

Serving the east-metro  
area including:

Aurora  
Bennett  
Centennial  
Stapleton  
Denver

# THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2018

## The Holiday Season is upon us...

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce invites you and guests to celebrate and network with Chamber Members, Community Members, and Elected Officials. End the year with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and merriment at

## The Chamber's Holiday Party!

Thurs., Dec. 13, 2018  
5-7 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
Denver-Aurora

(Main Ballroom - east side of the hotel)

13696 E. Iliff Pl., Aurora, CO 80014

Tickets: \$20

\$10 with an unwrapped toy

\$25 for non-members

\$275 for a group of 10

The Chamber will be closed  
November 22 & 23

For the Thanksgiving Holiday, and  
December 24 - January 1  
for the Christmas Holiday



facebook

## Congressional Forum Draws a Large Crowd



The Chamber, in partnership with the Aurora Realtors Association, hosted a 6th Congressional District Forum between Congressman Mike Coffman and Jason Crow at the Radisson Hotel Denver-Aurora. More than 200 guests came to listen to issues including, Buckley Air Force Base, Immigration, Housing, Budget, Attack Ads, and more. The 6th Congressional election has received national attention with the candidates spending more than \$17 million for campaign literature and exposure. The district includes all of Aurora as well as portions of Centennial, Littleton, Brighton, and Henderson, CO.

## Touring the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center



Chamber Board members were invited to attend exclusive, behind-the-scenes Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center hard hat tours in August and September of 2018. Both tours were held on the Gaylord's 89-acre active construction site. The massive facility has 1,501 rooms, 500,000 square feet of conference room space, eight restaurants and lounges, and a full water feature. The hotel's long-anticipated opening is December 18, 2018.



**Joe Barela**  
Board Chair

# Chair'sLetter

## To Address Skills Gap, Colorado Employers Should Turn to Skills-Based Practices

Colorado's unemployment rate remains historically low, especially in Aurora and the metro Denver region.

The resulting skills gap makes it difficult for employers to find the talent they need to grow; a statewide survey from the nonprofit Colorado Succeeds found that 86 percent of employers say that the skills gap is a threat to their business.

To address this gap, businesses are revisiting how they recruit, hire, and train employees. Many are starting to focus on the skills needed to do a job; some companies are eliminating degree requirements from job postings that don't require college-level skills, others are investing in apprenticeships.

Earlier this year, AT&T announced that it would be investing \$1 billion to reskill its workforce after they realized that nearly half of its employees lacked the necessary skills to keep the company competitive.

These and other initiatives are a sign of the changing times. Increasingly, employers find that by recruiting, hiring, and training employees using skills-based practices, they're often able to find the talent they need to succeed, improve diversity, and increase employee engagement and retention.

By making sure job postings reflect skills actually needed to do a job, employers can ensure that they candidates that will thrive in a given position apply. By selecting candidates based

on skills, they can also reduce unconscious bias from the hiring process. And by assessing employees' skills, they can create real, meaningful career paths for their team members.

When you rely on traditional recruiting and hiring methods, everyone loses. Companies are deprived of the talent they need to grow, and job seekers miss out on rewarding work.

As the Chair of the Chamber Board of Directors, I encourage you look into implementing skills-based practices. At Skillful.com, you can download free resources for employers. I also encourage you to visit your local workforce center, where you can attend a training on skills-based practices, learn about resources to help your business succeed, and more.

As Kevin Hougen, President and CEO of The Chamber has been known to say, "It's all about the jobs." ■

.....

*Joe Barela is a Director at Skillful, an initiative of the Markle Foundation that is developing skills-based training and employment practices to help the nearly 70 percent of Americans without a college degree secure good jobs in a rapidly changing economy. Prior to Skillful, Joe worked as Workforce Director at Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center (ADWorks!) for 12 years.*

## ChamberBoard

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

#### CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Joe Barela | *Skillful — A Markle Initiative*

#### CHAIR-ELECT

Betsy Oudenhoven, PhD | *Community College of Aurora*

#### IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Suzanne Pitrusu | *Community Banks of Colorado*

#### TREASURER

Rebecca Kelley | *EKS&H*

#### SECRETARY

Dianne McCallister, MD | *The Medical Center of Aurora*

#### VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dale Mingilton | *Adams 14 Education Foundation*

#### VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Gian Gandolfo | *Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport*

#### VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

John Adams | *Colorado Technical University*

#### VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

Chad Nielsen | *Wagner Equipment*

### DIRECTORS

Tyrone Adams | *Colorado Association of Realtors*

Johnny Choate | *The GEO Group*

Christy Dobson | *Children's Hospital Colorado*

Chris Fasching | *Felsburg Holt & Ullevig*

Beth Klein | *FirstBank - Aurora Havana*

Kristi Kleinholz | *Mesa Moving & Storage*

Rich Kolberg | *The Boeing Company*

Peter Lee | *UNI Worldwide Financial Marketing*

Molly Markert | *Colorado Access*

John McCormick | *CenturyLink*

Keith Peterson | *University of Colorado Health*

Kerry Ryan | *Wells Fargo-Business Banking*

Louis Salazar | *ConocoPhillips*

Michael Sheldon | *Aurora Highlands*

Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Bruce Dalton | *Visit Aurora*

Barry Gore | *Adams County Economic Development*

Nancy Jackson | *Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners*

Bob LeGare | *Mayor, City of Aurora*

Ron Weidman | *City of Centennial*

Col. Treavor Wentlandt | *460th Mission Support Group*

### STAFF

Kevin Hougen | *President and CEO*

Rene J. Simard | *Executive Vice President*

Rebecca Ebner | *Administrative Assistant*

Rachel Gruber | *Director of Business Development and Events*

Linda Lillyblad | *Finance Director*

Beau Martinez | *Membership Development*

Tamara Mohamed | *Director of Community Relations*

Paul Rosenberg | *Vice President, Membership Development*

Mitzi Schindler | *Communications Director*

### ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | *Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)*

.....

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

## DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"

Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org), so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

### THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

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



# An Inside Look at Chamber Committees

## BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS

September 4, 2018

### 7/20 Memorial – Inspiring Strength and Resilience



Representative of the Business for the Arts committee tour the 7/20 Memorial, located at East Alameda Parkway and Chamber Road in Aurora, CO.

The 7/20 Memorial was created as a space where the community and those impacted by the tragedy of July 20, 2012, can go to reflect and remember loved ones, gather strength, and feel peace or hope.

On September 4, 2018, the Business for the Arts committee toured the Memorial Garden with Heather Dearman, VP of the 7/20 Memorial Board, and Carina Banuelos-Harrison, City of Aurora Public Art Assistant. The group was given insight and background on how the plans for the memorial evolved, what it represents, and the selection process and details about the artwork.

The artwork, titled “Ascentiate,” was inspired by the “1000 Cranes for Aurora” that were sent to Aurora in 2012 from a community in Missouri. The artwork, by Douwe Blumberg, consist of 83 cranes – representing the victims and survivors of the 7/20 theater tragedy. The 13 cranes in the center of the piece represent those whose lives were taken. It also represents the community and others affected, including first responders, community members, and loved ones.

October 2, 2018

### Eco-Devo with Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen

If you want to know what’s going on in Economic Development in the Eastern Metro



Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen, presents his Eco-Devo presentation to the Business for the Arts group.

Area, Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen can definitely fill you in.

At the October 2 Business for the Arts meeting, Hougen shared his in-depth presentation, covering agriculture, tourism, aerospace, bioscience, healthcare, financial services, air transportation, education, and energy.

Hougen talked about the \$900 million impact of Buckley AFB, the \$800 million Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center — scheduled to open late 2018, healthcare and bioscience, and the \$26 billion DEN economic engine, and Aerotropolis — to name just a few — emphasizing the thousands of jobs associated with all of these industries.

It’s a lot to squeeze into an hour, but the presentation provides a great overview of the economic power of the Eastern Metro Area.

## TRANSPORTATION

September 5, 2018

### Transportation Ballot Issues for November 6



Transportation funding is on the November 6 ballot, as Proposition 109 and 110; two very different approaches to funding transportation.

Proposition 109, known as “Fix Our Damn Roads,” allows the state to borrow \$3.5 billion to use on highway projects throughout Colorado, but doesn’t identify where the money to repay the bonds would be found in the state budget. It also doesn’t help any local communities with their transportation needs.

Proposition 110, known as “Let’s Go Colorado,” raises the sales and use tax from 2.9 to 3.52 percent for 20 years, providing authorization for \$6 billion in bonds to fund State highways (45 percent), local transportation priorities (40 percent, split between counties and municipalities), and multimodal transportation (15 percent). The Chamber Board voted to support Proposition 110.

### October 3, 2018 DRCOG and Bicycle Aurora Updates

Ron Papsdorf, Director of Transportation Planning and Operations for the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), gave an

overview of the organization’s responsibilities, which include functioning as a regional planning commission, serving as the federally designated Area Agency on Aging, and serving as the region’s metropolitan planning organization. Papsdorf acknowledged that transportation is a major part of all of these.

Long-range plans for DRCOG include Metro Vision and its components of regional transportation, fiscally constrained regional transportation, and the transportation improvement plan. For more information about Metro Vision, go to <https://metrovision.drcog.org>.

Included in his presentation, Papsdorf talked about DRCOG’s bicycle network planning principles of safety, comfort, and connectivity — which was a perfect segue into Tom Tobiasen’s presentation about Bicycle Aurora.

As the president and founder of Bicycle Aurora, Tobiasen has been advocating for bicycle infrastructure in Aurora for 20 years. The grassroots organization champions bicycle routes that are safe, logical, and connected — both on and off street. Bicycle Aurora also has an impressive list of accomplishments, including trail openings, maps, major improvements to bikeway systems, facility design guidelines, and a bicycle and pedestrian master plan. For more information about Bicycle Aurora, go to [www.bicycleva.org](http://www.bicycleva.org).

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND ENERGY

September 6, 2018

### Both Sides of Amendment 74

The Government Affairs, Education and Energy committee has been tracking ballot initiatives and amendments that could be on the November 2018 ballot. At the September 6 meeting, Aurora Mayor Bob LeGare and Vice President of Advocacy for the Colorado Farm Bureau Shawn Martini, presented their sides on Amendment 74, which made it to the ballot.

LeGare spoke for the opposition and Martini spoke for support of Amendment 74, which is Just Compensation for Reduction in Fair Market Value by Government



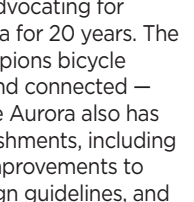
Ron Papsdorf,  
DRCOG



Tom Tobiasen,  
Bicycle Aurora



Aurora Mayor  
Bob LeGare



Shawn Martini,  
Colorado Farm  
Bureau

[continued on page 4]

Law or Regulation. The Chamber's Board of Directors did take a position to oppose this Amendment.

A few members of the committee left the meeting early for an opportunity to tour the Lowry Landfill. EIS Insurance helped arrange the tour in conjunction with Waste Management. Members from both the Aurora Chamber and South Metro Chamber participated in the tour.

**October 4, 2018**

**Only a Month +Two Days Away!**



Election Day is around the corner on November 6, 2018, so the Government Affairs, Education, and Energy committee met to review ballot initiatives, propositions, and amendments. Michael Steppat with Axiom Politics, The Chamber's lobbying firm, presented on what to expect to see on this year's ballot. The committee did not take any positions at the meeting; however, they were able to ask questions for clarification on ballot language.

The committee usually meets the first Thursday of every month, but will meet on the second Thursday, November 8, to review and discuss the November 6 election results.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

**September 14, 2018**

**Implicit Bias in the Hiring Process**



Quill Phillips,  
Community  
College of Aurora

In September, Quill Phillips, Special Assistant to the President for Inclusive Excellence, with the Community College of Aurora, presented on a highly requested topic (derived from a Council survey); *Who am I hiring? Understanding Implicit Bias in the Hiring Process.*

Phillips started the presentation with some hard facts into how bias affects decisions in the workplace, and the negative affects it can have on a company's bottom line. In the presentation she covered: learning community guidelines; different types of bias; addressing bias; and best practices for applying this in the workplace.

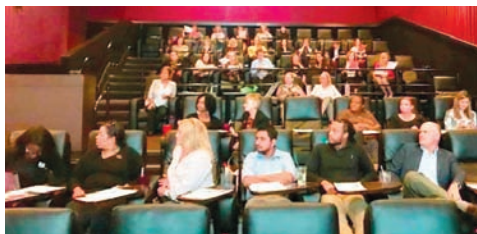
## WOMEN IN BUSINESS



John Gies,  
Executive Coach

**September 25, 2018**  
**Abracadabra – It's production time!\***

The Women in Business committee traveled to the Movie Tavern-Aurora for a presentation from Executive Coach John Gies, discussing communication for the



bottom line, and how communication impacts human and financial performance.

Gies shared that American businesses lose billions of dollars every year due to poor communication. Trust, in any relationship, has an impact on effective communication; eye contact, posture, listening, consistency, and voice tone are all behaviors of trust that can increase your working relationships. It does not take an extensive amount of time to connect with another person. He cautioned that we all need to be aware of the impact we have to light people up or bring them down.

The Movie Tavern hosted the group in a private theater room and provided three salad options for lunch.

*\*Abracadabra, translating to, As I Speak So I Create.*

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**September 27, 2018**

**EAT \* SIP \* SCHOLARSHIP!  
at Taste of the Chamber**

Once again, The Young Professionals sold out the Wall of Wine at the Taste of the Chamber, raising money to fund a Young Professional for the 2020 Leadership Aurora Class!

The committee does not meet in September, instead focusing on a philanthropic 'pay it forward purpose' to provide a professional acceleration opportunity for a fellow emerging leader in the community.



Chartashia Miller, with the  
NAACP-Aurora Branch,  
taking care of the Wall of  
Wine at the 2018 Taste of  
the Chamber. (Photo by  
Brian Molitoris  
Photographer)

## WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

**September 13, 2018**

**Kicking off Workplace  
Health and Well-being**

To kick off the second three-year funding cycle of the Tri-County Health Department's Initiative for Workplace Health and Well-being, the September Health Series



meeting highlighted the benefits of the initiative for Chamber member businesses.

The program is free for Chamber member businesses, and offers workplace well-being assessments and counseling (up to a \$360 value), funding opportunities, and plenty of healthy resources. For more information about this Chamber benefit, contact [Mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:Mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org).

**October 11, 2018**

**Health Links: A Great Tool for  
Understanding the Health of the  
Workplace**



Kaylee Rivera,  
MPH, Health Links

Kaylee Rivera, MPH, with Health Links gave an overview of the Health Links assessment tool, which is a benefit of the Work Well 2.0 Coalition at The Chamber. The research-based assessment provides valuable information about what healthy practices are

already in place, and what is potentially missing - in order to improve the health of an organization.

The Health Links assessment is one of the first steps for businesses engaging in the Work Well 2.0 Coalition.

## DEFENSE COUNCIL

**September 27, 2018**

**Aerospace Data Facility Colorado**

More than 120 people attended September's Defense Council meeting at the Aerospace Data Facility Colorado on Buckley Air Force Base. Site Commander Colonel Chris Povak provided an extremely informative presentation about the unique multi-agency & multi-service joint intelligence facility. He also acknowledged the 4,000 plus professionals that work in the ADF-C to keep our country safe 24/7 by providing intelligence information to civilian and military leaders around the world. Attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast compliments of the Residence Inn Denver Airport at Gateway Park. ■





## Device Location for 991 Calls Continue to Improve in Arapahoe County

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Communications Center now has improved ability to receive fast, accurate device location for 911 calls from cellular phones via the RapidSOS NG911 Clearinghouse.



Current cellular technology identifies general location of 911 callers who have called on a mobile device, but RapidSOS provides ever greater device-specific accuracy in less time, trimming valuable seconds from our response time in an emergency will help us better serve our community.

RapidSOS works for both iPhone and android phones, however iPhones must be updated to iOS 12. Call takers and dispatchers will only receive location information for phones that have called 911 within the jurisdiction, and only within the first 10 minutes after the call has been placed. The program does not require users to have location data turned on.

## UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital Designated as Level I Trauma Center

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and American College of Surgeons have verified and



highest capabilities for trauma care. The Level I distinction recognizes the hospital's ability to treat the most severe and complex injuries, giving residents of Aurora, metro Denver, eastern Colorado, and the broader Rocky Mountain region rapid access to the most advanced trauma care.

University of Colorado Hospital already cares for patients from a multi-state region, providing a comprehensive team approach to care," said Dr. Anne Wagner, medical director of the Burn Center and associate professor, CU School of Medicine. "Now these patients can benefit from the highest burn and trauma capabilities at the same location."

"Earning this Level I designation has taken years of planning and advancements," said Will Cook, UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital's president and CEO. "The CU School of Medicine and UCH have recruited some of the nation's best trauma surgeons, led important

designated UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) on the Anschutz Medical Campus as a Level I trauma center, making it one of only five hospitals in the state with the

research, and improved every aspect of our trauma patient care. This preparation, and the Level I designation, will result in more lives being saved."

## Wells Fargo Bank Gives Large Grant to Comitis Crisis Center



The Comitis Crisis Center was recently awarded a \$100,000 general operating grant from Wells Fargo Bank. "Wells Fargo believes that we are only as successful as the communities we serve,

and I am so glad we are able to aid organizations like Comitis in their mission to promote housing stability, health, well-being, recovery and self-sufficiency," said Derrick Fuller, district manager for Wells Fargo Bank in Aurora.

Comitis is the only 24/7 shelter for those experiencing homelessness in Colorado's third largest city, Aurora.

In the past year, Comitis served 4,186 individuals, provided 138,712 homemade meals, supplied 11,654 hygiene kits, opened the first ever Day Resources Center in the city, and ensured that 100 percent of all school-aged children stayed in school and had the tools to succeed. Comitis serves homeless individuals, families, and veterans and their family members. ■



## The Aurora Highlands hosts Groundbreaking for the Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority

On September 20, 2018, The Aurora Highlands (TAH) hosted the Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority (ARTA) groundbreaking. ARTA is an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Aurora, Adams County, and the Aerotropolis Area Coordinating Metropolitan District (AACMD), to establish the first Capital Improvement Plan for the construction on the initial regional improvements. ARTA is responsible for building the road infrastructure including the 38th Avenue and E-470 Interchange, 26th Avenue, 1-70 Interchange, Powhatan Road, and 48th Avenue. ■



Left to Right: Steve O'Dorisio, Adams County Commissioner; Dave Gruber, Aurora City Council; Nicole Johnson, Aurora City Council; Larry Canarelli, Director of TAH; Bob LeGare, Mayor of Aurora; Carlo Ferreira, Managing Director of TAH; Carla Ferreira, Vice President AACMD, Matt Hopper, President AACMD & Chair ARTA, Chaz Tedesco, Adams County Commissioner.



## Ribbon cuttings mean business: 671 jobs



### Colorado State Bank and Trust

14575 E. Alameda Ave., Aurora, CO 80012

On a beautiful Friday morning in September, **Colorado State Bank and Trust** celebrates the grand opening of their new location with a ribbon cutting and breakfast. The first new build location for **CSBT** has a family feel, Saturday hours, private places, commercial canisters (for heavy drops) and night drop, and access to every kind of ATM – with no fees. On the left, holding the gold scissors is **CSBT** CEO Bill Sullivan, and holding the red scissors is **CSBT** Branch Manager Dan Chavez. The event was attended by Aurora City Council members Dave Gruber, Angela Lawson, and Johnny Watson, along with Chamber staff, Aurora Police Department, and representatives from Bank partners including Northstar Commercial Partners, Financial Construction Services, Architechts Ink, and Britina. (9/14/18) <https://locations.csbt.com/bank-locations/co/aurora/14575-e-alameda-ave./519> (720) 858-6918.

### Engineering for Kids of Southeast Denver

Centennial, CO 80015

At the grand opening and ribbon cutting of **Engineering for Kids of Southeast Denver**, Owner Olena Belouos cuts the ribbon, surrounded by clients, their parents, and Chamber staff and Ambassadors. The event offered learning opportunities for kids (and adults!) about the properties of flight, components of a rocket, and types of bridges – just a few examples of the types of things kids learn through the programs at **Engineering for Kids**. **Engineering for Kids** offers science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for ages 4-14 in a fun and challenging way via classes, camps, clubs, and parties. (8/26/18) <https://www.engineeringforkids.com/southeast-denver/?L=true> (720) 513-6694.



### CEDS Finance

1450 S. Havana St., Suite 620, Aurora, CO 80012

**CEDS Finance**, celebrates their new name (formerly Community Enterprise Development Services) and a new office - on Havana Street in Aurora - at their ribbon cutting ceremony. Cutting the ribbon are **CEDS** Finance and Administration Manager Deo Dhungel, and Executive Director Alexandria Wise, accompanied by **CEDS** staff and board members, and Chamber staff. **CEDS Finance's** mission is to support the American Dream of financial self-sufficiency, by assisting those from under-served communities in Metro Denver through entrepreneurship; and was award the 2018 Community Lender of the Year. Funding for **CEDS Finance** comes from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, The Small Business Administration, and The Denver Foundation. (10/18/18) <https://cedsfinance.org/> (303) 569-8165.



### MCPN North Aurora Family Health Services

3292 Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80010

**Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN)** celebrates the remodeling of their busiest location with an open house and ribbon cutting on August 29, 2018. **MCPN** CEO Ben Weiderholt is accompanied by Aurora Mayor Bob LeGare (left), and Congressman Mike Coffman (right). The event brought together nearly 100 attendees, including partner

organization representatives, patients, board members, and Chamber members and Ambassadors. The remodeling added 12 medical exam rooms, increasing the capacity by 5,000 patients per year. **MCPN** is a 501(c) (3) Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), providing primary care and other health-related services in a community-based setting for the medically indigent population in suburban Denver. (8/29/18) [mcpn.org](http://mcpn.org) (303) 360-6276

[continued on page 7]



# Painted Prairie Community Breaks Ground

A groundbreaking was held on September 21, 2018, for Painted Prairie, a 628-acre planned community – adjacent to the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center, and ten minutes from both Denver International Airport and the Anschutz Medical Campus. Most of the development is designed to be multi-family and single family residential, with a total of 3,200 residences. A unique feature is the City Lake at Painted Prairie, which will include retail, office space, an international food market, outdoor adventures, and more, as the central gathering place for the community. Painted Prairie is projected to open in early 2019. ■



Right to left: Chris Fellows, Fellows Company; Bryan McFarland, Principal of Development, Alberta Development Partners; Nicole Johnson, Johnny Watson, and Francoise Bergan, Aurora City Council Members; Bob LeGare, Mayor City of Aurora, Dave Gruber, Aurora City Council Member; Don Provost, Founding Principal, Alberta Development Partners; Rob Kaufmann, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Shreck; George Adams, Director Planning & Development Services, City of Aurora.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS (con't)



### Aurora Village Dental Group

2250 S. Parker Rd., Suite 150, Denver, CO 80231

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the South Metro Chamber of Commerce partnered on September 6, 2018 for the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the **Aurora Village Dental Group**. Front and center to cut the ribbon are Shelly Tesar, DDS; Bob Golden, CEO of South Metro Chamber of Commerce; Samantha Simon, DDS; and Michelle LaBeau, DDS. The event included food and beverages, along with some great giveaways. The **Aurora Village Dental Group** offers specialty services using state-of-the-art equipment – including same day dental crowns – at affordable prices, and accepts most dental insurance plans. (9/6/18) [www.auroravillagedentalgroup.com](http://www.auroravillagedentalgroup.com) (303) 800-1997.

### Comfort Suites Denver near Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora September 13, 2018

Amid tours, music, raffles, giveaways, and appetizers and refreshments, Kumar Merchant, owner, and Palak Merchant, general manager/director of operations of the **Comfort Suites Denver near Anschutz Medical Campus**, Aurora, cut the ribbon for the hotel on September 13, 2018. Guests staying for business or pleasure get free WiFi and parking, and can enjoy a hot breakfast (included), heated pool and hot tub, a fitness center, airport shuttle, and a smoke-free and pet-friendly environment. (9/13/18) <https://www.choicehotels.com/colorado/aurora/comfort-suites-hotels/co327?brand=CS> (303) 754-1000.



# Taste of the Chamber

The 2018 Taste of the Chamber brought in vendors, competitive teams, and a very large number of guests - to eat, sip and network, while discovering the Eastern Metro Area's most inspired food and drinks.

The restaurants and vendors - representing the broad diversity in the community - and offering generous samples, were Bad Daddy's Burger Bar-Southlands, Bua Thai, Bubba's 33, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Cold Stone Creamery, DAE GEE, Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park, Denver Marriott Tech Center, Dry Dock Brewing, Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport, Jet's Pizza-Aurora, Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q Northfield, L&L Hawaiian Barbecue, La Sandia Cantina & Tequila Bar-Northfield, Launch Pad Brewery, Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, Meat Truck Jones BBQ Catering, Parkside Village Retirement Resort, Peak to Peak Tap & Brew, Radisson Hotel Denver-Aurora, Sara Lee, The Lost Cajun Restaurant-Southlands, and The Movie Tavern.

This year the four special ingredients for the Chef Challenge were hatch green chilies, bourbon, pumpkin, and pork. Congratulations to Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park for winning the Chef Competition and thank you to the Radisson, Jim N' Nicks, and Chef D's for participating!

For the Cocktail Challenge, congratulations goes to Aurora Sister Cities for winning with their Grapefruit flavored vodka creation. The Radisson

Hotel Denver-Aurora, Visit Aurora, the 2018 Leadership Aurora Class, and the Movie Tavern, also participated in the tough competition. Thank you to Chambers Wine and Liquor for providing the vodka.

The Wall of Wine sponsored by the Chamber's Young Professionals Committee had another sell out year. With the proceeds from the wall of wine will sponsor a YP to go through the Leadership Aurora program in 2019.

The 2018 Taste of the Chamber was generously sponsored by Colorado Technical University, Westerra Credit Union, ConocoPhillips, and FirstBank. ■



## MemberRenewals

140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)  
A Markle Initiative  
Advanced Traffic Services LLC  
Aurora Association of Realtors  
Aurora Cultural Arts District  
Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union  
Aurora Symphony Orchestra  
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.  
Bicycle Aurora  
Big Frog Custom T-shirts and More of Aurora  
Birch Electric & Lighting Co.  
Brian Molitoris Photographer  
Brock Publishing  
BustOutColorado  
Capron Law, LLC  
Career Climb Consulting, LLC  
CareNow Urgent Care  
Carlos Klinger & Sons  
Chambers Wine & Liquor  
Colorado Continental Roofing & Solar, Inc  
Comfort Suites near Anschutz Medical Camp  
Courtyard Marriott Denver Airport at Gate  
D.C. Plumbing Company  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver  
EKS&H  
Elemintal Photography  
EMO Trans Inc Regional  
Environmental Learning For Kids (ELK)

FASTSIGNS of Aurora, Inc.  
Fitzsimons Credit Union  
Front Range Airport  
GAMEWORKS  
Hampton Inn & Suites - DIA/Gateway Park  
Heritage Christian Center  
Home2 Suites By Hilton - Denver International  
Airport  
Itec  
Johnson Controls  
Johnson's Automotive Repair  
Juvenile Assessment Center  
Ken Powers  
Lincoln Tech  
Lynn Burgess  
Nelowet Business Machines, Ltd.  
PeopleCare Health Services  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver  
School of Rock  
State Farm Insurance - Mike Gibbs, ChFC  
The Center for Relationship Education  
The Pachner Company  
Travel N Relax, Inc.  
UCHealth ER - North Aurora Medical Center  
University of Colorado/ Anschutz Medical  
Waste Management

## NewMembers

Ability Connection Colorado  
B2BCFO  
Box Twenty Two Creative  
Brain Balance Center of Aurora - Southlands  
Bubba's 33 Pizza | Burgers | Beer  
Car Wash Express  
Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club  
David M Schlatter | Commercial Real Estate  
Denver Commercial Real Estate - Sofia Williamson  
Denver Springs  
Dope Mom Life Creative Content Agency  
HROi a Paychex Co.  
Keller Williams Realty, DTC - Elizabeth Tierney Kane  
National Charter Bus Denver  
Northstar Commercial Partners  
North-West Roofing  
Paul Suss  
Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center  
The Lost Cajun - Southlands  
Turn Corps  
Unite Private Network  
Victory Grange #452

The IMPACT is published for the members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Subscription rate to nonmembers: \$50/year.  
**Advertisers:** The Chamber members—use the IMPACT to advertise your products and services to over 1700 Aurora Chamber members.  
Advertising space only available to members. The IMPACT also accepts preprinted inserts. Contact The Chamber for details.  
Deadlines: the 10th of the month prior to publication.

14305 E. Alameda Ave Ste. #300  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564  
website: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)