The Aurora Chamber of Commerce’s Defense Council held its 40th annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on May 13, 2016, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Hotel to honor the military serving in the Metro area. The Colorado Technical University-sponsored event includes business, professional, and community leaders, honoring 11 military members representing each of the branches of service and their Reserve and Guard components, as well as one civilian from the community.

“This luncheon is our way of recognizing the members of the Armed Forces—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard—throughout Northern Colorado including the Denver-Aurora area,” said AFRL Luncheon Chair Marissa Banker with Colorado Technical University. “They make such a significant contribution to our community and to our nation.”

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This year’s keynote speaker was Major General (Select) Nina Armagno, Director of Strategic Plans, Programs, Requirements and Analysis, Headquarters Air Force Space Command. Gen. Armagno inspired [continued on page 5]
The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has spent more than a century developing deep roots and trust in Adams, Arapahoe, and Denver counties. That strong foundation provides us with the resources, reputation and relationships needed to bring people and organizations together to focus on improving lives and strengthening the business community.

We have many challenges in our communities, even with a fast growing economy in Colorado, we still have what we want to call ‘Unresolved Opportunities.’ These opportunities are what we work on every day, building relationships that benefit our business communities, to ultimately grow their active roles as a good citizens. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is a business association that not only creates and produces wealth in the communities we serve, but we also become involved in solving problems and building partnerships.

We need to accept the fact that making big things happen requires involvement in the public policy arena. And yes, sometimes stepping up means you open The Chamber up to criticism. Communities need great champions and problem-solvers. Cities and regions that thrive in the long-term do so through leadership and purposeful engagement. This is the role our board of directors and staff need to accept and embrace.

The Chamber has taken the following positions that will be on the November 2016 ballot.

**Support:**

**SCFD Tax**
Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) renewal of the local sales tax to support the arts in the metro area.

**Cherry Creek Schools 3A, 3B**
A $300 million dollar bond, supporting the district and over 54,000 students in the district.

**Oppose:**

**Initiative/Amendment 78**
2,500 set back on occupied structures/areas of special concern. Amendment 78 would make 90% of Colorado land UNAVAILABLE for oil and gas development. 102,000 high paying jobs at risk...$1.6 billion dollars in tax revenue to the State and Local communities at risk...over 30% of downtown Denver leases are to the Oil & Gas industry.

**Initiative/Amendment 69**
Creates a health care payment system that provides coverage for all Coloradans. All people would have access to affordable health care regardless of their ability to pay. Creates $25 billion in new taxes to fund a massive government-run health care system called ColoradoCare. No guarantee that patient care is improved, expanded access or it will reduce health care costs. A new 10% payroll tax increase will be added to working families, entrepreneurs, military, veterans and seniors.

**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 partnership with the Tri-County Health Department for the Worksite Wellness Initiative/Work Well Project is a very healthy collaboration. With the goal of engaging employers and employees to adopt best practices and policies for a healthy workplace environment, seven Chamber member businesses joined the Work Well Pilot Project in January 2016. These employers represent a broad brush of types and sizes of businesses, and include Alzheimer’s Association Colorado Chapter, Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Colorado AHEC, Community College of Aurora, Fitzsimons Credit Union, and Music Go Round. Through a grant awarded to Tri-County by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, these businesses receive assessments, technical support, advising, funding, and recognition by the State of Colorado for their wellness efforts.

In June, all Chamber members were invited to an Experts Panel luncheon, to hear the latest about nutrition, tobacco cessation, physical activity, and chronic disease prevention. Sponsored by the Work Well Project, attendees were treated to a very healthy lunch provided by FitPit Power Foods, and fruit and dessert snacks by Fruit Revival. “Healthy food options are something every employer should be thinking about,” said Jennifer Tellis, Worksite Wellness Specialist with Tri-County Health Department, and co-director of the Work Well Project. “And organizational policies supporting healthy foods and beverages at the worksite supports an overall healthy workplace.”

In an outreach effort, the Work Well Project also sponsored a healthy lunch for the Business for the Arts’ Arts District Tour field trip to the Stanley Marketplace. The former Stanley Aviation building and site at 2501 Dallas St. in Aurora, is being developed as a “food-centric, community-inspired marketplace,” and is scheduled to open fall 2016. The 40 attendees heard from Mark Shaker, developer of the Marketplace about how it will make a positive impact on north Aurora – and were reminded how good food is good fuel, with lunch provided by Saj Mediterranean Grill.

“We want to educate Chamber groups about the benefits of the Work Well Project,” said Mitzi Schindler, Chamber Director of Communications, and co-director with Tellis. “It was inspiring and delicious!”

Phase II of the Work Well Project will begin fall 2016, and Chamber members are encouraged to join. There is no cost for businesses to join, and the benefits are priceless. These can include improved employee retention and morale, reduced sick days and healthcare costs, and increased productivity.

For more information, contact Jennifer Tellis at jtellis@tchd.org or Mitzi Schindler at Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org.

With a little encouragement from the Chamber staff, I joined the Work Well Project, even though I really didn’t think I needed to try to fit anything else into my schedule. I am glad I joined. I learned and will continue to learn how worksite wellness is an investment, not an expense. The Chamber staff, the Worksite Wellness staff from Tri-County Health, and the people from HealthLinks have all been great to work with because of their knowledge and enthusiasm about the subject.

— Ed Duggan, Wellness Champion Steward Music Go Round
Aurora Interfaith Community Services receives grants, serves the community

Aurora Interfaith Community Services (AICS) is the recent recipient of several grants, including a City of Aurora Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of $125,000 for capital improvements; and a $50,000 Aid to Agencies grant and a $15,000 (CSBG) grant for renovations from the Arapahoe County Commissioners. The CDBG funding will be used to replace the roof, upgrade the heating/air conditioning and electrical systems, and to resurface the loading dock.

AICS is conducting a capital campaign in 2016-17 to add space to the lobby in order to serve more clients, to modernize shelving in the client oriented food pantry, and to add space for community members to meet and receive nutrition and employment training.

AICS is the largest food and clothing bank in Aurora. It is a 501(c)3 emergency relief facility that has been at 1553 Clinton Street in Original Aurora for 31 years. In 2015, AICS served 6,576 Aurora residents with groceries and toiletries valued at $309,920 and 1,449 persons with clothing and layettes valued at $223,560. Ninety-eight percent of the persons served at AICS are at the lowest category of median income as designated by HUD.

For more information or to volunteer, contact AICS Executive Director Dr. Judith M. Barrow at office@aurorainterchurch.org or (303) 360-9938.

Aman STEAM Academy to open August 2016

Aman STEAM Academy, a charter school within Aurora Public Schools, is slated to open the 2016-2017 school year. It will be located in a new shopping center at 15540 6th Ave. Upon completion, the school will house 18 classrooms, administrative offices, hives for partner organizations, and a nursing facility staffed by personnel from nearby Children’s Hospital Colorado, said Farrah Martin, founder and executive director of the Aman STEAM Academy.

Pre-kindergarten through second grade classes will begin Aug. 15, 2016, and the Academy will add one grade each year until the schools services K-8 in 2022.

Aman — which translates to “believe” in Hebrew — will operate on the STEAM education model, which combines STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering, and math — with art. The APS Board of Education approved the charter school to join the district in 2014.

Kim Robards Dance receives NEA funding

Kim Robards Dance recently received $10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Art Works category. The funding will support Moving Possibilities to Performance, a program providing professional dance performances of original choreography by Artistic Director Kim Robards, as well as a series of in-school, after-school, and summer interactive dance workshops and student performance opportunities. The program engages youth through partnerships with Title 1 elementary and middle schools, and offers opportunities for youth and adults to participate in studio classes.

“We are honored to have been selected as one of only 15 in the State, and three dance organizations statewide, to receive funding in the spring cycle. We appreciate the national recognition of our program quality and effectiveness,” said Artistic Director/CEO Kim Robards.

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu approved more than $82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA’s second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. The Art Works category supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

Transition at Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union

The Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union board of directors has named Robert “Bob” Fryberger, Jr, as the next president and chief executive officer of Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union, succeeding Sandy Neves who announced her retirement effective June 30, 2017. The board appointed Fryberger as president/CEO, and Neves as emeritus chief executive officer, effective July 1, 2016, to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

[continued on page 5]
AFRL (con't)

the 500 attendees, and reminded them that the strength of America lies with our people; not only the people being honored at the AFRL, but also “community and military leaders, and family members who make it possible for the enlisted troops to do the fantastic job they do each and every day.”

These three WWII Veterans enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific Theater of Operations:

“I’ll always remember how everyone stood and clapped for all of us WWII Vets.”
— Jack MacDade

“A couple of decades after the war I eventually became an upper level executive in a large automotive company that permitted me to attend many official gatherings in Detroit, Chicago, New York, and several other major cities. I was very impressed with this Aurora event. It was terrific from beginning to end - the stage, electronics, the MC, and all of the military personnel, especially the General and her remarks. Of special note, the wait staff were incredibly attentive, courteous, helpful, and professional. This luncheon was better organized and executed than anything I ever experienced during my entire civilian career.”
— Rey Olson

“The board and I are honored to have had the opportunity to work with Sandy over the years,” said Board Chairman Lyle Artz, with the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority. “We are extremely grateful for her visionary and energetic leadership and very excited to recognize her distinguished service by having her serve in an emeritus role for the next year as we transition the duties of president/CEO to Robert Fryberger.”

Neves began her credit union career with Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union as a teller in 1981, and became CEO in 1990. Neves has held numerous leadership positions within Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union and has served on several boards and committees within the Aurora community and the Mountain West Credit Union Association. Sandy also is Secretary of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Foundation board, to which she has served since 2007, event Fryberger joined Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union team in 1989 as accounting supervisor. Throughout his tenure, he has held various senior positions including chief financial officer and executive vice president. In 2014 he was promoted to president, where he was responsible for all areas of the credit union’s operations.

The Brew Hut celebrates turning 21 with expansion, and classes

The Brew Hut (TBH), Colorado’s largest homebrew supply shop, is finally old enough to drink!

This monumental birthday coincided with TBH’s expansion, which includes a grain room, a mill room, and a 40-person classroom with a full kitchen for on-site brewing demonstrations.

Customers can now sign up for a plethora of educational opportunities at the shop, including introduction to home-brewing classes (both extract and all-grain), wine and cheese-making classes, soda-making classes, beekeeping classes, and TIPS® certification classes taught by an in-house TIPS® certified instructor.

For more information and to sign up for classes, visit fareharbor.com/thebrewhut.

Westerra among Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions in America

Westerra Credit Union was named among the Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions in America by depositaccounts.com. Westerra was ranked number eight in the annual ranking of banks and credit unions on the Deposit Accounts comparison website, known for helping consumers find the best rates. The ranking is based upon the depositaccounts.com proprietary institution health rating algorithm that has been recognized and cited by hundreds of media outlets nationwide. The site features Westerra’s 5-Year Flex CD Special and 12-Month CD among top deals for consumers.

“We strive to consistently provide our members good rates on their savings,” said John McClay, President/CEO of Westerra Credit Union. “As a local Colorado credit union, it is important to us to give back more to our members and to keep those funds working here in our community.” Westerra has also earned the top 5-Star rating for financial strength every quarter consecutively since 1992 by bauerfinancial.com. Learn more at about Westerra Credit Union atbwww.westerracu.com.
There’s a new Wells Fargo in town — in Parker, CO
With a backdrop of a mural representing the history of Parker, Colo., Town of Parker Mayor Mike Waid is assisted by Regional Banking District Manager Jodi Harmon, and Branch Manager Ferhad Bazyar, in cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of Wells Fargo at 17805 Cottonwood Dr., Ste. 101, Parker, CO 80134. Wells Fargo is one of the largest financial institutions, serving 70 million customers in more than 130 countries around the world. (720)907-0663 www.wellsfargo.com (4.29.16)

Exceptional education in a place as nurturing as home!
Jenny Armstrong, school director, of Cadence Academy cuts the ribbon with much support from staff and preschoolers. Cadence Academy takes a hands-on approach to learning and provides quality programming and dedicated teachers for children from six weeks to 12 years old. Each child is treated as an individual and encouraged to progress at his natural ability, while still reaching desired age-level goals. In addition, the Academy provides before and after care for school-aged children, and transportation to and from local elementary schools. Cadence Academy is at 5637 S. Himalaya St., Centennial, CO 80015. (303)699-5072 www.cadence-academy.com/schools/smoky-hill-aurora-preschool/ (6.1.16)

Get smarter with your insurance!
Congratulations to Michele Yardeny on the grand opening of her Farmers Insurance office at 6235 S. Main St., Ste. 205, Aurora, CO 80016. Yardeny is dedicated to helping customers identify the insurance coverage that best fits their needs. She has the experience and knowledge to help customers understand their coverage options in a straightforward and personalized manner. (720)499-0021 http://www.farmersagent.com/myardeny (5.20.16)
Something smells good in the neighborhood!
Owner Doug Chapman and staff are delighted to cut the ribbon and open the doors to Kneaders of Serenity Ridge, at 25771 E. Smoky Hill Rd., Aurora, CO 80016. The restaurant was founded in 1997 with the simple concept of European hearth breads made from scratch. This concept has evolved to more than 12 types of freshly baked breads and 42 pastries, and a variety of hearty soups. Their unique menu provides customers with a variety of fresh and wholesome options. (720)556-5158 www.kneaders.com (5.19.16)

Creative Counseling Center expands
Teri Karjala, Licensed Professional Counselor and owner of Creative Counseling Center, is accompanied by therapists Danielle Polifroni, Brittany Green, and Sarah Senst, to cut the ribbon celebrating the expansion for their much-needed additional space. Creative Counseling Center provides counseling for children (2+), adolescents, and adults, to empower and inspire them to create a life of hope, harmony, and happiness. They specialize in treating individuals with childhood trauma, anxiety, and depression. Creative Counseling Center has several trained therapists to best meet the client’s needs, using various counseling theories and techniques to treat the “whole” person. (303) 843-6000 www.creativecounselingcenter.com (2.29.16)

Smart, fast repair for your smart phones – Shane Blou, general manager of In and Out Smart Repair, accompanied by Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, cut the ribbon for their new location at 14401 E. Bayaud Ave., Unit D, Aurora, CO 80012. In & Out Smart Repair offers expert phone repair services, and prides themselves on providing fast, quality work. They offer same-day turnaround on many repairs, and have in-store stock parts for most models of iPad and iPhone, and most Android phones. (303)344-8660 www.inandoutsmartrepair.com (5.10.16)

Rob and Olga Mead, owners of GradePower Learning, are excited about their first location in Colorado at Southlands, at 6235 S. Main St. Suite 210, Aurora, CO 80016. GradePower Learning is the first supplemental education program of its kind, with an exclusive academic-based cognitive learning approach that affords students a lifetime of learning skills. Programs include: Little Readers for 3-6 year olds; Beyond Tutoring for 1st – 8th graders; Advantage for 9th-12th graders; SAT/ACT Test Prep; homeschool enrichment; summer advantage; and French and Spanish. (303) 928-7644 www.gradepowerlearning.com. (5.20.16)

Growing, changing, and recovering at MHBH — Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan and Mile High Behavioral Healthcare (MHBH) Board President Susan Harris share the scissors to cut the ribbon for MHBH's new location and community garden. MHBH CEO Robert “Bob” Dorshimer is next to Harris.

The community garden ties in with MHBH’s approach to wellness, addressing whole person care. Located at 4242 Delaware St., Denver, CO 80216, MHBH is a place to provide clients a hands-on opportunity to cultivate recovery. The new garden is sponsored by Aurora Gateway Rotary and Citywide Banks. (303) 825-8113 www.milehighbehavioralhealthcare.org (6/17/16) (Photo courtesy Kara Page, MHBH)

Make Cleaning Simple!
Beverly Robinson, owner of Maid Simple of Aurora, LLC, is excited about her new business and cuts the ribbon celebrating with a few Chamber members! Maid Simple of Aurora will clean a customer’s home on a day that works best for their schedule, and is committed to providing high-quality work. Maid Simple of Aurora is locally owned, reliable, affordable, provides green cleaning, and is pet friendly. (303)923-3050 www.auroramaidsimple.com (5.24.16)

DIVERSITY (con’t)

that come together in an agency, enabling effective interactions in a cross-cultural framework.” She elaborated on the cost of not being culturally competent, and how it can affect an organization’s bottom line, such as: inability to communicate a message to intended audiences; inability to meet different clients’ needs and/or reach out to potential clients; difficulty achieving the organization’s mission; providing an unwelcoming work environment for new employees that can cause employee turnover; and, increased cost due to low employee retention.

“I look forward to attending the Diversity and Inclusion Council of the Aurora Chamber every month. Between the speaker’s presentations and the interaction with the members it ‘sharpens my saw Mr. Stephen Covey.' Time well spent. ROI +," said Fire Chief Jerry Rhodes, Cunningham Fire Protection District.

As Aurora has become the most diverse city in Colorado, the Diversity and Inclusion Council is dedicated to providing information, resources and awareness to Chamber members and the community.

The Diversity and Inclusion Council is planning a Resource Summit for October 2016. Details will be shared in upcoming eblasts and emails. The Council meets the second Friday of each month at 9 am. Check online calendar for details.

www.aurorachamber.org/events/calendar/.
For her efforts to emulate the theme of the day.
(And yes, that is a gopher on her hat!)

**Citywide Banks** once again stepped up as the Event Sponsor for the tournament. Gold Sponsors were **Adolfson & Peterson Construction** and **Metro Community Provider Network**, and Silver Sponsors included **Advantage Security, Inc.**, **American Portfolios, Aurora Mental Health Center, Axiom Strategies, City of Aurora Public Works, Colorado Technical University, Community Banks of Colorado, Fairmount Mortuary and Cemetery, Falck Rocky Mountain, FirstBank of Aurora, The GEO Group, Hurricane Grill and Wings, Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, Max Effect Marketing, The Medical Center of Aurora, Nelnet, Visit Aurora, and Westerra Credit Union**.

The Leadership Aurora annual golf tournament is the primary fundraiser for the Leadership Aurora program, which is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 class through July 15. An online application can be accessed at http://www.aurorachamber.org/leadership-aurora/leadership-application/.

**Karen Sivert** with Wells Fargo Bank won the Women’s Longest Drive at the June 16 Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament.
Rachel Gruber joins Chamber staff

The Chamber staff welcomes Rachel Gruber to the team as the Director of Member Services. Rachel has jumped— with both feet— into Chamber activities and will probably be the first voice you hear when you call The Chamber. She will be scheduling future ribbon cuttings, and has already experienced and staffed the annual Leadership Golf Tournament, attended the Diversity and Inclusion Council meeting, and is quickly “learning everything that goes into a Chamber, and how all the different aspects have work together in order to be successful.” Rachel is a recent graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Business Administration.

Member Renewals

AAA Colorado
Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.
Advantage Security, Inc.
American National Insurance - Doug Robinson
Ameristar Casino, Resort & Spa
Aurora Dentistry
AutoPros, LLC
Backflow Consulting Testing & Repair, Inc.
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.
Belef, Ellen P.
Boeing Company, The
Brock Publishing
Camp Bow Wow Aurora
Cherry Creek Nursing Center
Cherry Creek School District #5
ClearPath Accountants, LLC
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Rapp
Colorado Gaming Association
Comitis Crisis Center, Inc.
Community College of Aurora Foundation
Core Contractors
Courtyard by Marriott - Denver Stapleton
Creative Counseling Center, LLC
Cruise Planners-Live 2 Travel
Cunningham Fire Protection District
Darcy Trupp - Brokers Guild Cherry Creek
Escape to Serenity Massage
Farmers Insurance - Jolene Johnson Agency
Farmers Insurance Group - Matthew Hunting
Fields, Rhonda State House HD-42
Fogg System Company, Inc.
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
Garden Plaza of Aurora
GOAL Academy
Grand Design, Inc.
Grandma’s Handyman Service, Inc.
Havana Business Improvement District
Holiday Inn & Suites DIA
Hungry Howie’s Pizza
Hurricane Grill & Wings
Insula Design Studio, PC
Kaiser Permanent
Kim Robards Dance
Lawson, Angela
McGrath, Jane
Meat Truck Jones BBQ Catering
Publication Printers Corp.
RE/MAX Success
Regis University
Sable Cove Condominium Association, Inc.
Shalom Cares
Solidyn Solutions, Inc.
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
Specialty Incentives
Stillwater Resources & Investments
Technical Petroleum Services, LLC
Tenaker Pet Care Center, Inc.
The Fields Foundation
The GEO Group
The Meadows at Dunkirk, by Pecdoc Management
The Medical Center of Aurora, HealthONE
The Shops at Northfield Stapleton
Town Center at Aurora
Tri-County Health Department
Tyco Integrated Security
United Veterans Committee of Colorado
University Physicians, Inc.
Wave Audio Visual, Inc.
Workwell Occupational Medicine, LLC - Aurora
Xcel Energy
Xerox State & Local Solutions, Inc.

New Members

Acct-Tech Consulting LLC
AVI Systems
Big Dreams 4 U
Panera Bread
Buffalo Wild Wings Southlands
Cadence Academy
Colorado Harvest Company
Divine Mercy Catholic Church
Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Southeast
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Aurora/Parker
Farmers Insurance - Yardeny Agency
Fruit Revival
Gabrielle Cardwell
Galloway Group
Gershman Mortgage
In & Out Smart Repair
Invisible Fence Brand of Colorado
Kelly Educational Staffing
Ken’s Auto Service
Kerry Simkins – Select Accounts Manager
Maid Simple of Aurora, LLC
Mutual of Omaha - Marcus Balsley
New Hope Family Chiropractic
Paychex Inc.
Perry and Co. - Olivia Taylor
Rita’s Italian Ice
Sessions Group - Real Estate Services
Sпрightly Escapes - Escape Room/Entertainment
The Flying Locksmiths - Denver Metro East
Transamerica Financial Advisors - Brian McCurdy
Xcelerated Signs & Graphics

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Deadlines: the 10th of the month prior to publication.