

Serving the east-metro area including:

- Aurora
- Bennett
- Centennial
- Stapleton
- Denver

# THE CHAMBER

# Impact

## NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUG 2018

**'Cowboy up' and kick up some trail dust at Chamber Business After Hours July 26, 2018**



**Arapahoe County Fair Kick-off Dinner!**

Get ready for a boot stompin' night of networking, food, and drinks.

Grab your ropes and reign in new business contacts!

**Arapahoe County Fairgrounds Events Center**  
25690 E. Quincy Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80016  
(RSVP Required and ticket)

Go to: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)  
Click on Calendar on top bar and then July 28, 2018

Free to Chamber members  
\$25 non-members



facebook

## Leadership Graduating Class of "20GR18"



*Congratulations to the Leadership Aurora Class of 20GR18 that graduated June 7 at the Summit Conference and Event Center, with dinner provided by Jim 'N Nick's BBQ, and beverages provided by Launchpad Brewery and The Aurora Chamber. (Photo by Mark Smith, PhotoSmith)*

**Applications for the 2018-2019 Leadership Aurora Class are due July 15, 2018.**

## Leadership Aurora Tournament Winners



**The 20th Annual Leadership Aurora Tournament has four new winners!**

*Congratulations to the Boeing team! From left to right: Rich Kolberg, Boeing; Dick Hinson, Colorado Space Business Roundtable; Mitzi Schindler, Aurora Chamber Assistant Program Director (not in the foursome); Travis Driskoll, Boeing; Dave Eddy, Boeing.*

# Chair's Letter



**Joe Barela**  
Board Chair

Joe Barela, a human capital and talent development professional, is The Chamber's incoming Chair of the Board, serving a one-year term from June 2018 - May 2019. Barela is a collaborative leader whose work is driven by a passion for workforce issues.

Prior to becoming a director with Skillful — A Markle Initiative, Barela served over 12 years as the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! workforce director and division manager, making strategic investments in human capital for individual and community economic vitality.

In Barela's current role with Skillful — A Markle Initiative, he continues to strive for American workers by prioritizing skills and removing barriers that keep many talented people from applying for in-demand jobs.

"There's no greater work than the work of helping people find their passion," said Barela.

With a profound focus on workforce and economic development in Aurora and the metro Denver area for more than 25 years, Barela's talent and experience aligns perfectly with The Chamber's philosophy of *Community First, Business Always*. ■

The U.S. economy has fundamentally changed since the robust, job-generating days of the mid-1990s. Today, with the high cost of housing, one of the lowest unemployment rates in Colorado's history, the Chamber has to be a leader in high quality labor force development.

So, we are thrilled to have Joe Barela, with his extensive experience in workforce development, as our Chamber Chair for 2018-2019.

— Kevin Hougen, President and CEO, Aurora Chamber of Commerce

## ChamberBoard

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**  
Joe Barela | *Skillful — A Markle Initiative*

**CHAIR-ELECT**  
Betsy Oudenhoven, PhD | *Community College of Aurora*

**IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**  
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Community Banks of Colorado*

**TREASURER**  
Rebecca Kelley | *EKS&H*

**SECRETARY**  
Dianne McCallister, MD | *The Medical Center of Aurora*

**VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
Dale Mingilton | *Adams 14 Education Foundation*

**VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**  
Gian Gandolfo | *Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport*

**VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES**  
TBD

**VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES**  
TBD

### DIRECTORS

John Adams | *Colorado Technical University*  
Tyrone Adams | *Colorado Association of Realtors*  
Johnny Choate | *The GEO Group*  
Christy Dobson | *Children's Hospital Colorado*  
Chris Fasching | *Felsburg Holt & Ullevig*  
Beth Klein | *FirstBank - Aurora Havana*  
Kristi Kleinholz | *Outback Steakhouse - Abilene*  
Rich Kolberg | *The Boeing Company*  
Peter Lee | *Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership*  
Molly Markert | *Colorado Access*  
John McCormick | *CenturyLink*  
Chad Nielsen | *Wagner Equipment Co.*  
Keith Peterson | *University of Colorado Hospital*  
Kerry Ryan | *Wells Fargo-Business Banking*  
Louis Salazar | *ConocoPhillips*  
Michael Sheldon | *Aurora Highlands*  
Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*  
Jason Tacha | *Kaiser Permanente*

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Col. Brian Turner | *140th Wing Colorado Air National Guard*  
Barry Gore | *Adams County Economic Development*  
Nancy Jackson | *Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners*  
Ron Weidman | *City of Centennial*  
Bruce Dalton | *Visit Aurora*

### BOARD ADVISORS

Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte | *Buckley AFB*  
Charles Maldonado | *Aero Business Consultancy*

### STAFF

Kevin Hougen | *President and CEO*  
Rene J. Simard | *Executive Vice President*  
Rebecca Ebner | *Administrative Assistant*  
Rachel Gruber | *Director of Events and Marketing*  
Linda Lillyblad | *Finance Director*  
Beau Martinez | *Membership Development*  
Tamara Mohamed | *Director of Community Relations*  
Paul Rosenberg | *Vice President, Membership Development*  
Mitzi Schindler | *Communications Director*

### ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | *Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)*  
.....  
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](http://www.aurorachamber.org), so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

# An Inside Look at Chamber Committees

*NOTE: Many of the Chamber committees do not meet in July each year, in order to allow time to plan for the upcoming year. The following committees do not have July meetings:*

- Business for the Arts
- Transportation
- Work Well 2.0 Health Series
- Young Professionals
- Women in Business
- Defense Council

## BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

### Growing and Improving the Aurora Arts District

Tony Chacon, urban renewal supervisor with the City of Aurora's Planning and Development Services Department provided attendees of May's Business for the Arts meeting with an update on the current status of arts organizations, facilities, and activities in the Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD).



Chacon shared that between arts-related organizations and creative businesses, that there are more than 600 events, performances, exhibits, and classes based in the Arts District, with nearly 100K arts-related visits. There are ongoing discussions for development of townhouses, a mixed-use building, and an artist/living studio project/commercial space project.

The Arts District is the area of Aurora in or adjacent to 14th Avenue/Del Mar Parkway to the south, 16th Ave. to the north, Clinton Street to the West, and Geneva Street to the east.

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

### Facebook & Continued Discussion about Lucrative Partners



Satya Wimbish

Satya Wimbish, president of events and outreach for the Aurora Cultural Arts District and owner of Trash as Arts gave a hands-on demonstration of how to cross-post events on Facebook for additional exposure and promotion.

Following up on the April 3 presentation by

Meredith Badler with the CBCA, the discussion continues about ways businesses and the arts can partner for the benefit of both. As an example: For a customer appreciation event at Auto Pros, LLC (a Chamber member auto repair business), they could partner with a local dance company to provide entertainment at the event (and exposure for the dance company); enhancing the experience for all!



## TRANSPORTATION

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

### City of Centennial and Let's Go, Colorado



Travis Greiman



Travis Greiman, public works director at the City of Centennial gave an informative presentation, which included paving projects, the traffic signal program, widening projects, Arapahoe Road

improvements, and a variety of plans for future projects.

In all, the total cost of improvements Greiman talked about exceeds \$100M. He concluded that although he was not aware of any ballot initiatives that would direct that kind of funding to Centennial, that he was "not alone in saying that Centennial has plenty of projects on which to spend additional transportation funding should it become available."



*Let's Go, Colorado* is a Statewide Coalition, with the mission of increasing awareness and finding solutions to transportation challenges in Colorado.

Campaign Manager Jake Martin shared statistics about the rising number of people living in the State and how that translates to increased miles traveled (e.g. 3.3 million people, 27.7 billion miles traveled in 1991 / 5.4 million people, 50.5 billion miles traveled in 2015), and how that then affects our roads and the cost of transportation.

At the time of the presentation, five initiatives had been filed including three sales tax only increases of varying amounts, and two options with sales tax and general fund transfers.

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

### Planning and Projects in Arapahoe County

Bryan Weimer, transportation division manager for Arapahoe County began his June 6 presentation with a humorous tribute to George Peck, former vice president of The Chamber - "documenting" what George has been doing since retirement; with George's head inserted into a number of photos, including riding camels and sitting with the Queen of England!



Bryan Weimer



On a more serious and celebratory note, Weimer shared that Arapahoe County's Public Works Division (PWD) recently received American Public Works Association (APWA) accreditation; which is a highly-regarded formal recognition of well-run agencies.

He then talked in detail about the PWD's mission, functions, programs, assets, and shared statistics about projected growth in the County. He also talked about current and future roadway and transportation projects in the County.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

**Thursdays, May 3 and June 7, 2018**

### End of Session Updates

As the 2018 legislative session wrapped up on May 9, May and June meetings focused on bills making their final push and post-session updates. There were 721 bills introduced, 432 passed the Senate and House, and 222 were signed by the Governor.

During the session, the Chamber had a strong focus on bills regarding K-12 Education, Transportation and PERA.

Transportation: SB - 001: Transportation Infrastructure Funding: The bill sets aside \$645 million for transportation projects over the next two years.

K-12 Education: HB18 - 1322: Long Appropriation Act and HB18- 1323: Funding three Pay for Success Projects. Better-than-expected state forecast allows to strengthen key areas of the budget including K-12 education and higher education. Highlights of the 2018-2019 budget include:

- Funding K-12 education with \$150 million above enrollment and inflation.
- Rural schools receive an additional \$30 million.
- Higher Education receives more than \$75 million.

PERA: SB18-200: Directs the state to allocate \$225 million each year to PERA to reduce the unfunded liability. This includes:

- Increasing contributions from employers and employees
- Modifying retirement benefits, including reducing the annual increase for all current/future retirees as well as raising retirement age for new employees
- Establishing an automatic adjustment provision to keep PERA on a path to full funding in 30 years

At the June 7 meeting, the committee heard from Lisa Weil, executive director for Great Education Colorado, which is seeking The Chamber's endorsement for Initiative 93: Great Schools Thriving Communities. The committee motioned to support the initiative, which will go to the Board of Directors for a final decision.

Learn more at [GreatSchoolsThrivingCommunities.org](http://GreatSchoolsThrivingCommunities.org).

[continued on page 4]

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Friday, May 11, 2018

### Exploring Cultural Communication



Dr. Nita Mosby-Tyler

Nita Mosby-Tyler, PhD, owner of The Equity Project, LLC, enlightened the group in how to be more inclusive while communicating with different cultures, backgrounds and with language barriers. "The problem is, we hire diversity but then have a culture that rewards conformity."

Mosby-Tyler explained the difference between competency, which means the "ability to understand," versus responsiveness, which means the "ability to learn," and why this is so important.

Mosby-Tyler presented eight tips for good cross-cultural communication:

1. Speak clearly and slowly
2. Avoid using slang terms or abbreviations
3. Be respectful
4. Always err on the side of professionalism
5. Be understanding
6. Write out any words, numbers or phrases causing a barrier to effective communication
7. Listen and repeat
8. Be conscious of personal space

She ended her presentation with another personal quote, "the goal in all of this is not perfection, its excellence."

Friday, June 8, 2018

### Speed Networking

Sue Klaus with Omada7 and Career Success Pathways presented at the June Diversity and Inclusion Council meeting, providing an effective way to meet several new people in a limited amount of time, through Speed Networking.



Sue Klaus

Speed networking helps build new relationships while also teaching people how to actively listen and practice telling their own story. With five minutes to talk about themselves, by the third rotation, most attendees felt confident in telling their story.

Attendees of the Council spent the last 10 minutes exchanging business cards with those they weren't able to sit down during speed networking. By the end of the meeting, there were many connections made and the room was filled with chatter and laughter.

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

### 7 Levels of Leadership That Create Your Workplace

April's Women in Business Committee provided guests with insight into discovering how the seven levels of energy enhance



Lora Freeman

performance and engagement at work and at home. Lora Freeman, owner of 3D Solutions, who offers speaking and coaching services for women, dove into how your level of engagement and personal energy toward situations impacts all relationships and how that perception becomes reality.

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Wednesday, April 25, 2018



### Tour of Medicine Man and YP Social at Jim 'N Nicks BBQ

The Young Professionals committee was given an exclusive tour with Sally Vander Veer who oversees operations at Medicine Man Denver, a cultivation facility and dispensary. Sally and her staff answered questions related to the industry including the process of growing marijuana, different strains, disposal of product, the financial side, and the difference between medical and recreational marijuana.

The group then gathered for a social close by at Jim 'N Nicks BBQ - Northfield, where Mandy Young, senior local sales manager, hosted appetizers. The Young Professionals had the opportunity to network and enjoy some delicious food.

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

### Dealing with Difficult People



Mike Komola

Regional Director with Avitus Group, Mike Komola, flew out to Colorado for a unique presentation on *Dealing with Difficult People*. Mike talked about different types of people we

encounter on a regular basis and how that can affect our day, work, and personal experiences. Some of the types of people described were: defensive, toxic negativity, apologizer, diverter, angry fighter, negotiator, harmonizer, abdicator, avoider, and crier. He emphasized good open-ended questions and to active listening skills to get people to open up more and find the root of their problem.

As business owners, it is important to know how to deal with different types of people, because a bad reaction to a difficult person can have a negative effect.

Komola also gave helpful tips on how to be thankful. Sometimes it is hard to see the positive when dealing with difficult people; however, he said you should thank difficult people for:

1. Bringing the problem to your attention
2. Their patience
3. Their business
4. Their humor or positive response
5. Their willingness to resolve the situation

He ended by emphasizing the need to practice these skills, and added that the BEST relationships last. **B**e a listener, **E**mpathize, **S**olve, and **T**hank.

## WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

### Colorado Culture of Health and Wellbeing Conference

In May, members of The Chamber's Work Well 2.0 Health Series were invited to attend the 11th Annual Colorado Culture of Health and Wellbeing Conference, compliments of Tri-County Health Department (tickets were \$250/person). This full-day conference, held at the Colorado Convention Center, offered opportunities to learn about healthcare trends and employee wellness initiatives from a variety of speakers and breakout sessions, along with exhibits, networking — and of course, healthy breakfast and lunch!

Chamber member Children's Hospital Colorado was named the 2018 Colorado Governor's Award for Worksite Wellness at the Conference.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is possible through a partnership of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Tri-County Health Department, and is sponsored by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) through the Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease Grants Program.

Thursday, June 7, 2017

### Celebrating Champions of Wellness



The Chamber's Work Well 2.0 Health Series ended its first three-year grant with Tri-County Health Department, - which provides funding for the participants in the Chamber's Worksite Wellness Coalition, nicknamed the Work Well 2.0

[continued on page 5]

# RibbonCuttings

Ribbon cuttings mean business:  
**262 jobs**



## Bellco Credit Union

13700 E. Colfax Ave., Suite O, Aurora, CO 80011  
**Bellco Credit Union** opens their 25th Colorado Branch with Board Chairman Steven Angelier (cutting the ribbon) and President and CEO Douglas Ferraro (left of Angelier). They are joined by **Bellco** Board members and management team, along with members and staff of The Chamber to open the new Colfax and I-225 branch, near the **Anschutz Medical Campus**. At the event, Angelier also presented donations to James Gillespie, community impact and government relations liaison for **Comitis Crisis Center**, and Krista Robinson, deputy director of **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)**. (5/30/18) [www.bellco.org/](http://www.bellco.org/) (720) 479-5286

## 225 Self Storage

13790 E. Mississippi Ave., Aurora, CO 80012

**225 Self Storage** celebrates their two-year anniversary with general manager and former Denver Bronco, Ken Lanier, and members of the community. **225 Self Storage** is a 49,000 square foot facility with 376 temperature-controlled storage units for household as well as commercial storage. **225 Self Storage** also recently hosted a youth vs. adult tricycle race to raise money for the **Commanders Youth Football** team. (5/10/18) [www.225selfstorage.com](http://www.225selfstorage.com) (303) 953-1984.



## Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health

8354 Northfield Blvd., Bld. G, Ste. 3700, Denver, CO 80238  
Jessica Riggs, RN, President and CEO (left) and Lisa Foster, RN, Clinical Operations Director (right), cut the ribbon for **Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health**. Behind Riggs on the left is Ashlyn Estes, RN, VP of Home Health Operations. **Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health** is a nurse owned and operated home health agency, serving pediatric patients with private and hourly home nursing, respite care, family support services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and more. (5/3/18) [www.angelsofcare.com/](http://www.angelsofcare.com/) (720) 709-4739.

[continued on page 6]

## COMMITTEES (con't)

Health Series. On June 7, a Champions of Wellness celebration was held, recognizing employers involved in the coalitions for their dedication to improving the health of our community, one workplace at a time.

**GREAT news alert!** The grant through CDPHE has been renewed for another three-year cycle, which means that The Chamber and Tri-County Health Department will continue with the Work Well 2.0 Health Series for another three years; providing healthy workplace assessments, informational meetings and advising, camaraderie with other coalition members, funding opportunities, and FUN.

This free, Chamber 'healthy' benefit program is available for all Chamber member organizations/companies.

Contact [Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org) for information.



Front row, left to right:  
PO2 Tavaris Moore, SSG Brett Muratori, SSG Isabel Munoz, SGT Dawn Poh Casiano, and SPC Amber Trujillo  
Back row, left to right: SSgt Iliah Duncan, SSGt Anthony Wellens, LCPL Chelcea Mills, and PO1 Andrew Ball

Not pictured: SPC Kyle Anderson, PO1 Samuel Piper, and CPL Adam Bosworth.

## DEFENSE COUNCIL

Friday, May 4, 2018

### Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

The 42nd Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon was held May 4, 2018 at the

Doubletree by Hilton Denver Hotel. More than 550 were in attendance as the Aurora Chamber's Defense Council honored junior enlisted members throughout the eastern metro area. The keynote speaker was Brigadier General (retired) Ronald Huntley, former commander, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado. ■



**Hyatt House – Denver Airport**

18741 E. 71st Ave., Denver, CO 80249  
**The Hyatt House – Denver Airport** unveils their newly-renovated hotel and Hbar with Director of Sales Lauren Manfredi, Executive Housekeeper Grazyna Lenczewski, Chief Engineer Steven Steelfox, Regional Director of Sales for Sage Hospitality Betsy Baker, Chief Investment Officer of Hospitality for McWhinney Dave Johnstone, Assistant Project Manager of Hospitality for McWhinney Cheryl Berg, (cutting the ribbon), COO of Sage Hospitality Kenneth Widmaier, **Hyatt House** General Manager Jason Mueller, Vice President of Operations Premium Branded for Sage Hospitality Maxine Dee, and Chamber President/CEO, Kevin Hougen. **The Hyatt House – Denver Airport** is a pet-friendly hotel with 123 rooms available, offering full amenities. (4/26/18) <https://denverairport.house.hyatt.com> (303) 628-7777.

**Montano Homes**

22571 E. Hindsdale Ave., Aurora, CO 80016  
 (Model Home Location)



**Montano Homes** celebrates the grand opening and launch of **Saddle Rock Vistas**, a new development located near E-470 and Gartrell Road, with owners, Rob and Sarah Montano. **Saddle Rock Vistas** consists of 17 homes including two-story single family homes and ranch style single family homes, each with multiple floor plans and finishes. (4/27/18) [www.montano-homes.com](http://www.montano-homes.com) (303) 320-9898.



**Concise Chiropractic**

14555 E. Arapahoe Rd., Unit B, Aurora, CO 80016  
 Doctors of Chiropractic Brady and Amanda Johnson cut the ribbon for the grand opening of their new business, **Concise Chiropractic**. Guests at the event included representatives from local businesses, chamber members, and chamber staff. As a gesture of involvement in the community, attendees making a contribution to **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** received a free chiropractic consultation, valued at \$80. **Concise Chiropractic** offers concise or specific chiropractic adjustments for individuals, including infants. Their concept is that by removing nerve interference, the body experiences mental and physical health and is prepared for activities and a full life. (6/6/18) [www.concisechiropractic.com](http://www.concisechiropractic.com) (720) 255-1043.

**Community Living Alternatives – CLASS Day Program**

1770 S. Helena St., Aurora, CO 80017



**Community Living Alternatives – DAY Program** opens their doors with Barb Kenyon-Mohrlang, executive director and Gregg Wilson, **Community Living Alternatives'** specialized services (CLASS) day program director. The **CLASS Day Program** provides interpersonal team building opportunities for individuals, to expose them to a variety of confidence building opportunities, including experiences and learning personal skills, focused on those who have a desire to stay active, want to learn, volunteer, and connect with others in their community. (5/3/18) [www.clainc.org](http://www.clainc.org) (303)745-8015



**V-Esprit Active Adult Community**

5240 S. Sharon Park Cir., Aurora, CO 80015  
**V-Esprit Active Adult Community**, with V-Esprit meaning Vibrant Spirit, welcomes guests to the great reveal and ribbon cutting ceremony with Chris Owens, principle owner, Cindy Wagner, vice president of operations, and Peter Torrens, vice president of communications. **V-Esprit Active Adult Community** is a 14-acre, 55 and older, all-inclusive active adult community with maintenance-free homes and apartments, for independent senior living. (5/9/18) [www.v-esprit.com](http://www.v-esprit.com) (303) 400-2399.

## Aurora Mental Health Center Welcomes New CEO



Dr. Kelly Phillips-Henry

The Board of Directors of **Aurora Mental Health Center (AUMHC)** has selected Kelly Phillips-Henry, Psy.D, MBA, as the new CEO of the organization. Phillips-Henry officially joins **AUMHC** in July 2018. She succeeds long-time CEO Randy Stith, PhD, who retired June 2018, after 40 years of service.

Phillips-Henry has 22 years of behavioral healthcare experience, most recently serving as CEO of Mental Health Partners in Boulder, a behavioral health organization serving more than 35,000 members annually. Phillips-Henry's background includes work as a psychologist, management in behavioral health and integrated physical healthcare, and she has held several active leadership roles throughout Colorado. She is an Air Force veteran, serving in numerous leadership roles including the US Air Force Academy.

"I am honored to have been selected to succeed Dr. Randy Stith as CEO of **Aurora Mental Health Center**. Randy leaves a strong legacy of service and collaboration in the Aurora community and I look forward to working with the Board of Directors, staff and community partners to carry on the mission of **Aurora Mental Health Center**," said Phillips-Henry.

## Wings Over the Rockies Opens Exploration of Flight at Centennial Airport

On July 21, 2018 a transformative aerospace attraction opens on the south side of **Centennial Airport** in Englewood, Colorado.

The 1,900 square foot **Boeing Blue Sky Aviation Gallery** provides visitors with a dynamic look at the world of aviation, including interactive and educational exhibits, spaces to watch airplanes at the second busiest general aviation airport in the nation, and even listen to chatter from Centennial tower.

These experiences and more will be available on opening weekend and each weekend thereafter. The Gallery is open to the public each Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 12 to 5 pm. The hangar is located at 13005 Wings Way, Englewood, CO 80112.

The Gallery is phase one of **Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight**, a unique-to-the-nation campus offering visitors incredible experiences and educational opportunities focused on aerospace.

**Wings Over the Rockies** is a Colorado-based non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring all people about aviation and space endeavors of the past, present, and future.



## Cimarron Tiny Town

Mighty Mustang Tourist Town is the theme this summer at **Cherry Creek School District's** Cimarron Elementary School's Extended Childcare Service. Students were asked to choose locations they felt were prominent in the city; the buildings chosen were Burger King, Target, Sushi Totoro, and the Aurora Police Department.



From left to right: Dora Imbriani, BAS Leader; Bobbie Smith, BAS Assistant Director; Pauline Adams, BAS Director; Amanda Sheets, Cimarron Principal

Students teamed up and decorated businesses out of cardboard and other recycled items, also creating menus and items found at those stores.



Students also researched historical locations in Aurora and built mini versions of: The John Gulley Homestead House, Delaney Farms, KOA Building, Stanley Marketplace, Coal Creek Schoolhouse, and Trolley Trailer No. 610.

The Chamber of Commerce was invited to give a short presentation about The Chamber as well

as why ribbon cutting ceremonies are important to local businesses.

## Mayor Piko Helps Mark Completion of Solar Carports

A new solar carport at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in **Centennial** was officially unveiled at a ribbon-cutting event on April 25. The new solar carport is expected to offset more than 12,700 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions over the next two decades — or roughly the equivalent of emissions from 29,000 barrels of oil.



Pictured left to right: Diane Dandeneau, CEO and senior sales engineer at IPower Alliance; Kathleen Staks, executive director of the Colo. Energy Office; Steven Ross, manager of Sunrise Harvest, LLC; and Mayor Piko.

The solar carport — only the second such carport in **Centennial**, enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine each year. The project includes the installation of high-efficiency LED lighting to further reduce the annual energy use load by 79,000 kWh. This will allow the solar project to produce 85 percent of the building's energy needs— all from a clean renewable source.

[continued on page 8]

## Buckley AFB Awarded Omaha Trophy



General John Hyten, Commander, Strategic Command, presents the Omaha Trophy to the 460th Space Wing for their excellence in global operations, which includes space and cyberspace operation. Pictured left to right, front row: CMSgt Patrick McMahon, Colorado Technical University VP and Vice Chancellor John Adams, Colonel Troy Endicott, Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen, and Parker Adventist Hospital CEO Sam Huenergardt. Back row: Aurora Chamber Executive Vice President Rene Simard, General Hyten, Centura Health Chief Medical Officer Devin Bateman, Community College of Aurora Foundation Executive Director John Wolfkill, Aurora Police Department Division Chief Jim Puscian, and CMSgt Rod Lindsey.

**DAVA's Susan Jenson Receives Award**



Susan Jenson

Susan Jenson, Executive Director of **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)** has received the Bonfils Stanton Foundation's 2018 Arts and Society Award.

For more than 15 years, Jenson has served as the ED for **DAVA**, with an emphasis on excellence in the arts combined with positive youth development. It was eloquently stated in the program for the June 1 Awards Celebration that, "As a champion of the arts, Jenson uses all mediums to spark an artistic fire within youth in an environment where they feel safe, included, and inspired. Because of her tireless work to ensure kids have access to resources, 99 percent of **DAVA** participants go on to careers in business, technology, the sciences, and education."

**On Havana Street Restaurant Week, August 1-8, 2018**

During **On Havana Street** Restaurant Week, the first week in August, you can travel the world through global cuisines. The 4.3 mile global corridor boasts more than 96 restaurants, with more than 20 international cuisines featured. The week-long celebration offers those wanting to experience and taste the most unique, traditional international fare at an affordable cost. For more details visit [www.OnHavanaStreet.com](http://www.OnHavanaStreet.com).



**Member Renewals**

- Abilene Awards & Logos, Inc.
- Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.
- Advantage Security, Inc.
- American Medical Response of Colorado - Denver
- Avitus Group
- Buffalo Wild Wings Southlands
- CenturyLink
- ClearPath Accountants, LLC
- Collins Engineers, Inc.
- Colorado Association of Realtors
- Colorado Youth for a Change
- Community College of Aurora Foundation
- ConocoPhillips
- Copic Realty, LLC
- Courtyard by Marriott - DIA
- Creative Counseling Center, LLC
- Cruise Planners-Live 2 Travel
- Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park
- Denver South Economic Development Partner
- Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Tech Center
- Employers Council
- Escape to Serenity Massage
- Fairfield Inn & Suites - Aurora/Parker
- Fine Airport Parking
- Fogg System Company, Inc.
- Garden Plaza of Aurora
- GOAL Academy
- Grand Design, Inc.

**Aurora Singers name Tanner Kelly as new Director**



Tanner Kelly

Tanner Kelly has been named as the new director for the **Aurora Singers**, beginning July 1, 2018.

Kelly is an active performer, teacher and award-winning music director in the Denver-Metro area. He has been the executive music and education director for Inspire Creative for 10 years, and has music directed for the PACE center in Parker with Inspire, a partnership that has received 15 Henry Nominations in the last two years.

He is also the founder of Music@Mainstreet in Downtown Parker, which provides music and performing arts lessons to all instruments and ages, and has been a teacher in the Douglas County School District since 2013.

Kelly replaces James Laguana, who served as the director of the **Aurora Singers** for six years. Laguana, who is also the director of the Vocal Music Department at Rangeview High School, stepped down from his position with the Singers at the end of their season in May 2018.

**Weitz Company Promotes Bruce Porter**

The **Weitz Company** recently announced the promotion of Bruce Porter to executive vice president and General Manager of its Rocky Mountain business unit in Denver.



Bruce Porter

Porter has been with **Weitz** since May 2014, leading business development efforts in the Rocky Mountain region while supporting additional product lines nationally. In his new role, Porter will provide leadership, vision and management within the Rocky Mountain business unit to achieve strategic plan performance, company growth, employee development goals and client satisfaction. ■

**Welcome!**

The Chamber welcomes their newest employee, Beau Martinez! As the Membership Development representative, his focus will be working with new businesses, as well as existing businesses, in getting better connected with each other and in the eastern metro area. Martinez is very eager to network in the growing city of Aurora and continue to strengthen the business community.



Beau Martinez

Martinez graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in May of 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Before The Chamber, Beau worked in the Aviation Industry for MGF Products as a logistics manager. He handled international and domestic shipping, tradeshow logistics, customer service, and inventory management as well. ■

**NewMembers**

- Carm & Gia Metropolitan - Opening August
- Dgass Photography
- Extraction Oil and Gas
- Good Life USA
- ibox Self Storage
- Insurance Center, Inc.
- iSolved HCM Solutions - Payroll
- Keller William Integrity Real Estate
- Keller Williams - Mark Stephens
- Luna's Accounting & Tax
- Mile High Maysa Reality
- New-Ride Enterprises (dba New-Ride Design)
- PilotHouse Brewing Company
- SECOR Cares
- Shipley Do-Nuts
- Sooper Credit Union
- Summit Social Media
- UBS Financial Services, Inc.
- Vollara/ATI People Helping People
- Walkoff Sports
- Your Families Insurance

The IMPACT is published for the members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Subscription rate to nonmembers: \$50/year. **Advertisers:** The Chamber members—use the IMPACT to advertise your products and services to over 1700 Aurora Chamber members. Advertising space only available to members. The IMPACT also accepts preprinted inserts. Contact The Chamber for details. Deadlines: the 10th of the month prior to publication.

14305 E. Alameda Ave Ste. #300  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564  
website: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)