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THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

MAR/APR 2016

Eco/Devo presentation provides insight for businesses

On Feb. 18, Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen gave an update about economic development - also known as Eco/Devo - happening in Aurora and the Eastern Metro Area. The overview included information about economic development clusters in Colorado, including:

- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Aerospace
- Biotechnology
- Healthcare
- Energy
- Financial Service
- Air Transport
- Transportation
- Education

A survey was sent to attendees following the presentation, from which 100 percent of the responses reflected that attendees found the information helpful, and would recommend for others to attend an Eco/Devo presentation.

"Kevin's presentation gave me great insight into the extent of what's happening in Aurora and the eastern metro area, which will help our company with annual planning," said one of the attendees.

"Before hearing this presentation, I didn't realize the extent of all the positive development that is going on in the area," said another attendee.

Attendees were treated to a healthy lunch from **Kneaders Bakery**, that was generously sponsored by **Wells Fargo Bank**.

The next Eco/Devo presentation by Hougen will be Wed., May 18, 11am - 1pm, at The Chamber. RSVP required. ■



facebook

Celebrating 2015 winners March 25

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner on March 25, 2016 will celebrate and honor leaders in the community who have made significant contributions during 2015:

Business of the Year:

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora

Business Person of the Year:

Dick Hinson - Aurora Economic Development Council

Chamber Leadership:

Steve Sundberg - Legends of Aurora Sports Grill

Woman of the Year:

Representative Su Ryden

Man of the Year:

**Chief Jerry Rhodes -
Cunningham Fire Protection District**

Humanitarian of the Year:

**Peter Lee - Aurora Asian/
Pacific Community Partnership**

Community Leadership:

Louis Salazar - ConocoPhillips

Business for the Arts:

Colin Spencer Productions, LLC

Small Business Person of the Year:

**Brenda Eisenhauer, DVM -
Parkside Animal Health Center**

The Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year:

Cheryl Rotkovich - Balancing Books, Inc.

The event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Stapleton North, 4040 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80216.

This year's theme is Elvis Presley's *Taking Care of Business*, so *Don't Be Cruel* and make your reservations now for the *One Night at The Chambers' Can't Help Falling in Love Awards Dinner* at the *Heartbreak Hotel* - aka The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Stapleton North. There will be an Elvis and Priscilla fashion show - featuring everyone who comes in costume, so put on your *Blue Suede Shoes*, because *It's Now or Never* to get ready for *Such a Night*.



And, Elvis will be in the building! ■

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The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is an action-oriented membership organization that serves as the leading business voice in the Eastern Metro area. For our members, we seek to provide access, advocacy, and influence.

8,000 views/month!

The Chamber website gets more than 8,000 views a month, and that's a lot of eyes "on the page!"

Chamber members can take advantage of that exposure to market their businesses by advertising on the Chamber website. For information and pricing, contact Naomi.Colwell@aurorachamber.org.

Another opportunity to be seen - and heard - on The Chamber Website is The Chamber Blog, which provides information, and news and educational articles that could be of interest to other Chamber members. Submit your blogs and any accompanying photos/graphics to Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org. ■





Kevin Hougen
President & CEO

President's Letter

Each spring, a nominating committee made up of Aurora Chamber members, along with the President, suggests future Board members to fill the slots of the retiring members. As you'll note, several of our Board members' three-year terms expire on May 31, 2016. A member can serve a second three-year term under the Chamber's bylaws.

We want to thank the following board members that have completed their terms:

Mickey Hunt, **Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs**
Bob Jamieson, **Mutual of Omaha**
Cindy Kreutz, **Healthcare Consultant**
Alfonso Nuñez, **La Cueva Restaurant**
Jeff Thompson, **University of Colorado Health**

The following Aurora Chamber Board members have been asked to serve a second three-year term:

Shannon Jones, **FirstBank of Aurora**
Peter Lee, **Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership**

We are also very proud to announce that the new board members will be leading us into what promises to be an exciting year of growth and prosperity. The following board members will be formally announced at the **61st Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction on Friday, March 25th 2016.**

Rich Kolberg, **Boeing Corporation**
Courtney Morehouse, **Your Castle Real Estate**
Keith Peterson, **University of Colorado Health**
Michael Sheldon, **Aurora Highlands**

Chamber Leadership 2016-2017:

Chairman 2016-17	Ryan Simpson, The Medical Center of Aurora
Past Chair 2015-16	Jason Altschuler, Westerra Credit Union
Chair Elect 2017-18	Suzanne Pitrusu, Community Banks of Colorado
Secretary	Matt Weber, Kaiser Permanente
Treasurer	Reneé Gullickson, Wells Fargo Bank

*Please help me in welcoming our 2016-2017
Chamber Board Leadership Team!*

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jason Altschuler | Westerra Credit Union

CHAIR-ELECT

& VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Ryan Simpson | The Medical Center of Aurora,
HealthONE

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

David Patterson | Falck USA

TREASURER

Reneé Gullickson | Wells Fargo Bank

SECRETARY

Matt Weber | Kaiser Permanente

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dale Mingilton | Adams 14 Education Foundation

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

Bob Jamieson | Mutual of Omaha

VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

Dwight Taylor | Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC

DIRECTORS

John Adams | Colorado Technical University
Joe Barela | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Randy Berner | Adolphson & Peterson Construction
Lisa Buckley | American Automation Building Services
Christy Dobson | Children's Hospital Colorado
Ryan Evans | Advantage Security
Chris Fasching | Felsberg, Holt & Ullevig
Gian Gandolfo | Hilton Garden Inn - Denver Airport
Tom Henley | Xcel Energy
Michael "Mickey" Hunt | Colo. Dept. of Military & Veteran's Affairs
Shannon Jones | FirstBank - Aurora Havana
Kristi Kleinholz | Outback Steakhouse - Abilene
Cindy Kreutz | Healthcare Consultant
Peter Lee | Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership
Alfonso Nuñez | La Cueva Restaurant
Suzanne Pitrusu | Community Banks of Colorado
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union
Brittany Rodgers | Colorado Access
Louis Salazar | ConocoPhillips
Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Health
Todd Trace | Century Link

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development
The Honorable Steve Hogan | City of Aurora
Nancy Jackson | Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Paul Suss | Suss Buick GMC
Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora
Charles "CJ" Whelan | City of Centennial

STAFF

Kevin Hougen | President and CEO
Rene J. Simard | Executive Vice President
Naomi Colwell | Marketing Director
Chance Horiuchi | Business Development Director
Linda Lillyblad | Finance Director
Tamara Mohamed | Director of Community Relations
Paul Rosenberg | Vice President, Membership Development
Mitzi Schindler | Communications Director
Mary Beth Sharp | Member Services Director

ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers
Jeana Capel-Jones | Greater Metro Denver
Healthcare Partnership

.....
Mario Waller | Six & Six, inc. | Newsletter Design

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.

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!

RibbonCuttings

Ribbon cuttings mean business:
Nine businesses; 100 new jobs.



Tax season is here! — Block Advisors Area Manager Marty Jimenez is ready to cut the ribbon and welcome clients to Southland's Block Advisors office, at 24107 E. Commons Ave., Unit 103, Aurora, CO 80016. This is the first location to change their name from H&R Block, to Block Advisors. Block Advisors has solutions to fit all tax needs, and provide tax prep and planning, as well as business services. (303) 690-8131 www.hrbblock.com (1/29/16)



Welcoming a new primary care clinic to the neighborhood — Adrienne Wolf, operations manager of CU Healthcare Partners @ Bellevue Point cuts the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the clinic at 5001 S. Parker Rd., Suite 215, Aurora, CO 80015. CU Healthcare Partners @ Bellevue Point is a new primary care clinic dedicated to whole-person care. The clinic is staffed with advanced practice Family Nurse Practitioners - with the vision of improving the healthcare experience in an integrated model of care, in order to decrease associated healthcare costs and deliver improved health outcomes in the community. (303) 724-1487 www.nursing.ucdenver.edu/hcpbellevuepoint (1/21/16)



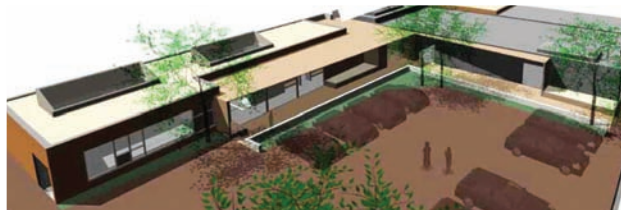
CenturyLink has moved, but not far! — Congratulations to CenturyLink for the grand opening of their new location at 14222 E. Cedar Ave., Unit B, Aurora, CO 80012. It was a big day, and many gathered to help celebrate, including (left to right): Director of Regional Field Sales Scott Davis; VP Consumer Marketing Adrian Kesler; VP Operations Colorado Penny Larson; VP National Field Sales Chris Denzin; Mile High United Way President and CEO Christine Benero; City Council, Ward III Marsha Berzins; Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen; Broncos' mascot Miles and a Denver Broncos' cheerleader. CenturyLink home services include internet, TV, home phone, home security, and bundled packages. They also provide services for small businesses, medium businesses, enterprises, and wholesale. (303) 343-0861 www.centurylink.com (2/18/16)

DAVA

Celebrating Youth, Arts Education, and Community — DAVA student Boris Cochajil, is assisted by fellow students Mariana Leon and Hiram Saucedo, in cutting the ribbon for the newly-renovated Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) at 1405 Florence St., Aurora, CO 80010. The \$1.8 million renovation and expansion doubled DAVA's footprint, creating 8,636 sq. ft. of safe and unified space dedicated to arts education.

DAVA's Job Training program for middle school youth now occupies an entire wing of the building, with art and technology combined. In addition, a dedicated clay studio was built onto the OASIS Open Studio, adding much-needed capacity to DAVA's elementary program.

Founded in 1993, DAVA has been building community through the arts for more than two decades with programs that reinforce 21st century life skills, build self-esteem, and connect youth to the community. DAVA represents a unique combination of arts education and youth development, demonstrating how quality arts programming during after-school hours form a critical framework for long-term youth success. Each year, DAVA programs impact approximately 1,400 young people, and support the programming of partner organizations. (303) 367-5886 www.davarts.org (1/14/16)
(Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)



16th Annual Women Making A Difference “Unsung Hero” Luncheon

On Feb. 12, the 16th Annual Women in Business, Women Making a Difference “Unsung Hero” Luncheon brought 200 attendees to the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver - Aurora**, to honor six nominees, two finalists and a winner.

Keynote Speaker, Lois Melkonian delivered a powerful message about life transformation and learning how to ‘pivot’. Lois was a radio and television broadcaster for most of her professional career, but made a ‘pivot’ that led her to write her book *Hybrid* – The transformation of a cross-cultural people pleaser.

Generous corporate sponsors for the event were **Aurora Credit Union Alliance, Colorado Technical University**, and **Westerra Credit Union**. Table sponsors included **American Association of University Women (AAUW)**, **Advantage Security, Inc.**, **Citywide Banks**, **Community Banks of Colorado**, **Creative Counseling Center**, **FirstBank**, **Regis University**, **Smitty’s Sprinkler Systems**, and **Wells Fargo Bank**.



Left to right, the 2016 Women In Business Unsung Hero Award Nominees: **Nandy Talent, Talent Care Services**; **Cris Haas, Creative Counseling Center**; **Denise Denton, Aurora Health Access**; **Brian Bernard** (accepting for Jeannie Bernard), **Bernard Financial Services**; **Shannon Jones, FirstBank**; and **Myrna Smith, Smitty’s Sprinkler Systems**.

Left to right, the 2016 Women In Business Unsung Hero Award Luncheon Keynote Speaker **Lois Melkonian**; Award Winner **Kim Robards, Kim Robards Dance**; and Finalists **Sarah Ellis, Lutheran Medical Center**, and **Jennifer Evans, Advantage Security, Inc.**



MemberNews

CCC keeps growing – to help the community

Creative Counseling Center is expanding, in order to meet the needs of the community. Along with their additional space – which was celebrated with a ribbon cutting and open house at the end of February, **Brittany Green** has joined the **Creative Counseling Center** team.



Brittany Green

Green has worked with a wide range of clients focusing on trauma, eating disorders, depression/anxiety, couples and family relational issues.

Do you know a Hoarder?

On Feb. 9 – the same day as the Broncos Super Bowl victory parade – **ServiceMaster DSI** hosted Matt Paxton from A&E’s TV Show *Hoarders* at the Denver Aquarium, who gave an informational course on Hoarding.

Even though there were an estimated 650,000 people attending the Broncos parade that day (Matt joked that the crowd was there to see him), there were nearly 100 people in attendance at the Aquarium. The crowd included insurance professionals, case workers, senior service providers, legal advisors, professional organizers, realtors, social service providers, and city advocates.

Paxton educated the audience about Hoarding; who it impacts, how it affects our

society, and how we can help. The session went into depth regarding why people Hoard, the types of Hoarding, and communication techniques to use when dealing with someone afflicted by Hoarding. He made the audience laugh, cringe, and cry, by educating them about the severity of the disorder which affects more than 16 million people nationwide; nearly 5 percent of our country’s population.

Paxton emphasized that because Hoarding is a legally protected medical disorder, it’s important for those who interact with Hoarders to understand the impact of the illness, and how compassion is key in helping.

Paxton’s stories were meant to empower and inspire the audience to help those affected by Hoarding, and for them to see the disorder in a new light.

ServiceMaster DSI is committed to educating anyone affected by Hoarding. If you know anyone affected by Hoarding or have questions, contact ServiceMaster DSI at (303) 288-2900.

Police and Fire celebrate new facility



The City of Aurora celebrated its new Public Safety Training Center with an open house and ribbon cutting on Feb 12. The new \$29 million center at 25950 Quincy Avenue replaces separate training facilities, and allows the Aurora Police Department and Aurora Fire Rescue to consolidate their training, and to focus on teamwork in their emergency response. Left to right, Police Chief Nick Metz, Fire Chief Mike Garcia, City Council members Bob Roth, Barb Cleland, Brad Pierce, Marsha Berzins, Angela Lawson, and Bob LeGare, City Manager Skip Noe, and Deputy Fire Chiefs Tony Cito and Scott Sare. (Photo courtesy City of Aurora)

Centennial’s assistant city attorney honored

The **City of Centennial** and the City Attorney’s Office of Widner Michow & Cox recently announced that the **Metro City Attorney’s Association** named Jill Hassman as the 2015 *Outstanding Assistant City Attorney*.

As lead attorney for the City’s fiber optic and broadband efforts, Hassman is a trusted advisor to the City’s Fiber Infrastructure Committee, which includes members of Council, City staff and consultants. This past year, Hassman was instrumental in implementing major revisions to the City’s ethics code and conducted a training program for City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, and all City departments and volunteers, educating them on the revisions. ■

Following the Leadership Aurora Class of 2015-16:

Media and Education Days

On December 17, 2015, the 2015-2016 Leadership Aurora class embarked on their third session: Media Day.

After a hearty breakfast at the City of Aurora, the class headed to 9NEWS, where a panel of media professionals talked about what goes into daily news programs. They also explained what qualifies as 'newsworthy,' which is simply to reach a lot of people by reporting on subjects that engage them. And to no one's surprise, one of the most newsworthy and trending topics is the Denver Broncos!

After the panel, the class viewed a live news and weather broadcast. They also had an opportunity to take some selfies, acting as weather reporters in front of the green screen in the 9NEWS Backyard.

The afternoon adventure at Aurora TV included posing as directors, producers, camera operators, and on camera interviewees – about the Aurora Public Schools graduation rates, interspersed with 'Media Relations 101,' about how the media works, why we need the media, and why the media needs us – the audience.

The day was filled with action and excitement, and wrapped up with a fun social at The Royal Hilltop!

A hearty thank you goes to Leadership Aurora Board members Erika Matich with **University of Colorado Health** for breakfast and Randy Berner with **Adolfson & Peterson** for lunch. Also, thanks to **Brad Mikel** for taking photos for the yearbook – and making everyone look good!

(Excerpted from the Media Day article by Tamara Mohamed, Aurora Chamber of Commerce)

Education Day on Jan. 21 provided a sampling of some of the great – and unique – learning opportunities in Aurora.

The day began at Smoky Hill High School with an overview of the evolution of secondary education in the Cherry Creek School District.



LA Class members walk to the Colorado Film School on the CCA Lowry Campus during Education Day.



Members of the LA class at 9NEWS, posing as a large 'anchor group' on Media Day.

The Leadership group then visited four of the many Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes offered, including; Automotive, Design, Culinary, and DECA (a Business Marketing program) witnessing first-hand how students apply what they're learning to real world problems.

The next stop was Aurora Central High School, in the Aurora Public School District, where the class was introduced to the Aurora Lights Program, which provides unique learning opportunities in health sciences. Students from the program inspired the class with their stories of how Aurora Lights has made such a positive impact on their education – and on their lives.

During a presentation about Equity in Education, the class was challenged to reflect on their own

prejudices; to not make assumptions based on their own values; and to not pass judgment on people without knowing their whole story.

The last "classes" of the day, were at the Lowry Campus of the Community College of Aurora (CCA), including an overview of the diverse student population at CCA, a quick game of world economy Monopoly, a tour of the

Colorado Film School, and a presentation at the Disaster Management Institute in CCA's Center for Simulation.

All in all, the day was a great learning experience, which is apropos for Education Day!

And a big thank you to Leadership Aurora Board Member Maureen Barker with **Citywide Banks**, for generously providing breakfast and lunch – to keep the class well-nourished as they were learning! ■

(Excerpted from the Education Day article, by Catherine Trouth, Community College of Aurora)



Just a little something created by students in a CTE class!



Nathaniel Meadows

AutoBroker / Automobile Consultant

"Car Buying Simple"

720.556.7738

nathanielmeadows07@gmail.com

State of the Base highlights Buckley's impact

Colonel John Wagner, Commander of the 460th Space Wing and Buckley AFB, addressed community leaders at the annual State of the Base on Jan. 27 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora.

Col. Wagner spoke of the great strides being made at Buckley to improve the lives of military members and their families, including a new on-base dental clinic, on-base college courses, and plans to bring many medical services back onto the installation. He praised the community for its' tremendous support in ensuring that Buckley remains viable for decades to come, and also announced that in 2015, Buckley's fiscal impact on the local economy was more than \$923 million.

The annual luncheon is organized jointly by the Aurora Chamber Defense Council and the Rotary Club of Aurora, and sponsored by **Colorado Technical University, the Aurora Police Department, the City of Aurora, First Command Financial Services, Citywide Banks, and RTL Networks.** ■



Aurora Chamber President/CEO Kevin Hougen (left) presents Col. John Wagner with the very first Aurora Chamber Defense Council coin, in appreciation for his outstanding leadership and community partnership. As 460th Space Wing and Buckley Installation Commander, Col. Wagner is responsible for supporting 90 tenant organizations and maximizing missile warning through overhead persistent infrared (satellite) operations. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

MemberRenewals

140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)
Accent Cleaning Service, Inc.
Adams County Board of Commissioners
Adigo
Advanced Circuits, Inc.
Air Force Association
All American Windows & Siding
Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter
American Automation Building Solutions
American Cancer Society
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Arapahoe County Security Center, Inc.
Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Asian Pacific Development Center
Associates Insurance Group
Association of the United States Army Denver Centennial
Aurora Cultural Arts District
Aurora Family Y.M.C.A.
Aurora Housing Authority
Aurora Interchurch Taskforce
Aurora Law Firm
Balancing Books, Inc.
Beck, Payne, Frank & Piper, P.C.
Best Western Plus Gateway Inn & Suites
Booz Allen Hamilton
Boys Hope Girls Hope
Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.
Cambria Suites Denver Airport
City of Aurora - Manager's Office
City of Centennial
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage- Laura Noe
CollegeAmerica
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
CommonGround Golf Course
Community Re-Entry Place Inside/Out
COPIC Insurance
Cops Fighting Cancer

Country Inn & Suites by Carlson
Denver International Airport
Don's Mailing Service
E Travel Unlimited
Ed Bozarth Company, Inc.
Enترنت Design
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Finish Line Car Wash
First Command Financial Planning
Foxridge Farm
Goodwill Industries of Denver
Great Western Printing, Inc.
Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa
Handyman Matters of Central Denver & Aurora
Harvard Square Retirement Community
Haynie & Company
Hillcrest Village
Hilton Garden Inn - Denver Airport
Intermountain Staffing
ITT Technical Institute
Jack Schroeder and Associates
KeyBank - S. Buckley Rd.
Kirchhof Group, Inc.
La Cueva Restaurant
Leisure Tech Industries
Majestic Realty Co.
Marriott International
Martha J. Karnopp, Attorney at Law
Metro Community Provider Network, Inc.
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Mile High Harley-Davidson
Mile High Military Officers Assn., Inc.
Oakwood Homes, LLC
Office Depot - Ironton St #03272
Outback Steakhouse - Denver Gateway
Pinnacol Assurance
RIDA Development/ Gaylord Hotel
Roper Insurance & Financial Services
Safe Splash Swim School

Six & Six, Inc.
South Metro Fire Rescue Authority
Springhill Suites Denver at Anschutz Medical Campus
Subway on Iliff
Sunny Homes & Associates, Inc.
The Wallace Team
Tilden Car Care Aurora
TownePlace Suites - DIA at Gateway Park
United Hebrew Cemetery Association
Wagner Equipment Co.
Wal-Mart Stores #1492
Wells Fargo Bank - Business Banking
WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff

NewMembers

Alice Lee Main
Answers for Senior Care
Aurora Highlands, The
Colorado Junk Cars
Columbia College- Denver
Del Arte Lofts and Flats
Denver Business Journal
Dominique Jackson for Colorado HD 42
Doug Anthony
Evanston Enterprises
Grade Power Learning
HR Green
Humana Marketpoint
III D Electric
Local Eyes Video Productions
Quantum Change Consulting LLC
Richard Ahrenkiel Agency-American Family
Trivida, LLC

The IMPACT is published for the members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Subscription rate to nonmembers: \$50/year.
Advertisers: The Chamber members—use the IMPACT to advertise your products and services to over 1700 Aurora Chamber members. Advertising space only available to members. The IMPACT also accepts preprinted inserts. Contact The Chamber for details.
Deadlines: the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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