

A Time for Change: The Aurora Business Development Center is at a New Location!

The Aurora Business Development Center (Aurora BDC) is now at a new location—just next door—at Florence Square, on the northwest corner of Colfax & Elmira in Original Aurora, and across the street from the MLK Library and Aurora Municipal Services Center. The new address is 9801 E. Colfax Ave., Ste. 200, Aurora, CO 80010-2154. The new telephone number is 303-326-8690. The fax number remains the same: 303-361-2953.

Following are the May seminars. Call today to register, 303-326-8690. All of May's seminars take place at the Aurora BDC's new location, 9801 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 200, Aurora, CO 80010.

* Take any three of the following small business seminars, and pay only \$60 (due and payable by cash or check only at the first class):

"Basics of Starting a Business"

Thursday, May 19th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, \$25/person*

"Writing a Winning Business Plan"

Thursday, May 19th, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, \$25/person*

"Doing Business with the Government"

Wednesday, May 4th, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM – a FREE workshop

"Basics of Starting a Business"

Wednesday, June 15th, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, \$25/person*

"Writing a Winning Business Plan"

Wednesday, June 15th, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, \$25/person*

"Marketing Your Business"

Thursday, June 16th, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, \$25/person*

Brown Bag Marketing Series exclusively for our valued clients! Bring your lunch and attend any of the monthly marketing seminars every third Tuesday of the month. Pre-registration required: 303-326-8690. Make your array of promotional activities count:

Learn cost-effective and creative advertising strategies:

"Advertising in a Nutshell," a FREE workshop for Aurora BDC clients.

Tuesday, June 21st, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

iClases en español, también!

* Los fundamentos para comenzar un negocio

* El planear para el éxito del negocio

Por mas información, llame Santos Blan, 303-326 8690.

NEW MEMBERS

A Singles Venture
Ambitious Cleaning
Aspen University
Aurora Sales Professionals
Basket Designs by DJ
Beacon Mortgage
The Bilingual Connection
Camille's Sidewalk Cafe
Colorado Steam Cleaners
Denver Street School
Dream Home Designs
Express Español

Grande Vista Inc.
Hearts Across the Miles
Image Audiovisuals
Keller Williams Metro Properties
New Hope Family Chiropractic
Red Robin
Shane & Company Solutions
Summit Medical Group
Waste Advantage Inc.
Wild Birds Unlimited
Woodfield Suites

REMINDER Please remember to add The Chamber (naomi.colwell@aurorachamber.org) to your address book to continue receiving our updates in your mailbox!

Renewals

Adams County One-Stop Career Center
Airport Self Storage
Atlanta Bread Company
Aurora Association of Realtors
Aurora City Manager's Office
Aurora Mall
Bart's Interiors, Inc.
Basket Boutique
Benchmark—Specialized Production Staffing
The Boeing Company
Bonfils Blood Center
Boy Scouts of America, Centennial District
Broadview Animal Clinic
CAMPUSPEAK, Inc.
CM IT Solutions
Cunningham Fire Protection District
E-470 Public Highway Authority
Embassy Suites Hotel Airport-Gateway
Embassy Suites SE
Empire Tax & Accounting, Inc.
Farmers Insurance Group
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
Golf USA of Centennial
Grande Vista Inc.
Grizzly Bear Express
Harvard Square Retirement Community
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club
High Plains Kitchen
House of Flowers
Jefferson at Aspen Ridge
Keller Williams Metro Properties
Kissinger & Fellman, P.C.
Kwik Kopy Printing
Lowe's Home Improvement
"L.U.C.K.Y.s"/Prudential Realty Action Team
Denver Marriott Tech Center
Merry Maids S.E.
Minolta Business Systems
RealtiCorp
Regal Facility Management
Seko Worldwide
DIA Sleep Inn
Slim and Tone of Aurora
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
Summit Medical Group
Surgical Consultants of Aurora
Sweet Tomatoes, The Salad Buffet Restaurant
Terminix Commercial
US Chamber of Commerce
Waste Management of Aurora
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
Wells Fargo Reverse Mortgage



Upcoming Events

Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

Friday, May 20
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Radisson Hotel SE
3200 S. Parker Rd.

Business After Hours

Thursday, May 26, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Emerald Isle
4385 S. Parker Rd.

Leadership Aurora Graduation Celebration

Thursday, June 9, 11:30 a.m.
Summit Conference & Event Center
411 Sable Blvd.

Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 23, 7:30 a.m.
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club
23155 E. Heritage Pkwy.

Business After Hours

Thursday, June 23, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Embassy Suites SE
7525 E. Hampden Ave.

NOTICE:

The Annual Membership Meeting will be on June 9 in conjunction with the Leadership Aurora graduation luncheon.

The Chamber's Mission

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

DON'T FORGET:

"Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of the Chamber"

Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments.

You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

Continuing the Leadership Legacy

The Chamber's General Membership Luncheon in June will mark the end of the 2005 Leadership Aurora class year. On Thursday, June 9 the 20th graduating class of Leadership Aurora will hold a celebration luncheon at the **Summit Conference & Event Center**, 411 Sable Boulevard in Aurora beginning at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will celebrate the accomplishments of the class and serve as a way to continue the legacy of



June 9th Leadership Aurora Graduation & General Membership Luncheon Summit Conference & Events Center

leadership in Aurora. Mayor Ed Tauer will present congratulatory remarks.

This year's class has been very busy with service projects, including a major project centered around the Downtown Aurora Visual Arts Center. Class

members contributed their time to clean, paint, sand and build shelving to help in the remodel project headed up by class member Randy Berner, Adolfsen & Peterson Construction. Berner was instrumental in getting subcontractors to donate professional services to remodel the art studio. As a result, a grand re-opening of the studio was held in April, bringing studio staff and students, Leadership class members, and community members together to see the makeover that will benefit young artists.

To assist us in continuing the Leadership Legacy, please consider sponsoring a table at the luncheon. Sponsor levels include:

\$1,000 Legacy Sponsor

- Table of 10 at the luncheon
- Your company banner hung at the event
- Company logo on the luncheon program and sponsor board
- Recognition from the podium

\$500 Celebration Sponsor

- Includes 5 seats at the luncheon
- Company logo on the luncheon program and sponsor board
- Recognition from the podium

Leadership Graduation combined with a General Membership Luncheon. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the individual cost per person is \$30. Please call Kimberly for reservations or more information at 303-344-1500 or e-mail Kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org.



State of the City—Aurora Rotary President John Paroske chats with Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer at the State of the City address. Co-hosted by The Chamber and the Rotary Club of Aurora, the sell-out event was held at the HeatherRidge Country Club in March.

Chamber Honors Leaders of Eastern Metro Area



Congratulations! – Award winners at the 50th Anniversary event. See more photos and story inside.

It wasn't just tax day in Aurora, Friday, April 15. For the Aurora Chamber of Commerce it was a day to honor top community and business leaders as they celebrated their Annual Chamber Awards Banquet.

Eight men and women and two businesses were honored at a special banquet that also marked the 50th Anniversary of the popular community event.

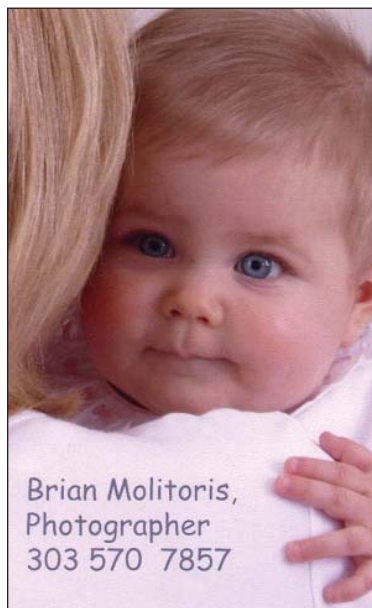
Sponsored by **FirstBank and FirstBank Holding Company** of Colorado, the dinner also fêted seven companies who have been members continuously for the past 50 years. "We covered a lot of territory Friday night," said Kevin Hougen, Chamber President and CEO who hosted the event. "We see **AWARDS** on page 6



Pete Kirchhof
Chair

As our story tells you, it wasn't just tax day in Aurora on April 15. For us it was a day to honor our very best in our community and business world as we celebrated our 50th Annual Chamber Awards Banquet. What a great night to close out my official duties as Chair of the Aurora Chamber. As I took on the job last year from *Sandy Neves*, I did have some apprehension. The economy continued to be slow; several critical elections were just over the horizon; we had a plate full of challenges in the arenas of transportation, taxation, higher education and health care. But we had many things going for us as well:

- A strong, loyal membership of close to 1500 member businesses, representing 138,000 employees.
- A solid financial base.
- Excellent reputation, state wide.
- Outstanding management.



Brian Molitoris,
Photographer
303 570 7857

Chair's Letter

- A diverse, confident Board of real business leaders.

Top Ten

It was that impressive Board, and the hardest working staff in the chamber business, that I—and all of you members—have to thank for another successful year at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. I will, however, share briefly with you the “top ten” things we can all feel good about that happened during my all too-brief watch.

We passed FasTracks, a \$4.7 Billion comprehensive transportation plan for the entire Denver/Aurora Metro Area. And, we helped pass the SCFD extension to support the scientific and cultural districts.

We, along with CACI, our State Chamber, helped defeat House Bill 05-1018, a potentially dangerous Workers' Compensation bill that could have driven Workers' Compensation premiums up by 300%.

The Chamber is working on solutions such as HB 05-1194, that will allow our citizens to vote on one of the most serious budget issues facing our state, the “De-Brucing” of the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR).

We are opposing HB 05-1296, which would hurt the opportunity we have to transfer water from on basin of origin to another.

The most visible change that happened this year was the change of our Chamber logo. Designed with the help of **Ryden & Associates**, the logo reflects our “sphere of influence” with more of a regional cooperation mission.

We added on more Business

Before Hours to help support our networking opportunities for our business members.

Our membership drive was the most successful in the last 20 years, with 65 new members during the campaign and close to 300 new members for the year.

The consolidated Government Affairs and Education Committee continues to serve our membership better than ever.

To strengthen our impact and improve our tracking, we hired a great lobbying firm, Axiom Strategies, to ensure the state legislature knows our position on key issues from education to water.

We built even stronger ties with **Buckley Air Force Base** through our new Co-Commanders program and the new Front Range Business Expo that brought the Base, the GSA and our members together to do business.

Great Year

I have had a great year, and have been honored to serve as your Chair. The economic engines driving our cities amaze even those of us who have lived here our entire lives. Just look around you and you'll see the incredible Fitzsimons campus, our Defense industry and Buckley AFB growth, the Original Aurora Arts District, the new Southlands Mall, and the \$100 million dollar expansion of the **Aurora Mall**. Developments in Aurora, Centennial, and the entire Eastern Metro area your Chamber serves, continue at an amazing pace. Thanks to all of you for your continued help and support. It has been a blast. Onward to a bright future!!

Board of Directors

Chair of the Board
Peter Kirchhof | Colorado Credit Union Systems

Chair Elect
Dale Mingilton | FirstBank Holding Co.

Secretary
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

Treasurer
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

Immediate Past Chair
Sandra Neves
Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union

Vice Chair-Business Development
Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sun•Sentinel

Vice Chair-Community Services
Bob Steine | Law Offices of Robert Owen Steine

Vice Chair-Public Issues
Dale Mingilton | FirstBank Holding Co.

Vice Chair-Member Services
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Directors

Tom Ashburn | Xcel Energy

Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Bill Becker | Adams County Economic Development

Dr. Linda Bowman | Community College of Aurora

Kathy Boyle | University of Colorado Hospital

William “Trip” Carter | Raytheon

Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sun•Sentinel

Peter L. Durante, MD, JD | The Children's Hospital

Brigadier General Mike Edwards | 140th Wing COANG

Diane Garcia | ZG Associates, LLC

Gary Gilliard | KeyBank

Tish Glenn | Aurora Mall

Pam Graham | United Airlines Cargo

Margo Jamison | Kaiser Permanente

Pete Kirchhof | CO Credit Union Systems

Judy Lenane, RN, BSN | The Medical Center of Aurora

Dale Mingilton | FirstBank Holding Co.

Wendy Mitchell | Aurora Economic Development Council

Lynn Myers | Commissioner, Arapahoe County

Sandra Neves | Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union

Tim Padilla | Wells Fargo Bank

David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

Allen Paty | Doubletree Hotel SE

Stephan Peck | Carrabba's Italian Grill

Jo Ellen Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

David Snow | U.S. Home

John S. K. Song | Attorney at Law

Carol Shearon | Xcel Energy Foundation

Bob Steine | Law Offices of Robert Owen Steine

The Honorable Ed Tauer | Mayor, City of Aurora

Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

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Kevin Hougen

Marketing & Visitors' Advisory Board

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Mary Beth Sharp

Volunteers

Michelle Schei

Nancy Watson

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

Member Profile

Ablita is the largest independent telecommunications consulting company in North America with 60 offices in the



John Adan
Business Optimization Specialist

U.S. and Canada, says John Adan, business optimization specialist. Independent of any service provider, they offer telecommunications cost containment and bill auditing for small to medium sized businesses.

He notes that businesses spend about 20 to 40% more on their telecommunications—one of the top five expenses for most companies—than they need to. Adan says that Ablita reports on the telecom services a

company has, the costs associated with those services, and then offers recommendations to cut those costs without impacting the services provided. Shortly after Ablita joined the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Adan conducted a health check on The Chamber services and equipment, resulting in consolidating some bills and a monthly savings of about \$200.

“When I gave a presentation at Tips & Leads, I received 14 leads!” Adan reports. “Also, I can honestly say that the people who work at The Chamber are some of the most professional, dedicated, energetic and delightful people I know!”

An engineer by trade, Adan is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and Sigma Xi Research Society. He has been happily married to Joan Price-Adan for the past 28 years, and they are looking for a cat to adopt. He golfs when he has the time, and Joan says he’s “addicted to the history channel”. But his main passion is organic vegetable gardening in the summertime, and he likes to “make sure all my friends benefit from it.” Squash, anyone?

Aurora to install public art along East Colfax Avenue arts district

The City of Aurora will make its boldest artistic statement yet on East Colfax Avenue this summer when it unveils five public art installations in its new Arts District—a 16-block area located generally along the historic commercial corridor from Clinton to Geneva streets.

In all, five projects totaling more than \$200,000 are planned for the Arts District over the next six months. All but one project will be paid for using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds—federal monies earmarked by the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to revitalize low- to moderate-income communities. The other project will be paid for with CDBG and City of Aurora Art In Public Places program funding.

Three of the planned installations will use the exteriors of privately owned businesses as their canvas, while two stand-alone sculptures are primed to grace public parcels along the corridor. The installations were selected by a special Arts District Art Selection Panel composed of northwest Aurora residents, business owners, the area's City Council Member, artists and members of the Art in Public Places Commission.

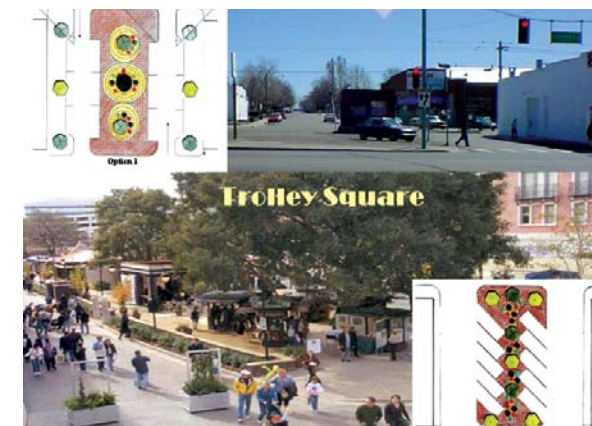
The City of Aurora's Art in Public Places Program

promotes and maintains a quality collection of diverse media and styles that play an integral role in the city's architecture and community. The Art in Public Places Commission advocates, educates and serves as stewards for the public art of Aurora-fostering experiences in the arts that reach out to our culturally diverse city.

These arts-related expenditures are part of the approximately \$54 million in public and private investment that has been committed to the

revitalization of Aurora's Arts District corridor, which the Aurora City Council established in 2002. Primed by the city's strategic vision for the area as a thriving cultural and civic destination, more than \$40 million has been invested by the private sector.

For more information on public art in the City of Aurora, or for more information about the Arts District, please call Deana Miller, Art in Public Places coordinator, 303-739-6747.



From Blah to Beautiful — Trolley Square is one of the locations proposed for free standing art as it transforms from a wide spot off Colfax Avenue (top) through one of two options to a pedestrian-friendly “pocket park” similar to the one shown in the lower part of the picture.

Fitzsimons CFCU breaks ground



Fitzsimons opens third location - Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union President Sandy Neves (hardhat on the left), Board Chair Tom Smith (with shovel), Board members Ruth Bigham, Darold Reisgaard and George Touchard (in hardhats to the right), Fitz staffers and Chamber members and staff recently broke ground on the new Southlands branch at 6359 S. Southlands Pkwy.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.

Aurora Symphony Orchestra presents their 3rd Annual Young Artist competition winner at Gateway High School Performing Arts Center, 1300 S. Sable Blvd. For more information, please call 303-873-6622.

Friday, May 27, 6-10 a.m.

Memorial Day Ride to raise funds for the Colorado Freedom Memorial kicks-off with a special **KEZW-AM 1410** radio broadcast from **Dumitri's** Restaurant at Mexico and Havana. The Memorial to honor fallen Colorado veterans is to be built near Buckley AFB off Airport and Alameda.

Monday, May 31, 12 noon

Rally at Colorado Freedom Memorial. Includes special ceremony to dedicate site. Freedom Memorial Bike Riders led by paralyzed Vietnam vet Artie Guerrero will join KEZW Radio host Rick Crandall in the event at the memorial site near Buckley AFB off Airport Road and Alameda Blvd.

Wednesday, June 1, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Columbia College Dedication Ceremony, marking the move to their new building at Clocktower Square. For more information on either event, call 303-340-8050.

Saturday, June 4, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join **Colorado Tire & Service Company** at 1541 Chambers Rd., Aurora 80011 for its 31st Anniversary Car Show and Open House. Hot dogs, bratwurst, Pepsi, ice cream, coffee and donuts will be served. Great prizes like new tires, bicycles, TVs, jackets, shirts, caps and more will be given away. The NAPA Auto Select Auto Show on KHOW radio will broadcast live from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the University of Colorado Anschutz Cancer Center; please send donations c/o CO Tire. For 24-hour show info, call 303-399-4256.

Saturday & Sunday, June 25-26

15th Annual Fat Tire Classic hike and bike is the largest fundraiser for the American Red Cross in the country. Check out www.Denver-redcross.org or call Randy Lewis at 303-260-4332.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 8-10

Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall Experience at Olinger Hampden Cemetery open to the public 24 hours a day. Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available. For more information contact Jim Horan at 303-771-4636 or james.horan@sci-us.com, or visit the website at www.vietnamwallexperience.com.

Banks in Harmony 2005 Season

DATE	BAND	STYLE	LOCATION
June 16	Dean Bushnell Orchestra	Big Band Swing	Bicentennial Park
June 23	Perpetual Motion	Latin/Fusion Jazz	Bicentennial Park
June 30	Western Flyer	Country Swing	Bicentennial Park
July 7	Mood Express	Latin/Salsa	Del Mar Park
July 14	Queen City Jazz Band	Dixieland Jazz	Del Mar Park
July 21	Moments Notice 25th Anniversary Edition	Big Band Swing/Motown/Jazz	Del Mar Park
July 28	Kool Kats	50's – 60's Rock Revival	Utah Park
August 4	Hot Tomatoes	Big Band Swing	Utah Park
August 11	Lisa Bell & Crescendo	Pop Crossover/Jazz	Utah Park
August 18	Groove Society	Contemporary/ R&B A Capella	Meadowood Park

Bicentennial - Alameda & Potomac | Del Mar Park - 6th & Peoria
 Utah Park - Peoria & Jewell | Meadowood Park - Laredo & Dartmouth
 For weather-related decisions on cancellations, please call the Chamber after 3 p.m. at 303-344-1500 on the day of the concert.

SPONSORS	MEDIA SPONSORS	FOOD SPONSORS
Aurora Chamber of Commerce	KEZW Radio	Jason's Deli
Aurora Visitors Promotion Advisory Board	Aurora Sentinel	Helga's German Restaurant
Bank of the West	KACT-TV8	Quizno's
TCF Bank		
Recording Industries Music Performance Trust Funds		
City of Aurora Denver Musicians Association		

Fly your flags June 14

Remember to fly your flags on Flag Day, June 14 on the blue field of the flag as "representing a new constellation." According to the resolution introduced on June 14, 1777, John Adams Thanks to Always "Show Your Colors" Flag Company referred to the 13 white stars



Woman Sculptor of the Year – The Aurora History Museum celebrated the contributions women have made to the City of Aurora in a special ceremony in City Council Chambers on March 18. Patricia K. Buys, director of **Arapahoe/Douglas Works!** was named by The Chamber's Women In Business Committee as the "Woman Sculptor of the Year". Pat's family was on hand to share her day: (L-R) Step-daughter Sarah Buys, daughter Kristen Kuskie, Pat, husband Marty Buys, son Jack Kuskie.

George gets award

Alice Lee Main of the **City of Aurora** Cultural Division presented The Chamber's own George Peck, vice president of operations and public affairs, with the Volunteer of the Quarter award. Peck was recognized for his dedication and commitment specifically to the Banks In Harmony summer concert series he has coordinated, MC'd and conducted every Thursday, June through August for the past six years. He spends many personal hours on this event, contracting for the bands; coordinating food vendors; helping unload and set up band equipment; and obtaining helium and filling and tying off balloons for the kids. He works until the last piece of equipment is loaded, usually about 10:00 p.m. following the concert.

Taylor makes beautiful music for Aurora

Dwight Taylor, Esq., a principal of **Edwards & Taylor LLC**, was elected to the Board of the **Aurora Symphony Orchestra**, appointed to the Business Advisory Board, and re-appointed for his second term for the Judicial Performance Commission, both for the City of Aurora,

Smoky Hill Library there for you

Whatever your needs, from research for a speech, finding companies in a given industry, computer use (they have 30), online databases, meeting rooms, it's all there and more at the **Smoky Hill Branch Library** at 5430 S. Biscay Cir. in Centennial. Open for about two years, the library has DVDs, music CDs, magazines and newspapers, and a growing collection of materials in Spanish, as well as fiction and non-fiction. For more information, please call Bob, Suzanne or Joan at 303-693-7449, or go online to www.arapahoe-libraries.org. Open seven days a week.

LRA conserving water for Chamber members

The **Lowry Redevelopment Authority (LRA)** is installing a mile-long pipe to one day irrigate the **Mira Vista Golf Course** and other facilities with recycled water. The pipe will extend from 11th Ave. to the northern edge of the golf course. The pipe is part of Denver Water's recycled water system that will also serve Chamber members **Xcel Energy** and Lowry.

University of Colorado Hospital announces search for new president and CEO

Dr. James Shore, chairman of the **University of Colorado Hospital** board and chancellor of the **University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center**, announced that they have begun the search for a new president and CEO. Dennis Brimhall announced in February that he leave in June, and the hospital's executive vice president, Joyce Cashman, was appointed interim president and CEO. The national search is expected to take up to five months.

"We will put every effort into finding the best leader for this great hospital—someone who can continue to embody the vision that Dennis Brimhall and his executive team have brought to fruition at Fitzsimons," Shore said.

Member News

UCDHSC's graduate programs rank among nation's best

The 2006 *U.S. News & World Report's* annual publication ranking graduate schools throughout the United States has ranked several programs at the **University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center** among the best in the country.

This year's medical rankings count the CU School of Medicine at 11th among primary care schools and 30th among the nation's research schools.

Health disciplines which were not newly ranked this year include nursing. The CU School of Nursing ranked 1st in the pediatric nursing specialty, 6th for both the nursing service administration specialty and family specialty, and 10th for the gerontological/geriatric specialty. In other programs, the community/public health for clinical nurse specialists ranked 7th, and the nursing/midwifery master's program ranked 10th.

Richendifer retires after 31 years

Judi Richendifer, administrator for the **Adams County One Stop Career Center (ACOSS)**, retired after having been involved with unemployment and employment services since 1974. She joined the ACOSS in 1999. Her customers and colleagues say they miss her already!

Members Raytheon and AEDC receive the Deal of the Year Award

Raytheon and the **Aurora Economic Development Council (AEDC)** received the prestigious Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation's Deal of the Year (DoY) award at the organization's Annual Report to Investors and Awards Luncheon. **Wendy Mitchell**, president of the AEDC, said "the DoY award is given to the company and the economic development organization that creates the largest number of jobs and capital investment in the metro area."

Raytheon is expanding its Aurora campus with a new 150,000 square foot building. The new facility will be the company's fifth building on the campus and will be able to accommodate up to 750 employees. Raytheon is Aurora's largest private employer with 2,650 professionals.

E-470 opens new span at Chambers Road

The E-470 Public Highway Authority opened a second span of the Chambers Road bridge, increasing the bridge's capacity from two lanes to four lanes. The expansion is the final piece of a \$6.4 million road improvement contract.

The new two-lane span will handle the southbound traffic on Chambers Rd.

The new bridge will accommodate the estimated 1.3 million drivers that drive monthly from S. Parker Rd. to I-25.

Aurora Mental Health Center honors leaders for community service

The **Aurora Mental Health Center (AMHC)** honored community members at its 30th anniversary luncheon celebration in April. More than 240 people attended this first annual celebration luncheon, chaired by Board member Jo Snell of the E-470 Public Highway Authority.

Major sponsors included **FirstBank Holding Company, Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union and The Children's Hospital**. Among those honored were **Randy Hertel of Majestic Reality**, with the Business Award.



Volunteers Needed

Gateway Battered Women's Shelter is seeking dedicated men and women to volunteer for the many programs at the agency. Gateway offers a 26-hour training course that will begin in June. Bilingual skills are greatly needed. For an application or additional information, contact **Jeneen Klippel-Worden** at 303-343-1856 or jkworden@gatewayshester.com.

Lunch and Learn at Lowry for practical skills

The Center for Customized Training of the **Community College of Aurora** has developed a new series of workshops for the summer. "Lunch and Learn at Lowry" is designed for the busy person to learn a practical skill. Held on Saturdays for six hours each, participants can take a workshop in Financial Wellness, TurboTax, QuickBooks, Presentations, Security Issues, or Stopping Computer Spam. Need to learn Spanish? Then the Spanish Intensive course might be for you. Four in-class sessions will be followed by ten days in Mexico! Call the Center for details 303-340-7085, or see the website www.ccaurora.edu/cctd.

Come fly with me! — **Bill Walp**, director of marketing for the **Doubletree Hotel Denver**, receives two tickets on **United Airlines** from Chamber Membership Director **Marci Maxwell**. Walp brought in the most new members during the recent **Membership Campaign**, which has been noted as the most successful in the past 20 years.

Mountain Region Black Economic Summit

Local community organizations including the Denver Black Pages, the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce and many others, are collaborating to produce the Mountain Region Black Economic Summit (MRBES) on June 2-3, 2005 at the **Holiday Inn-DIA** at 15500 E. 40th Ave. MRBES is a two-day, economic empowerment summit comprised of workshops and panel discussions designed to promote Financial Literacy and provoke action toward building and sustaining wealth in the Black community. Invitees include black

youth, professionals, business owners, and organization leaders from Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Texas, Kansas, Nevada, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Missouri. The Summit is the response from the MRBES to the **National Urban League's** The State of Black America 2004. Scheduled speakers include George Fraser and Farrah Gray. Exhibitor space is also available.

Please visit www.mrbes.com for more details and to register, or call **Carla Ladd** at 303-400-5928.

Crash course in media relations

At the Media Day Session in March, Leadership Aurora participated in media type activities and exercises. Participant Allyson Hakala, *Self-Improvement Opportunities*, discusses insights revealed and knowledge gained from her experience of the day.



"Media Day was a fun look into the world of "lights, camera, action!". I know that I had never considered all of the work that is put into the newspaper that I read every day and the news that I watch every evening. Media Day opened my eyes to the fast paced, action driven day of the media.

The day started with a mock press conference conducted by Terry Jones, Acting Chief of the **Aurora Police Department**. A scenario was set up with the class acting as reporters. Despite the fact that the answer to the majority of our questions boiled down to "no comment," we learned a lot about the pressures facing public information officers at the scene of a crime. We then took a big yellow bus to CBS 4 in downtown Denver. At the studio, the class took a tour,



Live from Aurora!— Assignments Manager John Montgomery and morning news anchor Tom Mustin from CBS Channel 4 brief the Leadership Aurora class during their visit to the station.

listened to how Channel 4 is active in the community and had a question and answer session presentation by Assignments Editor John Montgomery and Anchor Tom Mustin.

After lunch, the class was given a public relations training by Gina Seamans with Accent Public Relations. This presentation was a crash course in teaching us how to deal with the media so that we draw positive attention. In my opinion, the most exciting part of the day

was the studio rotation. The class was broken into groups of four and "went live" in the **Aurora KACT-TV Channel 8** studio, playing the parts of on-camera interviews, control room observers, and studio camera operators, followed by a critique of our on-camera interviews. Arguing an Aurora issue in front of a camera with the lights on and the cameras rolling was intimidating, but I was more than proud of my Leadership Aurora class and their ability to perform."

Leadership Aurora Class Project provides new studio for at-risk youth, DAVA

The **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts Center (DAVA)**, a non-profit community arts center designed for kids ages 7-17, officially re-opened its Open Studio Facility after an extensive remodeling project to benefit its young artists. The aging studio received the makeover as a class project of Leadership Aurora, the Chamber's leadership development program.

Several construction subcontractors, corporate and individual sponsors also supported the remodeling project in a variety of ways. Leadership class members volunteered their expertise, time and in some cases sheer muscle power to knock down a wall, scrape and paint shelves, walls and ceilings and sand and finish the cement floor.

"The children and the staff of DAVA are truly enjoying the benefits of the wonderful, clean new space," said Susan

Jenson, DAVA executive director and 2005 Leadership Aurora class member. "Our open studio is the heart of our programs and where we serve more than 800 students yearly. The renovation is a dream come true for us. It feels like a brand new studio now and makes such a difference in how much students enjoy being here to create new projects every day."

Randy Berner, 2005 class member and senior project manager at **Adolfson & Peterson Construction**, managed the project and cajoled several local subcontractors into donating thousands of dollars in construction services and borrowed tools to complete the project professionally.



Artsy Cut—Students join with Leadership Aurora class members to cut the ribbon to open "new and improved" DAVA studio.

"A number of companies I work with on a regular basis were enthusiastic about assisting the class in this effort," Berner said. "The payoff for all of us is seeing that we've made a real difference for the kids and the staff at DAVA. This has been a tremendously satisfying project."

Ditty bag item donations still needed

The 7th Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament scheduled for Thursday, June 23rd at **Heritage Eagle Bend Golf and Country Club** is still in need of donations of ditty bag items. Small items such as golf balls, tees, pens and other advertising specialty-type items are requested. At least 160 of each item are needed for the ditty bags.

In addition, larger items such as gift certificates, gift baskets, restaurant dinners, golf shirts, golf bags or any non-related golf items are needed as door prizes. It's a great way to market your business at one of the premiere tournaments of the summer.

Call Kimberly at 303-344-1500 or e-mail kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org if you'd like to donate or for more information.

THIS SPACE
COULD BE
YOURS!

Contact Lisa Mull for
advertising info
303-344-1500



Office supplies to the Max— Angie Teters and her able Office Max crew, here with Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer, cut the ribbon at her store off E-470 at 7420 S. Gartrell Rd. A guest appearance by the Rubberbandman topped off the gala grand opening.



Wells springs anew – Lew de Spain, branch manager for Wells Fargo at 9000 E. Colfax, celebrated with Chamber staff, Ambassadors and Wells Fargo family and friends. The Wells branch re-opened recently after extensive remodeling.

We all scream for ice cream!— Cold Stone Creamery at 4251 S. Buckley Rd. opened its doors recently, much to the delight of the community, Chamber staff and Ambassadors, family and friends. Owner Stacy Koelgen (cutting the ribbon) and her staff can be reached at 303-690-8551.



Chamber members make beautiful music — Serenaded by Chamber staff and Ambassadors, Ed Duggan of Music Go Round celebrates his recent move to bigger digs at 414 S. Chambers Rd. Call 303-745-6895 to buy, sell or trade quality used musical equipment and instruments.



Scholarships available

The **City of Aurora**, cultural affairs division announces that it's that time again. There are 51 available scholarships that need more minorities to apply.

Even if you do not have a college-aged child at home, please share this with someone who does. Though there are a number of companies and organizations that have donated money for scholarship use to minorities, a great deal of the money is being returned because of a lack of interest.

If you would like a list and the direct links to all 51 scholarship programs, please email Lisa Mull at lisa.mull@aurorachamber.org for a return email.

Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union and National Jewish team up to offer free lung function testing on June 17th

Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union (FCFCU) and National Jewish Medical and Research Center will offer free lung function testing June 17 from 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. to the public at FCFCU. Certified pulmonary technicians from National Jewish will perform simple lung function tests, or spirometry, which can help identify respiratory problems such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in adults and children as young as eight. Information about quitting smoking will also be available.

Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union, is at 13529 E. 17th Place, Aurora, just off Colfax and Potomac on the Fitzsimons campus. No appointment is needed. For further information, please contact National Jewish Community Outreach at 303-398-1873

Ribbon Cuttings

Networking Tips

Tip # 24:
Leverage Your Networking Activities

Be a human search engine. You don't have to know it all, just know where to find it all. Let your contacts know that you have the proclivity to find anything anytime anywhere.

Tip # 103:
Accentuate the Positive

Highlight your strengths by talking about the good experiences you've gained. Stay away from whining about the negatives.

Tip # 63:
It's What You Know

Who you know will only take you so far. It's what you know that will make the lasting impression.

WARNING!

Prolonged membership in the Aurora Chamber of Commerce could result in new and continued exposure of your business or service.

Referral from our Phone Calls, Membership Directory and Web Page could also result in additional business brought to your front door and/or cash register!



New Chamber member fits right in — 24-Hour Fitness Express at 18737 E. Hampden Ave. (Hampden & Tower), Aurora invites you to "get in. get out. get fit." For more information, call them at 720-870-2408.



Primrose School grows up—Chamber staff and Ambassadors cheer the Primrose School of Saddle Rock and owner Jean McKee as she cuts the ribbon at their grand opening at 5950 S. Gun Club Rd. The IMPACT and The Chamber were there at their ground-breaking just last December. My, they grow so fast!



QSE grows again! — QSE Technologies opened a new lab and test center at their Centennial location at 6940 S. Holly Cir., Ste. 100, bringing their total space to about 6,000 feet. Ironically, the proposed classroom space includes QSE's original sublease space of about 600 feet that they initially occupied in 2002.

We support our troops!

Randy Berner, **Adolfson & Peterson Construction**, relates his excitement in participating in April's Leadership Aurora Military Session, and the sense of pride he feels in our troops.

"The Military Session held at **Buckley Air Force Base** on April 21, 2005 enlightened the Leadership Aurora class on how important Buckley AFB is to the **City of Aurora**, Colorado, and our great nation. We were treated with the utmost respect by a service group to whom we owe all of our respect and admiration. Throughout the day I was overwhelmed by the sense of pride that I had with everyone and every activity we were treated to.

Brigadier General Mike Edwards, Commander of the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Wing, showed what leadership requires with his personal touch to his troops and their families, and the swearing-in of a re-enlisted troop member. From the 460th Space Wing deputy commander for

operations, Col. Dave Tobin, we learned what the "golf balls" (satellites) do for Air Force Space Command and that they are a very important part of missile defense and global guardians of our space. Always wondering what were inside the fences of Buckley AFB, we learned that there is a self-supporting City with a new recreation center, office, childcare and housing for their very important troops.

The highlight of the day was the air-to-air refueling of F-16 fighter jets from a KC-135 tanker. I felt like Top Gun when the jet pulled up to the fueling arm right under my nose, and was again exhilarated when he gave me the thumbs up and burst off in a blink of the eye. I think each of the class members would indicate how grateful they are to have been able to attend this session and for the knowledge of this strong military presence. Their community relationship gives us all a satisfying sense of security."



A New Direction — Craig Ward, President of the Leadership Aurora 2004-05 class takes a turn in the navigator's seat aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker air-fueling aircraft during Military Day activities recently. Ward relayed to the pilot they were "somewhere over Kansas."



View from the Top — An F-16 fighter from Buckley's 140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard) tops off with JP-4 jet fuel at 30,000 feet. The air refueling procedure was observed by members of the 2004-05 Leadership Aurora class during Military Day activities.

Photos by Dwight Taylor

Leadership Aurora Applications Now Being Accepted

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications through July 15, 2005 for the 2005-06 Leadership Aurora class. Since 1984 the Aurora Chamber has promoted and fostered the development of leadership in our community. As a result, Leadership Aurora educates and prepares community leaders who are committed to shaping Aurora's future.

Leadership Aurora provides the opportunity for participants to broaden their knowledge of the community while enhancing their leadership skills. Participants benefit by gaining a strengthened sense of personal vision, awareness of issues and challenges facing the community, the rewards of networking with a diverse group of community leaders and the opportunity to make a difference in the community. The community benefits by having an ever-increasing source of quality leaders, an improved communications network among civil, social, education and business leaders and a leadership base with a broadened perspective.

The purpose of the program is reflected in its goals:

- ~ To develop awareness of the Aurora area—its strengths, challenges and opportunities
- ~ To enhance leadership abilities
- ~ To create a network of informed, concerned leaders
- ~ To encourage greater involvement in the community

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

For an application or more information, contact Kimberly Curtis at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at 303-344-1500, or e-mail kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org.



Mission Briefing — Brigadier General Mike Edwards, Commander of the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard at Buckley AFB briefs the Chamber Defense Council on the mission and activities of the Wing. Looking on is Defense Council Chair Diane Garcia. More than 50 Defense Council members attended the meeting which included a tour of maintenance, training and flightline facilities.



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from AWARDS on page 1

also installed our new Chamber Board President, *Dale Mingilton*, Senior Vice President of **FirstBank Holding Company**, and welcomed new board members to the fold."

The black-tie event attracted nearly 500 guests including Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer, Centennial Mayor Randy Pye and Denver Mayor representative Dave Ferrill, as well as a number of other prominent politicians, community and business leaders.

Those honored were:

- **Man of the Year** – Col. Allen Kirkman, Commander of the 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base
- **Woman of the Year** – Ellen Belef
- **Business Person of the Year** – Wendy Mitchell, Aurora Economic Development Council
- **Chamber Leadership** – Bob Barké, BAR-K Insurance Solutions
- **Community Leadership** – Jack Lynch, Aurora Public Schools
- **Small Business Person of the Year** – Cheryl Twesme, ALMC Mortgage

- **Business for the Arts** – Aurora Sentinel, Harrison Cochran, Publisher
- **Humanitarian** – Steve Kimsey, Kimsey Electric
- **Business of the Year** – Sam's Club, represented by Mahesh Patel and Dennis Jenkins

Receiving plaques for their 50 years of continuous Chamber membership were **Mikel-Gamber Photography, Hutchison, Horn and Company, P.C.; Aurora Family YMCA; Xcel Energy; Aurora Public Schools and Waste Management of Colorado.**

The evening closed with a "Changing of the Guard," transfer of leadership from 2004-05 board chair *Pete Kirchof* to 2005-06 chair *Mingilton*, who introduced his new board members. Joining the 25-member board are *Jim Suss* of **Suss Pontiac** and *Larry Grandison* with the Denver Federal Executive Board. Leaving the board after eight years of service were *Tom Ashburn* with **Xcel Energy** and *John Song* with the **Law Offices of John Song**.



Harrison Cochran
Aurora Sentinel



Bob Barké
BAR-K Insurance Solutions



Ellen Belef
Community Activist



Wendy Mitchell
Aurora Economic Development Council



Col. Allen Kirkman
Commander
460th Space Wing
Buckley AFB



Cheryl Twesme
ALMC Mortgage



Steve Kimsey
Kimsey Electric



Jack Lynch
Aurora Public Schools

50 Years and counting...



Kimberly Armitage
Aurora Family YMCA



School Board Member
Willie Jones
Aurora Public Schools



Leaving the fold - Leaving the board after eight years of service are *John Song* with the **Law Offices of John Song** and *Tom Ashburn* with **Xcel Energy**. Joining them are Chamber President *Kevin Hougen* (far left), and outgoing Board Chair, *Pete Kirchof* (far right).

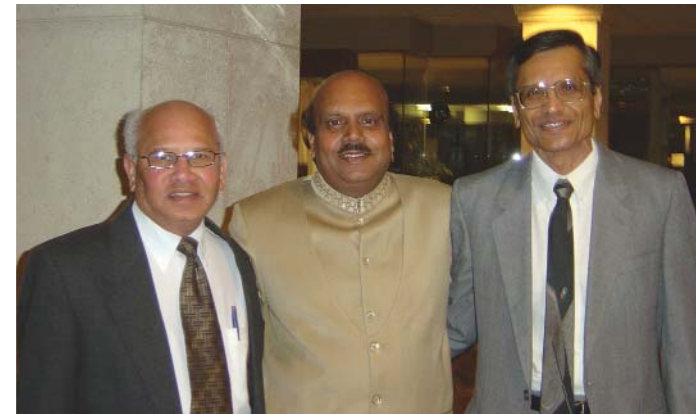


Your Chamber staff at work - Although we may not look like this every day at the office, we will be here to help you with your membership needs. (Front row L-R): *Kevin Hougen, George Peck, Paul Rosenberg*. (Back row, L-R): *Stephanie McDonnell, Marci Maxwell, Kimberly Curtis, Lisa Mull, Naomi Colwell, Mary Beth Sharp*.



And in a supporting roll — Chamber President *Kevin Hougen* honors the sponsors of the 50th Awards Banquet *Tony Antista* and *Dale Mingilton* of **FirstBank**. *Mingilton* is also incoming Chair.

A Glittering Evening



50th Annual Awards Banquet

Sponsored by FirstBank and FirstBank Holding Company of Colorado

Award Winners:

- Man of the Year** – Col. Allen Kirkman, Commander of the 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base
- Woman of the Year** – Ellen Belef, Community Activist
- Business Person of the Year** – Wendy Mitchell, Aurora Economic Development Council
- Chamber Leadership** – Bob Barké, BAR-K Insurance Solutions
- Community Leadership** – Jack Lynch, Aurora Public Schools
- Small Business Person of the Year** - Cheryl Twesme, ALMC Mortgage
- Business for the Arts** – Aurora Sentinel, Harrison Cochran, Publisher
- Humanitarian** – Steve Kimsey, Kimsey Electric
- Business of the Year** – Sam's Club, represented by Mahesh Patel and Dennis Jenkins

Companies honored for continuous membership for the past 50 years:

- Aurora Family YMCA
- Aurora Public Schools
- Hutchison, Horn and Company, P.C.
- Mikel-Gamber Photography
- Waste Management of Colorado
- Xcel Energy