

Ribbon Cuttings



Cool cutting — *It was a cool, breezy day outside but warm and friendly inside as **Marriott SpringHill Suites** opened their newest facility at 18350 E. 68th Avenue near Denver International Airport. Cutting the ribbon was the new General Manager Eric Simonich, who was joined by his regional manager, staffers, Ambassadors and friends. The new all-suite hotel features up to 25 percent more room than most hotel rooms, a complimentary breakfast and free high speed internet access for the business traveler. Call 303-371-9400 for reservations. (Photo courtesy of Brian Molitoris, Photographer)*



APD Southlands — *Mayor Ed Tauer is joined by **Southlands** General Manager Jose Inclan and Aurora Police Chief Dan Oates as they cut the ribbon opening a new police substation at **Southlands**. Part of District 3 the station will provide a central location for police activities in Southeast Aurora. **Southlands**/Alberta Development donated the space to APD to solidify a continuing partnership with the department and the City. Also joining in the festivities were Karen Gilkey, **Southlands** Marketing Manager; Ron Miller, Aurora City Manager, Tauer, Inclan, Oates and Lt. Troy Edwards.*

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Station at Parker and I-225 through to the future Smith Road Station at Smith and Peoria. Alternatives showed the impact of routing on the east and west side of I-225 as well as some possible changes near the **Town Center of Aurora** and along Peoria. Details on FasTracks are available at www.rtd-fastracks.com. A map showing potential routing and station locations on the I-225 Corridor is also available for review at **The Chamber**.

Paragon Dynamics changes hands

A prominent aerospace firm headquartered in Aurora, **Paragon Dynamics**, has been sold to KOR Electronics of Cypress, Calif. Founded in 1997, PDI has been a wholly owned subsidiary of Zanett Government Solutions. PDI provides innovative systems, software and mission engineering solutions to a variety of Intelligence Agencies, Department of Defense (DoD), and aerospace

clients. It is involved with operations at Buckley AFB. Doug Hartmann, President and CEO of **Paragon Dynamics**, said, “KOR’s acquisition of PDI will enable PDI to more clearly represent its business model as part of a DOD business strictly focusing on highly classified, mission critical Intel (IC) and Defense work.”

City of Centennial has new home

The **City of Centennial** has announced that they will purchase a new home to serve as headquarters for the growing city. The new City Hall will be located at 13133 East Arapahoe Road in the former **Westerra Credit Union** building. City officials said the purchase would include nearly 15 additional acres giving the City both parkland and room to expand if necessary. The deal is expected to close in mid-April with move-in from the old facility just down the road on East Euclid in September.

Making the circle unbroken – *Jefferson County Commissioner Kevin McCasky shows the Aurora Chamber Board of Directors his vision for completing the E-470 loop around the Denver Metro area as Board Chair Bob Barkè and Chamber President Kevin Hougen look on. Commissioner McCasky came to the Aurora Chamber board seeking support for Jefferson County’s efforts to finish the last leg of the of the beltway—“buckling the belt” as he called it. McCasky was joined at the board meeting by West Chamber President Amy Sherman and West Chamber Board Chair and former Aurora resident Frank Orten. Preston Gibson, President of the Jefferson County Economic Development Council told the Chamber Transportation Committee that completion of the beltway around metropolitan Denver will generate over \$17 billion in economic activity in Jefferson County, nearly doubling the impact without the roadway.*



High atop Aurora — *Workman install a new sign atop the **Westerra** Building at 14305 E. Alameda Avenue, new home of the **Aurora Sentinel**. Aurora’s hometown newspaper will host a ribbon cutting and open house Thursday May 1 at 5p.m. to note their move to a new home Building. They also will announce events contests and special publication 100 Years of News to celebrate their centennial.*



Renewals

\$'s and \$en\$e Bookkeeping
460th Space Wing
Abilene Awards & Logos
All American Windows & Siding
American National Insurance/Jerry Gray
Arapahoe County Treasurer
Associates Insurance Group
Aurora City Manager's Office
Aurora Rotary Club
Basket Boutique
Beck and Cassinis, P.C.
Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.
Carlos Klinger & Sons
Centennial Airport/A.C. Public Airport Auth.
Coca-Cola North America
Colorado Community Bank
Colorado High School Activities Association
Corporate Express
Courtyard by Marriott - Denver Stapleton
Courtyard DIA
Denver Newspaper Agency
Dozens Restaurant
ECO Paint Specialists, Inc.
Expressions In Flooring
Extended StayAmerica Denver - Aurora
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Green Valley Ranch Golf Club
High Country Coatings
Holiday Inn Express
House of Flowers
JCPenney
The Learning Source
Leisure Tech Industries
Lockheed Martin
The Lung Connection, Inc.
M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc.
Merrick & Company
Mile High Racing & Entertainment/Arapahoe Park
Mira Vista Golf Course
National Church Residences/Aspen Place
Outback Steakhouse
Petra Janitorial Service, Inc.
Providers Resource Clearinghouse
Qwest Communications, Inc.
Radisson Denver Stapleton
Regal Facility Management
Robert Half International, Inc.
ServiceMaster Commercial Cleaning
Strait Lumber Company, Inc.
Tackett Consulting, Inc.
Total Business Communications, Inc.
Town Center at Aurora
TREA - The Retired Enlisted Association
Wal-Mart Stores #1689
Waste Advantage Inc.
Xcel Energy
Aurora Y.M.C.A.

NEW MEMBERS

A Helping Hand
Angelico Concrete Services
Arlene Holt Counseling
Marsha Berzins
Car City Superstore
Creative Technology Integration, LLC
Denver Dog Works
Edward Jones - Cooper
Elements Designer Jewelry, LLC
Finish Line Car Wash
Full House Construction & Design
Homewood Suites DTC
Ironstone Bank
Loading Dock Restaurant
Precision Glassblowing of Colorado
Summit Interiors
Sysco Denver Food Service
White Glove Car Wash
WooHoo Promotions Company

METRO COMMUNITIES



Upcoming Events

Ambassadors

April 10 | 5:30 p.m.
Chamber

Annual Awards Banquet

April 11 | 6 p.m.
Radisson Hotel SE (Parker & I-225)

Business before Hours

April 17 | 7:30 a.m.
St. Andrew’s Village (Yale & Potomac)

Business after Hours

April 24 | 4:30 p.m.
Radisson Denver Stapleton (Quebec & I-70)

Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

May 16 | 11 a.m.
Radisson Hotel SE (I-225 & Parker)

Newsletter Online

Don’t forget that the monthly **IMPACT** is on our Web site before you get it in the mail! The newsletter is sent via bulk mail at the end of every month, and can take up to 14 days to get into your hands.

The monthly package you receive in the mail is chock full of offers and information from your fellow Chamber members, as well as registration forms and meeting notices from The Chamber. Be sure to open it and look through the flyers as well as the newsletter!

aurora | centennial | commerce city | denver



Awards Banquet to honor best in area

The selection committee has met and after reviewing more than 40 nominations has chosen the best business and community leaders the Aurora and the Eastern Metro area has to offer.

The selections for Business of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Chamber Leadership, Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Humanitarian of the Year, Community Leadership, Business for the Arts and Small Businessperson of the Year will be formally announced at the **Annual Awards Banquet** on April 11.

The social event of the season will be held at the **Radisson Hotel SE** and will feature one of the best silent auctions of the year (more than 100 items to bid on), a superb dinner including carefully selected wine and great fun as this years winners will see their life flash before their eyes on the big screen prior to the award. “This is like an Oscar night,” said Kevin Hougen, President and CEO of The Chamber and himself a past award winner (1993 Community Leadership). “You get to



For 1200 of my closest friends – *Kate Tauer leads her committee as they assemble and address invitations to the 53rd Annual Chamber Awards Banquet set for April 11 at the Radisson Hotel SE. Tauer is joined by a hard working group that included (l-r) Tami Morrissey, Awards Banquet co-chair; Alice Lee Main (hidden); Tauer, Kathy Ward and Betty Gibson. More than 20 volunteers assist The Chamber staff in putting on the annual gala and fundraiser that has become a much anticipated event each year. Theme this year will be Phantom of the Opera.*

see who really has had an impact here during the last year. And the list of past winners, which stretches back to 1955, reads like a **‘Who’s Who’** in Aurora.”

The evening will also feature installation of the new Chamber Board Chair and introduction of new Board Directors all wrapped up in a “Phantom of the Opera” theme.

Activities begin at 6 p.m. at the

“black tie encouraged” event. Advance reservations, which can be made by calling 303-344-1500 or by going online at www.aurorachamber.org, are required. A limited number of tables are still available by calling Naomi Colwell at The Chamber.

“If you only do one big event during the year, this is the one you won’t want to miss,” Hougen said.

How Flexible is Your Business? Find Out.

By Kevin Hougen

One of the most crucial issues facing employers today is how to get, keep and engage the best people. With increasing competition and pressures to keep costs down, this is more challenging than ever. Employers face a host of workforce issues including generational differences. Today your employees may include younger parents who may want time to spend with their families as well as older workers who want to work fewer hours as they approach retirement. All want to work in a more effective workplace.

From a community perspective, we see this challenge as a call to action to help our employers meet these challenges. In order for our community to succeed, local employers must thrive. That is why we at the Aurora Chamber are delighted that our community of businesses has been selected as one of only 30 nationwide to participate in

When Work Works. This national initiative puts our community and our businesses in the national spotlight as leaders in creating better places to live



and work. Participating in the initiative gives us access to rigorous research, promising practices, learning opportunities on workplace effectiveness and flexibility. It can provide our employers bold new ideas, and opportunities to benchmark against what other employers are doing across the country.

The **When Work Works** project is uncovering companies across the country that have discovered the many

business benefits of creating flexible and effective workplaces – from improved recruitment and retention, through increased customer satisfaction, to lower costs. Communities like ours are realizing they can benefit too – whether by reducing traffic congestion and going green; attracting and retaining top talent to the region; or gaining from volunteers who get time off from work to help out in the community.

Please take about 15 minutes of your time to take advantage of this incredible opportunity You can become a participant quite simply by applying on line at www.whenworkworks.org. If you have questions, please call me or Stephanie McDonnell at 303-344-1500. We hope you will join us as we make workplaces in the Eastern Metro area more effective and capable of facing the challenges of an increasingly competitive market.



Kevin Hougen
President & CEO

Aurora lights up the sky with ACM

April is not just a time of year that we see spring flowers emerging. Depending on where you are, you might be fortunate enough to see a spectacular light display in the evening known as the aurora borealis or northern lights. The northern states are the best places in the United States to see the heavens put on this light show. The colorful displays are named for Aurora, the Roman goddess of dawn, and the Greek name for north wind, Boreas. These colorful lights are created by streams of high-energy particles, called the solar wind, that are trapped in Earth's magnetic field and flow toward the poles. These particles collide with oxygen and nitrogen in Earth's atmosphere to light up the sky.

At The Chamber, we have high-energy participants, called Aurora Chamber Members (ACM). These Members have a magnetic field they operate in called the entrepreneurial spirit. When entrepreneurial activity is high, as it is this month, the ACM expand from one part of our community toward other bright spots. When these participants collide with each other in the Eastern

President's Letter

Metro area, they light up the sky with business opportunities and the fresh breeze of success can be felt everywhere.

Aurora Chamber means business

As we are fond of telling everyone, just east of Denver, in the heart of historic Colorado, lies a **THRIVING** center of business and industry which has become a major boom region. From **INNOVATIVE** start-ups to Fortune 500 corporations, companies reap the benefits of the eastern areas **DYNAMIC** pro-growth attitude toward business. What's more, the people live and work in **VIBRANT** local towns with strong schools, abundant recreational options, and a shared sense of **COMMUNITY** values and the lifestyles you would expect from these lovely Colorado settings. In short, Aurora is a thriving, innovative, dynamic, vibrant community.

Our "Aurora Chamber Means Business" campaign is a collaborative effort led by the The Chamber to assist and encourage you to explore how new companies can successfully locate and expand here. The overwhelming spirit of cooperation – among leaders in business and industry, local, county and state governments, and community and civic groups will convince those in search of business success that we really are serious when we say the Aurora Chamber means business.

Education opportunities abound

We invite all to share in our good fortune. The eastern metro area businesses work hand-in-hand with proactive city and county governments to foster planned economic growth. Great thinkers and educators have left their imprint on the eastern metro area since its settlements over one hundred years ago. The area benefits from its proximity to Denver as it draws on the brainpower emanating from the likes of the **University of Colorado Medical School, Regis University, Cambridge College, Community College of Aurora, Colorado Christian University, Columbia College, University of Phoenix, Concorde Career College, Everest College, Metro State College**, and **National American University** all part of The Chamber family. We are a University community with the highest concentration of education institutions anywhere in Colorado. The result? A guarantee that your company can tap into a skilled, educated workforce— now and into the future. The skies—and the opportunities— are the brightest in the eastern metro area.

Celebration

And please don't forget to make your reservation for this year's Annual Awards Banquet on April 11. Our members tell us this is their favorite event of the year. Call us and get your reservation now!

Board of Directors

Chair of the Board
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Chair Elect
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

Secretary
Diane Garcia | 2G Associates

Treasurer
David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

Immediate Past Chair
Dr. Linda Bowman | Community College of Aurora

Past Chair Once Removed
Dale Mingilton | Elemental Photography

Vice Chair-Business Development
Margo Jamison | Kaiser Permanente

Vice Chair-Community Services
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

Vice Chair-Public Affairs
Jim Suss | Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC

Vice Chair-Member Services
Dr. Kathy Boyle | University of Colorado Denver
Health Sciences Center

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Bill Becker | *Adams County Economic Development*
Judy Booth | *Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union*
Dr. Linda Bowman | *Community College of Aurora*
Dr. Kathy Boyle | *University of Colorado Hospital*
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*
Diane Garcia | *2G Associates, LLC*
Elyse Gellerman | *The Medical Center of Aurora*
Mark Gouin | *Wells Fargo Banks*
Margo Jamieson | *Kaiser Permanente*
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*
Kelly Leid | *Oakwood Homes*
Dale Mingilton | *Elemental Photography*
Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*
Mark Moses | *Outback Restaurants*
Alfonso Nunez | *La Cueva Restaurant*
David Patterson | *Rural/Metro Ambulance*
Alan Peppers | *Westerra Credit Union*
The Honorable Randy Pye | *Mayor, City of Centennial*
Katie Roche | *Raytheon*
Dan Sandos | *401(K) Advisors*
Jo Snell | *E-470 Public Hwy. Authority*
John Stanton | *Prudential Colorado Real Estate*
Maran Stewart | *The Children's Hospital*
Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC*
The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*
Craig Ward | *Padgett Business Services*
Frank Weddig | *Commissioner, Arapahoe County*

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562 Sable Blvd., Suite 200
Aurora, CO 80011-0809
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564
website: www.aurorachamber.org

K-8 pilot school — requesting permission for take-off

Lend Lease Communities has submitted a proposal to **Aurora Public Schools** for a new K-8 pilot school at Horizon Uptown. A pilot school is one which is given more control of things like curriculum, staffing and budget in exchange for better performance as measured by test scores and other criteria. The Aurora school district has approved four new pilot schools. The K-8 school at Horizon would be placed on the 45-acre central park, within easy walking distance of most homes here.

CCA Foundation elects officers

The **Community College of Aurora's Foundation** (CCAF) elected its new officers at the board's annual meeting. Selected as President was Diane Garcia of **2G Associates**. Aurora City Councilman Brad Piece will serve as Vice President, with David Patterson of **Rural Metro Ambulance** and Dan Sandos with **401(k) Advisors** rounding out the slate of officers. Garcia, Patterson and Sandos also serve on **The Chamber** Board of Directors.

Major aerospace companies support AFRL

Several major aerospace contractors with operations at **Buckley AFB** have stepped up to help make the annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on May 16 a success.

Leading the way is **Northrop Grumman** which will serve as the Title Sponsor for the elaborate event which is expected to attract more than 500 guests from both the civilian and military communities.

Other major sponsors include **Lockheed Martin, Boeing** and **Raytheon**, all who have a major presence on Buckley. "We still have plenty of room for other sponsors—the more we have the more junior enlisted we can invite to take part," said Kevin Hougen, Chamber president. "We've been honoring the military in our community for more that 30 years and it just gets better all the time."

Serving as Master of Ceremonies for the event at the **Holiday Inn Crown Plaza** at Chambers and I-70 will be popular radio personality Rick Crandall. He will help single out 11 exceptional young military people from all branches of the service and one outstanding

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civilian for special recognition.

To reserve a table or as seat at the AFRL check the Chamber website, www.aurorachamber.org, or call George Peck at 303-344-1500.

Leadership Golf Tourney opportunities still available

The annual **Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament** still has opportunities for those who would like to place items in the tournament's ditty bag says Kimberly Curtis, event coordinator.

"We are looking for golf balls, tees, pens, and other advertising specialty-type items," Curtis said. "We can also use larger items such as gift certificates, gift baskets, restaurant dinners, golf shirts, golf bags or clubs, or any non-related golf items for door prizes." The popular tournament is scheduled for June 19 at the **Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club** and is sponsored by



Rural Metro Ambulance. "We sell out early on this event so I strongly recommend you get registered early," Curtis said. Registration can be made on The Chamber web site www.aurorachamber.org, or by calling **The Chamber** at 303-344-1500

ArapCo DA warns of tax scammers

Scam artists would like you to think they can help with your tax rebates says Arapahoe County District Attorney Carol Chambers. She warns that the scammers would have you believe you have to go through them to get your rebates authorized by the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. In a Consumer Alert, Chambers said there are only two steps you need to take to receive your rebate:

- Step 1 – File your 2007 federal tax return.
 - Step 2 – Wait for you check to arrive in the mail.
- "There is no step three," Chambers emphasized. "Your rebate will be determined by the information you provide on your 2007 tax return.



Winners all!! – Nominees and organizers of the annual Women in Business Unsung Heroes Breakfast gather around Colorado First Lady Jeannie Ritter (standing in the front row center). Seated are Women in Business Committee co-chair Barbara Brown, Chamber WIB liaison Naomi Colwell and WIB Chair and host of the event, Janine Little. (Photo courtesy Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography)

Unsung Heroes Breakfast huge success

Nearly 300 people filled the ballroom at the **Doubletree Hotel SE** to honor this year's nominees for the Chamber Women in Business Unsung Heroes Awards sponsored by the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance**. Aimed at recognizing those women who work quietly behind the scene to make their organization or their community better the event was characterized by Women in Business Chair Janine Little as a huge success.

Taking away top honors for their exceptional contributions were Venus Martinez with **Northrop Grumman** who was named as the

Community Unsung Hero; and Marlene Husson with **Aurora Mental Health** who took top honors as the Corporate Unsung Hero.

Making the experience even more memorable was the inspirational keynote speaker, First Lady of Colorado Jeannie Ritter. She encouraged women to become mentors for those who are to follow in their footsteps, and to remember to appreciate the small things in life and enjoy them. Additional sponsors **Aurora Public Schools, Pinnacol Assurance**, and **Wells Fargo Banks** also were on hand to acknowledge these special ladies.

Nothing else is required. If you are contacted by anyone claiming that you have to provide any information other than what was on your return or that you have to pay a fee or that you have to do anything except file your return – it is a scam!"

For more information on the Economic Stimulus (tax rebate) payment, go to the IRS website, www.irs.gov, or call the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Line.

RTD proposes alternative FasTracks routes

RTD officials working the I-225 corridor for **FasTracks** spent extra time in front of both the Chamber Transportation Committee and Aurora citizens this month to show them possible alternatives for the routing light rail through Aurora. Larry Warner and his **FasTracks** team showed three possible routes and a number of station locations at meetings in March. The I-225 corridor runs between Nine Mile

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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.

The **IMPACT** is published monthly 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.