at the Payless ShoeSource in Aurora. The children enjoyed shopping for and selecting their own pair of free, new shoes.

Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld named 2013 Board Chair

Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld has been named chairman of the 2013 **Board of County Commissioners** with Commissioners Nancy A. Doty serving as Chair Pro Tem and Bill Holen serving as Finance Officer.

Bockenfeld says his goals for 2013 include continuing to make progress on Align Arapahoe, the County's strategic planning and performance management system; improving Arapahoe Road from Waco to Himalaya Roads and Gun Club Road at Quincy Avenue; and continuing to develop the **Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park** by building the west wing to the current Fairgrounds facility.

Doty is serving her first term. She joins the Board after serving nearly nine years as Clerk and Recorder for Arapahoe County.



Left to right: Commissioners Nancy Sharpe, Bill Holen, Nancy Jackson, Rod Bockenfeld, and Nancy Doty.

Holen was appointed commissioner to fill the term of former and the late Commissioner Frank Weddig, who retired in January 2012. Holen says he will focus on veteran services, including job training for veterans who are returning from service overseas and re-entering the work force, in particular, disabled veterans, and working to keep taxes low in Arapahoe County through economic development.

The remaining members of the Board are Commissioner Nancy Sharpe and Commissioner Nancy Jackson.

City of Centennial promoting Snow Hero program

Even with the occasional warm temperatures we are experiencing, the winter season is here – and with that comes the chance for snow. The **City of Centennial** is encouraging local businesses and residents to be a "Snow Hero" and clear snow and ice from the sidewalks and parking lots on and near their properties.

The **Centennial** Snow Hero initiative was created in response to community input on the need for snow removal, especially in business parks and multi-family residential buildings. **Centennial** does not currently have a snow removal ordinance but encourages all citizens to voluntarily shovel walks directly in front of, within, and adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snow storm.

Businesses, organizations and residents can be nominated for "Centennial Snow Hero" recognition through an online nomination process. For more information on the program and the City's Snow and Ice Plan, visit www.centennialcolorado.com/snowhero.

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ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Health

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

David Gruber | Cybertap, LLC

PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED

Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouse

SECRETARY

David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

TREASURER

Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Dwight Taylor | Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

Open

VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

Tom Henley | Xcel Energy

DIRECTORS

Jason Altshuler | Westerra Credit Union
Joe Barela | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions
Randy Berner | Adolfsen & Peterson Construction
Larry Borland | CenturyLink
Lisa Buckley | American Automation Building Solutions
Michael "Mickey" Hunt | Colo. Dept. of Military & Veteran Affairs
Bob Jamieson | Mutual of Omaha
Todd Landgrave | Northrop Grumman
Alfonso Nuñez | La Cueva Restaurant
Suzanne Pitrusu | Colorado Business Bank
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Credit Union
Ryan Simpson | The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthOne
Matt Webber | Kaiser Permanente
Michael Wukitsch | Children's Hospital Colorado

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Brig. Gen. Trulan Eyre | 140th Wing COANG
Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development
The Honorable Steve Hogan | Mayor, City of Aurora
Bill Holen | Arapahoe County Commissioner
Wendy Mitchell | Aurora Economic Development Council
Ron Weidmann | City of Centennial Mayor Pro-Tem
Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora

STAFF

Kevin Hougén | President and CEO
Naomi Colwell | Marketing Director
Kimberly Curtis | Leadership Director
Chance Horiuchi | Business Development Directory
Linda Lillyblad | Finance Director
George Peck | Senior Vice President
Paul Rosenberg | VP, Membership Development
Mitzi Schindler | Communications Director
Mary Beth Sharp | Member Services Director

ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers
Judy Emery | Healthcare Partnership Project Manager
.....
Mario Waller | Six & Six, inc./Newsletter Design

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!

RibbonCuttings



Make massage part of your wellness routine — Owner Eric Kenealy is joined by Jacquie Palisi of Aurora's Channel 8 at the ribbon cutting for the **Massage Envy Spa** located in the Gardens at Havana, at 10651 E. Garden Dr., #105. To the left of Kenealy is Taylor Reed, Clinic Administrator for the Spa. If you need a massage, a healthy skin facial, or a gift card for a friend, give them a call at 303-750-5300 or visit their website at www.massageenvy.com/clinics/CO/Gardens-on-Havana. And, they are open seven days a week, 8 am – 10 pm. (Chamber photo)



Super-fast, friendly service — Kristine Lawton proudly cuts the ribbon for the new **BizCard Xpress** located at 10784 E. Iliff Ave., in Aurora. From business cards in an hour to copies, brochures, banners and signs; **BizCard Xpress** offers every conceivable item for promoting your business, event, personal product, or invention – with friendly, fast, and helpful service! (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)



A new year and a new name! — A celebratory ribbon cutting was held at the stroke of midnight on December 31, 2012, for the January 1, 2013 name change of the Red Lion Hotel Denver becoming the **DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Stapleton North**. Left to right: Hotel General Manager Matthew Anderson and his wife Laura, and guests with Amore y Amistad, Monica Romo, Gary Romo, Mary Romo, and Tony Romo. (Photo courtesy DoubleTree by Hilton-Stapleton North)



Video marketing made easy — Bruce Barr of **Unit 304 Video Production** is surrounded by Business for the Arts committee members as he celebrates joining **The Chamber**. **Unit 304** is a video and motion graphics company that works with companies that don't have in house video capabilities. Their goal? To make life easier by helping you with a video to convey your message. Take a look at the website at www.unit304.com. (Chamber photo)





A toast to award winning beer - and more of it! — Kevin and Michelle DeLange were perfect hosts on Jan. 31, 2013 at the ribbon cutting and open house for the new **Dry Dock Brewing** Facility at 2801 Tower Rd. in Aurora. The beer was delicious and refreshing – and a good time was had by all! **Dry Dock** was founded in 2005, and has since won many awards, including Gold at the 2006 World Beer Cup for its HMS Victory ESB, and Small Brewing Company of the Year in 2009 at the Great American Beer Festival. After expanding in 2009 and 2011, the most recent 30,000 sq. ft. expansion allows production and distribution of **Dry Dock's** beer on a larger scale throughout Colorado. (Chamber photo)



Glorious skin care and waxing — Cathryn Ocken, owner of **Glorious Loving Hands**, held a ribbon cutting at **The Chamber** office for her business at Salon Platinum, 13690 E. Iliff #D in Aurora. Cathryn is a licensed esthetician and registered nurse with the State of Colorado. She has been in Colorado for 29 years, and understands how the dry climate and altitude can age our skin. She can help you with that - while saving you money and time! To see a listing of services, go to www.gloriouslovinghands.com. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

A practice based on caring — On January 9, 2013 (left to right, front row), Drs. Michael Ley, Jeffrey Mullen, and Matthew Demey, were joined by **Aurora City Council** members Marsha Berzins, Bob Roth, and Bob Broom – as well as **Aurora Chamber** President Kevin Hougen, to help them usher in the new era of the **Seven Hills Veterinary Hospital** at their new state-of-the-art facility at 18511 E. Hampden Ave. The mission of **Seven Hills Veterinary Hospital** is to provide complete services to their clients. They strive to promote the human-animal bond with empathy, compassion, and concern, and endeavor to stay progressive in their skills using continuing education; thereby providing clients' pets the greatest opportunity for long, safe, and healthy lives. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)



Do you need a battery for that? — Sean Melody of **Interstate All Battery Center** gets ready to cut the ribbon for his store at 16710 E. Quincy Ave., Ste. B. If you need a battery - of ANY kind - give Sean or any of his staff at **Interstate All Battery Center** a call - (303) 699-5223, or check out their website: www.interstatebatteries.com. (Chamber photo)

Cherry Creek Schools Gaining on Graduation Rates

More than 87 percent of **Cherry Creek School District** seniors graduated high school in 2012 in four years, up from 84 percent in 2011. Statewide, the overall, on-time graduation rate for 2012 is 75 percent and at nearly 72 percent nationwide.

Cherry Creek School District Superintendent Mary Chesley says that the district must use this positive momentum to continue our work until every student can receive a high school diploma that shows they are college and work ready.

SSFCU Named a 2013 National Top Workplace

Security Service Federal Credit Union (SSFCU) employees have voted the organization into a spot in the top 100 American workplaces, as researched by WorkplaceDynamics. Out of 872 organizations reviewed, SSFCU was ranked 95 in the category of companies with more than 1,000 employees.

"We were honored to be recognized locally and equally honored to have placed nationally, especially when the recognition comes from our own employees," said Jim Laffoon, president for **SSFCU**. "I am proud of the work they do each and every day - in both big and small ways - that sets us apart in the corporate landscape and provides top-notch service to our members."

Grocery Cart Races Raises Funds for Comitis

More than 150 competitors lined up for the annual Grocery Cart Races at Safeway to benefit **Comitis Crisis Center**. This third year of the event raised more than \$11,000 for food for the shelter.



Master of Ceremonies Paul Suss of Suss Buick GMC utilizes the giant megaphone to relay messages to the teams, while Jim Suss is ready with the timer.

Each of the 37 teams — including an energetic **Leadership Aurora** team — raised money to participate in the event and then tried to match half of their total raised with items selected from within the store during the races. The other half of all monies raised is used to purchase perishable items throughout the year. The event was sponsored this year by **Rural Metro Ambulance** and **American Automation**.

The idea for the Grocery Cart Races was the brainchild of Executive Director for the **Havana Business Improvement District** Gayle Jetchick, who thought it would be a fun way to do a food collection.

Grandma's Handyman Service Earns Awards for Service

For the sixth year in a row, **Grandma's Handyman Service** has been awarded the prestigious Angie's List Super Service Award (2007-2012) - an honor bestowed annually on approximately 5 percent of



Yvonne M. Costin

all the businesses rated on the nation's leading provider of consumer reviews on local service and health providers. **Grandma's** has also received the Aurora Sentinel Readers' Choice for Grade A Customer Service for 2012.

President of **Grandma's Handyman Service** Yvonne M. Costin, aka 'Grandma,' says "As a woman-owned small business, we protect our reputation by doing the best work possible at a fair price, and make sure that we provide excellent customer service."

Chamber Members Enjoy "Breakfast on Us" with 9NEWS

During the first 9NEWS "Breakfast on Us" at **Dozens Restaurant** at 2180 S. Havana St. in Aurora, Cathy Chavez, Community Relations/Event Coordinator with **Arapahoe Park**, and Gary Wheat, President of **Visit Aurora** spoke on the air live with 9NEWS Reporter Belen De Leon (far right) about upcoming events at **Arapahoe Park** (www.mihiracing.com) and other things going on in Aurora that people can access at www.visitaaurora.com. For the "Job of the Day," Belen interviewed Ryan Evans, Vice President of **Advantage Security** about job opportunities with his company. Also interviewed were **Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan**, Chamber members Roger Miller and Chuck Gamber with **Catch it in Time**, and Cristina Jimenez, the Manager at **Dozens Restaurant**. **Cherry Creek Schools'** Eaglecrest High School Raptor cheerleaders started out the morning at 6:20 outside the restaurant. The event was coordinated by 9NEWS, **Dozens Restaurant**, and the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce**.



Their Journey Home Begins...

On February 2, 2013, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held for the **Colorado Freedom Memorial**. The Memorial will honor

Colorado veterans, from all branches of service, who have lost their lives or are listed as missing in action, since Colorado became a state. More than 6,000 names will be etched into the glass-paneled memorial located on two acres of land at 756 Telluride St. in Aurora. The Memorial is scheduled to open on May 25. For more information about the **Colorado Freedom Memorial**, go to www.cfmf.net. ■



Dignitaries "break" the ground for the Colorado Freedom Memorial. (Photo courtesy Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography)



The two-acre memorial park will provide a peaceful setting for guests to reflect and remember.

Yum, Yum, Yum at Woody Creek

It was a very sweet (and delicious!) Business Before Hours on February 13 at **Woody Creek Bakery and Café** at 6240 S. Main St., at Southlands in Aurora. Their menu includes sandwiches, paninis and waps, salads, soups, pastries, and their world famous cookies!

There is no Business Before Hours scheduled for March, but be sure to join fellow Chamber members at the Business After Hours on March 28, 5-7 pm, at **Aloft Denver International Airport**, 16470 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, CO 80111. ■



Healthcare: (Developed jointly with the Healthcare Committee)

- Ensure competitive, viable, affordable and accessible private health insurance approach
- Use a network of nonprofit cooperatives to contain costs and provide access to coverage
- Support tort reform, legal mediation and arbitration to control growth in medical liability awards
- Recognize the unique needs of the small business community
- Creation of employer tax credits to offset health care premiums
- Preserve ability to offer self-funded medical benefit plans based on uniform standards and allowing for portability

Education:

- Public/Private partnerships for long-term economic and workforce development strategies
- Support for the Eastern Metro areas efforts to make development of skilled workforce the economic development strategy
- Creation of an integrated P-20 Educational System that provides seamless transitions for students

Economic Development: (Developed in coordination with appropriate Economic Development organizations)

- Careful use of incentives to existing and expanding businesses
- Identification of an ongoing source of funding for statewide tourism promotion
- Creation of a regulatory climate that makes it easier for businesses to grow and thrive in the State

Initiatives:

- Reform of ballot initiative process

The Chamber is the advocate in the Eastern Metro area for key issues and uses multiple resources to spread the word, including:

- Public Issues brochures
- Committee/Board resolutions
- White Papers on key issues
- Direct advocacy with officials
- Elections, referendums, initiatives
- Chamber Legislative breakfasts
- CACI Legislative lunch
- Aurora Day at the Capitol
- Business to business contacts (grass roots advocacy) ■



Issues

To follow Legislative Issues Important to Business

The Chamber's Lobbyist group, **Axiom Strategies Inc.**, is up and running with their online bill tracking system: Capitol Watch. Capitol Watch gives us real-time updates on bills, votes, legislative positions and tons of other information that can be used to better assist members in achieving policy goals at the state level.

You can use the following URL to see which bills Axiom Strategies Inc. is tracking on our behalf. Feel free to check it frequently, as Axiom will be updating the Chamber's online profile daily.

<http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/391/2013/0/> ■

Upcoming Events (con't.)

Leadership Aurora Board Meeting

March 13 • 3:30-5 pm
Chamber office

Healthcare Committee

March 14 • 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

March 19 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Chamber Board Executive Committee

March 20 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Healthcare Reform Informational Presentation

March 20 • 12-1 pm
Chamber office

Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee

March 21 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Leadership Aurora Military Session

March 21 • 7:30 am-5 pm

Defense Council Executive Committee/AFRL Planning

March 22 • 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 3

March 25 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 2

March 26 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Women in Business Committee

March 26 • 12 pm
Chamber office

Chamber Board of Directors

March 27 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Defense Council

March 28 • 7:15-9 am
Navy Operational Support Center-Buckley

Business After Hours

March 28 • 5-7 pm
Aloft Denver International Airport
16470 E. 40th Circle
Aurora, CO 80111

APRIL

2nd Legislators' Breakfast

April 1 • 7:15-9 am
The Medical Center of Aurora
1501 S. Potomac St.
Aurora, CO 80012

Business for the Arts Committee

April 2 • 8 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

April 2 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Transportation Committee

April 3 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee

Cancelled for April 4 because of
2nd Legislators' Breakfast

Young Professionals

April 5 • 12 pm
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 3

April 8 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 2

April 9 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

ChamberMaster Training

April 10 • 12-1 pm
Chamber office

Leadership Aurora Board Meeting

April 10 • 3:30-5 pm
Chamber office

Healthcare Committee

April 11 • 8 am
Chamber office

Healthcare Reform Informational Presentation

April 16 • 8-9 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 1

April 16 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Chamber Board Executive Committee

April 17 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee

April 18 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Leadership Aurora Police Session

April 18 • 7:30 am-5 pm

Defense Council Executive Committee/AFRL Planning

April 19 • 8 am
Chamber office

The Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

"Building for the Future"
April 19 • 5-9 pm
Majestic Commercenter
19755 E. 35th Drive, Building #26
Aurora, CO 80011

Tips and Leads 3

April 22 • 11:45 am
Chamber office

Tips and Leads 2

April 23 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Women in Business Committee

April 23 • 12-1 pm
Chamber office

Chamber Board of Directors

April 24 • 7:30 am
Chamber office

Defense Council

April 25 • 7:15 am



An Additive Cut - Congressman Mike Coffman
Coffman (CD 6) is joined by friends from throughout the Eastern Metro area as he cuts the ribbon on his new constituent service office. Located in the center of **Rep. Coffman's** congressional district at 3300 S. Parker Road, the office will oversee his operations and activities in the area. Joining the Congressman for the ribbon cutting were a number of Ambassadors and Chamber members, as well as dignitaries from the area, including Aurora Councilman Brad Pierce, Chamber Board Chair Jeff Thompson, Greenwood Village Mayor Ron Rakowsky, Aurora Mayor Pro-Tem Marsha Berzins, Aurora Chamber President Kevin Hougen, and Centennial Mayor Kathy Noon. More than 200 people attended the Open House event. Managing the local office is District Director Dustin Zvonek. Located near the I-225 and Parker Road intersection, the Coffman office can be reached by calling 303-748-7514 and is located in Suite 305.
(Photo Courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

Pinnacol Offers 2013 Policyholder Training Opportunities

Risk management is an essential component when it comes to keeping workers' compensation premiums as low as possible. Policyholders have access to Pinnacol's free and low-cost risk management training opportunities throughout the year.

This year's schedule consists of seminars and training, Colorado's Bilingual Conference on Construction Safety, Risk Management Symposiums, CPR and AED Training, First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens and OSHA 10-Hour Construction Training Classes.

Seminars and Training

Pinnacol has conducted policyholder seminars and training in Denver and Grand Junction for more than 12 years. We continue this tradition in 2013 with the following opportunities:

- Return-to-Work Seminar (March and Aug.)
- Nursing Home and Long-Term Care (May, Aug., and Nov.)

- OSHA 10-Hour Construction Training (April, Oct., and Dec.)
- CPR and AED Training (Feb., April, June, Aug., Sept., Nov.)
- First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens Training (March and July)
- Trench Safety and Emergency Response Training (April)
- Electrical Safety Training (Oct.)

For specific information about these policyholder training opportunities, visit our website at www.pinnacol.com/employer/training.
Webinars

Pinnacol offers free online webinars that are accessible anytime at our website www.pinnacol.com/employer/training. Our webinar topics include:

- Accident Investigation
- Slips, Trips and Falls Prevention
- Defensive Driving
- Introduction to Subrogation

OSHA 10-Hour Construction Training

Pinnacol's safety services team will host OSHA 10-Hour Construction Training classes in April, October and December. These classes will provide a variety of construction safety and health standards, and participants will receive their OSHA 10-hour card.

Risk Management Symposiums

Pinnacol will host our annual Risk Management Symposiums in June. Check our website for more information. ■

For detailed information about these training opportunities, or to register, go to www.pinnacol.com/employer/training. You can also contact Shawna Ratner at 303.361.4788 if you have questions.

Please note: dates and course selections are subject to change.

Apply for the Alfred P. Sloan Award: Applications due April 5

For the sixth consecutive year, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has been asked to encourage businesses to apply for the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. As the Community Partner for the Sloan Awards, The Chamber's role is to educate employers and the community about workplace flexibility and to promote applying for the Sloan Award to businesses that pride themselves on their flexibility practices.

The Sloan Award process is a unique opportunity to showcase your organization's flexibility strategies and better understand how your programs compare to others. Any organization that employs at least ten people and has been operating for at least one year should apply. The application process takes place in two rounds. In Round I, employers



complete an online questionnaire about the flexibility programs and practices at their worksites. Employers that rank among the top 20 percent of employers in the U.S., when compared with national data based on the National Study of Employers, are selected as finalists and move to Round II. In Round II, employers have their employees complete a questionnaire that asks about their individual use of and experiences with flexibility and other aspects of an effective workplace.

We encourage all employers who believe they qualify to apply for a 2013 Sloan Award - and stand out from your competition as an organization whose leadership values its employees. Please visit

www.whenworkworks.org for more information and to apply. Applications are open January 14, 2013 through April 5. ■

The Sloan Awards are part of When Work Works, a national initiative led by Families and Work Institute and the Society for Human Resource Management. When Work Works helps organizations of all sizes and types become more successful by transforming the way they view and adopt flexible workplaces.

Tom Amen
General Manager



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MLK Celebration



For the 27th Annual Dr. MLK Jr. Commemoration, Barbara Shannon-Bannister, manager of Community Relations for the City of Aurora, kicked off a week of celebration at the **Town Center at Aurora** on January 14. Throughout the week of Jan. 14-Jan.21 there were numerous events celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of freedom and equality for all.



SAVE THE DATE

Leadership Aurora Graduation "CELEBRATE AURORA"

June 6, 2013

Unsung Heroes Luncheon Inspires and Motivates

The Women in Business Unsung Heroes Luncheon was truly an inspirational event – at which eleven women were honored for their work “behind the scenes,” at work and in the community – and guest speaker Tricia Downing reminded the audience that “they can do anything they put their minds to.”

Nominees for this year's Unsung Heroes awards were Marissa Banker of Colorado Technical University, Molly Barrett of Abilene Awards and Logos, Lynn Burgess of Cherry Creek Schools, Michelle DeLange of Dry Dock Brewing Company, Donna Greeley of Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital, Glatis Hoffman with the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, Krystal Mires with ITT Technical Institute, and Joelle Suel with Glory to Glory Christian Center.

The award finalists were Sarah Hamilton, Executive Director for Aurora Warms the Night, and Melanie Worley, Interim CEO for Developmental Pathways.

The 2013 Women Making a Difference Unsung Hero Award went to Kirsten Anderson, PhD, disaster coordinator for the Aurora Mental Health Center. Dr. Anderson received the award for her incredible work



Left to right: Sarah Hamilton, Kirsten Anderson, PhD, and Melanie Worley.

following the July 20, 2012 Theatre Tragedy. She took immediate action, putting the wheels in action for disaster response: deploying the team, helping staff with the hot line, quickly getting to those in need – all the while making sure to take care of her team. She worked tirelessly, and continues to work on longer-term planning and response. She remained, and continues to remain, strong, poised, grounded, confident, caring and professional – inspiring those around her.

Guest speaker Tricia Downing inspired the crowd with her story of how a traumatic accident in 2000 made her a paraplegic,

starting her on a journey of challenge and change.

Tricia, now a world-class physically-challenged triathlete, says “It's pushing past self-doubt, through challenges and change—whether in everyday situations or life changing circumstances. It's saying, “I will survive. I will come back stronger, smarter & more determined.” She believes that everyone can overcome their limits, and says that with strength and confidence you will persevere and ‘Win Your Human Race.’ ■



Back row, left to right: Marissa Banker, Molly Barrett, Lynn Burgess, Michelle DeLange, Glatis Hoffman, and Krystal Mires. Front row, left to right: Tricia Downing, Donna Greeley, and Joelle Suel.

Community Heroes of Buckley



On a brisk, sunny day in January, **Aurora Chamber of Commerce** Senior Vice President George Peck and Rep. Su Ryden, **Colorado House District 36**, were honored as the 2012 and 2013 Community Heroes of **Buckley**. From left to right are CAPT Craig Oldham (USN), Commanding Officer, Navy Operational Support Center-Denver; Col Ken Klein (USAF), Vice Commander, Air Reserve Personnel Center; Ryden; Peck; Col. Dan Dant (USAF), Commander, 460th Space Wing; The Honorable Steve Hogan, Mayor, City of Aurora; Col. Chance Saltzman, Commander, Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado; and Brig. Gen. Trulan Eyre, Commander, 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard. (Photo courtesy of Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography)



Presents the 2013

ARMED FORCES RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

June 14, 2013

Renaissance Hotel Denver Stapleton

3801 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80207







2013 Eastern Metro Legislators

District	First Name	Last Name	P	Address	City	State	Zip	Home/Biz Phone	Capitol Phone	Email
SD 25	Mary	Hodge	D	447 Poplar Circle	Brighton	CO	80601	303-659-3298	303-866-4855	senmaryhodge@gmail.com
SD 26	Linda	Newell	D	PO Box 333	Littleton	CO	80160	303-956-9448	303-866-4846	linda.newell.senate@gmail.com
SD 27	David	Balmer	R	6043 S. Eagle St.	Centennial	CO	80016	303-627-1462	303-866-4883	david@davidbalmer.com
SD 28	Nancy	Todd	D	11293 E. Harvard Dr.	Aurora	CO	80014	303-750-1976	303-866-3432	electnancy@yahoo.com
SD 29	Morgan	Carroll	D	1165 Ouray St.	Aurora	CO	80011	303-726-1742	303-866-4879	morgan@senmorgancarroll.com
SD 31	Patrick	Steadman	D	1257 Corona Street	Denver	CO	80218	303-861-1514	303-866-4861	Sen.Steadman@gmail.com
HD 30	Jenise	May	D	PO Box 31392	Aurora	CO	80041	720-324-8322	303-866-2945	jenisemay@gmail.com
HD 31	Joe	Salazar	D	3842 E. 127 Lane	Thornton	CO	80241	303-895-7044	303-866-2918	jsalazarlaw@hotmail.com
HD 32	Dominick	Moreno	D	5821 Tochy Blvd.	Commerce City	CO	80022	720-985-1132	303-866-2964	Moreno.dominick@gmail.com
HD 36	Su	Ryden	D	16699 E. Kentucky Ave.	Aurora	CO	80017	303-898-5797	303-866-2942	su@suryden.com
HD 37	Spencer	Swalm	R	7250 S. Ivy Court	Centennial	CO	80112	303-903-2624	303-866-5510	spencer.swalm.house@state.co.us.
HD 39	Polly	Lawrence	R	7001 Puma Trail	Littleton	CO	80125	720-785-3303	303-866-2935	polly@pollyforcolorado.com
HD 40	John	Buckner	D	P.O. Box 441732	Aurora	CO	80044	720-277-9120	303-866-2944	john@bucknerforcolorado.com
HD 41	Jovan	Melton	D	2634 South Nome St.	Aurora	CO	80014	303-369-2579	303-866-2919	info@jovanelton.com
HD 42	Rhonda	Fields	D	1196 Sable Blvd.	Aurora	CO	80011	303-340-4878	303-866-3911	rhonda@rhondafields.com
HD 56	Kevin	Priola	R	12255 Ursula St.	Henderson	CO	80640	303-882-5486	303-866-2912	kpriola@gmail.com

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