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THE CHAMBER Impact

NOV/DEC 2022

Introducing the Leadership Aurora Class of 2023



Back row, left to right: Ousman Ba, African Leadership Group; Mark Smith, PhotoSmith Colorado; Candice Kmetz-Parkinson, University of Colorado Hospital; Kam Kaaoush, Colorado Air National Guard; Alec Quaid, American Portfolios Denver; Anthony Krenz, Aurora Fire Rescue; and Jimmy Knoch, Citywide Banks.
Middle row, left to right: Charles Watts, Aurora Federal Credit Union; Mody Diop, Colorado Air National Guard; Robyn Hills, Aurora Public Schools Foundation; Clayton Coker, Falck Rocky Mountain; Andréa Wright, Aurora Public Schools (class president); Mayra Zuniga, Colorado Access; Julie Stewart, Community College of Aurora; Samantha O'Neill, Pickens Technical College; James DeHerrera, City of Aurora, Water Department; Eren Corapcioglu, Nelnet; Michelle Kaye, Operation Equine; Dawn Gissendanner, Colorado Access; and Amy McDermott, Colorado Association of Realtors Foundation.

Front row, left to right: Rick Elsinger, Aurora Collision Center; Eva Gergely, Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center; Christine Polak, Nelnet; Minsoo Song, City of Aurora, International and Immigrant Affairs; Brian Clark, Adolfsen & Peterson Construction; Kennady Copeland, FirstBank; April Tate, Advantage Security; Katie Anthony, Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Stephanie Marnocha, Juvenile Assessment Center; and Jenna Tarleton, CSU Global.

Photo by Sarah Gies Studio



In September of 2022, the Leadership Aurora Class of 2023 had their retreat in Breckenridge, CO, where the 30 classmates learned about each other and what the next nine months of the program had to offer them.

In October, they experienced their first

session: Community Day. This day introduces class members to the diverse nature of the community. They get a hands-on learning experience about some of the services and organization in the community dedicated to the needs of area residents, including the underserved. ■

To see upcoming Chamber meetings
as well as Chamber member events –
go to the calendar!

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Chair's Letter

Fall is a season of change. It's a time when schedules return to "normal." Summer break is over, children are back in school, and the holidays haven't quite kicked off yet, but they are coming soon. I relish this season and its promise of comfort, abundance, and time spent with family.

I also savor the opportunity fall brings for self-reflection and growth, and to make personal and financial resolutions to end the year on a strong note. It renews my sense of purpose and gives me increased financial clarity heading into the final months of the year.

Where will reflection lead us to this year? Perhaps it is being closer to your family, giving to a local cause, finding new ways to support the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, or looking at the ways you can invest in yourself and your loved ones.



Brian Sowl
Chair
Nelnet

While these last few years have been challenging and the future is unclear, reflection can help us improve. I have found three areas I will reflect on to determine where I grew, where I need to grow, and how I can capitalize on both moving forward. These are my three R's that I want to share with you, that might help you reflect, Relationships, Responsibilities, and Returns.

Relationships is one of my biggest areas of growth.

Which relationships are helping me grow? Which ones aren't? Sometimes the answers are surprising. And sometimes, the biggest relationship issues we face are with people we can't just run away from!

Responsibilities. Our year is composed of things we must do, both at work and at home. But the question is, for as busy as we are, are we doing the right things? How can we decide which responsibilities are

truly ours versus things we do out of guilt or fear? Learning from how we spent our time and effort this year will help better position ourselves to make the most of future opportunities.

Returns. What outcomes did our choices produce? Did those outcomes satisfy us? Did they move us forward towards our goals? If not, what outcome might have been more satisfying, and how can we chase that down in the coming year? The return you get for the choices you make can either keep you hungry and willing to move forward or drain your energy and keep you stagnant.

I'm looking forward to my reflection time because I want to squeeze as much out of this year as I possibly can, to better position myself as I head into next year. I wish the same for you, too.

Brian Sowl
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Chairman of the Board

ChamberBoard

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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!

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.

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

The Healing Power of Art at Children's Hospital Colorado

Tuesday, September 13, 2022



Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) Creative Arts Therapy Program Manager Katherine Reed began the September ABC with an introduction to the Ponzio Arts Therapy Program. The program is named after Craig Ponzio, who donated the seed money for the program in 2005 – which has become the largest creative arts therapy program within a Children's Hospital in the country.

The program includes art, music, dance/movement, yoga, and drama therapies, and is available to all patients and families at CHCO, to help them process trauma and grief, develop social skills, communicate emotions, and foster community. The program is also available for CHCO team members, and has shown to improve patient care, job satisfaction, and offers stress relief for front line staff.

Reed highlighted a health care provider exhibition fostered by the program, called "CAPtivating Creations," which includes 15 canvas panels, made up of a total of 57 canvasses, that were painted and then covered with medicine caps. Each medicine cap represents a patient that experienced that medicine. There were 21 staff teams, with a total of 171 glue guns, 3,400 hot glue sticks, and countless medicine caps.

Reed's team is also leading a study to determine the effect of 12 consecutive creative arts therapy workshops for healthcare providers. The Colorado Resiliency Arts Lab (CORAL) is a collaboration of the Ponzio Program, UHealth University of Colorado Hospital, and the Lighthouse Writer's Workshop, and is funded by the National Endowment of the Arts Research Grant Program in Arts, Health & Social/Emotional Well-Being. The study shows that by bringing people together to do creative arts, they can better process trauma and reconnect with their motivation to be healthcare providers. See videos about CORAL at <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/coral/coral-videos>

As the CHCO Arts Coordinator, Jasmine Chu shared how art functions in the hospital setting. Her work encompasses collections, display, curation, and managing



A New Day, medicine cap artwork by CHCO Behavioral Health Clinicians; a piece from the CAPtivating Creations collection.

the artist volunteer program which includes performances and art making activities. Chu also manages CHCO's Artwork Archive of all the collections: www.artworkarchive.com/profile/chco. And, although not a therapist, Chu emphasized that as part of the Creative Arts Therapy team, they all share the goal of healing through arts.

Chu concluded by saying that art is not the first thing we think of when we think of a hospital, but that we need to start expecting more from the places that heal us by using every tool at their disposal, including creativity and the arts to foster healing. She explained that art in an environment heals by providing a space of welcome, an opportunity for respite, a reminder of humanity; and through participation it allows for exploring possibilities, engaging community, and providing distraction and processing.

Touring the New Burrell Arts Campus

Tuesday, October 12, 2022

By Mark Smith, ABC Chair and owner of PhotoSmith Colorado

The October ABC meeting was in-person, at the newest magnet school in Aurora which



focuses on the arts: The Charles Burrell Visual and Performing Arts Campus – also known as Burrell Arts. The campus opened August 2022, and is named for Charles Burrell, a classical bassist and the first person of color to play with a major symphony orchestra in 1949. Burrell celebrated his 102nd birthday on Oct. 4, 2022.



Charles Burrell

K-8 Principal Shawn Graziani shared that one of the goals of the school is to be "an elite school without being elitist." Its mission is to provide a rigorous, arts-integrated education that honors diverse perspectives and experiences, fosters deep inquiry, and develops students' self-awareness, while also – as the vision states – empowering a community of creative, confident, and caring lifelong learners.

The program for students in K-8 involves exposure and exploration of the arts, while students in grades 9-12 experience immersion in the arts. Admission for the K-5 grades are lottery, and the interview process begins in 6th grade (and continues for 7, 8). Students requesting admission in the 9-12 grades must complete an audition. Students currently attending come from across the Denver Metro area but only those within the APS district are bused.

9-12 Principal Kurtis Quig further explained the importance of arts integration by citing that it helps learners to stretch and explore their thinking and provides healthy risk-taking as students are recognizing new skills. As well, students build bridges with classmates

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Left to right at the ABC meeting at Burrell Arts: Jessica Brown, Shawn Graziani, Brian Weiher, Alicia Rose, David Farquharson, Kevin Hougen, Stephanie Marnocha, Kurtis Quig, Jane McGrath, Roberta Bloom, Krista Robinson, MK Schnese, Ana Valles, Mark Smith, and Doug Dunn.

and teachers, and gain a deeper and lasting retention of information. In the short time the school has been open, they are noticing better attendance, academics, and behavior.

Curriculum includes music, visual arts, digital arts, theatre, design, and dance – and is diligent to integrate these arts into the curriculum of literacy, math, science, and social studies.

TRANSPORTATION

Adams County and ARTA Updates

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

By Tim Harris, Horrocks Engineers, and Transportation Chair

The September 2022 Transportation meeting featured Chris Chovan, senior transportation and mobility planner for Adams County, and Matt Hopper, chair of the Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority (ARTA). Chovan and Hopper last presented to the Transportation committee in August 2021.

Chovan's update focused on major corridors within Adams County. These include:

- I-270, which received funding for multiple bridge replacements to accommodate future improvements being evaluated in an on-going environmental assessment
- An investigation of major improvements on I-25 near the RTD park-n-ride lot at 88th Avenue
- A multi-agency study of I-70 east of Peña Boulevard
- Development of plans for improvement to Vasquez Boulevard between 56th and 64th Avenues, 104th Avenue between Colorado Blvd. and US 85, and the intersection of 120th Avenue/US 85

Chovan added that Adams County continues to work with DRCOG to identify necessary projects and potential funding sources.

Hopper then presented a brief history of ARTA and highlighted its recent expansion with the addition of more development areas. Dave Center, with AECOM, and Tony DeVito, Transportation committee vice-chair and also with AECOM, provided updates on major ARTA projects:

- New interchanges at I-70 and Aerotropolis Parkway (formerly Harvest Road) and at E-470 with 38th Avenue are scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2023
- Design is progressing on a new major intersection complex in the area of 26th Avenue/Powhaton Road/Aerotropolis Parkway/Aurora Highlands Parkway, which has forecasted traffic volumes similar to I-225 – as Aerotropolis Parkway is seen as a future alternate route to Denver International Airport



New E-470 Executive Director Beau Memory Presents Update

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

By Tim Harris, Horrocks Engineers, and Transportation Committee Chair



Beau Memory

In October 2022, The Transportation committee was hosted at E-470 by its new Executive Director Beau Memory, who introduced himself and talked about history, governing structure, and current financial status of E-470. He then highlighted upcoming improvement

projects.

Like all organizations, E-470 was affected by the 2020 pandemic but they have responded effectively and made some positive changes to earn recognition as the #1 toll authority in the nation regarding finance and administration.

Upcoming projects include widening of E-470 from I-70 to 104th Avenue and the addition of two new interchanges has begun. Improvements at the Gartrell Road interchange and redevelopment of the four toll plazas to include commercial functions are the next major improvements for E-470 customers. Additional signing is being installed to prevent wrong-way driver accidents, and technology to prepare for connected or autonomous vehicles is being incorporated into the 47-mile corridor.

Traffic volumes on E-470 are back to pre-COVID levels with 20-30 percent of the traffic related to Denver International Airport. E-470 is continuing their tradition of environmental stewardship with inclusion of bike trails in the widening project, solar panels throughout the corridor, and installation of electric vehicle charging stations at their administration building for employees and customers.

Following Memory's presentation, attendees were given a tour of the facility.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY (PUBLIC ISSUES)

2022 Ballot Initiatives

Thursday, October 6, 2022

In October, the Government Affairs

committee met at The Chamber and on Zoom. There were 20 in-person and 35 remote participants. The focus was on Ballot initiatives, with guest speakers Elizabeth Peetz, Esq, Colorado Associations of Realtors; Tim Pollard, 76 Group; Chrissy Estes Faraci DJC&A/Faraci Government Relations, LLC; and Michelle Lyng,

Novitas Communications.

Peetz covered Proposition 123 – Dedicated State Income Tax Revenue for Affordable Housing Program, Pollard covered Proposition 124 – Concerning Liquor Licenses, and Estes Faraci and Lyng covered Proposition 125 – Sale of Alcohol Beverage and Proposition 126 – Third – Party Delivery of Alcohol Beverages.

A majority of the committee voted in support of all the propositions that were presented.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

A Bit of Magic and Wealth Building

Friday, September 14, 2022

The September 14 DE&I meeting was hosted by Mitch Myers, magician and owner of Magic Realty, Inc. The meeting was an in-person opportunity to experience The Jester's Palace, a live theater venue owned by Myers. The meeting offered a bit of magic by Myers, as well as a look at wealth building through homeownership from a DE&I perspective.

Myers explained that the biggest roadblock about real estate for many individuals is a lack of knowledge about the process. According to Myers, real estate is the easiest and most impactful way to build wealth, although some negative common beliefs may keep people from even getting started. Some of these are:

- You must have 20 percent down to buy
- You have no credit established – and therefore can't buy property
- You don't have any money for a down payment or closing costs

If you are active-duty military or a veteran, there is a VA loan which requires no down payment. There is also a 3.5 percent down payment government insured loan (FHA), and there are many sources for down payment and closing cost assistance.



Mitch Myers



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Attendees at the October 5, 2022 Transportation meeting at E-470 listen to new Executive Director Beau Memory.

Families can build wealth by helping each other. Lenders do allow family members and friends to help buyers out by cosigning or gift letters. Shared investment agreements can help both parties financially.

Myers told attendees that there are many options, but the first step is to pick a professional realtor who can put you in touch with a professional loan broker to shop investors for the best terms. He also suggested that buyers should explore all their financial options before even looking for a property.

Colorado Early Colleges: Earn a Cost-Free Associate Degree

Friday, October 14, 2022



Jennifer Malenky



Colorado Early Colleges' (CEC) Director of Philanthropy and Strategic Partnerships Jennifer Malenky began the October 2022 DE&I meeting by sharing what an early college is: a state designated high school with a four-year curriculum to give students the opportunity to concurrently earn a high school diploma and an associate degree, career and technical education certificate, 60

college credits, and even a bachelor's degree.

The Aurora Campus opened in 2017 and partners with six local schools – Community College of Aurora, Pickens Technical College, Metro State University, CU Denver, Aims Community College, and Snow College.

CEC is the largest and most successful network of tuition-free public charter schools in the state boasting 2,148 high school graduates with a college degree and \$41,664,000 saved in tuition, fees, and books. They offer certifications in aviation, engineering, health, and lab through online courses, on a CEC campus, or on a college partner campus.



Hannah Reese

CEC Head of School Hannah Reese touched on the mission statement that each student, regardless of background or skill level, will have the opportunity to enroll, pursue a career pathway, and develop valuable skills and connections. She

discussed the 2023-2024 demographics of the students: Of the 478 currently enrolled students, 322 are Hispanic, 70 are Black/African American, 44 are White, 17 are Asian, and 3 are Native American, with a slight male majority.

Malenky and Reese concluded the presentation with a video highlighting a success story for one of their students, Ricardo, who enrolled with the goal to

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Progressive Lunch at Southlands

Friday, September 9, 2022

On a bright, warm Friday in September, the Women in Business committee held their annual Progressive Luncheon at Southlands Shopping Center. Attendees had their first stop for appetizers at Mt. Fuji, where they had fried rice, crab cheese wontons, and edamame. The group then walked across the Southlands courtyard to Bad Daddy's Burger Bar where they had four options for their entrees: the Bad Daddy's All-American Burger; The Buffalo Chicken Sandwich; Stella's Chicken Greek Salad; or a Vegetarian Bean Burger. And for dessert, the group traveled back across the courtyard to choose a cookie at The Cookie Company. Some of the attendees then headed to Bent Barley Brewing Company for a refreshing beverage.

This event was a wonderful opportunity for Women in Business Committee members to network and socialize, while also showcasing a few of the fabulous restaurants and vendors at Southlands.

Women in Business is sponsored by



Entrées on the patio at Bad Daddy's Burger Bar



Dessert at The Cookie Company



Mima, Pickens Technical College and Carmen Haagriff, Elevations Credit Union, enjoy a beer and a photo opp. at Bent Barley.



Enjoying appetizers at Mt. Fuji

become a U.S. Air Force Pilot. He completed an associate degree and an aviation apprenticeship with Frontier Airlines, and is now in the aerospace program at CU Boulder.

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

Alzheimer's is Not a Normal Part of Aging

Thursday, September 8, 2022

For the September 8, 2022, Work Well 2.0 Health Series, Director of Diversity and

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Inclusion for Alzheimer's Association – Colorado Chapter Rosalyn Reese provided attendees with an introduction to Alzheimer's.

Everyone can become forgetful from time to time, says Reese. But when does an ordinary memory lapse indicate something more serious like Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia?



Rosalyn Reese

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To distinguish between ordinary forgetfulness that comes with aging from Alzheimer's or dementia, it's important to consider some key symptoms of mild cognitive impairment and warning signs of Alzheimer's:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgement
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality

Reese explained that it's possible for individuals to experience one or more of these signs in varying degrees, and that it's not necessary to experience every sign in order to raise concern. She emphasized that if you notice one or more signs in yourself or another person, it's important to see a doctor. She also talked about the important resources the Alzheimer's Association has for caregivers.

For more information about Alzheimer's, go to <https://alz.org>.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series will no longer meet monthly. The committee will host meetings when there are relevant subjects and/or issues related to healthcare and/or worksite wellness.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Social Hour at Max Taps Centennial

Wednesday, August 29, 2022

The Chamber's Young Professionals gathered for a social hour at Max Taps Centennial, which opened February 2022. Max Taps also has a location in Highlands



Dave Gardner, owner of Max Taps with Casey Bloyer with Launch Pad Brewery.



YPs enjoy networking at Max Taps

Ranch.

Max Taps offers 54 rotating, Colorado-only taps, year-round. The indoor and outdoor space is available for private events with spectacular views of the mountain range and food trucks are rotated daily.

The YPs were greeted by the owner, Dave Gardner, and enjoyed the first round on The Chamber. Max Taps donated 20 percent from each additional beer purchased to the YP Leadership Aurora Scholarship fund. Max Taps is named after the owners' dog, Maxine, and dogs are welcome at both locations.

Social Hour at Holidaily Brewing Company DTC Taproom

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

The Chamber's Young Professionals gathered in October for a social hour at Holidaily Brewing Company located



YPs enjoy networking at Holidaily Brewing.

in the Landmark DTC. Holidaily is a women-owned business and is dedicated to creating excellent tasting gluten free beer. They also have a location in Golden, CO.

Holidaily Brewing Company is the passion project of Karen Hertz, a craft beer enthusiast and lover of living life to the fullest. Hertz survived melanoma and thyroid cancer in her early 30's, leading to a treatment plan including a gluten-free diet.

Along with beating cancer came the desire to focus on health, happiness, and a commitment to celebrate life every single day. As a beer lover, going gluten-free meant only drinking gluten-free beer or not partaking in social activities in the same way her friends and family did. The lack of good tasting, gluten-free options was a challenge for Karen – one that she was driven to overcome. Years of taste-testing, research on gluten-free ingredients, and an understanding of processes other brewing companies utilized led her to believe there was a better way.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

Aerospace Data Facility Colorado

Thursday, August 25, 2022

The August Defense Council meeting was hosted at the Aerospace Data Facility Colorado (ADF-C). More than 100 people attended this special meeting featuring a panel of ADF-C leaders from the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), National Security Agency (NSA), and National Geospatial Agency (NGA).

This was the first time council members had the opportunity to hear from the ADF-C leadership team about their missions and how they partner to safeguard our national security. In addition to the panel, council members received military unit reports, congressional staff reports, an update on the Korean War Memorial, and information about the Angels of American Fallen organization.

Breakfast for the meeting was sponsored by the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center.

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L to R. Colonel Robert Schreiner, NRO and ADF-C commander; Laurel Chestnutt, deputy director, NGA Denver; Jenna Seidel, director, NSA Colorado; and moderator, Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte, chief, ADF-C Office of Strategic Communications

A Hero of Supporting the Military: Colorado Technical University

Thursday, September 22, 2022

September's Defense Council was hosted by Colorado Technical University (CTU). Our generous breakfast sponsor was the DoubleTree by Hilton, Aurora-Denver. CTU Vice President of Community Relations Beth Braatan provided the CTU update.

CTU was founded in 1965 by two Air Force officers who wanted to help veterans transition back to civilian life more easily through education. Each year, CTU awards 50 full-tuition scholarships to service members, veterans, their family members, and caregivers. In addition to full tuition, scholarship recipients receive a new laptop



computer, all course material, a dedicated student success coach, specially trained military education advisors, and 24/7 technical support and tutoring. To date, 700 scholarships valued at \$16 million have been awarded.

Council members also received military unit reports, congressional staff reports, and an update on the Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor's Center Capital Campaign.

CTU's support of our men and women in uniform is unprecedented. One example is their Title Sponsorship of the Armed Forces recognition event/luncheon for the past



L to R – Tom Grayson, Defense Council chair; Kevin Hougen, Chamber president & CEO; Beth Braaten CTU VP of Community Relations; Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte, AFRL chair; and Rene Simard, Chamber EVP

ten years. Above is a plaque presentation acknowledging their incredible support. ■

Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

Ribbon cuttings
mean business: 55 Jobs

Family Care Center - Lowry

63 North Quebec Street, Suite 201
Denver, CO 80230

Clinic Director Myra Irani, PhD, (with scissors) cuts the ribbon to mark the grand opening of Family Care Center, LLC located in Lowry. Also pictured from left to right are Alicia Rose, Aurora Chamber, Family Care Center COO Chris Ivany, MD, CMO; Charles Weber, VP of Strategy and Growth Benjamin Arkin; Irani, CEO Wayne Cavanaugh, and Beau Martinez, Aurora Chamber. The clinic provides specialized behavioral healthcare, including Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Therapy to treat anxiety, depression, OCD and PTSD. Guests were given walking tours of the new space, a demonstration of the TMS machine – and treated to hors d'oeuvres and beverages. (8/30/2022) <https://www.fccwellbeing.com/> (303) 537-8154



Edward Jones



Edward Jones Investments – A.J. Hayden

25521 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 110
Aurora, CO 80016

A.J. Hayden, financial advisor, cuts the ribbon to mark the grand opening of his Edward Jones Investment office located in SE Aurora. The office space was recently built out and shares a wall with Allstate agency owned by Chamber member Danielle Lammon. As a former successful small business owner, Hayden is passionate about investing and providing experience, knowledge, and guidance to other professionals. (9/15/2022) <http://edwardjones.com/aj-hayden> (720) 769-0970

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Wake and Take Coffee Shop

2337 S. Blackhawk St., Unit 115C
Aurora, CO 80014

Owner Dmytro Sokulskyi, along with Anastasiia Derepa and Ivan Romanenko, cut the ribbon to mark the grand opening of Wake and Take Coffee Shop in Aurora. This Ukrainian owned local business offers live music, homemade pastries, a lounge work zone, and can accommodate private parties. The upstairs space has comfortable couches, tables, and views of the band space, below. Guests mingled with a complimentary glass of wine and enjoyed trying the coffee shop's espressos, lattes, and flavored teas while relaxing to live music by Kafé Ressora. Complimentary 10 percent discount key chains were also given to those attending the event. (9/1/2022) <https://wake-take-coffee-shop.business.site/> (720) 220-0656



Paul Davis Restoration of NE Denver and Aurora

7003 E. 47th Avenue Drive, Unit A-600, Denver, CO 80216

Owners Jim and Hallie Lombard cut the ribbon for Paul Davis Restoration of NE Denver and Aurora. The company offers full service residential and commercial emergency cleanup and restoration, with 24/7 restoration and reconstruction services for damage resulting from fire, smoke, water, flood, mold, wind, storm, or other disasters. They also offer remodeling services for kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, basements, and garages. Guests were treated to dinner, catered by Pomodoro Pizza Pasta, and there were games and a raffle with numerous prizes. (9/28/2022) <http://NE-Denver-Aurora.pauldavis.com> (720) 826-1989

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Cub Hub Play Area at Southlands Shopping Center

6220 S. Main St., Aurora, CO 80016

Assistant General Manager Augustina Edwards cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the new and improved Cub Hub kids' play area – and to celebrate the installation of a new Cub Hub sign. The play area is located across from guest services in the clock tower and provides rolling hills and tunnels for the kids to explore. Special guests included Centennial Council Member Don Sheehan, Aurora Chamber Board Chair Brian Sowl, and Colorado Association of Realtors CEO Tyrone Adams. The play area is open to the public. (9/21/2022) <https://www.shopsouthlands.com/> (303) 627-5000



iCRYO Aurora

15900 E. Briarwood Circle
Aurora, CO 80016

Co-Founders Bill Jones, CEO and Kyle Jones, COO, cut the ribbon to mark the grand opening of iCRYO Aurora, in 24-Hour Fitness. iCRYO offers whole body cryotherapy, red light, and compression therapies, and IV drip, NAD+ therapy, and vitamin shots. Guests at the ribbon cutting got to change into robes, mittens, socks, hats, and experience cryotherapy by standing in the freezer for 3 ½ minutes at negative 175 degrees. They then relaxed on the recliner chairs with compression therapy massaging their legs. Booking services are available online. (10/3/2022) <https://icryo.com/location/aurora-co/> (720) 814-3325

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MemberNews

Pinnacol Assurance Hires Wes Parham to lead Public Affairs



John O'Donnell



Wes Parham

Pinnacol Assurance President and CEO John O'Donnell announced in September the hiring of Wes Parham as the organizations' vice president of Public Affairs. Parham will have responsibility for legislative strategy, lobbying efforts, community relations and external advocacy and will build on the strong and productive business, legislative and community relationships that Pinnacol has established across the state.

Parham is an accomplished and versatile government relations executive with relationships throughout the key regulatory, legislative, labor, business and state government organizations in Colorado.

"Wes brings experience, enthusiasm and a deep sense of purpose that aligns perfectly with Pinnacol's mission of providing caring protection to Colorado," said O'Donnell, who joined Pinnacol in February 2022 as the new president and CEO. "Parham's statewide relationships, passion for workforce development and successful track record of moving legislation are just some of the

attributes that make him a fantastic addition to the Pinnacol team."

Parham is involved in various chamber and business organizations and volunteers his time serving nonprofit organizations promoting entrepreneurship, workforce and community development, youth mentorship, and public education.

STRIDE Appoints Santos Vera as CEO



Santos Vera

In October 2022, STRIDE Community Health Center announced the appointment of Santos Vera as the new CEO.

Santos is a highly experienced and well-regarded business leader with

over 25 years of experience working in FQHCs and academic medical groups. He has achieved success through collaboration, innovation, and operational excellence to assist FQHCs in maximizing services for marginalized and uninsured patients. He is known for creating an organizational culture that thrives on humility, transparency, and authenticity.

Santos' career includes roles as Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Senior

Vice President, and Administrator/Executive Director at organizations dedicated to various healthcare causes, including social justice and public policy. Most recently, Santos was named one of the Top 10 Healthcare Leaders of 2022.

Supporting STRIDE Community Health Center: Fore!

The Aurora Chamber sponsored a team for the 18th Annual STRIDE Golf Classic in September 2022, which raised more than \$71,000 in support of dental care and oral health – an impact that will be felt by patients throughout the STRIDE Community Health Centers. ■



Left to right representing The Chamber at the STRIDE golf tournament: General Manager Joel Boyd and Operations Director Scott Cartwright with The Town Center at Aurora, and Colorado Business Leader John Holzwarth and Client Relations Manager Tim Harris with Horrocks Engineers. Harris also currently serves as the chair of the Chamber's Transportation committee. (Photo by Pixil Studio, Bryan Grant)

MemberContributions

Save Energy and Money this Winter

Xcel Energy encourages customers to take steps to save energy and money this winter, as energy costs are increasing nationwide due to higher wholesale natural gas prices. Although higher wholesale natural gas prices primarily affect customers' natural gas bills, you can also save on your electric bills by conserving energy, since natural gas is used to generate electricity.

Here are some ways to conserve:

- **Let the sunlight in and keep the cold out** - Open blinds to take advantage of the sun's warmth during the day but close them at night to insulate against the cold air outside.
- **Lower your thermostat** - During winter months, set the thermostat between 65-70 degrees while you're home, and 58 degrees when you're away.
- **Make sure exterior doors are fully closed** - A major source of a home's heat loss is from exterior doors that are left cracked open or not latched.
- **Use fans to your advantage** - During colder months, run ceiling fans clockwise, so warm air near the ceiling is forced down.
- **Keep your oven's heat where it belongs** - Use your oven light or timer to avoid opening it often while you cook. Each time the door is open, even for just a few seconds, the temperature drops 25 degrees.
- **Lower your water heater's temperature or insulate it** - The proper temperature for a water heater is 120 degrees Fahrenheit. By lowering it 10 degrees, you can save 3-5% on your water heating costs.
- **Keep filters clean** - Dirty furnace filters reduce airflow, requiring your furnace to work harder and use more energy.



Change the filter once a month during the winter to reduce your heating costs by 5-15%.

- **Don't let the heat escape** - Affordable window sealing kits can be found in most local home improvement stores and can help you save. Have your home evaluated for leaky ducts, drafts around doors and windows, fireplace dampers and other places where air might escape.
- **Improve insulation** - Improving the insulation of walls, crawl spaces, floors and heating ducts is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy costs, saving you up to 10% on your monthly energy bill.

Go to [xcelenergy.com/WaysToSave](https://www.xcelenergy.com/WaysToSave) to find a one-stop shop with ways to save energy and money, have more stable bills, learn about payment assistance, and more. ■



Springboard Child Care, Inc.

802 Quari Court, Aurora, CO 80111

CEO of Springboard Child Care Gloria Higgins and Mayor of Aurora Mike Coffman cut the ribbon to mark the grand opening of Springboard Child Care located in the Salvation Army building in Aurora. Springboard Child Care is a staffed network for independent childcare providers and childcare co-working facility. The childcare marketplace is suffering from a critical shortage of childcare options and Springboard is helping to bridge that gap in the community by providing independent childcare providers with a safe and well-equipped space to operate. A medley of street tacos, chicken kabobs and eggs rolls were served for guests in attendance. (10/12/2022)
<http://springboardchildcare.org>
 (303) 829-0857

Member Renewals

Advantage Aurora Chase Mortuary
 Advocates for Children CASA
 Allstate Insurance / Danielle Shannon
 Arc Thrift Store - Iliff & Buckley
 Aurora Mental Health Center
 Aurora Symphony Orchestra
 Bally's Arapahoe Park
 Centennial Container Inc
 Children's Literacy Center
 Colorado State University Global
 David Evans and Associates, Inc.
 Denver Botanic Gardens
 Denver Springs
 Developmental Pathways
 DJCA/FGR
 Edward Jones - Kendra Thibault
 Fairfield Inn & Suites - Denver Aurora/Medical Center
 First Command Financial Services
 G Squared Design
 Graebel Companies, Inc.
 Heritage Christian Center

Home2 Suites By Hilton - Denver Int'l Airport
 Homewood/Tru by Hilton Denver Airport - Tower Rd.
 Job Store Staffing
 Law Office of Anna L. Burr
 Michael A. Sheldon & Associates, LLP
 Michael Baker Corporation
 Nothing Bundt Cakes - Southlands
 Pachner Company, The
 Padgett Business Services
 Painted Prairie
 Peck, George & Barbara
 Plante Moran
 Quality First Plumbing & Heating
 Raising Canes Chicken Fingers - Parker
 Residence Inn by Marriott, Denver Airport
 Responding to Relationships @ The Center
 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver
 Sable Cove Condominium Association, Inc.
 Schomp Subaru
 Schooley Mitchell of Denver
 Staybridge Suites Denver - Central Park
 Suss, Paul

The District Credit Union
 The Meadows at Dunkirk, by Pedcor Management
 University of Colorado/ Anschutz Medical
 Waste Management
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