



Upcoming Events

MAY

Business Before Hours

May 11 | 7:30 a.m.
Cherry Creek Retirement Village

ChamberMaster Training

May 12 | noon
Chamber Office

Armed Forces Recognition Lunch (AFRL)

May 13 | 11 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA

Noon Niche Networking

May 18 | noon
Canyons at Saddlerock Apartments

Women in Business

May 24 | noon
Chamber Office

Business After Hours

May 26 | 5 p.m.
Mile High Harley-Davidson

JUNE

Leadership Aurora Graduation

June 2 | 5 p.m.
APS Professional Learning & Conference Center

Business Before Hours

June 8 | 7:30 a.m.
Sam's Club - Abilene

Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament

June 16 | 8 a.m.
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course

Banks in Harmony - 1

June 16 | 6:30 p.m.
Bicentennial Park
Dean Bushnell

Banks in Harmony - 2

June 23 | 6:30 p.m.
Bicentennial Park
Papa Juke

Banks in Harmony - 3

June 30 | 6:30 p.m.
Del Mar Park
Queen City Jazz Band

Connect With Us!



Call for entries: 2011 Sloan Award for Workplace Flexibility

May 27 is the deadline for applications for the 2011 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. This prestigious award honors employers across the country that are successfully using flexibility to meet both business and employee goals. The award application process takes place in two rounds, with an Employer Questionnaire and a subsequent Employee Survey.

Employers can nominate themselves by completing the online application survey at <http://whenworkworks.org> about their workplace flexibility programs, policies and culture. The survey takes approximately one hour to complete. For qualifying employers from Round I, a sample of employees will be asked to complete a survey about their access to workplace flexibility programs and about the culture. This survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Eligible applicants are considered based on their ability to demonstrate that workplace flexibility is being used successfully to meet both business and employee objectives. Award Recipients in participating communities receive national recognition through the When Work Works Website, are recognized locally, and have the opportunity for benchmarking.

Established in 2005, the When Work Works nationwide initiative has brought research on workplace effectiveness and flexibility into community and business practice, and has rewarded companies exemplifying best practices for workplace flexibility through the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. The Aurora Chamber is proud to be a partner in this initiative.



Research shows that employees in effective and flexible workplaces report:

- Greater engagement on the job
- Greater job satisfaction
- Greater desire to stay with the organization
- Better overall health, and
- Lower stress levels

Be rewarded for your flexible workplace by applying for the Alfred P. Sloan Award at <http://whenworkworks.org>

Noon Niche Networking serves a 'sold-out' crowds



The March 16 Noon Niche Networking at Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q was a whopping success, with more than 35 Chamber members attending the lunchtime event.

The Chamber's Noon Niche Networking has become a popular way for some members to network. The March 16 Noon Niche Networking at **Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q** (photo at left) served a sold-out crowd.

The May Noon Niche Networking will be at 12 p.m. on the 18th at **Canyons at Saddlerock Apartments**, 6850 S. Versailles Way.

And if that time slot doesn't work for you, you can catch Business Before Hours at 7:30 a.m.:

- May 11 at **Cherry Creek Retirement Village**, 14555 E. Hampden Ave.
- June 8 at Sam's Club at 880 S. Abilene St.

Or, Business After Hours at 5 p.m.:

- May 26 at **Mile High Harley-Davidson**, 16555 E. 33rd Drive
- June 23 at **Holiday Inn Stapleton**, 3333 Quebec St.

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the **IMPACT**
online



Do you want to receive the Chamber IMPACT Newsletter Online only?

If you would like to get the IMPACT newsletter online only, please email Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org, and you will no longer receive a printed copy in the mail. Instead, you will get a message via email each month to view the newsletter online.



Mark Moses
Chair

Chair's Letter

I had the opportunity to thank many of you at last month's Annual Awards Banquet for your support during the past year, so if some of this Chair's Letter sounds familiar to you... there's a great reason!

First of all, I want you to know that it has been a tremendous honor to be the Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce this past year. The people I've met, the things I've been able to do, and the knowledge I have gained – have made me an even greater fan of this outstanding Chamber. Neither I nor The Chamber could have made it through this past year without you – the hundreds of East Metro businesses showing your confidence in us through your participation, your investment in Chamber membership, and your volunteer time.

Throughout our 110 year history, The Chamber has consistently been "The Voice of Business," fighting for a strong economy wherever we were needed: at the Colorado General Assembly, our local city councils, or wherever Colorado policymakers were gathered. And, although we have enjoyed a significant amount of success in these efforts, there is still much to be done. Business leaders today are very concerned about the future vitality of our communities, our public universities and colleges, and the infrastructure they are all dependent upon. Fortunately, we have a team of very knowledgeable, very connected people leading and in our committees who are addressing these very real issues.

While I had the honor of sitting at the head of the table, I believe the real leadership came from a group that I think is second to none when it comes to representing the business community. They are, of course, your Chamber Board of Directors. My sincerest thanks to each and every one of them, because their support, insight, advice and counsel guided me through

some very – well let's just call them – "interesting" times.

I want to remind everyone that the year ahead will be filled with ever more demanding challenges at the State and City levels. But have no fear, because we will continue to survive by working together through this Chamber – serving as your advocate at every turn.

If I can give my successor any advice, it is that he is not alone at the top. He has an incredible board, committed members and volunteers, and a capable and hardworking Chamber staff. After a year on the job I can honestly say this small band of talented people—Kevin, George, Kimberly, Paul, Naomi, Mitzi, Linda and Mary Beth—are rock stars in the Chamber business!

Let me also say goodbye and thank you to those who have left or will be leaving the Board this year, as their contributions are greatly appreciated:

Julie Taylor and Carol Gregory,
The Medical Center of Aurora
Bill Becker, **Adams County Economic Development**
Judy Booth, **Fitzsimons Credit Union**
Jo Snell, **E-470 Public Highway Authority**
Harrison Cochran, **Aurora Sentinel**
Ted Hair, **Red Lion Hotel**
Michael Martin, **Owest**
Jim Suss, **Suss Buick-GMC**

My final act as the Board Chair is to make sure our future leadership is strong and capable. You may rest assured it is. Next year's Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, is a successful businessman who we were able to attract to our community following his equally successful career in the Air Force. I know he is dedicated to the continued success of our organization, and I am proud to turn over the Chair's gavel to David Gruber, Vice President for DoD Operations with **Merlin International**. As I turn over the reins, I look forward to once again being able to relax while having dinner and a great bottle of wine at the **Outback**, knowing that together we have built the continuity that will ensure our future success!

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!

Chamber Board

Executive Directors

Chair of the Board
Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouses
Chair Elect
David Gruber | Merlin International
Secretary
Judy Booth | Fitzsimons Credit Union
Treasurer
David Maxwell | 1st Bank of Aurora

Immediate Past Chair
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

Past Chair Once Removed
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

Vice Chair-Healthcare
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Vice Chair-Business Development
Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sentinel

Vice Chair-Member Services
Tammy Fernandez | University of Phoenix

Vice Chair-Public Affairs
Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Hospital

Directors

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Joe Barela | *Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center*
Barry Gore | *Adams County Economic Development*
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*
Mickey Hunt | *Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*
Bob Jamieson | *Mutual of Omaha*
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*
Larry Borland | *Qwest Communications*
John McCloy | *Westerra Credit Union*
Todd Miller | *City of Centennial*
Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*
Alfonso Nuñez | *La Cueva Restaurant*
David Patterson | *Rural/Metro Ambulance*
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Wells Fargo Bank*
Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, GMC*
The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*
Julie Taylor | *The Medical Center of Aurora*
Dwight Taylor | *Edwards & Taylor LLC*
Frank Weddig | *Commissioner, Arapahoe County*
Michael Wukitsch | *The Children's Hospital*

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Kimberly Curtis
Finance Director
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VP, Membership Development
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Mario Waller / Six & Six, inc.

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Aurora Chamber Names Eastern Metro's Best



All the best! – Taking home top honors as the best the Eastern Metro area has to offer were Aurora Chamber member representatives and businesses. Pictured from left to right are Jason Altshuler, Kimberly Armitage, Judy Booth, Rich McLean, Gary Boesel, Barbara Shannon-Banister, Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, and Kevin DeLange. Not pictured are Mark Isenburg, Rep. Nancy Todd. (Aurora Chamber Photo by Linda Wilson)

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce – and nearly 500 of its closest friends – celebrated its 110th birthday April 8. The highlight of the evening honored 10 individuals for their extraordinary work and contributions to the community in 2010.

The annual event also hosts the traditional “Changing of the Guard,” as Chair Mark Moses with Outback Steakhouse turned over the leadership gavel of the 1,200-member Chamber to Dave Gruber with Merlin International.

Those singled out for their accomplishments in 2010 are:

Ambassador of the Year: Judy Booth, Fitzsimons Credit Union

Business for the Arts: Jason Altshuler, Westerra Credit Union

Humanitarian of the Year: Rich McLean, Aurora Health Access Taskforce

Chamber Leadership: Mark Isenburg, City of Aurora, KACT-TV8 in Aurora

Community Leadership: Barbara Shannon-Banister, City of Aurora, Community Relations Director

Small Business Person of the Year: Gary Boesel, CARSTAR

Business Person of the Year: Kevin DeLange, Dry Dock Brewery

Business of the Year: YMCA of Aurora, Kimberly Armitage

Woman of the Year: State Representative Nancy Todd

Man of the Year: Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld

The awards were presented by past award winners including former Aurora First Lady Kate Tauer, Better Business Bureau President Dale Mingilton, Attorney Dwight Taylor, Rural Metro Vice President Bob Waples, Aurora Police Officer Tim Huffman, former Aurora City Manager Ron Miller

and professional photographer Brian Molitoris.

Presiding over the gala black tie event at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA** was Chamber President Kevin Hougen and Board Chair Mark Moses.

Sponsors of the event included **FirstBank, Pinnacle Assurance, Wells Fargo Bank, Westerra Credit Union, Merrick and Company, and Waste Management.**

To see all of the photos from the 2011 Aurora Chamber Annual Awards Banquet, go to the Your World Our Lens website at <http://tinyurl.com/ACOCawards>.



An early surprise – Colorado State Rep. Nancy Todd, who was unable to attend the awards banquet, received her 2010 Woman of the Year Award at the Govt. Affairs and Education meeting on Thursday, April 7 – the day before the event. Rep. Todd is flanked by (left to right) Jim Suss, Suss Buick GMC, and Jeff Thompson, University of Colorado Hospital, and Chair of the Govt. Affairs committee. (Aurora Chamber Photo by Linda Wilson)



Over to you! – Mark Moses (right), Aurora Chamber Board Chair 2010-2011, lets Dave Gruber, the incoming Board Chair for 2011-2012 know that it's all his! Moses, who co-hosted the 56th Annual Aurora Chamber Awards Banquet, is a regional manager for Outback Steakhouse. Gruber, a vice president for Department of Defense programs at Merlin International in the Tech Center, currently chairs the Aurora Chamber Defense Council, but will officially take over the Chamber Chair position on June 1. (Aurora Chamber Photo by Linda Wilson)



Also happy to be here! – Mark Isenburg (right) received the 2010 Chamber Leadership Award – pictured here with former Aurora City Manager Ron Miller, who received the award in 2009.



Doing the honors – Presenting awards at the Aurora Chamber's 56th Annual Awards Banquet was a group of distinguished former award winners, including (l-r) Mark Moses, Brian Molitoris, Dwight Taylor, Ron Miller, Bob Waples, Kate Tauer, Tim Huffman, Dale Mingilton and John Barry. (Aurora Chamber Photo by Linda Wilson)

Member News

Buckley selected to attend National Security Forum

The vice chair of the **Aurora Chamber Defense Council**, Lisa Nassardeen-Buckley has been selected to attend the National Security Forum at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in May. Conducted by the Air War College and hosted by the Secretary of the Air Force, the annual forums are designed to expose influential citizens to senior U.S. and international officers and civilian equivalents in order to engage each other's ideas and perspectives on Air Force, national and international security issues.



Lisa Nassardeen-Buckley

Buckley has been an active member of The Chamber and engaged in the Defense Council for several years. She is president of **American Automation Building Solution, Inc.**, a company that provides integrated physical security, systems design and integration cyber security solutions, building automation and energy management solutions to the U.S. Military and federal agencies.

So much more than a 'people person'



Celeste L. Johnson

Celeste L. Johnson, Human Resources Manager of **RTL Networks, Inc.**, recently earned certification as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR).

The certification, awarded by the HR Certification Institute, signifies that Johnson possesses the theoretical knowledge and practical experience in human resource management necessary to pass a rigorous examination demonstrating a mastery of the field.

Merrick acquires firms, and continues to add personnel

Merrick & Company has recently acquired LiDAR in Oklahoma and Turnbull Metzler Design of North Carolina. LiDAR documents existing conditions related to dam safety and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, and Turnbull Metzler Design is a civil engineering, land planning and landscape architecture firm.



Alvin W. Nienow, Ph.D.

Merrick has also acquired new professional staff, including Kasey A. Brown, Alvin W. Nienow, Ph.D., and Leonard R. Wilson. Brown serves as the Director of Federal Programs, Geospatial Solutions; Nienow will focus on bioprocessing for



Kasey A. Brown



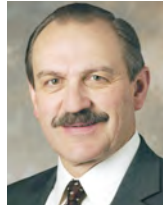
Leonard R. Wilson

the manufacture of renewable fuels and chemicals; and Wilson joins the company as a civil infrastructure director in the western U.S.

Christie named chair of ACEC National Energy & Environment Committee

Ralph W. Christie, Jr., PE, Chair, president and CEO of **Merrick & Company**, has been named the 2011-2012 chair of the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) National Energy & Environment Committee. Christie assumed the role in April for the 5,000-company member organization.

ACEC's National Energy & Environment Committee's purpose is to develop industry-wide consensus positions and national leadership on a wide range of issues important to engineering firms in the United States.



Ralph W. Christie, Jr.

Centennial receives statewide award for street improvements

The **City of Centennial** in partnership with Premier Paving Inc. was awarded the 2010 "Best in Colorado" Asphalt Pavement Quality Award by the Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association (CAPA). The award is for the "Best in Colorado" in the City Street Resurfacing Award Category and in recognition for street improvements in 2010. This project was also recognized with an Environmental Sustainability Commendation.

Weddig named chair of E-470 Board of Directors

Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig was recently appointed to serve as Chair of the E-470 Public Highway Authority Board of Directors.

"I am very pleased to have the opportunity to serve as chair of this board," said Weddig, who is serving his second term as **County Commissioner** representing District 5, which includes Aurora. "E-470 is an important amenity to the eastern part of **Arapahoe County** and to commuters in the Denver metro area."



Frank Weddig

Form a relay team and win cash for the charity of your choice

The 2011 Colfax Marathon, sponsored by **Kaiser Permanente**, is calling all businesses to form 5-person relay teams for the May 15 event. Each member of the team runs a leg of the 26.2 mile marathon course – and you can run for bragging rights, trophies and medals, and new this year: **Kaiser Permanente** is sponsoring cash prizes to the charity of your choice for the most teams and the fastest times. For more details and to register, go to www.runcolfax.com.



E-470 Transportation Safety Foundation Grants awarded

Three programs providing driver education for teenagers – and one for senior drivers – will get a boost thanks to \$10,000 in grants to be awarded to safe-driving programs by the E-470 Transportation Safety Foundation.

The TSF promotes transportation safety and has established a new grant program this year for Colorado nonprofit organizations and governments. The four safe-driving programs will receive grants of \$2,500 each. The grants were awarded to The **City of Aurora** Office of Youth Development for driver education tuition for 20 Aurora Central High School students from low-income families; Littleton Public Schools to pay for 90 new textbooks for the summer driver education program; The Children's Hospital Foundation to help pay for four "Countdown2Drive workshops" for 13- to 14-year-old teenagers to help them learn how to reduce risk when riding in a car with other teens, and how to prepare themselves to be safe drivers later; and to **Heritage Eagle Bend** Emergency Preparedness Committee in Aurora, funding tuition for 180 persons age 55 and older to participate in the AARP Senior Driving Safety Training course.

The foundation also made \$200 grants to fund after-prom parties this spring at five high schools: Adams County, Brighton, Horizon, Prairie View, and Thornton.

Aurora Arts District hosting Fire Arts Festival and Art on the Fax

A live hot metal iron casting performance known as an "iron pour" and street festival will serve as the centerpiece of a weekend of arts-related events happening May 13 and 14 in the Aurora Arts District, previously known as the East End Arts District Association.

The weekend, which culminates with the **Kaiser Permanente** Colfax Marathon's Half Marathon passing through the arts district early on May 15, also will feature the re-dedication of Aurora's first park.

For information on Art on the Fax or the Aurora Arts District Street Fair, visit www.auroraartsdistrict.com. For details on the dedication of City Park, call 303-739-7160 or visit www.auroragov.org/pros.



Jon Steele

QSE welcomes back Jon Steele from Afghanistan

Jon Steele, a field/systems engineer with **QSE**, has returned safely from a one-year deployment in Afghanistan. Jon's unit was attached to the 101st Airborne Division in the Kandahar Province in Southern Afghanistan, and he says it was an experience he will never forget.

He says the greatest part of the deployment was

[continued on page 5]

APS elementary receives Community Partnership Award

Aurora Public Schools' Virginia Court Elementary School recently received the Community Partnership Award from the Colorado Legacy Foundation. The award recognizes the school for improving the academic achievement of its students through innovative community partnerships.

According to the Colorado Legacy Foundation, Virginia Court is one of Colorado's top 22 schools for improving achievement for students who have been persistently low performers. In particular, the school was recognized for its close work with The Learning Source, a nonprofit organization that provides educational opportunities for adults, such as family literacy programs and English Language Classes.

Virginia Court Principal Christine Fleming says that she is seeing an increase in parent involvement at the school.



From left to right: Family Literacy Coordinator Maya Williams, TOSA Nikki Drakulich, Principal Christine Fleming, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, and Gov. John Hickenlooper.

[MEMBER NEWS from page 4]

after the summer surge when the area was cleared of Taliban and locals began to come out and work on their crops, and kids began to play outside and return to school. He also indicated that the support from everyone at home, including **OSE** staff, was greatly appreciated.

A&P earns award from ABC

Adolfson & Peterson was recently awarded with the Associated Builders and Contractors Pyramid Award in the Institutional category, for their work on the University of Wyoming College of Business addition and renovation in Laramie, WY.



Richard Lewis awarded by 9NEWS

Richard Lewis Leadership Aurora 2011 class member and owner of **RTL Networks**, recently received the 2011 9NEWS Leader of the Year award. As a leader in

the community, he has been involved with and has financially supported more than 40 nonprofit youth programs. He also started the Black Chamber's Leadership development program, and has brought diverse resources to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Museum.

A&P partners with Kaiser Permanente for expansion project

Adolfson & Peterson recently announced that the firm has been chosen as the construction manager general contractor for **Kaiser Permanente's** new Multi-Specialty Center Medical Office Building in south metro Denver, Colorado. The facility marks one of the largest expansions in **Kaiser Permanente's** 40-year history in Colorado and is in response to significant membership growth in Denver. A&P has partnered with **Kaiser Permanente** to construct and renovate countless medical facilities throughout the last 20 years.

Westerra named presenting sponsor for Colorado Rapids

Westerra Credit Union has been named the "presenting sponsor" for the MLS Cup Champion Colorado Rapids 2011 season. The partnership marks the first of its kind in club history, and features a new "composite" logo that incorporates both the Rapids and **Westerra Credit Union** brands. The mark will appear in all Rapids marketing and promotional campaigns during the 2011 season.

"We are proud to be the season sponsor for the Colorado Rapids because we share a commitment to our local community and the kind of teamwork it takes

to produce excellence," said **Westerra Credit Union** President/CEO C. Alan Peppers.

Vince Tinnirello named a "Rock Star"

Autotask Corporation, developer of the world's number 1 hosted IT Business Management platform has named Vince Tinnirello of **Anchor Network Solutions** as one of 28 "Rock Stars" as part of their Autotask CommuNity Rocks Outreach program, which is a global effort to share IT Service and Solution Provider best practices and IT business management tips to its 30,000 clients worldwide.

Tinnirello has also been named to the "SMB 150" list of 150 most influential people in the SMB (Small and Medium Sized Business) Technology Service Provider industry worldwide; named to the SMB 150 list; and named to the "MSPmentor 250" for 2010.

Anchor showcased in PCWorld magazine

Anchor Network Solution's deployment of a Backup & Disaster Recovery unit at Blue Sky Plumbing & Heating was recently showcased in PCWorld magazine. The study demonstrated how Anchor helped solve a real business need for a client that provides them with the data protection, business continuity, and peace of mind.

Garrett elected president of Denver Home Builders Association

Blaine Garrett of **Merrick & Company** has been elected as the 2011 President of the Denver Home Builders Association/Metro Housing Coalition. Garrett is a construction and project manager at **Merrick** and has been a member of the DHBA/MHC and Colorado Association of Home Builders for 12 years.



Outstanding women in our community – The Women in Business Committee of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce celebrated the annual "Women Making a Difference" luncheon in February 2011. The finalists, left to right: Kathie Snell, Aurora Mental Health; Heidi Heissenbuttel, Sewall Child Development Center; and Heather Ehle, Project Sanctuary. For information about the Chamber's Women in Business Committee, contact naomi.colwell@aurorachamber.org.

Ribbon Cuttings



We've expanded! – *QSE Technologies'* CEO Marion Jenkins recently celebrated the expansion of the company's offices at 359 Inverness Drive S., Suite K – with about 150 friends, business partners, clients, and employees. *QSE Technologies* is an "Information Technology General Contractor," specializing in the design, installation and ongoing support of robust, state of the art IT systems, including computer servers, data storage systems, networking (including secure WiFi), internet access, data cabling, network security, workstations and laptops (including tablets), remote access and HIPAA Security.



Modern Dentistry and old-fashioned giant scissors! – *City Place Modern Dentistry* at 14401 E. Bayaud Ave., Unit H, is open for business, providing a full array of dental services. Cutting the ribbon are Ann Nguyen, DDS, and Marat Fainberg, DDS. Also attending for *Modern Dentistry* were Ron Bergloff, regional manager; Linda Ryan, regional support manager; Joe Saparito, regional partner; Natalie Thompson, manager; Colin Varner, regional marketing specialist; and Ariana Washington, dental assistant.



A shave and a haircut: Ahhh... Mike Sherman, owner of the new *Roosters Men's Grooming Center* at 15420 E Smoky Hill Rd. cuts the ribbon almost as well as he cuts hair! The stylists at *Roosters* are specially trained in men's precision haircuts and shaves. And, the shaves – as sampled by the above photo of a very relaxed Bob Jamieson – are like a little slice of heaven! (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Correction:

In the March/April Impact Newsletter, photo credit for Brian Molitoris, Photographer, was inadvertently omitted for the Wells Fargo and Sanctuary ribbon cutting photos.



Concetta Palmieri

Aurora Chamber Spotlight on... Ambassador Concetta Palmieri

Concetta Palmieri brings a light to any room with her infectious laugh and her outgoing personality. She also brings those qualities to her work as a Chamber Ambassador, along with her professional skills of recruiting, client relations, skill development, and operations.

Her current role at ManpowerGroup as a Performance Consultant allows her to partner with the Denver-based Manpower staffing division to consult and provide solutions to their

short and long-term development and learning goals.

Prior to joining ManpowerGroup, Palmieri was a preschool and then an elementary teacher with Jefferson County Schools. She loves to share information and be part of positive personal and professional development, and although her students have changed over the years, her love of teaching has not.

She serves as a committee member with the Women's Vision Foundation, facilitates a club for job seekers, and provides volunteer resume

review as a member of 530inc, as well as being an Ambassador with the Aurora Chamber. She has lived in 11 towns and cities, and spent most of her growing up years in Germany, but has called the metropolitan area home for more than 10 years. Since moving to the Aurora area three years ago, she felt immediately welcomed by a warm community and for once, plans on staying put for awhile!

Palmieri has proven to be a great asset to the Chamber, the Ambassador program, and to the community.



Congratulations to the 2011 Leadership Aurora Graduates: Driving Aurora Forward

On Thursday, June 2, 2011 Leadership Aurora will celebrate its 26th graduating class. The reception and formal program for the 2011 class will be at the Aurora Public School's Professional Conference & Learning Center, 15771 E. 1st Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011, starting at 5 p.m. The program will celebrate the accomplishments of the class and serve to continue the legacy of leadership in Aurora. The event is sponsored by **FirstBank of Aurora, Aurora Mental Health Center, Cherry Creek Schools, Advantage Security, Inc., Colorado Insurance Professionals, Pinnacol Assurance, Goodwill Industries, Aurora Public Schools, Outback Steakhouse** and **Rural/Metro Ambulance**.

The 2011 class has worked diligently to "Drive Aurora Forward." They have dedicated themselves to taking on a drive each month. And, they have been very successful! Their School Supplies, Books, and Professional Clothing Drives all exceeded expectations and resulted in additional class member time to sort and distribute the overwhelming amount of donations received. This has been a tremendous effort on behalf of the class.

Please help us celebrate the graduation of this outstanding class on June 2, at 5 p.m. Individual tickets



are \$25 and reservations are required. Call Kimberly Curtis at 303-344-1500 for more information or register at www.aurorachamber.org.

Leadership Aurora has been in existence since 1985, promoting and fostering the development of leaders in our community. The program educates leaders from diverse backgrounds about issues facing our city, and encourages them toward greater community involvement. For more information or to apply, contact Kimberly.Curtis@aurorachamber.org.

26TH GRADUATING CLASS - 2011

Cindy Andersen, Aurora Fire Department
Eric Artis, The Medical Center of Aurora
David Barber, RE/MAX Unlimited, Inc.
Maureen Barker, UMB
Terry Brown, Aurora Police Department
Melissa Clifford, Garden Plaza at Aurora
David Cooper, Edward Jones
John Criswell, Colorado Air National Guard
Mike DiDonna, University of Phoenix
Derrick Fuller, Wells Fargo Bank
Mike Garcia, Outback Steakhouse
Michael Giles, Cherry Creek Schools
Rachael Gregoire, Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union
Christy Jones, DPRA, Inc.
Robert Joseph, City of Aurora/Animal Care Division
Diane Kirkpatrick, Lockheed Martin
Amy Kusek, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver
Mary Lewis, Aurora Public Schools/Board of Education
Richard Lewis, RTL Networks, Inc.
Erika Matich, University of Colorado Hospital
Noel Mink, City of Aurora/Public Safety
Barbara Morrow, Colorado Air National Guard
Pam Ninke, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
Sharon Perry, Citywide Banks
Jeff Rauske, Advantage Security, Inc.
Kim Sopoci, Kim Sopoci Private Fitness Studio
Steve Sundberg, Legends of Aurora
Michael Tapp, Aurora Mental Health Center
Casey Wardynski, Aurora Public Schools
Adam Wehrle, Rural/Metro Ambulance
Sue Wehrspann, University of Colorado Hospital
Andrea Williams, Mesa Systems
Michelle Wilson, Pinon Management

Leadership Aurora applications being accepted!

The Chamber is accepting applications through July 15, 2011 for the 2011-12 Leadership Aurora class. Since 1985 the Aurora Chamber has promoted and fostered the development of leadership in our community. As a result, Leadership Aurora educates and prepares community leaders who are committed to shaping Aurora's future.

Leadership Aurora provides the opportunity for participants to broaden their knowledge of the community while enhancing their leadership skills. Participants benefit by gaining a strengthened sense of personal vision, awareness of issues and challenges facing the community, the rewards of networking with a diverse group of community leaders and the opportunity to make a difference in the community.

The program begins each year in mid-September with a 2-day class retreat, followed by eight monthly sessions from October to May on the third Thursday of each month. A celebration reception is held in early June. Tuition for the program is \$950 and includes all program costs and materials, including room and meals at the retreat. Partial tuition assistance is available, and awarded based on need and class composition.

For an application or more information, contact Kimberly Curtis 303-344-1500, or e-mail kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org. You may also complete an application online at www.aurorachamber.org, click on the Leadership Aurora tab.



"The Leadership Aurora program has helped me learn more about the community and it's inner workings than I have learned in the 30 years I have lived here. I have made new friends through the adventures and projects we have shared and have a new sense of pride in our community. I also have gained a greater ability to represent and promote our city at meetings of the National Association of Realtors, and in discussing relocation issues with out of town clients."

— David J Barber, RE/MAX Unlimited



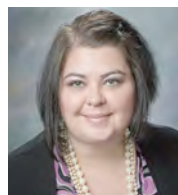
"Being an active member of the Leadership Aurora class has been a life-changing experience. Each monthly adventure and class project showcases the many wonderful organizations and citizens who make a difference in the Aurora community. Words alone can not express my gratitude to the staff and board members at the Aurora Chamber. Thank you for allowing me to be part of such an amazing organization!"

— Melissa Clifford, Garden Plaza at Aurora



"Work hard. Play hard. Be kind to others. Give back more than you take. At the beginning of my Leadership Aurora experience, these were mere words – and an idea of what we might become. Today, I can tell you that our time together has been beyond fulfilling for me – as a community leader, a person, and an advocate for all that Aurora has to offer each citizen. The hallmark of our class year will be the caring gifts and human touch, as we supported organizations in need of a glimpse of hope in these trying times."

— Mike Tapp, Aurora Mental Health Center



"Leadership Aurora has been a powerful experience for me, and incredibly impactful on my department. The program has broadened my network and more importantly my scope of understanding of Aurora's resources, issues, and opportunities to serve. The informative sessions each month have had a dynamic impact on my department and have helped us to increase level of service to our Aurora customers."

— Noel Mink, City of Aurora/Public Safety



"Aurora is a diverse and evolving city. Leadership Aurora is a well-planned and well-run program that has really helped me to understand the tremendous economic, political and societal impacts of the city, as well as its amazing potential for growth, expanded commerce and successful education reform. I am very thankful for my Leadership Aurora experience and highly recommend it for all residents of this metropolitan area."

— Richard Lewis, Pres/CEO of RTL Networks



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KAISER PERMANENTE



*"Golf is so popular because it is the
best game in the world at which to
be bad." —AA Milne*

Please join us on Thursday, June 16, 2011 for the premiere golf event of the summer! There will be fun, excitement and great prizes too! The 13th Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament will be held at the beautiful and challenging Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club, E-470 & Gartrell Road.

Schedule of Events

- 7:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start, Four Person Scramble
- 2:00 p.m. Lunch & Awards Ceremony

Individual golfer fee is \$150 and includes green fees, range balls, cart, awards lunch, and player gift. Sponsorships are still available. You may register online by going to www.aurorachamber.org or email. kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org.

NEW MEMBERS

Ariclean, LLC
ASPIRE Life Center
Association of the
United States Army Denver Centennial
Bhavikatti Architecture
City Place Modern Dentistry
Cody's Cafe & Bar
Colorado Carpet Cleaning
Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation
Dave Williams & Associates, LLC
Dr. Ahmed Aly/Technical Petroleum Service
Executive Self Storage
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.
Flavor of Havana LLC
Food Bank of the Rockies
Good to Great Staffing & Consulting
Griggs Taxi Limo
Grillo Commercial Real Estate
Heart For the World Christian Center
Heather Gardens Association
Linkpoint Properties, LLC
Motel 6 Denver/East Aurora
Pickens Technical College
Qwark, Inc.
RE/MAX Unlimited - David J. Barber
Seven Hills Veterinary Center
Springfield Construction, LLC
Stymie Canine Cancer Foundation
The Fremont Group
The Roof Doctor, LLC
Volcano Asian Cuisine
Wizard Universal Inc.

Renewals

Adams County Workforce & Business Center
ADT Security Systems, Inc.
Advance America
All American Windows & Siding
Apex Communication Services, Inc.
Approval Reverse Mortgage
Aqua an Urban Spa
Arapahoe Rescue Patrol, Inc.
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Artistic Apparel, LLC
Ascent Solar Technologies
Aurora Cinema Grill
Aurora City Manager's Office
Aurora Rotary Club
Aurora Singers
Bank of the West – Havana Gardens
Beck, Payne, Frank & Piper, P.C.
Best Western Gateway Inn & Suites
Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.
Broadview Animal Clinic
Carlos Klinger & Sons
Chateau Shutter Co.
Cold Stone Creamery

Colorado Escrow & Title
Colorado Security Services, Inc.
Comcast
Courtyard by Marriott – DIA
Cunningham Fire Protection District
Curbside Data Control
Don's Mailing Service
Dozens Restaurant
E-470 Public Highway Authority
eTravel Unlimited
Eastco Interiors
Edward Jones – Ev Sequeira
Ent Federal Credit Union
Expressions in Flooring
Farmers Insurance Group – Matthew Hunting
First Command Financial Planning
Foremost Flooring, Inc.
Freund & Company
Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center of
Excellence
Garvin's Sewer Service
Good Hands Auto Care, Inc.
Great Western Printing, Inc.

Harvard Square Retirement Community
Hearts Across the Miles
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club
Hilton Garden Inn – Denver Airport
In Your Element Photography, Inc.
Jos. A. Bank, Inc.
Kapap Denver, Inc.
Lotus School For Excellence
M & M Auto Reconditioning
ManPowerGroup
Merrick & Company
Merry Maids – Boulder
Merry Maids of Aurora
Merry Maids of Lakewood
Metropolitan State College of Denver
Mile High Harley-Davidson
Navy Federal Credit Union
Oakwood Homes, LLC
Pinnacle Assurance
Project C.U.R.E.
Providers Resource Clearinghouse
Purewater Dynamics/Great American Coffee
QSE Technologies, Inc.

Qwest Communications, Inc.
Regal Facility Management
ServiceMaster Commercial Cleaning
Sewall Child Development Center
Six & Six, Inc.
Small Office Solutions
Smitty's, Inc.
Southlands
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Steve Rose Agency/American Family
Insurance
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The Boeing Company
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United Hebrew Cemetery Association
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Windsor Gardens Association
Wings Over the Rockies Museum