

Serving the east-metro
area including:

Aurora
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THE CHAMBER Impact

NOV/DEC 2019

Chamber CEO Travels to Korea



The Korea Foundation invited 13 dignitaries from around the world to visit Seoul, South Korea, October 12-20. During the week, the group spent time visiting cultural and arts venues, along with corporate visits to Hyundai Motor Corporation (pictured), Samsung Innovation Center, Korea Enterprises, Korea Federation Exchange (KRX), Bank of Korea, and Gyeongbokgung Palace. **Left to right:** Kevin Hougen, **USA**, President/CEO Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Baikoua Viginie, **Central African Republic**, Minister National Reconciliation; Candida Nariciso, **Angola**, National Assembly of the Republic of Angola; Boni Bonev, **Bulgaria/Switzerland**, Nestle Bulgaria AD; Ghazi Ben Ahmed, **Tunisia**, CEO Mediterranean Development Initiative; Miroslav Cvijin, **Croatia**, Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure; Mahindra Ramdeen, **Trinidad & Tobago**, CEO Manufacture's Association; Yaakov Avimor, **Israel**, Attorney/Owner Avimor-Shadmy Advocates; Judy Nwokedi, **Republic of South Africa**, Secretary General-Black Business Council; and Mohammed Chwayyed, **Iraq**, Director General Mid land Oil Company. (Not pictured: Rasha Ziada, **Egypt**; Piruz Khambatta, **India**; and Carla Ribeiro, **Paraguay**)



**A delicious
success!**

Recap on page 15



(Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

SAVE THE DATE

... AND MAKE YOUR REGISTRATION FOR THE:

THE CHAMBER
AURORA • COLORADO
**Annual
Holiday Party**

Thursday, December 12, 2019 • 5-8 pm

Radisson Hotel Denver-Aurora

3155 S. Vaughn Way, Aurora, CO 80014

www.aurorachamber.org/events/calendar



Betsy Oudenhoven, PhD
Board Chair

ChairLetter

Fellow Board members and members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce:

I hope you are all enjoying fall and taking advantage of the many opportunities to get out and about in our beautiful state. I also want to thank you for your continued support of the Chamber and remind you of how much this wonderful organization has

to offer to you right here at home. Whether you are looking for information, skill building, networking, leadership opportunities, support, or just a good time with friends and colleagues, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has something to offer.

The Chamber has a number of committees including the Arts+Business Connection, Defense Council, Diversity and Inclusion Council, Government Affairs, Transportation, Women in Business, and Young Professionals, and any member is welcome to attend. You will see updates from many of these committees in this newsletter and you can see the wide range of programs, activities and informational sessions they provide. In addition, there is a health series and a year-long leadership program (by application). These are all great ways to get connected to the community and to other employers and employees across the diverse businesses in the Eastern Metro area (Aurora, Centennial, Brighton, Bennett, and Commerce City).

There are also a number of great events during the year, including the recent Taste of the Chamber in September and the Diversity and Inclusion Resource Summit in October. The Chamber Holiday Party is

coming up in December and also includes a toy donation for The Marine Corp Toys for Tots program. The Chamber sponsors two legislative breakfasts, the Women in Business Unsung Heroes Luncheon, the Annual Awards Dinner, the Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon, and the Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament.

Finally, Chamber members can take advantage of nearly 200 networking opportunities, use of conference rooms at The Chamber offices (for no charge), ribbon cuttings, and online promotion of your business.

One of the things I love about living and working here is that so many of the leaders throughout every sector of our community are accessible, interested, involved, and willing to help each other out. We just need to keep connecting.

The 2019 Business Directory describes the Chamber as an "action-oriented, membership driven, non-profit organization that is a powerful advocate for its members...enables its members to accomplish collectively what they can't do individually...and exists to meet the needs of the business community." To do that most effectively, the Chamber needs your participation and input — and I am confident that you will be glad you got involved.

Thanks for supporting the Chamber and helping us to support you.

ChamberBoard

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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 give a voice to the business community and serve as an advocate for its members, creating a positive business environment that encourages their growth and long-term economic vitality.

Our Differences Make the Difference

On September 27, 2019, The Aurora Chamber of Commerce held its 4th Annual Diversity & Inclusion Resource Summit at the Summit Event and Conference Center. The event began at 3:30 pm with one-hour, optional professional development workshops:

- *Reaping the Benefits* – Research shows that simply hiring diverse groups of people isn't enough. To actually get the benefits of diversity, companies need to train their employees and encourage open communication. Presented by Kristine Feuerborn, Sr. Recruiter, UCHHealth.
- *Navigating Difficult Dialogue about Diversity in the Workplace* – How some people can react badly to diversity initiatives. Presented by Mo Abdullah, CEO and Founder, and Elyse Sundita, Director of Community Outreach, Culture Energized.

Following the workshops, the Resource Fair, from 4:30-6 pm, provided vendors an opportunity to share resources to help businesses diversify their products, services, workplace, or customers; create more inclusive work environments; and share marketing strategies to increase business efforts into different markets in the Eastern Metro Area. Food vendors provided a variety of delicious samples — from pad thai to snake bites, and from salsa to Misir Wot.

Resource and food vendors included: Aurora Police Department, Metropolitan State University (MSU), CEDS



Ryan Ross, PhD

Finance, Rocky Mountain Micro Finance, Konjo Catering, Star of India, Full Battle Rattle Deli - Brooklyn Style Sandwiches, Bua Thai, Legends of Aurora, Asian Pacific Development Council, Colorado Black Health Collaborative, Rocky Mountain Welcome Center, Aurora Public Schools, Aurora Sister Cities, Ready to Work, Secor Cares, The Center on Colfax, Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Technical University, Wells Fargo, FirstBank, Colorado Enterprise Fund, City of Aurora, University of Denver/University College, and Tri-County Health Department.

Ryan Ross, PhD, president and CEO of the Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado, was the keynote speaker at the event. Ross explained diversity as the collection of differences that give organizations the potential to experience success. He also reviewed the diversity value proposition and the annual economic impact of boosting diversity in the technology sector.



At the podium, Teresa Bailey with UCHHealth and Dennis Stretar with Our Community Broadcast Network. Bailey and Stretar currently serve as the chair and vice-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Council.



Left to right: Stefan, Earl, and Brian Arnold.



CEDS Finance received the 2019 Diversity Champion Award.

Left to right: Anna Pernell, Zaynab Sepahi, Natalie Schreffler (standing), Nosa Iyare, Alyson Anderson (standing behind Iyare), Alexandria Wise (standing), Jeremiah Houle, Paul Stein, Agraj Dangal.

(photos courtesy of Elemental Photography)

Following Ross, Brian Arnold, Executive Director of Ready to Work (RTW) presented the various ways that Ready to Work assists in our community by providing housing, jobs, and supportive services to adults transitioning out of homelessness, by providing housing and employment opportunities. Arnold also introduced Stefan and Earl, two RTW success stories, who each shared touching stories of how RTW assisted them in getting through their struggles.

Each year, the Diversity and Inclusion Summit also recognizes an organization that goes above and beyond to assist our diverse community. The 2019 Diversity Champion Award was given to CEDS Finance, whose diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts have made an immense impact in the community. They have been proactive in their community engagement, including diaspora-specific community events, such as co-hosting the first-ever, bilingual, small business resource night for the Colorado Korean Association, and free bilingual financial literacy workshops. CEDS has formed partnerships with minority-focused, service providers, including Second Chance Center, Sistahpreneurs, and the Ethio-American Chamber of Commerce.

Since inception, CEDS has invested \$4.4 million into the local economy. Debt financing, coupled with technical assistance, has supported the start-up and growth of 240 businesses and has led to 660 jobs created/retained. Most impressively, entrepreneurs hail from 30 countries or origin, with refugees comprising 55 percent of total loans,

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▶ Chamber Committees

An Inside Look

▶ ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION (Formerly known as Business for the Arts)

New Mission, Vision and Energy! **Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

At the September 3 meeting, the name was officially changed from Business for the Arts to Arts + Business Connection (ABC). This change signifies the committee's intention to inform Chamber members about how businesses can – and do – benefit from the arts.

With the new name, new mission and vision statements were also crafted and accepted:

NEW Mission: To demonstrate and promote the value of integrating the arts as a business tool.

NEW Vision: Everyone prospers when business and the arts partner.

Monthly programming for ABC will focus on how business/industry can and does utilize and benefit from



*Reneé Leon,
ABC Chair*



*Mark Smith,
ABC Vice-Chair*

the arts. To that end, at each meeting, data will be provided on arts and the industry being discussed, and presentations will be either a panel or a single speaker sharing specific examples – through storytelling – that supports the data.

ABC didn't hold an October meeting, in order to implement these changes, and to begin scheduling presenters and meetings.

The next ABC meeting will be held Tuesday, November 5, 2019. At this meeting, the group will be voting on a new logo, as well as reviewing what has been done to-date to move the committee forward.

These are exciting time for ABC – as we highlight and continue to explore the connections between the arts and business.

▶ TRANSPORTATION **DRCOG and WaytoGo** **Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

Traffic in the Aurora/Denver Metropolitan Area has become increasingly congested and time consuming. Between construction, population growth, and the current lack of funding to make major renovations and improvements in our transportation system, commuting solutions are a welcome possibility.

At the September 4 Transportation committee meeting, Jaclynn Streeter, DRCOG Regional TDM Program Sales Specialist/Communications and Marketing and Cathy Bird, Outreach Specialist, I-25 MyWay, offered solutions to mitigate traffic issues through commuting opportunities.

WaytoGo is a program of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), designed to get drivers out of



the "SOV" or "single occupancy vehicle" mode of transportation.

Streeter and Bird shared ways this can be accomplished, including carpooling or a vanpool, which not only get you out of being an SOV, but also saves money, is better for air quality, and great for reducing stress. They also shared that WaytoGo offers a free, simple, online ride-matching site, as well as trip tracking.

Bird also talked about the I-25 South Gap Project, encompassing 18 miles from Monument to Castle Rock, which includes bridge replacement and repair, wildlife crossings, shoulder widening, and the addition of express lanes. [i25MyWay.com](https://www.i25myway.com) offers solutions to "taking back your commute" if you travel this route, including Bustang, a flat rate bus offering service from Colorado Springs to the Denver Tech Center and downtown Denver, and carpools and vanpools.

For a copy of the presentation, contact Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org.

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Diversity & Inclusion (cont'd)

immigrants at 24 percent, and underserved Americans at 21 percent. As the only Aurora-based Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) – CEDS has grown its operations in terms of staffing, client background, and loan production, in addition to a staff that speaks six languages (Spanish, Italian, French, Nepali, Hindi & West African Pidgin).

The 4th Annual Diversity and Inclusion Resource

Summit was generously sponsored by: *UCHealth (title sponsor); Children's Hospital Colorado; Colorado Technical University; Wells Fargo; FirstBank; Axiom Politics; Dry Dock Brewing Company; Colorado Enterprise Fund; City of Aurora; University of Denver/University College; and the Community Health Promotion Division - Tri-County Health Department.*

Transportation (cont'd)

**Solving a Problem
for the Future**
Wednesday, October 2, 2019

There's an issue in the aviation world that George Bye, Founder and CEO of Bye Aerospace, is determined to fix.

Bye began his presentation to the October 2 Transportation committee attendees by stating some amazing statistics: There are currently 150,000 pilots, with a need for nearly 800,000 over the next 20 years. The issue? Training airline pilots is very expensive, with many who are interested not able to afford the training or dropping out of training without finishing.



George Bye

The solution? Bye Aerospace is developing the world's first all-electric "eFlyer" family of aircraft for general aviation training, personal, and business aircraft, as well as medium and high altitude solar-electric long endurance UAVs, focusing on advances in energy and design efficiencies.



Bye Aerospace's eFlyer

By comparing the operating cost of legacy training aircrafts such as the Cessna 172 and Cirrus SR20 at \$110 and \$133/hour respectively - to the eFlyer2 at \$23/hour, it's easy to understand how this new technology for training pilots has such a price tag advantage. In addition, the eFlyer will potentially eliminate 3 metric tons of CO2 each year that otherwise would be produced by training aircrafts.

This disruptive technology will also enable air taxi opportunities that are estimated at 1/5 the operating cost of current services.

Bye's presentation was met with great interest and many questions, and the scope of what Bye Aerospace is developing is certainly exciting for the future of aviation.

This forward-thinking company has received many accolades, including being named one of the "Top 50 Colorado Companies to Watch" for 2017, and in 2018 the Denver Business Journal selected Bye Aerospace as the "Small Business Award" category winner.

► **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,
EDUCATION, AND ENERGY**

*The Government Affairs, Education,
and Energy Committee is sponsored by*

PINNACOL
WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE

**What's new with APS, Proposition DD,
and the Arapahoe County Jail**
Thursday, September 5, 2019

At the September 5, 2019 Government Affairs, Education, and Energy meeting, APS Superintendent Rico Munn, J.D., talked about new APS school openings including Vista PEAK Preparatory - College and Career Center, P-8 School at Harmony, and Montview Elementary.

Alan Philp, with Patriot Pathways LLC, talked to the group about Proposition DD on the November 2019 ballot. Proposition DD allows Colorado's casinos to offer sports betting, implementing a tax on the casinos' net proceeds from the betting, and uses the estimated \$29 million per year in revenues to fund a systematic and bipartisan effort to promote Colorado's water future.

Sheila MacDonald then talked about Measure 1A, a property tax increase in Arapahoe County to fund the construction of a new jail and to expand programming for mental health, substance abuse, education, and on-the-job



Rico Munn, J.D.



Alan Philp

and life skills training. The current facility, originally built to serve 386 individuals, regularly houses more than 1,100. This overcrowding makes it extremely difficult to manage the inmate population, as approximately 40 percent are experiencing mental health complications — with only 20 cells currently available to address severe medical/mental health issues. The Chamber board voted to support 1A.

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Government Affairs, Education, And Energy (cont'd)

**Gearing up for the
Legislative Session
Thursday, October 3, 2019**



Cynthia Meyer

At the Oct. 3, 2019 Government Affairs, Education, and Energy committee meeting, Cynthia Meyer, director of Marketing and Communications with the Colorado Chamber, offered information about SB 188 – FAMILI. She stated that the bill would cost more than \$1 billion a year, and that because it doesn't align with Federal FMLA laws, doesn't provide a provision to prohibit a “stacking” of leave, and could negatively affect small businesses because of the length of leave for employees, that the Colorado Chamber is not

supporting the bill. Also, if the public sector employees (City, County, State) are exempt, the full weight of the cost would be on private sector employers.

Senator Jack Tate (R-SD 27), State Rep. Mike Weissman (D-HD 36), Senator Nancy Todd (D-SD 28), and Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson, gave updates on issues they are — or will be — working on, including the unemployment fund, education funding, RTD, livable wage, housing, transportation, and County Ballot Measure 1A (Jackson) – the proposition for funding a new jail in Arapahoe County.

According to Micki Hackenberger of Axiom Politics, issues to watch in 2020 include priorities by labor unions, increased health care transparency, death penalty repeal, gun bills, tax simplification, oil and gas restrictions, the opioid crisis, independent contractor changes, and #MeToo legislation — addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.

It's going to be a busy year at the State Capitol.

► **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL/
WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES**

**Age Friendly and Multi-
Generational Workplaces Initiative
Friday, September 13, 2019**

As talent shortages throughout the metro Denver area hinder business growth and expansion and our ability to get work done, we need innovative solutions. Hiring, retaining, and leveraging the strengths and experience of older workers can be part of the solution. But myths about older workers often stand in the way.



Karen Brown

Karen Brown, CEO of iAging and ambassador of the Aging 2.0 Denver Chapter, and Maureen McDonald, principal at Maureen McDonald, LLC, a consulting company focused on longevity economy, workforce development, and leadership development, shared information about how older workers are a valuable asset to the working economy. In fact, research shows that older workers are healthier, better

educated and more technology savvy than in the past. Additionally, their skills and experience, loyalty, and networks of professional contacts can be tremendous assets to business.

Brown and McDonald's presentation highlighted the benefits of leveraging older adult talent, how to do it, and how you and your company can remain more productive and profitable in today's economy.



Maureen McDonald

The Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by



The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by



**Diversity and Inclusion Resource Summit
Thursday, October 17, 2019**

See story, page 3.

[continued on page 7]

► WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Taking Charge: Building Confidence and Income Tuesday, September 24, 2019



Anastasia Button

Anastasia Button – author of *#NewJobNewLife: The Millennial's Take-Charge Plan for Success*, an international public speaker, business consultant, and coach for startup companies, was the guest speaker for the September 24, 2019 Women in Business meeting.

In her presentation, Button reviewed how sales plateaus

occur in business; how to regain and increase your revenue; and how to scale cash flow before the Holiday season and meet sales projections sooner than thought possible.

Takeaways from the presentation included:

- How to have confidence in your sales conversation power
- How to shift your service and product offerings to convert more customers
- Exactly how to scale your revenue an extra \$100k or more before the end of the year
- How to convert more sales without breaking a sweat and remaining authentic
- How to stop feeling sales-y and instead feel confident as a powerful woman business owner, creating a great impact in the world!

HeartMath: the Art and Science of Resiliency



Shannon Bortolotto

Shannon Bortolotto was the guest speaker at the October 22, 2019 Women in Business meeting and spoke about *HeartMath: The Art and Science of Resiliency*. Bortolotto is a certified Clinical Nurse Specialist in Acute and Critical Care Nursing, with 25 years of experience in critical care and systems practice,

and is the Clinical Nurse Specialist Supervisor in the Department of Professional Development at University of Colorado Hospital (UCH).

Bortolotto began her presentation by saying “that our lives as women are challenging. We are professionals, family members, and individuals - who have many competing responsibilities. We often give so much to the people and things that we care so deeply for that we may be left feeling depleted and ineffective.”

She then presented the science behind these feelings and facilitated self-awareness and explored strategies to promote resiliency in the face of stress, with the definition of resilience as “the capacity to prepare for, recover from and adapt in the face of stress, challenge or adversity. She emphasized that we can all learn to build resilience capacity and therefore sustain energy.

Discussion objectives included:

- Exploring the physiology behind everyday emotions
- Exploring the science behind relational energetics
- Reviewing practical tools to assist in stress awareness and regulation

In the context of her presentation, Bortolotto said that there are two types of emotions: depleting emotions and renewing emotions. Depleting emotions are emotions such as fear, frustration, impatience, and anger have a toxic feeling and cause the release of stress hormones. This can result in:

- Reduced muscle mass
- Brain-cell death
- Impaired memory
- Accelerated aging
- Impaired mental function
- Diminished performance

Renewing emotions are emotions and attitudes such as care, courage, tolerance, and appreciation — which can create neurochemicals that regenerate your system and offset energy drain, resulting in:

- Increased longevity
- Increased resilience to adversity
- Improved memory
- Improved problem-solving
- Increased intuition and creativity
- Improved job performance and achievement

As a quick and easy stress reliever, Bortolotto encouraged taking time to breathe for 5 seconds in and 5 seconds out for a few minutes at a time — as being more conscious of your breathing can help improve emotions and reactions to problems and stress.

For more information on this topic, or if you are interested in having Bortolotto as a speaker, contact her at Shannon.Bortolotto@uchealth.org. Please let her know that you heard of her through The Chamber.

► **WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES**

The September meeting for the Work Well 2.0 Health Series was a joint meeting with the Diversity and Inclusion Council on Friday, September 13, titled Age Friendly and Multi-Generational Workplaces Initiative. (See *Diversity and Inclusion Council/Work Well 2.0 Health Series September 13 story*)

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored in-part by



Sleep Deprivation – and the Cure!

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Unfortunately, because of the potential — and realized — storm on the morning of Oct. 10, 2019, the Work Well 2.0 Health Series highlighting Dr. Matt Pennetti with Prime Chiropractic, talking about how to deal with sleep deprivation, was cancelled.

The good news is that those who had registered hopefully got to sleep in a bit, and **the presentation is rescheduled for Thursday, January 9, 8-9 am at The Chamber office.**

► **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

The Aurora Young Professionals didn't have a meeting in September, because of their involvement in the September 28 Taste of the Chamber – story on page 15.

Speed Networking at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill

Wednesday, October 15, 2019

The Aurora Young Professionals put on a speed networking event on October 15, 2019, hosted at - and by - Legends of Aurora Sports Grill. The event was a great opportunity for attendees to expand their networks in a relaxed and fun environment. The evening began with



some open networking, pizza, and drinks; followed by dividing into groups to “speed network” for two minutes per person. This continued until everyone in the room was able to talk to everyone else at least once. This type of networking allows people to meet and briefly share information, in order to determine if they would like to talk more about what they learned from their quick two minutes.

The second hour of the event gave everyone time to freely network outside of the two-minute restriction. Speed networking, as brief and intense social interactions, is a great tool in breaking the ice for those first conversations that are important in building business relationships.

► **DEFENSE COUNCIL**

CTU's Commitment to the Military

Thursday, September 26, 2019

September's Defense Council was hosted by Colorado Technical University (CTU). Beth Braaten, vice president of Community Relations, discussed the degrees and programs available at CTU. She also talked about how CTU supports the military, veterans and their families, awarding 550 wounded warrior scholarships to veterans, family members and caregivers — totaling more than \$11 million. CTU has also been The Chamber's Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon sponsor for seven consecutive years.

In addition to Braaten's presentation, the new Aerospace Data Facility Commander, Colonel Jacob Middleton, and the new Director of the VA's Eastern Colorado Healthcare System, Michael Kilmer were introduced and welcomed. Attendees also heard from the major commands on Buckley Air Force Base. The DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, Denver-Aurora sponsored a delicious breakfast that was enjoyed by all.



Beth Braaten, Vice President of Community Relations for Colorado Technical University (CTU) addresses members of the Defense Council.

[continued on page 9]

Defense Council (cont'd)

**CSU – Global
Thursday, October 24, 2019**

October's Defense Council was hosted by Colorado State University (CSU) Global at their new headquarters building near Buckley AFB.

Becky Takeda-Tinker, PhD, president & CEO, discussed and presented a video describing how CSU-Global supports the military, veterans and their families.



Becky Takeda-Tinker, PhD

CSU-Global has a robust Veterans Service Organization, offers reduced tuition rates for military, veterans, and family members, and is offering certification and employment opportunities for military spouses.

Defense Council members also received updates from the



Becky Takeda-Tinker, PhD, president & CEO of CSU-Global, addresses members of the Defense Council on October 24, 2019.

major commands on Buckley Air Force Base, congressional staff reports from Senator Gardner and Congressman Crow's offices, legislative updates from State Representative Mike Weissman (HD 36), and a summary of veterans related programs offered through the Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center. The Fairfield Inn and Suites, Denver-Aurora, were our generous breakfast sponsors.

Stephen D. Hogan Parkway Opens

September 26 was both celebratory and bittersweet as city and community leaders gathered at the start of the Stephen D. Hogan Parkway to cut the proverbial ribbon for this new extension connecting East Sixth Avenue to the E-470 Tollway. The parkway name was changed prior to construction starting in order to honor the city's late mayor, who passed away in 2018 and had been a fervent supporter of the project.

Mayor Bob LeGare, and his wife, Teresa, and Hogan's widow, Becky Hogan, drove in the vehicle that led a procession of public safety vehicles through a celebratory banner to mark the road's official opening.

"Partnership, perseverance and persistence are values that describe my husband's leadership in Aurora," Becky Hogan said. "These values are emulated in the creation of this roadway."

The parkway, which fully opened to traffic on the morning of September 27, creates a connection to the existing 6th Avenue east of Tower Road, and extends eastward about two miles, connecting to the existing 6th Parkway at E-470 to the east. The parkway closes a gap in the existing arterial street network, improving the reliability and efficiency of the transportation system.



With an estimated 35,000 vehicles using the two-mile parkway every day, the road improves access to residential communities east of E-470, including for public safety vehicles, and simplifies access to Buckley Air Force Base from the E-470 Tollway. The new connection also addresses growth in the area and supports existing and future multimodal connectivity.

Over 40,500 tons of asphalt were used during construction, which included a new 643-foot-long roadway bridge over Sand Creek.

For more information, visit www.AuroraGov.org/HoganParkway.

Based on News Aurora October 2019 article by Julie Patterson, City of Aurora Public Relations Specialist.

MemberNews

Comcast Helps to Bridge the Digital Divide

Comcast recently expanded their affordable high-speed home internet program, Internet Essentials, to include all low-income Coloradans in their service area. This expansion more than doubles the eligible population for the program.

Since 2011, Comcast has connected more than 300,000 residents across the state of Colorado to the internet at home — most for the very first time. In Aurora alone, 52,000 individuals have been connected, helping to ensure residents can apply for jobs, complete homework, access medical benefits and assistance, stay in touch with friends and family, and compete in the 21st century economy.



For more information about Internet Essentials and Comcast's commitment to bridging the digital divide, go to: <https://colorado.comcast.com/2019/08/26/comcast-expands-internet-essentials-program-to-all-low-income-coloradans/>

City of Aurora is looking for volunteers

The City of Aurora manages 30 boards, commissions, committees, and authorities, and is currently accepting applications for vacancies on the following boards and commissions:

- Art in Public Places Commission
- Aurora Fox Arts Center Board
- Board of Adjustment and Appeals
- Business Advisory Board
- Citizens Advisory Committee on Housing & Community Development
- Human Relations Commission
- Library Board
- Oil & Gas Advisory Committee
- Veterans Affairs Commission

These are volunteer positions and will remain open until filled. To apply or for more information, call Barbara Shafer at 303-739-7140 or visit www.AuroraGov.org/Boards.

The City of Aurora is also accepting applications now for a vacancy on the General Employees' Retirement Plan's (GERP) Board of Trustees. For more information, call Steve Shanks at 303-368-9164 or visit www.AuroraGov.org/Boards.

MemberContribution

Keeping Families Together at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver

Often families travel far from home and spend several weeks or months seeking treatment for their seriously ill children — a long time to be away or to divide a family. And, for children facing a serious medical crisis, nothing seems scarier than not having mom and dad close by for love and support. Ronald McDonald House - Denver provides a place for these families to call home so they can stay close by their hospitalized child at no cost.

RMHC-Denver is built on the simple idea that nothing else



Jackie and Solei (mom and daughter) were grateful to stay at the Ronald McDonald House while Solei was being treated for cancer.

should matter when a family is

focused on the health of their child — not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal or where they will lay their head at night to rest. We believe that when a child is hospitalized, the love and support of family is as powerful as the strongest medicine prescribed.

Here, families find a home-away-from-home where they can stay as long as their child is being treated.

Between our two houses, one in Denver and one in Aurora, we can help 118 families each night.

The generosity of volunteers and donors make it all possible. To learn more, visit www.rmhc-denver.org.



Keeping families close

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Bobcat Training Center in Aurora - 17801 E. 40th Ave., Aurora, CO 80011

Bobcat Training Center in Aurora opened the doors to its new 44,400 square-foot facility - complete with training rooms, a large auditorium, and a full warehouse. Bobcat offers world-class management and dealer training. Dealers who want to learn how to use and maintain their Bobcat compact equipment come from around the country because of the state-of-the art technology, easy access from DEN, and bay doors that allow equipment to be driven in for hands-on training. Attendees enjoyed delicious appetizers and desserts by Culinary WAVE Catering, and an interactive tour of the facility. **Left to right:** Mike Smith, training site manager; John Ercink, commercial training strategy manager; commercial training strategy manager; Laura Ness Owens, VP of Marketing, Communication, Public Affairs; Bruce Collins, VP of New Business Development; Steve Thompson, VP of Aftermarket Parts & Service; Joel Honeyman, VP of Innovation; Bob Roth, City of Aurora Mayor Pro Tem; Mike Ballweber, President, Doosan Bobcat North America; Gary Hornbacher, VP of Channel Development & Training; and Kevin Hougen, President & CEO of The Aurora Chamber of Commerce. (9.16.19) (800) 743-4340.

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado

3090 S. Jamaica Ct., Ste. 212,
Aurora, CO 80014

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado helps academically capable and motivated children-in-need to meet their full potential and become men and women for others by providing value-centered, family-like environments, opportunities, and education through college. Attendees were invited to join a brief tour, and then to grab coffee and pastries before gathering for the ribbon cutting.

Front row, left to right: Mary Fran Tharp, executive director, Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado (BHGHCO); Laura Conti, program director, BHGHCO; Scott Cromie, board chair, BHGHCO and CEO at 2-10 Home Buyers Warranty; Jill Dustman, associate director of Development, BHGHCO; Kenneth Stable, board member, BHGHCO, and Andy Merritt, State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Cory Gardner. (9.10.19) (720) 524-2061.



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Denver Springs Changes – 6830 Northgate Dr., Ste.130, Parker, CO 80134

The ribbon cutting for Denver Springs Changes was hosted by The Parker Chamber of Commerce, with The Aurora Chamber in attendance to support Denver Springs. Denver Springs Changes is a state-of-the art outpatient facility through Denver Springs that offers partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs for adolescents, ages 12-17. Attendees at the event enjoyed hot appetizers, a variety of beverages, great raffle items, and live music by local artist, Tony Goffredi. **Left to right:** Darianne Robertson, community liaison, Denver Springs; Genevieve Fraser, director of business development, Denver Springs; Bill Snyder, CEO, Denver Springs; Omar Castillo, board of directors vice chair, Parker Chamber of Commerce; Kara Massa, executive director, Parker Chamber of Commerce; Abe Laydon, Douglas County Commissioner, District 1; and Martha Johnson, lead adolescent therapist, Denver Springs Changes. (8.28.19) (720) 643-4300.



Empower Community High School

City Center Marketplace Shopping Center, 450 S. Chambers Rd., Aurora, CO 80017

Empower Community High School held a well-attended ribbon cutting in September 2019, to celebrate the high school's mission of building an educational program centered in authentic, real-world work, informed by community needs, and led by students. Educators at Empower Community High School guide applied practice in all academic fields to strengthen the student-designed curriculum and to support the acquisition of requisite skills. Attendees at the event enjoyed student art, poetry, and performances, along with food and beverages. **Left to right, cutting the ribbon:** Jay Carter and Devina Maestas, Empower Community High School Students. (9.4.19) (720) 621-5094.



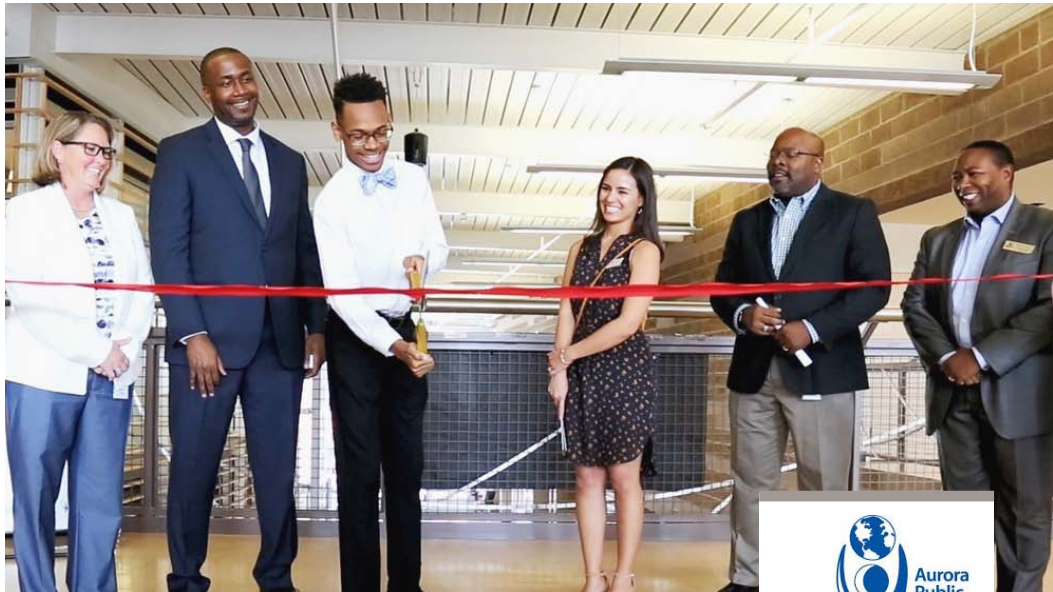
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**Vista PEAK
Preparatory's College
& Career Center**

24500 E. 6th Ave.,
Aurora, CO 80018

The APS Foundation cut the ribbon on its fifth College & Career Center at Vista PEAK Preparatory on August 23, 2019. The school serves to ensure high school students successfully graduate with a plan to thrive in the post-secondary world. The APS district's five College and Career Centers have served more than 8,500 students, secured more than \$56 million in scholarships, and increased the district's four-year graduation rates nearly 25 percent in the last five years. **Left to right:** Dackri

Davis, PhD, director of College and Career Success for APS; Jason Maclin, principal, Vista Peak Preparatory; Caleb Blackmon, student body president, Vista Peak Preparatory; Jacquie Granados, Colorado Opportunity Scholarships Initiative, Colorado Department of Higher Education; Rico Munn, JD, APS Superintendent; Marques Ivey, JD, president of the Board of Education for APS. (8.23.19) (303) 340-0121.



The Lore Isa Wiggins Advising and Career Center at The Community College of Aurora

16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80011

Thanks to a generous gift of over \$300,000 from Bill Wiggins, The Lore Isa Wiggins Advising and Career Center will be the new hub of student support services at The Community College of Aurora. The ribbon cutting included a short program, recognizing Wiggins and his family, as guests and college and community leaders celebrated the impact that the late Lore Isa Wiggins had on students in Aurora — and the future impact that this new advising and career center will have on the lives of thousands of CCA students for generations to come. **Left to right:** John Bottelberghe, director of facilities, CCA; Molly Link, donor; Bill Wiggins, donor; Betsy Oudenhoven, president, CCA; Mike Hanley, foundation president, CCA; Rena Foster, MOA Architecture; Mariyah P., student, CCA. (10.8.19) (303) 360-4728.

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GOAL Academy High School

Town Center at Aurora - 14200 E. Alameda Ave., Ste. 1003A, Aurora, CO 80012

GOAL Academy High School celebrated its September 2019 ribbon cutting with many smiling faces, along with a tour of the facility. GOAL Academy High School is the largest high school in Colorado with 5,000 students across the state. GOAL has 30 locations or Alternative Education Centers in Colorado — with The Town Center at Aurora location currently serving 800 students. Students can do most of their studies online and are encouraged to go to one of the sites for academic assistance and coaching. Each coach tracks 30 students. **Left to right, holding the ribbon:** Don Massey, general manager, Town Center at Aurora; Aaron Perez, principal, Jill Boudreau, assistant principal, and Constance Jones, CEO, GOAL Academy High School; and Oma Mohamed, Chamber ambassador. (9.5.19) (877) Pro-Goal (776-4625)



Outpatient Pharmacy at The Medical Center of Aurora

1421 S. Potomac St., Ste. 100, Aurora, CO 80012

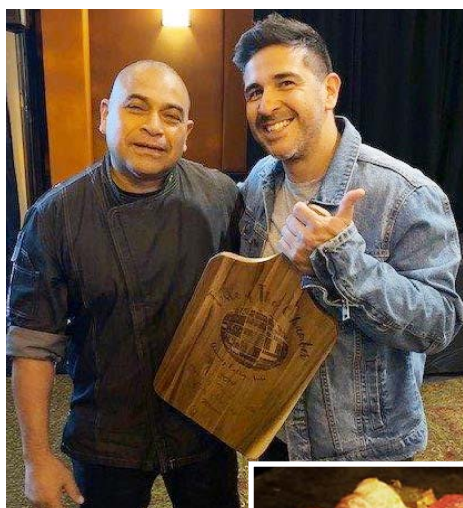
The ribbon cutting for the new Outpatient Pharmacy at The Medical Center of Aurora exemplifies TMCA's commitment to the care and improvement of human life and the Values of "ICARE," which stands for Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence. The pharmacy makes it easier for patients to pick up their prescriptions without having to go offsite. Director of Pharmacy Ayoub Chybli cut the ribbon for the new facility. Hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 am to 5 pm. (9.25.19) (303) 368-2485.

Taste of the Chamber – a Delicious Success



The September 28 Taste of the Chamber proved to be a delicious success, thanks to the nearly 400 vendors, sponsors, and guests! It was an unforgettable evening, filled with a wide variety of tasty foods, flavorful brews, contests, a wall of wine, and great networking.

The “2019 Taste of the Chamber Chef Challenge” winner was the Radisson Hotel. Each group was required to use chicken or vegetarian protein, agave honey, tequila, and a choice of Chile pepper. Chef Manny with the Radisson created popper pinwheels with the given ingredients — plus a few more.



The 2019 Chef Challenge winner, The Radisson Hotel's Chef Manny (left), and Jeremy DeLaTorre from US Foods — who donated the food for the Radisson to participate in the Chef Challenge. Manny and the Radisson also won the Chef Challenge in 2017.

The 2019 Chef Challenge winning culinary delight: Popper Pinwheels. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)



Aurora Sister Cities cocktail challenge team, left to right: Mariko Maruse, Pacific Rim Cultural Exchange; Jana Clark, program coordinator of Aurora Sister Cities International; Karlyn Shorb, executive director of Aurora Sister Cities International; Rachel Stetz, Colorado Technical University; and Jennifer Kim, Aurora Sister Cities Korea Committee.



The “2019 Cocktail Challenge” winning team — for the second year in a row — was Aurora Sister Cities. Their cocktail, “Refresco de Ensalada,” was an ode to Central America, as Jaco, Costa Rica is Aurora’s sister city and Antigua Guatemala, El Salvador is the friendship city.

The Young Professionals Wall of Wine, was once again a great success, selling all 44 bottles of donated wine for a mere \$20 each. Funds raised will provide two scholarships for Young Professional to go through Leadership Aurora.

To be sure - no one went home hungry, thanks to all of the generous food and drink vendors: Bad Daddy’s Burgers, Bubba’s 33, Carrabba’s Italian Grill, Dry Dock Brewing, Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport, Jet’s Pizza, Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q, Launch Pad Brewery, Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Peak to Peak Tap & Brew, Shipley’s Donuts, Spirit Hound Distillers, The Lost Cajun Restaurant, and The Movie Tavern.

And a shout out to the Taste of the Chamber 2019 sponsors and donors: The Radisson Hotel, Image Audio Visuals, Chamber’s Wine & Liquors, Colorado Technical University, FirstBank, and Westerra Credit Union.



(Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

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more...Taste of the Chamber



(Photos courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

Captain Taylor Receives Overdue Award

Aurora Councilmember Dave Gruber facilitated an award presentation for Captain (USAF Retired) Iverson Taylor on Friday, Oct. 4 2019, in the Aurora City Council Chambers. Taylor has served the veteran community for many years and asked Congressman Crow to assist with an end of tour medal that he had never received. The Air Force Board of corrections awarded Taylor the Meritorious Service Medal, which was presented by Colonel Trevor Wentlandt, 460th Mission Support Group Commander, Buckley AFB.



Left to Right: Councilmember Dave Gruber, TSgt Duane Schroeder, Colonel Trevor Wentlandt, and Iverson Taylor.

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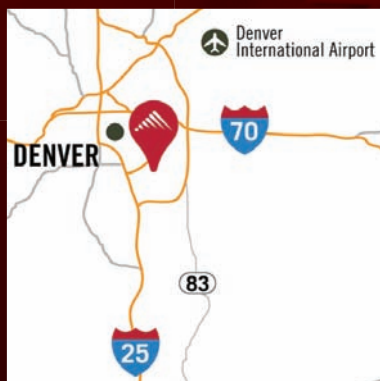
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