

Serving the east-metro area including:

Aurora
Bennett
Centennial
Commerce City
Denver

THE CHAMBER Impact NOV/DEC 2015 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Meetings are held at The Chamber office, 14305 E. Alameda Ave., Suite 300 - unless otherwise noted

Go to www.aurorachamber.org/calendar for details.

NOVEMBER

Business for the Arts
November 3 | 8 am

Transportation
November 4 | 7:30 am

Government Affairs
November 5 | 7:30 am

Young Professionals
November 6 | 3:30 pm

Veteran's Day - Chamber Office Closed
November 11

Health Series
November 12 | Cancelled (see Nov. 19)

Diversity Council
November 13 | 9 am

Defense Council Social
November 17 | 5-7 pm
Launch Pad Brewery

Chamber Master Training
November 18 | 12 pm

Defense Council
November 19 | 7:15 am

Destination Health
November 19 | 4-7:30 pm
Radisson Hotel Denver SE

continued on page 3



Chamber Board supports ballot measures

There are three hot issues on the November 2015 ballot that The Chamber is supporting:

• **Yes on 2J**

- o 2J overturns a 1999 City of Aurora Charter Election that disallowed the City from extending any city services or financial incentives to a stadium for motor sports facilities.
- o A "Yes" vote on 2J will remove an outdated regulation and other limitations on key opportunities for Aurora residents, and allow for the creation of a regional entertainment district for the City.
- o "By voting "Yes" on 2J, Aurora residents will open the door to building an even brighter future for our city," said Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan.

• **1A for DIA**

- o "Yes" on 1A would change the 1988 intergovernmental agreement about the development around DIA (Airport City), Adams

County (Aurora portion), and Denver, to establish a regional entity to promote business opportunities on and around DIA, including important infrastructure.

• **Proposition BB**

- o Proposition BB allows the State to keep tax monies from the marijuana industry tax, instead of refunding to Colorado residents and the marijuana industry, per Tabor.
- o Prop BB allocates \$40 million for public school construction and \$12 million for these critical programs. If it does not pass, marijuana tax revenue collected from the first full year would be refunded, mostly back to the marijuana industry in addition to an approximate \$8 refund per taxpayer.

Voting "Yes" on these three ballot measures supports positive economic development in the City of Aurora and the State of Colorado. ■

Focus on healthy employees – for a healthy business



Absenteeism is 27 percent lower in healthy employees, and healthy, happy employees are 22 percent more productive.

Given these facts, you should attend **Destination Health 2015 on Nov. 19, 4-7:30 pm, at the Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast** to get information from the experts about hot topics in healthcare, including:

- Mental Health in the Workplace: What You May Not Know
- Stress Management and Anxiety Awareness in 10 Minutes
- Marijuana and the Workplace - What You Need to Know
- Putting Wellness to Work - You Already Have What it Takes
- Family Caregiving, and its Impact on Employee Productivity
- Aspiring to "Total" Health: In Ourselves and in Our Communities
- Population Health and the Distribution of Health



From 4-6 pm, presentations will be delivered in an innovative format, similar to the popular TED talks. They will be short, hard-hitting, and information-packed – with strategies and tactics you can use right away for better health for yourself and for your business.

A healthy happy-hour-and-a-half follows from 6-7:30 pm, during which the presenters will be available for conversation – and healthy appetizers will be plentiful and delicious!

Individual tickets are only \$20. Register at [www.aurorachamber.org / calendar / November 19 / Destination Health](http://www.aurorachamber.org/calendar/November19/DestinationHealth), or call 303-344-1500. This event is open to the public. ■



Destination Health 2015 is produced by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Children's Hospital Colorado, InnovAge, Kaiser Permanente, The Medical Center of Aurora HealthONE, University of Colorado Health, Aurora Credit Union Alliance (Aurora Schools FCU, Fitzsimons FCU, Space Age FCU, Westerra CU), Tri-County Health Department, Delta Dental of Colorado, Falck Rocky Mountain, Insuperity, and Mountain States Employers Council.





Jason Altshuler
Chair

Chair's Letter

An F-16, an RTD Light Rail train, and a red Subaru

I know, it sounds like the start of a joke when you think of the above three things and what it has to do with The

Chamber. They are, however, very important to our future success as a thriving metropolis. When I say our, I mean Aurora, Centennial, Arapahoe, Adams, and part of Douglas counties.

When you live and work in a community with diversity, you begin to appreciate the value in our collective strengths that make us different and also unites us. We form a symbiosis and are connected more than we realize. You may hear the F-16s fly overhead and think how cool it would be to fly in one. What we need to realize is that the men and women at Buckley, and the 140th Wing Command, are a vital part of our economy as they live/work/shop in our community.

In the near future, we need to upgrade our F-16s to the new and improved F-35 model. It will cost a lot and it may be painful in the short term, but it will also keep Buckley relevant and technologically current. Most don't think about the economic impact of having Buckley in our

backyard... but think about all the goods and services — cars, trucks, shopping, restaurants — and other things our neighbors at Buckley spend their money on to keep our economy and community thriving. They are just one example of how we are all connected and important.

Transportation is also the backbone of a great community. Who hasn't spent an extra 20 minutes in traffic crossing I-225 at Alameda or some other detour to get around the RTD construction traffic, and thought — what is this all about? Progress is the answer, or as my fitness instructor will remind me that you have to work hard to get in better shape. You have to tear up a few streets to get an updated transportation system in place. Short term pain for long term gain... you get the picture. I think when it's all said and done, we are going to be pretty proud of our light rail system. It's important to upgrade our transportation system to better our community.

Speaking of upgrades, and since I know you were wondering about how the red Subaru fits into this story... I just wanted to point out that our Chamber President (Kevin Hougen) has purchased a 2012 red Subaru Outback and

traded in the 2002 white Chevy Blazer — which was on its last legs. For those of you who know Kevin, you know that I have joked — my greatest accomplishment as Chairman will be to get him to trade up to a newer vehicle. Kevin, we're glad to see you representing The Chamber well — in a newer "used" car.

People want to live/work and associate with other successful people and be part of a community that is growing and doing the right things because it gives us pride. We have a lot to be proud of in our community. So, no matter if you fly an F-16, take the RTD Light Rail, or drive a red Subaru — thank you for your efforts to make our community a better place and for supporting our local businesses.

You are a valued member of The Chamber.

Community first, business always.

I want to wish all of you a very happy, prosperous, and successful 2016.

Jason Altshuler
Board Chair 2015-2016

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jason Altshuler | 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
Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven | Community College of Aurora
Suzanne Pitrusu | Community Banks of Colorado
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union
Brittany Rodgers | Colorado Access
Louis Salazar | ConocoPhillips
Todd Trace | Century Link

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
Paul Suss | Suss Buick GMC
Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora
Charles "CJ" Whelan | City of Centennial

STAFF

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

ASSOCIATES

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

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

DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"

Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

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

2015/2016 LA Class Retreat Convenes, Connects, and Collaborates!

By Marcia McGilley, Aurora Small Business Development Center and LA Class of 2015/2016

The Aurora Chamber's Leadership Aurora retreat began on Thurs., Sept. 17, with 38 participants, and Board Members including Randy Berner, Sarah Ellis, Gigi de Gala, Mike Garcia Sr., Donna Greeley, Michelle Wolfe, Sarah Young, Board Chair Mike Garcia, Program Director Rene Simard, and Assistant Director Mitzi Schindler. Following an overview of the program and ice-breaker, three past presidents shared their views of leading the group and described how their class was "the best." This challenged us to be "even better!"



2015/2016 Leadership Aurora Class in Breckenridge.



The first night's reception started with a "Claim to Fame" game, allowing class members to learn more about each other as they guessed who each "Fame" belonged to. Little did we know that we have such a diverse and "famous" class! We ended the evening in a bit of frenzy as there was a cable outage in the area, and the Broncos game was on. We experienced our first challenge as a class, pulled it together, and managed to hike downtown to find Breckenridge Brewery where we watched the Broncos barely make their victory!

On Friday, Scott McLagan from the University of Denver Daniel's School of Business, led the Complete Insights Program and Discovery System. We uncovered our "true colors" and where we fit into the blue/green/yellow/red spectrum of the personality profile. We were soon hit with the next challenge as we went outside and played what we thought were games. We quickly realized that the "games" were team building exercises giving us a genuine understanding and the experience of working with all the colors, some finishing successfully and some with a great deal of frustration! The day was wrapped up by allowing each participant to run through a trust tunnel and then share their individual commitments to the group for the Leadership Aurora program.

That evening, the Leadership Aurora Board

hosted a cocktail reception on the patio, followed by the Board and class splitting up for separate dinner engagements. The class convened at The Canteen on Main Street and spent a rowdy time getting to know each other in an informal environment. Some of the group stayed out late singing and dancing, but as they say, "...what happens in Breckenridge, stays in Breckenridge."

Saturday morning started off by bringing together ten nominees for President of the 2015/16 Class. Four candidates accepted the nomination and gave enlightening speeches as to how they would lead the class. Ultimately, Justin Clark of Visit Aurora was elected as our leader.

We ended the retreat with a powerful leadership panel speaking on the importance of community leadership and engagement, led by Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, Buckley AFB Installation Commander Colonel John Wagner, and CEO of the Colorado Restaurant Association Sonia Riggs. The panel discussion was engaging and informative.

Overall, the entire retreat brought us together to convene, allowed us the opportunity to connect, and created the stage for collaboration. We are off to a great start! ■

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events (con't.)

Women in Business
November 24 | 12 pm

Member Orientation
November 25 | Cancelled

**Thanksgiving Holiday
Chamber Office Closed**
November 26-27

DECEMBER

Business for the Arts
December 1 | 8 am

Transportation
December 2 | 7:30 am

Government Affairs
December 3 | 7:30 am

Young Professionals
December 4 | 3:30 pm

Chamber Master Training
December 9 | 12 pm

Health Series
December 10 | 7:30 - 9:30 am
Children's Hospital Colorado
Happy, Healthy, Holiday Cooking

Defense Council
December 10 | 3:30 pm

**Business After-Hours &
Chamber Holiday Party**
December 10 | 5 pm
DoubleTree Hotel SE

Diversity Council
December 11 | 9 am

Women in Business
December 22 | Cancelled

**Holiday Festivities
Chamber Office Closed**
December 25

Believe it or not!

The Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner is just around the corner - March 25, 2016. This year brings another fun-filled evening of desirable silent auction items, entertainment, and a great cast of award winners!

This is where you come into the picture to "put the icing on the cake" of this successful event - please think about donating an item for this year's silent auction. For your convenience, the silent auction donation form is inserted in this issue of the Impact newsletter.

If you're having difficulty coming up with a clever gift idea, don't hesitate to contact the Chamber Staff who can help you figure out that perfect donation item. Deadline for items is Friday, March 11, 2016. ■

Ribbon Cuttings



Creating Smiles – Aurora Dentistry owners Dan Wolfsohn and Kelly Smith, DDS, welcome new patients to **Aurora Dentistry**, located at 25791 E. Smoky Hill Rd. #10, Aurora, CO 80016. **Aurora Dentistry** has a friendly and knowledgeable staff that is committed to meeting their patients' needs. Services include: dental hygiene, veneers, fillings, whitening, and same day crown placement. They also offer an affordable discount plan to patients without insurance. www.aurorasmiilesdentistry.com (303) 699-3221 (9.22.15)

Artistic Apparel LLC



Printing, promos, and a lot more! – Larry and La Quta "Q" Leverett, partners at **Artistic Apparel Graphics & Signs** get ready to cut the ribbon in celebration of their opening. Located at 15801 E. Centretech Cir., #C, Aurora, CO 80011, **Artistic Apparel Graphics & Signs** specializes in graphic design, embossing, customized products, screen printing, transfers, embroidery, promotional products, digital prints, laser engraving, imprinted products, business cards, and you can get a free online design. www.forpromos.com (303) 363-4020 (9.17.15)



Arterra Place: welcome home! – Jordon and Jay Perlmutter, owners of Jordon Perlmutter & Co. and developers of **Arterra Place**, are joined by City Council Member Marsha Berzins to cut the ribbon for a new apartment community in Aurora. Located at 17036 E. Ohio Dr., **Arterra Place** is a blend of suburban living and an outdoor Colorado lifestyle. **Arterra Place** is surrounded by shopping, dining, recreational opportunities, and views of the Rocky Mountains. It has grills and fireplaces, an entertainment area with billiards, a heated swimming pool with sundeck and music, a heated year-round pet washing station, and a health club. www.arterraplace.com (877) 959-7338 (8.20.2015)



Dedicated to better dental care – Mark Braasch, DDS, is ready to cut the ribbon for **Meadow Hills Dental** at 5001 S. Parker Rd., Suite 106. With more than a decade of experience, Dr. Braasch owned a practice in Omaha, NE for eight years where he was voted best Dentist in Omaha, before moving to Colorado. **Meadow Hills Dental** offers general dental services, pediatric dentistry, dental implants, TMJ treatments, orthodontic services, sleep apnea and snoring treatments, and botox and restylane. www.meadowhillsdental.com (720) 325-2460 (8.19.2015).

Bringing high quality care to the neighborhood – Executive Director of Emergency Services, Richard Zane and Radiology Zone Manager, Brittney Sorenson were joined by the Gateway Marching Band to kick off this ribbon cutting with a musical extravaganza! **UCHealth Emergency Room** is located at 15300 E. Mississippi Ave., Aurora, CO 80017 and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. They provide a full range of emergency medical services for both adults and children, and file with all insurance carriers (with the exception of Medicare and Medicaid), also offering discounted rates for patients without medical insurance. You will experience dramatically reduced wait times and immediate access to board-certified physicians with an average of 16 years' experience. Learn more at www.fcer.com (9.29.15).





When you smile, they smile! — Dr. Andre Gillespie, Owner of **Li'l Teeth Dentistry**, along with Dr. Quynh Nguyen and family members, gather to cut the ribbon for their new dental office at 3464 N. Salida St., Aurora, CO 80011. **Li'l Teeth Dentistry** has Colorado roots, driving them to be a part of the community. They have an experienced staff, speaking up to four languages in the office. They also use low-radiation digital x-rays and an intra-oral camera specialized for children, while featuring a unique dinosaur theme. Services offered include dental wellness and cleaning, cavity prevention, fillings, hospital sedation, emergencies, and oral surgery. www.lilteeth.com (303) 307-9999 (9.17.15)



Live Well. Work Well — Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and **Workwell Occupational Medicine** CEO, Steve Pottenger cut the ribbon for the opening of a new Workwell Occupational Medicine facility, at 3350 Peoria St., Ste. 190, Aurora, CO 80011. **Workwell Occupational Medicine** is a special medical provider, treating work-related injuries and providing occupational health services for the employees of their business clients. Their services include: workers' compensation, occupational health services, ergonomic evaluations and trainings, pre-employment screening, lift testing, on-site services, and designated medical providers. www.workwellworks.com (303) 827-3158 (9.15.15)



Wild, Hip, and Phenomenal! — Owners Kip and Lindsey Lewis welcome the community to **Kneaders Bakery and Café**, at 14455 E. Arapahoe Rd., Aurora, CO 80016. **Kneaders Bakery and Café** take pleasure in kneading all of their baked goods by hand, and specializes in sandwiches, soups and salads, pastries, breads, breakfast, pies and rolls, and gift baskets. They also cater weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and meetings! www.kneaders.com (303) 996-0601 (9.30.15)



Providing assistance to residents of Aurora in need — Judith Barrow, executive director of **Aurora Interfaith Community Services**, accompanied by Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and volunteers, cuts the ribbon. Located at 1553 Clinton St., Aurora, CO 80010, **Aurora Interfaith Community Services** is a non-profit organization partnering with local churches in the area to provide items as well as services to those in need, including assistance for bills and expenses, clothing, a food bank, and housing assistance. (303) 360-0260 (9.24.15)

APS opens Edna and John W. Mosley P-8 School — **Aurora Public Schools** (APS)

officially opened the Edna and John W. Mosley P-8 School on Oct. 1. Rico Munn, APS superintendent, is accompanied by students in cutting the ribbon to the new school located at 55 N. Salida Way, Aurora, CO 80011. Serving more than 900 students, Mosley P-8 is named in recognition of the important contributions made by the Edna and John W. Mosley to Aurora and the greater community. John Mosley was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, and Edna Mosley was the first African American to serve on the **Aurora City Council**.

The new school is located on the **APS Community Campus** near Airport Boulevard and 2nd Avenue. The school will serve students from preschool through eighth grade, and will help alleviate overcrowding at seven elementary and P-8 schools in the area.



Shannon Jones named Young Professional of the Year

Shannon Jones, Executive Vice President at **FirstBank-Aurora, Havana**, and a director on the **Aurora Chamber Board**, was named *Young Professional of the Year* by the **Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce** at their annual luncheon in October, 2015.



Shannon Jones

The Young Professionals Award recognizes the efforts of an outstanding Colorado young professional woman who demonstrates significant accomplishments in her career and has contributed to the business community. This emerging leader pursues excellence and possesses leadership qualities, creativity, and demonstrates role model qualities.

Aurora@Home providing wrap around services for homeless

In 2010, **City of Aurora** Mayor Ed Tauer and **Aurora City Council** Member Molly Markert convened more than 35 organizations to develop a City of Aurora plan for families either experiencing homeless, or who were in imminent danger of becoming homeless. That plan, **Aurora@Home**, is now supported by Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and the current City Council.

An **Aurora@Home** pilot project was launched in April 2013, and has to-date, served 27 families by providing \$310,000 of rental assistance and case management services.

Seventeen governmental and nonprofit organizations are active partners in the Aurora@Home collaborative: **Adams County Human Services; Arapahoe County Community Resources; Arapahoe County Human Services; Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center; Arapahoe House; Asian Pacific Development Center; Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Aurora Housing Authority; Aurora Mental Health Center; Aurora Public Schools; Aurora Warms the Night; City of Aurora - Community Development and City Council; Colfax Community Network; Comitis Crisis Center; Community Housing Partners; and Metro Community Provider Network. Aurora Housing Authority** serves as the plan administrator.

Functioning as a collaborative, **Aurora@Home** provides wrap around services, including benefits, mental health, healthcare, employment, etc. One of the efforts reflecting this collaboration and improved wrap around services is with **Arapahoe County**.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, with support from Arapahoe County Human Services and Community Resources, has dedicated an Employment Specialist to work hand-in-hand with the Navigator (case manager), helping families access mainstream benefits, and to work toward income progression for future housing stability.

Aurora@Home's vision is for "no one in

Aurora to be without a secure home." For more information, contact Melinda Townsend, Deputy Executive Director at mtownsend@aurorahousing.org

CCA receives \$570,000 for STEM initiatives

The **Community College of Aurora** has been awarded \$570,000 in grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) over the next five years to support its efforts to open access to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

CCA has earmarked the funding to provide 48 two-year scholarships, as well as support and transition services for college-ready students enrolled full time in STEM-related fields.

Twelve scholarships will be offered at the beginning of each academic year for new STEM scholars. These scholarships will renew for a second year, provided participants meet academic targets and other program requirements. The fifth year of the grant will focus on supporting the last scholarship recipients through graduation and transition.

"The STEM scholarships that this funding provides will allow our students to attend full-time, focus on their studies, maximize their considerable potential, and realize their academic and career aspirations," said **CCA** President Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven. "We are very excited about the doors the NSF has opened for students who might not otherwise have had the opportunity or support." ■

Aurora Interfaith Task Force receives Wells Fargo grant

The **Aurora Interfaith Task Force** was one of seven local nonprofits receiving grants totaling \$7,000 through the 21st annual **Wells Fargo** Community Assistance Fund.

"Though they may be small, these grassroots organizations make such a big difference to those in need," said Laura Worzella, **Wells Fargo's** area president for central and north Metro Denver. "We're pleased to be able to make these special contributions as part of our overall community efforts in Aurora."

The other local organizations receiving grant funding are:

- Bennie E. Goodwin After School Academic Program
- Colorado Celebration of African American Arts & Culture /Colorado Black Arts Festival
- Cure d' Ars Catholic Church - Ed Brooks Sandwich Ministry
- Doreen Katz Memorial Cancer Foundation
- Sisters In Service
- The Gayle's Foundation

Statewide, more than 200 qualified, community-based, nonprofit organizations in Colorado will receive funding through the **Wells Fargo** Community Assistance Fund in 2015. ■



Left to right: Jesse Von Feldt, Monica Jimenez, Pat Torness, Clare Goodale, Ryan Zender, Laura Worzella, Derrick Fuller, Mike Burnell, Alejandra Garcia Villarruel, and Judy Barrow.

Member Contributions

Closing on a home looks different now

By Laura Noe, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Next time you purchase a residential property with a new loan, the closing paperwork will look substantially different and the process and timelines also will be different. Beginning October 3, 2015, a major change was made to the closing documents and timeline for the loan process.

Gone is the HUD-1, closing settlement statement, that was used in all residential transactions for decades. Replacing the HUD-1 are the Loan Estimate and the

Closing Disclosure.

The change initiated by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the procedures being referred to as TRID (TILA-RESPA Integrate Disclosures), have been initiated to help the consumer understand, shop for and receive fair treatment when obtaining a loan to purchase a residential property.

Title companies, lenders, and realtors have been learning, training, and preparing for the change, and are ready to help the

consumer through the process. Make sure you consult an informed professional if you are planning to purchase a home with a loan. ■



Laura Noe has been a licensed Realtor since 1990, practicing 21 years in Texas, and 4-1/2 years in Colorado – striving to provide the most current, accurate information to buyers and sellers.

Staff Contributions

Ambassadors serve in the community

By Mary Beth Sharp, Aurora Chamber Member Services Director

Serving dinner at the **Aurora Ronald McDonald House** was a heartfelt experience for all who participated. A few of us arrived early, laying out everything needed to prepare dinner for the families residing there. When the residents arrived, Ambassador Team members were greeted with big smiles for bringing the home-cooked Mexican cuisine.

We came prepared to feed 55-60 people, mostly adults, who are staying in Aurora while their children are being treated at **Children's Hospital Colorado** or **University of Colorado Hospital**. Once the families were served, we filled our plates and then gathered around the dinner table to hear their stories, share their burdens, encourage them, and give them hope for the future. We were struck by how grateful these families were to have so many people from the community help with their everyday needs, so they can focus on their children's health.

The **Aurora Ronald McDonald House** is the perfect home away from home to feel loved and well-cared for during a difficult time. We left feeling richer for having had the experience to be with these families. ■



Ambassador Team members plus Ronald at The Aurora Ronald McDonald House, left to right: Camilla Dellinger, **Aurora Law Firm**; Deb Schroeder, **Sam's Club-Abilene**; Gina Kaelin-Westcott, **Insperty**; Rachael Gregorie, **Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union**; Mary Beth Sharp, **Aurora Chamber**; Ronald McDonald (not on the Ambassador Team, but always willing to help), and Courtney Morehouse, **Your Castle Real Estate**; Not pictured: Cheryl Rotkovich, **Balancing Books**, and Rick Hatfield, **Five Rings Financial**.

Tour de Force; we will never forget

By Naomi Colwell, Aurora Chamber Director of Marketing

As many of you know, I am quite fond of the Aurora Police Department. I get the honor of participating in a few of their activities and take great pride in bragging about them as often as possible. On September 9 of this year, I went to New York with 10 officers to support the Tour de Force bike ride. It's a four day ride that was created to remember those who died on 9/11 and continues to support fallen police officer's families across the U.S. Ninety-eight percent of their fundraising goes right back to those families, and this year more than

\$500,000 was raised.

This amazing opportunity helps remind me of how much people are willing to do for others, especially for complete strangers. The honor and integrity is truly incredible. I had been invited for several years by a friend, and when he passed away last year, 17 of us made the trip in his honor. Everyone has been affected by 9/11 in one

way or another and I can't think of a better place to be, to honor those who perished, and to continue supporting my family in blue. ■



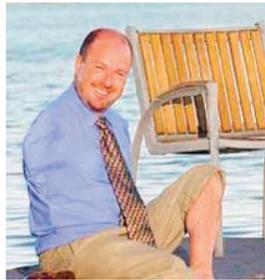
Dynamic speaker Alvin Law kicks off Chamber Diversity Council

Diversity is a top priority at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. In fact, diversity is incorporated into all the Chamber does, internally and externally. The Diversity Council is an council tasked with promoting diversity and dialogue within the membership.

On October 20, The Chamber held a kick-off event for the newly formed Council at the Community College of Aurora. The event began with a pre-reception, including networking and ethnic refreshments.

Introducing the vision, mission, purpose, and goals of the Diversity Council were **FirstBank** Executive Vice President Shannon Jones, who serves as the Diversity Council chair, and **Arapahoe County Commissioner** Nancy Jackson, who is on the Diversity Council executive committee.

ConocoPhillips Director of Stakeholder Relations and Chamber Board Director Louis Salazar sponsored Hall of Fame Keynote



Hall of Fame Keynote Speaker and Attitude Expert Alvin Law

Speaker and Attitude Expert Alvin Law. Alvin was born without arms, due to a medicine (Thalidomide) that was given to many women in the 1960s. His foster parents, Hilda and Jack Law encouraged him and believed

in him. His life took a turn when he discovered his musical ability and he joined the school band. He played the trombone, piano, and drums, becoming an award winning musician and graduated with honors from high school and college. Alvin, spent the evening telling powerful stories of his life, with a message that

we should focus on what we do have, rather than what we don't, and what we can do, rather than what we can't. His ambition to change the way people think, inspired everyone in the room.

The purpose of the Diversity Council is to encourage business to business networking, improving the business climate and making the community prosperous, economically attractive and a desirable place to work, live, and buy local. The intention is to transform the diverse business community into environments where all businesses are valued for their uniqueness and differences, and are confident that their contributions matter.

All Chamber members are welcome to attend the first meeting on Fri., Nov. 13 at 9 am at the Chamber Office.

Contact tamara.mohamed@aurorachamber.org or call (303)344-1500 for registration and details. ■

MemberRenewals

A-1 Discount Water
Affordable Senior Services, LLC
Alpen Construction & Development, Inc.
American Automation Building Solutions
Armstrong Relocation Companies
Atlanta Bread Aurora
Aurora Firefighters Protective Association
Aurora Mental Health Center
Aurora Modern Dentistry
Aurora Public Schools Foundation
Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.
Bent Fork American Grill
Bernard Financial Services
Big D Pizza dba Blackjack Pizza
Big O Tires Havana
Birch Electric & Lighting Co.
Brock Publishing
Buckley Bargain Storage
Business Insurance Specialists
Capron Law, LLC
Carlos Klinger & Sons
Centennial Container Inc.
Chambers Wine & Liquor
Colorado Continental Roofing & Solar, Inc.
Colorado Escrow & Title
Colorado Insurance Professionals, Inc.
Colorado State University - Global Campus
Colorado Technical University
Community Housing Partners
David Evans and Associates, Inc.
Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park
Denver Botanic Gardens
DoubleTree by Hilton Denver
Eagle Bend Metropolitan District #2
Elemental Photography
Employer Emissaries, Inc.
Environmental Learning For Kids (ELK)
Exodus Moving & Storage Inc.
Fairfield Inn & Suites - DIA
FASTSIGNS of Aurora, Inc.
Firearm Accuracy Safety Training, Inc.
Fitzsimons Credit Union
Forsberg Engerman Company

Front Range Airport
GBSM
Graebel Relocation
H&R Block
Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham - DTC
Heritage Christian Center
Highpoint Church
Intelsat General Corporation
Jason's Deli
Joe's Crab Shack
Johnson's Automotive Repair
Mail Delivery Service
Mile High Racing & Entertainment/ Arapaho
Mile High United Way
Music Go Round
Nelowet Business Machines, Ltd.
O.L.P. Management Company Inc.
Old Chicago - Southlands
Parkside Animal Health Center
Pima Medical Institute
Ponderosa Vision Clinic, P.C.
Proactive Discovery, LLC
Quality 1st Plumbing
RE/MAX Unlimited-Helen Stampley
Residence Inn - Denver Airport
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver
Roof Brokers, Inc.
Rural/Metro Ambulance
Sailmates Enterprises
Sam's Club #6631
School of Rock
Special Olympics Colorado
Springhill Suites by Marriott - Denver Ai
Staybridge Suites - Denver Tech
Suss Buick GMC
The Job Store
The Movie Tavern
University of Colorado/ Anschutz Medical
Vision Care Specialists, P.C.
Weaver & Company
Westchester North Condominium Association
Wiggins, Bill J.
Xcel Energy

NewMembers

Advocates for Children
AFLAC - Leonard
Allstate Insurance / Danielle Shannon Agency
Bellevue Heights - Alzheimer's Special Care Center
Cherry Creek Harbor
Coldwell Banker - Carri Cameron
CU Healthcare Partners @ Bellevue Point
Eagle's Nest Ranch
EKS&H
First Class Car & Truck Repair
Five Rings Financial - David Oakes
Grand Canyon University
Hyatt Denver Fitzsimons
KELYN Technologies
Kneaders Bakery & Cafe
Li'l Teeth Dentistry
Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Services
Quantum Change Consulting LLC
ServiceMaster DSI
Summerbrook Dental
Total Wellness Center
UCHealth Emergency Room- Aurora- Mississippi
Vega Collegiate Academy Charter School
WoodSpring Suites
World Wide Money Exchange - DIA Airport

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.

14305 E. Alameda Ave Ste. #300
Aurora, CO 80012
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564
website: www.aurorachamber.org