

Upcoming Events

Pinnacol Workers Comp Safety Seminar

Pinnacol Assurance 7501 E. Lowry Blvd.

Bosses Day

Ambassador Retreat

Business after Hours

October 25 | 4:30 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport

Veteran's Day

November 11 Chamber closed in honor of our Veterans

Business before Hours

November 13 | 7:30 a.m. Harvard Square Retirement Community 10200 E. Harvard (Just South of Parker & lliff)

Business after Hours

November 20 | 4:30 p.m. Embassy Suites Denver-Aurora

Thanksgiving

General Membership **Luncheon & Sloan Awards**

December 9 | 11:30 a.m. Four Points Sheraton (Hampden & I-25)

Sloan Awards to highlight General Membership luncheon

Three Aurora Chamber members as well as the Chamber itself will be honored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce at a General Membership Luncheon Dec. 9.

aurora

Selected as winners of the 2008 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility and national recognition for leadership in creating a better workplace are The Medical Center of Aurora, Merrick & Company, Arapahoe Douglas Works! and the Aurora Chamber of

Commerce. The companies were selected by the When Work Works national partners: Families and Work Institute, The U.S. Chamber's Institute for a Competitive Workforce and the Twiga Foundation.

"This is quite an honor for these businesses," said Kevin Hougen,



Patricia Kempthorne

Chamber CEO. "It shows that Aurora has some very progressive organizations that are leading the way in the kind of workplace innovation and flexibility that will

mark successful businesses in the 21st century.

The prestigious award recognizes employers who are successfully using workplace flexibility to meet both employer and employee goals. The winners will be recognized in a full page advertisement in USA Today later this

Speaker for the luncheon is Patricia Kempthorne, founder of the Twiga

Foundation, a non-profit corporation dedicated to inspiring, promoting and maintaining a family-consciousness at home, in the workplace and in the community. Kempthorne is also Idaho's former first lady and wife of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne.

Also on the program for the luncheon are speakers from each of the honored companies who will share some of the innovative approaches they used to win their award.

The luncheon will be held at the Four Points Sheraton at I-25 and Hampden. Cost of a table is \$200 with individual seats going for \$20. "I hope our members will take advantage of this opportunity--not only to honor their business colleagues--but to hear about trends in the workplace that will help them meet the challenges they face in the years ahead," Hougen said.

Chamber Board reviews initiatives, makes recommendations

After a lengthy vetting process that included reviews by the Public Issues committees, the Aurora Chamber of **Commerce Board of Directors** has made their recommendations on 14 initiatives that will appear on the ballot this November.

"While we don't endorse candidates, The Chamber has a long tradition of carefully examining issues and taking a stand on them," Chamber President Kevin Hougen said. He also pointed out that The Chamber continued to be supportive of the Labor Peace Act that has made for good labor/management relations for more than 50 years. "We

were relieved when the labor unions and the business community came to an agreement that pulled amendments 53. 55, 56 and 57 - the so called "poison pill" initiatives and deemphasized amendments 47, 49 and 54," he said. "This will go a long way toward keeping the business climate in Colorado competitive."

Hougen said the strongest endorsement came for Referendum O, Citizen-Initiated State Laws. "We've published a White Paper recommending this kind of reform for years," Hougen stated. "We think Referendum O will go a long way toward returning sanity to

the initiative process." He also again reminded members of **The Chamber** that two other important issues were on the ballot. "The school districts, both Cherry Creek and Aurora really need your support for their bond initiatives, 3A and 3B. A good education system is basic to all we do," he pointed out.

A summary of each of the Amendments and Initiatives including arguments for and against each issue provided to The Chamber by Axiom Strategies is available at the Chamber or by e-mailing The Chamber Public Issues Liaison, George Peck at george.peck@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!

Summary of Chamber Positions

Designation	Chamber Position	Title	Designation	Chamber Position	Title
Amendment 46	NP	Discrimination and Preferential Treatment by Governments	Amendment 59 Referendum L	Yes NP	TABOR Rebates and Education Funding Qualifications for Serving in
Amendment 47 Amendment 48	NP NP	Prohibition on Mandatory Labor Union Dues Definition of Person	Referendum M	NP	State Legislature Obsolete Constitutional Provision Relating to Land Value Increases
Amendment 49	NP	Statewide Rules for Public Employee Paycheck Deductions	Referendum N	NP	Obsolete Constitutional Provisions Relating to Alcohol Beverages
Amendment 50	Yes	Limited Gaming in Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek	Referendum 0 3A/3B	Yes Yes	Citizen-Initiated State Laws Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek
Amendment 51	NP	State Sales Tax Increase for Services for People with Developmental Disabilities			School District Bond initiatives
Amendment 52	No	Use of Severance Tax Revenue for Highways	\ensuremath{NP} = No position taken. The Chamber Board of Directors have voted to remain neutral on this issue.		
Amendment 54	No	Campaign Contributions from Certain Government Contractors	Yes = Support. The Chamber Government Affairs and Education Committee and Board of Directors voted to support this measure		
Amendment 58	No	Severance Taxes on the Oil and Natural Gas Industry	No = Oppose. The Chamber Government Affairs and Education Committee and the Board of Directors have voted to oppose this measure.		



Jo Snell Chair

Shop your local merchants that belong to YOUR Chamber of Commerce!

When you plan your shopping this fall, please consider supporting your neighbor who owns or works at the local retail store, travel agency, restaurant, auto dealership, real estate office, grocery store...the list can go on and on.

When you shop locally, your money stays in your community. Shopping in your local community supports our city services like police, fire, parks, transportation, and much more. Spending your hard-earned dollars in your neighborhood helps keep our families and friends employed.

Strive for Five

You can take ownership in your community and help it thrive if you would just Strive for Five. Here's how it works: if everyone would have a goal to shift only five percent of your out-of-town spending-and that includes over-the-internet purchasesto hometown stores, we could make a substantial difference for our local merchants and service providers. And, the effect is immediate! Most of us don't have a personal relationship with out-of-state internet merchandise companies, so why buy from a stranger? Buy from your neighbor!

Chair's Letter

Tough economic times: Make good use of your Chamber "Strive for Five"

We are entering a critical time this early fall with our holiday spending. The experts are already predicting a very tough holiday shopping period. So before you head out of town or get on-line with your gift list, think Strive for 5. Help our local merchants, and keep your neighbor employed during this economic slowdown.

FasTracks

With the challenges we see every day in the newspaper regarding funding of local light rail projects, we need to remind ourselves of the old adage, "history tends to repeat itself." Many will remember our last recession in the mid-1980s. Back then, we all assumed our economy went downhill because we lost 80.000 oil-related industry jobs. In fact, it was the loss of 160,000 construction-related jobs that truly caused us to have a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) home for sale sign on just about every block in the metro area. What brought us out of those recessionary days was a vision – a vision of an international airport that would bring thousands of jobs to the metro area and create capital investment of over \$5 billion dollars. The economic impact of DIA is still felt everyday in this great state of Colorado.

Now is the time to prepare for our next step. Let's show that we not only understand history, but are willing to learn from it to create a more successful future. With the skyrocketing cost of materials essential to completing FasTracks as originally envisioned, we need to step up to either limiting our light rail services on each of the corridors or be prepared to come to the table with more money just as they did for DIA. The last estimated shortfall that we've seen reported is around \$1.8 billion. Most of that appears to be in unavoidable construction cost increases since we voted on 4A-the FasTracks initiative. It's a big number—yet seems so small in today's economic environment—one in which Congress just voted for an \$800 billion rescue package for financial institutions and others.

Here at The Chamber our Transportation Council works hard to stay on top of this critical issue. Meeting under the able leadership of Dave Frazier from Merrick & Company and Chris Fasching from PBS&J Engineering on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 a.m., this group works hard to bore down on not only the FasTracks conundrum but the many other daunting transportation challenges we face. Recently it seems we are also coordinating and attending meetings with all of our stakeholders on almost a weekly basis. It's a grassroots approach—one in which we invite you to become more involved.

So, the next time you drive by a multi-national owned gas station where prices run close to \$4 a gallon, think hard about the positive impact of a world class light rail system serving us all—a system in which trains will be built in Pueblo, rails manufactured in Adams County and a system using power provided by Xcel Energy of Colorado. Now that's local economic development in its purest form.

And don't forget: "Strive for Five" this holiday season!

"The Chamber Staff honors our Veterans and wishes all of you Happy Thanksgiving"

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 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.

Board of Directors

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Member News

DAVA offers chocolate therapy

Chocolate therapy?!? You bet. **The Downtown Aurora Visual Arts**

organization has tapped into the type of therapy everyone understands and few can resist. They are offering an evening with Julie Pech, the Chocolate Therapist that includes light hors d'oeuvres, fine chocolates (of course) and wine as well as display of student art on Friday, Oct. 17. Therapy begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. And since this is, after all,

Anschutz Outpatient Pavilion Atrium on the Fitzsimons Campus. You can get more information or reserve your therapy by calling DAVA at 303-367-5886 or by gong to their website at www.davarts.org.

therapy, it will be conducted at the



Winning smile -- Val Purser, Arapahoe County's Volunteer Coordinator, receives the DOVIA Outstanding Volunteer Manager award from emcee Mitch Jelniker of Channel 7News. (Photo courtesy Arapahoe County)

Purser earns Volunteer Management Award

Arapahoe County employee Val Purser was named the 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Manager by the Directors of Volunteers in Agencies Denver Chapter.

"This award means the world to me," said Purser, who oversees the County's Volunteer Connections program. "It validates our goal in providing valuable volunteer opportunities that invite our citizens to get a hands-on view of **Arapahoe County**'s programs and services."

The award recognizes professionalism in the field of volunteer management and exceptional advocacy or issues concerning volunteerism.

Purser joined **Arapahoe County** two years ago and was asked to use her 25 years of volunteer management experience to create the county's first formal volunteer program, Volunteer Connections. Since then, Purser has coordinated more than 18,000 hours of volunteer service that equates to \$360,000 of budget relief to the County.

To get involved with **Arapahoe County**'s award winning volunteer program, call 303-738-7938.

VA Hospital bill passes Senate

The Senate has passed a major piece of legislation that is crucial to the future of the Veteran's Administration Hospital at Fitzsimons. Included in this large bill is the authorization amount of \$568 million in federal funding for the hospital. The bill also contained a technical correction for the transfer of a pool from the City of Aurora to the VA.

The new hospital, to be located on the Fitzsimons Campus in Aurora, will

be a state-of-the-art research and patient-care facility that will serve all emergency, tertiary, and other medical needs of veterans in the mountain west.

Chesley name CCSD Superintendent

The **Cherry Creek School District** Board of Education unanimously selected Deputy Superintendent Mary



Chesley to succeed Dr. Monte Moses as Superintendent, effective January 1, 2009.

Chesley, who has been with

Cherry Creek Schools for 19 years, was the sole finalist for the position. She has served the district as a teacher, principal, executive director, assistant superintendent and deputy superintendent. Her responsibilities have included supervision of the district's 39 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, and six high schools, as well as alternative programs in the district.

Restaurateurs and wanna-be's offered course

The City of Aurora's International Business Initiative with support from the Stampede Nightclub is offering a short seminar title "How to Succeed in a Restaurant Business" on Thursday, Oct. 23. The seminar, which features presentations by some of Aurora's most successful restaurateurs will be held in the Stampede Nightclub at 2430 S. Havana from 5-6:30 p.m. and will include light refreshments. Santos Blan, Small Business Specialist with the Aurora Business Development Center said this was a must attend session if you are considering a restaurant start-up. He said the event will cover how other restaurateurs have handled challenges and successes, business assistance and resources that are available, where to start when considering opening a restaurant and how to deal with the city permitting, licensing and other code requirement. You can sign up by calling 303-326-8690 or by emailing the Aurora Business Development Center at info@aurorabdc.com.

Museum offers Festival of Wreaths

The Aurora History Museum is again offering an opportunity for members of the community to create their most exotic holiday wreath as part of their Ninth Annual Festival of Wreaths exhibit and fundraiser. For a \$20 donation to the Museum, sponsors will receive a plain wreath to decorate in a manner that reflects their products, services or activities and is both colorful and creative. The finished wreaths then go on display in November at the **Aurora History Museum** and are sold at a silent auction before the Christmas holidays. Those interested in creating a wreath should call the Museum at 303-739-6667.

Hougen named Civitan Citizen of Year

Aurora Chamber President Kevin Hougen was honored at the Annual Aurora Civitan Awards and Installation Banquet on Sept. 25. The local civic club named Hougen as their Citizen of the Year for his extraordinary involvement in the community. He was also cited as a model of good citizenship who lived the Civitan creed of service in the community. The club, which has served the Aurora community for more than 50 years, also installed their new president, Cheryl Callahan. The club which is devoted to improving the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities meets weekly at the Spalding Rehabilitation **Hospital** in Aurora.



Women in Business Corner

This little corner of The Chamber continues to flourish with fun and activities for those interested in getting involved in the Women in Business Committee. On tap are:

• **Wednesday, October 15th &15am at The Chamber:** "Event Planning"...from birthdays to 300-guest dinners; join us to learn how to plan like a pro!

Many thanks to **Fish City Grill** in **Southlands** for donating 15% of their sales that day to one of our favorite charities and for hosting our committee at Happy Hour."

And remember to please bring toiletries to this meeting to support Boy's Hope-Girls Hope. The boys could use razors, shave cream, shampoo, body wash, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, lotion, deodorant, cotton swabs and band-aids.

Thanks!
Janine Little & Sandie Pruess
WIB Chairs

Networking and Fun!

Ribbon Cuttings



A major benefit — Taking advantage of the benefits of their Chamber membership, the team from Trilogy Benefits, Inc., cut the ribbon in front the entry to their new office at 10800 Betheny. Surrounded by their many customers and friends are (L-R) Jacquey Tabcum, Kathy Minister, Tracy Miller and organization president Jacquie Heally. Other Trilogy staffers in the photo include Dan Shatler (back in Hawaiian shirt) and Fred Minister (back in stripes). Trilogy Benefits offers a full range of service from insurance though health coaching. You can learn more about them at www.trilogybenefits.com or by calling them at 303-627-2660. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

As the dust settles — Dust from nearby construction only adds to the moment as Doug Camilleri, General Manager of the brand new Quality Inn & Suites DIA shows his skill at ribbon cutting as he, his staff, guests and Chamber Ambassadors mark the opening of the facility located at 6890 Tower Road just minutes from DIA. Also pictured (I-r) are Assistant General Manager Evi Quiel (in white), Camilleri, Sales Manager Cindy Salley and Regional Sales Manager Mirinda Sildack. Quality Inn & Suites offers free high speed internet, upgraded bedding and a restaurant serving a free continental breakfast. More information is available at www.qualityinn.com. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)





Hallelujah, we are open! — Pastor
Larry Curry (with scissors) and his wife Minister
Debbie Curry celebrate the opening of their new
location, the New Covenant Holy Church and
Curry Counseling Center at 16050 East
Dartmouth. They were joined by a number of
their church members including Ivy Gibson
(center) and several Chamber Ambassadors.
The Church is located near Meadowood Park west
of S. Laredo St. and offers regular Sunday
services, Bible study classes and Christian
counseling.

Chamber welcomes 2008-09 Leadership Class



The Aurora Chamber Board of Directors and Leadership Aurora Board members are proud to introduce the 2008-09 Leadership Aurora class. Class members were selected through a

competitive application and interview process. The purpose of the ten-month program is to develop awareness of the



Aurora and Eastern Metro area – its strengths, challenges and opportunities; to enhance leadership abilities; to create a network of informed, concerned leaders; and to encourage greater involvement in the community. The class members recently completed a two-night opening retreat in Winter Park and elected their class president, Karen Terry. They will continue with nine monthly sessions including their graduation from October through June.

New class members include: David Adams, L'Oreal USA; Alan Antolak, Adolfson & Peterson Construction; Jason Boyd, Rural/Metro Ambulance; Jeremy Bradshaw, The Medical Center of Aurora; Sylvester Brandon, Community College of Aurora Foundation; Michael Bruno, Colorado Air National Guard; Nancy Corley, City of Aurora; Randy Councell, Cherry Creek School District; Naazlin Dadani, Community College of Aurora; Daniel Davis, Aurora Public Schools; Brian DeBoskey, University of Phoenix; Timothy Huffman, Aurora Police Department; Najwa Jad, Arapahoe Douglas Works!; Hap Legg, FirstBank of Aurora; Arthur Lehl, Jr., Adams County Community Development; Joseph Linhoff, Dupont Linhoff Patient Assessments; Al Liu, Mt Fuji Hibichi, Inc.; Joe Mares, 1st Presbyterian Church Aurora; Anthony Martin, Air Reserve Personnel Center; Miguel Martinez, BPM, Inc.; Pearl Mattox, M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc.; Melissa McGahey, Aurora Sentinel Newspaper; Jane McGrath, Active Minds; Carole O'Shea, Aurora Police Department; Scott Pasternack, Pasternack's Pawn Shop; Sandra Preuss, E Travel Unlimited; Christian Read, Advantage Security, Inc.; Allen Robnett, Aurora Fire Department; Maggie Scott, The Children's Hospital; Karen Terry, Providers' Resource Clearinghouse; Mark Turley, Aurora Fire Department; Darryl Varnado, University of Colorado Hospital; Michelle Wolfe, City of Aurora; James Young, Scitor Corporation; Sarah Young, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital.

Prairie Waters Project progress accelerating

The city of Aurora's Prairie Water's Project is making tremendous progress heading into the final quarter of 2008 according to a City Water Department Director, Mark Pifher. He said construction is ahead of schedule and under its projected budget.

The \$750 million project is expected to deliver about 3.3 billion gallons of water per year to Aurora residents and businesses, boosting current supplies by about 20 percent. The project is Aurora's sustainable solution to drought protection and is the fastest, most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to deliver the most water to the city.

Also moving along rapidly is the state-of-the-art Aurora Reservoir Water Purification Facility, which is currently about 47 percent complete. This construction site encompasses 80-acres at Aurora Reservoir Park. "We are really making progress, and once complete, Aurora will have one of the most sophisticated water purification

facilities in the country," said Pifher. He pointed out that the facilities are designed to blend-in with the short-grass prairie environment at the Park when they are completed.

Work on the natural purification area, the North Campus, located near Brighton is now about 11 percent complete. Approximately, 9-miles of the project's 34mile long pipeline have already been installed.

The Prairie Waters Project is the largest city project to exceed the City's goal of including 10 percent of the work form small business enterprises. Rod Braur, Prairie Waters Project Program Director said he was proud to be able to utilize 14 percent small and local businesses on the Prairie Waters Project. "To meet the City's target we developed a program to reach out to these businesses as we anticipate key construction activities," said Brauer. For the latest project news, visit www.prairiewaters.org.



Putting 'er to bed — Crews bury the latest stretch of pipeline along the E-470 corridor that will support the **City of Aurora's** Prairie Pipeline Project. The line will eventually stretch from wells near Brighton to the Aurora Reservoir near Ouincy and Gun Club Pond



Open Space Stars — Arapahoe County Commissioners and friends show off their 2008 Starburst Award for Outstanding Conservation Project for the Middle Bijou Creek Conservation Easement from the Colorado Lottery. From left to right are Commissioner Frank Weddig: Bobbie Sheffield, County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board; Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld; Ellen Belef, OSTAB member; Commissioner Jim Dyer; Commissioner Susan Beckman; Community Relations Specialist for the Colorado Lottery, Matt Robbins; Commissioner Pat Noonan; and Mike Rosser, OSTAB member. The award honors the County for its use of \$800,000 in lottery funds, acquired through a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado, to preserve 20-acres of sweeping vistas and prairie views in eastern Arapahoe County. Encompassing more than 20 square miles of land on the Middle Bijou Creek Ranch located just south of Deer Trail, the conservation easement protects four distinct stream systems, 93 native plant species, and the breeding habitat for the western burrowing owl, a state threatened species.

Chamber businesses win City award

Four highly regarded and well known Aurora Chamber member businesses were tapped for special recognition by the **City of Aurora** at a ceremony Oct. 8. City Manager Ron Miller gave **City of Aurora** Business Recognition Awards to **Rural Metro Ambulance, The Stampede Restaurant and Nightclub**

Dumitri's Family Restaurant and the **Aurora Publishing Company** which publishes the **Aurora Sentinel**.

The honors are given to companies in Aurora that show significant growth, provide exceptional customer service and demonstrate outstanding community involvement.



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Renewals

A-1 Discount Water Allegra Print & Imaging Arapahoe County Office of the Public Trustee Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union
Aurora Symphony Orchestra
Barbara's Custom Floral & Gifts, Inc.
Bellair Express/Todd Expediting, Inc.
CARMA Colorado Inc.
Chambers Wine & Liquor
Coldwell Banker Commercial
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Delphic Investigative Services Marriott TownePlace Suites - Southeast
Michael Baker Corporation
Mile High United Way
NextGen Software, Inc.
Parks College/Corinthian Colleges, Inc.
Quality Inn & Suites - DIA
Rocky Mountain Timber & Tree Service
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver StorQuest Self Storage Strategic Insight Solutions, Ltd. Weaver & Company World Financial Group ZLB Company

NEW MEMBERS

aloft Denver International Airport
Alpine Custom Shutters
Curry Center/New Hope Covenant Church
Elite Systems, Inc.
Inclusive Solutions, LLC
MJ Logistics
Prologistix
Red Robin
Redefining Able, Inc.