The Chamber’s Young Professionals initiative has officially started!

by Briley Peters

Nearly thirty energetic young professionals met at the Chamber office in early October to start discussing our plans of where we see the Chamber’s Young Professionals program starting, and also how we see it growing. We have decided to allow as much opportunity and possibility as we can to start creating our legacy of leadership to the City of Aurora and the Eastern Metro area.

To begin, the group plans to focus on both professional and personal growth and development for its members. We will be working in the areas of professional development, philanthropy, civic engagement, and recreation.

Now you might be wondering what I mean specifically when I highlight those segments, and also what we will be doing to work in those areas of focus. The answer to those questions is easy: they will be whatever we want them to be, with activities to move them forward – which will be determined as the program develops. This Young Professionals program is literally two hours old, so far having only had one kick-off reception and one monthly meeting.

The Chamber has fostered this new program and has provided key elements to allow us the opportunity to exist. Given this backbone of support, it’s up to the Young Professionals to take the opportunity they have been given and to run with it.

So, if you are a young professional, I encourage you to check out one of our upcoming social events (which will be publicized on the Aurora Chamber Young Professionals Facebook page and through eblasts), volunteer days (like the Southland’s Turkey Drive on November 10th), or attend a monthly meeting (held at the Chamber the first Friday of the month at 8 am).

And, if you work with young professionals, please share this opportunity that is available to them!

Hot Deals can help your business

Hot Deals are member-to-member and member-to-public discounts and deals that get posted on the Chamber Website. You enter them yourself, and they are just one of the many benefits of your Chamber memberships. All you need is your member login name and password, something that you want to offer to members and to the public, and some words to describe it! That’s it. You enter the information into ‘Hot Deals,’ under ‘Advertising’ on the left side of the home page of your page account. It will be approved, and then your Hot Deal is online and ready to bring customers to you. You can also post Events and Job Postings. It’s a great way to get exposure and customers. If you don’t know your login name and password, check with any Chamber staff member and they can send it to you.

CURRENT HOT DEALS INCLUDE:

- A health assessment and discounted membership at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center.
- $50 off any auto body repair service from Alpine Carstar Auto Body.
- Discounted computer services and free computer support from Anchor Network Solutions.
- Free financial education from Denver Community Credit Union.
- A free haircut and style at JCP.
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Chair’s Letter

Jeff Thompson
Chair

As the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, I was in my position all of about six weeks when one of the most tragic events in the history of Aurora and the State of Colorado occurred: the unthinkable, unimaginable, unbelievable, and horrible shooting in the movie theater in the very early morning hours of July 20. Twelve lives lost; 58 injured, some so seriously that they will never fully recover; and countless others who were in the theaters who will be emotionally and psychologically scarred the rest of their lives.

Even before the news reached a just-deeply involved community, state, and nation, the incredible members and staff of The Chamber were already deeply involved in putting the wheels in motion and the dollars behind the wheels to support the victims and to begin the long process of “community healing.” The outpouring of spontaneous support was remarkable and began even while emergency rooms, operating rooms, and intensive care units in at least six hospitals worked feverishly to treat the injured and to save the lives of those most critically wounded – to the degree that all 58 of those brought to hospitals survived. This was also due to the outstanding efforts of Aurora Police and Fire personnel and other first responders who brought the injured, many in police patrol cars, to the emergency rooms, providing the precious extra minutes necessary for the trauma teams to save those lives.

This horrific and tragic event was a reminder of just what a wonderful, caring, and committed city and community we belong to in Aurora. We are truly blessed to have such outstanding and compassionate leaders in the community at large in taking Aurora to the next levels as a great city! I do believe we are starting to see some signs of an improving economy, but also recognize we have a ways to go. Now is the time to get ahead of the forthcoming economic growth curve and help direct the size, length, and shape of that curve; and position Aurora to take full advantage of economic growth opportunities.

I look forward to our upcoming “business/community summit,” as we move Aurora forward. We have the right people in the right place at the right time to make this happen — thanks to the foresight of our Mayor. I also look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress.

As we do move forward we will never forget the tragic morning of July 20, as our thoughts and prayers continue for the victims and their families. We also remember and take pride that we are “Aurora, Strong and Proud,” and a bright future lays ahead!

Thank you all.
– Jeff
Emcees for this year’s Gala at the Aurora Fox Arts Center were actor Wyatt MacNeil (center) and Fox Executive Producer Charles Packard (inset photo). Listening intently to MacNeil are left to right, Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen, Actress Chloe Nosan, Aurora Fox Board Chair Sue Bodis, Actor Hugo Jon Sayles, Aurora City Council member Brad Pierce, Actress Jonroe Pipes, Aurora Fox Board Member Jeffery Sharp, and Actress Kenzie Kilroy. To see the line-up for the 28th season at the Aurora Fox Arts Center, go to www.aurorafoxartscenter.org.

Gala at the Aurora Fox Arts Center

Women in Business committee monthly topics offer great variety — At the Chamber’s August 2012 Women in Business meeting, Col. Patricia Blassie, a Senior Level Commander at the ARPC on Buckley Air Force Base, discussed her experience with women in the military, and her role in identifying the remains of her brother at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, VA. The Chamber’s Women in Business Committee meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the Month. Presentation topics vary, and have included 5 Essentials for Building a Business; an annual progressive lunch at Chamber member restaurants; a Courtesy Bootcamp; Sex in the Garden — a group therapy session for plants with pollination issues; 5 Strategies to Live a Life you Love; Why Salespeople Don’t Reach Their Full Potential; and Chocolate and Wine Therapy.

/EVENTS continued/
A great TownePlace to stay. – The TownePlace Suites Denver Airport at Gateway Park ribbon cutting drew a large crowd on Sept. 18. Hotel executives gave tours of the newly-opened extended-stay hotel, which offers neighborhood-style living in comfortable, casual suites – and the knowledgeable staff is available 24/7 to answer any questions in order to make guests feel right at home.

FirstBank opens across from the Fitzsimons/Anschutz Medical Campus — Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and FirstBank President Ron Tilton, cut the ribbon for the FirstBank at 13300 E. Colfax Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011. FirstBank offers consumer and commercial lending, innovative banking products and services, and the company maintains a high regard for community investment. With more than $11 billion in assets and over 125 locations in Colorado, Arizona, and California, FirstBank is still growing, but their commitment to their customers and communities has not changed. FirstBank supports the Chamber’s Banks in Harmony summer concerts, as well as the Aurora Fox Season Opener Gala. FirstBank also contributed $500,000 to support Colorado Gives Day, a one-day online initiative directed at increasing philanthropy in Colorado.

To your health and nutrition! – Carletta Stewart cuts the ribbon for her second GNC location at 200 Quebec St., Building 100, #101 in the Lowry Town Center. The new store is well stocked with nutrition related products, including vitamins, supplements, minerals, herbs, sports nutrition, diet, and energy products. Stewart’s other GNC store is located at 3445 North Salida Street Suite #10, in Aurora. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

To our pets’ health! – Brenda Eisenhauer, DVM, happily cuts the ribbon for the Parkside Animal Health Center at 5001 S. Parker Rd. She is joined by City Councilman Bob Roth, her staff, her husband Eric, some happy pet owners, and Chamber Ambassadors and staff.

Dr. Eisenhauer opened her own practice after years of working with animal shelters and welfare organizations, where her goal was to ensure each animal was healthy enough to go to a new home — and never return to her care. She wanted to create a full-service practice where instead, animals and their families could develop lifetime relationships with their veterinarian. Dr. Eisenhauer also continues to work at the Dumb Friends League two days a week, and says “Veterinary Medicine is our life’s work because we love the animals in our care.” (Photo Courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

Sharing an authentic passion for Yoga – Jenn Kirkpatrick and Michelle Thorn cut the ribbon for the opening of the CorePower Yoga studio at 18884 E. Hampden Ave. The concept behind CorePower Yoga is the belief in the physical, mental and spiritual benefits of yoga. CorePower strives to increase awareness and widespread adoption of yoga by making it accessible to everyone, through a variety of yoga styles, and class times to meet any schedule. For more information, go to www.corepoweryoga.com.
**Merrick selected for U.S. Chamber Transportation Committee**

Aurora Chamber President Kevin Hougen has accepted an invitation to serve on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's prestigious Transportation Infrastructure and Logistics Committee for 2012-13. The invitation came from Edward Rust, Chairman of the U.S. Chamber Board of Directors. Rust said the committee, which is the primary policy-originating body for the Chamber in the area of transportation infrastructure, will focus on the implementation of MAP-21 (the $118B federal transportation bill) and how it will be allocated in FY-2012-13. It will also look at policy, regulatory and financing issues regarding aviation and marine transportation and the future of passenger rail.

**Decor & You Highlands contributes to home build**

Decor & You Highlands Ranch is a recent contributor to the Universal Design Home, built by Wall Custom Homes in Highlands Ranch, CO. Decor & You was one of many businesses helping to build the home, with 100 percent of the proceeds raised going to Craig Hospital and its’ programs and research surrounding spinal cord and brain injuries.

**Merrick selected for contract with Boulder Parks and Open Space**

Merrick & Company has been selected for an on-call contract to provide civil and water engineering services with Boulder County Parks and Open Space. This contract allows County to utilize Merrick’s expertise in the areas of trailhead design, parking lot design, grading/earthwork calculations, culvert design, bridge design, and drainage design.

The firm has provided these types of services to many municipal and governmental agencies over its 57 years in Colorado including the City and County of Denver, City of Aurora, City of Centennial, City of Castle Pines, RTD, and Jefferson County to name a few.

**BKD CPAs and Advisors, LLP appoints managers**

BKD CPAs and Advisors, LLP announces that Ryan Gorman, James Gulick II, and Katie Willemarck have been promoted to managers. The three newly-appointed managers deliver unmatched client service, embrace change, and show dedication to the firm’s values and the accounting industry.

**Thomas joins Merrick & Company Survey Team**

Timothy Thomas, PLS, has joined Merrick & Company Surveying as the Southeast Region Survey Manager. Thomas’ responsibilities will include marketing, business development, client relation management, as well as ensuring that quality control standards are exceeded in each project, and implementing processes and procedures in surveying.

**A&P Volunteers Help Inspire Future Construction Professionals**

Adolfson & Peterson Construction volunteers recently helped inspire and motivate tomorrow’s construction industry leaders at the 10th Annual Colorado Construction Career Days, which aims to promote the construction industry to America’s youth. During the two-day event, students were invited to see and explore the diverse range of career opportunities the industry may offer them, with a goal of continuing to build an educated and skilled future workforce.

Industry volunteers used various hands-on activities, equipment and materials to demonstrate to nearly 2,000 high school students grades 10 through 12 the unique aspects of today’s construction world.

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**Getting a lot of spam? Create multiple email accounts for different purposes**

*by Vince Tinnirello, CEO, Anchor Network Solutions*

When I hear from a client that they are getting a lot of spam in their company email box, I usually ask how they use their company email address. For example, do they use it for newsletters? Correspondence with family and friends? Shopping? As their Facebook listed email address? Have they dropped their card in a drawing bowl at a tradeshow? More often than not, the answer is “Yes” to all of the questions above.

To alleviate this, I recommend creating different email accounts for different purposes. I use my work email address for business communication only between individuals. If I want to sign up for newsletters from vendors, they go to a MSN email account. Email correspondence from family and friends goes to a Gmail address, and any online shopping I do goes to a Yahoo email address. Regarding tradeshows, I never drop my card in a bowl at the booth, because that automatically puts you on the vendor email list which I don’t want. While the strategy I’m using above does require maintenance of four mailboxes, it actually takes less time to manage because I know three of the four aren’t pressing. It’s also been helpful to find out how people are using my address and where it gets sold-especially at the shopping sites. If you have trouble with an overwhelming amount of email that is mixed between personal and business, give this technique a try.

Anchor Network Solutions is offering Aurora Chamber members:

- a 10% discount on monthly services
- waived setup fees
- discounted network audits
- and 2 hours of free technical support

For details see Anchor’s Hot Deal on the Chamber Website at www.aurorachamber.org, or contact Vince Tinnirello at 303.904.0494x105 or vince@anchornetworksolutions.com. Visit Anchor Network Solutions online at www.anchornetworksolutions.com.
**NEW MEMBERS**

- bizCard Xpress
- Elemental Photography
- Glory to Glory Christian Center
- Green Energy & Electric
- Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham - DTC
- KGK Automotive Group Meineke #359
- Massage Envy
- Max Radio of Denver
- Mile High Racing & Entertainment/ Arapaho
- Momar, Inc.
- New Dawn Center for Spiritual Living
- New Frontier Communications
- P .S. It's Perfect!
- Parsonex Financial Services
- Pima Medical Institute
- Three Tree Media
- WizBang Solutions

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**Renewals**

- Abilene Awards & Logos, Inc.
- Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.
- ADT Security Systems, Inc.
- Allegro Print & Imaging
- ALMC Mortgage @ Nova Home Loans
- Altoe Veterinary Clinic
- Anchor Network Solutions, Inc.
- Aurora Arts District
- Aurora Mental Health Center
- Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation
- Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union
- Balancing Books, Inc.
- BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.
- Bent Park American Grill
- Bhavikatti Architecture LLC
- Big O Tires Havana
- Blackjack Pizza
- Brock Publishing
- Cerrabba's Italian Grill
- Chambers Wine & Liquor
- Chinese Divine Culture Assn.
- Colorado Escrow & Title
- Comfort Inn Aurora
- Continental 4, Inc.
- Country Inn & Suites by Carlson
- CSL Plasma
- Developmental Pathways
- Doubletree by Hilton Denver
- DPRA, Inc.
- Edward Jones Investments – David Cooper
- Executive Transportation
- FASTSIGNS of Aurora, Inc.
- Fitzsimons Credit Union
- Foremost Flooring, Inc.
- Foxridge Farm
- Front Range Airport
- Gateway Maeda
- George “Mel” Rawles
- GMC/ General Nutrition Center
- Handyman Matters of Central Denver & Aurora
- Helga’s German Restaurant & Deli
- Hillcrest Village
- Holiday Inn Select - Denver Cherry Creek
- Jason’s Deli
- Joe’s Crab Shack
- Johnson’s Automotive Repair
- KBJ Space Solutions
- La Quinta Inn and Suites – Gateway Park
- Lawnco Inc.
- Mail Delivery Service
- Martha Kampp, Attorney
- May Farms
- Michael Baker Corporation
- Mile High United Way
- Morin Wood Finess
- Mt. Fuji Sushi and Hibachi
- Music Go Round
- Nelowet Business Machines, Ltd.
- NextGen Software, Inc.
- Omnitech Industries, Inc.
- Outside Purple
- Providers Resource Clearinghouse
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver
- Salina’s Enterprises
- Sam’s Club Abilene
- Stapleton Storage, LLC
- State Farm Insurance - Mike Gibbs
- Staybridge Suites - Denver Tech
- Super Vard LLC
- Suss Buick GMC
- The Job Store
- Todd Expiring
- Trilogy Benefits, Inc.
- Tyco Integrated Security
- United Veterans Committee of Colorado
- University of Colorado/Anschutz Medical Center
- Vintage Electrical Services
- Vision Care Specialists, P.C.
- Wal-Mart Stores #1689
- Wal-Mart Stores #5137
- Weaver & Company
- Westwind Management Group, Inc.
- Wiggins Properties, LLC
- Wizard Universal Inc.
- Women Marines Association CO Columbine

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**DID YOU KNOW**

**Leadership Aurora Has A Vehicle Donation Program?**

Are you are looking for a year-end tax break or just want to get rid of your car without hassles? Leadership Aurora can help you.

- With just one phone call, you can donate your vehicle and 100% of proceeds will benefit Leadership Aurora.
- Any car, motorcycle, RV, boat, running or non-running is accepted
- You receive a tax deduction! An IRS Form 1098c will be mailed to you after completion of transaction
- Title or lien work processing will be handled
- Your vehicle will be picked up and towed at no cost to you

For personalized assistance, call 800-201-5346

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**A new twist to Wendy’s –**

On Oct. 1, The Aurora Chamber held a ribbon cutting for the renovated Wendy’s restaurant at 18700 E. Hampden Ave. Wendy’s management team cut the ribbon for the restaurant which now has free WiFi, a fireplace, a big screen TV, and what was termed by Chamber staff as “the coolest coke machine in the world,” with more than 100 mix choices. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

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Be safer and save money! - Neil and Elena Boyer, owners of Dryer Vent Wizard of Aurora cut the ribbon for their newly-opened business. The Dryer Vent Wizard of Aurora professionally inspects and cleans clothing dryers for homeowners and in commercially-owned buildings. Poorly maintained dryer vents cause fire hazards and cost substantially more to operate, so proper maintenance is important for safety as well as cost savings. For more information contact Neil at 303-214-0220, nboyer@dryerventwizard.com, or go to www.dryerventwizard.com. Go to the Hot Deals at www.aurorachamber.org for Dryer Vent Wizard’s $10 coupon good for any dryer vent service.

(Photograph courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)