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THE CHAMBER Impact MAY/JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Meetings are held at the Chamber office, 14305 E. Alameda Ave., Suite 300 - unless otherwise noted (see calendar for details and additional meetings)

MAY

Young Professionals

May 1 | 12 pm

Business for the Arts

May 5 | 8 am

Transportation

May 6 | 7:30 am

Government Affairs

May 7 | 7:30 am

39th Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

May 8 | 11:30 am-1:30 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton

Denver Hotel

3203 Quebec St.

Denver, CO 80207

ChamberMaster Training

May 13 | 12 pm

Health Series

May 14 | 8 am

*Children's Hospital Colorado:
Legislative wrap up on bills
related to children*

Business Before Hours

May 20 | 7:30 am

High Impact

Construction Services

333 West Hampden Ave.,

Suite 715

Englewood, CO 80110

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Chairman's Circle addresses economy, jobs

The inaugural meeting of the Chamber's Chairman's Circle was a luncheon on April 15, featuring Dr. Helen Currie, senior economist with ConocoPhillips. Current Chamber Board Chair David Patterson, introduced Dr. Currie, who oversees ConocoPhillips' long range plan development and advises on investment analyses, political risk, scenario planning as well as other strategic initiatives.



Left to right: Ken Powers, ConocoPhillips Niobrara Operations Manager; Dr. Helen Currie, ConocoPhillips Senior Economist; and David Patterson, Chamber Board Chair and President of Falck USA.

production growth in the U.S., and the need for updating U.S. trade policy regarding crude oil exports.

In a slide illustrating how oil and gas production spurred growth in the broader U.S. economy, Dr. Currie quoted an HIS Energy, Inc. study that says "For every job created in oil production, three jobs are created in the supply chain and six more in the broader economy."

The purpose of the newly-formed

Chairman's Circle is to

provide economic information on timely subjects; to offer on-site visits to relevant and emerging businesses; and to facilitate valuable networking among The Chamber's major investors and influencers, including elected officials.

The luncheon was held in the Penthouse Centennial Room of the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center. ■

change in export policy. She reviewed the structural and cyclical drivers of the recent oil market price decline, and the long-term oil demand dynamics.

Her global view of the current and future oil market included the economic benefits of energy



Dr. Currie shared her insight with attendees about current oil market dynamics, economic benefits of U.S. production, and the need for a

Gaylord: The project is alive, well, and moving every day

Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan has confirmed that the Gaylord Hotel and Conference Center - which has been delayed because of opposition to the project and one of its funding mechanisms - will break ground between October and December of 2015.

"The truth is, the project is alive, well, and moving every day toward a groundbreaking in the 4th quarter of this year," said Hogan in a March 12, 2015 Aurora Sentinel article.

Ira Mitzner, CEO of RIDA Development Corp., the Houston-based developer who will build

the Gaylord, also confirmed progress of the project in a letter given to the Colorado Economic Development Commission. The letter states that the project budget is within 3.5 percent of the cost of the original project, estimated at around \$824 million when approved in 2012.

Even before the project has begun construction, Mitzner says there are groups interested in visiting the Gaylord in Colorado. These include the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education, the American Gas Association, the American Immigration Lawyers

Association, CCA Global, Georgetown University, Goodyear, Greenway Medical Technologies, Henry Schein, Johnstone Supply Company and Petco.

The Gaylord will be 1.9 million sq. ft., with a 60,000-sq. ft. atrium, 1,500 guest rooms, 400,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, and 7,300 square feet of retail shops. It will also have a minimum of three restaurants, as well as both indoor and outdoor pools, and a spa and fitness center.

Completion is currently scheduled for 2018. ■



David Patterson
Chair

Chair's Letter

Greetings Fellow Chamber Investors,

As the Chamber year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding staff of the

Aurora Chamber of Commerce. As the Chair, I have had the opportunity to enjoy a "behind-the-scenes" perspective, and I have been able to see how much preparation, work, and commitment the Chamber staff exhibit daily to ensure that this is the region's premier Chamber of Commerce. You can read about their most recent major accomplishment with our Safety Program in this issue. They have also been hard at work on a redesigned Chamber website that will soon be unveiled. To the staff of the Chamber: Thank you!

We celebrated the accomplishments of a number of Eastern Metro individuals and businesses in March at the Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner. You can find information about these outstanding recipients in this newsletter. Please join me in congratulating these deserving honorees. As always, the Awards Dinner was a fantastic evening, and I would like to offer a special thanks to my fellow bandmates and Chamber members Mike Hyman and Michelle Wolfe with the **City of Aurora**, Shannon Jones with **FirstBank - Aurora**, and Mark Werner with **Great Western**

Printing. I would also like to thank Ron Willard and our friends at the **School of Rock - Aurora** for providing equipment, rehearsal space, and fellow rockers Randy Klingbeil and Katie Willard for the "Chamber Music" Band. My chance to play the drums again wouldn't have been the same without this fantastic group of musicians. And who knew **City of Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan** and **Congressman Mike Coffman** were such talented percussionists?

I am pleased to report on the inaugural "Chairman's Circle" Luncheon that took place in April. This new forum is designed to provide economic insight for The Chamber's major investors and influencers. This first-of-its-kind event featured Dr. Helen Currie, the senior economist for **ConocoPhillips**, who enlightened the group about current market dynamics in the energy sector, as well as policies related to domestic and international markets. This new offering of The Chamber will be a valuable networking and educational opportunity for our members in the future.

From a new event to one that's now in its 39th edition: The Chamber's annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon. This event on May 8 is one of the most unique and outstanding opportunities in the State, honoring the service and sacrifice of the members of our armed forces. You won't want to miss it.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Board Chair. I would like to offer my appreciation to the members of the 2014-15

Chamber Board of Directors, with special recognition to our Executive Committee for their service: Dave Gruber with **Cloud World Wide**, Reneé Gullickson with **Wells Fargo Bank**, Bob Jamieson with **Mutual of Omaha**, Ryan Simpson with **The Medical Center of Aurora**, Dwight Taylor with **Rocky Mountain Law Group**, and Jeff Thompson with **University of Colorado Health**. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Treasurer and Chair-Elect, Jason Altshuler with **Westerra Credit Union**. I know he will do a fantastic job leading our Board in the coming year.

And finally, thank you - as an important member of The Chamber - for your investment and individual contributions that ensure our Chamber is "Community First, Business Always."

Sincerely,

David Patterson
Regional CEO, Falck USA
Chairman of the Board, Aurora Chamber of Commerce

CORRECTION:

The photos in the March/April Impact Newsletter on page 7 for the State of Base were incorrectly credited to 460th Space Wing Public Affairs. The photos were taken by, and courtesy of Brad Mikel.

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

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David Patterson | Falck USA

CHAIR-ELECT & TREASURER

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Shannon Jones | FirstBank - Aurora Havana
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Todd Landgrave | Northrop Grumman
Peter Lee | Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership
Dale Mingilton | Adams 14 Education Foundation
Alfonso Nuñez | La Cueva Restaurant
Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven | Community College of Aurora
Suzanne Pitrusu | Community Banks of Colorado
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union
Louis Salazar | ConocoPhillips
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services
Matt Weber | Kaiser Permanente

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Col. Floyd Dunston | 140th Wing Colorado Air National Guard
Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development
The Honorable Steve Hogan | City of Aurora
Nancy Jackson | Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Wendy Mitchell | Aurora Economic Development Council
Paul Suss | Suss Buick GMC
Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora
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Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers
.....
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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!

'Come Together' comes together quite well



"And the winners are" — (left to right): Business Person of the Year - Jeff Thompson, **University of Colorado Health**; Small Business of the Year - **Auto Pros, LLC**, Edgar and Reneé Leon; Humanitarian of the Year - Gene Roncone, **Highpoint Church**; Ambassador of the Year - Rick Hatfield, **Five Rings Financial**; Business for the Arts - **Fairmount Mortuary, Cemetery & Crematory**, Michael Long; Business of the Year - **Citywide Banks**, Tom Flanagan; Man of the Year - Skip Noe, **City of Aurora**; Community Leadership - **Jane McGrath**; Woman of the Year - Nancy Jackson, **Arapahoe County Commissioner**; and Chamber Leadership - **Dave Gruber**.

Right: Small Business Person of the Year Donna Thiel accepts her award from **Aurora Chamber** President Kevin Hougen at the **Forsberg Engerman Company** offices, as she was unable to attend the March 6 Awards Dinner. Left to right, Richard Forsberg, Donna Thiel, Doug Engerman, and Hougen.



The Annual Awards Dinner celebration on March 6 provided a festive forum to honor the achievements of East Metro business leaders and volunteers — and for Chamber members to kick up their heels and have some fun, too.

From the silent auction to the Chamber band, and from the awards presentation to the FourEver Fab — the evening was a "hit!"

Special thanks to the evening's title sponsor, ConocoPhillips — as well as all of the generous sponsors: **Pinnacle Assurance; Colorado Technical University; FirstBank; Wells Fargo Bank; Westerra Credit Union; University of Colorado Health; Fairmount Cemetery, Mortuary, and Crematory; Suss Buick GMC; CORT Furniture Rentals; and Great Western Printing, Inc. ■**



FourEver Fab — the "ultimate Beatles band" — rocked the house at the end of the evening



Groovy couple #1: Debbie and Paul Suss of Suss Buick GMC.

Left to right, celebrating to the music are Michelle Wolfe, City of Aurora Deputy City Manager; Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, Becky Hogan, ConocoPhillips Niobrara Operations Manager Ken Powers, (behind microphone); and University of Colorado Hospital Director of Guest Services Keith Peterson.



American Cancer Society seeks teams for Relay For Life

The **American Cancer Society** is recruiting teams from businesses, schools, families, places of worship, and more to participate in the Relay For Life of Aurora event, held at Overland High School's track, 6pm-6am, Friday July 31-Saturday August 1 2015. Relay For Life teams are committed to finishing the fight against cancer and raise funds to support the **American Cancer Society's** lifesaving mission.

- Teams and individuals can sign up for FREE by visiting www.aurorarelay.com.
- Like us on Facebook for the most up to date information at <https://www.facebook.com/RelayForLifeOfAurora>
- All participants who raise \$100 or more will be a part of the Hope Club and will receive a Hope Club t-shirt.
- Join the 2015 event planning committee email Jennifer.Stewart@cancer.org for more information

The Relay For Life program is a community-based event where teams and individuals set up campsites at a school, park or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team has at least one participant on the track at all times. Cancer survivors and caregivers take a celebratory first lap to start each event. Four million people participated in more than 6,000 events worldwide in 2014. Last year, 162 people participated in Aurora's Relay For Life and raised \$25,817.00 to support the Society's mission to finish the fight against cancer once and for all.

Jeff Thompson promoted to vice president of UCHealth

Jeff Thompson, director of Government & Corporate Relations with **University of Colorado Health (UCHealth)**, has been promoted to vice president of Government & Corporate Relations.

Thompson began working at **University of**



Jeff Thompson

Colorado Hospital in 1996 as director of Business Development. In January 2005, Jeff was named director of Government and Corporate Relations, and in 2012, his responsibilities and policy oversight expanded across **UCHealth**. In this role, he has worked closely with key government departments and agencies, overseen and coordinated liaisons, and lobbied with local, state and federal elected officials.

Thompson has served on the boards and committees of a number of business and community organizations and has worked closely with many corporate and community leaders throughout the state. He was chair of The Chamber Board 2012-2014, and is the current chairman of the Colorado Hospital Association's Legislative Council. In recognition of his accomplishments representing **UCHealth**, Jeff was named the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year for 2014.

Chief ceremony honors highest enlisted rank

On March 12, Chamber Executive Vice President Rene Simard was the guest speaker at **Buckley's** Chief's Recognition Ceremony. The formal ceremony recognizes those who have achieved the highest enlisted rank. Two Air Force Active Duty and Four Air National Guard member were honored. Long-time Chamber member Ken Melcher was acknowledge by Col Wagner and others for his many years of commitment and service.



Left to right: Chief John Bentivegna, Chief Sebastian Garcia, Stephanie Garcia, Chief Ken Melcher, and Chief Rene Simard.

Word travels fast, the community takes action

A February storm triggered a true crisis for more than 150 hundred homeless persons at the **Comitis Crisis Center**, many of them children.

Aurora activated its emergency services cold weather plan, and all 138 beds at **Comitis** were already filled. The Center then took in 38 more people, who slept across the street in the District One Police Substation. But finding enough beds to keep people out of the cold, wind, and snow was only part of the challenge.

"Food goes quickly," said James Gillespie, community impact and government relations liaison for the **Comitis Crisis Center, Inc.**, a subsidiary of Mile High Behavioral Healthcare. "We were really stretched on food so we needed the nutritional basics—peanut butter and jelly—and we needed it fast."

Neill Krauss, director of initiatives and outreach in the chancellor's office at the **Anschutz Medical Campus**, heard about the

[continued on page 5]

2015Aurora Summer Concert Series

The season is set for the 2015 Aurora Summer Concert Series, so mark your calendars now for Thursdays, June18-July 30 for great music, food, and fun. All concerts are from 6:30-8 pm and are free and open to the public.

June 18 / Bicentennial Park Dean Bushnell Orchestra

Big band swing
Food Vendor: Atlanta Bread-Aurora City Place

Sponsor:



June 25 / Aurora Municipal Center

Deja Blu, *Bariety dance band*
Food Vendor: Meat Truck
Jones BBQ Catering

Sponsor:



July 2 / Utah Park Chris Daniels & the Kings with Freddi Gowdy

Roots rock and roll with horns
Food Vendor: Subway-Iliff Ave.

Sponsor:



July 9 / Utah Park

Buckstein, *Country rock*
Food Vendor:
Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q

Sponsor:



July 16 / Meadowood Park

6 Million Dollar Man, *80s*
Food Vendor: McAlister's Deli

Sponsor:



July 23 / Meadowood Park FourEver Fab, Ultimate live

Beatles experience
Food Vendor: L&L Hawaiian BBQ - Aurora City Place

Sponsor:



July 30 / Aurora Municipal Center

Raising Cain, *Pop/rock variety dance music*
Food Vendor: Legends of Aurora Sports Grill

Sponsor:



LOCATIONS:

Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80012
Bicentennial Park, 13600 E. Bayaud Ave., Aurora, CO 80012
Utah Park, 1800 S. Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80012
Meadowood Park, 3054 S. Laredo St., Aurora, CO 80013

Media sponsors for the Summer Concert Series are Studio **1430 KEQZ-AM Radio**, **Aurora Media Group**, and **Aurora Channel 8**. Sound at the concerts is provided by **Wave Audio Visual**. Parking is first come, first served. For more information, visit www.auroragove.org/concerts or call 303-344-1500.

food shortage from the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce** and passed the information along to Chancellor Don Elliman and Vice President for Health Affairs Lilly Marks. Their email appeal to faculty, staff and students opened the floodgates.

"The morning that note went out, our two lines lit up, and we fielded hundreds of calls from the campus," Gillespie said. "People were asking, 'What do you need? How can we help?' You gave us two tons of food, more than 200 gallons of milk, too much bread to count and more than \$3800 in donations."

Edward Jones ranks high on the lists

In its first-ever ranking of best employers, *Forbes* magazine rated **Edward Jones** the highest-ranking financial-services firm out of the list of 500 companies spanning 27 industries in the magazine's *America's Best Employers 2015* edition, according to Ev Sequeira, an **Edward Jones** financial advisor, and member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce since 1999.

This is the second prestigious ranking **Edward Jones** has recently received. In March 2015, *FORTUNE* magazine named the firm No. 6 on its *100 Best Companies to Work for 2015* list; **Edward Jones**' 16th appearance on the list.

Excelsior Youth Center Receives Grant for GOALS Program

Excelsior Youth Center recently received a two-year, \$150,000 Daniels Fund grant to support its GOALS Program (Girls Overcoming Additions for Lifelong Success).

Excelsior Youth Center strengthens and educates youth and their families to achieve lasting success through a continuum of innovative treatments, services and solutions. One of the most prevalent challenges for **Excelsior** girls is substance abuse. In 2013, 46 percent of **Excelsior's** girls were struggling with substance abuse. The GOALS program will address the myriad factors that contribute to effective substance abuse treatment for young women and deliver a multi-dimensional approach focused on three main components: Community Resources, Substance Abuse Counseling, and Assessment Capacity.

"The **Excelsior** clients served with this program are the ones who need it the most - girls transitioning out of residential treatment and reentering the community; and girls currently living in the community receiving support from our Community Based Services program. The accessibility of drugs, alcohol and negative peer influence for these girls is abundant and needs to be deflected with constructive community resources and consistent substance abuse counseling," said Matt Louzon, Director of Community Based Services at **Excelsior Youth Center**.

Grider Lee appointed to Open Space and Trails Advisory Board

On March 10, Arapahoe County Commissioners approved and welcomed Grider Lee to the Open Space and Trails Advisory Board.

Grider Lee is a 25-year resident of Arapahoe County and is a Trustee for the Town of Bennett. In addition to his involvement with Bennett, he also is the Vice President of the Eastern I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce serving communities from Watkins to Deer Trail.



Grider Lee

"I am pleased to have the privilege of working with fellow OSTAB members in our shared efforts to preserve lands of merit along Arapahoe County's historic high plains," said Lee. "Open Space is valuable to all citizens. I want to be a good steward of citizen tax dollars and I look forward to

investing in properties that will enhance the rural areas of the County - encouraging younger citizens to continue living where they grew up."

"I am honored to appoint someone of the caliber of Grider Lee to represent the folks of Eastern Arapahoe County on this Board," said Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who represents District 3, which includes portions of Aurora and the communities and unincorporated areas of eastern Arapahoe County.

Tri-County Health names Public Health Heroes

Tri-County Health presented **Aurora Chamber** President Kevin Houghton with their *Public Hero of the Year* award at a reception on April 14, 2015. The award recognizes an individual, business, or organization in the **Tri-County Health Department** region that has worked to improve or promote public health. Employees submit nominations for the annual award and **Tri-County's** Executive Management Team reviews and selects the awardees.



Left to right: Aurora Chamber Communications Director Mitzi Schindler; Tri-County Health Department Executive Director John M. Douglas, Jr., MD; Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson; Aurora Chamber Executive Vice President Rene Simard; and Chamber Chair David Patterson of Falck USA.

Tyrone Adams named CEO, Colorado Association of Realtors

Tyrone Adams has been named the new CEO of the **Colorado Association of Realtors**, the state's largest real estate trade organization. Adams joined the group in 1993 and served as the director of member services.



Tyrone Adams

The association boasts 21,000 members, and Adams will oversee the mission, operations, finances, member services, communications, and

government relations.

"I know that we have a very talented group of

staff and Realtor leaders across the state who share my commitment and dedication to proactively serving our local associations and members with quality services, growth, and stability," said Adams.

Adams has developed consumer awareness programs, education and research initiatives and oversaw the association's annual meeting and convention. He is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado and a member of the 2014-2015 Leadership Aurora class.

Jenny Passchier honored as Distinguished Principal of the Year

Crawford Elementary School Principal Jenny Passchier has been named Colorado's National Distinguished Principal of the Year. Passchier has been an educator in **Aurora Public Schools** for 15 years, and has been Crawford's principal since 2013.



Jenny Passchier

"The Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) is proud to honor Passchier and to recognize the leadership she has demonstrated throughout her education career," said CASE Executive Director Bruce Caughey.

Passchier was honored at a school event in April, and will represent **APS** and Colorado at an upcoming awards ceremony in Washington D.C. ■



Every student shapes a successful future.

Signing up for collaboration



Team Buckley and local community leaders sign the Buckley Partnership Steering Group charter on March 31, 2015, in the lobby of the **460th Space Wing Headquarters building on Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.** The document declares partnerships and collaboration between **Buckley AFB** and local communities. Left to right: Cathy Noon, Mayor of Centennial; Betsy Oudenhoven, Community College of Aurora President; Steve Hogan, Mayor of Aurora; Richard Hammett, The Medical Center of Aurora President and CEO; Col John Wagner; Rene Simard, Aurora Chamber Executive Vice President; Hillary Merritt, project manager at the Trust for Public Land; Mickey Hunt, Department of Military and Veteran Affairs Deputy Director; and Rico Munn, Aurora Public Schools Superintendent. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Samantha Saulsbury/Released)



Qualified and expert appliance repair professionals

— Owners of **Mr. Appliance**, Greg and Twilla Harter, cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of their newest location at 2821 S. Parker Rd., #171, Aurora, CO 80014. **Mr. Appliance** is North America's leading home and commercial appliance repair franchise system, providing full-service home appliance repair and light commercial appliance repair services. Their code of values outlines how they work in a professional environment and is a culture they live by - focusing on respect, integrity and customers; making the best effort to understand and appreciate the customer's needs in every situation. www.mrappliance.com / 303-218-2255. (3.12.2015)



Your one-stop-shop for western and work wear!

— Store Manager, Audrey Robison celebrates the grand opening of **Boot Barn's** newest location at 6360 S. Parker Rd., Aurora, CO 80016. **Boot Barn** epitomizes the American dream of hard work, honesty, and value. As America's largest western and work store, the company believes in quality products and good value - with more than 8,000 styles of boots, jeans, shirts, hats, belts, jewelry and gifts for women, men and kids! www.bootbarn.com / 303-617-9128. (3.5.2015)



The art of storytelling, through film

— An excited group of supporters gather as Elizabeth Klepper cuts the ribbon for **Mainstream Films, LLC.**, located at 2523 Williams St., Denver, CO 80205. **Mainstream Films, LLC.**, utilizes technology and education to help individuals, businesses, and causes reach their full potential by using the power of storytelling through film. Klepper offers video production that includes taking the time to cultivate a relationship with clients, learning about their story, and developing production plans that result in compelling content. www.mainstreamfilmsllc.com / 720-261-8242. (3.20.2015)

Real ER. Real fast

— Carol Dombro, MD, cuts the ribbon for the new **First Choice Emergency Room** at 25551 E. Smoky Hill Rd. **First Choice Emergency Room** is the nation's oldest and largest freestanding emergency room system. **First Choice** facilities are innovative, freestanding, and fully-equipped emergency rooms with state-of-the-art diagnostic technology (CT Scanners, Ultrasound, Digital X-ray) and on-site labs. All **First Choice Emergency Room** locations are exclusively staffed with board-certified emergency physicians and emergency trained registered nurses. www.fcer.com/locations/denver/aurora-smoky-hill / (303) 400-4280 (2.26.15)





WESTWOOD
COLLEGE®



Stimulation, relaxation, sleep, or relief – Good Chemistry CEO Matthew Huron cuts the ribbon for the new Aurora location at 16840 E. Iliff Ave. **Good Chemistry's** new state-of-the-art recreational marijuana facility is based on the type of experience customers are seeking: stimulation, relaxation, sleep or relief. **Good Chemistry** created its category system to help people try cannabis strains and products in an informed way. www.goodchem.org / 303-745-2420. (4.9.15)



Good Chemistry



New Aurora campus: Invest in your future today!

— President Rick Yaonis and Mayor Pro Tem Debi Hunter-Holen cut the ribbon for **Westwood College's** new Aurora campus, located at 350 Blackhawk St., Aurora, CO 80011. The campus is conveniently located for students in Denver, Lakewood, Englewood, Littleton, Aurora, Parker, and other metro suburbs. **Westwood College** is nationally accredited and dedicated to preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and training needed for meaningful employment; with degree programs in technology, healthcare, business, design, justice and industrial services. www.westwood.edu / 303-934-1122. (2.12.2015)

Supporting Senate Bill 177

Article courtesy of the
Colorado Association of Realtors

Colorado communities like Aurora are facing serious housing challenges. Rents are skyrocketing—rising faster than San Francisco and New York—making the Front Range one of the most expensive places in the country to live. The dream of homeownership for many Coloradans may soon be unreachable.

A recent Denver Post article noted that in March, “Aurora rents zoomed up faster than any other U.S. city.”

That’s because a defect in state law has virtually halted the construction of affordable and attainable housing across Colorado. The condos that historically provided the most practical options for first-time homebuyers, as well as seniors looking to right-size their housing, are not being built because of the threat of time-consuming litigation.

It’s only a matter of time before Aurora’s housing market hits the tipping point. This should be a wake-up call for Governor

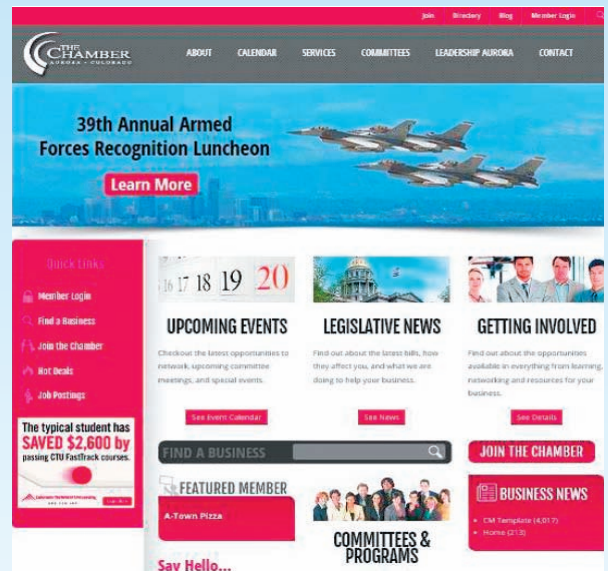
Hickenlooper and state legislators to enact consumer-protection reforms that will remove the hurdles in the affordable housing market.

Lawmakers are working to fix this defect in Colorado law by supporting Senate Bill 177, which will create a quick and fair resolution for homeowners who need repairs while protecting the rights of all homeowners in a community.

The Aurora Chamber has joined a coalition of 35 mayors, bi-partisan legislators, affordable housing advocates, business and trade groups, as well as newspaper editorial boards, to support this important consumer-protection legislation.

Please visit the Homeownership Opportunity Alliance to ask your state legislator to fix the defect by ensuring that Senate Bill 177 receives a fair hearing in the Colorado House of Representatives. ■

Big changes coming soon!



In early May 2015, The Chamber’s website will have a new look. The new website is designed to be user-friendly, and to have eye-appeal!

The Chamber Communications Committee, chaired by Cheri Prochazka of **Fitzsimons Credit Union**, oversaw the process. The committee includes Kandi Carter, **Enternet Design** – who designed the new website; Jo Guerra, **Kick-A-Marketing**; Lee Rasizer, **Community College of Aurora**; Terry Spencer, **Colin Spencer Productions**, Mark Werner, **Great Western Printing**; and Elizabeth Klepper, **Mainstream Films, LLC**.

Leadership Aurora salutes the military at Buckley

It was an honor to learn more about our armed forces during March's Leadership Aurora session. Thank you to Colonel Floyd Dunstan and all of the other military personnel for a phenomenal program.

It should also be noted that we are proud to have two class members currently serving in the U.S. Air Force 140th Force Support Squadron in the Colorado Air National Guard: Major Malona E. Cavanaugh and Chief Master Sgt. Sebastien Garcia. We also recognize Jim Kirst, who served in the Air Force and is now the Commissioner at Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission, as well as Rene Simard, our fearless leader from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce who is a retired Command Chief Master Sergeant with 37 years in the Air Force.

Our military day took place at Buckley Air Force Base, which we learned is an Air Force Space Command (a major command of the United States Air Force) base that serves more than 92,000 active duty, National Guard, Reserve and retired personnel throughout the Front Range community.

The economic impact of Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado is significant at \$900 million.

Construction projects underway are expected to boost its impact to over \$1 billion this year, and the Base employs more than 14,000 military personnel (active duty and civilians).

Buckley is a mission-ready base and is always on a mission. They defend us through air operations, space-based missile warning capabilities, space surveillance operations, space communications operations and support functions.

Buckley's Air Force Base host unit, the 460th Space Wing, delivers continuous global and infrared surveillance, global missile warning tracking, and homeland defense.

They are broken into three groups, each responsible for a distinct part of the Buckley Air Force Base mission-land, sea, and air. They shared with us that the Air Force base has to ability to send a missile to Russia within 30 minutes.

The base also hosts the Colorado Air National Guard 120th Fighter Squadron and its F-16C fighters, the 140th Wing also includes the Air Mobility Command's 200th Airlift Squadron, operating the C-21 Learjet; the Air Force Space Command's 137th Space Warning Squadron; and the Forces' 240th Civil Engineering Flight. Air National Guardsmen of the Colorado Air National Guard provide services during national emergencies or wartime and natural disasters. The Colorado Air National Guard is an integral part of the Operation Noble Eagle mission

responsible for the 24-hour-a-day defense of the land, sea, and air of the United States. In our second

briefing we learned about the National Guard's State Partnership Program, which links states with partner countries to develop long-term relationships across various levels of military and civilian activities. Colorado's partnership with Jordan appears to be mutually beneficial for both Colorado and Jordan.

"The state partnership with Jordan has been a great benefit for Colorado," said Col. Greg Graf, Operations Director, Joint Force Headquarters, Colorado Air National Guard. "It has given the state of Colorado an



On a chilly March morning, the Leadership Aurora class of 2015 spent the day at Buckley AFB.

opportunity to be a player in world politics in fostering a great relationship with one of our best allies in the region."

We then visited Buckley's "hush house." While some call the sound of fighter jets engines the sound of freedom, not everyone likes to hear the noise. A hush house consists of noise dampening materials in the walls to lower the decibel level outside the facility muting the noise of the engine fighter jets engines while they are being tested without disturbing the local community. However these aren't the only military air crafts at Buckley AFB.

The Colorado Army National Guard also occupies space at Buckley AFB. They operate the Army Aviation Support Facility at Buckley AFB and are responsible for supplying personnel and equipment for CH-47 Chinook, UH-1 Huey, and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

While they also participate in wartime missions too, they unselfishly help with natural disasters in Colorado. The first response team shared their experiences of helping the victims of the 100 year floods in 2013, helping residents and their pets move to safety. They also help with Colorado wildfires when they spring up. Their motto is "Mission First, People Always"! This part of the tour was awesome and it was fun getting in and out of the various helicopters.

Speaking on behalf of our class, I feel we all have a greater appreciation for our service men and women. Thank you for your service. ■

"Best Class Ever" graduates enthusiastic, energetic community leaders

Graduation ceremonies for the 2014-2015 Leadership Aurora (self-acclaimed) Best Class Ever will be held June 4 at the Aurora Municipal center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. The event begins with a reception at 5 pm, followed by the graduation ceremony from 6-7:15, and dinner at 7:30 pm.

This class, like so many before them - has made a positive impact in in the community through their projects, and have become more in-tuned to the business community -

and the community as a whole, through their monthly sessions.

Individual tickets are available for \$35. Sponsorships range from \$250-\$800, and include tickets for the event, exposure in the program and on the presentation screen, as well as advertising in the Class Yearbook. For more information, go to www.aurorachamber.org/calendar (June 4) or contact Rene Simard, Leadership Aurora Program Director at 303-344-1500. ■

Save the Dates

June 4, 2015
Leadership Aurora
Graduation
Aurora Municipal Center

June 18, 2015
Leadership Aurora
Golf Tournament
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club

Video Killed the Radio Star but, now it can bring your brand to Life

It was the Buggles back in 1979 who foretold the beginning of the video revolution to come. Fast forward a few decades and video is still killing.

Video is now **the** marketing giant that everyone should be utilizing. Look at the statistics for yourself.

"Videos are 53 times more likely than text pages to appear on the first page of search results" (Forrester)

"Video in email marketing increases click-through rates" (Implix)

Every day, there's new uses for video—it has become a marketing staple needed in your tool box —ready to use at a moment's notice. You can put it on your website, on YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Vine and LinkedIn, and you can use it Tradeshows, in emails, and press releases — to name just a few applications. Plus, as an added benefit, when video is added to your website, Google rewards your website with a higher ranking.

No longer is "and, now a word from our sponsor" sufficient as a marketing message. Audiences want more; they want to engage with you and your company. They want to know who you are, what you do, and why you do it. And more importantly, they want to access this information **when** and **where** (worktop, tablet, mobile device) they want it. Engage your audience and watch your brand — as well as your bottom line — grow! Video engages, educates and inspires!

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Terry Spencer is executive vice president of Colin Spencer Productions, a concept to completion video production company. Colin Spencer Productions has been producing engaging videos for their clients for 17 years. As an enthusiastic Chamber member, Terry is always happy to sit down and discuss how you can bring your story to life through video.



Intern program gives back

Working with the public school system as well as colleges and technical schools, The Chamber is proud to "give back" through internships, providing opportunities to involve Aurora youth in the world of business. The Chamber is currently hosting two interns.



Marquize Fells

Marquize Fells, a senior at **Aurora Public School's** Gateway High School, was recommended through the Executive Internship Program of Aurora Public Schools' Pickens Technical College program. Fells will be entering the Colorado School of Mines in



Amelia Amonick

the fall, majoring in engineering. During his internship, Fells has contributed innovative ideas to Chamber staff and committee meetings and has completed several computer projects. Amelia Amonick is a senior graduating from **Cherry Creek School District's** Grandview High School. She will be attending Boston College in the fall, majoring in marketing. Amonick has brought energy and creativity to the diverse projects she has undertaken at the Chamber. ■

Saving the program — so Chamber members can save money

Facing stricter requirements as well as an April 1, 2015 deadline, The Chamber's Safety Group Program through **Pinnacol Assurance** was in jeopardy.

Thanks to the efforts of our partner agents at **Forsberg Engerman and Company, Colorado Insurance Professionals, Associates Insurance Group, Walker-Dilworth, LLC, and T. Charles Wilson Insurance Service**, the program reached the 40 policy, \$500,000 threshold required to maintain the program moving forward.

The Safety Group Program has been a benefit of Chamber membership for more than 20 years. Companies qualifying for the program receive a 4% discount on their

PINNACOL
ASSURANCE

Workers' Compensation insurance, as well as the possibility of a monetary dividend for maintaining a safe working environment with little or no workers' compensation claims.

In some cases, Chamber membership fees are basically reimbursed through the 4% discount. And, of course, a safe working environment and adherence to safety rules and regulations keeps everyone — and the bottom line — healthier!

For more information about the Safety Group Program and qualification requirements, contact Mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org. ■

Upcoming Events (con't.)

Women in Business

May 26 | 12 pm

Member Orientation

May 27 | 2 pm

June

Business for the Arts

June 2 | 8 am

Transportation

June 3 / 7:30 am

Government Affairs

June 4 | 7:30 am

Young Professionals

June 5 | 12 pm

ChamberMaster Training

June 10 | 12 pm

Health Series

June 11 | 8 am
Digital Health

Summer Concert Series

June 18 | 6:30 pm
Dean Bushnell Orchestra
Bicentennial Park

Defense Council

June 19 | 7:15 am

Women in Business

June 23 | 12 pm

Business After Hours

June 25 | 5-7 pm
Beverage Distributors
1403 E. Moncrieff Pl.
Aurora, CO 80011

Summer Concert Series

June 25 | 6:30 pm
Deja Blu
Aurora Municipal Center



The Aurora Singers take their motto, "For the Love of Music" to heart by partnering with Juniper Village's Music Memory project. The **Singers** provided iPods and money for iTunes so that every Alzheimer's resident has access to an individualized play list of music. **The Aurora Singers** number about 20; the group singing at Juniper Village, left to right, are James Laguana, Phil Gerkin, Sandy Neely, Rachel Lesser, and John Neely.

MemberContributions

CareNexus program offers right care, right time, right place

In today's world, we live longer and more of our elders choose to remain living at home as long as possible. When they need personal assistance and in-home support, 78 percent rely on a family member or close friend to provide this help. Known as "informal caregivers," they often take on this role with little or no preparation, training or support. Because more than 60 percent of caregivers are formally employed, the 20-plus hours of care they may provide each week are **in addition** to their full or part-time job.

Research shows that the struggle to balance conflicting work and caregiving responsibilities takes a toll on employees' physical and psychological health. Employers are impacted as well by decreased work productivity,

employee turnover and higher healthcare costs.

But help is available for employers and their employee caregivers. InnovAge CareNexus offers senior care management services with personalized recommendations that support both the caregiver and their loved one.

CareNexus Coordinators are experienced, knowledgeable and compassionate senior care specialists. Our services include:

- Caregiver education and support
- Home safety evaluation with recommendations

- Community resource referrals
- Coordination of in-home services
- Coordination of medical appointments and therapies
- Legal and financial planning assistance

We take the time to understand each unique situation and remain available as support needs change. At InnovAge, we believe every senior is one in a million, not one of a million. ■



If you are interested in learning more about CareNexus or other programs offered by InnovAge, please call (303) 219-9877 or email info@myinnovage.org or visit the InnovAge website, www.myinnovage.org and select programs and services.

MemberRenewals

A-Town Pizza
Action Appliance Inc.
Adams County Workforce & Business Center
Adolfson & Peterson Construction
American National Insurance - Doug Robins
Apex Communication Services, Inc.
Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership
Aurora Education Association
Aurora Housing Authority
Aurora Interfaith Community Services
Aurora Media Group
Aurora Singers
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.
Barbara's Custom Floral & Gifts, Inc.
Beck, Payne, Frank & Piper, P.C.
Belef, Ellen P.
Bhavikatti Architecture LLC
Boy Scouts: Boy Scouts of America - Denver Area Council
Cambria Suites Denver Airport
Colin Spencer Productions, LLC
Colorado Access
Colorado Continental Roofing & Solar, Inc.
Colorado State Bank and Trust - Mission Viejo
Colorado Tire & Service
Concorde Career College
Courtyard by Marriott - Denver Stapleton
Darcy Truppo - Brokers Guild Cherry Creek
David A. Henderson CFP,ChFC,CLU
Dozens Restaurant
Drury Inn & Suites Hotel - Stapleton
E-470 Public Highway Authority
Ed Bozarth Company, Inc.
Education Foundation for the Colorado National Guard
Embassy Suites Hotel Denver - Aurora

Escape to Serenity Massage
Fairmount Mortuary, Cemetery, and Crematory
Farmers Insurance Group - Matthew Huntington
First Command Financial Planning
Fogg System Company, Inc.
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
G & L Garage Doors
H&R Block - District Office
Harvard Square Retirement Community
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club
HOW Aurora LLC
Hyatt House Denver Airport
JH Basement Finish
King Soopers - Corporate
Leisure Tech Industries
M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc.
McAlister's Deli
The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthOne
Merrick & Company
Mosaic in Denver
Mountain States Employers Council
Outback Steakhouse - Denver Gateway
Pinnacle Assurance
Precision Glassblowing of Colorado
Project C.U.R.E.
Regal Facility Management
Regis University
Sewall Child Development Center
Singing Hills Landscape, Inc.
Smitty's Sprinkler Systems
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
Stifel & Nicolaus
Stinson Leonard Street Law Firm-Zane Gilmer
Surgical Consultants of Aurora

United Hebrew Cemetery Association
US Storage, Inc.
Waste Management of Colorado
Wizard Universal Inc.
Woolley's Classic Suites, LLC

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