

Serving the east-metro
area including:

Aurora
Bennett
Centennial
Commerce City
Denver

THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2015

Upcoming Events

Meetings are held at the Chamber
office, 14305 E. Alameda Ave., Suite
300 - unless otherwise noted

JANUARY

Happy New Year!

Jan. 1 & 2

Chamber office closed

Legislative Breakfast

Jan. 5 | 7:30 am

Community College of Aurora

16000 E. Centrectech Pkwy.

Aurora, CO 80011

Business for the Arts

Jan. 6 | 8 am

Public Art in Aurora

Tips and Leads 1

Jan. 6 | 11:45 am

Transportation

Jan. 7 | 7:30 am

Healthcare

Jan. 8 | 8 am

**Delta Dental: Results of
ACA Study**

Young Professionals

Jan. 9 | 12 pm

Partners in Business

Jan. 12 | 11:45 am

Tips and Leads 2

Jan. 13 | 7:45 am

Ambassador Team

Jan. 14 | 7:30 am

ChamberMaster Training

Jan. 14 | 12 pm

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Don't be left out — save these dates!

The Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner



March 6, 2015 • 5-9 pm

Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Stapleton North

4040 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80216

You can register now for this evening of
ultimate networking – and celebrating
great business leaders of our Aurora and
Eastern Metro communities.

ConocoPhillips

Title Sponsor



In association with



*Invite you to join us
for our first*

Legislators Breakfast of 2015

*Please join your colleagues from the
Eastern Metro Area delegation
and The Chamber business community
for breakfast and conversation
hosted by Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven
and the Community College of Aurora*

Monday, January 5, 2015, at 7:30 a.m.
CCA CentreTech Campus, Student Centre Rotunda
16000 East CentreTech Parkway

RSVP to Tamara at 303-344-1500
or tamara.mohamed@aurorachamber.org

BUCKLEY STATE OF THE BASE



COLONEL JOHN WAGNER

Commander

460th Space Wing and Buckley AFB

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

11:30 am-1:30 pm

Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Aurora

13696 E. Iliff Pl., Aurora, CO 80014

*One of Colorado's major economic engines
is also one of America's greatest military assets.
Join the leader of the Buckley AFB Team
for his annual community update!*

Space is limited so reservations are required

Chamber Member Cost \$25 per person-Sponsored Tables \$300
(Cost includes lunch - additional proceeds benefit Aurora Rotary and Aurora Chamber Foundation)

Brought to you by The Aurora Chamber Defense Council
in association with the Aurora Rotary Club



Women in Business Luncheon Unsung Heroes Luncheon

February 13, 2015 • 11:30 am-1 pm
Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Aurora
13696 E. Iliff Pl., Aurora, CO 80014

This luncheon honors women in the
community who are unsung heroes.



Keynote speaker
Shannon Block
CEO of the Denver Zoo



facebook

2014 Chamber member statistics:

140 new members
469 renewal members

"It's all about giving back to the community and to business; and that's exactly what's going on at The Chamber."

— Judy Emery, Director,
Colorado Urban Workforce Alliance



David Patterson
Chair

Welcome to 2015!

As we embark on a new year, it's a great opportunity to reflect on The Chamber's role in our past and future success - as investors of the organization. Many

years ago, a Chamber of Commerce was known as the organization you could call for a restaurant recommendation — or that would promote good weather as a "Chamber of Commerce day."

While Kevin and his dynamic team can certainly provide you with an abundant list of great Aurora restaurants, or wax philosophically about the 300-plus days of sunshine we have here, today's Aurora Chamber of Commerce is a much more engaged and complex organization.

In fact, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is the premier business liaison with officials for the City of Aurora, Arapahoe County, Adams County, and state government, advancing pro-business initiatives with a team of professional lobbyists. In addition, The Chamber is involved in quality-of-life issues such as education, taxes, health, and community growth. The Chamber is leading the way in eastern metro community issues, including healthcare, transportation, defense, and energy. The Chamber's business network and numerous B2B events are unrivaled.

In addition to our 300-plus days of sunshine, Aurora has many reasons to be a great place to live and do business. Did you know that Aurora's still-growing medical sector already has a larger economic impact than the entire Colorado ski industry? If you earn a medical degree in Colorado, you go through Aurora. Closer to home, in a recent survey of Aurora residents, three-quarters of respondents gave

positive marks to their neighborhood and the city as a place to live, and would recommend Aurora to others as a place to call home.

Feel free to give the fantastic Chamber staff a call on a beautiful "Chamber of Commerce day" and ask for a tip on where to get a great meal in Aurora. While you have them on the phone, take an extra minute to discuss some of these emerging public policy issues impacting the eastern metro community and learn how your Chamber is leading the way.

I hope to see you at one of the Chamber's signature events in 2015. Thank you for your investment and individual contributions that ensure our Chamber is "Community First, Business Always."

Sincerely,
David Patterson, Falck USA
Chairman of the Board,
Aurora Chamber of Commerce

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

David Patterson | Falck USA

CHAIR-ELECT & TREASURER

Jason Altshuler | Westerra Credit Union

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Health

SECRETARY

Reneé Gullickson | Wells Fargo Business Bank

VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Ryan Simpson | The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthONE

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

David Gruber | Cloud Worldwide, LLC

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

Bob Jamieson | Mutual of Omaha

VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

Dwight Taylor | Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC

DIRECTORS

Joe Barela | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Randy Berner | Adolfsen & Peterson Construction
Larry Borland | CenturyLink
Lisa Buckley | American Automation Building Services
Matt Devereaux | King Soopers - S. Yosemite St
Christy Dobson | Children's Hospital Colorado
Tom Henley | Xcel Energy
Michael "Mickey" Hunt | Colo. Dept. of Military & Veteran's Affairs
Shannon Jones | FirstBank - Aurora Havana
Cindy Kreutz | Healthcare Consultant
Todd Landgrave | Northrop Grumman
Peter Lee | Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership
Dale Mingilton | Adams 14 Education Foundation
Alfonso Nuñez | La Cueva Restaurant
Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven | Community College of Aurora
Suzanne Pitrusu | Community Banks of Colorado
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services
Matt Weber | Kaiser Permanent

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Col. Floyd Dunston | 140th Wing Colorado Air National Guard
Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development
The Honorable Steve Hogan | City of Aurora
Nancy Jackson | Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Wendy Mitchell | Aurora Economic Development Council
Paul Suss | Suss Buick GMC
Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora
Charles "CJ" Whelan | City of Centennial

STAFF

Kevin Hougén | President and CEO
George Peck | Senior Vice President
Naomi Colwell | Marketing Director
Chance Horiuchi | Business Development Director
Linda Lillyblad | Finance Director
Tamara Mohamed | Executive Assistant
Paul Rosenberg | Vice President, Membership Development
Mitzi Schindler | Communications Director
Mary Beth Sharp | Member Services Director
Rene J. Simard | Executive Vice President

ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers
.....
Mario Waller | Six & Six, inc. | Newsletter Design

THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

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

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!

Destination Health:

Improve the bottom line and make Aurora the healthiest city in the world!

This year's Destination Health event on Nov. 13 was a whirlwind of presentations and information about a variety of healthcare topics pertaining to businesses. The information varied from the Affordable Care Act to mental health and from technology innovations in healthcare to employees caring for their aging parents. Worksite wellness and dealing with stress were also covered. And the day culminated in inspirational presentations about one man's massive weight loss battle and a challenge for Aurora to become the healthiest city in the world!

The Chamber greatly appreciates the support of this year's sponsors, **Cigna, The Medical Center of Aurora, University of Colorado Health, Kaiser Permanente,**

Children's Hospital Colorado, SOS Healthcare Staffing, Aurora Mental Health Center, Aurora Credit Union Alliance, AMR, InnovAge, Tri-County Health Department, The YMCA, Pinnacle

Assurance, Falck, CollegeAmerica, Parker Adventist Hospital, Weigh and Win, Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast, Catch it in Time, and Colin Spencer Productions.

Because it really does take a dedicated group of people to make an event happen, a very special thank you goes out to those who served on the planning committee:

- Chad Breeden, *New Business Development*, **SOS Healthcare Staffing**
- Amy Campodonico, *Conference Services Manager*, **Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast**
- Gabrielle Cardwell, *Community Liaison*, **InnovAge Greater Colorado PACE - Chambers Center**
- Gary Duke, *Branch President*, **Guaranty Bank and Trust**
- Judy Emery, *Director*, **Colorado Urban Workforce Alliance**
- Mike Fisher, *Faculty Member*, **Regis University**
- Michele Haugh, *Worksite Wellness Coordinator*, **Tri-County Health Department**
- Jacquie Healy, *CEO and Owner*, **Trilogy Benefits, Inc.**
- Nathan Mizel, *Director of Career and Student Services*, **CollegeAmerica**
- Megan Patton, *Director of Sales and Marketing*, **Springhill Suites Denver @ Anschutz Medical Campus**
- Keith Singer, *Co-Founder*, **Catch it in Time**
- Terry Spencer, *Owner and Executive Producer*, **Colin Spencer Productions, LLC**
- Laura Stephens, *AVP of Marketing and Business Development*, **The Medical Center of Aurora**
- Dennis Stretar, *Independent Insurance Broker*, **Business Insurance Specialists**
- Jeff Thompson, *Director of Government and Corporate Relations*, **University of Colorado Health**
- Christen Turk, *Event Catering Manager*, **Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast**
- Amy Wood, *Senior Community Relations Specialist*, **Kaiser Permanente**

And thanks to those who completed the survey; providing feedback as well as suggestions for Destination Health 2015 - which will be **November 19, 2015** at the **Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast.** ■



Music to our ears



The Chamber's Business for the Arts committee was treated to the harmonic sounds of the Rangeview Choir at their December 2 holiday meeting. Led by Music Director James Laguana - who is also the director of the **Aurora Singers** - the group sang some traditional holiday tunes, along with a fun wintertime song titled "Hot Chocolate." The setting was festive at the **Aurora History Museum**, with the annual wreaths displayed and ready for bidding. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

Chamber members honored with Aurora Business Recognition Awards

Three Chamber member organizations were honored at the 10th annual **City of Aurora Business Recognition Awards** ceremony on December 4, 2014.

The event, this year emceed by Cheryl Braunschweiger of **ALMC Mortgage @ Nova Home Loans**, celebrates Aurora Businesses that make a difference in the community.

Colorado Medical Waste is a woman owned, locally operated company, specializing in environmentally-friendly collection, transport, treatment, and disposal of biohazard waste. Using Ozone Medical Waste Processing technology, waste volume is reduced up to 90 percent and shredded to a consistency similar to confetti, with zero emissions. The process eliminates environmental contamination and HIPPA non-compliance, and conserves natural resources.

Colorado Medical Waste's President Beverly Hanstrom is dedicated to keeping Colorado a



Beverly Hanstrom

place to live, work, play, and raise children who follow the footsteps of preserving and protecting its beauty and natural resources.

FirstBank has been one of Colorado's largest banking institutions since 1963 — but it's the local branch office that's making a big difference in the community. The **FirstBank** at Havana and Iliff Streets is a neighborhood bank that serves the local Aurora small business owner by going above and beyond its scope of work to be of service — providing loans and resources to help businesses succeed.

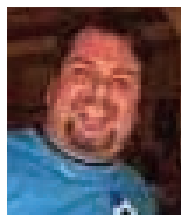


Dave Mittan

FirstBank Branch Manager Dave Mittan is highly involved in the welfare of the community and serves on several non-profit organizations and boards (including the Chamber's **Leadership Aurora Board**) — and encourages his employees to do the same.

Comitis Crisis Center is the only homeless shelter located in Aurora, serving families and individuals of all ages. For more than 40 years, Comitis has been providing safe shelter for individuals who find themselves homeless.

Recently, **Comitis** has made huge strides toward eliminated homelessness and helping homeless female veterans in Aurora. Comitis also works with the Aurora Police Department to provide 24/7 emergency shelter during extreme cold weather.



Robert "Bob" Dorshimer

Comitis CEO Robert "Bob" Dorshimer and his staff are dedicated to

providing the homeless with a place to go, and if needed, mental health substance abuse treatment.

DAVA celebrates top honor

DAVA Job Training student Boris Cochajil and Executive Director Susan Jenson shared the stage with First Lady Michelle Obama in November, as they accepted a 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award (NAHYP Award) on behalf of **DAVA**.

Each year, the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award recognizes 12 of the country's best creative youth development programs for using engagement in the arts and humanities to increase academic achievement, graduation rates, and college enrollment.



First Lady Michelle Obama at the awards presentation in Washington, D.C. with DAVA student Boris Cochajil and DAVA Executive Director Susan Jenson.

Chosen from a pool of more than 350 nominations and 50 finalists, **DAVA** is one of the 12 organizations being honored.

Specifically, **DAVA** received the award for its Job Training in the Arts program. Youth in this program learn art, design, and computer fundamentals in addition to life skills, such as teamwork, responsibility, critical thinking, and practical problem solving.

"You teach kids more than just skills in the arts and humanities — you light a fire in them; you help them grow emotionally and socially," said Mrs. Obama at the award ceremony. "And as all of you know, that has an impact on our kids not just their success in the arts and in the humanities but on their success in school and in life."

"We are so proud of the young people in our Job Training programs whose ideas make our programs sing," remarked Susan, "we celebrate their creativity, their dreams, and their conviction that the arts are an indisputably positive force in the vitality of our communities."

Kiewit-Turner recognizes local veterans; donates to Fisher House

Kiewit-Turner recently donated \$20,000 to the Denver Fisher House Foundation as part of their commitment to supporting and promoting quality care for veterans. The donation was announced as part of **Kiewit's** annual Veteran Recognition Lunch, which included the participation of more than 150 local veterans, and 1,600 employees and guests.



Kiewit-Turner presents the Denver Fisher House with a donation at Wednesday's Veteran Recognition Lunch at the Replacement Medical Facility.

"At **Kiewit**, veterans are a vital part of our workforce. They share our core values and 'nobody gets hurt' safety mindset that we value above all else," said Joe Lempka, president at **Kiewit Building Group**. "We are grateful and humbled by their bravery, service and sacrifice."

"We are honored to join Kiewit in celebrating our veterans," said Dave Duffy, project executive at **Turner Construction**. "This is but a small gesture of our appreciation for the service of veterans past, present and future."

According to Melanie Starkman, president of the Denver Fishers House Foundation, the donation by **Kiewit-Turner** will go a long way in providing temporary housing to families of veterans undergoing medical treatment or hospitalization.

Mike Kuhn receives award from AFCEA

Mike Kuhn with **CA Technologies**, recently received a 2014 Distinguished Young AFCEAN Award from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA). Through its annual awards program, AFCEA International recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals in the communications, electronics, intelligence, and information technologies disciplines. Kuhn is a 2014 **Leadership Aurora** graduate.

Movie Tavern renovation offers comfort and convenience

Movie Tavern, a pioneer of in-theater dining, introduced \$3 million in renovated amenities at its Aurora, CO location in October 2014. New features include reclining loungers in every auditorium, all-reserved seating capability, and a newly renovated lobby and bar area.



"We are thrilled about the upgrades we've made to our Aurora location as our guests will enjoy an even better in-theater dining experience at the same great value," said Danny DiGiacomo, Director of Marketing for **Movie Tavern**.

Movie Tavern Aurora will continue full-service, in-theater dining in every auditorium, offering casual dining with a wide-range of

[continued on page 5]

food, signature cocktails, and beer and wine options. Additionally, **Movie Tavern** will continue to host its family friendly *Breakfast and Flick* on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Guests under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian age 21 or older.

The theater is located at 18605 E Hampden Ave. in Aurora, CO. For more information on **Movie Tavern**, visit www.movietavern.com.

H&M opens first store in Aurora

Southlands Shopping Center celebrated the grand opening of H&M, one of the world's largest fashion retailers, in October 2014. The 21,000 square foot store features apparel as well as accessories, shoes and cosmetics.

Established in Sweden in 1947, H&M is one of the world's largest fashion retailers with a mission to offer fashion and quality at the best price including its designer collaborations and quick-to-market versions of runway fashions.

Jeff Nemec, **Southlands'** general manager noted, "The opening of H&M at **Southlands** is exciting - as we continue to recruit top retailers to complement our existing store mix and to better serve our customers and community at large."

The GBSP gets national accreditation

The Global Business Solution Providers (The GBSP) in Aurora has been officially recognized as Nationally Accredited for Administration of Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs (NAADATP) by the Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry



Association. This accreditation means that their facility, operations, and personnel meet the highest standards in areas such as regulatory

compliance, client confidentiality, accountability, company service standards, operational practices, business ethics, and professional competency for drug and alcohol testing program management. A primary requirement of the NAADATP Program is that principal(s) of **The Global Business Solution Providers** management have passed an industry developed exam on these policies and procedures.

The GBSP provides drug and alcohol program management, drug testing, background screening, and mobile fingerprinting. Learn more at www.thegbsp.com.

SSFCU supports National Guard and Reserves

Security Service Federal Credit Union (SSFCU) is once again showing its support of military men and women. **SSFCU** President and CEO Jim Laffoon, recently joined representatives of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and signed a Statement of Support for those serving in our National Guard and Reserve.

"Founded in 1956 as the credit union for Air Force members on Security Hill at Kelly Air Force Base, we have a long history with the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces," said Laffoon. "We recognize the extraordinary values,



From left, Susan Mustacchio, retired human resources professional, military supporter and active Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) volunteer; Jim Laffoon, Security Service Federal Credit Union president and chief executive officer; and ESGR Volunteer Gary Walston, retired Air Force Colonel and former Commander of the Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing at Lackland Air Force Base.

leadership, and unique skills they bring as employees at Security Service, and want to send a clear message that we understand, support, and deeply appreciate their patriotic duties."

The Statement of Support confirms **Security Service's** commitment to:

- fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA);
- provide managers and supervisors with the tools they need to effectively manage employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve;
- encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans; and
- recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crises, and in war.

Paty named Hotelier of the Year



Allen Paty

Allen Paty has been named 2014 Hotelier of the Year by the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association. Paty oversees the **Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Denver Stapleton North** and is the general manager of the **Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Denver**.

Parker Adventist Hospital opens new, patient-centered facilities at Southlands

Parker Adventist Hospital recently opened a freestanding Southlands Emergency Room and Southlands Neighborhood Health Center. Located at E-470 & Smoky Hill Road at Southlands Mall, the \$20.5 million expansion was developed and designed to meet the community's health needs and to provide solutions where identified gaps in health care services and resources exist.

Opening September 29, 2014, Centura Health Southlands, the Centura Health neighborhood health center, offers family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and women's health. In addition, families have access to an array of ancillary services within the state-of-the-art

facility, including physical therapy, outpatient lab and mammography.

On November 3, 2014, Southlands ER opened as a full-service, free-standing emergency room staffed by Parker Adventist Hospital physicians. The ER provides person-centric care, with improved patient flow, maximizing the amount of time staff spends at the bedside and reducing the amount of time patients spend in the ER.

For more information about the **Parker Adventist Hospital** freestanding ER and the Neighborhood Health Center visit www.parkerhospital.org/er and www.parkerhospital.org/southlands.



Southlands ER medical team.

Partnership celebrates holiday music and benefits the community

In 2013 **Highpoint Church** and the **Aurora Symphony Orchestra (ASO)** created a partnership to do collaborative benefit events. This year, the **ASO & Highpoint Church** partnership had three holiday events to raise funds for **Aurora Warms the Night**. On Dec. 7 The **ASO** and the **Aurora Singers** performed a Holiday concert, and on Dec. 14, the **Highpoint Church's** music department held two Carols by Candlelight performances. The three events raised a total of \$10,000 for **Aurora Warms the Night**. Both **ASO** and the **Aurora Singers** are long-standing members of the Chamber's Business for the Arts committee. ■



Highpoint Church Pastor Gene Roncone shared one of the many pieces created by homeless children. The artworks illustrate the children's dreams, and were displayed in the church lobby. Roncone is on the **Aurora Warms the Night** board of directors, and is in the 2014-2015 **Leadership Aurora Class**.

(Photos courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

Correction: On page 8 of the November/December 2014 issue of the Chamber's Impact newsletter, the Tips and Leads photo outline should have included a photo credit: **Photo by Brian Molitoris Photographer.**

RibbonCuttings



It's a first for Aurora! — Terrapin Care Station's first Aurora store opened in October 2014, with Aurora City Council member Marsha Berzins and Mayor Steve Hogan helping **Terrapin** owner Chris Woods cut the ribbon. Since the passing of Amendment 64 in Colorado, those 21 years of age or older with a valid ID, can shop at retail recreational cannabis shops. The **Terrapin Care Station** at 11091 E. Mississippi Ave., Aurora, CO 80012 is open 8 am-10 pm daily. www.terrapiincarestation.com 10/15/14 (Photo by Cannabis Camera.com)

A whole new vibe — Office Evolution Business Center Manager Eileen Proctor shows great enthusiasm after cutting the ribbon for the Southlands Mall location grand opening in November 2014. The **Office Evolution** at 6105 S. Main St., Suite 200, in Aurora, CO, is "a traditional office without the corporate vibe," offering 22 executive suites, multiple conference rooms, a training center, an outdoor balcony, and free parking for tenants and guests. Amenities also include business mail service, 24/7 facility access, tech support, copiers, printers and fax, and phone answering service. www.officerevolution.com/aurora-co, 303-376-6323. 11/6/14



Know your own strength! — Daniel Floyd, General Manager of the **Gold's Gym** at 15141 E. Mississippi Ave. in Aurora has some powerful help cutting the ribbon, including **Gold's Gym Aurora** staff members, corporate representative Dell Lawhead, and **Chamber Ambassadors**. **Gold's Gym** commitment to helping you "Know Your Own Strength" means more than just providing a great place to work out. It's about community, it's about people, and it's about changing lives. Whether you're a die-hard **Gold's Gym** fan, an older adult wanting to stay in tip-top shape, or someone fighting diabetes, **Gold's Gym** is committed to helping you be stronger. <http://www.goldsgym.com/aurora/>, 720-282-4435. 10/21/14.

RIBBON CUTTINGS (con't)



Great food, great service any time you want it! — Hannah Kim, owner of two newly renovated **Denny's Restaurants**, proudly cuts the ribbon and welcomes guests at each location to a complimentary **Grand Slam Breakfast**. Located at 14400 E. 6th Ave., Aurora, CO 80011 and 1505 S. Havana St., Aurora, CO 80012, **Denny's Restaurants** have been known as America's Diner for the past 60 years, where families are welcome to sit back, relax, and enjoy delicious, hearty meals 24/7, every day of the year! <http://www.dennys.com>. 12/3/14 and 12/10/14.

"The Aurora Chamber is the best in the State."

— Lisa Buckley, CEO,
American Automation Building Solutions



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events (con't.)

Leadership Aurora Board

Jan 14 / 4 pm

Leadership Aurora Class

Jan. 15 | 7:30 am

Education Session

Government Affairs

Jan. 15 | 7:30 am

Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 16

Chamber office closed

Tips and Leads 1

Jan. 20 | 11:45 am

State of the Base

Jan. 21 | 11:30 am

Doubletree Hotel by Hilton

Aurora-Denver

13696 E. Iliff Pl.
Aurora, CO 80014

Business After Hours

Jan. 22 | 5-7 pm

University of Colorado Hospital - Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion 2

12605 E. 16th Ave.
Aurora, CO 80045

Partners in Business

Jan. 26 | 11:45 am

Tips and Leads 2

Jan. 27 | 7:45 am

Women in Business

Jan. 27 | 12 pm

Chamber Board of Directors

Jan. 28 | 7:30 am

Member Orientation

Jan. 28 | 12 pm

February 2015

Business for the Arts

Feb. 3 | 8 am

Community College of Aurora Performing Arts Program

Tips and Leads 1

Feb. 3 | 11:45 am

Transportation

Feb. 4 | 7:30 am

Government Affairs

Feb. 5 | 7:30 am

Young Professionals

Feb. 6 | 12 pm

Dumping Debt

Partners in Business

Jan. 9 | 11:45 am

Tips and Leads 2

Feb. 10 | 7:45 am

Ambassador Team

Feb. 11 | 7:30 am

ChamberMaster Training

Feb. 11 | 12 pm

Leadership Aurora Board

Feb. 11 | 4 pm

Healthcare

Feb. 12 | 8 am

Healthcare Technology

Women Making a Difference "Unsung Hero" Luncheon

Feb. 13 | 11:30 am-1 pm

Doubletree Hotel by Hilton

Aurora-Denver

13696 E. Iliff Pl.
Aurora, CO 80014

President's Day

Feb. 16

Chamber office closed

Tips and Leads 1

Feb. 17 | 11:45 am

Leadership Aurora

Feb. 19 | 7:30 am - 5 pm

Healthcare Session

Partners in Business

Feb. 23 | 11:45 am

Tips and Leads 2

Feb. 24 | 7:45 am

Chamber Board of Directors

Feb. 25 | 7:30 am

Defense Council

Feb. 26 | 7:15 am

Business After Hours

Feb. 26 | 5-7 pm

Beverage Distributors

14200 E. Montcreeff Pl., Suite E
Aurora, CO 80011

Report from the Leadership Aurora Class: The Making of an All-America City

By Leadership Aurora Class of 2015 member Denise Denton,
Executive Director of Aurora Health Access



The *Best Class Ever 2015*, met bright and early at the Aurora Municipal Center for our November 2014 class. Greg Baker, **City of Aurora Water** and **Leadership Aurora** Board Member, served as the emcee to introduce the speakers, including Kevin Hougen, President of the **Aurora Chamber**; Skip Noe, **Aurora** City Manager, and **Aurora** Mayor Steve Hogan — who collectively told us more about our fair city than I would have imagined possible in such a short amount of time.

Mock City Council

Following the presentations, there was a “Mock City Council Meeting.” For this unique experience, we were assigned the issue of whether the Council should put before **Aurora’s** voters the decision to become a city/county. We split into five groups representing the City Council and Mayor, a group supporting the change, those against the change, representatives from Arapahoe and Adams Counties, and John Q. Public. We only had 10 minutes to prepare, but with

City Council staff assistance, we were ready!

Each group selected a spokesperson to present their 3-minute arguments to the Council. The City Council members, led by Mock-Mayor/Doctor Bobby Pace (**Community College of Aurora**) looked so regal and wise sitting up in the Council dais. Nikki Jackson (**Sustainable Storytelling**) presented a compelling “pro” argument around the public’s desire for ease and transparency; Pastor

Gene Roncone (**Highpoint Church**) made an elegant, well-crafted, 5-point argument against conversion; Amanda Marosy (**Aurora Mental Health Center**) dazzled the Council members - frankly, all of us - with her well-researched statistics and documentation, and Kevin Q. Carlson/Public (**Kevin Carlson Golf**) removed his hat when



asked to do so. While we had a little fun with this exercise - in fact, Mayor/Doctor Bobby had to call security to remove one rowdy audience member, but turned out the rowdy himself was a cop — which of course, complicated things a bit. It was an incredible learning experience.

Mayor Hogan, who critiqued our performance, thought we did a fine job. And the Council voted for the motion, to let the Aurora voters decide.

Wagner Equipment Tour

After lunch, we caravanned to **Wagner Equipment**. Mike Quirk, VP of Operations, offered a dynamic presentation about **Wagner**, located in Aurora since 1976, whose service area includes Colorado, New Mexico, West Texas, and Mongolia! We were all impressed and proud that Aurora is home to such a well-run, sophisticated, family company. And they give so much back to the community. For the past few years, Wagner had provided internships and good jobs to over 200 students from the **Community College of Aurora**.

Then we got to play with the big rigs! After donning orange vests and safety goggles, and getting a quick lesson on safety, we all got to actually use excavators! What an incredible opportunity.

Looking forward to Media Day in December. ■



From the Leadership Aurora Class of 2015

*Please help us raise funds for the Aurora Chamber of
Commerce Leadership Aurora Class Scholarship!*

Attend a Social Fundraising Event



January 6, 2015 (4pm-8pm)
BJ's Restaurant and BrewHouse
14442 E. Cedar Ave, Aurora CO 80012, 303-366-3550



February 2, 2015 (12 Noon- 6pm)
Panda Express
14302 E. Cedar Ave, Aurora CO 80012, 303-366-2290

Must present this ad.

New Chair for Healthcare

Keith Singer, Co-founder of **Catch it in Time** (CIIT), has taken on the leadership of the Chamber Healthcare committee, beginning December 2014. Keith has an extensive background in broadcasting and communications, and plans to use these skills to help member organizations navigate 'the healthcare maze' to benefit their businesses. He also has a passion for the promotion of cancer prevention and early detection awareness; hence the creation of **CIIT** in 2011 as a means to help spread the message that early detection must be part of everyday life.



Keith Singer

following a series of discussion groups held to determine initial priorities for the new committee. Bob Barké, of **BAR-K Insurance Solutions**, led the discussion groups and served as chair of the committee 2011 through 2013.

The Healthcare committee served as the catalyst for Destination Health, which just completed its second successful year of sharing pertinent healthcare information with Chamber members and guests in a condensed, half-day format.

Much of The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's success is due to members like Bob and Keith, who step forward to lead, offering their time and skills for the benefit of the membership and the community. ■

The Chamber Healthcare committee held its first meeting in August 2011,

January 30 • 5-8 pm Aurora Chamber Senior Vice President George Peck's Retirement Party

Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Aurora
13696 E. Iliff Pl., Aurora, CO 80014



George Peck

Join the Chamber community in wishing George a fun-filled and amazing retirement journey, after 15 incredibly-energetic years with the Chamber! We will celebrate the stories and the memories — as well as toast to his future.

Successes and surprises at Aurora Chamber event

By Margarita Alarcon

What do business representatives, Miles the Broncos mascot, and scrambled eggs all have in common? They were some of the highlights at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce October Business Before Hours event held at the **City of Aurora** municipal building.

Xcel Energy sponsored the event hosted by the **City of Aurora**, which drew about 130 Chamber members, as part of the company's Community Energy Efficiency Planning (CEEP) pilot program. CEEP is a community relationship-building program offering energy strategy planning and execution for communities like Aurora, that will be completed by January 2015.

When Miles wasn't scene-stealing, Margarita Alarcon, CEEP Aurora program lead, alongside several DSM program managers, account managers and area managers, discussed key business, renewable and residential energy conservation programs. Participants brought their energy efficiency questions to the **Xcel Energy** team, creating lively exchanges and several on-the-spot energy analysis assessment sign-ups.

Two club-seat Broncos tickets were raffled to one lucky winner, drawn by Miles the Mascot —and that winner was Renee Leon, owner of **Auto Pros**. Others walked away with cash gift cards, a Broncos-branded jacket, and a hoodie.

"The event was a successful networking



Clockwise: (1) Miles and Auto Pros owner Renee Leon – winner of the coveted Bronco tickets at The Chamber's Business Before Hours event in October, sponsored by Xcel Energy and hosted by the City of Aurora. (2) Seated, left to right are President of the Aurora Branch NAACP Dr. Levester Lyons; George and Barbara Goree; Sr. Vice President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce George Peck; Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson; Pat Duncan; and Chief of the City of Aurora Community Relations Division Dr. Barbara Shannon-Bannister. (3) Xcel Energy CEEP Aurora program lead Margarita Alarcón and Miles share a smile during the event.



opportunity and a way to have a fun time engaging with our customers," said Alarcon, senior product portfolio manager, DSM Marketing. "Our customers were happy to learn how to start their energy efficiency journey - as it can be a complex process. We're here to make it easier for them to save money and energy."

The general staff, along with the DSM and renewable energy product team representing **Xcel Energy**, included: Alarcon, Parker Cohn, Kevin Cray, Sam Domeier, Tom Henley, Kristin Leiker, Bob Macauley, Darryl Presley, Clayton

Reed (CLEAResult) and Brian Tholl (Franklin Energy).

"We viewed the success of this event as three-fold in relationship building among **Xcel Energy**, Aurora businesses and the Broncos," added Karen Hancock, planning supervisor with the **City of Aurora**. "We anticipate that the businesses that attended will apply some of the energy efficiency projects they learned about, and that will help meet our overall city goals to reduce and conserve energy." ■

MemberContributions

An attitude of gratitude: Go for the threefold effect

Gratitude is one of the highest ranking emotions - right up there with love.

I am always amazed at how well-received a simple handwritten thank you card is. Think about it: When you go to the mail and spot an envelope different from the others, you usually want to open that one first to see if it is indeed a card and, if so, who it's from. If you are anything like me, you become filled with anticipation and excitement, and if you are the mushy type, after opening and reading it you

are left with a warm fuzzy feeling that touches your soul.

- Tips for adding more gratitude in your life:
- Create a daily gratitude journal and jot down 5-10 things you are grateful for - preferably in the last 45 minutes of your day.
 - Adopt a "send a thank you card a day" routine.

- Tell your friends, family, colleagues, and significant others what you appreciate about them on a regular basis and just watch the magic transform! ■



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Teri Karjala is the owner of Creative Counseling Center, LLC, and is licensed in the State of Colorado as a Professional Counselor, as well as a Marriage and Family Counselor.

MemberRenewals

140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)
Act IV
Adams 14 Education Foundation
AllStaff HomeCare, LLC/ Allstaff Medical
Alpen Construction & Development, Inc.
American Sentinel University
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office
Aurora Gateway Rotary Club
Aurora Rotary Club
Aurora Symphony Orchestra
Bella Vita Senior Living
Buckingham Oaks Condominium Assoc.
Carlos Klinger & Sons
Children's Hospital Colorado
Citywide Banks - Aurora East
Coffman, US Congressman Mike
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Laura Noe
Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.
Comcast
Community College of Aurora - Bookstore
Component Specialties, Inc.
Cops Fighting Cancer
Courtyard by Marriott - Denver South/
Park Meadows Mall
Craig Wagner Law Firm
Doubletree by Hilton Denver
DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Stapleton North
DPRA, Inc.
Exodus Moving
Faison Office Products Company, LLC
FirstBank - Aurora, Havana
Fitz on 14th
Five Rings Financial
Foxridge Farm
Freund & Company
Front Range Airport

Hampton Inn & Suites - DIA/Gateway Park
Hillcrest Village
Holiday Inn Denver East - Stapleton
Infiniti of Denver
Junior Achievement of Rocky Mountain, Inc.
Kiewit Building Group Inc- Colorado Area
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L&L Hawaiian Barbecue
Landmark Packaging, Inc.
Landtech Contractors, Inc.
Len Lyall Chevrolet, Inc.
Lotus School For Excellence
Lupita's Restaurant
M. Mullis Collectibles- Jerri Grable Mullis
Metro Community Provider Network, Inc.
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Minor & Brown PC
Mosaic Church of Aurora
Nelnet
O.L.P. Management Company, Inc.
Parker Adventist Hospital
Parkside Animal Health Center
Peck, Barbara
Pickens Technical College
Pima Medical Institute
Rawles, George "Mel"
Renaissance Denver Hotel
Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC, The
Roof Brokers, Inc.
Rosser, Michael
Ruddick, Steve
Rural/Metro Ambulance
Safe Splash Swim School
Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel
Space Age Federal Credit Union
Special Olympics Colorado
State Farm Insurance - Mike Gibbs

Staybridge Suites - Denver Tech
T. Charles Wilson Insurance Service
Todd, Nancy - State Senate
Turner Construction Company
University of Colorado Health
Visit Aurora
White Glove Car Wash
Wings Over the Rockies Museum
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New members

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Flood and Peterson
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Home is Our Heart Cleaning, LLC
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Smoky Hill Dental
Sunflower Bank, N.A.
Uncle Maddios Pizza Joint
URT Solutions
USA Home Inspectors
Vintage Theatre

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