



Bri Rock Photography

Behind the Scenes

12/8/16

CITY OF AURORA-BEHIND THE SCENES

IN THIS ISSUE

Breakfast with Santa

by Mandy Young

A HUGE thank you to everyone who came out to the Breakfast with Santa this past weekend! This event was a rousing success. We made over \$500 to go toward our class project AND collected a large box of toys to donate to needy children in our community.

This event would not have been possible without the help of several people who deserve to be recognized. First, thank you to my Pay It Forward team. They not only helped plan the entire event, but also kept things organized and running smoothly. Second, thank you to my team at Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q. Their willingness to try something different and execute a delicious scratch-made meal will be a large part of getting our class project up and running this year! Next, thank you to the Rene and the Chamber for helping us promote the event and supporting us with everything we

needed. Also, thank you to *Gotta Costume* off the corner of Chambers and Hampden in Aurora. Their owner was incredibly helpful and even partially donated our Santa costume for the day. Thank you to our talented photographer, Brienne Rock, for donating her time and immense skill. Finally, thank you to our jolly Santa, Jeremy Lewis, (GM of our North Pole... I mean Northfield restaurant) for taking photos with the kiddos (and grown-ups) on Saturday!

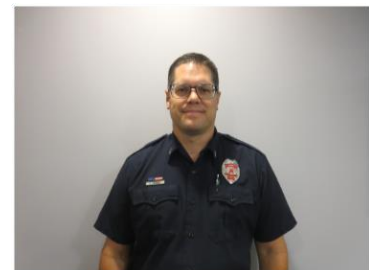
Again, thank you to everyone who helped plan the event and came out to eat on Saturday. Hopefully, Breakfast with Santa can become a tradition for Leadership Aurora for many years to come!



Veterans Salute

Susan Ruby attended the 40th Annual Veterans Salute and reminds us of the women who served in the Vietnam War

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5 Thoughts

Eric Franks has an interesting point of view when it comes to our Leadership Sessions

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Silent Thoughts...

by Eric Franks

An Irish proverb wisely states "A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything". The "long sleep" portion is beyond my influence (I know what you're thinking - and the answer is NO. Just because police do ride-a-longs doesn't mean we do sleepovers at the fire station). However, I do hope I can make you laugh a little because every laugh is good - sort of - I guess evil laughs are bad...but I digress. Here is the first of what I hope is many Leadership Aurora 2016 "Top 5" lists.

Top 5 silent thoughts so far in LA 2016:

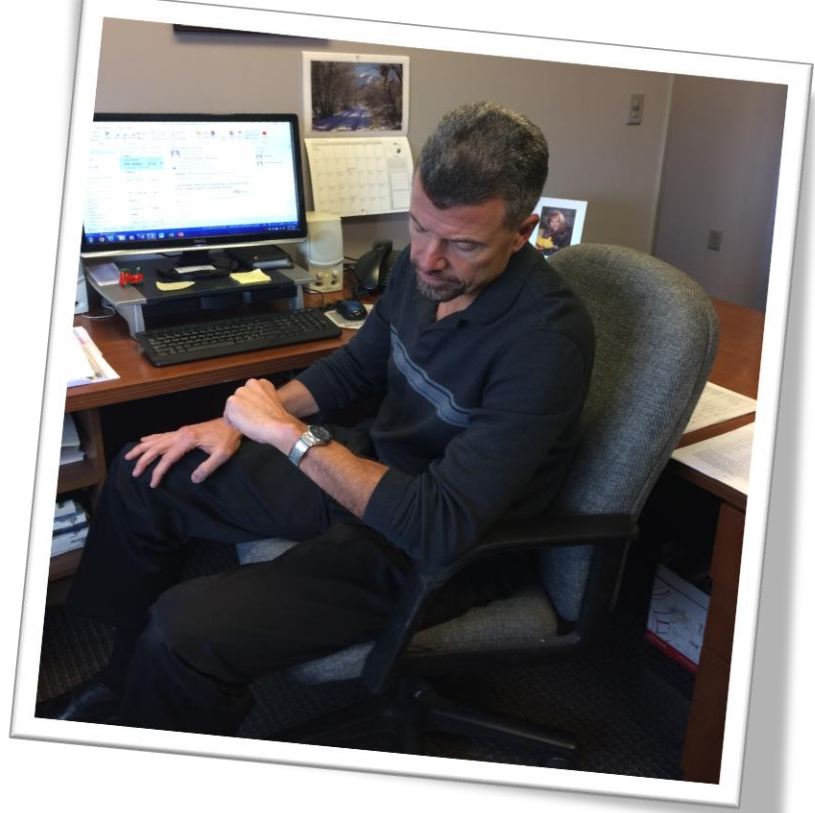
5. *Why does Rene keep looking at his watch?*

4. WOW...Gigi has a lot of energy.

3. Breakfast burritos again? They do realize we are in close proximity to each other all day...don't they?

2. *I'm pretty sure that cop gave me a ticket once.*

1. *I thought firefighters had to be in good shape.*



THE LEADERSHIP LEADER

A focused Rene makes sure we are never late...well...some of us. You know who you are! ☺



The Stanifesto

by The Stanley Marketplace

Welcome to Stanley Marketplace. This is no ordinary marketplace. We are a community of like-minded businesses and people who believe in doing things differently: sustainably, thoughtfully, creatively, with way more than the bottom line in mind. We have grand ambitions and we are guided by mighty beliefs.

We believe in making connections: between neighborhoods and generations and strangers and friends. And we're going to do that, by taking down fences and building bridges, figuratively and literally.

We believe the best rules are simple and clear: Love your neighbor. Leave each place better than you found it. Be good and do good.

@OHHEYSTANLEY

The Stanifesto

We believe in bringing people together and making them happy.

We believe there's no point in making a profit if you're not also making a difference.

PREPARING THE VISION

We believe one of the best ways to take care of yourself is to take care of others.

We believe in honoring the history of the land we temporarily occupy. Bob Stanley was the first American to ever fly a jet plane. Also he invented the ejection seat. There is a history of innovation here, of boldness. We embrace it.

We embrace collaboration and curiosity, too. Also good food and music and dancing in the grass.



Mark Shaker and Lorin Ting

We are locally inspired and community desired. We asked ourselves what would make the best marketplace in the universe. Then we asked our neighbors. And then we built it.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.stanleymarketplace.com

We are guided by the belief that there is nothing better than spending time with family and friends in a beautiful place with excellent food and incredible views.

Every day is an opportunity to put goodness into the world. Positivity is contagious. Kindness is a virtue. We live these beliefs, and that's why we are all at home here.

A store is a place people go to buy things. Stanley Marketplace is where people go to live: to eat, drink, work, play, learn, grow, gather, and explore, to see friends and make news ones.

We're Stanley. And we're here for good.



Honoring Vietnam Era Veterans

by Susan Ruby

We have all heard about and maybe even experienced the hatred of a nation that Vietnam Veterans faced when returning home from war. And if you haven't heard or experienced that you may have seen some of the blockbuster movies like Full Metal Jacket, Born on the Fourth of July, Platoon and Forrest Gump. These movies show the range of the struggle of the war itself to the world of hell a Veteran faced when he returned home (whether from physical or mental injuries).

While I sat in the Hanger of the "Wings over the Rockies" Museum, the MC announced that all Vietnam Vets come to the front to get a token of gratitude. I watched all the "old-timers" walk to the front with their decorated War Ball Caps and Vests and I noticed something that I never noticed before; women. A small gathering of women met to the left of the stage. They greeted one another with big bear hugs. As I watched one woman, decorated to the max with her vest and cap, wipe a tear from her face, the tears I was holding back began rolling down my face.

To try to stop further tears, I decided to read the program and saw a blurb on "Women of the War". Though women have always been a part of our wars as nurses, none were allowed in combat zones. While around 11,000 women served on Active Duty during the Vietnam War, 7,500 serving in Vietnam (with 6,000 of those being nurses, the rest served as air traffic controllers, intelligence officers and clerks), There were 20 of those women standing in front of me.

The article goes on to state that the returning Women Vietnam Vets were treated even worse than the male vets to the point that women's needs weren't acknowledged. They were ignored by the Veterans Administration, denied membership, and those women who

served with the civilian organizations (Red Cross, USO, Peace Corps) were legally ineligible for government compensation or benefits.

As most know, we used to have a mandatory "draft" in the US and if you were 18 and male, you signed up. Women have never been a part of the mandatory draft. Any women in the US military volunteered. The draft ended the year we pulled out of Vietnam which was the same year the prohibition on women entering the armed forces was lifted.

As I looked back up at the Vets in front of the room, the amount of pride and respect I felt for each of the Men and Women brought the tears back into my eyes. What they endured for us as a nation, in an "unpopular" war, then coming back to a nation who hated them. The women who volunteered carving the path for women who followed in their footsteps. Those men and women in front of me ensured the smooth path for me, as a woman in the military, and for all my military brothers and sisters in arms to be further known as 'heroes'. I will be eternally grateful to all of the Vietnam Vets. And with that thought, the tears fell, again.

VETERANS SALUTE



Color Guard



Three Vets!



Salute

A Conversation

by Terry Spencer

As we all participated in the “mock” City Council session at our last meeting, I thought the issue we were tackling of Homelessness, needed a bit more light shed on it. So, I called Shelley and asked if she had time for a quick discussion about homelessness, and of course she was more than happy to share her thoughts.

We met in her office in the MLK Library on Colfax. Shelley McKittrick was kind enough to spend about 45 minutes with us and talk about the challenge of homelessness and opportunities for Leadership Aurora.

It was very hard to edit down Shelley’s interview, as everything she said is vital to helping people overcome homelessness. Please take a look at the video, and I hope it empowers you to do even the simplest act of kindness—as Shelley noted, “There’s a lot of things people can do and any one thing is a good thing, and they all add up”