



# IMPACT

JANUARY  
2010

## Upcoming Events

### January

#### Safety Committee

January 8 | 8:30 a.m.  
Pinnacle Office

#### Legislators Breakfast

January 11 | 7:15 a.m.  
Community College of Aurora

#### Lunch and Learn ALMC Mortgage Seminar

January 12 | 11:30 a.m.  
Chamber offices

#### Business Before Hours

January 13 | 7:30 a.m.  
Harvard Square Retirement Community

#### State of the Base

January 13 | 12noon  
Doubletree Hotel SE

#### Lunch and Learn EFT Training

January 15 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Chamber offices

#### How to do Business with Arapahoe County

January 20 | 11 a.m.  
Chamber offices

#### Member Orientation

January 20 | 4 p.m.  
Chamber offices

#### Lunch and Learn EFT Training

January 22 | 11 a.m.  
Chamber offices

#### Business After Hours

January 28 | 5 p.m.  
The Timbers Hotel

## Newsletter Online

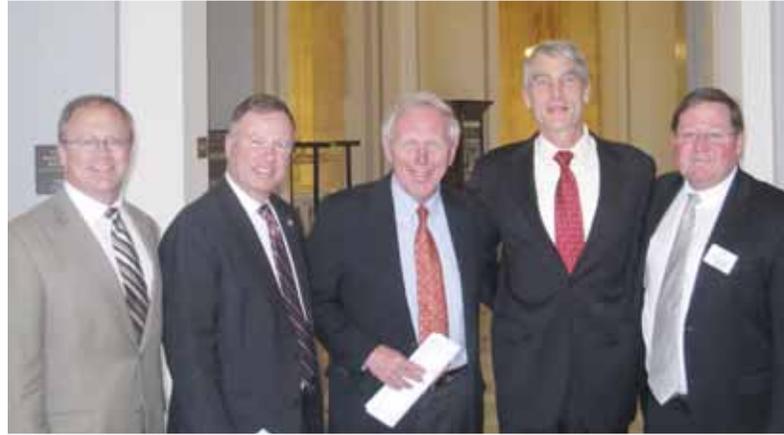
Don't forget that the monthly *IMPACT* is on our Web site before you get it in the mail! The newsletter is sent via bulk mail at the end of every month, and can take up to 14 days to get into your hands.

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!



Coming Soon!

[www.meetup.com/The-Aurora-Chamber-of-Commerce/](http://www.meetup.com/The-Aurora-Chamber-of-Commerce/)



**Washington Lineup** – Taking a break from formal meetings in Washington, Aurora Chamber President Kevin Hougen poses for a photo with Congressman Doug Lamborn, Colorado Springs; Colorado Senator Mark Udall; Joe Blake, Chancellor of Colorado State University (and former Denver Chamber President); and Dave McDermott, Chair of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. Hougen was in Washington as part of a group that was discussing vital Colorado issues, especially those related to defense and economic development, with key congressional and military leaders.

## The Year in Review 2009

Despite some bumps in the road, the year 2009 was still a good year—because our members continued to value the work we do. The Chamber continued to be a major force in the business and professional community of the Eastern Metro area. We gave our members access to opportunity and information through our many events and activities. We were advocates for the business community, taking strong and effective stands on issues that could threaten their ability to be successful in the marketplace. And we exerted the influence an organization that represents 90,000 hard working citizens could be expected to wield, pushing back on those who would over-regulate, or attempt to control the free flow of ideas, capital and business.

Let's take a look back at the many things your Chamber was involved in during 2009:

The year started out with us still being located at the Sable office, with *Jo Snell* from the **E-470 Public Highway Authority** firmly at the helm, encouraging her Board and members to hang in there, and promising The Chamber would continue to be their greatest advocate in year ahead.

Several new State Legislators including *Rep. Karen Middleton*, *Rep. Cindy Acree* and *Rep. Su Ryden* joined us at the **Community College of Aurora** for the first Legislator's Breakfast despite a heavy snow storm. And during that same month,

**Arapahoe/Douglas Works!**, headed by Chamber Board member *Joe Barela* won a national award for Workforce Development. Speaking of Board members, we also said farewell to *Kathy Boyle* from **University of Colorado Hospital**, *Diane Garcia* of **2G Associates**, *Kelly Leid* with **Oakwood Homes**, *Katie Roche* with **Raytheon**,

*John Stanton* of **Prudential Colorado Realty**, *Maren Stewart* from **The Children's Hospital** and *Kathy Yeager* with **The Medical Center of Aurora**. We also learned that former board chair *Dale Mingilton* took over the **Better Business Bureau of Denver -Boulder** and former board chair *Rick Poppe*

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## Chamber to start year with two great programs

Aurora Chamber members will be able to tap into both the military and the State Legislature early in the New Year with two upcoming special events.

For earlier risers and those who want to know what our state legislators from the Eastern Metro area have on their agenda for the session ahead, the Government Affairs Committee, in association with the **Community College of Aurora**, is hosting a **Legislator's Breakfast** on Monday, Jan. 11 at 7 a.m. in the Rotunda Room of the CCA Centretech Campus. Invited to the morning meeting are State Senators Mary Hodge, Nancy Spence, Morgan Carroll and Suzanne Williams. Also invited to share their views with The Chamber are State Representatives Kevin Priola, Su Ryden, David Balmer, Cindy Acree,

Nancy Todd and Karen Middleton. Please RSVP no later than 3 p.m. on Jan 8 to Janice at 303-344-1500.

For those interested in what is going on at Buckley Air Force Base, one of the area's major economic engines, the Annual **State of the Base Luncheon** will be held Dec. 13 at the **Doubletree Hotel SE**. Hosted jointly by the Aurora Chamber Defense Council and the **Aurora Rotary Club**, the luncheon will feature 460th Wing Commander Clint Crosier. He is expected to share the mission as well as economic information on the growing military installation. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the luncheon begins at noon. Cost of the lunch is \$25, and sponsored tables are also available. Please RSVP by Jan. 12 to Janice at 303-344-1500. Registration is required.



**Craig Ward**  
Chair

Dear Fellow Chamber Members,

As the Chamber Board, Staff and membership begin planning for 2010, many of you might ask what the Chamber's plan of action looks like for the next 12-18 months. I can honestly tell you that we are facing major policy challenges in areas such as health care, energy, secret ballots, government budget shortfalls, and the environment.

But no challenge is greater – or more important to our nation – than reviving the economy, restoring the 7 million jobs lost to the current recession, and creating the 13 million new jobs that will be needed over the next decade. The Aurora Chamber's plan will center on the **Dream Big** campaign of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. At this important point in our nation's history, it is essential that we embrace free enterprise to strengthen our economy for the long run.

Across Colorado, individuals are struggling to maintain and build their businesses, not only for themselves and their employees, but for the thousands of Coloradans who can't find jobs today – and the thousands who will need jobs tomorrow.

We can't do this alone! We need to create a political imperative, demanding that when any elected official makes a decision or casts a vote, that he or she stops to weigh its impact on the economic system that built our country and sustains the American Dream.

# Chair's Letter

## Let me sum it up:

**First – Jobs:** Working as partners with our work force centers, Arapahoe/Douglas and Adams County, we are involved in two new committees; the **Healthcare Committee**, which is working on entry level positions in the healthcare arena, and the **Energy Committee**, focusing on new environmental job opportunities.

**Second – Jobs:** Working with our military and department of defense partners, the Chamber Defense Council has been developing and supporting efforts to become home to new opportunities in the Cyber War efforts and the intelligence community. Our efforts to become a “**Center of Excellence**” in education for these new jobs are yielding returns. Many of you have worked your hearts out on this project.

**Third – Choice:** The Chamber is committed to fostering **business to business** buying among its members. Remember to always use your Chamber

Membership Directory or go to the Website ([www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)) to find the products or services you need. Shopping at a fellow Chamber member's business ensures that our neighbors are employed. In addition, our efforts to communicate more effectively with members will continue to be enhanced through the newly-formed communications committee.

**Fourth – Innovation:** Free enterprise encourages **small business start-ups**. Almost anyone in Colorado can start a business if he or she really wants to. The barriers are low, the opportunities are endless, and if you fail – and many do – you can get up and try again.

**Fifth – The American Dream:** The American Dream would not exist without free enterprise. It is free enterprise that breathes life into the promise of Colorado, which is that a better life is always within our grasp and our best days are yet to come.

## Dream Big.



*The Business Advisory Board Awards Banquet honors businesses in Aurora that have made a significant contribution to the community. It is sponsored by the Aurora City Manager's Office and winners are selected by the Business Advisory Board, chaired by Chamber Vice President Paul Rosenberg. Left to right (back row): David Romero, Pathways Productions; Charles Gilkey, GEO Group; Grant Barrett, Abilene Awards & Logos; Molly Barrett; Ron Miller, Aurora City Manager; Molly Markert, Aurora City Council; Jim Lyall, Len Lyall Chevrolet; and Renee Peterson, Bob Broom, Brad Pierce and Sue Sandstrom of Aurora City Council.*

## The Chamber's Mission

The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to serve as a voice for the business community, acting as an advocate for its members on issues that affect their growth and long-term economic vitality.

**DON'T FORGET: “Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber”**

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

## Board of Directors

**Chair of the Board**  
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services  
**Chair Elect**  
Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouses  
**Secretary**  
Judy Booth | Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union

**Treasurer**  
David Maxwell | 1st Bank of Aurora

**Immediate Past Chair**  
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

**Past Chair Once Removed**  
Bob Barke | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

**Vice Chair-Business Development**  
Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sentinel

**Vice Chair-Community Services**  
Dave Gruber | Nortel Government Solutions

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

**Vice Chair-Member Services**  
Tammy Fernandez | University of Phoenix

## Directors

Rich Allison | *Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company*  
Bob Barke | *BAR-K Insurance Solutions*  
Joe Barela | *Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center*  
Bill Becker | *Adams County Economic Development*  
Judy Booth | *Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union*  
Harrison Cochran | *Aurora Sentinel*  
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*  
Tammy Fernandez | *University of Phoenix*  
Carol Gregory | *The Medical Center of Aurora*  
David Gruber | *Nortel Government Solutions*  
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*  
Erin Lilly | *Kaiser Permanente*  
Dave Maxwell | *1st Bank of Aurora*  
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*  
Suzanne Pittus, | *Wells Fargo Bank*  
The Honorable Randy Pye | *Mayor, City of Centennial*  
Dan Sandos | *401(K) Advisors*  
Ken Smith | *Qwest*  
Jo Snell | *E-470 Public Hwy. Authority*  
Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC*  
The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*  
Jeff Thompson | *University of Colorado Hospital*  
Craig Ward | *Padgett Business Services*  
Frank Weddig | *Commissioner, Arapahoe County*  
Michael Wukitsch | *The Children's Hospital*

## Executive Staff

**President & CEO**  
Kevin Hougen  
**Marketing & Visitors' Advisory Board**  
Naomi Colwell  
**Leadership Director**  
Kimberly Curtis  
**Secretary**  
Janice Cooper  
**Administration Director**  
Stephanie McDonnell  
**Vice President**  
George Peck  
**VP, Membership Development**  
Paul Rosenberg  
**Membership Services**  
Mary Beth Sharp  
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retired after several decades with **Wietz Construction**.

Joining the Board for 2009-2010 are **Tammy Fernandez** with the **University of Phoenix**, **Carol Gregory** with **The Medical Center of Aurora**, **Dave Gruber** with **Nortel Government Solutions**, **Erin Lilly** with **Kaiser Permanente** and **Jeff Thompson** with the **University of Colorado Hospital**.

Over at **Cherry Creek Schools**, **Mary Chesley** joined **John Barry** at **Aurora Public Schools** as two of the most progressive superintendents in the State much to the delight of the business community, who understand the importance of a top-notch education to their future. In the state capitol, the **City of Aurora** joined with The Chamber for Aurora Day at the Capitol

Then in March, the Chamber staff packed all their stuff - with the help of **Graebel Van Lines**, **QSE Technology** and **Qwest**—and made a flawless move to the new location on the third floor at 14305 E.

Alameda, just above the **Aurora Sentinel**. Even in the middle of the trek, Chamber programs never slowed down and not a single meeting was missed. In fact the **Unsung Heroes Luncheon** organized by the Women in Business Committee and sponsored by the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance** was a huge success. Winners were **Denise Brockman** of **Fish City Grill** and **Diane Burrige** with the **Gateway Rotary Club**. All the while, Chamber President Kevin Hougen with the help of the Government Affairs and Education Committee hammered away at the so called "Employee Free Choice Act" that undermines employee/employer relations and economic growth and recovery. It was a battle they would later win.

The biggest event of the year was the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber Awards Banquet. Winners included: Business for the Arts : **Shadow Theatre**, accepted by founder **Jeffrey Nickelson**; Humanitarian: **Bob Waples**, Rural Metro Ambulance Co.; Community Leadership: **Tom Toblissen**, RTD Board of Directors; Chamber Leadership: **Suzanne Pitrusu**, **Wells Fargo Bank**; Small Business Person: **Frank Loner**, **Chick-fil-A, Aurora**; Business Person of the Year: **Aagje Barber**, **Cherry Creek School Board** and **John Barry**, **Aurora Public Schools** Superintendent; Business of the Year: **Southlands**; Man of the Year: **Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer**, and Woman of the Year: **Cindy Kreutz**, **Spalding Rehabilitation Center**.

At the event, **Craig Ward** with **Padgett Business Services** accepted the Board Chair gavel from **Jo Snell**, promising to keep The Chamber strong and healthy.

The Chamber jumped on the Social Media bandwagon with the help of Chamber Ambassador **Scott Mueller** of **Mueller Time Designs** who ran a series of seminars on how to use Facebook. He even set up an Aurora Chamber page.

The contributions of The Chamber to the veteran's community were noted when the **United Veteran's Committee** presented their Meritorious Service Award to Chamber President **Kevin Hougen** and Chamber Vice President **George Peck**. At the event, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and **Congressman Ed Perlmutter** announced that \$119 million had been approved by Congress to help build a new VA Hospital in Aurora. A few short months later, Shinseki returned to turn the first shovel of dirt at the hospital ground breaking. During the same time period, **Pinnacol Assurance** lauded The Chamber for their highly-successful safety program and presented a dividend check in the amount of \$151,824 to those who had participated in the program.

The largest military event in the Aurora-Denver area took place in May when more than 600 people

packed the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** to honor eleven young military troops from all branches of the service serving in the metro area. Sponsored by **Northrop Grumman**, the uplifting program featured **Colorado Freedom Memorial** founder **Rick Crandall**, and Air Force Space Command Deputy Commander **Thomas Deppa**. In addition to military honorees, **Sheila Anthony** from the **City of Aurora** was singled out for the prestigious Bob Cardenas Award.

As we moved into the summer, **L'Oreal of Paris** employees in Aurora threw a big birthday bash to celebrate their company's 150th year and the **Allstate Insurance** Team captured top honors in the area's most popular golf tourney, the Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament. Out at **Buckley AFB**, the **460th Space Wing** welcomed a new commander, **Col. Clint Crosier**, and said farewell to **Col. Wayne McGee**. Also, the Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado got a new boss, **Col. Steve Denker**, who replaced **Col. Dave Thompson**. Chamber staffer **Marci Maxwell** moved up, taking the reins of the Parker Chamber.

The Business for the Arts Committee was active in organizing the Banks in Harmony Concert series bringing aboard two new sponsors, **US Bank** and the **Better Business Bureau** in addition to regulars **Wells**

**Fargo, 1st Bank and Citywide**. And the Chamber Board Retreat was held at the beautiful **May Farms** in rural **Arapahoe County**.

The fall season meant the **Fox Arts Center** Gala sponsored by the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance**, the Chamber Showcase at the **Red Lion Hotel SE** and the **City of Aurora's** Veteran's Salute sponsored by **Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital**. The Chamber also co-sponsored the popular Taste of Aurora with the **Aurora Sentinel** and the Sloan Awards Luncheon, at which **The Medical Center of Aurora, University of Phoenix, Merrick & Company, Aurora Mental Health** and **Adams County Workforce Development** were given national honors for their excellent workforce flexibility programs. And, of course, there were elections and The Chamber partnered with Aurora's KACT-TV8 and the Business and Professional Women for the annual Candidate's Forum and were on-hand to welcome new **Aurora** Council members **Marcia Berzins, Melissa Miller** and **Barbara Cleland** as well as new **Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon** to the community.

Despite a challenging economy, The Chamber continued their active support, involvement and leadership in the Eastern Metro area throughout the year.



# Ribbon Cuttings

**Handling the big cut** – (left to right) Kevin Lewis, president; Marcelo Birckenstaedt, general manager, and Slawek and his brother Adam Pietraszek, owners and developers of the upscale hotel chain, cut the ribbon at the new **Cambria Suites**, located at 16001 E. 40th Circle. **Cambria Suites** is convenient to Denver International Airport, with rooms that are 25 percent larger than most hotel rooms. The hotel offers free airport transportation, free LAN and wireless Internet, and a 24-hour fitness center, along with many other amenities.



**Open again** – Gaylene Blake, manager of the **Wal-Mart** at 5650 S. Chambers Rd in Aurora, speaks to a group during their grand reopening of the store. The beautiful facility was reopened following a major renovation. Aurora City Councilman and Mayor Pro-tem Bob Broom was joined by a large crowd to mark the occasion.



**Triple play** – Executives and friends of the new **Element Hotel by Westin** are joined by the Aurora Chamber, the South Metro Chamber and the Greenwood Village Chamber to celebrate the opening of their new location in Lone Tree at 9985 Park Meadows Drive. **Element Hotels by Westin** are a new kind of hotel, ensuring that you have everything you need to be at your best – whether your stay is a quick weekend getaway or a weeks-long trip. A full kitchen in guest rooms, healthy food choices and a gym are just a few of the features that help to keep guests in balance.



**A full stairway** – Teri Karjala cuts the ribbon at the new location of **Creative Counseling Center**, at 6021 S. Syracuse Way in Greenwood Village. **Creative Counseling Center** provides psychotherapy services in order to improve the quality of life for children, adolescents, adults, families, and couples, through exceptional mental health counseling. Their mission is to inspire and empower clients to create a life of hope, harmony, and happiness. Teri also serves as an Ambassador for The Chamber. (Photo courtesy of Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



**CU Reunion** – A large crowd of friends, members and supporters gather with **Fitzsimons Credit Union** (a partnering Credit Union) CEO Sandy Neves (center), to cut the ribbon formally opening their beautiful new facility. There was plenty of help on-hand to manage the big scissors, including (left to right, center) Chairman of the **Fitzsimons Credit Union** Board Thomas Smith, Congressman Ed Perlmutter, **Fitzsimons Credit Union** CEO Neves, and Congressman Mike Coffman. The mission of the **Fitzsimons Credit Union** is to know its partners as individuals and to focus on their life-long financial needs: advise and advocate while always exceeding their expectations. The beautiful, new building can be found at 2201 N. Fitzsimons Parkway. (Photo courtesy of Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



**No travel cuts here** – Ken Preuss, co-owner of **eTravel Unlimited** cuts the ribbon to mark a celebration at their new location at 7208 S. Tucson Way, Suite 255 in Centennial. **eTravel Unlimited**, which Ken runs with his wife Sandie (not pictured), specializes in old-fashioned personal service. They will help you find the dream vacation you want and deserve – and will give you the “white-glove” treatment – while handling all the details. Ken and Sandie also find time to serve as Ambassadors for The Chamber.



**Oh, the weather outside...** – Samuel B. Oguns, CEO of **Solutions Security Services**, friends and supporters, brave frigid temperatures to cut the ribbon for his business at 1400 Joliet Street in Aurora. **Solutions Security Services** provides security guard and patrol services for industrial, office, commercial, residential, real estate, construction sites, schools, churches, healthcare, and special events. (Photo courtesy of Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

# Member News

## Sierra Nevada plans to add jobs in 2010

New Chamber member **Sierra Nevada Corp.** announced recently that it plans to create an additional 200 jobs, expand operations at its Centennial location and increase its capital investment in Colorado.

The Nevada-based company is a privately held, woman-owned firm specializing in the engineering and development of high-tech electronics, communications systems and space technology. The company also has operations in Englewood, Littleton and Louisville.

## ACED hosts annual investor forum

On November 19, 2009, **Adams County Economic Development** hosted their annual Investors Forum at the **Doubletree Hotel Denver North**. The topic was the New Energy Economy, and how Adams county and the region compare and compete with other states.

Attendees learned about the new Colorado Clean Tech Industry Association and the CleanLaunch Technology Incubator, along with funding and regulatory issues within the industry.

## A&P project wins award

**Adolfson & Peterson Construction's** River Point at Sheridan project was recently recognized as the Environmental category winner at McGraw-Hill Construction's second annual Best of the Best Awards, a national competition that recognizes design and construction excellence based on the winners of MHC's 10 regional publications' Best of 2009 Awards.

The project also received Excellence in Construction Award at the 8th Annual Associated Builders and Contractors Rocky Mountain Chapter's Excellence in

Construction, and two awards at this year's Gold Hard Hat Awards. The Gold Hard Hat Awards is a special event that celebrates and honors the building teams that created the best projects of 2009 in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

## 3rd Best Place to Work: A&P

**Adolfson & Peterson Construction (A&P)**, one of the nation's top general contractors, has been selected as the third best place to work in the large-size company category of *The Denver Business Journal's* 2009 Best Places to Work contest. This is the third year the company has been in the top ten at these awards.

"We are excited to be the third best place to work in the Denver metro area and our employees made it happen" said Al Grasso, director of market strategies. "A&P recognizes and rewards its teammates for their innovation and for working smarter and working harder," Grasso said. "And our employees are willing to jump in to help others, even if it the job isn't part of their job description." Safety is another emphasis at the company, which has just reported passing 3.5 million consecutive hours worked without a single lost-time injury.

## National budget award goes to Arapahoe County Finance

The **Arapahoe County** Finance department has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2009 budget. The award comes from the The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

The award reflects an ongoing commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental

budgeting. The County met nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation, which are designed to assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device.

2009 marks the 22nd year the County Finance Department has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

## Centennial ranks safest city in Colorado for 5th year

For the fifth consecutive year, CQ Press's City Crime Rankings has ranked the **City of Centennial** as the safest of 393 cities in Colorado with a population of more than 75,000.

"I am proud that Centennial has once again made the list as the safest city in Colorado. It is an impressive honor and one that would not be possible without the **Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office** as our law enforcement agency," said Mayor Randy Pye. "There is no better measure of the quality of life for our citizens than this."

The crime rate rankings of the cities and metropolitan areas are calculated using six crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. These categories have been used for determining city crime rate ratings since 1999.

## Aurora Rotary hosts awards luncheon

At the First Responders annual Award Luncheon, hosted by the **Rotary Club of Aurora**, 16 members of the Aurora Fire Department, Aurora Police Department, Public Safety Communications, and **Rural/Metro Ambulance** received awards for their professionalism and commitment to serving the local community as emergency responders. The event was sponsored by **Rural/Metro Ambulance**.

Honored were Emergency Medical Services Bureau Manager Kevin Waters, Captain Kevin Moffitt, and Med 2s Drew Baske, Tom McKay and Floyd Salazar; Truck Company 2 members Captain Nancy Reublin, Engineer Brian Good, and Firefighters Wayne Lashley and Pete Ellis; Fire Code Inspection Bureau Lieutenant Steve Beumer; Aurora Police Sergeant Joe Young of the Crimes Against Children Unit, Sergeant Gary Reno, Officer Frank Fania of the Fugitive Apprehension and Surveillance Team, and Officer David Pearson; Public Safety and Communications Telecommunicator I Gustavo Chavez; and **Rural/Metro Ambulance** EMS paramedics Scott Rodriguez and Dan Jensen.



## Wells Fargo advances Wachovia combination in Colorado

**Wells Fargo's** integration of Wachovia took another step forward recently when the two organizations combined banking operations in Colorado. **Wells Fargo** now offers 1.8 million customers across the state more services and convenience.

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## DAVA receives Old Navy gift

In November, Aurora Chamber member DAVA (Downtown Aurora Visual Arts) was the recipient of a generous gift from the Old Navy store at Aurora City Center: \$1,000 worth of new coats for the kids at DAVA.



Colorado is the first state where the **Wells Fargo** brand is appearing on Wachovia banking stores. The Wachovia brand will become **Wells Fargo** in other states over the next two years as the two financial institutions complete the largest merger in banking history. Wells Fargo now has 170 banking stores across Colorado.

### Second phase of innovative project celebrated

On Oct. 22, the **Arapahoe County** Board of County Commissioners and 18th Judicial District Attorney Carol Chambers celebrated the grand opening of the DA's new office with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The office is part of an innovative \$13.8 million project designed to address the space needs of the courts without increasing taxes.

"This project is an excellent example of **Arapahoe County's** ongoing effort to improve efficiencies and reduce the cost of operation in our judicial system," said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as Board Chairman. "Thanks to Carol Chambers and the District Attorney's Office and their willingness to relocate their offices, we were able to free up 40,000 square feet of space for the courts without additional cost to taxpayers."



*Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, Commissioner and Board Chairman Susan Beckman, 18th Judicial District Attorney Carol Chambers, Commissioner Pat Noonan and Commissioner Frank Weddig celebrate the grand opening of the new 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Arapahoe County.*

### Men for the Cure raises \$1 million to Fight Breast Cancer

Jeff Thompson established the Men for the Cure Foundation in 2000, in memory of his wife, Diane O'Connor Thompson who lost her battle with breast cancer on



*Jeff Thompson with Colorado Governor Bill Ritter and former governor Bill Owens (far right).*

Thanksgiving Day, 1999. Jeff is the Director of Government and Corporate Relations for the University of Colorado Hospital at the **Anschutz Medical Campus**,

and is on the Board of Directors of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

This year, nearly 500 men dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer and improving care for patients gathered at the XJet World Hangar at Centennial Airport October 4 for the 10th Men for the Cure event.

The event has raised more than \$1 million since it began, and two years ago, the hospital's Breast Center was named in Diane's honor after Men for the Cure passed the \$1 million donation mark. Last year, donations funded a nurse navigator for the center. This year's proceeds will go toward the planned expansion of the University of Colorado Cancer Center.

"Men for the Cure shows the power of our cause and what it means to both men and women," said Thompson.

### Arapahoe County appoints new Veterans Service Officer

**Arapahoe County** has appointed Rick Stewart as the County Veterans Service Officer, to oversee the program that assists veterans in obtaining state and federal benefits.



*Rich Stewart*

"Rick Stewart brings more than eight years of experience as a veterans service officer in the Midwest," said **Arapahoe County** Commissioner Jim Dyer. "**Arapahoe County** saw his knowledge and professionalism as a clear fit to assist the more than 50,000 veterans in our county with navigating the benefits system."

Veterans in need of assistance can call 303-738-8045 or visit the **Arapahoe County** Veterans Service Office at 1690 W. Littleton Blvd, Suite 103, Littleton.

### Wards named members of Padgett Hall of Fame

Craig and Kathi Ward, owners of **Padgett Business Services** in Aurora, were recently named to the Padgett Hall of Fame at Padgett's annual Tax Seminar in Atlanta. The Wards received this honor after being named Office of the Year in 2008.

Padgett is a financial reporting, tax consulting, and payroll business specializing in independent businesses with less than 20 employees. For 14 years, the Wards' office has been one of the most successful Padgett offices in North America.



*Craig and Kathi Ward*

"Our specialized advice and personal service will always be the strength behind what we do for small business owners," said Craig. "We are honored by our induction into the Padgett Hall of Fame."

## ARPC tours Nellis AFB



**Fighter pilots and 'wannabes'** – Two real fighter pilots and two 'wannabes' pose before one of the famous Thunderbird F-16s at their home base, Nellis AFB, Nevada. They were part of a group from **The Chamber Defense Council** that attended the **Air Reserve Personnel Center's** Civic Leader Tour to Nellis and Creech AFBs on Oct. 7. Pictured from l-r are 'wannabe' and Chamber President Kevin Houghton, real fighter pilots Col. Pete Byrne, Vice Commander of the **140th Wing** at Buckley and ARPC Commander, Brig. Gen. Kevin Pottinger; and another "wannabe," Bill LeCaine with **Arrow Technologies**. (USAF Photo)

## Sloan Award winners

Five local organizations were honored with the prestigious Sloan Award for Workplace Flexibility at the November 12, 2009 Aurora Chamber of Commerce general membership luncheon.



*Don Marostica, executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon. He spoke about job creation in healthcare.*



**Top business line-up** – Five local organizations were honored with the prestigious Sloan Award for Workplace Flexibility at the Nov. 12, 2009 Aurora Chamber of Commerce general membership luncheon. Picking up the awards from Chamber Chair Craig Ward and Twiga Foundation founder Patricia Kempthorne were: (Back row, l-r) Tawney Bass, **Aurora Mental Health**; Tammy Fernandez, **University of Phoenix**; Ward; (Front row l-r) Dr. Donald Cassata, **Adams County Workforce and Business Center**; Mary Horn, **Merrick & Company**; Kempthorne; and Bill Merz, **The Medical Center of Aurora**.

(Photo courtesy of Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

# COMMUNITY DAY

By Richard Charles  
Cherry Creek Schools, STEM Center

On October 15, 2009, the 2009-10 Leadership Aurora class reconvened for their first session since the summer retreat at Winter Park. The focus of the day's events was to enhance our understanding of the city's economic issues, social concerns and non-profit community.

The day began with a breakfast reception at the Salvation Army. The class was addressed by the Colonel of the Salvation Army, who provided detailed information about the charitable work of the organization. Members of the class brought toys to support the Salvation Army's efforts.

The class then divided into seven teams. Each team was tasked with gathering information about two assigned organizations, including specific questions about funding sources, services and access to services.

The organizations included the **Aurora Housing Authority**, Lowry Family Center, **Providers' Resource Clearinghouse**, **Arapahoe/Douglas Works!**, Arc of Aurora, Boys & Girls Club, Mile High Council at Fitzsimons, **AuMHC-Aurora Youth Options**, Interfaith Task Force, CASA Advocates for Children, Friends of St. Andrew, Self Improvement Opportunities, **DAVA** (Downtown Aurora Visual Arts), and Morning Star Adult Day Care Program.



Leadership Aurora class members make masks for children at the Aurora YMCA during October's Community Day session.

The day was brought to a triumphant conclusion with skits by each group, highlighting the work of the two organizations they visited, followed by a leadership presentation by Debbie Lynch, director of Development and Administration for the Lupus



Foundation of Colorado.

Community Day was valuable, informative and heart-warming. In addition to providing the class with information about how these organizations impact the community, the experiences also served as a way to survey potential opportunities for class projects. I was overwhelmed by the many needs that go unmet in the community. We must support the work of these organizations so that we can continue to make Aurora a place to be proud of.

It was a busy and enlightening day!

# Twice Bitten – Still Standing

by Ana-Christina Wadle  
My Legacy Coaching, LLC

He was staring at me so intently, that it felt like his eyes were boring right through mine. He made no noise as he lunged for me, and rocketed into me with

.....  
*“... there's no way he can bite my hand if he catches the end of the sleeve!”*  
.....

a force that belied his size. When he grabbed me and shook me like a rag doll, all I could think was “Oh my Lord, what if this was a real attack?”

On November 19, 2009, Leadership Aurora had its “Police Day” session, during which we received impactful information about 911 dispatch, the gang unit, school resource officers, volunteer involvement, traffic enforcement, the

SWAT team, and talked to the Arapahoe County bomb squad. We also experienced the force of the K-9 unit.

As I donned the 40 pound, ridiculously huge,



protective padded suit, a few errant thoughts crossed my mind, including “WHAT in the world am I doing? Daaaaang! This dog is INTIMIDATING,” and “I better keep my fists tucked up into the huge sleeve so that there's no way he can bite my hand if he catches the end of the sleeve!”

And then he slammed into me.

Fortunately, I was protected by the handler, who had the dog on a lead and who was issuing commands to both attack and to “stand still.” I also was protected by another officer standing behind me, making sure I didn't get knocked over by the force of the attack.

Under the careful direction of his handler, this incredible animal saves police lives, and can also save the lives of suspects – as these dogs are so intimidating that some will surrender to them.

I learned hundreds of facts that day. The instructors educated, informed, and changed my perspective regarding many aspects of police duties. I commend our law enforcement teams and have a new and much deeper respect for what they do to “Serve and Protect.”

The most important things I learned that day, though, were not the facts. The most important things I learned were to confront my fears; to try something new; and to shift my perspective to be able to see life differently through someone else's (in this case, the police officers') experiences.

I was reminded that sometimes life bites you, attacks you, knocks into you, and smashes into you. Sometimes, life is like that. When you're in the middle of that storm, consider confronting your fears and trying something new – and your perspective on that tough time will shift.

# Ambassadors' Retreat



What do The Knoll, Samson, a mini golf course and llamas have in common?

They are all things that were on the list for the Picture Scavenger Hunt at the 2009 Ambassador Retreat at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park.

The two day retreat in October offered the Chamber Ambassadors an opportunity to work together in team building activities such as the scavenger hunt and cooking meals, as well enjoying a beautiful fall weekend in the mountains.

The theme for the retreat was the "Essential

Piece," as the ambassadors are an essential piece of the Chamber by actively promoting membership, and being involved in events, activities and committees. They serve as the eyes and ears of the Chamber in the communities in which they work and live.

The ambassadors are a group of active business people who are dedicated to building an even more successful Chamber.

If you are interested in applying to be a Chamber Ambassador, contact Mary Beth Sharp at 303-344-1500 or [Marybeth.sharp@aurorachamber.org](mailto:Marybeth.sharp@aurorachamber.org).



**Popular Pumpkin Patch** – Members of the **Aurora Police Department** join with folks from **May Farms** along with some of the pumpkins they made available to kids at **The Children's Hospital** this fall. The creation of a pumpkin patch in front of **The Children's Hospital** has become an annual event sponsored by **May Farms** that lets hospitalized youngsters know they are not forgotten at Halloween.

# Veterans' Salute

**Folding the flag for vets** – A military team from **Buckley AFB** begin folding the flag as part of special flag ceremony at the 15th Annual Veteran's Salute honoring the fallen at the **Wings over the Rockies Air and Space Museum**. Organized by the **Aurora Center for Active Adults** along with primary sponsor **HealthOne's Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital** the moving event was enjoyed by more than 700 veterans and their families and friends and hosted by **Colorado Freedom Memorial** founder and popular KEZW announcer **Rick Crandall**.



# Renewals

- 140th Operations Group/Colorado ANG
- A Black Orchid
- Adams County Workforce & Business Center
- Alpine CARSTAR Auto Body
- Aurora Academy Charter School
- Aurora Firefighters Protective Assn.
- Aurora Police Association
- Aurora Public Schools Educational Services Center 1
- Aurora Rotary Club
- Bandimere Auto Performance Center, Inc.
- Bellco Credit Union - Aurora City Place
- Big D Pizza dba Blackjack Pizza
- Citywide Banks
- Civil Air Patrol, Colorado Wing
- Colorado Christian University
- Concentra Medical Centers
- DPRA, Inc.
- Ed Bozarth Company, Inc.
- Edward Jones Investments
- FirstBank of Aurora
- High Country Coatings
- High Five Plains Foundation
- Hillcrest Village
- Holiday Inn-DIA
- Image Brokers
- Interstate Turbo Supply & Accessory Co.
- JCPenney
- Jim 'N Nick's BBQ
- Martha J. Karnopp, Attorney at Law
- Landtech Contractors Inc.
- Mail Delivery Service
- May Farms
- Members Federal Credit Union
- Mercy Home Services, Inc.
- Brian Molitoris, Photographer
- Morin Wood Finesse
- Nillar, Inc.
- Northrop Grumman
- Purewater Dynamics/Great American Coffee Co.
- Safeway, Inc.
- Sinton Dairy
- Tilden Car Care
- Tutor Doctor
- University of Colorado Hospital
- Wells Fargo Bank - Buckingham Square

# NEW MEMBERS

- Action Coach
- Broadview Security
- Coldwell Banker - Jerri Grable Mullis
- Music Magazine Television Productions
- Rhapsodie Entertainment Group
- Solutions Security Services