



Upcoming Events

JULY

4th of July Holiday
Chamber office closed

Banks in Harmony – 4
July 7 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Red Tail Hawk Park
Deja Blue

Noon Niche Networking
July 13 | 12-1 p.m.
Cody's Café and Bar
10253 E. Iliff Ave.

Banks in Harmony – 5
July 14 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Utah Park
17th Avenue All-Stars

ChamberMaster Seminar and Training
July 20 | 12:130 p.m.
Chamber office

Business After Hours
July 21 | 5-7 p.m.
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds

Banks in Harmony – 6
July 21 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Utah Park
The Modniks

Banks in Harmony – 7
July 28 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Meadowood Park
Buckstein

AUGUST

Banks in Harmony – 8
August 4 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Meadowood Park
Pan Jumbies

Business Before Hours
August 10 | 7:30 a.m.
Med Express

Lunch 'n Learn Seminar
August 11 | 11 am-1 pm
Life Care Center of Aurora

Member Orientation
August 17 | 12-1 p.m.
Chamber office

Business After Hours
August 25 | 5-7 p.m.
Volcano Restaurant

Connect With Us!



If you have ever dreamed of going to Ireland – here is your chance!

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce and **E Travel Unlimited** have partnered with Collette Vacations to offer Exploring Ireland, March 14-21, 2012. The eight-day trip includes exploring and touring Dublin and Killarney and an Irish evening, as well as opportunities to develop relationships with local businesses.

Per person rates are \$1,999/double; \$2,299/single; and \$1,979/triple, and include round-trip airfare from Denver International Airport, hotel accommodations and transfers, and eight meals. Rates do not include mandatory air taxes and fees/surcharges of \$200.

For more information, contact Sandie or Ken Preuss at **E Travel Unlimited**, 303-792-9225 or support@eTravelUnlimited.com.



Aurora Chamber Recognizes 11 as Top Metro Military



This year's military winners (left to right) include SSgt. Brandon Mejia, SPC Ryan Teter, SGT. Melissa Obcena, TSgt Manual Zubia, Lance Corporal Jordan Huerta, SSgt Jonathan Rowe, P02 Luis Talavera, P01 James Reisenburg, P01 Ryan Coffman, SSgt. Marcus Smith, Corporal Ryan Corbett. (Photo by SSgt Kathrine McDowell)

Eleven exceptional military men and women were singled out by their peers and honored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at the 35th annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon, held May 13, 2011. The event, sponsored by **Northrop Grumman**, offers an opportunity for the entire metro community to say thank you to the men and women who serve their country.

Also singled out for special recognition was (far left, in above photo) Bernie Rogoff, who received the Bob Cardenas Award for exceptional support of the military in the Metro area. Rogoff serves as the Executive Director of the **Education Foundation for the Colorado National Guard**.

The crowd of supporters from metro businesses and government at the

Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA also heard an inspiring presentation by **Aurora Public School's** Superintendent Major General John Barry (USAF, Ret.), who, in addition to his 30-year career as a combat veteran, fighter pilot/USAF, and two star-general, was named the 2011 Colorado Superintendent of the Year.

His speech encompassed three categories: tradition, transition and

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Do you want to receive the Chamber IMPACT Newsletter Online only?

If you would like to get the IMPACT newsletter online only, please email Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org, and you will no longer receive a printed copy in the mail. Instead, you will get a message via email each month to view the newsletter online.



David Gruber
Chair

Chair's Letter

It's with a great deal of excitement that I begin my year as the Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce! With a dedicated board of directors, many great volunteers and a hard working staff, we can look forward to continued fulfillment of the Chamber's mission of maintaining a strong business climate and a thriving community – even during a very challenging time in our state's economic history. I'll keep it short this time, but plan to share with you my vision on how we can take the progress we made under my predecessor, Mark Moses, and move to the next level.

While there is no dismissing the fact that the past few years have indeed been difficult, I think we can build on our strengths by working together for common community and business goals. Regardless of what you do, the Chamber continues to be an invaluable resource—one that can move you forward and give you a leg up in your market. I like to ask the Chamber staff and the Board on a regular basis: "What can the Chamber do for me?" It is a great way to clarify the specifics that we have available to make us more successful.

For me, the answer comes when I look at the

Chamber's monthly calendar or contact a member of the Chamber staff to discuss the possibilities. The Chamber offers many opportunities to network, to access information, and to have input and influence about issues that are vitally important to those of us in the business community. With two to three networking events each month and a dozen working committees, there's something for everyone. And that something can be turned into bottom line success.

Our Board of Directors continues to be an excellent cross section of the businesses and professions that are critically important to all of us in the Eastern Metro area. I'm particularly pleased with our new executive committee additions: Chair elect for 2012-13, Jeff Thompson with **University of Colorado Hospital**; and Secretary David Patterson with **Rural/Metro Ambulance**. I'm also delighted David Maxwell with **FirstBank** of Aurora will once again serve as Treasurer, and Mark Moses of **Outback Steakhouse** will stay on the executive committee as Immediate Past Chair and as newest member of the increasingly important Chamber Foundation Board.

Take a look at the Chamber Website and check out who the other members of your Chamber leadership are. I think it will build your confidence in the ability of this Chamber to represent you in a most effective way.

It's going to be an exciting year. Get involved, and see what the Chamber can do for you!

[AFRL continued from page 1]

people. "Tradition is important to all of us in this country," Barry stated. "It is important to pass those traditions onto our sons and daughters." Regarding transition, he asked the audience to "challenge the known and embrace the unknown, to seek innovation in our military to advance freedom and justice throughout the world." Lastly he spoke of the most critical element, people. "Even though we have a lot of technology, people are the most important resource we have. You are part of the best educated force that we've ever had in our country." He charged all to be bold, decisive and courageous in their actions.

Making a special appearance was Colorado's senior **Senator Mark Udall** who thanked the military for their sacrifices and the business community for supporting them. "As a member of the Senate Armed Services committee, we are all grateful to all of you who serve. It's

gratitude without limit. We still have work to do in Afghanistan and we have continuing progress for the Iraqi people to enjoy freedom like we do. I am so proud of all of you," said Udall.

Master of Ceremony duties were performed by KEZW Radio personality Rick Crandall, an Air Force veteran, who has volunteered for the event for nine years. Crandall also is the president of the **Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation**, which will be the first monument in America to honor veterans of all wars, by name, in one place.

"Our military men and women are second to none. We are very appreciative of your commitment as you continue to uphold the great traditions of our free nation," said Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen. Hougen also offered high praise for Suzanne Pitrusu from **Wells Fargo** who chaired the Chamber Defense Council committee which organizes the event. "Suzanne and her committee did an outstanding job of making this a truly memorable afternoon," he said.

The Chamber's Mission

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

DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"

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

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.

Chamber Board

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David Gruber | Merlin International, Inc.

Chair Elect
Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Hospital

Secretary
David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

Treasurer
David Maxwell | FirstBank of Aurora

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Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouse

Past Chair Once Removed
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

Vice Chair-Healthcare
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

Vice Chair-Business Development

Vice Chair-Member Services

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Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Hospital

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Joe Barela | *Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center*
Larry Borland | *Qwest Communications*
Barry Gore | *Adams County Economic Development*
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*
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Bob Jamieson | *Mutual of Omaha*
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*
John McCloy | *Westerra Credit Union*
Todd Miller | *City of Centennial*
Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*
Alfonso Nuñez | *La Cueva Restaurant*
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Wells Fargo Bank*
Cheri Prochazka | *Fitzsimons Credit Union*
The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*
Dwight Taylor | *Edwards & Taylor LLC*
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Suzanne Pitrusu

Board Profile

Commitment to the military results in participation in National Security Forum

Suzanne Pitrusu is a 16-year veteran of the financial

services industry. She has been with **Wells Fargo** since 2000, and is currently vice president and senior business relationship manager for Aurora/Denver Metro.

As a Chamber board member, she has also taken on a number of leadership roles. Originally inspired by going through the Leadership Aurora Program, Pitrusu found that she has a passion for the military. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Chamber's Defense Council, and chairs the annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon. In addition, she volunteers her time for the annual Aurora Veterans Salute Luncheon, Colorado Air National Guard Family Day, Colorado Air National Guard '68 Call Up Reunion and various other military events. She even teaches spinning at Buckley AFB two times a week. For her tireless efforts to build positive awareness and community support for Buckley, she received the 2008-2009 Chamber Leadership Award.

Because of her commitment to our men and women in uniform, Pitrusu was invited to participate in the 58th Annual National Security Forum (NSF) at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama in May 2011. The week-long, prestigious forum, conducted by Air War College and hosted by the Secretary of the Air Force, explores current and future national security issues and provides opportunity for

open, candid exchange of ideas between civilian leaders and senior military leaders. The week is filled with lectures, seminars, in-depth discussions and social events.

When asked what she gained from the experience, Pitrusu says that it gave her an even more solid foundation and better understanding of how educated our military force really is, as well as how much it takes to actually get to senior leadership positions. "When APS Superintendent John Barry spoke at the AFRL, he was absolutely right – our military are highly-qualified and thoroughly educated in their profession," she adds.

According to Pitrusu, there were a multitude of forums and seminars and much information to be absorbed, but there was a personal touch as well. Each of the civilian guests was assigned to a class member escort. Her escort was a fighter pilot and commander from Langley AFB. She got to know him and learned much about his life in the military. "He really helped me to even better understand the very human side of the military," she says.

"My experience at the NSF not only increased my knowledge and appreciation of the military, but also gave me great networking opportunities. I hope to use those connections to expand our co-commander program between Buckley and the Chamber, and I plan to use what I learned at NSF to further expand and improve relations between civilians and the military in Aurora," says Pitrusu.

Colorado PTAC achieves milestone and keeps on going

The Colorado PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center), a non-profit organization assisting any Colorado business wanting to do business with governments (federal, state, or local), exceeded its active client goal by 122 percent on June 1, 2011. In less than 18 months since the November 2009 ribbon cutting ceremony, CO PTAC grew from zero to 2000 active clients and continues to grow by an average of 100 Colorado businesses each month. Small and large businesses working with the organization collectively report winning government awards equaling more than \$111 million each quarter.



At the outset, PTAC operated a headquarters office in Colorado Springs and a satellite office in Grand Junction. As a result of first year client growth, the PTAC added full time staff at their satellite office at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in order to better service the northern part of the state. Counselors from each location travel statewide reaching any business interested in understanding government acquisition processes and making government contracts part of their business plan.

"We don't see any slowing in the client interest in pursuing government business. Our counselors continue meeting clients and providing service that satisfies business needs across the acquisition process. From beginning-to-end, our counselors and adjunct staff can assist any Colorado business at any stage of the procurement process. We are here to help at no-cost to the business," said Tom Elam, director of CO PTAC.

If you are interested in learning more about CO PTAC, contact Tom Thompson, procurement counselor, at 303-344-1500 or T.Thompson@ColoradoPTAC.org.

Hougen and Anschutz honored by Buckley AFB



Christian Anschutz (left) and Kevin Hougen

Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen and Western Development Group's Director Christian Anschutz were honored recently as the first recipients of the Community Heroes of Buckley Award. The Award was established to recognize community leaders for their contributions to the Buckley missions and who by their actions have made a positive effect supporting the men, women and families at Buckley.

Both honorees are members of the Buckley co-commander's group and the Air Force Space Command commander's advisory group.

Member News

Colorado Freedom Memorial Blonde Ale on tap June 27

The **Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation** has linked up with local Aurora brewer and Chamber Award winner Kevin DeLange at **Dry Dock Brewing** to create a special beer to help raise funds for the Colorado Freedom Memorial. DeLange told Freedom Memorial President Rick Crandall that he was "...excited to help! We (have) decided to make a very light, easy drinking beer which will be good for summer," he said.

The new **Colorado Freedom Memorial Blonde Ale** was released on June 27 with a special rollout at Dry Dock.

Xcel Energy honored with ACR 'Utility Excellence' award

The American Carbon Registry (ACR) recently honored **Xcel Energy** with its ACR Utility Excellence award for outstanding achievements in reducing emissions. The ACR awards are based on the organization's guiding principles of excellence, innovation and quality.

The company has been the nation's No. 1 one wind energy provider for the past six years, is ranked fifth among U.S. utilities for solar capacity, and boasts the largest U.S. voluntary green energy program by customer participation.

"The Collection" celebration and auction July 8

The **Aurora Arts District's** 2nd Friday on July 8 features Original Aurora Renewal's "The Collection," a celebration and auction of found art created by community members, artists and students. There will be a silent auction from 5-7:15 p.m., with a live auction from 6-6:30 p.m. 2nd Fridays are monthly events, providing opportunities for community members to tour galleries, artist studios and businesses throughout the district.

According to the Americans for the Arts (www.artsusa.org), arts and culture play a vital role in creating healthy communities, contribute to economic development and increase quality of life. Making up the creative economy, the arts and culture industry encourages tourism, provides for lifelong learning,



engages people in their community and helps create a sense of place and identity.

The Aurora Chamber has long recognized the important role of the arts in the community through its Business for the Arts committee.

Merrick partners to serve nuclear industry

Merrick & Company and Nuclear Safety Associates have announced a joint marketing agreement to serve the North American and global nuclear market. Merrick/NSA will provide the nuclear industry with a complete service offering of analysis, engineering design, and fabrication/construction management services to meet the continuing growth of the industry.

QSE earns Intel Gold Partner Status

QSE Technologies was recently awarded Intel Gold Partner status. This level of technical recognition is reserved for systems integration companies that provide the highest level of engineering expertise for client/server equipment based on the Intel line of processors.

Interested in running for the APS Board of Education?

The **Aurora Public Schools** Board of Education will have three seats open this year, with board election to be held Nov. 1, 2011. **APS** will hold an informational meeting for community members interested in learning more about the board of education:

Tuesday, July 26 - 6 p.m.

Dr. Ed Lord and Patricia Lord Boardroom

APS Educational Services Center - 4

1085 Peoria St., Aurora CO 80011

Citizens can 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

<http://www.cash.org/services/member-legal-resources/Election-2011-Information>.

Cherry Creek Trail Celebration



More than 200 residents joined the **City of Centennial, Arapahoe County**, the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District and Tagawa Gardens to celebrate the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead and completion of one of the last missing trail links along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail.

The Trailhead, located at 16400 E. Broncos Parkway in Centennial, provides 30 parking spaces, picnic shelters, restroom, bike racks and drinking fountain. Trail users can rest in the shade of the living green roof shaded pavilion and learn from the Xeriscape demonstration garden, created by Tagawa Gardens.

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*Hikers, cyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts can park at the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead to access the 107-acre Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space.
(Photo courtesy Arapahoe County)*

Aurora Chamber Spotlight on...

Ambassador Rachel Macias



Rachel Macias with Juneau, one of the sled dog puppies she met in the Yukon territory during her Alaskan cruise. (They wouldn't let her take it on the ship!)

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Rachel Macias remembers starting her career in hospitality while attending the University of California, San Diego, by working in the AAA 4-Diamond rated Sheraton Grand Hotel on the 18th hole of the Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla, CA. Then, after receiving a BA in Linguistics, she says that she decided to throw caution to the wind and make the service industry her career path.

Rachel came to Denver in 2000 and began as a manager at Il Fornaio and then PF Chang's before embarking on the world of catering sales which began at Paradise Bakery and Café. She is currently the Catering Sales Manager for all six award-winning **Famous Dave's Legendary Bar-B-Q** restaurants in Colorado - "providing Famous food

and smokin' service" for corporate and social events that range from 5 to 5000+.

Rachel certainly knows her business - and she has established herself as a stand-out member of the Aurora Chamber community - as an enthusiastic Ambassador, in a Tips and Leads group, as an active member of the Aurora Events Connection - and she's hopeful to be accepted into the Leadership Aurora class of 2011!

In June of 2011, Rachel celebrated her 6th anniversary with her husband Benji and their two dogs Lucky Macias and Peyton.

For more information about the Chamber's Ambassador Program, contact Mary Beth Sharp at 303-344-1500.



Denver-Aurora tops 10 Best Cities for Public Transportation list

U.S. News and World Report has singled out the Denver-Aurora area as their top city for public transportation.

"This confirms to us the great progress we have made in the last few years," said Kevin Hougen, Aurora Chamber president. "I attribute much of the success to the work our Transportation Committee headed by Dave Frazier from **Merrick** and Chris Fasching from **Felsburg Holt & Ullevig** has done over the last 10 years working with RTD and building community and business support for their programs—especially FasTracks, he stated. "I also think we have outstanding representation on the RTD board with Tom Tobiasen who has been deeply involved in our committee for years and helped us bring a strong business perspective to the table."

The Denver-Aurora area was singled out for unique features that set the region apart including the work being done with the public transit system (including the DIA shuttle service) and the multi-billion dollar expansion under the FasTrack program that continues to increase light rail, commuter rail and bus rapid transit lines.

The rankings take into account per capita spending on public transportation, number of safety incidents per million trips, and the number of trips taken per capita. All figures are for 2008, including population counts, which are from the Census' 2008 American Community Survey. Cities were ranked on all metrics—cities with higher spending, fewer incidents (includes all safety incidents, injuries, and fatalities as reported in the National Transit Database), and greater ridership received better rankings in each category.

According to a U.S. News analysis, the 10 U.S. cities with the best combination of public transportation investment, ridership, and safety are:

1. Denver-Aurora, Colo.
2. New York-Newark, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.
3. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.
4. Boston, Mass.-N.H.-R.I.
5. Portland, Ore.
6. (tie) San Jose, Calif.
6. (tie) Salt Lake City, Utah
8. San Diego, Calif.
9. Seattle, Wash.
10. Honolulu, Hawaii



Colorado Health Benefit Exchange is law – and Aurora Chamber is establishing Healthcare Committee

Gov. John Hickenlooper signed the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange (SB11-200 Boyd/Stephens) into law on June 1, 2011. Colorado is one of seven states to pass exchange legislation and the only state to do so on a bi-partisan basis. The bill establishes the exchange as a nonprofit, unincorporated public entity and requires that a 12-person governing board be established by July 1.

Of the nine voting members of the board, five will be appointed by the governor, no more than three from one party, and the other four will be appointed by legislative leadership. Three members of the board will

be nonvoting ex-officio members, including the director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the commissioner of insurance and the director of the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, or their designees.

The duties of the oversight committee are to review and approve grants to implement the exchange applied for by the board and the financial and operational plan for the exchange. The committee will also approve the exchange board's choice of an executive director. Finally, the committee is authorized to introduce up to five bills each year.

The Exchange is just one of the topics likely to be discussed in the newly-forming Aurora Chamber Healthcare committee. During June, discussion groups were held to determine initial priorities for the committee. Topics included healthcare issues as they impact business and the insurance industry, workforce development, public policy, information access and technology.

The first meeting of the Healthcare committee will be scheduled in July or August; an announcement will be made via email. All interested Chamber members are invited to attend.

Business for the Arts committee tours Aurora Arts District



For their June 2011 meeting, the Chamber's Business for the Arts committee toured five of the forty member organizations in the **Aurora Arts District**. Their first stop was the Blue Chair Garden at 1416 Dayton St. They also saw The Other Side Arts, Red Delicious Press, Afterthought Theatre Co. and The Collection Studio of **Original Aurora Renewal**. The group then had lunch at **La Cueva**.

The Business for the Arts committee promotes active involvement of the business community in the cultural arts programs in the Eastern Metro area. They work to promote cultural organizations including the **Aurora Symphony**, the Aurora Artists' Guild, the **Aurora Singers** and the **Aurora Fox Arts Center**. This committee also presents the annual Banks in Harmony concert series, the Gala for Performing Arts at the Fox, and the annual Business for the Arts award.

Ribbon Cuttings



Communication is key! — *AlphaGraphics Aurora*, locally owned and operated by Ken and Char Eiken (center), is a full-service printing and visual communications company helping customers find the most effective solutions for their visual communication needs. They offer complete design, printing, mailing and digital archiving services, as well as direct marketing solutions that include the latest technologies in variable data printing, 1:1 marketing and cross-media campaigns. *AlphaGraphics Aurora* is located at 15801 E. Centretech Circle, Aurora CO. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Yep, they're wild – and delicious! — Ty Birbeck cuts the ribbon marking the grand opening of the *Buffalo Wild Wings* at 10500 E. Garden Drive at Havana Gardens in Aurora. The newly opened restaurant serves – yep, that's right – wings, beer, wine, cocktails & sports – along with many other tasty treats! And, there are 14 sauces to choose from for the perfect wings. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



A great place to stay – The new *SpringHill Suites Denver Fitzsimons* by Marriott is a welcome addition to E. Colfax Ave., directly across from the Anschutz Medical Campus/Fitzsimons Life Science District. The hotel offers stylish suites, designed to give guests more space to sleep, work and relax; complimentary hot breakfast and high-speed internet; and free parking. The ribbon cutting ceremony held June 8 included President of Commonwealth Hotels Dan Fay, Senior Vice President of Corporex Colorado Mark Witkiewicz, Area VP of Lodging Development Tye Turman, Visit Aurora President/CEO Gary Wheat, CEO of Corporex Bill Butler, and hotel staff, guests and Chamber Ambassadors.



It's definitely for the birds! — The *Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop* at 18666 E. Hampden Ave. has everything for your favorite birds – and then some. Owner Greg Watkins (center with scissors), boasts that they can “show you how to turn your yard into a birdfeeding habitat that brings song, color and life to your home.” (Chamber photo)



Ecotech Institute: where you can “Make the world your workplace” – the College is now open and ready to educate for clean tech jobs at their new location at 1400 South Abilene Street in Aurora. Left to right, are *Ecotech Institute* President Mike Seifert, CEO of Education Corporation of America Tom Moore, Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer, Aurora City Council Brad Pierce, President and CEO of Aurora Economic Development Wendy Mitchell, and Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld. *Ecotech Institute* is the first and only college entirely focused on preparing graduates for careers in the rapidly growing fields of renewable energy, sustainable design, and energy efficiency – with practical, hands-on training designed to meet the demands of employers in the green economy. (Chamber photo)



New look, new name, and great comfort food!

– What used to be *Viaggio's* fine dining at 10253 E. Iliff Ave. is now *Cody's Café and Bar* – still owned and operated by Sue Smith. The new name, look and menu came after 17 years as *Viaggio's*, because Smith says she wanted a more casual, classy atmosphere with affordable comfort food. The name “Cody’s”? It’s the name of her terrier who passed away about the time they were renovating the restaurant. Pictured are General Manager Susan Rodriguez, Assistant Manager Greg Avison, and Bartender Jamie Hasting. (Chamber photo)

CONGRATULATION ~ CLASS OF 2011

A leadership-looking group

The 2010-2011 Leadership Aurora Class graduated with gusto on June 2 at the Aurora Public School's Professional conference & Learning Center – which means it's time to interview for the 2011-2012 class. Applications are due July 15, and can be accessed online at www.aurorachamber.org, or by calling Kimberly Curtis at 303-344-1500.



The Aurora Chamber conveys a hearty "Thank You" to all of the generous sponsors of the 2011 Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament:

Event Sponsor

Rural/Metro Ambulance

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Adolfson & Peterson Construction
FirstBanks of Aurora
Metro Community Provider Network
Waste Management

Silver Sponsors

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of Aurora Foundation
Robert Joseph
Garden Plaza of Aurora
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital

In-Kind Sponsors

Autawash
Abilene Awards

Leadership Aurora Class President **Mike Garcia** with Outback Steakhouse (center), and his 2011 classmates (in alphabetical order):

Cindy Andersen, Aurora Fire Department

Eric Artis, The Medical Center of Aurora

David Barber, RE/MAX Unlimited, Inc.

Maureen Barker, UMB

Terry Brown, Aurora Police Department

Melissa Clifford, Garden Plaza at Aurora

David Cooper, Edward Jones

John Criswell, Colorado Air National Guard

Mike DiDonna, University of Phoenix

Derrick Fuller, Wells Fargo Bank

Michael Giles, Cherry Creek Schools

Rachael Gregoire, Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union

Christy Jones, DPRA, Inc.

Robert Joseph, City of Aurora/Animal Care Division

Diane Kirkpatrick, Lockheed Martin

Amy Kusek, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

Mary Lewis, Aurora Public Schools/Board of Education

Richard Lewis, RTL Networks, Inc.

Erika Matich, University of Colorado Hospital

Noel Mink, City of Aurora/Public Safety

Barbara Morrow, Colorado Air National Guard

Pam Ninke, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital

Sharon Perry, Citywide Banks

Jeff Rauske, Advantage Security, Inc.

Kim Sopoci, Kim Sopoci Private Fitness Studio

Steve Sundberg, Legends of Aurora

Michael Tapp, Aurora Mental Health Center

Casey Wardynski, Aurora Public Schools

Adam Wehrle, Rural/Metro Ambulance

Sue Wehrspann, University of Colorado Hospital

Andrea Williams, Mesa Systems

Michelle Wilson, Pinon Management

Classes offered through Aurora Business Development

Business Development offers its core services at no or low cost, including informative seminars and one-on-one counseling by appointment on a variety of business topics. Seminars offer a wealth of information in each three-hour session, which helps to maximize time with a small business specialist.

July-September 2011 Seminar Schedule:

Basics of Starting Your Business

Wed., July 13, 1-4 p.m., FREE

Excellent information to get your business underway – the proper way!

In collaboration with Arapahoe/Douglas Works! at the Lowry Campus

Financing Your Business

Tues., July 12, 9-11 a.m., FREE

Learn how successful borrowers pick the right financing options and make their proposals attractive to funding sources.

Marketing in the Fast Lane, modules 1-4 – complete your marketing plan this August!

Four consecutive Tuesdays, August 2, 9, 16 and 23 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

\$80/Aurora residents/businesses; \$100 all others (See also the Business Plan modules below)

Writing Your Business Plan, Modules 1-4 – complete your business plan this August!

Four consecutive Thursdays, August 4, 11, 18 and 25 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

\$80/Aurora residents/businesses; \$100 all others (See also the Marketing modules above)

Sales & Use Tax 101

Thurs., August 11, 1-4 p.m., FREE

A must-attend for anyone selling tangible property at wholesale or retail, service businesses, and/or those who prepare returns for Colorado business owners.

Legal Rules of Business

Wed., August 3, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

An excellent value – not to be missed!

A business attorney will provide in layman's terms an overview of legal issues common to businesses.

\$30/Aurora residents/businesses; \$40 all others

Plan Your Web Site

Tues., August 30, 1-4 p.m.

If you build a web site, be sure you can generate traffic, using essential components of effective e-commerce.

\$30/Aurora residents/businesses; \$40 all others

Marketing on a Shoestring

Tues., September 6, 1-4 p.m.

No/low-cost practical and effective marketing tactics proven successful across many industries.

\$30/Aurora residents/businesses; \$40 all others

Starting a Restaurant

Thurs., September 8, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

It's not as easy as pie, so learn to start a restaurant according to the rules and regs, and plan to finance it realistically.

QuickBooks for Beginners I & II

Thurs., September 15 & 22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Must take both classes @ \$50/Aurora residents & businesses; \$70/all others

Session I is important introductory material to bookkeeping and the QuickBooks software. Session II is hands-on experience using the software. Session I is a pre-requisite. Familiarity with a computer keyboard and Windows operating system required.

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Most seminars held at the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80012. Take two or more fee based classes and receive a discount (call for details). Please register and confirm room location (303) 326-8690 or info@aurorabdc.com. Fees are payable by cash or check at the door. Pre-registration required for seminars; Meet with a Small Business Specialist – by appointment only.



Five more to go for the 25th year of Banks in Harmony!

If you missed the Banks in Harmony Concerts in June, you still have five opportunities to enjoy a beautiful summer evening with music, food and friends:

July 7 - Deja Blue (Variety/Classic Rock)
Red Tail Hawk Park, South Aurora Parkway and E. Hinsdale Way

July 14 - 17th Avenue All-Stars (50s Rock and Roll)
Utah Park, Peoria and Mexico

July 21 - The Modniks (Hits of the 60s)
Utah Park, Peoria and Mexico

July 28 - Buckstein (Country Rock)
Meadowood Park, Dartmouth and Laredo

August 4 - Pan Jumbies (Calypso/Caribbean)
Meadowood Park, Dartmouth and Laredo

Concerts run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Admission is free, and food is available for sale on-site from Helga's Restaurant, Jim 'n Nick's BBQ, Jason's Deli and Cold Stone Creamery.

Sponsors for the 2011 Banks in Harmony are City of Aurora Cultural Services Division, Citywide Banks, FirstBank of Aurora, Key Bank, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and Wells Fargo Bank. Media sponsors are KEZW Radio AM 1430, Aurora Sentinel, and Aurora Channel 8. Sound is provided by Wave Audio-Visual.

For weather-related decisions on cancellations, call the Chamber after 4 p.m. at 303-344-1500 on the day of the concert, or tune into KEZW Radio AM 1430 for the latest updates.



The Dean Bushnell Orchestra played to a big crowd at Bicentennial Park on June 16, at the first Banks in Harmony Concert of the season. (Photo Courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Renewals

Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.
Allstate Insurance - The Johnson Agency
Amberg Entertainment
Ames Construction
Anthem College High Tech Institute
Aurora Education Association
Barbara Rowe
Bill Murray
BroncoInsurance.com
Budget Blinds of Aurora East
Colorado State Bank and Trust - Mission Viejo
Columbia College - Aurora
Community College of Aurora Foundation
Courtyard by Marriott - Denver Stapleton
Creative Counseling Center, LLC
Doubletree Hotel Denver- SE
Drury Inn - Denver East
Education Foundation, Inc. Colorado National Guard
Extra Space Storage - Stapleton (#8107)
First Command Financial Planning
Fogg System Company, Inc.
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
Gateway Business Park/ The Pauls Corporation
GP Xpress
Holiday Inn & Suites DIA
Merry Maids Linrus
Merry Maids of Aurora
Midwest Sales
Miller Technology Group
Mt. Fuji Sushi and Hibachi
Nelnet
Office Depot - Salida Court
Plastics Design & Manufacturing
Publication Printers Corp.
Residence Inn - Denver South/Park Meadows
Rocky Mountain Glass Industries DBA/ Preferred Glass
Roper Insurance & Financial Services
RTL Networks, Inc.
S & S Plumbing Services, Inc.
Sheldon & Gordon, P.C.
Specialty Incentives
Staybridge Suites - DIA
The Medical Center of Aurora - HealthOne
The Maids Home Service
Waste Management of Colorado
Western Proscapes, Inc.
World Financial Group - Centennial
Your World Our Lens, LLC

NEW MEMBERS

All American Electric
ASPIRE Life Center
Aurora Meadows Apartments
Aurora Modern Dentistry
Cornerstar Dental Group & Orthodontics
Employment Link
Firestone Complete Auto Care
Griggs Taxi Limo
Hertz Rent A Car
Ingrid Lindemann
Roosters Men's Grooming Center at
Shenandoah
Shalom Cares
Sweetdream Yogurt
Valley Modern Dentistry
Wild Birds Unlimited