



IMPACT

SEPTEMBER
2008

Upcoming Events

Business before Hours

September 10 | 7:30 a.m.
Providers Resource Clearinghouse
14200 E. 35th Pl.

Aurora Fox Season Opening Gala

September 13 | 6 p.m.
Aurora Fox Theater (E. Colfax & Elmira)

Member Orientation

September 17 | 4 p.m.
Aurora Chamber

Marshall Fields/ Wolf Golf Tournament

September 18 | 7 a.m.
Saddle Rock Golf Course
www.fieldswolf.golfreg.com for details

Taste of Aurora

September 18 | 5:30 p.m.
Stampede (Havana & Iliff)

Business after Hours

Sept. 25 | 4:30 p.m.
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course (Smoky Hill & Aurora Parkway)

Pinnacol Workers Comp Safety Seminar

October 7 | 8:30-11 a.m.
Pinnacol Assurance
7501 E. Lowry Blvd.

Board hears initiative, school bond recommendations

The Aurora Chamber Board of Directors heard recommendations on initiatives and school bonding issues being reviewed by the Government Affairs and Education Committee (GA&E) at their Aug. 27 meeting.

Taking the lead from the committee they voted to support Amendment 50 in the upcoming Colorado elections and support mill levy proposals 3A & 3B for both **Aurora and Cherry Creek School Districts**.

"A well educated workforce – from the ground up—is absolutely critical to the continued economic vitality of this State," said Kevin Hougen, Chamber President. "And no where is that more true than in the Eastern Metro area where our major economic engines all require great schools, and flexible, highly adaptable education resources to provide the kind of people that help them remain competitive and successful."

Amendment 50 would create new revenues for the 13 colleges in Colorado's community college system, including the **Community College of Aurora**, without raising taxes by allowing the voters in the three gaming communities to update Colorado's 17-year-old gaming laws to extend bet limits, authorize roulette and crap games and establish longer hours of operations.

Mill levies, on the ballot as initiatives 3A and 3B in both school districts, would support both academic and infrastructure needs in the two rapidly growing areas. School Superintendents John Barry (APSD) and Monte Moses (CCSD) both appeared before the GA&E during summer meetings where they

successfully made their cases.

The Board also reiterated their opposition to four union-sponsored ballot initiatives that they felt would create negative changes in the laws governing the Colorado workplace while taking a wait-and-see position on the Right-to-Work initiative. "My sense is that the Board would have preferred that everyone agree to stay with the Labor Peace Act that has served this State so well in the past," Hougen said.

The GA&E Committee is expected to review many amendments, initiatives and resolutions prior to the elections in November. It has invited proponents and opponents of what is expected to be as many as 19 initiatives to appear on this year's ballot. They will be asked to

make their case to the group which will then vote to make a recommendation to the Chamber Board.

"While it is our policy not to support or oppose candidates in elections," Hougen said, "we do feel it is in the interests of our business community to review, and then take a position on issues."

The Government Affairs and Education Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. in the Chamber Conference Room. It is chaired by Jim Suss of **Suss Buick Pontiac GMC** and Bob LeGare of **LeGare Real Estate**. All interested Chamber members are eligible to serve on the committee.

State House, Senate candidates to debate on Oct. 2

The Chamber will once again join with the City of Aurora, the Aurora Sentinel and the Aurora Business and Professional Women to sponsor a televised Candidate Debate on Thursday, Oct. 2.

Candidates for Senate Districts 25, 27, 28 and 29 as well House Districts 30, 36, 39, 40, 41 and 42 will square off beginning at 6 p.m. at the Aurora Municipal Center. The program, now its

20th year, will be taped for rebroadcast several times on KACT-TV, cable channel 8 in Aurora.

The debates are open to the public. Candidates will face a panel of reporters as well as questions from a moderator representing **The Chamber** and the **BPW**.

The lineup will include all declared State Legislator candidates whose districts include a portion of Aurora.

6:00 – 6:50 p.m.	Senate District 25 - Mary Hodge/Robert John Hadfield
	Senate District 27 - Nancy Spence/Nathan Wilkes
7:00 – 7:50 p.m.	Senate District 28 - Suzanne Williams/Sueyuna Duthis
	Senate District 29 - Morgan Carroll/Suzanne Andrews
8:00 – 8:50 p.m.	House District 30 - David Rose/Kevin Priola
	House District 36 - Su Ryden/Kathy Green
	House District 39 - David Balmer/Mollie Cullom
9:00 – 9:50 p.m.	House District 40 - Kevin Wilde/Cindy Acree
	House District 41 - Nancy Todd
	House District 42 - Karen Middleton/George Carouthers

For further information on broadcast times and dates go to www.aurora8@auroragov.org, or call Access Aurora at 303-739-7000.

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!

Fox Gala sponsors lining up

Support for the performing arts in Aurora is pretty solid if the line-up of sponsors for the annual Fox Gala for the Performing Arts is any indication.

Already lined-up to celebrate the evening is **event sponsor**, the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance**. They are to be joined by Producers **Wells Fargo Banks**, **1st Banks of Aurora**, **Bello Credit Union**, **Norris Design** and **Watson & Company**. Directors coming aboard include **La Cueva Restaurant**, and **Aurora Mental Health Center**. Joining the are Star supporters the **Community College of Aurora**, **LeGare Real Estate** and **Body Beautiful Collision Repair**.

The gala evening featuring food and drink from **Carrabba's Italian Grill** in the Fox Plaza will feature the hilarious play *Escanaba in Love*, as well as a silent auction full of items that have been described as "eclectic," an intermission with gourmet coffee and sinfully delicious Italian Chocolate desert and an opportunity after the event for more coffee and mingling with all the actors.

The play, written by well known comedian Jeff Daniels, has been



described as a touching, romantic and comedic prequel to the smash hit *Escanaba in the Moonlight* that proved so popular when it played at the Fox two years ago.

Sponsorships that feature many special perks are still available by calling George Peck at the Chamber, 303-344-1500 or by clicking on the *Escanaba in Love* art on the Chamber website, www.aurorachamber.org. Individual tickets can also be purchased at the Chamber for \$50.



Kevin Hougen
President & CEO

The saying "You're either at the table or you're on the menu" summarizes the need for the business community to have a strong advocacy program. This is especially true in the current business climate. Not only down at the State Capitol, County and Local jurisdictions, but on a Federal level as well. We are representing our members on key issues, creating business opportunities in the community, and how you we are saving members time and money.

In recent years the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has been an active and unapologetic champion for business and the economic vitality of the region. Let me tell you about some work we have recently done.

Cyber Command efforts

The Aurora Chamber along with **Aurora Economic Development Council** have prepared a response to Governor Ritter on the viability of Aurora and Buckley Air Force Base being considered as a possible home for the headquarters of Air Force Cyber Command – a new major command the Air Force hopes to stand up sometime in the near future.

President's Letter

Governor Ritter is one of 18 Governors asked to respond to a call for information. Working with the Governor's office we have submitted paper work looking for Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs to be our first selection for the new headquarters in Colorado, with information about **Buckley AFB** as a possible, highly viable, second selection. The Air Force will evaluate the inputs and make site surveys this summer prior to narrowing down the field to 3-5 sites later this year. The Air Force will then conduct required environmental impact assessments before making a final choice – perhaps as early as September of 2009.

Information requested by the Air Force includes operational synergies with activities such as intelligence and space/satellite operations, high-speed bandwidth/network capacity, proximity to technology corridors/IT centers of excellence, security features, available facilities, power supplies, transportation modes and susceptibility to natural disasters and continuity of operations. Doesn't **Buckley AFB** sound like an excellent back up facility if Colorado Springs isn't selected?

We have a lot to offer in the above mentioned areas, not only in Colorado Springs, but all along the front range that make Colorado the best choice for the new command

headquarters. The headquarters under the currently proposed structure would call for approximately 550 personnel. The new command would also include a Numbered Air Force, four wings, and more than 65 subordinate squadrons assigned to those wings, to include Reserve and Air National Guard. Many of the units currently exist and would be reassigned under the new command.

Senior Air Force officials have told us that Air Force Cyber Command's role is to focus the service's efforts on defending its ability to fight in a world that is becoming almost completely reliant on cyberspace infrastructure for everything from commercial to military needs.

Along with Colorado Springs, the **Aurora Economic Development Council** and tremendous help from **Congressman Ed Perlmutter**, and the entire Colorado delegation, Colorado is positioned to be a front runner to fully support the cyberspace mission. For more information please don't hesitate to call me at 303-344-1500.

And rest assured your Chamber will continue to work with businesses, educational institutions, and economic development organizations to pursue any opportunities to keep this area vibrant and moving forward.

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!

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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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Member News

Aurora encourages small businesses to bid on city contracts

The City of Aurora Purchasing Services Department is looking for more small businesses to bid on city contracts according to department spokesman Bob Cook. "This past year Aurora established a new program called Small Business Enterprise (SBE) to give small business owners a better chance to bid on city contracts and compete with large companies," Cook said. "Since the program began, awards issued to SBE's total more than \$20 million."

Cook said that SBE was designed as an outreach program to small businesses to increase participation in the city's contracting opportunities. "Most cities that have a similar program operate for construction contracts only," Cook pointed out, "whereas Aurora has opened this up to other products and services." He said he anticipates Aurora will see an even higher percentage of service contracts with the SBE program especially since Aurora allows self certification.

For more information contact Aurora Purchasing Services at 303-739-7102.

Lowry golf course named

The Mira Vista Golf Course at Lowry has a new name. The Colorado Golf Association and the Colorado Women's Golf Association who own the course announced recently that the redesigned course will be known as CommonGround Golf Course, according to the **Lowry Redevelopment Authority**.

The new facility, designed by renowned architect Tom Doak and his Renaissance Golf Design Group, will be a 7,200-yard, par 71 course that will include an 18-hole championship course, an enhanced practice facility and two short courses devoted to junior golf. CommonGround is scheduled to open next spring.

E-470 installing second phase of median cable barrier

The **E-470 Public Highway Authority** has approved the award of a contract to install 9.4 miles of median cable barrier to supplement the 10 miles of cable barrier installed in 2007 between South Parker Road and Jewell Avenue.

The cable will be installed in three sections of the highway: from the

interchange of I-25 and C-470 to Parker Road, Jewell Avenue to Colfax Avenue, and Smith Road to approximately 39th Avenue. The sections were selected on the basis of priorities recommended in a 2006 safety study. E-470 plans to continue to install median barrier cable in all remaining sections of the highway's 47 miles.

The barrier to be installed will be 38 inches tall, higher than the standard 29-1/2 inches found throughout the Denver metro area.

"We have already seen the benefit of the existing median cable barrier that we installed last year. It has prevented a number of potential cross-over accidents," said Matt McDole, Chief Engineer.

Defense Council told of State grant to ArapCo

Henry Mondragón, **Arapahoe County** Veterans Service Officer, told The Chamber Defense Council at their August meeting that the County Veterans Service Office will receive \$23,292 from the Colorado General Assembly to participate in a pilot program to aid veterans in claims for earned benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. **Arapahoe County** is one of five counties receiving the funds which have been earmarked for veteran outreach efforts.



According to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, a survey conducted in May and June 2007 indicated that approximately 25 percent of the respondents are not registered with Veteran Affairs. This leaves approximately 106,568 Colorado veterans unregistered.

"Our goal is to increase veteran participation in the enrollment process," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan. "Veterans served our Country faithfully, and with the County's help they receive support in obtaining the benefits they deserve."

ArapCo offers CERT training

The **Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department** will offer community members Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training beginning October 4. According to the

Sheriff's Office the program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. "When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site," the Sheriff's Office said. "CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community."

Classes will be held at the **Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on four consecutive Saturdays, Oct. 4 -25. Attendees will be involved in hands-on activities. Contact Sgt. Sean Dennis at 720-874-4096 or email at sdennis@co.arapahoe.co.us to guarantee your reservation.

Parade of Honor to salute military

A parade and wreath laying ceremony to Honor the Protectors" will be held in Downtown Denver according to Paula Sarlls who serves on The Chamber Defense Council. Set for Sept. 19-20 the ceremonies and parade will honor the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Firefighters and Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. For more information go to the Parade of Honor web site at www.paradeofhonor.org.

ESGR seeks business leaders

A group that seeks to build greater

understanding of the role the National Guard and Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces is seeking business leaders to attend a special event in Arkansas. According to John Lowrie who heads the **Employee Support for the Guard and Reserve** group in Colorado his organization has organized a trip to Little Rock Air Force Base as part of the 2008 Air National Guard Business and Industry Days. The trip, designed to familiarize business, industry and education leaders with the benefits of employing members of the National Guard is set for Oct. 22-24 and has been fully approved by the Colorado State Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs. Additional information on the orientation which may include military airlift to the Arkansas base can be obtained by contacting Kathleen Dorram at 720-250-1195.

2008 RMRFI cancelled

The Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In and Airshow scheduled to be held at **Front Range Airport** on Sept. 19-21 has been cancelled. And RFMI board spokesman said that with all the challenges they were facing this year, including the delayed start and new direction for the airport, "we just didn't feel we had the ability to pull everything together to put on a great, safe event for our 30th anniversary."

Women in Business Corner

Lots going on in this corner of The Chamber! Please join us for our next meeting: Wednesday, September 17 at 5:00 p.m. (note the time change) at The Chamber Office. Our program will be **Flower Arranging!** You'll learn how to put together a simple arrangement and network with Power Women (and men)!

We hope you were able to join us at **Fish City Grill** on Sept. 2 for a special Women in Business after-hours networking event. The money raised that day as part of the 1st Tuesday of the month charity support went to **The Children's Hospital** Sports Programs.

And for you members of the WIB Committee, let us remind you that September is "Wash Product Month." We encourage you to support our member **Boys Hope Girls Hope** with donations of laundry detergent and dryer sheets, liquid hand soap, dish soap and dishwasher soap. Bring these items to donate to our next meeting or just drop them at the Chamber anytime during the month of September.

We are so grateful for your support! A big thank you to everyone and we look forward to seeing you!

Janine Little and Sandie Preuss
WIB Chairs

Ribbon Cuttings



A little bit of Tidbits – Tidbits of Aurora owners, publishers, writers, sales and distribution gurus (they do it all), Bud Brasier and Miriam Zoole prepare to take just a tad bit of a ribbon marking the one year anniversary of their successful publication. The two entrepreneurs celebrated the moment not only with a cutting, but by hosting about 100 of their closest Chamber friends at a Business After Hours at Blackstone Country Club. If you are interested in advertising in the popular and lighthearted Aurora publication with a distribution of nearly 25,000 give them a call at 303-688-1987 or check them out online at www.tidbitsofaurora.com. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Lookin' good at MCPN – A smiley group led by Randy Berner (center) and colleagues from Adolfson & Peterson Construction and friends Kevin Hougren and Joe Linhoff are obviously pleased with the work their company did in building the brand new Metro Community Provider Network North Aurora Family Health Services Campus. More than 100 civic leaders, doctors and community members joined MCPN President and CEO Dave Myers to celebrate the official ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, Aug. 14. Located at 3292 Peoria Street, the 800,000-square-foot, \$10-million facility serves low-income families with little or no insurance as well as homeless patients by providing care in dental, prenatal, internal, diabetes and geriatric services, as well as mental health care. More information is available at www.mcpn.com. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



No rain on this parade – Erin Cunningham, Campus President for the newly named Anthem College brings her parade of students and Chamber Ambassadors in under cover to cut the ribbon marking their transition from Cambridge College to Anthem College. While it was one of those rare rainy days in Aurora, Cunningham and her Director of Admissions, Derrick Reed said the sun was shining on the students at Anthem. The college, part of the High Tech Institute, offers career focused training programs in Health Care, Technology, Visual Communication, and Criminal Justice to equip students with real-world career training and job skills that today's employers are seeking. Located at 350 Blackhawk Street just off 4th, more information is available by calling Admissions Director Reed at 720-859-7900. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Cuttin' up for the bikers — Young Sam Levy makes short work of the ribbon held by his brothers Colton and Austin at the Motorcycle Depot in Aurora. Located at 231 Airport Boulevard in Suite D, the shop is managed by the young ribbon crew's dad, Adam Levy. He told the crowd that the Motorcycle Depot is quickly becoming Aurora's #1 trusted place to shop for all street, ATV, and dirt-bike apparel, accessories, chemicals, helmets including a large selection of tires. More information is available by checking out their easy to use website at www.motorcycledepotonline.com. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



An imposing entry – The manager of the new Blackstone Country Club and his staff are not overawed by the impressive entry to his new Country Club in southeast Aurora by timing his ribbon cutting perfectly for the photo. The beautiful new facility featuring all the amenities of a first class club, hosted Chamber members for a Business After Hours on Aug. 21. The Club is located at 7777 S. Country Club Parkway just off Smoky Hill Road and east of Southlands. Additional information is available by calling Lindsey Deinstbach, the membership director at 303-680-0245. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

BANKS IN HARMONY

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Another successful season
thanks to
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Fish City Grill
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720-214-3474



Coldstone Creamery
14132 E. Cedar Avenue
303-340-8200

And Colorado's Finest Sound



We'll be back next summer!

And yes — Utah Park will be back in the rotation!

Renewals

CraigsTreks, Inc
Denver City Restorations
Developmental Pathways
Dumitri's Family Restaurant & Sports Lounge
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Lakecrest at Gateway Park
Sable Self Storage
Teal Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.
TGI Fridays
Western Truck Parts, Inc.



Not running with scissors – Brad Johnson, President and CEO of the Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union shows he has learned his lessons well standing still while cutting the ribbon to their newly refurbished facility at 751 Chambers Road in Aurora. Johnson was joined by staff and Ambassadors to mark the event celebrating the continuing growth of the financial institution. (Photo courtesy Brian Mollitoris, Photographer)



In partnership with Sam's Club®, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is presenting an exclusive Membership offer. Employees and Members will receive a \$10 Gift Card when they sign up for a new Sam's Club Membership or renew an existing Membership by November 10, 2008.

Sam's Club Business Members enjoy terrific savings on merchandise, services and more!

- Business Membership includes three annual Membership cards – Annual Membership is \$35 and includes a personal card for you, one for a household member over 18 years of age, and a company card.
- Save time with Click 'n' Pull® and Fax 'n' PullSM! Simply submit your order online at **samsclub.com** or via fax. Order by 5 p.m., and we'll have it ready to pick up at your local Club anytime the next day.
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	Regular Club Hours	Gold Key Hours	
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M - F	10 am - 8:30 pm	M - F	7 am - 10 am
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To become a Member, bring this offer to the Member Services Desk of your local Club. Upon payment, you will receive a

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Enjoy the value of Membership!
Receive a \$10 Gift Card when you join or renew.

This certificate is valid for employees and members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.
Offer valid through November 10, 2008 only.

*A \$35 (plus tax in some places) Sam's Club primary Business Membership includes one primary card, one spouse (or other household member) card, and one company card. Primary Memberships are valid for one year from the date of issue. Business Members can add up to eight people to their Membership. Add-On cards are \$30, plus tax in some places, per card. All Add-On cards expire on the same date as the primary Membership. The certificate may be redeemed only for new or renewed Membership. Certificates and special promotions are not valid on **samsclub.com** or by mail. **Certificate good through November 10, 2008.** Offer not to be used for Group Membership. Applies only to first year of Membership. Primary Business Membership fee (\$35, plus tax in some places) will apply at the time of renewal.

