



IMPACT

JUL/AUG
2009

Upcoming Events JULY

NOTE: No Biz for the Arts, Gov Affairs, Transportation, Defense Committees in July

Banks in Harmony - Queen City Jazz Band
July 2 | 6:30 p.m. - Del Mar Park

Independence Day Observed
Chamber close on July 3

Business before Hours
July 8, 7:30 a.m.
Garden Plaza (14221 E. Evans Ave. near Abilene)

Chamber Open House and Ribbon Cutting
July 9 | 4:30 p.m.
The Chamber (Alameda & Crystal)

Banks in Harmony - Chase 'n the Dream
July 9 | 6:30 p.m. - Del Mar Park

Events Connection
July 10 | 8 a.m.
Chamber Conference Room A

Member Orientation
July 15 | 4 p.m.
Chamber Conference Room A

Banks in Harmony - The Wendy Woo Band
July 16 | 6:30 p.m. - Utah Park

Business after Hours Special Event at the Arapahoe County Fair
July 23 | 5:30 p.m.
ArapCo Fairgrounds
25690 E. Quincy off Gun Club or E-470

Banks in Harmony - Hot Tomatoes
July 23 | 6:30 p.m. - Utah Park

Women in Business
July 28 | 12 noon
Chamber Conference Room A

Banks in Harmony - Western Flyer
July 23 | 6:30 p.m., Meadowood Park

AUGUST

Banks in Harmoany - Patrick Emerine
Aug. 6 | 6:30 p.m., Meadowood Park

State of the Schools Luncheon
Aug. 11 | 11:30 a.m.
Doubletree Hotel SE (I-225 & Iliff)

Business before Hours
Aug. 12 | 7:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn Express Aurora (Abilene & Florida)

Women in Business Luncheon
Aug. 25, noon, Chamber Conference Room B

**Special Defense Council
Doing Business with the Government**
Aug. 27 | 7:15 a.m.
Red Lion Hotel Denver SE (I-225 and Parker Rd.)
RSVP REQUIRED.

Business to Business Expo and Business after Hours
Aug. 27 | 2-7 p.m.
Expo - Aug. 27, 2-7 p.m., BAH - 4:30 p.m.,
Red Lion Hotel Denver SE (I-225 and Parker Rd.)

Best of the Best



Winners at the 2009 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon sponsored by Northrop Grumman show off their awards following the event. Joining them was keynote speaker, Major General Tom Deppe (center), Vice Commander of the Air Force Space Command and Bob Cardenas Award winner Sheila Anthony (far right) who was honored for the work she has done to support the military in the metro area.

(Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Public Affairs)

See story on page 3

Card Check could eliminate jobs

According to a new study by noted economist Dr. Anne Layne-Farrar, the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)—also known as card check legislation—would negatively impact the landscape of the U.S. economy, increasing unemployment and stifling job growth for all Americans.

“Unions claim they are the ticket to the middle class, but this study confirms that passing EFCA would have a damaging effect on an already weakened economy,” said Randel Johnson, vice president of Labor, Immigration, and Employee Benefits at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “This legislation is a bad idea any time, but is particularly irresponsible at a time when policy makers should be focusing on creating, not destroying, jobs.”

Additionally, a recent analysis conducted by labor experts at the U.S. Chamber found that increased unionization is anything but a ticket to the middle class. The states with the highest rates of union membership also have the lowest rates of job growth.

The Aurora Chamber, with the support of the Board of Directors, has partnered with the U.S. Chamber in leading the fight against what they feel is a power grab by the unions. “In these troubling and uncertain times, we know one thing for sure—when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. Card check would delay and undermine economic recovery, and that’s why it

must be defeated. Every worker should have the right to join or leave a union under fair rules. Card check is not fair—and it’s not right,” said Kevin Hougen, Chamber President and CEO.

“We think the legislation as currently written would curtail the rights of both employees and employers and would hamper economic recovery and growth,” Hougen said. “As an organization representing hundreds of businesses from across the eastern metro area, we are encouraging our membership to oppose EFCA”.

Hougen said he felt under the legislation being proposed that employees will no longer be able to hear from their employer regarding

matters that affect their jobs. “Half of your employees will lose their right to speak up for themselves,” Hougen said. “As a business owner, you will lose the ability to give your employees raises for a job well done, provide health care benefits you can afford and discuss workplace standards with your employees in order to meet their needs.”

“Colorado made the right choice when it chose to continue under the Labor Peace Act,” Hougen reiterated. “I think the cooler heads in Colorado understood that businesses and labor unions both could work well under this great umbrella that has covered our relations for more than 65 years.”

Save the Date!

SHOWCASE AURORA, Bigger & Better

Be sure to mark you calendars to leave Aug. 27 to The Chamber. We have a full day in store for you at the Red Lion Hotel on Parker and I-225 that will go a long way toward helping your business be more successful. We'll start with a special Defense Council from 7:15 - 9 a.m. where you can learn from the experts on how to business with the government - RSVPs required! Then at 2 p.m. well re-open the doors for the best Showcase Aurora yet. Plans

include pre-show seminars designed to help businesses of every size market, motivate and manage more successfully. Then you can move to our famous small business tradeshow, Showcase Aurora, where you'll have a chance to see just what Aurora Chamber businesses have to offer. All events are open to the public but registration is a must. You'll find more information in a flyer enclosed with this newsletter or at our website, www.aurorachamber.org

Newsletter Online

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

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



Craig Ward
Chair

What an exciting opportunity to serve this next 12 months as your Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. The chance to work with hundreds of small, medium and large companies to help grow their businesses is a challenging prospect for me and, I dare say, your dedicated board of directors.

We are off to an excellent start. We began our Chamber new year with a Board Retreat on June 5 at the beautiful **May Farms**. During this day long event we hammered out goals to strengthen our strategic business development plan in the aerospace and defense related industries. We also decided to use the business plan template of our highly successful Defense Council to create a new Medical / bioscience Council. We are establishing this new committee to help in the recruitment and retention of our growing health care and biotechnology industry in the eastern metro area. I would like any Chamber member who is interested in developing business in this arena to please contact me or the staff at

Chair's Letter

A great start for the 2009-2010 year

the Chamber office.

We will also be looking at the entire spectrum of communications with our valued members and business community. The changes we are experiencing in this area are explosive. Where there was once the newsletter and email, we now must operate in a multifaceted environment which includes Facebook, blogs, Twitter and a multiplicity of other internet based programs. We are reaching out to techies and technophobes alike in our membership to help us form a new committee which will look at the full spectrum of all potential communication programs. It's often difficult for a member who is not as actively involved to really appreciate the multitude of ways that the Chamber works for its members and its community as a whole.

Over the past few years, The Chamber has seen a tremendous growth of programming that is small business oriented. We have been particularly successful in promoting Chamber-sponsored seminars designed to help our small business partners perform more effectively in this rapidly changing environment. Now, more than ever, it is vital that we take advantage of the resources we have right here among us—to tap into the vast creativity that so many of our members bring to the table. We can help each other with problem solving, decision making, innovation,

services development, short and long term planning. It's a rapidly changing world. Using the ideals, guidelines, lessons and understanding of the past will not be enough to create a healthy, vibrant, competitive and profitable future. Your Aurora Chamber of Commerce offers a buffet of opportunities for you and your business. Take advantage of the programs, committees or events that will benefit your business – **participate!** If you're not involved in the Chamber, you can bet your competition is.

I would also like to take this time to thank Jo Snell for her outstanding leadership during 2008-09. The Chamber, like all businesses, has seen our resources severely taxed this last year. Yet, even with the move to a beautiful new office, the Aurora Chamber still had a profitable year; maintained a very strong financial position; increased our programs; even grew our membership all under the able leadership of Jo Snell and our dedicated board! Thanks again Jo for all of your hard work and dedication.

I look forward to the 2009-2010 year and encourage you to truly get involved. The challenges are daunting but the opportunities are even greater. I know I speak for the board and the staff when I say together we can emerge from this downturn stronger and better.

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!

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.

Board of Directors

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

Treasurer
David Maxwell | 1st Bank of Aurora

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

Past Chair Once Removed
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Vice Chair-Business Development
Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sentinel

Vice Chair-Community Services
Dave Gruber | Nortel Government Solutions

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

Vice Chair-Member Services
Tammy Fernandez | University of Phoenix

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

Executive Staff

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

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Eleven Honored as Top Metro Military

A record crowd turned out to honor eleven junior enlisted people from all branches of the service in the Metro area on May 15. The best the military had to offer were singled out by their peers and honored by the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce** at their 33rd Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon.

Winners included Army Sergeant Adam Jones, Army Reserve Sergeant Jay Maitri, Colorado Army Guardsman Sergeant Marcus Landis, Navy Petty Officer First Class Richard Wyatt, Navy Reserve Petty Officer First Class Delmas Rowe, Marine Corps Sergeant J.D. Roy, Marine Corps Reservist Corporal G.J. Southards, Air Force Technical Sergeant Stacy Wilfong, Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Daniel Kendall, Colorado Air Guard Senior Airman Robyn Ryder, and Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class Brian Wiggins.

Also singled out for special recognition was Sheila Anthony with the **City of Aurora** who was named winner of the Bob Cardenas Award for exceptional support of the military in the Metro area.

More than 560 supporters from businesses and government filled the ballroom at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** in Aurora to capacity for the **Northrop-Grumman** sponsored event which included a keynote address by Major General Tom Deppe, Vice Commander of the Air Force Space Command.

Nominees for the Military Persons of the Year were selected by their peers for their outstanding achievements during the past year. They were named by their units, with the 11 winners representing Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve components.

Master of ceremonies for the event was KEZW radio personality Rick Crandall, founder of the **Colorado Freedom Memorial**, who brought his incomparable mix of humor and pride in the military to all in attendance.

Audio Visual sponsor **Lockheed-Martin** ensured the record breaking crowd was able to follow the smallest details of the event by providing for full video coverage displayed on huge screens. A pre-reception was hosted by the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance**.

Corporate sponsors for the event who also presented awards to the winners included **Arapahoe Douglas Works, Adolfsen & Peterson, Boeing, Brakes Plus, City of Aurora, Navy Federal Credit Union, Raytheon, Wells Fargo Banks.**

Sponsoring tables which they shared with military guests were **Advantage Security/Colorado Insurance Professionals, American Automation Building Services, Air Force Association Mile High Chapter, Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, Better Business Bureau, E-470 Public Highway Authority, Ent Federal Credit Union, First Command**

2009 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon Honorees

| Winner | Award Category | Sponsor | Presenter |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SGT Adam Jones 743 rd Military Intelligence Battalion | Army Active Duty | Lockheed Martin | Rick Molner |
| SGT Jay Maitri US Army Recruiting Center | Army Reserve | Boeing | Alan Feldecamp |
| SGT Marcus Landis Hq Colorado Army National Guard | Colorado Army National Guard | City of Aurora | Ron Miller |
| CTR1 Richard Wyatt Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado | Navy Active Duty | Credit Union Alliance | Judy Booth |
| DC1 Delmas Rowe USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) | Navy Reserve | Navy Federal Credit Union | David Benevides |
| SGT. Jonathon .D. Roy Military Air Control Squadron 23 | Marine Corp Active Duty | Raytheon | William Shover |
| Corporal Gregory J. Southards Military Air Control Squadron 23 | Marine Corp Reserve | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! | David Mull |
| TSgt. Stacy Wilfong Air Reserve Personnel Center | Air Force Active Duty | Northrop Grumman | Todd Landgrave |
| SrA. Daniel Kendall 8 th Strategic Warning Squadron | Air Force Reserve | Brakes Plus | Larry Pisciotta |
| SrA. Robyn Ryder 140 th Medical Group | Colorado Air National Guard | Wells Fargo | Alan Lemons Wanda Cooley |
| IS1 Brian Wiggins Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado | Coast Guard | Adolfsen & Peterson Construction | Mike Yaggi |
| Sheila Anthony Aurora Center for Active Adults | Bob Cardenas Award | American Legion | Jack Powell |

Financial Services, First Bank of Aurora, Hilton Garden Inn DIA, Itec Corporation, Merrick & Company, Native Hawaiian Veterans, Pinnacol Assurance, Suss Pontiac Buick GMC, University of Phoenix, Triwest, E-9's Association of Colorado, City Lights Apartments, Columbia College, Padgett Business Services, Citywide Banks, Aurora Sentinel and the Mile High Officers Association-Mile High Chapter.

Event organizer, Suzanne Pitrusu, a **Wells Fargo Bank** executive who serves on The Chamber Defense Council Executive Committee, said she was proud to be associated with all those who helped make the luncheon the most successful ever. "This was a tremendous outpouring of community support for our men and women who serve their country so well," Pitrusu said.

E-470 goes cashless on July 4

Cash payments will no longer be accepted on E-470 when the tollway officially transitions to a full non-stop tolling (cashless) system beginning July 4. After the cash lanes close, the only two payment options on E-470 will be through an EXpressToll account or License Plate Toll.

Beginning July 4, coins and paper currency will no longer be collected. Instead, using the new License Plate Toll system, drivers without EXpressToll

transponders will have a photo taken of their front and rear license plate, and the registered owner of the vehicle will receive a bill in the mail.

E-470 offers a discounted toll of at least 10 percent to EXpressToll customers who pay 25 cents less than the standard rate at mainline toll plazas and 10 cents less for interchange ramp tolls. EXpressToll accounts can be opened online at www.expresstoll.com or at 303-537-3470.

Member News

\$119 million approved to begin VA Hospital

The House Appropriations Military Construction/VA Subcommittee recommended \$119 million to begin construction on a stand alone VA Hospital on the Fitzsimons campus in Aurora. The Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill now goes to the full House Appropriations Committee for full consideration.

"I am pleased \$119 million has been recommended to finally turn dirt for the new facility," **U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter** told the **Chamber Defense Council**. "We have gotten to this step because of the hard work of many people including Secretary Shinseki, my Colorado colleague on the Appropriations Committee - John Salazar and many others." Perlmutter said the hospital was his number one priority. "We must provide world-class healthcare to the world-class soldiers who have sacrificed so much for us," Perlmutter said. "Construction of this new facility at **Fitzsimons** will help us to fulfill this commitment. I will continue to work with Congress and the Administration to get this project started as quickly as possible," stated Rep. Perlmutter.

APS School Board candidates sought

Some of the most fulfilling elected jobs in Aurora are available this year. The **Aurora Public Schools** Board of Education will have four seats open this year. The board election will be held on November 3.

The APS Board of Education is a seven-member group elected to establish policies for the school district. Board members are elected at-large and serve four-year terms. The board addresses the concerns of the local community while working within the framework of state and federal laws. This includes

approving curricula and instructional materials and adopting the annual budget.

Board candidates run on a non-partisan basis and do not need to be educators. Aurora Public Schools will hold an information meeting for community members interested in learning more about the board of education.

The session will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m. in the Dr. Ed Lord and Patricia Lord Boardroom at the APS Educational Services Center located at 1085 Peoria St. in Aurora .

Citizens will have an opportunity to meet current board members, ask questions about the election process, and learn more about the responsibilities associated with being a board member.

For additional information, please call 303-344-8060, ext. 28009 or visit www.casb.org/Files/CAND_09_Guide.pdf.

Stirrup some fun at the 2009 Arapahoe County Fair, July 22 – 26

Arapahoe County officials said no one should miss this year's **Arapahoe County Fair** July 22-26. "We'll have a rodeo, fireworks, demolition derby and more!" they said. "And at an incredible value, \$10 admission includes all concerts, activities and entertainment except for carnival rides and games. This means you don't pay extra to cheer for the bull rider, groove to live music or to get your child to ride a sheep in the mutton bustin' competition. You don't fork over any cash for face painting, the petting zoo or modified tractor pull."

"In a time where everyone is pinching pennies and watching dollars, the fair is an incredible value for families looking for a full day of laughter and good wholesome fun," said **Arapahoe County** Commissioner Chair Susan Beckman. "It's also an

educational opportunity to learn about 4-H projects, from rabbits and rocket launches to cakes and chickens."

Sponsors include **Waste Management, City of Aurora**, City of Littleton, **E-470 Public Highway Authority**, GO Toyota Scion, Potestio Brothers, Royal Crest Dairy, Sinton Dairy, Tagawa Gardens, Radio Disney, Wolf 92.5 FM, 99.5 the Mountain and Mix 100. Volunteers are needed to help with the Fair, visit www.arapahoeountyfair.com to learn more.

Area Chambers to spend special night at the ArapCo Fair

The three Chambers that call **Arapahoe County** home have planned a special evening for their members on Thursday, July 23. The **Aurora, South Metro and Greenwood Village Chambers of Commerce** have all kicked in to bring their members a very special Business after Hours at the Fair according to Kevin Hougen who organized the event. "This is a great opportunity to not only do a little joint Chamber networking, but to take advantage of a real, old fashioned county fair!" Hougen exclaimed. The special Chamber members only evening begins at 5:30 p.m and will run until about 9 p.m. Included in the \$7 cost is free admission to the fair, food and beverage provided by **Outback Steakhouse**, county western music and free country dance lessons all under the broad expanse of the VIP Tent at the Fair. Pre-registration is required. Call Janice at 303-344-1500 to take advantage of this great opportunity. The **Arapahoe County Fairgrounds** are located at 25690 East Quincy Avenue, just off E-470 or Gun Club Road in Southeast Aurora.

Community College of Aurora's Amy Rell earns Fulbright-Hays award

There is one word in higher education that is virtually guaranteed to grab attention: Fulbright. And **Community College of Aurora** Professor and Chair of Arts and Humanities Amy Rell has been getting a lot of notice lately; she has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright grant to study history and culture in China this summer. The college's first Fulbright fellow, Rell is eager to embark on her adventure.

Rell, a member of The Chamber's **Business for the Arts** Committee, is one of just 16 educators nationwide selected to participate in the 2009 Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminars Abroad: History and Culture in China program. She will travel to Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, and other regions to gain valuable insight into a culture that is increasingly becoming an important element in American curricula.

Rell's selection was the result of a long vetting process conducted by the U.S. Department of Education. "The application process was extremely rigorous," she confirms. "There was a 'Q&A' section, a series of essays, letters of recommendation, and a curriculum vitae to be submitted, and, even then, it was a waiting game—because as one of the highest honors in academia, the Fulbright is extremely



Ride 'em cowkid! — An unidentified youngster holds on for dear life demonstrating the popular "Mutton Bustin'" competition that will be part of the Arapahoe County Fair, July 22-26. Also available will be displays, carnival rides and a first class rodeo. (Photo courtesy Arapahoe County)

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competitive." She departs for a three-day orientation in California on June 26 and heads to China on June 29.

Arapahoe County Treasurer Doug Milliken invests in local banks

Arapahoe County Treasurer Doug Milliken launched an innovative economic stimulus program that will encourage local banks to invest in small to medium-size businesses within **Arapahoe County**.

Milliken is purchasing \$5 million in certificates of deposit at local banks with the expectation that these banks will provide loans to small and medium-size businesses in **Arapahoe County**.

"My goal is that County dollars will provide banks with the additional funds necessary to invest in small and medium-sized businesses in **Arapahoe County**," Milliken said. "I am expecting job creation and business expansion to occur as a result of this program, which ultimately benefits our citizens and local businesses. In addition, there is full security to Arapahoe County, as well as a better financial return."

Milliken invested the money in CDs from **Colorado Business Bank, Citywide Bank and Guaranty Bank and Trust**. Each bank will use the same criteria normally used to determine if a business is credit worthy to obtain a loan, and each bank will be required to report on how taxpayer money is being used to support local business.

"Thanks to Arapahoe County, and especially Treasurer Doug Milliken, this investment is a commitment to our business community that even in difficult financial times, the County is looking beyond problems to causes, and through the Treasurer's Office is developing solutions for business success," said Kevin Hougen, President, Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

If the program is successful, Milliken said he will consider expanding it to include investments in other locally-controlled banks that meet the Treasurer's criteria. For more information about the Treasurer's Economic Stimulus program or to learn more about the Treasurer's Office, visit the Treasurer's web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us or call 303-795-4550.

Martin Joins Merrick



Margaret Martin, PE, PMP, MQOE, LEED AP

An engineer with a broad range of experience has joined the team at **Merrick & Company**. Margaret Martin, PE, PMP, MQOE, LEED AP, has signed on as a senior project engineer in the company's fuels and energy and technology systems groups. There she will be responsible for the coordination of multi-discipline engineering teams, facilitation of quality assurance, preparation and checking of documents, technical baseline control, and preparation of estimates and proposals.

Martin comes to the Aurora-based **Merrick** with 28 years of experience in the processing engineering profession and a background including petrochemical, biotechnology, government facilities, and nuclear projects. During the last 15 years, she has focused, primarily, on projects for the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Defense, including work at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Nevada Test Site. She holds a BS in chemical engineering from

Buckley AFB sees many command changes

Command changes were the norm at Buckley AFB as summer began.

Colonel Clint Crosier assumed command of the **460th Space Wing** from Col. Donald "Wayne" McGee Jr. on June 19. Lt. Gen. Larry James, 14th Air Force Commander, presided over the formal military ceremony attended by business and community leaders from throughout the area. Col. Crosier was previously the Deputy Director of Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo. Col. McGee is headed to the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

General James praised Colonel McGee's commitment to the base, as well as the surrounding community, and his key role in ensuring the quality of life for the base.

Also leaving will be Col. Charlotte L. Wilson, Vice Commander of the Wing and Col. David Thompson, commander of the Buckley-based Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado.

Among the new commanders welcomed to the area was Brigadier General Kevin E. Pottinger who was appointed to command the **Air Reserve**



Space wing welcomes new commander — Col. Clinton Crosier assumes command of the 460th Space Wing with the traditional passing of the wing flag from Lt. Gen. Larry James, 14th Air Force commander, during an official ceremony here, June 19. Colonel Crosier was previously the Deputy Director of Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Steven Czyz)

Personnel Center currently located on the old Lowry complex. General Pottinger was previously the 301st Fighter Wing commander at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas.

Colorado State University, a certificate in biomedical engineering from the University of California, Irvine, and a certificate in sustainable design from Boston Architectural College. Ms. Martin is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, the Project Management Institute, the Colorado Renewable Energy Society, the American Solar Energy Society, and the American Society for Quality.

Hicks joins Nesbitt Group

Carl Hicks has joined the **Nesbitt Group** a full service Commercial Real Estate company and Keller Williams Executives. Hicks said he is prepared to handle all commercial real estate needs, from representation, office, retail industrial and land brokerage.



Carl Hicks

"Because of our affiliation with KW Commercial, the new commercial division of Keller Williams International, we have the bandwidth and ability to handle commercial real estate transactions anywhere in the world," he said. Hicks can be reached at his office at (303) 699-1317 or by calling him on his cell phone at (303)888-9438.

Buckley's 8th SWS to celebrate 10 years

One of Buckley's distinctive units, the 8th Space Warning Squadron, is celebrating their 10th anniversary on Oct. 1. Often referred to as the 8th "Swiss," the unit is part of the Air Force Reserve's 310th Space Wing providing support for the Space-based Infrared System at Buckley. It is the first space unit to integrate Reserve and Air National Guard members into an active-duty mission bringing traditional reservists and active guard reserve personnel together to work along side active duty and foreign nationals while supporting NORAD, US Space Command, US Strategic Command and the in-



theater Warfighter.

As part of their observance the 8SWS Booster Club (a 501c3 non-profit organization) that refers to itself as the "Tangled Web" is reaching out to the community for support in the form of monetary and in-kind donations. If you are interested in learning more about 8SWS plans or would like to contribute to their event please call the fundraising chair, Kyle Cordell at 303-807-4009.

Defense Council to gather Gov Biz Experts

The Aurora Chamber **Defense Council** is gathering together a panel of experts on doing business with the U.S. government, especially at **Buckley AFB** to make a presentation to Chamber members in August. "The Department of Defense is a huge player in the metro area," said Lisa Buckley with **American Automation Building Solutions** and Defense Council Vice Chair who is organizing the event. "To give our business community, especially the small business members a better idea of what is involved in building relationships with the DoD contracting community, we would like to present a panel discussion we are calling *Doing Business with DoD and the Federal Government* as part of our **Defense Council** program," she said. The panel is scheduled to take place at the August **Defense Council** meeting on Thursday, August 27 at 7:15 a.m. at the Red Lion Hotel. Buckley said she would open up the event to not only Defense Council members but to other members of the Chamber as well. "**Buckley AFB** is a \$1.1 billion dollar economic engine in our back yard," she said, "so you won't want to miss this opportunity." RSVP is required. Call The Chamber at 303-344-1500

APS, CCSD endorse Liberty Day program

School superintendents John Barry and Mary Chesley from **Aurora Public Schools** and **Cherry Creek School District** have both formally endorsed a Liberty Day proposal to celebrate Constitution Day in their schools on Sept. 17. Additional information is available at www.LibertyDay.org.

Ribbon Cuttings



A centennial celebration – It is a long way from Paris, but the crew from L'Oreal in Aurora were very much a part of the celebration by their parent company's 100th Anniversary—100 years of legendary beauty as they say. The day included food and fun and employees of the Aurora operations were joined by Chamber Ambassadors and staff. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



A little snip here and voila! – Greg Barber, owner of **Artistic Apparel** shows his ribbon cutting skills as he and several friends formally open his operation at 15801 E. CentreTech Cir. #B in Aurora. Greg can help you promote your business with quality custom embroidery, digitizing, graphic design, screen printing, and DTG printing. Give him a call at 303-363-4020 or go on line and check out his many lines at www.forembroidery.com. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Pipefitter or Ribbon Cutter? - Howie Metz, President of **Quality 1st Plumbing** in Aurora shows he is skilled not only as a plumber but is a highly qualified ribbon cutter as well. Metz was formally opening his operation at 929 Telluride Street in Aurora where he was join by a large crowd of customers and fellow Ambassadors. Metz says he offers same day quality service, an on-time guarantee with guaranteed results provided by certified green plumbers who recycle everything. **Quality 1st Plumbing** can be reached by calling 303-916-6226. Or check out Howie and his services at www.plumbinghelptoday.com. (Photo by Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Who is this Ambassador?

by Mary Beth Sharp



I'm sure you know a lot of insurance guys, but Jerry Gray of **American National Insurance** stands out from the crowd, and there are a lot of reasons for that. When Jerry turned "insurance guy" in January 2003, one of the first things he did was join the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and just as quickly, became an Ambassador for the Chamber. He's one of those people who believe in being an active participant, not just an observer. In addition to co-chairing the Ambassador group for two years, he's also chaired one of our Tips & Leads groups. Jerry enjoys attending the Chamber networking events and getting the opportunity to meet people.

A Montana State grad, Jerry came to the insurance industry because he is someone who enjoys helping people. On a daily basis he assists his clients with their personal insurance program as well as retirement and investment needs. He also covers commercial insurance sector. Jerry makes sure he still has time for his interests that include golf, traveling with his wife, Kelly, and supporting three kids in college (including one at rival University of Montana)! Be sure and say "hi" to Jerry when you see him around the Chamber!



Kellie MacMullan from Channel 2 participated in this year's Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament. From her blog, here is what she had to say.....

Meteorologist Jason Boyer was on my team, in fact he did all of his weather reports from the course this morning for "Daybreak on the Deuce". As always, Jason got a little crazy, so I tried to run him over with the golf cart...

We love supporting this program because it really gives people the chance to learn and thrive in their community and the golf tournament helps raise money for the entire year. The Leadership Aurora program brings all sorts of people together... we met men and women in law enforcement, insurance agents, bankers, entrepreneurs, you name it! Thanks to Sherri and Harry for making our day so great (okay, I admit... THEY were the ones who made most of the shots!)

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Oops! - Kellie MacMullan from Channel 2 searches for her golf partner KWGN weatherman Jason Boyer who is caught diligently searching the skies over Aurora for any sign of weather.



Celebrity golfers enjoy LA Tourney – Well known KWGN-TV2 on air personalities Kellie MacMullan and crack weatherman Jason Boyer (center) are joined by their Chamber hosts on the course, the lovely Cheryl Twesme and dashing Harry Glidden for a photo from Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course.



The winning four – Kevin Johnson and his team of Kevin Johnson, Darren Olsen, Bill Jennings, and Shannon Holtman once again brought home the honors picking up the top slot in the 2009 Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament. The powerful foursome swept around the course shooting an amazing 50.



Smiley smiles – Debbie Magures and Michelle Adams from Pinnacle Assurance were still all smiles despite some challenges on the tough Heritage Eagle Bend course. They were part of the fearsome foursome that included Gina Griego and Monica Calenda who once again captured the high score bobble head doll trophy by shooting a breathtaking 96.

1st Place - Score of 50
Allstate Insurance
Kevin Johnson
Darren Olsen
Bill Jennings
Shannon Holtman

2nd Place - Score of 56
Power Product Services
Kevin Patrick
Jamie Patrick
Dean Laliberte
Mike Campbell

Highest Score - with 96
Pinnacle Assurance
Michelle Adams
Debbie Magures
Gina Griego
Monica Calenda

Closest to the Pin Women - Kimberly Armitage
Longest Drive Women - Kim Reed
Longest Putt Women - Toni Mikel
Closest to the Pin Men - Ryan Minnehan
Longest Putt Men - Mike Campbell
Longest Drive Men - Mike Campbell
Most Accurate Drive - Peter Durante



Leadership at its best – Members of the 2008-09 Leadership Aurora class pose for their last formal photo before graduation. More than 150 people attended the graduation reception and ceremony for the class-the 28th to go through the prestigious program directed by Kimberly Curtis. The full list of the Leadership grads including their class president Karen Terry (first row center) can be found on the Aurora Chamber website, www.aurorachamber.org by clicking on Leadership Aurora, Current Class. (Photo courtesy Brian Mollitoris, Photographer)



Big bucks from Pinnacol – Pinnacol Marketing Director Michelle Adams (center) presents the 2007-2008 dividend to 2009-10 board chair Craig Ward and 2008-09 Chair Jo Snell. Pinnacol provides workers comp insurance to many Chamber members and runs a highly successful safety program that has kept workers comp claims at a minimum, thus ensuring a regular dividend check to the members.

One for Tom – Tom Allee, member of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain USO Advisory Council and the Colorado Freedom Memorial, accepts an award from the United Veteran's Committee at their annual Awards Banquet recently. Chamber staffers Kevin Hougen and George Peck were also honored at the event with Meritorious Service Awards for their support and advocacy of Veteran's issues in Colorado.



Renewals

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 All-State Fire Protection, Inc.
 Ames Construction
 Arapahoe Library District, Smoky Hill Branch
 Aurora & Cherry Creek Educ. Assn.
 Aurora Denver Cardiology Associates, PC
 Aurora Office of Emergency Management
 Brothers BBQ
 Budget Car Sales
 Chick-fil-A @ Pioneer Hills
 Crider & Company
 Dependable Masonry, LLC
 Eventourage, LLC
 Goodwill Industries of Denver
 Grand Design, Inc
 Hyatt Place Denver Airport
 Kaiser Permanente
 Kaleidoscope Aurora Council
 The Maids Home Services
 Midwest Sales
 Miller Technology Group
 Mryco Travel Service
 Ponderosa Vision Clinic, P.C.
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 TGI Fridays - Alameda
 University Physicians, Inc.
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 WEM Services
 Western Proscapes, Inc.

**Leadership
AURORA
Golf Tournament**

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