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# THE CHAMBER Impact

FALL 2020

## A Great Time and a Better Round of Golf – *Caddyshack Style!*

**T**he Leadership Aurora Caddyshack-themed Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, October 15, 2020. The tournament, which was originally scheduled for June was moved to October because of COVID restrictions.

Although much chillier than a day in June, the Tournament brought 110 eager golfers to the Green Valley Ranch Golf Club for the staggered, double tee event. Fortunately, coffee, burritos, and Bloody Marys and Mimosas were available to keep participants warm!

The winning team, with a score of 48 was Boeing, with Rich Kolberg, Dave Eddy, Curtis Brown, and Ken Christensen.

The Caddyshack themed costume prize went to Yvonne Quest with the City of Aurora team.

Proceeds from the tournament provide scholarship funds for the Leadership Aurora program meetings and events. ■

*The entire City of Aurora team got into the Caddyshack spirit, and Yvonne Quest won the best-dressed prize.*

*Left to right: Quest, Zelda DeBoyes, PhD, Gaye Woods, and Regina Johnson.*



*The winning team in action, left to right: Curtis Brown, Rich Kolberg, Dave Eddy, and Ken Christensen.*



*Lined up and ready to go at the 44th Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament, held on Oct. 15, 2020, at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club*

*(Photos by Elemintal Photography)*

Please go online to:  
The Chamber Calendar to view upcoming  
meetings and events.

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**Rebecca Kelley**  
*Chair*

In times of disruption and uncertainty like we have experienced since March of 2020, I find myself going back to the basics – our foundation – for focus and direction. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is focused on community first, business always and its primary objective is to create a positive business environment and encourage growth and long-term economic vitality.

Many in our community have endured significant disruption and stress due to the pandemic and continued inequities of opportunity. This disruption and stress coupled with political strain has impacted businesses in the Aurora community and our Chamber members. Through all of this, The Chamber has kept its focus and responded through programmatic enhancements, including development of new content and implementation of technology – but it doesn't stop there.

Building upon The Chamber's foundation and focus, it is more important than ever that we continue to add value for our members, promote and create equality of opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, and stay future-focused.

## Adding Value to our Members

Strength and value in membership comes from connection. The staff at The Chamber plan to continue to leverage technology to deliver virtual events, content, and information. It will also be critical to address the value of business networking in a virtual environment.

## Equity of Opportunity

Aurora's strategic advantage is in its diversity. Amplifying the great work of our Diversity and Inclusion Council will be imperative as we continue the conversation on how Chambers, and our members, can work together to close the opportunity gap. The Chamber is excited to be involved in discussions about developing and providing paid apprenticeships for students of color.

## Outlook for the Future

Growth and change come from reflection and feedback. The future has always been hard to predict, which is why I believe it is critical to take the time to stop, reflect, and to ask for feedback. Engaging in conversation and listening to our businesses, members, board members, and the community, is how we will create our vision for the future. Within that vision, we must also overcome the challenge of creating meaningful connection in a virtual setting. I have found this is most easily done by finding common ground and connecting on an individual level. My current focus as Board Chair has been in creating and expanding connection with our Board Members on a one-on-one basis to discuss topics such as involvement in the Chamber, and our challenges and opportunities – so that I and the Board can better serve the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and its members.

It is my honor to serve as the Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. I am continually encouraged and inspired by the resiliency and strength of The Chamber, its staff, and our members. Thank you for all that all of you do, and for your commitment to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Rebecca Kelley  
*Partner, Plante Moran  
Aurora Chamber Chair*

# ChamberBoard

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Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

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Timothy Kunkleman | *Lumen*  
Kelly Leid | *Oakwood Homes, LLC*  
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Kelly Phillips-Henry | *Aurora Mental Health Center*  
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.....  
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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](http://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

# ChamberCommittees

## An Inside Look

### ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION (ABC)

#### Arts + Diversity and Inclusion Friday, August 14, 2020

On August 14, 2020, Arts + Business Connection (ABC) partnered with the Diversity and Inclusion Council for a presentation about How the Arts are being used to Promote Diversity and Inclusion.



Marcel Narucki



Tariana Navas-Nieves

Presenters were Marcel Narucki, co-founder and director of the Village Exchange Center, a non-profit organization formed to serve immigrants and refugees in the Aurora/Denver metro area; and Tariana Navas-Nieves, director of Cultural Affairs for Denver Arts and Venues, City and County of Denver.

Narucki began his presentation by stating that creativity and inclusivity are critical dimensions to the work and vision of the Village Exchange Center. He said that “even though

the VEC is not a religious institution, that as they were conceptualizing the Center, they were intentional about it being a safe space for the expression and celebration of all faiths - because for many of the communities they serve, faith is a source of identity, strength, and resilience.”

The VEC has become a spiritual and safe space for many local immigrants and refugee cultures and people, including Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Kachins, Nepalese, and Congolese.

Just a few of the ways the VEC incorporates creativity and art into their space:

- A large mural by Thomas “Detour” Evans, at the entrance of the VEC of a Congolese girl who attends the VEC after-school program, with outstretched, welcoming arms – representing unity and belonging, with “I am powerful” and “I belong”
- Sharing cultural-specific dance and music



Mural at VEC by Thomas “Detour” Evans.

- Village Farms at Stanley, which is a partnership with Stanley Marketplace and provides VEC with land for farming. Participants grow food and cook, eat, and celebrate cultural diversity through food and agricultural practices
  - The Village Theatre, a collaborative program available to refugees, immigrants, and locals, providing a space for expression, encounter, and training in the performing arts
- Narucki also thanked the Leadership Aurora class of 2020 for their hard work and dedication to restoring the basement of the Center. The basement, which is used for gathering and classes, was “looking kind of ratty,” said Narucki. The restoration and beautification of the space makes it more pleasant, dignified, and welcoming - and encourages more activities.

The Village Exchange Center is a nonprofit organization serving refugees, immigrants, and the neighborhood, supporting immigration, engagement, and empowerment of local and foreign-born communities. This work is done by co-locating activities, and programs, including a food pantry, youth and adult leadership training, and after school programs.

Tariana Navas Nieves began her presentation by thanking Narucki for sharing his stories. She said that was familiar with the VEC, but now had a much better understanding and appreciation for the Center. She added that Narucki’s stories provided a great segue into her presentation about how Cultural Affairs within Denver Arts and Venues also focuses on sense of belonging, creating a safe space, and defining what culture really means.

Denver Arts and Venues of the City of Denver owns and operate five venues: Red Rocks Amphitheatre; The Denver Coliseum; Colorado Convention Center; the Performing Arts Complex; and the McNichols building and Civic Center Park. These serve as an enterprising mechanism, with the purpose of sustaining the venues and employees – and providing a cultural investment in the community and its various cultures. Navas-Nieves said that they are currently reimagining what the new reality means for these cultural assets.

She also shared that Denver Arts and Venues was the first agency in the City to look at equity – six years ago – as part of the work they do. This work became a model, and two years ago the Office of Equity and Social Innovation was started, with a focus on framing and changing government processes to achieve an equity perspective across the 15,000 employees.

Navas-Nieves said that she appreciated

hearing Narucki talk about what culture and art means in a space of belonging. Along with the visual arts, she reiterated that culture as art is how communities gather, with language, food, human connections, and sovereignty of culture.

“When we think about arts and culture, we are usually coming from an historically Eurocentric perspective,” said Navas-Nieves, “But there are arts and culture in every community in the world, and it’s not up to us to define what culture is. Each community should be able to define what culture is for them, so we are working to allow communities to live their own culture, which is what creative and inclusive environments are all about.”

Navas-Nieves then shared examples of how the organization is bringing an equity lens to arts and culture by providing grants to historically marginalized community groups, through a partnership with the Office of Human Rights and Community Partnerships Commissions.

These include the African American, American Indian, Asian American Pacific Islander, Immigrant and Refugee, Latino, LGBTQ, and Women’s Commissions, and the Commissions for Aging, Strategic Partnerships, and People with Disabilities. The program challenges the philanthropic model, by learning about the commissions and then offering funding for their priorities and cultural investment, instead of making those decisions for them.



The Latino Commission used the funding to provide scholarships for Latino Youth to attend the LYNX National Arts & Media Camp at CU Denver.

The Commissions found a variety of creative ways to use the funding to bring people together, and to honor their cultures through literature, food, capturing history, mentoring, visual arts, performing arts, employment, development, and through sharing their cultures.

Narucki and Navas-Nieves both emphasized how important connection with community is and encouraged attendees to continue to be open and to explore those connections. Navas-Nieves also encouraged participants to explore the values of equity and inclusion within their own business environments.

[continued on page 4]



## Planning Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2020



September 2020 marked one year since The Chamber's Business for the Arts committee changed its name to Arts + Business Connection – also changing the format of meetings to better reflect how the arts influence businesses and industries.

After spending the last year prioritizing collaborations with other Chamber committees and shifting meeting times to accommodate the days and times of the other committees, ABC will return to 8-9 am on the first Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise specified.

One addition that came from the planning meeting, is that ABC will now have an Executive Committee to work together on presentation planning. Members of new Executive Committee are Roberta Bloom, Art in Public Places, City of Aurora; Kathryn Lobdell, Colorado PTAC; Jane McGrath, Visit Aurora Board; Darin Overstreet, Minuteman Press; along with Committee Chair Renee Leon, Vice-chair Mark Smith, and Chamber Staff Liaison Mitzi Schindler. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee, contact [Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org).

## Arts + Workforce Development

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

By Renee' Leon, ABC Committee Chair



Brian Arnold

Early in October, Brian Arnold, program director at Ready to Work Aurora, and Brian Sowl, director of Security Compliance with Nelnet, shared how the arts influence and enhance workforce development and retention in their organizations.



Brian Sowl

Arnold began by stating that the entire approach of Ready to Work Aurora is a creative endeavor. The facility has 50 beds and helps people experiencing homelessness to address the challenges that led to their being homeless, in addition to those that arise resulting from homelessness. Arnold and his staff of 23, plus volunteers, use the model of a three-legged stool for addressing

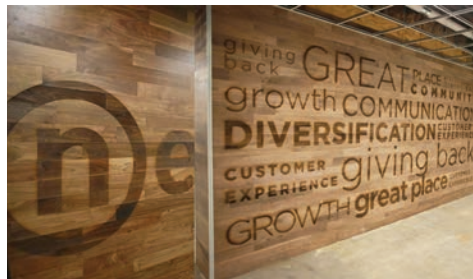
these challenges: housing; work; and support. Ready to Work provides three meals a day, beds, some personal space, and an employment specialist to help clients find jobs. Each client works 30 hours/week, while 10 hours are spent learning the skills needed to keep a job.

Aside from those 40 hours/week, Arnold and his team help clients find healthy activities and interests to fill the other eight hours each day – when they are not working or sleeping. COVID has certainly made this more challenging, without gathering places like churches and volunteer organizations to go to. The arts and volunteers make a big difference in helping clients to discover interests and talents, and art therapy and gardening have been successful avenues for many.

There is also a stairwell at the Aurora Ready to Work facility that serves as inspiration to those in the program. Upon graduation – which means they have found housing, are keeping a job, and have support in place – graduates pick a brick to decorate however they choose. Clients then traverse this hallway and see the visual proof that homelessness and the challenges around them can be overcome.

Brian Sowl began his presentation by explaining that Nelnet provides innovative educational services in loan services, payment processing, and educational planning. Nelnet is the largest company in the world to provide financial aid for higher education.

Brian Sowl said that Nelnet uses art in every aspect of their business. Their branding, including the mission statement and values, is consistent, clean, and concise. This consistent and purposeful approach to branding has helped them to be a widely-recognized organization in the communities where they have headquarters.



Break rooms at Nelnet have the mission statement and values artfully imprinted on the walls.

Nelnet utilizes art to distinguish various conference rooms, the break rooms have the mission statement and values artfully imprinted on the walls, and posters in hallways display statistics of what they've accomplished, as well as depictions of company-wide community improvement campaigns. These visuals create a pleasant and inspirational work environment that is enjoyable and as well as functional for employees. It also encourages employees to always strive to provide superior customer experiences.

Art also plays a pivotal role in pursuing opportunities for diversification and growth

for the company. Nelnet used art in the design of their Lincoln, NE headquarters building to highlight the history of the district, and it has become a stop on local art and history tours. The visual appeal of the building increases income through leasing retail space, and there is a plan to utilize that appeal as a theme for future residential opportunities in the immediate area.

## TRANSPORTATION

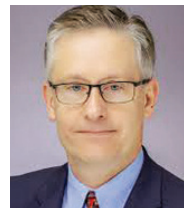
### E-470 Public Highway

#### Authority Update

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

The August meeting was the first under the new Committee leadership of Chair Tim Harris and vice-chair Tony DeVito. Immediate Past Chair Mike Martin was recognized for his strong leadership during his tenure.



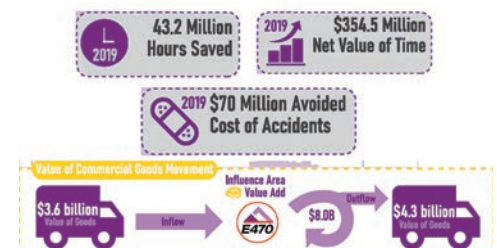
Tim Stewart

Tim Stewart, executive director of the E-470 Public Highway, provided an update of E-470 operations and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Traffic volumes and related revenues dropped to lowest point ever in April 2020, but have been increasing in the past few months and are now at levels similar to 2012 or 2013.

Because of the pandemic, E-470 reduced operating costs, delayed some capital expenditures and have had to utilize some reserve funds to maintain debt payments. But it's not all bad news. Because of COVID, some construction has been accelerated and more recent transactions have actually improved the long-term financial outlook for the Authority.

In addition, because of COVID, the staff and office operations have been adjusted to ensure the safety of staff and any public now visiting the facilities. Longer-term impacts of changes from COVID are an unknown, but E-470 continues to analyze and prepare for various possibilities.



2019 Economic Impacts of E-470

Stewart shared some interesting 2019 facts about E-470:

- Of the 1.6 million customers, 151,000 live in Aurora
- Annual time savings for E-470 users is 43.2 million hours at an estimated value of \$354.5M

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- An estimated \$70M cost of accidents was avoided because of the toll road
- The value of commercial goods movement was \$3.6B inflow, and \$4.3B outflow
- A recent study estimates that E-470 resulted in an additional 3,300 jobs per year, and
- Denver International Airport produces 22-25 percent of the traffic on E-470

## Tabor/Gallagher Repeal Insights and ROADIS Proposal

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair



The September 2020 meeting hosted more than 40 participants on the Zoom format.

The September 2 meeting of the Transportation Committee featured two presentations: Reeves Brown with Building a Better Colorado, who explained the ballot initiative to repeal the Gallagher Amendment; and Mike Cheroutes of ROADIS, who discussed the ROADIS proposal to purchase E-470.



Reeves Brown

Brown began by sharing the history of the Gallagher Amendment, which limits the percentage of residential property taxes to 45 percent of the total property taxes collected and sets the tax rate for non-residential properties at 29 percent.

As home values have increased dramatically since Gallagher was passed in 1982, the tax rate on residential properties has dropped from 21 to 7.15 percent, to maintain the 45/55 split required by the amendment. Non-residential property values have not increased as dramatically, meaning the total property taxes collected for local services such as schools and fire districts have decreased. Further complicating the issue and the challenge is that any drop in residential property tax percentage becomes permanent and cannot increase due to restrictions from the TABOR amendment. Rural and suburban areas of the state are disproportionately impacted by this.

Building a Better Colorado engaged with 1,800 Colorado citizens at a series of meetings to explain and discuss Gallagher, and 72 percent of attendees supported repeal of the Gallagher Amendment. An initiative on the

November 2020 ballot was approved by the legislature with 75 percent bipartisan support – so voters will have the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Mike Cheroutes gave a short update on the efforts of ROADIS to negotiate a purchase of E-470. ROADIS is an investment platform of Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments), that develops, operates, and manages roads worldwide.



Mike Cheroutes

The ROADIS proposal is to provide \$9B cash and toll value to the E-470 Authority in exchange for a 50-year Operating Agreement.

The proposal would pay off the Authority's \$1.9 billion debt, accelerate completion of the E-470 Capital Improvement Plan, and provide \$4.2 billion to local government agencies.

At the time of this publication, a Citizen's Committee is reviewing the proposal.

## Right of Way and Bikes in the City of Denver - and E-470 Response

**Wednesday, October 7, 2020**

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

The October Transportation Committee meeting included two presentations, the first by Tim Stewart of E-470 and the second by Emily Gloeckner from the City and County of Denver.

Tim Stewart, the Executive Director of the E-470 Public Highway Authority, presented a follow-up to a September Committee presentation by ROADIS. Stewart explained that ROADIS's proposal to purchase E-470 was not the first such proposal E-470 has received, and that the E-470 Board conducted an analysis of the proposal and rejected it for several reasons. There were legal concerns on allowable use of funds related to E-470, conflicts between traffic and revenue projections developed by ROADIS compared to E-470's, and questions were raised due to ROADIS' lack of experience in the United States.

Stewart explained that such proposals are more appropriate for a tolled facility that is in a distressed or start-up status. He shared information that shows that E-470 is in a very stable, strong position, and is currently undertaking some major improvements.

The E-470 Board has decided to no longer accept unsolicited proposals in the future.



Emily Gloeckner

Emily Gloeckner is Denver's City Traffic Engineer in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Gloeckner explained how Denver is taking a comprehensive look at what transportation means for its communities and is implementing

changes to reflect citizen input.

During COVID, Larimer St. between 14th

and 15th Streets is closed to traffic, so that restaurants were able to expand to outdoor seating when weather allowed.

She shared that Denver has set aggressive goals on commuter modes of travel, with a goal of reducing single occupant vehicle share from 70 to 50 percent by 2030, and increase bicycle, pedestrian, and transit shares. Some upcoming projects are designated bus lanes on 15th and 17th Streets, and removal of on-street parking to create a bike route on Jewell Avenue. Gloeckner admitted that such projects require extensive public engagement and strong communication to complete.

In response to COVID restrictions, the City has permitted restaurant expansions, some requiring street closures, such as Larimer St. on the block containing Larimer Square. Some streets have also been converted to "shared streets," with the only vehicle traffic being for parking purposes, and no thru traffic allowed. Gloeckner said they are currently evaluating necessary steps to address winter conditions.



Larimer Square in Denver.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

### Minimum Wage and the Gallagher Amendment

**Thursday, September 3, 2020**



Alison Coombs



The September 2020 Public Issues meeting featured presentations by Aurora City Council Member Alison Coombs and former Colorado Secretary of State Bernie Buescher.

Council Member Coombs has proposed raising the minimum wage by 5 percent to \$12.60/hr. at the beginning of 2021. The minimum wage would continue to increase

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another 5 percent in 2022 and 10 percent each year between 2023 and 2026. The final raise would be to \$20/hr. in 2027.

During the presentation, some attendees voiced concerns about the negative impact such a dramatic increase would have on the business community, especially during this time when many are struggling to survive.



Bernie Buescher

The second speaker, Bernie Buescher, has been leading a campaign to repeal the Gallagher Amendment – on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Rationale for the repeal is that the rise in local property values since the inception of Gallagher in 1982 has dramatically shifted the tax burden to non-residential properties, small businesses, and farmers across the state.

The committee voted to support the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment, and to forward their recommendation to the Chamber Board of Directors for action.

## November Ballot Items and Cherry Creek Schools

Thursday, October 1, 2020



Dorothy Jones

October's meeting featured presentations by Director of Public Affairs for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Dorothy Jones, and Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) Superintendent Scott Seigfried and Board of Education President Karen Fisher.



Jones covered some of the ballot items that the

Denver Metro Chamber is supporting and opposing:

Supporting: Proposition EE - Increase Taxes of Nicotine Products, and Amendment B - Repeal of the Gallagher Amendment.

Opposing: Proposition 116 - Income Tax Rate Reduction, Proposition 118 - Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program.



*Dedicated to Excellence*  
Cherry Creek Schools

Seigfried and Fisher discussed the upcoming budget and bond election (4A&B Campaign) that would help offset a looming \$60 million



Karen Fisher



Scott Seigfried

deficit for the CCSD. The projected loss of revenue is even greater than cuts the district saw during the Great Recession in 2008 and would pose serious risks to the district's ability to deliver on its promise of excellence for every child.

*The Chamber Public Issues Committee is sponsored by*



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

### Discussion about Equity and Inclusion

Friday, July 10, 2020



Dianne Myles

Dianne Myles, owner of Dope Mom Life, a creative content agency that specializes in connection underrepresented demographics, was the guest speaker for the July 10 meeting.

Because of the unprecedented events at the time of the meeting, Myles did not present about what was advertised as a discussion about the importance of a diverse community; how you make your community diverse; and the disadvantages of not having diversity in a community. Instead, she opened the discussion to the current events, which included racism, and recognizing skin color, among other topics.

## Arts + Diversity and Inclusion

Friday, August 14, 2020

The August 14 D&I meeting was a joint meeting with Arts + Business Connection (ABC) to explore how the arts are being used to Promote Diversity and Inclusion. See ABC August 2020.

*The Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by*



## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

### Increasing Your Success – or – Four Tools You Need to Improve Success Coming out of a Crisis

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

As the world around us evolves in these uncertain times, we are desperate for stability. Economic uncertainty is everywhere, the future is unpredictable, and we are different.

During the July 28



Michelle Anne

presentation, Michelle Anne of the Master's Course, outlined the framework to assist people in navigating through the current challenges while increasing their success. Through PAIL™, People, Agility, Innovation, and Leadership, attendees learned about evidence-based techniques to leverage strengths, how to be agile as a leader, the right questions to ask in order to adapt processes crucial to future growth, tools for stress reduction, career path, and developing leadership skills to increase success and resilience in a crisis.

Anne is a brain trainer, master executive coach, and national speaker in the fields of stress, leadership development, and innovation.

## Annual Planning Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

In August, instead of a committee meeting, the WIB Executive Committee met to plan the upcoming year.

## Your Brain on Food

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Did you know that your brain functions on the food you eat, the beverages you drink, and even how much exercise you get throughout the day?

In this interactive presentation, presenter Michelle Anne of The Master's Course, helped participants explore science-based facts about the relationship between food and personal/professional success. The discussion included unpacking the complex ways in which food contributes to cognitive clarity, overall wellness, and increased performance.

The session offered practical and surprising dietary solutions to improve brain health, including ADHD, depression, anxiety, sleep, OCD, and more.



## WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

### Why is it so Hard to Talk About Race?

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

By Michele Haugh, Tri-County Health Department

Talking about race and racism is a difficult conversation for many. Often, the uncertainty of what words are appropriate to use can prevent the conversation from even beginning. White people may fear offending or being put in a defensive position. People of color may be feeling tired and frustrated from repeatedly sharing the mental and emotional injury caused by personal experiences with racism.

The panel discussion hosted by Tri-County Health Department and Kaiser Permanente,

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was led by Betty Hart, an expert facilitator with Kaiser Permanente, as well as a theatre artist and director.

Hart expertly facilitated the discussion, making the panelist feel at ease but also challenging them with thought-provoking, and often uncomfortable questions. Panelists included a diverse group of individuals in terms of race, gender, and life experiences. Some members of the panel, including Omar Montgomery, president of Aurora Branch of NAACP, were knowledgeable and comfortable with the topic, while others were visibly uncomfortable when speaking.

With Hart's expert guidance, the panelists shared a wide array of experiences – from grappling with uncomfortable conversations to being on the receiving end of microaggressions, which are brief and commonplace derogatory racial messages or assumptions – or subtle racism.

These kinds of discussions are crucial to moving forward to improve race relations in our communities and in the nation.

### Gearing up for a Different Kind of School Year Thursday, September 10, 2020

By Patti Corcoran, Tri-County Health Department



Jennifer Morris, MA, LCA

At the September 2020 Work Well 2.0 Health Series meeting, Jennifer Morris, MA, LCA, shared timely information about how to deal with beginning the school year during the pandemic. Morris is a School-Based Mental Health Specialist for AllHealth Network,

which provides training, consultation, and crisis response services to all five local schools districts in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

Morris presented a wealth of information for parents – and kids – on healthy ways to cope with the uncertainties and difficulties of returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Morris talked about self-care, creating structure, age-appropriate open communication, and play time – as just a few of the ways to manage the stress of the in-person, virtual, and hybrid schooling currently being implemented. She also stressed that children often model their behaviors after their parents or adult caregivers, so it's important to set a good example with your own stress management.



Panel members, left to right: (top row) Betty Hart, Senior Community Health Specialist, Arts Integrated Resources (AIR), Kaiser Permanente – and panel moderator; Tracey Grant, retired executive director of Middle School Education for Cherry Creek School District, and executive director of the Music and Leadership Institute of Denver; Michele Haugh, Initiative for Workplace Health & Well-being, Tri-County Health Department; Jill Keuth, Life Coach and Founder of Be Courageously YOU; (bottom row) Omar Montgomery, Director of Black Student Services at CU Denver and President of Aurora Branch of NAACP; Tom Rosh, Organizational Wellness Coordinator; and Baruky Ruiz-Blanco, Community Resource Navigator, Maiker Housing Partners.

Morris has worked in the community mental health field for more than 20 years, has led Disaster Response Teams, and has served as a manager for 12 years over several clinical programs.

If you are dealing with anxiety or confusion about the school year, you can reach out to AllHealth for family or individual support.

### Breast Cancer through the Eyes of a Surgeon and a Survivor Thursday, October 8, 2020

By Patti Corcoran, Tri-County Health Department

The October 2020 Work Well 2.0 Health Series featured an insightful presentation in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Laura Hafertepen, DO, a breast cancer surgeon with SurgONE, spoke about the latest in screening, treatment, and reconstruction procedures. As the science gets



Dr. Laura Hafertepen

more precise and sophisticated, these choices can be geared toward the individual, depending on situation, comfort level, and desired results. The earlier cancer is found, the more treatable it is. Missed screenings can mean progressed disease, so she strongly advocates for regular and appropriate screenings, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Diane M. Simard, who is a Bye Aerospace executive as well as an

author and speaker, was diagnosed with breast cancer after a mammogram follow-up, despite having no family history or symptoms. One of her struggles with the diagnosis, was a lack of psychological support in managing her diagnosis.

Her frustration about that turned into a passion for providing others with support by creating the Center for Oncology Psychology (COPE) at the University of Denver. COPE is a first-of-its-kind training program that aims to positively impact the mental health of cancer patients, and acts as a hub for research and program evaluation on the psychological, social, and emotional impacts of cancer.

Simard also journaled her experience with cancer, and turned that into an honest, unapologetic, and humorous book, [The Unlikely Gift of Breast Cancer](#).

The presentations were fascinating and hopeful, each emphasizing that individuals dealing with a cancer diagnosis are going to deal with it very differently – with their own needs and fears. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to managing breast cancer or its psychological impacts.

And as for the color pink that has become associated with breast cancer, although it is useful for promoting breast cancer awareness, it turns out neither Dr. Hafertepen nor Simard are a fan of the color.



Diane M. Simard

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

No Young Professional meeting in July 2020

### Bruz Beers Networking and Tour August 19, 2020

In August, the Young Professionals held a networking event at Bruz Beers Brewery, 1675 W. 67th Ave., in Denver. Bruz Founder Ryan Evans provided a tour of the facility, and the first beer was generously sponsored by The Chamber. The outdoor patio and August weather provided a very pleasant atmosphere for enjoying beers and conversation.



The Young Professionals at Bruz Beers Brewery.

[continued on page 8]



## Outdoor Networking September 30, 2020



The Young Professionals at the Colorado Freedom Memorial.



September provided perfect weather for the Young Professionals to meet at the Colorado Freedom Memorial for a tour of the Memorial by its founder Rick Crandall, followed by some outdoor networking, complete with beer and pizza.



Rick Crandall

The Colorado Freedom Memorial is the first memorial in America dedicated to all wars, all branches of service, and contains the names of all those who died from a single state in those wars.

## DEFENSE COUNCIL

### Armed Forces Recognition Event Friday, August 28, 2020

During the event, The Aurora Chamber's Defense Council honors honor the men and women who serve in the Eastern Metro Area. Special recognition is given to junior enlisted members from all branches of service to include the Guard and Reserve, and our commonwealth partners from Canada and Australia. This year's keynote speaker was President of Metropolitan State University of Denver Janine Davidson, PhD; the MC is President and Founder of the



The Aerospace Data Facility Colorado Joint Color Guard was recorded at the Colorado Freedom Memorial for the virtual 44th Annual Armed Forces Recognition Event on Friday, August 28, 2020.

### The award winners and their sponsors:

| AWARD                    | WINNER  | SPONSOR                           |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Air Force Active Duty    | Staff Sergeant Garret Stone                       | City of Aurora                    |
| Air Force Reserve        | Technical Sergeant Leah White                     | Denver International Airport      |
| Air National Guard       | Senior Airman Matthew Kasch                       | Citywide Banks                    |
| Army Active Duty         | Specialist Julian Baker                           | Lockheed Martin                   |
| Army Reserve             | Staff Sergeant Timothy Address                    | Wagner Equipment                  |
| Army National Guard      | Staff Sergeant James Fuller                       | Leidos                            |
| Navy Active Duty         | Petty Officer First Class Patrick Schultz         | DeNovo Solutions                  |
| Navy Reserve             | Petty Officer First Class Jameer Fitch            | Hilton Garden Inn, Denver Airport |
| Marine Corps Active Duty | Sergeant Christian Pitel                          | Aurora Credit Union Alliance      |
| Marine Corps Reserve     | Staff Sergeant David Nagy                         | Colorado Technical University     |
| Coast Guard              | Petty Officer First Class Alexander Torres Julian | ICR – Ideas, Commitment, Results  |
| Commonwealth Partner     | Corporal Matthew Karnofsky                        | Denver Springs                    |
| Bob Cardenas Award       | Ron Cole  | Aurora Chamber of Commerce        |

Colorado Freedom Memorial Rick Crandall; and the title sponsor of the event, for the eighth consecutive year, was Colorado Technical University. Media sponsors were CSU Global and Northrop Grumman.

The event is available for viewing on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/T3uUnwdfkl4>

### CTU's Dedication to Education and the Military Thursday, September 24, 2020

September's virtual Defense Council was hosted by Colorado Technical University (CTU). Beth Braatan, vice president of Community Relations, provided an overview of how CTU serves the Military. She shared that CTU has awarded a total of 600 scholarships (50 annually), to wounded service members,



spouses, caregivers and colleg-ready dependent children of wounded service members – for a total of \$14 million. CTU has also been given the Purple Heart University designation, which is awarded by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, recognizing the University



BGen Laura Clellan

for its support of veterans wounded in combat.

The council also received an update from the new Adjutant General of Colorado, Brigadier General Laura Clellan. General Clellan talked about the Colorado National Guard's support of COVID operations in Colorado, at the time, entering 200 consecutive days. She explained that Army and Air Force Guard members have been assisting with testing and personal protective gear storage and distribution throughout the State. ■

## Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

### Open Arms Assisted Care

12150 E. Andrew Dr., Denver, CO 80239  
(562) 746-1609

John Murzyn, President of Open Arms, Elder of St. Andrew Lutheran, and Peter Hynes, President, Urbitecture, cut the ribbon for Open Arms Assisted Care at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. When St. Andrew closed their day school a few years ago, they found that there was a great need for quality, affordable housing for lower-income seniors – and the vision of Open Arms was born. The renovation created an inviting campus, comfortable living quarters, spacious common areas, innovative telehealth services, spaces for family gatherings and intergenerational activities, and even an ice cream parlor! Many of the areas are shared by residents of Open Arms and members of the congregation, including the telehealth services. (9/3/2020) <https://www.salcs.org/openarms.html> (303) 371-1099





## A Successful Chamber Connection



Duran Hill (left) met Edgar Leon through The Chamber.

Duran Hill, owner of Advanced Traffic Services met Edgar Leon, owner of Aurora AutoPros through The Chamber. The connection provided each of them something they needed; Hill needs to keep his fleet of vehicles safe and on the road, and Leon needs a consistent customer base. At the Chamber's Diversity & Inclusion Summit event, Hill heard Leon speak about how Aurora AutoPros came into being and the experience of building immigrant-owned business in Aurora. Duran liked what he heard and immediately gave Leon a chance to prove the value of Aurora AutoPros. That was 3 years ago, and both are grateful for the connection.

## Bye Aerospace Selects Developer of Parachute Recovery System for eFlyer 2

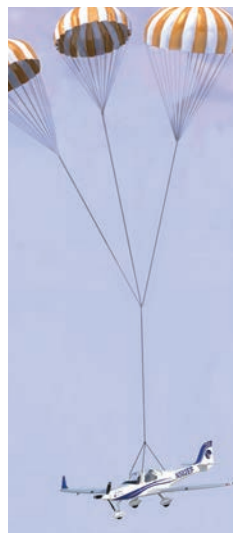
Bye Aerospace, developer of the eFlyer family of FAA Part 23-certified all-electric aircraft, announced the selection of Aviation Safety Resources, Inc. (ASR), to supply its Soteria line of whole aircraft recovery parachutes systems for the eFlyer 2.

Under the terms of the agreement, ASR will design, prototype, test and deliver a recovery system specifically for the eFlyer 2, according

to George E. Bye, CEO of Bye Aerospace.

"We continue to push forward on our FAA certification program with efficiency and urgency, remaining focused on safety as our highest priority," said Bye.

Bye Aerospace's current and future families of aircraft produce no CO2 and are designed to answer compelling market need, including five-fold lower operating costs, zero emissions, and decreased noise.



It's estimated that the eFlyer will eliminate the release of millions of metric tons of CO2 each year for pilot training.

## New murals in Aurora



These murals on the east side and top of Pasternack's Pawn Shop on Colorado are by: Patrick Kan McGregor - Pink Bulldog; Figure - Giovannie aka #justcreatdit; and Rube Zilla - Colfax typography.

1,000 people and 10 artists came together on August 1, 2020 to create and celebrate new outdoor murals in the Aurora Arts District. Through driving tours and small group tours, the event provided a safe environment for arts patrons, residents, and the artists. Many of the artists have roots in Aurora, and the murals are meant to be viewed year-round. The event was a collaboration with Visit Aurora, The People's Building, and the Black Actors Guild. It is proposed that the Colfax Canvas Mural Festival will become an annual event.

## Fitzsimons Credit Union expands membership eligibility to Adams, Arapahoe, and Denver Counties

Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union has expanded its field of membership to those who live, work, worship, or attend school in Adams, Arapahoe, and Denver Counties in Colorado. Upon receiving approval from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the Board of Directors unanimously approved this change to its charter, effective Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

"This expansion will allow us to serve more members of the Colorado community that we could not serve before. We provide innovative savings and loan programs that are not typically offered by much larger financial institutions," said Fitzsimons Federal



Robert Fryberger

Credit Union President & CEO Robert M. Fryberger, Jr.

Fitzsimons is one of three credit unions in Colorado designated as a Juntos Avanzamos (Together We Advance) financial institution, marking its dedication to serving Colorado's significant Hispanic population. The credit union has also signed on to the Credit Union Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Collective Pledge stating its commitment to listen, learn, advocate, and amplify the voices of the underrepresented and underserved members of our community to create a better society for all.

## STRIDE Community Health Center Opens East Colfax Location

STRIDE Community Health Center officially opened its newest location late September 2020, expanding patient access to care on the East side of the Denver Metro Area and notably increasing its' presence in Aurora.



"We knew that a new location in Aurora would make our integrative care more accessible to the community, based on growing demand," said Laura Larson, vice president of development at STRIDE Community Health Center. "Aurora's population has changed rapidly, and our vital community resources should reflect and support that change. We pride ourselves in being in the communities that need us most, and the East Colfax location is no exception."

Aurora Community Connection played a major role in the planning and completion of this STRIDE location, by partnering to assist STRIDE with addressing the needs of the Spanish-speaking community along East Colfax, providing invaluable guidance and support throughout the process.

"A huge piece of becoming a vital community resource is seeking out and working with the organizations and resources the community already trusts," said Larson. "By establishing a partnership with a well-known existing organization that has extensive knowledge of the community and its needs, we hope to build a solid foundation as both a trustworthy and reliable healthcare provider located conveniently in the neighborhood, as well as a valuable partner for other local community organizations." ■



Aurora Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Rene Simard attended the transition and taking of Oaths of Office and Enlistment of 13 U.S. Air Force Officers and Enlisted members. Col Devin Pepper, Buckley Garrison Commander and Col Jake Middleton, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado Commander, administered the oaths.

## Leadership Aurora reconnects

It was a beautiful September afternoon when members of the Leadership Aurora Board and Class of 2020 gathered at the Denver Botanic Gardens for an outdoor get-together. The event was catered by Steve Sundberg and his staff of Legends of Aurora Sports Grill. Sundberg also currently serves as the chair of the Leadership Aurora Board. The large, open air venue provided an opportunity for the class and board to gather in a safe space and to reconnect. The class had not been able to meet in person for the monthly sessions since March 2020, except for the recent half-day in October for the Police Session at the firing range. ■



## Member Renewals

### CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE RENEWALS

City of Aurora - City Management  
Crowne Plaza Denver International Airport  
David Evans and Associates, Inc.  
Denver Springs  
DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver  
Lockheed Martin Space Systems  
Oakwood Homes, LLC  
Plante Moran  
RK Mechanical  
Schomp Subaru  
South Metro Fire Rescue  
Topgolf Centennial  
University of Colorado/  
Anschutz Medical Campus  
Waste Management

Colorado Escrow & Title  
Colorado Health Foundation, The  
Community Banks of Colorado-Greenwood Village  
Courtyard by Marriott - DIA  
Denver Art Museum  
Developmental Pathways  
Edward Jones - Jason Castaneda (Financial  
Edward Jones Investments - Patrick Pogue,  
Elemental Photography  
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Marriott Denver  
Foxridge Farm  
Graebel Companies, Inc.  
Grand Design, Inc  
Great Western Building Systems LLC  
Heather Gardens  
Highpoint Church  
Home Smith Real Estate  
HR Green  
iPlace Seniors  
Jeff Baker - Arapahoe County Commissioner  
Johnson's Automotive Repair  
La Sandia Mexican Cantina and Tequila Bar  
Landtech Contractors Inc.  
Mainstream Video Production  
May Farms  
McGrath, Jane  
Michael Baker Corporation  
National Charter Bus Denver  
New Vistas Realty - Vickie Nelson  
New-Ride Enterprises (dba New-Ride Design)  
Old Chicago - Aurora  
Pachner Company, The  
Publication Printers Corp.  
Raising Canes Chicken Fingers - Parker  
Residence Inn Denver Stapleton  
Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC, The  
Roof Brokers, Inc.  
RTB Technologies  
School of Rock  
Security First Insurance Agency  
SERVPRO of Aurora  
Sewald Hanfling Public Affairs  
Springhill Suites by Marriott - Denver Ai  
State Farm Insurance - Mike Gibbs, ChFC®  
Suss, Paul  
Boeing Company, The  
The Mathes Insurance Agency

Tony's Services Inc.  
Twinstare Technologies  
University of Denver, GSPP  
USO Denver  
Vintage Theatre  
Watson & Co., Inc.  
Weaver and Company  
Wiggins, Bill J.  
Wingate by Wyndham at Denver Airport  
Woolley's Classic Suites

### RENEWALS

5280 Home Care and Attendant Services Inc  
Academy Roofing, Inc.  
AFLAC - Donna Bonne  
Alleviant Health Centers of Denver  
Alliance Mortgage Group  
aloft Denver International Airport  
Arapahoe County Department of Human Services  
Arc Thrift Store - Iliff & Buckley  
Aurora Federal Credit Union  
Aurora Gateway Rotary Club  
Aurora Public Schools Foundation  
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.  
Bellco Credit Union - Aurora City Place  
Best Western Plus Denver International Airport  
Bicycle Aurora  
Big D Pizza dba Blackjack Pizza  
Birch Electric & Lighting Co.  
Brian Molitoris Photographer  
Bye Aerospace  
Carlos Klinger & Sons  
CEDS Finance  
Chambers Wine & Liquor  
Cherry Creek Retirement Village  
Colorado Air and Space Port

## New Members

### NEW CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE Service Street

### NEW

Alleviant Health Centers of Denver  
APEX Pharmacy LLC  
Aurora Collision Center  
Biolife Plasma Services  
Council for a Strong America  
Deborah Gustafson  
Erik Brandt, Financial Services Professionals  
Floria Group  
Gist Realty LLC  
Long Law Group, LLC.  
Meineke Car Care Center  
Olsson  
Open Arms Assisted Care  
RE/MAX Masters Millennium - Homes for Her  
Team Liberty, LLC.  
Wheeler Advisory Group LLC  
Yesrod Development Group, LLC

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Aurora, CO 80012  
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564  
website: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)