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Mayor Stephen D. Hogan
303-739-7015
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- Creating great neighborhoods
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Marsha Berzins
[Mayor Pro-Tem] Ward III
303-739-7508
mberzins@auroragov.org



Sally Mounier
Ward I
303-739-7502
sallymounier@comcast.net



Renie Peterson
Ward II
303-739-7506
rrpeters@auroragov.org



Molly Markert
Ward IV
303-739-7516
mmarkert@auroragov.org



Bob Roth
Ward V
303-739-7510
broth@auroragov.org



Bob Broom
Ward VI
303-589-5057
rbroom@auroragov.org



Barb Cleland
At-Large
303-739-7524
bcleland@auroragov.org



Debi Hunter Holen
At-Large
303-739-7518
dholen@auroragov.org



Bob LeGare
At-Large
303-366-0113
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Brad Pierce
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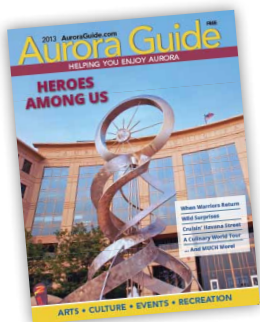
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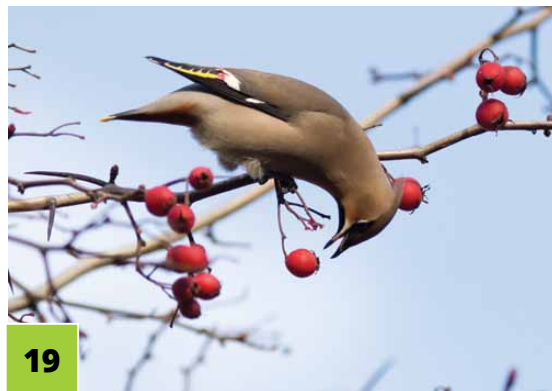


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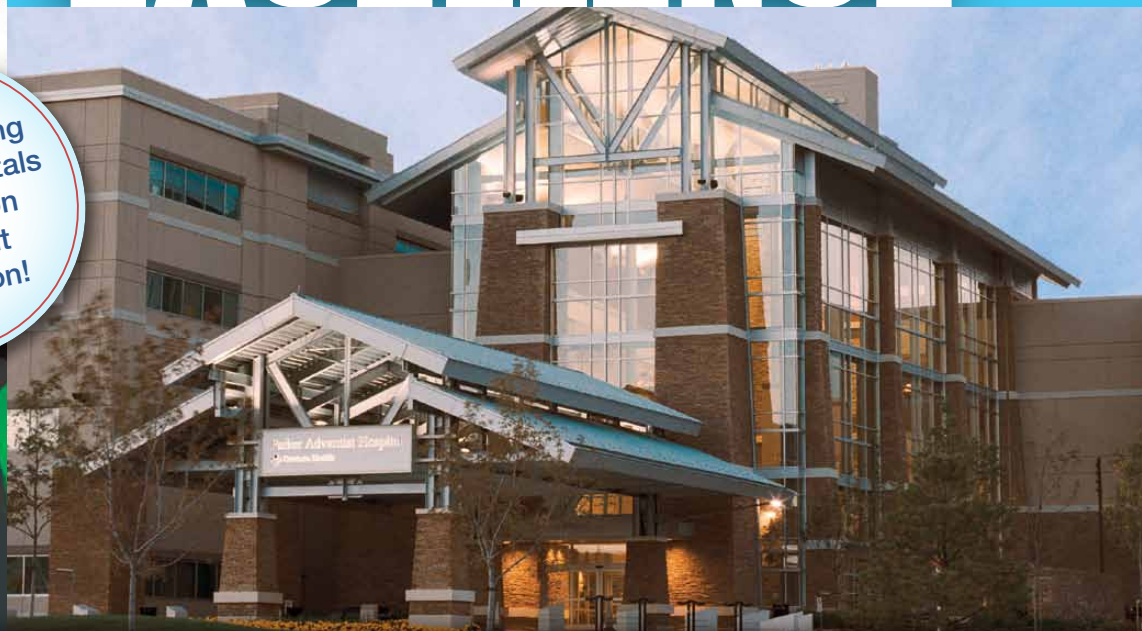
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Aurora Guide

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Publisher	Thomas W. Brock
Editor	Mary Jarrett
Art Director	Hilary Stojak
Graphic Design	Peggy Doyle
Advertising Sales	Sandi Ausman Jason Zvitt
Editorial Assistant	Lindzy Ruttenberg
Writers	Sue Bjorkman Mary Ann Bonnell Carol Brock Mary Lynn Bruny Rebecca Caro Tanya Ishikawa Debra Melani Lisa Truesdale
Office Manager	Rose D'Errico
City of Aurora Liaison	Kathryn Cable

Brock Media email address: info@brockpub.com

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Welcome to Aurora!

Dear visitors and newcomers:

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With this in mind, we say welcome to Aurora.

For outdoor enthusiasts, more than 100 parks, seven public golf courses, 6,000 acres of open space and 50 miles of trails await exploration, while two sparkling reservoirs packed with fish beckon anglers, water enthusiasts and wildlife watchers alike.

If food is your passion, we have some of the best independently owned eateries in the metro area, from the native cuisines of Somalia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Korea to more familiar Japanese and Italian flavors. Our diverse population, hailing from all corners of the world, also provides the city with unique shopping opportunities at exotic ethnic markets and quaint shops. At the same time, you'll find the national chains you desire at Southlands, the Town Center at Aurora, Arapahoe Crossing, Cornerstar and the Gardens on Havana.

Aurora also is brimming with public art, with more than 240 whimsical and traditional pieces situated throughout the city, both indoors and out. Our region's artistic talent, including the theatrical kind, can be found as well in the Aurora Arts District, located along



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF AURORA

the historic Colfax corridor. And there is always something new to learn or do at the Aurora History Museum.

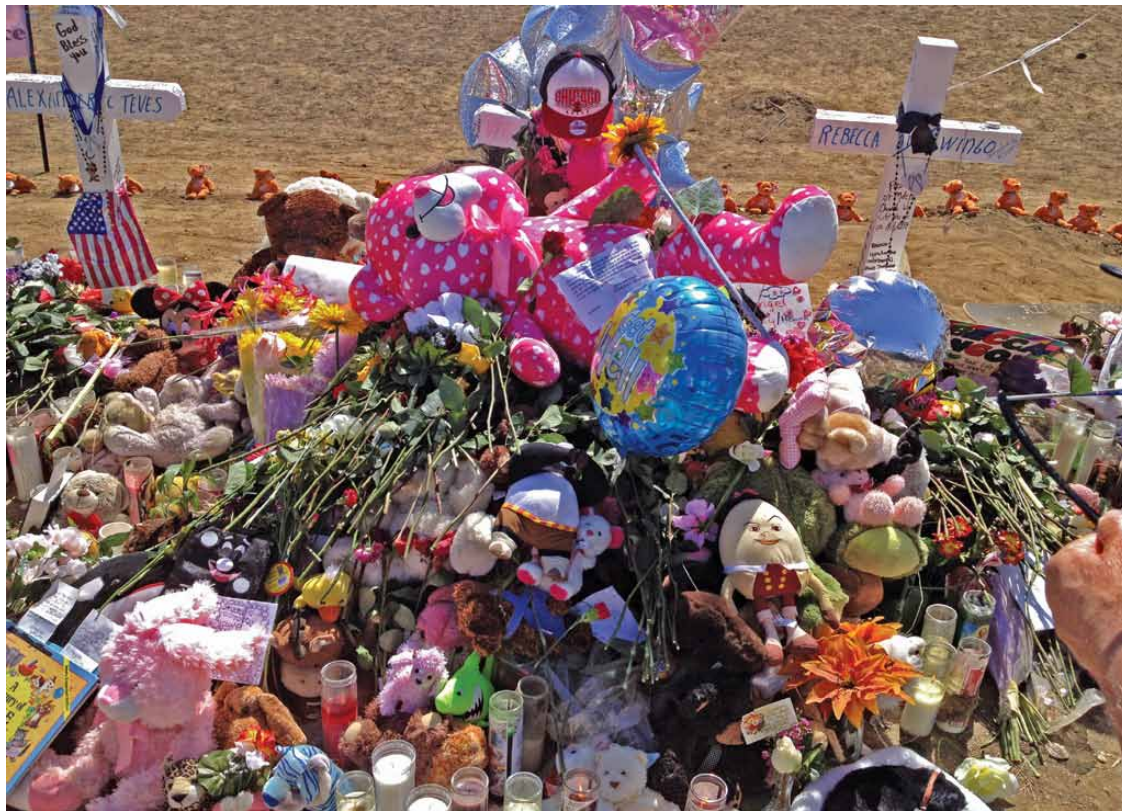
Since we're adjacent to Denver International Airport and only a short drive from downtown Denver and the mountains, Aurora truly is a gateway to the Rockies. With economic development flourishing here in recent years, we are attracting a whole new type of visitor, thanks to the state-of-the-art medical and science research and health care happening at the Anschutz Medical Campus, and the critical national defense and aerospace work going on at Buckley Air Force Base.

With the promise of a complete light rail system in 2016 connecting Aurora to major destinations south, east, west and north, it will be that much easier for Aurora's residents and visitors to get where they need to go throughout the city and beyond.

We hope you enjoy your time in Aurora, with all there is to see and do. And if you're not already one of us, perhaps you'll even choose to stay.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen D. Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Stephen D. Hogan



HEROES AMONG US



AURORANS SHINE AFTER THE TRAGEDY

BY TANYA ISHIKAWA

The community of Aurora has had an unwelcome opportunity to demonstrate its strength and compassion. Countless individuals, businesses and organizations responded with heroism and generosity after last July's tragic mass shooting at a local theater.

"The way people react to tragedy identifies and shapes what a community is all about. In the worst time in its history, the people of Aurora stepped forward to help," said Kevin Hougen, the CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. "We have no idea of all the kind acts of strangers out there."

Mourning for the 12 murdered theatergoers continues, and a great deal of healing needs to happen for the 70 wounded victims, witnesses, their families and neighbors. Throughout this process, perhaps the goodwill and coming together of the Aurora community can be a bit of consolation.

The selfless acts began immediately on that summer night as many in the theater, customers as well as staff, ran to assist

the trapped and injured. Because the theater complex is close to Buckley Air Force Base, many military members were in the audience, and a few died protecting others, said Hougen. The Chamber's offices are also in Town Center at Aurora, with a view of the 3,400-seat Cinemark Century 16 Theaters.

"The first responders were amazing," he said. "There were 1,300 people in or at the theater, and the parking lot was jammed full. It was almost like a war zone. When the ambulances and

fire trucks came in, they were overwhelmed by people. Police drove injured movie guests right to the emergency rooms. Thank goodness the University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital are so close. The paramedics, nurses and doctors were involved in many awe-inspiring stories."

Hospital staffs around Aurora pulled together to not only treat patients but to truly care for them, their families and the concerned

community. At University of Colorado Hospital, more than 130 off-duty employees, from nurses and doctors to chaplains and radiologists, rushed in to help during the early morning hours,

"This tragedy shows that no matter how diverse a community is, we all share experiences. There is so much beauty in diversity and our ability to come together... I feel that Aurora handled it with grace and compassion and support."

Karen Arangua, longtime Aurora resident

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 ➔

HOPE AMID DESPAIR

Being married to the publisher of the Aurora Guide, I've always had great affection for the city of Aurora. I eagerly anticipate each issue of the magazine, so I can see all that's going on in this vibrant city. Although I'm not a resident, I'm always amazed by the many offerings. From exceptional cultural and arts events to sports opportunities, open space areas, parks, playgrounds and cutting-edge medical facilities, Aurora has it all.

But one thing I never knew Aurora had was heart—and courage. After the Century Aurora theater shootings on July 20, I, like most people around the world, experienced a tailspin of shock, horror and disbelief, and grief and sympathy for the families. Being closely tied to the city through the Aurora Guide, my husband and I felt compelled to visit the makeshift memorial that sprang up across the street from the theater.

When we rounded the block and saw the Century sign looming overhead, I felt I'd been kicked in the gut. When we crossed the street and visited the memorial, I felt a ray of hope.



Assembled there were good people, decent people, mourning the deaths of other good and decent people. We met Michelle and Kevin, a young couple who took off work to pay their respects. We saw children placing balloons and stuffed toys. We watched adults holding those children a little closer.

Someone had erected a large posterboard with a thick "We Will Remember" headline scrawled across the top. Young and old stopped to pick up a pen and write on the board.

I watched a toddler scribble a lopsided heart. I saw an elderly man lean on a cane so that he too could add a message. Within an hour, the entire board was filled with remembrances for Jonathan Blunk, Alexander Boik, Jesse Childress, Gordon Cowden, Jessica Ghawi, John Larimer, Matt McQuinn, Micayla Medek, Veronica Moser-Sullivan, Alex Sullivan, Alexander Teves and Rebecca Wingo.

Amid tears, the community came to say you will be remembered. We will move past despair. And though we will never regain what we lost, we will never lose faith. Ever.

—Carol Brock



said Dan Weaver, the hospital's media relations coordinator. Experts from the hospital's blood bank and sterile-processing department made sure doctors had what they needed for multiple surgeries. Meanwhile, security staff maintained order, PR experts handled the media, and phone-bank volunteers answered more than 1,000 calls.

"Staff across the entire University of Colorado Hospital were absolutely incredible in their response," Weaver commented. "It was an amazing effort from everyone, and we're extremely proud that all of the 22 patients we treated here are still alive today."

As night turned to morning, many shops and restaurants around the Town Center did not open. Local businesspeople came forward to ask what they could do to help, and Chamber staff members began calling and visiting nearby restaurants to see what could be done to bring food to the emergency personnel at the crime scene and the victims and families staying at local high schools. Chick-fil-A at the Gardens on Havana, Gibby's Sports Saloon and Mimi's Cafe were just three of the many restaurants that provided sustenance to the people who were helping and hurting.

SIRENS IN THE NIGHT

Karen Arangua, who operates the Chick-fil-A restaurant at Town Center at Aurora, is a longtime Aurora resident and an Overland High School graduate. In the midnight hours of July 20, she was awake nearby and heard the sirens as the first responders rushed to the horrifying scene. Three of her employees were in the theater that night. She and her closing manager, Linsey Quieser, spoke with every one of the restaurant's 65 employees over the next day to confirm they were safe and accounted for.

Arangua and Quieser opened Chick-fil-A in the early morning hours of July 21 to provide meals, water and restrooms to the first responders. She and her staff donated food and drinks to the emergency personnel, both in the dining room and by delivery. The restaurant also became an important place for members of the media to get refreshed.

"It was just the right thing to do," Arangua said. "The way it sounded on the police scanners, I knew the first responders were seeing and going through a very stressful time. The last thing they needed to worry about was food, and that was a need we could fill immediately. I helped because Aurora is my community, and I love it."

"There was an incredible outpouring of kindness from local businesses for all of the emergency people—the FBI, too," she recalled. "It was amazing. There was a cloud of sadness and shock, but the other side of it is that people felt closer. I think people really were willing to help in any way they possibly could. The memorial and people coming from everywhere was a testament to the strength of our community and the resolve of people to not let fear take over."

Arangua believes that Aurora's strength lies in its diversity. "This tragedy shows that no matter how diverse a community is, we all share experiences," she said. "There is so much beauty in diversity and our ability to come together. That's what gives Aurora the ability to handle situations and a tragedy like they did. I feel that they handled it with grace and compassion and support."

Among the many others who stepped forward were the general managers of the Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast and Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport, who offered lodging to victims' families. Presidents of local companies such as Chambers Wines & Liquors and

Northrop Grumman organized charitable events and activities, with proceeds directed to the city-maintained victims' fund. Ed Bozarth Chevrolet on Havana Street donated \$50,000.

Hougen commended the Aurora Mental Health Center, saying its staff "stood up above and beyond to help locals and theatergoers." He also credited the city government of Aurora for coordinating much of the community assistance. In-kind services and other types of nonmonetary donations such as food were often funneled through the city's Office of Budget and Financial Planning, as were large monetary donations to the victims' fund. The city maintained a centralized record of contributions so victim advocates could connect victims directly with resources.

"Of course, there were lots more people whose contributions we don't even know about," the Chamber CEO said. "There are things going on all the time that show the incredible generosity in this community."

'WE ARE AURORA'

Howie Metz, who owns Quality First Plumbing with his wife, Lori, came to the first volunteer organizing meeting at city hall to help figure out what to do next. When prospective volunteers split into different interest groups, Metz joined a roomful of small-business owners. "A lot of action was taking place in that room. We talked about who was going to do what and when, and got commitments," he said. "I am not one to just sit around and talk about it. I like to get things done."

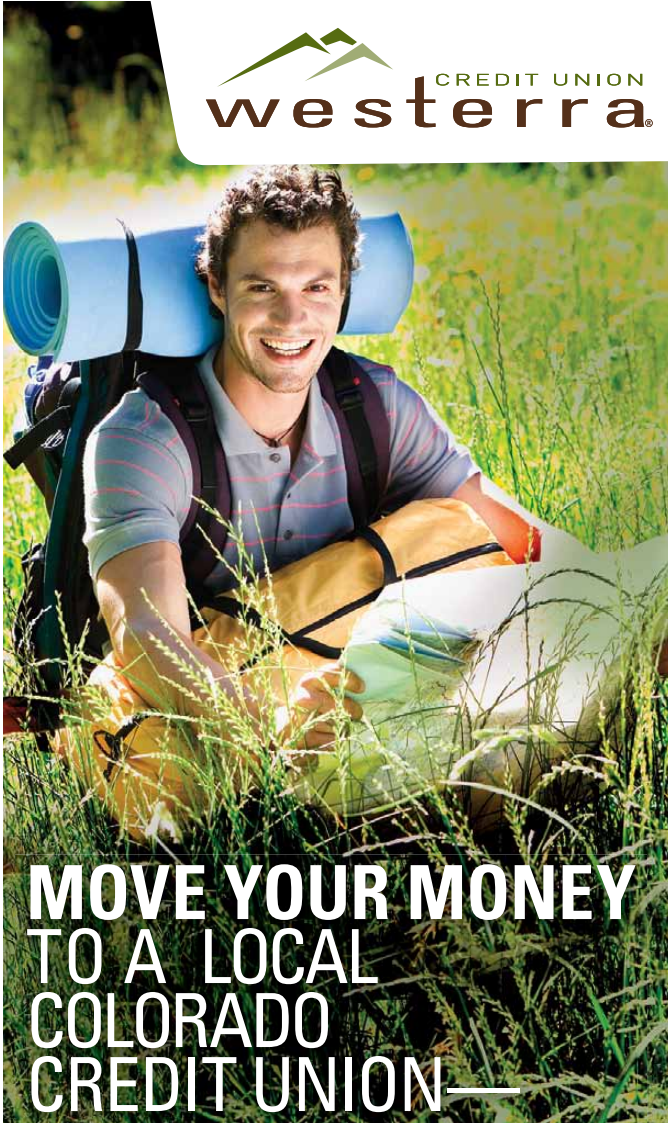
Later, a friend told Metz about 50 families who were without fresh food. They lived in an apartment building across the intersection from the shooting suspect's apartment, and all the electricity in the area had been turned off for fear of detonating explosives. The families' refrigerated and frozen food had spoiled in the summer heat. Metz's immediate response was to round up his friends so they could help.

Quality Plumbing employee Steve Lawrence helped empty all the tools and parts out of a service truck, and then headed over to Costco with Piper Electric vice-president Paul Miller and local financial planner Kris Tower. The men grabbed flatbed carts, filled them up, shared the cost of the food, stocked their truck and delivered it to Paris Elementary School, across the street from the 50 families.

"The school staff helped us distribute 150 dozen eggs, about 50 gallons of milk, and 50 gallons of OJ. I didn't even ask for a cost break or donation; we just had to move. A few days later, I bought some more to make sure every family had gotten some of the food," Metz said. "We also donated to the victims' fund, and donated school supplies to the school. We got involved with a motorcycle run that happened very spontaneously with the help of Mile High Harley-Davidson."

Though he has lived in Aurora since 1982, Metz did not know anyone personally affected by a death or injury in the tragedy. The whole experience was "surreal," he said. "I visited that site [at the theater] every day for three weeks. There was no room for anything but love. The people of Aurora have bonded. It really brought home that we are Aurora; I have a sticker on the front door of my office that says that: 'We Are Aurora.' It really means something now." •

Tanya Ishikawa is a regular contributor to the Aurora Guide.



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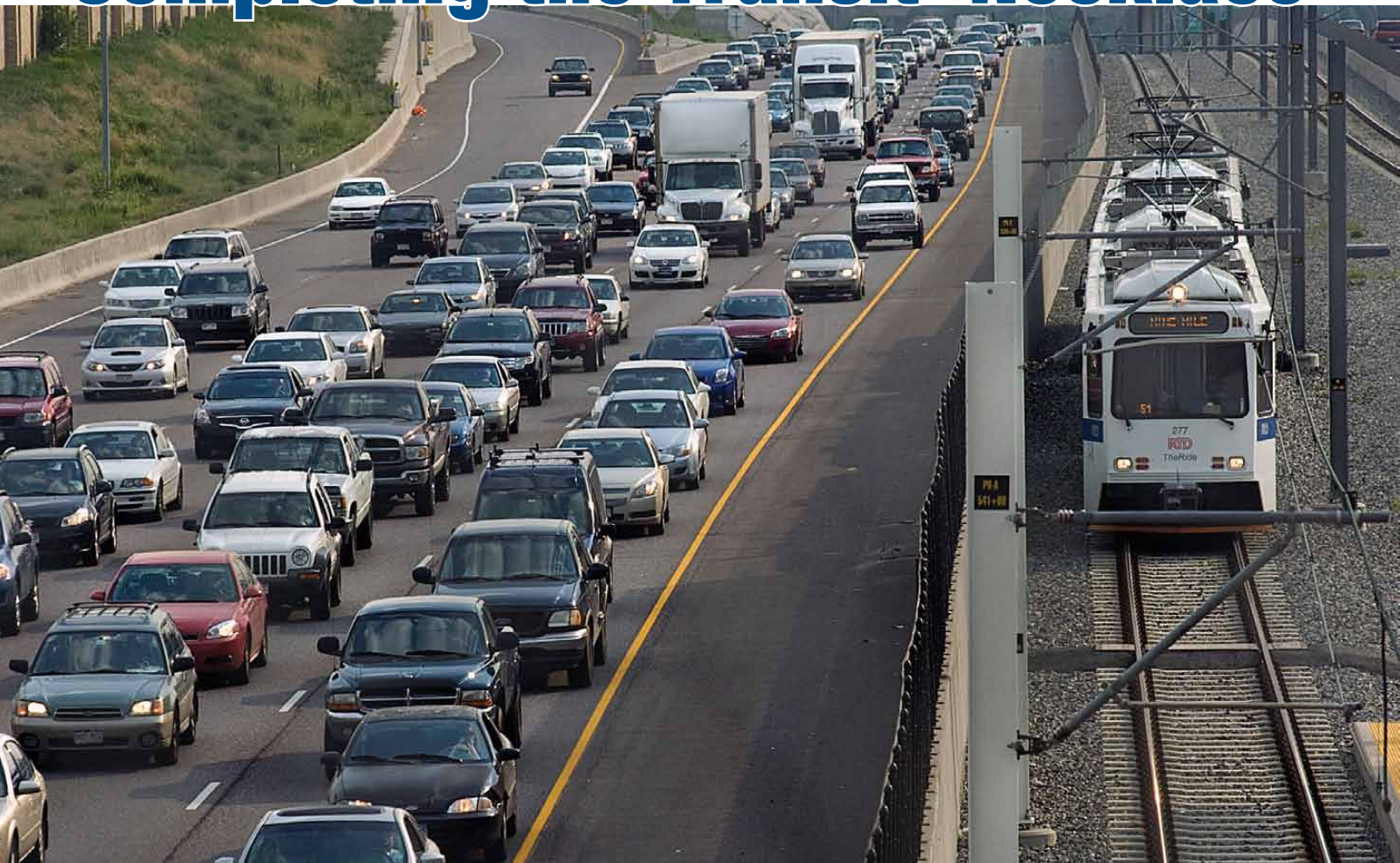
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Completing the Transit 'Necklace'



FasTracks' I-225 line is much closer to reality

BY SUE BJORKMAN

Good news for commuters frustrated by traffic jams on I-225: Construction on the light-rail section between South Parker Road in Aurora and I-70 gets under way in the first quarter of 2013. By 2016, the 10.5-mile FasTracks section connecting the Southeast Rail Line with the East Rail Line will be ready to ride.

Even better news: This project is more than two decades ahead of schedule. An agreement between RTD and a private contractor, along with the city of Aurora's strategic planning and advocacy efforts, will enable the line to be completed about 28 years earlier than recent estimates.

When voters approved the FasTracks transit-expansion initiative in 2004, "Plan A" was to build six new rail lines and three extensions, including the I-225 line. All 122 miles of rail line linking the suburbs to downtown Denver and the airport were to be built simultaneously within a few years. But soaring materials costs and lower-than-anticipated revenues forced a drastic readjustment of the schedule. Final project completion dates drifted out to 2044.

AN INNOVATIVE RESCUE PLAN

RTD looked to the private sector for innovative ways to speed up the timetable, hosting a forum called "Transformation Through Transportation" in September 2011. The next summer, Kiewit Infrastructure Co. responded by submitting a proposal to complete the entire I-225 line for \$350 million. After a competitive bidding process that also involved one other contractor, Kiewit and its design partner AECOM were awarded the contract. RTD will repay the cost by issuing bonds and using funds from an existing sales-tax revenue program.

"The Kiewit contract represents the capital cost to build the light-rail line, and came just below RTD's internal estimate," says Tina Jaquez, of FasTracks' public information team. The savings are possible because rail cars for the line had already been purchased as part of the procurement for West Rail Line vehicles, and Kiewit's personnel and materials were already in place.

Kiewit Infrastructure Co. is no stranger to large local projects. A division of Nebraska-based Kiewit Corp., the employee-owned Fortune 500 corporation led the design/build construction team on the joint project by RTD and CDOT to widen I-25 and build the

Transportation Expansion (T-REX) project. It is currently constructing the new rail lines and bus station at Denver Union Station. Kiewit will collaborate with Mass. Electric Construction Co. and RBC Capital Markets on the I-225 line.

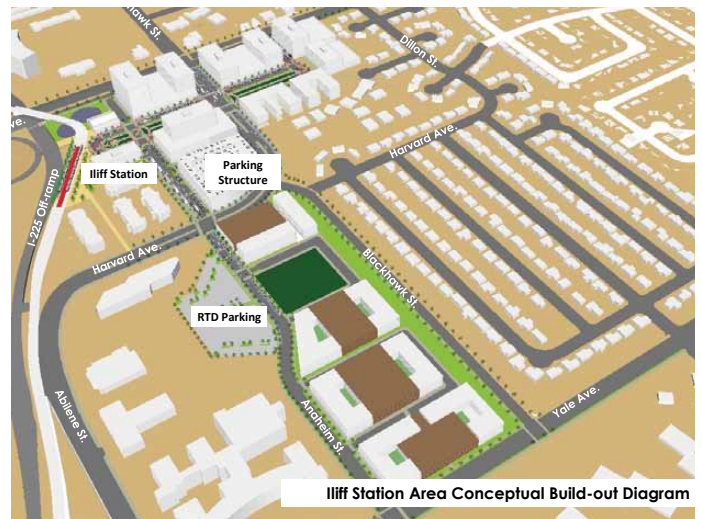
"The FasTracks system is like a necklace of stations, and this is the missing strand," says John Fernandez, who leads Aurora's FasTracks and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) team. "The city of Aurora feels extremely fortunate that RTD's been able to work with the private sector to get this line completed more in line with the originally planned dates."

NEXT STOP: PROGRESS

Aurora's motto, "Next Stop: Progress," could not be more appropriate. Officials predict that beyond providing convenient "green" transportation, the FasTracks project will create jobs, spark development and significantly strengthen Aurora's economy. During the peak of construction, the I-225 line will bring an estimated 500 direct jobs, as well as 800 jobs at new businesses that spring up nearby.

"This project is unique in two ways," Fernandez comments. "It is located entirely in the city of Aurora, and it goes out of the highway corridor and into the city streets. We hope this will spur more development along the rail lines and also make it a lot more convenient for riders."

With nine well-situated stations, the I-225 rail line will allow riders to transfer to Denver International Airport or Denver's Union Station. Depending on the originating station, it will take 40 to 60 minutes to commute from Aurora to downtown Denver. Ride time from downtown to DIA on the East Rail Line will be approximately



35 minutes, with no extra time or money needed for parking.

The line also provides direct access to Aurora City Center, the Anschutz/Fitzsimons Medical Campus, and the soon-to-be-completed Regional Veterans Affairs Hospital. Stations will be located at Peoria/Smith, Montview Avenue, Colfax Avenue, 13th Avenue, Second Avenue/Abilene, Aurora City Center, Florida, and I-225. Six will provide parking and three will be walk-up only. The majority of the 1,800 proposed parking spaces will be at the I-225 Station (600 spaces) and Peoria/Smith (550).

The overall plan is to decrease dependence on personal automobiles by creating pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use (residential, office and retail) districts around the stations. Plazas, walkways and

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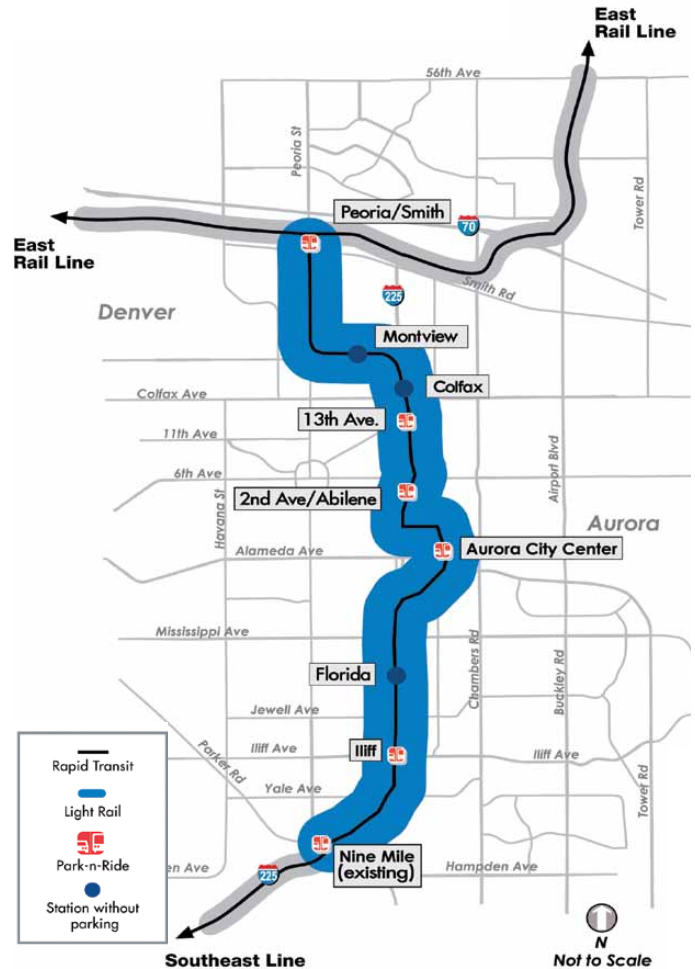


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a series of public parks are planned near the 13th Avenue and Peoria stations. At the Florida station, protected bikeways along Florida Avenue will encourage the rail-and-bike crowd. The pedestrian bridge over I-225 will be expanded with a bridge over Abilene Street as well. Near the station at Second and Abilene, 300 to 800 dwelling units are planned.

"There are challenges, too," Fernandez says. "Aurora is basically a suburban community and this is an urban project. This means adjusting existing streets to meet urban street standards and addressing safety and noise issues at crossings and along rail lines."

According to Jaquez, "regional connectivity" is the biggest thing the I-225 line provides. But avoiding unpredictable traffic and downtown or airport parking fees also make rail travel attractive.

Dave Harrison of Aurora looks forward to the new line to expand his commuting options. He already takes the light rail daily from the Nine Mile station to his downtown office, even though that currently requires a bus transfer.

"I am a big fan of light rail," Harrison says, "just for the joy and pleasure of getting at least one car—mine—off the road and reducing the stuff we're putting into the environment. Getting into Denver without relying on an automobile and not having to deal with traffic congestion is just great." ●

Sue Bjorkman is a freelance writer who has written for numerous publications in Colorado and Georgia.

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A cedar waxwing feasts on crab apples.

WILD Surprises

NEIGHBORS WITH WINGS, FUR AND SCALES

BY MARY ANN BONNELL

Aurora is as diverse a city as you are likely to find, not just in people but also in wildlife. Its wild surprises include surprising species, surprising places to see them, and helpful tips for that surprising moment when you meet a wild animal you did not expect to meet.

SURPRISING SPECIES

Some residents can hardly believe their eyes when they first see pelicans in Aurora. American white pelicans arrive in Aurora in March, and some may spend the entire summer hunting in the shallow ponds of our golf courses, reservoirs and urban ponds for small fish, crayfish and other invertebrates.

Imagine the surprise when city staff identified a bobcat in a remote wildlife-camera photo from Sand Creek. The photo, snapped at 1:13 a.m., clearly shows a single bobcat on the move in the tall grasses near Coal Creek Arena. Remote wildlife cameras offer an inexpensive way to document wild animals such as this bobcat without disturbing them.

Burrowing owls can be mistaken for prairie dogs at first glance. The surprise comes when the “prairie dog” takes off and flies from one burrow to another right before your eyes. Burrowing owls arrive in Aurora in mid-April and stay through mid-October. Nesting in vacant prairie dog burrows, they thrive by eating insects and small rodents throughout the summer. The best places to view burrowing owls in Aurora are at Plains Conservation Center and near Murphy Creek Golf Course.

Sometimes large species that are normally not found in urban and suburban areas will surprise us with a quick visit. A single black bear made a brief appearance on the golf course at Heritage Eagle Bend



American white pelican in flight at Quincy Reservoir.



Golf, anyone? A coyote checks out an Aurora golf course.

PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF AURORA

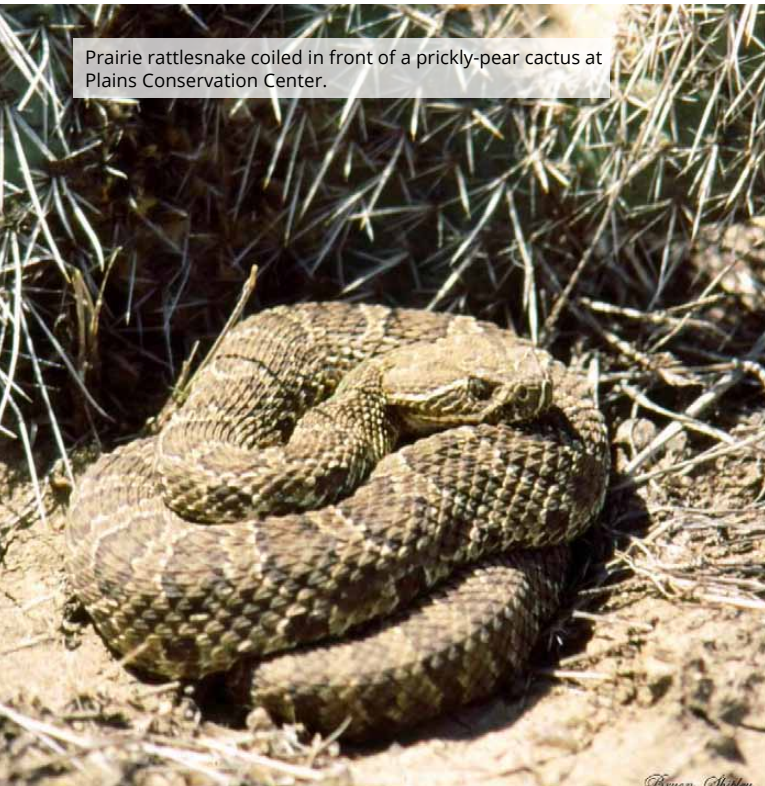
Remote-camera photo of a bobcat near Sand Creek in Aurora.



Male American goldfinch in lemon-yellow summer plumage.



Prairie rattlesnake coiled in front of a prickly-pear cactus at Plains Conservation Center.



For more information on Aurora's surprisingly diverse wildlife species, please visit auroragov.org/nature or the city's Living with Wildlife page.

If you have an Aurora wildlife surprise you'd like to share, please send your story to nature@auroragov.org.

in August 2012. The combination of deer, cover and connected urban stream corridors makes rare and fleeting mountain lion sightings possible as well.

SURPRISING PLACES

Sometimes the surprise is not so much the animal as where you see it. This is often true of bald eagles. In the past three years, winter sightings have become much more common throughout Aurora. Residents have spotted bald eagles flying over Sixth Avenue, perched along Sand Creek, circling over RTD's Nine Mile Station and even loafing in a backyard tree in Mission Viejo, making this once-endangered species surprisingly common.

Many of us enjoy Aurora's many miles of trails. Because trails are open, clear of obstacles and often located along existing urban drainages and other wildlife corridors, we can expect that some of our wild neighbors will also use the trail on occasion. Remote wildlife cameras, as well as tracks in fresh snow or mud, prove our trails are regularly used by raccoons, coyotes and deer at night and sometimes during the day. Warm, sunny trails make great basking spots for resident reptiles such as bullsnakes, garter snakes and even the occasional prairie rattlesnake. If you are surprised by a snake stretched out across the trail, remember to give it plenty of space and time to figure out you are there and slither away to safety. Never try to pick up a snake or prod it out of the way. Most snakes quickly to move on once they are discovered by humans. Attempting to move them can agitate the snake, causing it to coil and stay put or even strike. If you're out with a pet, keeping it leashed can make surprise encounters with wildlife safer for your animal, wildlife and other people enjoying the trail.

SURPRISES IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Some of the most surprising city wildlife watching can happen in your own backyard or community green space. Sometimes we are startled by the fast-moving stealth of a Cooper's hawk as it swoops in to grab a little bird and eat it right on the back fence. Pay attention to birdsongs, and you might be surprised by what creatures you see associated with them. A sudden arrival of high-pitched whistles could mean the local crab apple tree is being stripped clean of every last fruit by a flock of hungry cedar waxwings. Bright, singsongy melodies from the top of a tree might come from an American goldfinch, whose bright lemon-yellow color will delight you if you take the time to find it.

Sometimes the sights and smells of the suburbs are too much for a wild animal to resist. Bird feeders, ponds, compost piles, vegetable gardens, grills, rubbish and lush landscaping can attract raccoons, coyotes, foxes, and even herons into backyards for a drink, a feast, or both. If you don't want to be surprised by wildlife around your home, be sure to remove potential attractants such as unsecured trash so you're not setting yourself up for conflict.

If you do find a coyote or fox in your yard, be sure to let it know it is not welcome to loiter. It is not only humane but also safer for both wild animal and humans if coyotes and foxes are reminded to avoid human spaces such as backyards, schoolyards and playgrounds. Clapping your hands, forcefully shouting, or banging a pot or pan at the coyote or fox can teach it to avoid your yard. ●

Mary Ann Bonnell is the Senior Resource Specialist for Aurora.

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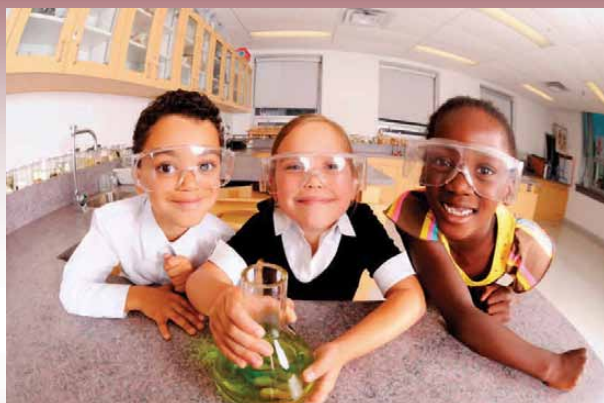


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PHOTO BY BILL PROKOPYK, N.D. NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When Warriors Return

Aurora-based “telemental” health program aids native veterans

BY DEBRA MELANI

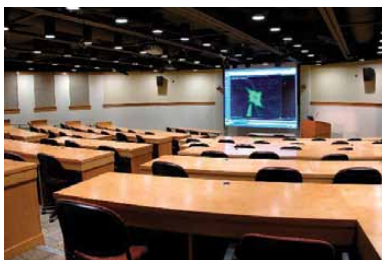
Tribal music plays as community members march and dance in colorful ceremonial garb next to their uniform-clad veterans. An announcer can be heard over the crowd’s chanting, calling out new names for the young soldiers just home from combat: warrior names, in honor of their bravery. But when the ceremony ends, the veterans are left on their own to continue their lives, interrupted by war, and reintegrate into society.

Members of native populations serve at the highest rate per capita of any ethnic group in the U.S. Armed Forces. For this reason, such welcoming ceremonies are routine in communities across the country, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, which

highlights the ceremonies and the veterans’ plight in a website video. And with many studies finding that the emotional consequences of combat strike these veterans more severely—veterans who often live in remote areas with poor healthcare options—the need for action is clear.

Enter the American Indian Telemental Health Program on the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus. Launched by the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health (CAIANH) as a single-clinic pilot project in 2002, the Aurora-based program has become more far-reaching with its video-conferencing clinics than its creators ever imagined.

“It proved unbelievably successful in terms of providing access to care,” center director Spero Manson (Pembina Chippewa) says of the “telemental” program, which connects CU



Videoconferencing technology allows patients to meet healthcare workers across great distances.

PHOTO COURTESY COLORADO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, UC DENVER

Native American veterans at the dedication ceremony for the North Dakota National Guard's Lakota helicopters, September 2012. American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the armed forces at a higher rate per capita than any other ethnic group, and have high rates of PTSD. When they return home to remote communities, an Aurora-based program can help monitor their health.

providers with faraway patients via video screen. The program, run in conjunction with the VA and other organizations, today includes more than 18 clinics on or near rural reservations across the country. It is used as a model by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and is reaching populations from Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota to Alaska.

IN THE THICK OF THINGS

CAIANH's mission, which includes eight national centers working with more than 160 native communities, is to research and improve the health of often-vulnerable Native American populations. "Despite having one of the best healthcare systems in the world, huge disparities exist," says Judith Albino, principal investigator and director of the Center for Native Oral Health Research. "And those disparities are most often linked either to poverty or to ethnic minority group membership."

Whether it's for cultural, genetic, geographical or environmental reasons, the American Indian population tends to have some of the highest rates of a number of diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and oral-health issues, Albino says. In fact, highly skewed statistics helped spur the creation of the veterans' telemental health program. Native American veterans have much

AREAS OF FOCUS

for current Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health research projects include:

- Adolescents
- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Early childhood education
- Elders
- Fitness
- Genetics
- HIV
- PTSD
- Substance abuse
- Technological outreach

higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and other emotional consequences of combat than any other ethnic group. PTSD strikes 59 percent of Native American veterans in their lifetime, as compared with 19.9 percent of Caucasian veterans.

According to Manson, a distinguished professor of public health and psychiatry, research conducted in Aurora has linked higher rates of mental issues to the populations' increased exposure to fierce combat. Native Americans tend to seek military roles that "put them in the thick of things," as one native veteran on the VA video points out, adding that native soldiers often strive to be heroes. When that severe military experience is coupled with often harsh home environments—not just weather-wise, but physically, culturally and geographically—and with "woefully inadequate" resources, escaping emotional fallout becomes a challenge, Manson says.

CU's telemental program helps break some of those barriers by providing quality mental-health care through videoconferencing.

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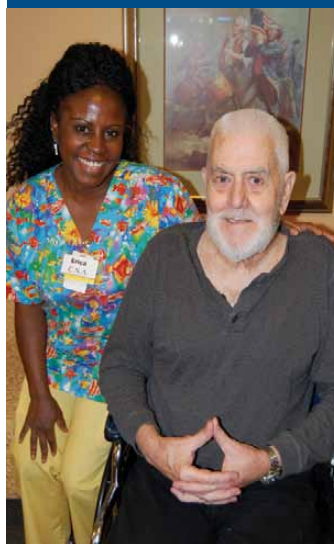
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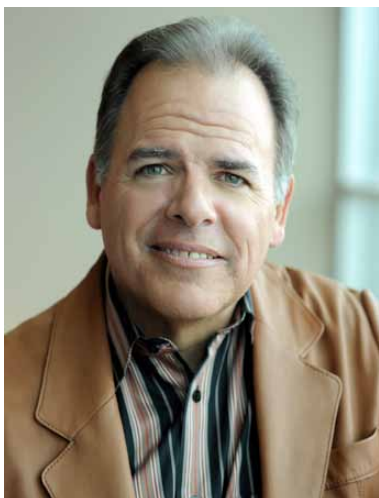
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Far left: Spero M. Manson, Ph.D., a medical anthropologist and professor of psychiatry, directs the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, housed in the Nighthorse Campbell Building (left) on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

During clinic hours, doctors or therapists on the Aurora campus enter a specially equipped room to find a single patient, patient group, or family group waiting via monitor. On the patients' end, a specially trained native employee, often a veteran, has coordinated the appointment with the patient or patients, who are "piped in" from remote communities as far as 100 winding, snow-laden miles from the nearest VA hospital.

UPHOLDING TRADITIONS

This healthcare model, Albino says, can pave the way for similar programs that target other health issues, not only extending the reach of providers but opening the door for prevention education. The program has already expanded to include children with mental-health issues. Other family members, too, may be referred for care, since they can be secondarily traumatized by a veteran's PTSD, but are crucial to the patient's recovery. And the program often goes beyond mental-health care with its patients and their families, as providers sometimes note other health issues, such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease, Manson reports. The program can connect these patients with local healthcare systems.

Many published studies support the effectiveness of the telemental health program, which Manson and his colleagues continue to improve through research and experience. Knowledge of the culture, working in conjunction with local clinics and traditional tribal healers, and supporting the use of ceremonial healing traditions like prayer circles and sweat-lodge ceremonies are crucial to the program's success. As Albino notes, with more than 560 culturally different, federally recognized tribes in this country, and

many more that are unrecognized, the centers' mission of meeting all of their health needs is vast.

But Manson and his colleagues are making headway. Since coming to CU as a single employee with a \$250,000 grant in his pocket, Manson has watched the center grow to 110 faculty and staff with a research portfolio of \$65 million. Accomplishments include improving the health and well-being of Native Americans, training the scientists of tomorrow, and building a scientifically sound knowledge base of tribal issues, Manson says. "And I'm very proud of the fact that there is no other program in the country with this mass of Native American and non-Native American people working together to make a difference." ●

Freelance journalist Debra Melani writes about health and fitness from her home in Lyons.

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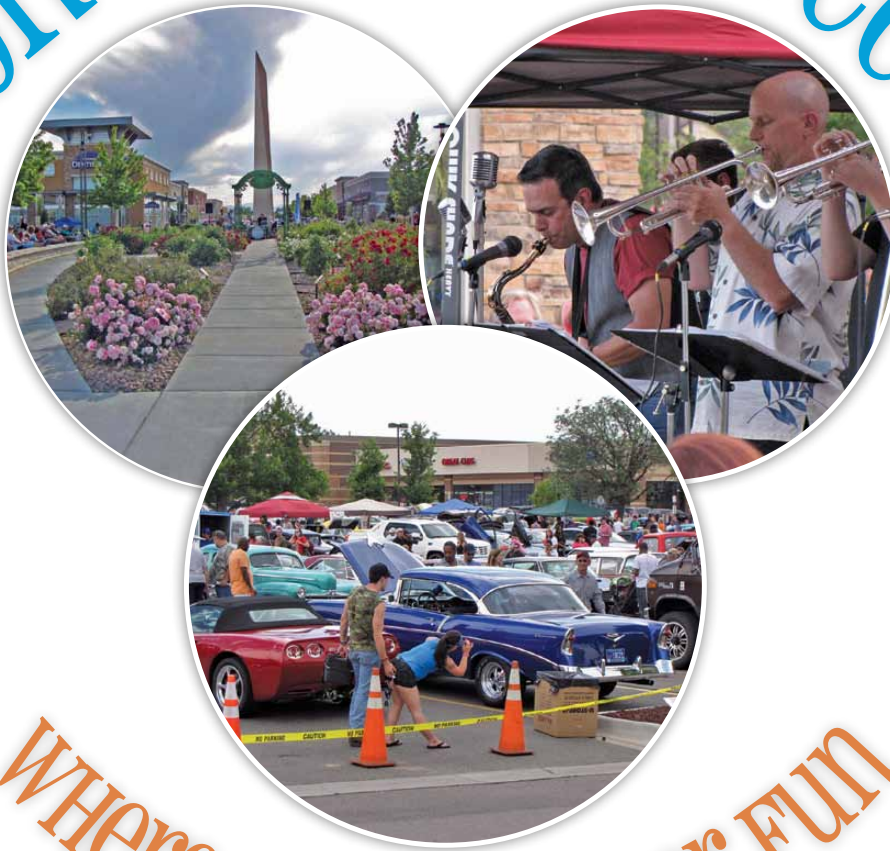
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On Havana Street



Where to Cruise For Fun

Car and motorcycle buffs find heaven at the Cruzin' Havana Car Show & Poker Run, scheduled for June 15 along the district's famous "Motor Mile." Take in free Rose Garden concerts May 28, June 25, July 23 and Aug. 27.

BUSINESS DISTRICT DEVICES DOZENS OF REASONS TO VISIT

BY TANYA ISHIKAWA

From hot rods and a hamburger month to a rose garden and fine art, a 4.3-mile stretch of Havana Street offers a unique mix of activities and attractions for Aurora residents and visitors. The Havana Business District, located between Sixth and Dartmouth avenues, has become an energetic, year-round destination with special events for just about every taste.

In 2007, commercial-property and business owners approved a property tax to fund the business improvement district (BID), hoping to revitalize an area that had seen better days. Six years later, 500-plus businesses and a public art program are located "On Havana Street," as the district is called, and new residential developments, property renovations, and additional shops and restaurants are on the way.

"In 2012, the Havana BID sponsored 29 different events, bringing roughly 45,000 potential customers to these businesses," says Scott Goldammer, the district's board president. "Clearly, the Cruzin' Havana car show is by far our biggest event each year. Since the district has the largest number of automotive-related businesses in the area, this one event draws nearly 25,000 folks who enjoy their cars." Held every June for the past five years, the Cruzin' Havana Poker Run and Car Show brings classic cars, hot rods, race cars, car clubs and car enthusiasts of all ages to the "Havana Motor Mile." The "motor mile" concept, an events-and-promotions campaign rolled out in 2011, capitalizes on Havana's concentration of auto businesses—25 dealerships as well as auto-parts stores, service centers and car washes.

The Rose Garden Summer Concert Series is another popular event, held in June, July and August at The Gardens on Havana Shopping Center, between East Mississippi and East Florida avenues.

The Havana Business Improvement District accounts for approximately 10 percent of Aurora's sales-tax revenues. The district's tax revenues increased by more than \$1.5 million between 2008 and 2011. Increased leasing of commercial properties by new businesses lowered the district's retail vacancy rate from 8.6 percent in October 2010 to 6.7 percent in October 2012. —T.I.

"The concert series helps to promote rebuilding a sense of community. Folks remember the days when we all knew our neighbors, and recount the special times spent together on warm summer evenings," explains Goldammer, who is also the director of property management for Miller Real Estate Investments. The investment company has been redeveloping the former Buckingham Mall site into The Gardens on Havana, the district's largest retail center, with the 100-rosebush Rose Garden Plaza at its heart at 10550 E. Garden Drive. New stores continue moving into the center, including recent arrivals Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us.

EATS & ARTS

Twenty-five new businesses opened in the business district last year. In addition to national chains like Office Depot, Lane Bryant, Sports Clips and Massage Envy, several locally owned restaurants and small businesses opened their doors. In fact, Havana Street has a long tradition as a multicultural treasure trove of restaurants, grocery stores and salons. At least 84 restaurants, including 37 ethnic eateries, are located throughout the district. In 2012 alone, new restaurant openings were as varied as El Rico Dicho Restaurant (Mexican), Sae Jong Kwan Korean BBQ, Deelish

Restaurant (American), Tarboosh Restaurant (Middle Eastern) and Sudan Café (African). Havana Street is also a magnet for ethnic grocery stores where shoppers can discover vegetables, fruits, meats, spices, baked goods, candies and specialty items from all over the world. The On Havana Street website boasts, "There is no other place in Colorado to find such variety."

The district's Hamburger Month is an annual event in May that celebrates one of America's favorite foods and promotes local hamburger joints, including some unexpected ones such as Thai Basil restaurant. From casual restaurants to fine-dining establishments, these businesses offer discounts and specials along with a district-wide drawing for prizes.

Going yet one step further to attract visitors and their wallets, the business district and the city of Aurora joined forces to create ART 2C, an annual art exhibition and competition. Spread between East First Avenue to just beyond East Yale Avenue, the exhibition features 10 sculptures loaned to the city for a year, and one permanent piece purchased by the public art program. A typical collection ranges from traditional bronze statues to steel and fiberglass modern works, and has a combined value of \$3.5 million. The sculptures are located at and maintained by individual businesses. Visitors can not only view the art, but also have the opportunity to buy most pieces, vote on a people's-choice award,

Find out more about the Havana Business District, peruse the business directory and access updates at www.OnHavanaStreet.com. More information about the Art 2C sculpture exhibition and competition is available at auroragov.org/publicart.

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Havana Business District 2013 Events

MARCH

16 St. Patrick's Day Party
at Havana Street Station

APRIL

20 Earth Day Electronic Recycling
and Document Shredding

MAY

1-31 Hamburger Month
4 Community Rose Garden Cleanup
28 First Summer Rose Garden Concert

JUNE

15 Sixth Annual Cruzin' Havana
Car Show & Poker Run
17 Farmers' Market Opens
(every Monday through the end of October)
25 Community Rose Garden Concert

JULY

14 Ice Cream Progressive Party
23 Community Rose Garden Concert
27 Community Rose Garden
Concert and Ice Cream Social

SEPTEMBER

20-22 Autumn Equinox Indoor Sidewalk Sale
on Havana Street
21 Tapas & Tea and District-wide
Sidewalk Sale

OCTOBER

12-20 Havana Restaurant Week
19 Fall Recycling and Document Shredding Event
26 Halloween Event: Pet Costume Contest,
Adult/Kid Costume Contest
and Trick-or-Treating

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Art 2C on Havana Gala

NOV. 22-DECEMBER

Black Friday and Holiday Shopping Events
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and Ugly Sweater Party

and attend artist talks at Havana Street restaurants. Each autumn, the temporary collection is removed and replaced with a new set selected by the Art in Public Places Commission.

Reno Carollo, a commission member and professional artist living in Aurora, describes the public sculpture collection as "an economic driver, a reason for people to come to Havana Street to have a meal or stop and shop. A lot of people seem to have taken pride in this," he says. "It enriches their lives. It creates a sense of community." ●

Tanya Ishikawa is a regular contributor to the Aurora Guide. She volunteers for Africa Agenda, an Aurora-based nonprofit promoting positive news about African countries, and the Senior Hub, a nonprofit providing services to senior citizens in Adams and Arapahoe counties.

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From Burnout to Bliss

Life coach Deborah Jane Wells shares her journey from burnout to fulfillment

BY MARY LYNN BRUNY

It's never too late to become the person you might have been.

— George Eliot

In 2009, Aurora resident Deborah Jane Wells was doing a very interesting thing each week when she visited the Tallyn's Reach Library: She was shrinking. In the course of the year, Wells lost 80 pounds, much to the amazement of the witnessing librarians. How did she do it? they wanted to know. The answer was that she didn't just change her outside; she changed her inside, radically transforming her life for the better in every way. Now she wants everybody to know that they can do it too.

Today, Wells, who exudes enthusiasm and warmth, is a successful life coach, broadcast personality, book author, public speaker, artist and Reiki master (look it up!). But in 2005, the self-proclaimed type-A personality, a senior partner at a global firm, left her 30-year career in organization transformation consulting, completely burned out, miserable and overweight.

"I was severely, severely depressed for 10 years," says Wells. "It is still a miracle to me every day that I am here."

Knowing she needed a change, Wells retired and in 2006 moved from Virginia to Aurora, where she reached rock bottom before deciding to take hold of her life. "I said to myself, 'You can sit here and keep whining and complaining, or you can take control of one thing and focus all your energy on it,'" Wells says. That one thing was

her weight, which she successfully set on losing. Knowing that her weight was only a symptom of her inner struggles, Wells began a long personal exploration that ultimately led her to a happy, healthy place. "First it was a physical transition, and then it was a mental, spiritual and emotional transition," she says.

One morning the light dawned, and Wells decided to use the lessons she learned to help others. She earned a life-coaching certificate in 2010 from the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching. "I wanted every person on the planet to feel what I was feeling," she says. "I knew if I could get there from where I was, then anybody could."

STEP 1: SHOW YOURSELF SOME LOVE

Combining her former professional experience with her newfound insights, Wells created and trademarked a practical way of viewing and examining one's life that she calls "The Discovery Framework." Her No. 1 message is self-love: "When you fall in love with yourself, everything else falls into place, personally and professionally," she says.

That message may sound narcissistic to some, but Wells believes that in order to have personal contentment, "you first have to learn how to treat yourself with love, respect, curiosity, compassion and gratitude. When you treat yourself with those five things, unconditionally and at every moment, that's when you start living,"

Visit Wells's website: www.djwlifecoach.com.

Find her blog at www.djwlifecoach.wordpress.com.

she says. "The people who do what I'm describing energize everyone around them. They have a spring in their step. They're optimistic. They bring hope to everyone and everything. They are the antithesis of what we think of as self-absorbed."

Wells's goal as a life coach is to help her clients remove their roadblocks to a fulfilling life. "The people who come to me want help figuring out why they're stuck," she says. "They know they're stuck, but can't quite figure out why they can't get unstuck." Common issues

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 →

Tools for Personal Growth

When you fuel all aspects of yourself with love, respect, curiosity, compassion and gratitude, your life becomes a grounded but fluid journey to wholeness. Every breath, thought, word and act fosters a gracious life filled with faith, hope, prosperity, peace and joy.

The following practices—just a few of my favorites—help you realize the essential shift from believing these principles in your head to living them from your heart. When you drift off-center occasionally, as any of us can when we're overwhelmed by stress and gripped by ancient self-destructive scripts, these tools are the key to recognizing it quickly and getting back on track.

Pay Attention: If you don't recognize you're feeling stressed, you can't change it. Practice mindfulness by noticing what you're feeling and figuring out why.

Write It Down: Getting stressful thoughts out of your head and onto paper can improve your sense of perspective. Often, just putting them in writing reduces them to a more manageable size you can begin to get your arms around.

Breathe: Next time things start getting a little crazy, stop, take three deep breaths, become fully present, and realize you have options. Your brain needs oxygen to function effectively. Try setting a timer on your phone or computer to remind you periodically to stop, close your eyes for a minute and just breathe.

Be Here Now: Forget rehashing the past and agonizing over the future. This moment is your only real opportunity to make a difference. Just you, just here, just now, just be.

Get Curious: If everything's an opportunity, where might the opportunity be in this situation? Assume the best and look for the silver lining in even the darkest cloud.

Trust Your Gut: You have inside you all the wisdom you seek. Instead of stressing yourself out by fighting your instincts or feeling compelled to justify your hunches with logic, try trusting your intuition for a change.

Behave As If: There are two aspects to this one. First, if you gave yourself the same care and attention you give your friends and loved ones, what support would you give yourself right now? Second, what would you dare to do if you believed you couldn't fail?

Time for What Matters: Time is not a scarce resource. You have all the time you need for the things that matter. Your sole responsibility in each moment is to discern what matters most right now, focus and follow through.

Take Baby Steps: Slow and steady produces meaningful, lasting results. Vast, forced output is rarely sustained. Great strides of lasting value involve myriad baby steps over time. Identify the next small step and take it; then another, and another, and another. Before you know it, you'll have built your dream—and it will last you your whole life through.

—Adapted from *Choose Your Energy, Change Your Life!*
by Deborah Jane Wells

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PHOTO BY SHEILA KARNER

Aurora life coach Deborah Jane Wells with Maisy, one of the three cats who manage her life.

include burnout, relationship issues, unhealthy patterns and using productivity to feel worthy. "There is a mistaken belief that busyness is the same as purpose," says Wells, "and people get caught in a 'hamster wheel' approach to life."

Although many of her clients are from Aurora and the greater Denver area, they span the globe and include young and old, women and men. Wells coaches individuals, couples and groups, hosts creativity workshops and does public-speaking seminars. "If you've reached a place in life where you know there is somewhere you want to go and you're not getting there, you'd benefit from coaching," she says.

Wells's uplifting message is spreading. In January 2013, she began a 60-minute weekly radio talk show, *Choose Your Energy: Change Your Life*, on VoiceAmerica.com's EmPOWERment channel. Her first book, also titled *Choose Your Energy: Change Your Life!* will be published in the spring by Hay House/Balboa Press. It features Wells's journey and message, as well as many client stories. It's a big year for Wells; a life-coaching cruise with Royal Caribbean is also in the works.

Is the type-A person falling into the old trap of being drained by her work? "Absolutely not!" she says. "I am a great example of how rewarding work is when it is fueled from love." ●

Colorado freelance writer Mary Lynn Bruny is a regular contributor to the Aurora Guide and covers health, business and regional topics.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH JANE WELLS

After three of her loved ones died within a five-week period, Wells found comfort in creating 75 ceramic masks at the Bicentennial Arts Center and embellishing them for auction by various local charities. Now, her clients purchase her masks and embellish them in the self-exploration workshops Wells offers.



Fourth of July at the Aurora Municipal Center.

Dates and times occasionally change after we go to press. Please confirm your plans online or with a phone call.

ANIMAL AFFAIRS

ADOPTION OF SHELTER ANIMALS

Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave. 303-326-8280; animalcare@auroragov.org, www.auroragov.org. Many wonderful dogs and cats need a good home. Please visit the shelter when you're considering a new family pet.

CAT & DOG VACCINATION & LICENSING CLINIC

Clinics are held four times a year at the Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave., from 9am-1pm. All proceeds benefit the shelter's programs. Dates for 2013 are in February, May, August and November. For specific dates, contact the Aurora Animal Shelter. For fees and other information: 303-326-8280; www.auroragov.org/animal.

COLORADO GREYHOUND ADOPTION

This local nonprofit holds "meet and greet" events across the Denver metro area to help place greyhound dogs in loving adoptive homes. CGA brings greyhounds to numerous Front Range fairs and festivals, and has a permanent booth at the Renaissance Festival in Larkspur. For more information visit www.greyhoundadoption.com. Contact Becky at 303-745-9308 for information on Abilene location, and Rori at 303-699-9140 for Parker Road location.

DENVER ZOO

2300 Steele St., Denver, 303-376-4800; www.denverzoo.org. Visitors to this nearby Denver institution can see nearly 4,000 animals representing more than 700 species. Along with naturalistic habitats such as Predator Ridge, Bird World and Bear Mountain, the Denver Zoo offers programs teaching about the animals, science and conservation. Spring break brings Spring Safari Call of the Wild, March 25-29, when kids from grades K-5 can participate in a weeklong exploration of the world's most extreme animals. Learn about what local students are doing to save the planet by celebrating Earth Day at Party for the Planet on April 20. The zoo grounds are open almost every day of the year; free days are Nov. 4, 15, 21.

DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM

700 Water St., Denver, 303-561-4450; www.aquariumrestaurants.com. With more than 1 million gallons of underwater exhibits, the aquarium highlights fascinating ecosystems around the world and houses more than 500 species of creatures. Popular favorites include the interactive Sting Ray Reef touch tank; diving and snorkeling adventure to interact with the marine life; "Marine Biologist for a Day" and "Zoologist for a Day" programs; and four Sumatran tigers. Check the website for a full list of events.

GRANDVIEW DOG PARK

Located next to Quincy Reservoir at 17500 E. Quincy Ave. A visit to the Grandview Dog Park is a special treat for everyone, not just your dog! With more than 5 acres to run and play in, taking your best friend along for fresh air and exercise is a joy. Open dawn until dusk.

HELPING HANDS FOR THE AURORA ANIMAL SHELTER

This private organization assists the Aurora Animal Shelter by raising funds for veterinary care, providing creature comforts for animals, promoting adoptions, and raising public awareness of animal shelter's needs. New members and volunteers are welcome; call 303-326-8280.

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 S. Peoria St., Parker, 720-488-3300, www.thewildlifeexperience.org. This art and natural history museum invites visitors of all ages to experience the wonders of Earth's animals, wild places and diverse cultures through an array of activities, including Extreme Screen films and family weekend programs. The 28,000-square-foot Globeology wing showcases 11 biomes—among them Colorado high country, canyon, grassland and wetland. Special events include Spring EGGstravaganza, March 30; Art & Ale, Aug. 16; trick-or-treating, Oct. 26-27; Winter WonderLights Dec. 7-22; Santa Breakfasts, Dec. 8, 15, 22, 23 & 24; and eight classic Movie and a Martini nights for adults. Check the website for a full, updated list of events.

ARTS EVENTS

ANTIQUE APPRAISAL FAIRS

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660. Start searching your home for treasures! At this year's Antique Appraisal Fairs, held April 27-Sep. 28 from 9am-3pm, you can get oral appraisals of up to five items—antique jewelry, artwork, collectibles, dishes, dolls, coins, silver and rare books. The fee of \$5 per item benefits the Aurora History Museum. An event entrance reservation is required. Call 303-739-6705. No walk-ins accepted.

AURORA POTTERS GUILD POTTERY & QUILT SALE

Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle, 303-344-1776. Discover unique, handmade pottery and quilts created by local artists. May 4 and Nov. 9, 9am-4pm.

CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL

Cherry Creek North (Second and Third avenues between Clayton and Steele streets), Denver, 303-355-2787; www.cherryarts.org. A global art collection right in your own backyard, the Cherry Creek Arts Festival displays work by 230 international artists selected from more than 2,000 applicants. Held July 5-7, this juried outdoor arts festival also brings you artist demonstrations, kids' activities on "Artivity Avenue," and live music on Fillmore Plaza from 6-10pm. Festival hours are 10am-8pm Fri-Sat, and 10am-6pm Sun. Admission is free.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA ARTS EVENTS

Community College of Aurora-CentreTech, 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-360-4700; www.ccaurora.edu. Spring and fall arts weekends showcase music, theater and dance performances. The spring Performing Arts Showcase is April 10 at 7pm in the Larry D. Carter Theatre; admission is free. Check the event calendar online to see a complete list of events, including fine-arts exhibits, an all-day festival of international dance on March 13, and the Colorado Film School Student Show on May 9.

CRAFT FAIRS

Heather Gardens Club House, 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way 303-751-1811, www.heathergardens.org. See the best in Aurora's crafts and find unique items at two free fairs. The spring fair is on April 20 from 9am-4pm. The fall fair is a wise way to get the jump on your holiday shopping by buying from local artisans. It is October 25-26 from 9am-4pm.

GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES ART EXHIBIT & SALE

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660. This high-profile juried exhibit of fine art, photography and miniatures is sponsored by the City of Aurora Cultural Services Division and the Aurora Artists Guild. The show runs Oct. 9-Nov. 9, Tues-Fri 9am-

4pm and Sat-Sun 11am-4pm. All artwork including unframed bin work is for sale, and a percentage of proceeds benefits the city's cultural programs. Admission is free. Artists discuss their work at a public awards reception Oct. 11.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

On Havana Street and Aurora Art in Public Places partner each year to bring you ART 2C on Havana, an annual art exhibition and competition. The exhibition features new sculptures and one permanent piece, add this year to the Art in Public Places collection. The art is spread along Havana Street from E. First Avenue to just beyond E. Yale Avenue. The People's Choice Award, determined by the most votes for an individual piece, will be awarded in early December. Submit your vote by visiting participating businesses on Havana Street.

BENEFITS & FUNDRAISERS

14TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF WREATHS

15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6667; www.auroramuseumfoundation.org. The Aurora Museum Foundation's annual Festival of Wreaths exhibit is open Nov. 12-Dec.13 at the Aurora History Museum. The event helps to raise funds for upcoming exhibits and for education and school programs. Each wreath is sold through a silent auction held during the course of the exhibit. Bids will be taken both at the museum and via email. Local businesses, organizations and families sponsor and decorate wreaths. Designs may be traditional, or may creatively and seasonally reflect the makers' products, services, activities or other interests. For an application, call or visit the website.

AURORA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WINE & DANCE SOCIAL

13521 E. Iliiff Ave., 720-246-0309. On Saturday, May 4, at Noonan's Tavern, support the symphony in this popular fundraising event. Sip a variety of wines, enjoy live music and bid on both live and silent auction items including fine wines donated by local celebrities. Visit www.aurorasymphony.org for tickets or call 303-873-6622 for more information. Proceeds benefit the orchestra.

DONATION TO THE AURORA ANIMAL SHELTER

15750 E. 32nd Ave. The Aurora Animal Shelter gratefully accepts both cash and in-kind donations. All contributions are used to pay for veterinary needs and medical treatment for shelter animals and to support cruelty prevention and education programs. Donate online at www.auroragov.org or by mail to the Aurora Animal Shelter. For more information, call 303-326-8280.

JOY DRIVE

Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 9898 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, 303-739-7930, www.auroragov.org. This annual event, spearheaded by the city of Aurora's Original Aurora Renewal Division, gathers nonperishable food, personal-care items, toys, disposable diapers and gently used clothing to local agencies to distribute to our neighbors in need. Collected goods will be packaged and given as gifts to children, youth, families and seniors. Drop off donations by Nov. 30 during regular business hours at Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

HOLIDAY MIXER

Crowne Plaza, 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver, 303-344-1500, www.aurorachamber.org. This holiday mixer on Dec. 12 is a joyous way to greet the season of giving. Festivities begin at 5pm and include silent and live auctions, buffet and awards; you're encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift for a child. Location is to be determined. Phone or check the website for details as the date approaches.

OPTIMISTS PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Heather Gardens Club House, 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, 303-751-1811, www.heathergardens.org. Enjoy a tasty pancake breakfast and help local youth organizations and Boys & Girls Clubs of America at spring and fall fundraisers conducted by the Optimists Club. All ages are welcome. Please call or check the website for dates.

RECYCLING EVENT & FUNDRAISER FOR FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES

303-360-7505, www.OnHavanaStreet.com. On April 20 and Oct. 19, dispose of hard-to-recycle items like TVs, cell phones, compact fluorescent bulbs and more, while helping to feed hungry families by dropping off nonperishable food items.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING EVENT & COSTUME CONTEST

303-360-7505, www.OnHavanaStreet.com. Show off your funniest, spookiest or most creative costume at this family-friendly Oct. 26 event. Pets are also welcome to dress up, and local shop owners will have treats for kids. Visit website for event details.

HUGE CHILDREN'S & MATERNITY SALE EVENT

Just Between Friends Aurora, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 East Quincy Ave., www.aurora.jbfsale.com. On March 22-24 you can score some great gear, including gently used clothing, equipment, toys and more for infants through juniors. Pick up plenty of maternity must-haves as well. For more information on event times, to register as a consignor or to volunteer for a presale event, visit website or email carynberg@jbfsale.com

KIDS' RUNNING AMERICA PROGRAM

303-770-9600, www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org, www.kidsrunningamerica.org. Run or walk your way to prizes with this 1-mile fun run for K-8 kids. Participants complete a training program (26.2 miles total), running a mile on the day prior to the Colfax Marathon. Finishers receive a medal, refreshments and other incentives. Spring race day is April 28—must register prior to race. The race begins at 10:30am, with check-in from 9-10am at Denver City Park. Fall race day is Oct. 27 at Washington Park; check the website for details.

KIDSPREE@ YUMFEST

Bicentennial Park, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-326-8FUN, www.auroragov.org/ events. Join the fun at Colorado's largest outdoor children's festival, featuring inflatable rides, entertainers, food and hands-on activities. This free event is June 8 at the Aurora Municipal Center. Call the above number for updates and more information.

LITTLE FOXES SUMMER CHILDREN'S THEATER

Aurora Fox Arts Center, Theater Education, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970. Young performers work with professional actors, directors and designers in a series of summer productions and camps. Tickets for these popular shows sell quickly, so purchase them early. Call 303-739-1973 for information on summer camps and year-round theater classes for children.

SPOOKY NATURE AT NIGHT

Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch, 16002 E. Smith Road, 303-739-2428, www.auroragov.org/nature. In late October, head over to the Morrison Nature Center for spooky nature stories and a stroll down the jack-o'-lantern-lit trail. Look online for more events at Star K Ranch, and for specific dates and times.

VICTORIAN VALENTINES

Centennial House, 1671 Galena St. Discover the history and creativity of old-fashioned, handmade, elaborately decorated Victorian Valentine cards and create cards for your loved ones. Feb. 10, 11:30am-1pm and 2-3:30pm at Centennial House. Ages 6 and up, \$5 (\$4 for Aurora residents). Sign up at 303-326-8650. For more information, call 303-739-6660 or visit www.auroramuseum.org.

WAGGING TALES

Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6626; www.auroralibrary.org. Wagging Tales introduces children to a four-legged friend and then the magic begins! Each child selects a book to read to his or her new doggie pal and is rewarded with a new book to keep. Children should know how to read.

WEEKLY STORYTIMES AT AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join us for finger plays, stories and songs for children ages 2-6 and their caregivers.

Central: 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6600; Wed at 10am

MLK Jr., 9898 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1940; Wed at 10:30am

Mission Viejo: 15324 E. Hampden Circle, 303-326-8600; Thurs at 10am

Tallyn's Reach: 23911 E. Arapahoe Road, 303-627-3050; Wed at 10:30am

WINTER READING PROGRAM

"Discover Colorado" is the theme for the Aurora Public Library Winter Reading Program, Jan. 19-March 2 at all libraries. Participants of all ages (grown-ups too) read books and win prizes. Register at your library or online at www.auroragov.org. For more information, call 303-739-7473.

COMMUNITY & HOLIDAY FESTIVALS

27TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Join Aurora in a week long celebration, Jan. 13-20, as we commemorate the life and legacy of one man's dream of freedom and equality for all. For information on the events, call 303-739-7580.

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

At the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, during the first week of December, the trees will be illuminated with seasonal cheer as Mayor Steve Hogan and the Aurora City Council host the community holiday tree lighting. Enjoy strolling carolers and holiday refreshments. For more information call 303-739-7000.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR

25690 E. Quincy Ave., 303-795-4955; www.arapahoecountyfair.com. Hey, folks—step right up to the 106th annual Arapahoe County Fair: five days packed with old-fashioned fun, from 4-H exhibits, music and rodeo to mutton busting, BMX demos and tractor pulls. July 24-28; check the website for hours.

AURORA'S 122TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660; www.auroramuseum.org. Enjoy entertainment, games, face painting, a scavenger hunt, cake and more on Sunday, April 28, from 1-4pm at Aurora History Museum.

BLACK FRIDAY WEEKEND SECRET SANTA EVENT

303-360-7505, www.OnHavanaStreet.com. On Dec. 7, take advantage of stellar shopping savings and enter to win a shopping spree. You might even get lucky and find yourself walking home with a gift from one of several Secret Santas making their way through Havana Street.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIRS

Heather Gardens Club House, 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, 303-751-1811, www.heathergardens.org. If you'd like to explore what local businesses have to offer, plan to attend these fairs on April 25 and Oct. 24 from 10am-2pm. Attractions include giveaways and a resource guide with information on more than 75 participating vendors. Play vendor bingo to enter the drawing for numerous prizes.

CRUZIN' HAVANA CAR SHOW & POKER RUN

303-360-7505, www.OnHavanaStreet.com. On June 15 from 2-8pm, enter your own classic car or admire more than 5,000 cars on display at this free event. Food and other vendors as well as plenty of entertainment are offered at various locations throughout Aurora. Check website for complete details and venue locations.

FALLFEST AT CITY PARK

Aurora City Park, 16th Avenue and Dayton Street, 303-739-7930, www.auroragov.org. Raise a glass of cider in mid-October when you celebrate autumn at the FallFest, hosted by Original Aurora Renewal. Harvest festival activities include free pumpkins, leaf leaping and other seasonal games. Call the above number as October approaches for a specific date and time.

FOURTH OF JULY SPECTACULAR

Aurora Municipal Center, west lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7756, www.auroragov.org/events. Honor our nation's birthday at Aurora's 11th annual Independence Day celebration, featuring the metro area's largest fireworks display, live entertainment and a live performance of patriotic music. On July 4th, bring a blanket and the whole family to the lawn on the west side of the Aurora Municipal Center. Concert begins at 6pm, with fireworks at 9:30pm.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENTS & CAROLING

303-360-7505, www.OnHavanaStreet.com. Start December off right: Get in the holiday spirit with caroling by the Aurora Singers and shop the night away. Date to be determined; check website for details.

PUNKIN CHUNKIN COLORADO

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora, 303-326-8FUN, www.auroragov.org/punkinchunkin. Nothing puts us in an autumn state of mind quite like a pumpkin. On Oct. 12, come celebrate the season and watch the show as pumpkins are hurled thousands of feet at Punkin Chunkin Colorado, the state's only official Punkin Chunkin competition. Costumed teams and individuals create pumpkin-tossing contraptions, then vie for record-breaking pumpkin airborne and distance. Family activities, music, food and more round out the fun.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway. On May 27 at 11:30am the Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission hosts this commemorative event. Bring your friends and family to help honor those who have served our country. For further information, call Bernie Rogoff at 303-337-3399.

CULTURAL FESTIVALS

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Denver Chinese Cultural Center presents traditional folk dances, storytelling, and crafts to celebrate Chinese New Year. Enjoy the fun Feb. 9 from 2-3:30pm at Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway. 303-739-6660; www.auroramuseum.org.

DENVER MARCH POWWOW

Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt St., Denver, 303-934-8045; www.denvermarchpowwow.org.

wow.org. Feel your heart pulse in time with the drum as Native American dancers swirl to the rhythmic sounds of bells, jingles and deer toes, and the aromas of sage and cedar fill the air. Then sit back and enjoy some of the finest Native American singing and storytelling. This 38th annual celebration of Native American culture, March 22-24 from 10am to late evening, features more than 170 arts and crafts booths and a fry bread concession. For more information, write to denvermarchpowwow@comcast.net.

INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANT WEEK

303-360-7505, www.OnHavanaStreet.com. Sample some of Aurora's finest, most exotic cuisine without breaking the bank during International Restaurant Week, Oct. 12-20. See website for list of participating restaurants.

A TASTE OF PUERTO RICO

Stapleton Central Park, off Quebec Street across from Northfield at Stapleton, 303-507-3010; www.atasteofpuertoricofestival.com. Take in the joy of Puerto Rican culture with music, authentic foods, activities for kids, dance contests and lots of fun. Check website as June approaches for specific dates and times.

FARMERS' MARKETS & GARDEN EVENTS

ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS FARMERS' MARKET

Anschutz Medical Campus, www.denverfarmersmarket.com. In its second year, this farmers' market offers traditional fare in addition to some interesting ethnic-inspired produce. Also, take advantage of free health screenings. Open Tuesdays mid-June to the end of October, 10 am-3pm. See website for specific dates.

AURORA FARMERS' MARKET

2832 S. Havana St. (Havana and Yale), 303-659-2785; www.denverfarmersmarket.com. Enjoy live entertainment along with the market's wide selection of fresh fruits, vegetables, soaps and gardening supplies. Get a taste of ethnic food offerings including German, Indian and Mexican while shopping for your weekly produce. Open Mondays, mid-June to late October, from 10am-3pm.

BEELER STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

1675 Beeler St. This 1-acre garden is open from April to October, and each of its 41 10-by-12-foot plots rents for \$25 per season (all have been reserved for 2013). The annual spring opening connects experienced seasonal gardeners with those new to gardening. Beeler Street Community Garden is one of more than 100 sponsored in part by Denver Urban Gardens. For information on reserving a garden plot or getting on the waiting list, call 303-739-7930.

DELANEY FARM COMMUNITY GARDEN & CO-OP FARM

170 S. Chambers Road. Home to Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) community-supported agriculture project. DUG staff, interns and volunteers cultivate 3.5 acres of organic vegetables, flowers and herbs on this historic farmland. Farm shareholders are involved in nearly every

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aspect of the farm's operations. Every shareholder contributes volunteer hours during the growing season, assisting staff with planting, weeding and harvesting. Call 303-292-9911 for information about becoming a shareholder or volunteer at DeLaney Farm.

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

1005 York St., Denver, 720-865-3500, www.botanicgardens.org. Art and science bloom in the Denver Botanic Gardens' 23-acre urban oasis, offering an unforgettable garden experience as well as a living laboratory for education, conservation and research programs. Come for plant sales, art exhibits, presentations on horticulture, landscaping and sustainability, summer series of concerts and storytimes, winter light shows, and scores of other offerings for adults and children. Free days for Colorado residents are held throughout the year at both Denver Botanic Gardens' York Street location and Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton. York Street free days are March 27, April 22, July 29, Aug. 27, Oct. 7 and Nov. 2. Chatfield free days are March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, Aug. 2 and Nov. 1. A few events are listed below; see the website for a full schedule.

June 7: Garden and Grapes (York)

Sept. 20-21: Fall Plant and Bulb Sale (York)

Oct. 12-14: Pumpkin Festival (Chatfield)

Nov. 1: Día de Los Muertos (York)

Nov. 14-16: Holiday Sale (York)

Dec. 2-Jan. 1: Blossoms of Light (York), Trail of Lights (Chatfield)

SOUTHLANDS FARMERS' MARKET

Smoky Hill Road and E-470, www.coloradofarmersmarkets.com. Find loads of fresh produce, baked goods, specialty foods, ripe fruit and a smattering of handcrafts at this beautiful market, set around Main Street Plaza in the Southlands Outdoor Retail Center. Hand-cut pasta, handmade ice cream, homemade pickles and gourmet dipping oils. Open Saturdays, June 4 through September, 9 am-1 pm, and Thursdays, May 9 through October, 10am-1pm.

SPENCER GARRETT PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

11009 E. 17th Ave, Aurora's newest community garden is open and ready for planting. This community garden features 36 plots of varying sizes. To learn more about a garden plot at Spencer Garrett Park, contact Denver Urban Gardens at 303-292-9900.

XERISCAPE GARDENS

Aurora Municipal Center Demonstration Xeriscape Garden, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway. Aurora maintains this 6-acre garden as an educational attraction that demonstrates the water-conserving landscape technique of Xeriscape. The garden displays the seven principles of Xeriscape and uses reclaimed water from Sand Creek Wastewater Reclamation Plant. It is open to the public year-round. Don't miss free garden tours, or sign up for one of the hands-on Xeriscape classes held at various locations throughout the city. Call 303-739-7195 or visit www.aurorawater.org for information on classes, garden tours and volunteering.



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FORUMS & LECTURES

AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

14305 E. Alameda Ave., Ste 300, 303-344-1500, www.aurorachamber.org, info@aurorachamber.org. The chamber offers a variety of events throughout the year, including Business After Hours forums. Call or email for additional information.

Monthly: Business After Hours, fourth Thursday of each month (except May 16, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12)

April 19: Annual Awards Banquet

June 6: Leadership Aurora Graduation

June 14: Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon

June 20: Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament, Heritage Eagle Bend

Sept. 26: Taste of Aurora, check website for update dates.

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY LECTURES

Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6600, www.auroralibrary.org. Free lectures and programs for adults are scheduled throughout the year, generally on Sunday afternoons. Check the website often for newly added programs.

BROWN BAG AND WHITE LINEN LECTURE SERIES

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6666, www.auroramuseum.org. Lectures are scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month from noon-1pm. The cost is \$4 (\$3 for Aurora residents). Bring a lunch. Unless listed below, call or check the website for topic information.

Feb. 20: Women in the Mountains

March 20: Balancing Green and Brown

April 17: Colorado's Biological Treasures

May 15: Raptors of the Rockies

THE POWER OF ONE PERSPECTIVE: THE GREEN REVOLUTION

Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6600, www.auroralibrary.org, and Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6666. From April 2013-April 2014, learn about the environment and your role through various exhibits and lectures on ways to recycle, reuse and repurpose.

ASTRONOMY AND SPACE SCIENCE LECTURES AT CCA

Community College of Aurora Fine Arts Building, Forum (F100), 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, www.ccaurora.edu. The biannual Sherlin Lecture Series in Astronomy and Space Science brings some of life's biggest universal questions into a local forum. On April 12 at 7:30pm, Dr. Kaitlin Kratter speaks on "Exploring the Architecture of Planetary Systems at Home and Abroad."

UNIQUE LIVES & EXPERIENCES

Temple Buell Theater at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, 1101 13th St., Denver, 866-449-8118 (tickets), www.uniquelives.com. This annual lecture series brings bright, witty and insightful speakers to Denver for a series of lectures sponsored by The Denver Post. Proceeds benefit Post-News Charities, which aid youth in our community. All shows begin at 7:30pm.

March 2: Azadeh Moaveni, author of "Lipstick Jihad"

March 25: Diane Keaton, exclusive Unique Lives engagement

April 20: Marlee Matlin, "I'll Scream Later"

May 18: Christine Amanpour & Jamie Rubin, "Our Unique Lives and Experiences"

June 1: Kerry Kennedy & Robert Kennedy Jr., "Heroes for the Planet and Human Rights"

RUNS/WALKS

GALLOPING GOOSE 5K/10K RUN

Run a soft-surface 5k or 10k and enjoy the natural beauty of Quincy Reservoir, 18350 E. Quincy Ave. To register for the Oct. 19 event, call 303-416-0936 or visit www.auroragov.org/reservoirs.

COLFAX MARATHON

Colfax Avenue, beginning and ending at Denver's City Park, 303-770-9600, www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org. Now an eight-year tradition for America's longest commercial street, the Colfax Marathon includes six separate races on May 19: the 26.2-mile marathon, a 26.2-mile marathon relay, a 13.1-mile half-marathon, the 26.2-mile Corporate Cup Rally, the 26.2-mile Government Cup Rally and the Urban 10-Miler. There's also a 5k at City Park on May 18, and an expo at Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium May 17-18. Check the website for course maps and profile, training tips and registration.

TRI FOR THE CURE—A WOMEN'S TRIATHLON

Cherry Creek State Park, 4201 S. Parker Road, 303-430-2969, www.triforthechcure-denver.com. On Aug. 4, Cherry Creek State Park hosts this sprint triathlon (750m swim, 18.3k bike, 5k run) for women, celebrating breast cancer survivors and raising money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Registration is required.

SENIOR EVENTS

AURORA CENTER FOR ACTIVE ADULTS EVENTS

30 Del Mar Circle, 303-739-7950. The Aurora Center for Active Adults hosts many educational and entertaining activities, including luncheons and special events. The ACAA is open to all adults (18+).

AURORA POTTERS GUILD POTTERY AND QUILT SALE

Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle, 303-344-1776. Discover unique, handmade pottery and quilts created by local artists. May 4 and Nov. 9, 9am-4pm.

COMMUNITY KNIT-IN, ALL AGES

Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway; call for times and dates, 303-739-6778 or check www.auroralibrary.org. Bring your project and your friends, and settle in for a free, comfortable afternoon of fun and laughter. This is a great time to work on winter projects. If you choose, your items will be donated to the Children's Hospital Colorado.

HEATHER GARDENS CLUB HOUSE

2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, 303-751-1811, www.heathergardens.org. The Heather Gardens Club House is the heart of Aurora's active adult community. The center offers classes to both residents and nonresidents, and hosts special events throughout the year.

First Saturday of every month: First Saturdays Dance, 6:30-9:30pm;

\$5 for residents, \$7 for nonresidents

April: Optimists Pancake Social, 7-11am, exact date TBD

April 20: Spring Craft Fair, 9am-4pm

April 25: Community Resource Fair, 10am-2pm

May 17 & 18 (7pm), 19 (2pm), 23-24 (7pm): Annual Residents Variety Show (tickets available in April)

June 8: Classic Auto Showcase, time TBA

June 8: Breakfast & Walk, 9am-noon

July: Starlit Ball, 8-11pm, exact date TBD

Aug. 9-10: Flea Market, 9am-4pm

October: Optimists Pancake Social, 7-11am, exact date TBD

Oct. 24: Community Resource Fair, 10am-2pm

Oct. 25-26: Fall Craft Fair, 9am-4pm

SENIORS '88 SHOWTIME

Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle, 303-739-7950. The Seniors '88 Showtime Performers entertain with a variety of talents and acts. They perform throughout the metro area and are always looking for new volunteers to add to their family of talented individuals. Pick up an application from the center's front desk, or call a recreation specialist at 303-739-7950 for information.

VETERANS SALUTE

Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, 7711 E. Academy Blvd. Join this annual event that recognizes and honors our military service members. Veterans Salute is held in early November at Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum. Tickets are required and the event sells out well in advance. Order tickets at www.auroragov.org/salute or 303-739-7950.

SPORTS & OUTDOOR EVENTS

\$10,000 TROUT TOURNAMENT

Aurora Reservoir, 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-690-1286, www.auroragov.org/reservoirs. Guaranteed: \$10,000 to the contestant who catches the biggest trout (by weight) during the annual contest at Aurora Reservoir on May 18 from 5:30am-2pm. Prizes in both adult and youth categories are awarded on the basis of fish weights.

3D ARCHERY SHOOT

Pronghorn Natural Area, 27800 E. Quincy Ave. Call 303-690-1286 or visit www.auroragov.org/reservoirs. On Aug. 3-4, practice your archery skills with 3D targets before the season begins.

AURORA SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

Aurora Sports Park, 18601 E. Sports Park Drive, 303-326-8700 or www.auroragov.org/sports. Here's your opportunity to see future world-class athletes! The city of Aurora hosts numerous national, state and local sports tournaments from March to October. Call or visit the website for a complete schedule.

COLORADO FIREWORKS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Aurora Sports Park, 18601 E. Sports Park Drive, and Olympic Park, 15501 E. Yale Ave., 303-326-8700, www.cofireworks.com. This invitational fast-pitch tournament draws the country's most skillful high school girls in the 16- and 18-and-under age groups. Visited by over 400 college coaches, the sanctioned international event runs July 1-7, with games from 7:30am till after dark. See the premier local teams take on challengers from throughout the United States.

COLORADO RV, SPORTS, BOAT & TRAVEL SHOW

National Western Complex, 1-70 at Brighton Blvd., 303-297-1166, www.gsevents.com. The largest outdoor recreation show in the region runs Feb. 28-March 3. See giant exhibits of RVs, boats, houseboats, personal watercraft, fishing, hunting, power sports and 4-wheeling, plus seminars and vacation and travel packages. Visit the website for details.

FALL FISHING CLASSIC

Aurora Reservoir, 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-690-1286, www.autotagov.org/reservoirs. Multi-species tournament, \$3,000 awarded to the contestant who catches the largest fish (by weight) of any species during the contest on Sep. 28. \$300 to the largest fish in each species, not including the grand-prize fish.

NIGHT FISHING SERIES

Aurora Reservoir, 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-690-1286, www.auroragov.org/reservoirs. Enjoy a night of fishing by the full moon on June 22. Fish all night from close to open! \$30 per participant; register before the event. Dinner is provided for participants.

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STAR SHOWS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA

16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, www.ccaurora.edu/observatory, 303-340-7037. CCA's Science Department sponsors public astronomy lectures and observatory nights. All events take place at the Fine Arts Building; the observatory is on the southwest side.

GATES PLANETARIUM

Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, 303-322-7009, www.dmns.org. The planetarium offers a variety of daily shows about science and space that are entertaining and educational. "Wildest Weather in the Solar System," for example, will fly you through the thick atmosphere of Venus, magnetic storms on the sun, liquid methane showers on Titan, and anticyclones whirling at hundreds of miles per hour on Jupiter. Call or visit the website to see the full lineup and ticket information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

AURORA ANIMAL SHELTER FOSTER HOME PROGRAM

The Aurora Animal Shelter accepts volunteers over the age of 18 as foster-care providers. Support immature, ill or injured pets in your home until they are ready for adoption. Please call 303-751-2983 to arrange an interview.

AURORA MUNICIPAL COURT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer opportunities are offered at the Aurora Municipal Court. Information officers staff the Information Desk, and First Appearance Center clerical assistants help process high-volume cases. This is an ideal job for retirees and those who enjoy contact with the public. Experience is not necessary; the goal is to provide assistance and a friendly environment for citizens and expedite the processing of cases. Hours are 8-11am, once a week or more frequently. For additional information please contact the executive assistant to the Court Administrator at 303-739-6440.

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an essential part of community policing and are a priority at the Aurora Police Department. With the help of Volunteers In Policing (VIPs), police department personnel can dedicate more time to reducing crime. To become a volunteer with the Aurora Police Department you must be at least 18 and a legal resident of the United States, and pass a background check. Call Karen Rogers at 303-739-6346 or email krogers@auroragov.org.

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-730-7114, www.auroralibrary.org. The library offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for book lovers and people lovers alike. Shelf books, greet patrons, help patrons use public computers, and more.

AURORA VOLUNTEERS IN DISASTER (A.V.I.D.) 4X4

Our Four Wheel Drive Response group, managed within the Aurora Office of Emergency Management, brings together dedicated volunteers to assist in emergency operational planning and response, as well as community development and safety awareness. A.V.I.D. 4x4 volunteers may be called upon to provide a variety of services during a disaster or weather incident. For more information on this group, to request an application or to see what the group is currently working on, please visit the website at www.avid4x4.org.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF COLORADO

303-433-6002, www.biglittlcolorado.org. You can make a difference in a child's life. Volunteer program options include school-based mentoring, in which adults and kids have fun reading, working on homework, and playing games once a week throughout the school year.

CITY OF AURORA VOLUNTEER CENTER

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 3rd floor, 303-739-7759. Get involved, meet new friends and make a difference in our community through the city of Aurora Volunteer Center. From delivering meals to the homebound to tutoring children, being an animal companion, planting a garden or helping at a special event, the center matches volunteers with projects and events that suit their talents and interests. Snow Busters pairs volunteers with neighbors who need help shoveling snow during the winter. For a searchable database of current opportunities, visit www.auroragov.org/volunteer.

CIVITAN CLUB OF AURORA

720-392-0001, www.civitan.net/auroracivitan. This service organization works with children and adults at the Mile High Down Syndrome Buddy Walk, Ronald McDonald House, Praying Hands Ranch and the ARC Foundation. Join them for their weekly meeting and the occasional breakfast on Thursdays from 7-8am at Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital, 900 Potomac St.

HIGH LINE CANAL CLEANUP

303-739-7372. www.auroragov.org. Join volunteers on Saturday, March 17, from 8am-noon, to help maintain the High Line Canal, one of the city's recreational treasures. Trail work, tree planting and other open-space volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year.

VOLUNTEER STEWARD RECRUITMENT

Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch, 16002 E. Smith Road, 303-739-2429. Are you curious about Aurora's Volunteer Steward Program at the Nature Center? Join us Saturday, Feb. 23, 10-11 am, to discover how volunteers provide essential support for Aurora's true nature through trail patrol, steward work projects, resource monitoring, event staffing, educational programs and more. RSVP by emailing nature@auroragov.org. ●

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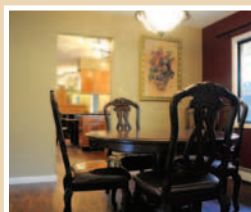
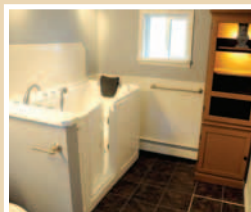


14601 East Hampden Place | Aurora | CO
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The Korean drum group Dudrim, guest artists at an Aurora Symphony Orchestra concert in October 2012.

DANCE

AURORA DANCE ARTS 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-326-8308; www.aurora.gov.org/dance. This program through the city of Aurora's Cultural Services Division offers professional instruction for children and teens 3-18, as well as adults. Highly qualified instructors implement a detailed youth syllabus in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, pom and more, with annual recitals in June and a fully staged production in November. Adult classes include ballroom, jazz, tap, country-Western line dance, belly dancing and other styles that offer a creative workout in a social setting. For details, see the website or the quarterly Aurora Recreation Guide brochure, available at recreation centers and libraries.

Spring recitals:

June 1-2 (4pm), 7-8 (7pm): Hinkley High School, 1250 Chambers Road

CHERRY CREEK DANCE 303-399-8087; 2625 E. Third Ave., Suite 19, Denver; www.cherrycreekdance.com. Offers classes in ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, acting, Pilates and yoga for ages 2 and up, plus dance apparel, shoes, birthday parties, studio rentals and summer camps. Check the website for performances at various area locations.

COLORADO BALLET Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis streets, Denver, 303-893-4100 or 303-837-8888 (ticketing), www.coloradoballet.org. Celebrate Colorado Ballet's 52nd season by attending one of its world-class performances in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA—CENTRETECH 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-361-7379; www.ccaurora.edu. A venue for theater and music productions, the Larry D. Carter Theatre at CCA also hosts dance performances throughout the year. CCA Dance Student Production on April 30, 7:30-8:30pm.

DANCE DISCOVERY OF DENVER 10691 E. Bethany Drive, Suite 600, 303-337-7833; www.dancediscoveryofdenver.com. This award-winning studio offers professional instruction in tap, ballet, jazz, lyrical and hip-hop for ages 3 and up. Dance competitions, an extensive adult tap program, and summer camps for young dancers are available.

ENCORE DANCE 18757 E. Hampden Ave. #162, 303-699-5678, www.encore-dance-studio.com. This family-oriented studio offers affordable instruction in beginning to advanced ballet, pointe, lyrical, tap, jazz, hip-hop, modern, acrobatics and voice for all ages.

HERITAGE IRISH STEPDANCERS 1946 S. Quebec St., 720-747-9377, www.heritageirish.com. Offers beginner-to-experienced classes for adults and children 3 and up. Call for class times, availability and performance updates. Locations include Denver, Littleton, Evergreen and Broomfield.

JUNIOR WAHINES POLYNESIAN DANCE TROUPE 1791 S. Laredo St., 303-337-9165. Explore native dances with this dynamic youth troupe that performs dances from six South Pacific island cultures—Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands and New Zealand. The authentically costumed dancers represent the Polynesia-Pacific Foundation of Colorado, and are the only Colorado troupe performing these types of native dances.

LET'S DANCE DENVER/STAMPEDE AURORA, 2430 S. Havana, 303-423-6755; www.letsdancedenver.com. Owned by 2000 Colorado State Swing champions Kevin and Pat Whiteley, this social dance studio offers singles and couples instruction in East and West Coast swing, cha-cha, waltz, nightclub and country two-step, hustle and more. Also offers private lessons, special dances and workshops.

SWING THRU'S SQUARE DANCE CLUB Victory Grange 2025 Tower Road, 720-201-7737; www.squaredancing.com/swingthrus. This energetic, family-oriented group dances every third Friday of the year (except in December, which will be on first Friday) and offers beginning square dance classes for singles, couples and youth. Other social outings include picnics, exhibitions and parties.

FILM/VIDEO/TV

AURORA CINEMA GRILL 13682 E. Alameda Ave. (at Potomac), 303-344-5565; www.cinemagrill.com. Serves up first-run movies along with food and drinks.

CINEMA IN THE STACKS Aurora Public Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6778, www.auroralibrary.org. Free screenings are on Wednesdays from 6-8pm. Screenings at other branches are Mondays at 11:30am (Central Library), and Saturdays at 2pm (Tallyn's Reach, Mission Viejo and Martin Luther King, Jr.).

COLORADO FILM SCHOOL AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA 9075 E. Lowry Blvd., Building 965, 303-340-7321, www.coloradofilmschool.net. Students learn filmmaking techniques and cutting-edge technology, then host their annual film festivals in May and December, featuring documentaries, commercials, music videos, dramas, comedies, science fiction and animated shorts. Call for details.

KACT-TV CHANNEL 8 AURORA COMMUNITY TELEVISION 303-326-8888, www.auroragov.org. Keep up to date with cable Channel 8. This community TV network provides 24-hour-a-day programming, including educational and cultural shows, classic movies, armed forces news broadcasts, Aurora News Weekly, and live broadcasts of city council meetings.

PHIPPS IMAX THEATER Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, 303-370-6000, www.dmns.org. Always breathtaking, entertaining and informative, films on the monumental IMAX screen transport you around the world, into space, under the sea, and into the past and future. Opening Feb. 15: "Titans of the Ice Age 3D" and "Flight of the Butterflies 3D."

MUSIC

AURORA MUSIC PROGRAMS 303-326-8650 (registration), 303-344-1776 (information), www.auroragov.org/music. Learn to strum the guitar, belt out a tune, play keyboards or explore other musical opportunities in classes for kids and adults offered by the city of Aurora Cultural Services Division. Classes are held at recreation centers and libraries. For information, see the Aurora Recreation Guide brochure, available at recreation centers and libraries, call, or visit the website.

AURORA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION mtaaurora@gmail.com; www.aurora-musicteachers.org. This professional organization of independent music teachers meets

to explore teacher-student enrichment and also offers student recitals and activities. Call for information.

AURORA SINGERS East Middle School, 1275 Fraser St., 303-343-3377 (information and tickets); www.aurorasingers.org. This popular show choir gives four annual concerts. Check the website for future performances. The last of this season is May 5-6, "Best of Broadway."

AURORA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 303-873-6622; www.aurorasymphony.org. This diverse group includes music professionals, instrumental moonlighters, youth musicians and retirees who share a love of music and performance. The orchestra's extensive corporate sponsorship program is an excellent way to promote the city's cultural and economic growth. A few of this season's performances are listed below.

Feb. 9: Pops Concert, Vista Peak Preparatory Academy, 7:30pm

March 24: Spring Masterworks Concert, Gateway Center for the Performing Arts, 2:30pm

May 11: Arts for a Better Tomorrow—American Originals IV, Vista Peak Preparatory Academy, 7:30pm

BANKS IN HARMONY CONCERT SERIES 303-344-1500. Tap your toes during these outdoor concerts sponsored by the City of Aurora Cultural Services Division, Aurora Chamber of Commerce and local banks. The concerts, which feature all types of music from big band, salsa and country to Western and rock 'n' roll, occur every Thursday from mid-June to August in a different city park. Pack your own picnic or purchase food from local restaurants on site.

BOULDER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA 303-449-1343 ext. 2; www.boulderphil.org. Music Director Michael Buttermann brings a fresh approach to this dynamic local orchestra. The season-finales concert on April 27 is "Land of the Midnight Sun." The performance begins at 7:30pm at Macky Auditorium, CU-Boulder campus.

CENTRAL CITY OPERA Central City Opera House, 124 Eureka St., Central City, 303-292-6700 or 1-800-851-8175, www.centralcityopera.org. Enjoy world-class opera in a historic town's acoustically superb opera house, surrounded by stunning mountain scenery. This summer's 80th festival season features performances sure to please longtime opera lovers and newbies alike. Summer Opera Festival performances run from June 29-Aug 11 and include "The Barber of Seville," "Our Town" and "Show Boat."

CHAUTAUQUA SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL Chautauqua Auditorium, 900 Baseline Road, Boulder, 303-442-3282, www.chautauqua.com. From late May through early September, this venerable summer festival brings a lineup of big-name bands singing folk and popular music.

COLORADO MUSIC FESTIVAL Chautauqua Auditorium, 900 Baseline Road, Boulder, 303-449-1397, www.comusic.org. Highlights of the six-week season (June 29-Aug. 9) include "Russian Masters," "Rediscovered Masters," "Wizard of Oz," "Music Mash-up" and more. Check website for full details.

COLORADO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Boettcher Concert Hall, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis streets, Denver, 303-623-7876 or 877-292-7979; www.coloradosymphony.org. Experience world-renowned performances by the region's only full-time professional orchestra. The orchestra, chorus and guest artists present Masterworks, Pops, Inside the Score and Family Series programs. A sampling of the 2012-2013 season's remaining concerts is listed below. Most concerts are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, with Sunday matinees at 2:30pm.

March 8-10: A Hero's Life

April 26-28: Masters of the Americas

May 24-26: The Rite of Spring

June 4: The Art of the Baroque

July 30: Sounds of Summer!

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA—CENTRETECH 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-361-7379, www.ccaurora.edu. Talented students, faculty, staff and community members provide arts experiences you won't soon forget, like the spring music recital. Held on the CentreTech campus in the Fine Arts Building, the concert is part of the spring-semester arts weekend.

CULTURAL CONCERTS ON COLFAX Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970; www.colofolkarts.org. This free series of lively performances by musicians, dancers, storytellers and others spotlights Aurora's cultural diversity. The concerts are sponsored by the city of Aurora, Aurora Fox, Colorado Folk Arts Council, Colorado Cultural Connections and SCFD. For reservations for 10 or more, call 720-329-0869.

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March 6: Tribute to Storyteller Pay Mendoza

April 17: National Poetry Month Celebration with Hannah Kahn Dance Company

May 1: Cinco de Mayo with Ballet Folklorica y Fiesta Colorado and El Centro Su Teatro

NIGHT OF THE STARS TALENT SHOW The Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970, www.aurorafox.org. At the third annual Night of the Stars Talent Show on Feb. 10, a first-place winner will be selected in each of three categories: voice, music and variety. Performers are in grades K-12. Tickets are \$5; seating is limited. 7:30pm.

OPERA COLORADO Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis streets, Denver, 800-982-2787 (Ticketmaster); www.operacolorado.org. Mozart's "Don Giovanni" brings the season to a close with performances on March 30 and April 2, 5 and 7.

PACE CENTER New in 2011, the Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center boasts an impressive lineup of music, theater, dance and family events all year long. Check the website for a full list of events. PACE is at 20000 Pikes Peak Ave. in Parker. www.parkeronline.org/PACE.

March 28: Spyro Gyra, jazz fusion musical group

May 30: Air Supply, classic rock

SENIORS '88 SHOWTIME Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle, 303-739-7950. The Seniors '88 Showtime Performers entertain with a variety of talents and acts. They perform throughout the metro area and are always looking for new volunteers to add to their family of talented individuals. Pick up an application from the center's front desk, or call a recreation specialist at 303-739-7950 for information.

SUMMER ROSE GARDEN CONCERT SERIES Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden (east end of Garden Drive at The Gardens on Havana), 303-360-7505, www.OnHavanaStreet.com. Bring your lawn chair and find a comfy spot in the rose garden for this collection of concerts; music styles include country, big band and more. Concerts are from 6-8pm.

May 29: Maynard Mills Blues Band

June 19: Old Skool Country Rock Band

July 24: Six Foot Joe & The Red Hot Rhinos

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ARTIST SERIES & COLLEGE OF MUSIC 303-492-8008, www.cupresents.org. CU-Boulder's outstanding music program brings you scores of concerts of all kinds, many of them free, throughout the academic year. Hear student performers, faculty members and international stars.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER www.du.edu/ahss/schools/lamont. DU's Lamont School of Music offers jazz and classical concert series, a yearly musical and opera, summer programs, and some 130 free student performances. Concerts are at the Newman Center, Iliff Avenue and S. University Boulevard, Denver.

THEATER

AURORA FOX ARTS THEATRE COMPANY Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970, www.aurorafoxartscenter.org. Owned and operated by the City of Aurora Cultural Services Division, the 245-seat Aurora Fox is home to the Aurora Fox Theatre Company, a professional company widely recognized for its eclectic, high-quality fare; the Aurora Fox Studio Theatre, a smaller black-box theatre where cutting-edge works are produced; and the Aurora Fox Children's Theatre Company, which annually produces the popular Little Foxes Summer Theatre for youngsters. Having just celebrated 28 successful seasons, Aurora Fox guarantees many opportunities to relax, have fun and recharge your right brain.

Through March 10: Consider the Oyster by David MacGregor

April 12-May 12: The Color Purple, book by Marsha Norman, music and lyrics by Brenda Russell

COLORADO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL University of Colorado at Boulder, 303-492-1537; www.coloradoshakes.org. CSF presents Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Macbeth," "Richard II" and "Women of Will: The Overview."

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA—CENTRETECH 16000 E. Centre Tech Parkway, 303-360-4700; www.ccaurora.edu. Larry D. Carter Theatre, a 180-seat, flexible black-box performance space suitable for theater, music and dance, brings a much-needed fine arts facility to the greater Aurora area. Look forward to the spring semester student arts weekend. Please call for other events, dates and times.

LITTLE FOXES SUMMER THEATRE Aurora Fox, Aurora Fox Children's Theatre Company, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970. Young performers work with professional actors, directors and designers in a series of summer productions and camps. Tickets for these popular shows sell quickly, so purchase them early. Call 303-739-1973 for information on summer camps and year-round theater classes for children.



Pick Your Passion

City of Aurora
Library & Cultural Services
Cultural Services Division
auroragov.org/arts

Bicentennial Art Center
Fine Art & Pottery
303-344-1776
auroragov.org/arts

Art in Public Places
303-739-6747
auroragov.org/publicart


Music
303-344-1776
auroragov.org/arts

Aurora Fox
303-739-1970
aurorafox.org

Aurora Dance Arts
303-326-8308
auroragov.org/dance

Aurora History Museum
303-739-6660
auroramuseum.org

The Cultural Services Division is the largest single provider of arts and culture in the City of Aurora, offering programs in performing arts, fine arts, history, public art, and special events.

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COMING SOON to Vintage Theatre

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE:

MARCH 8 - MARCH 31, 2013 - STAGE 2

BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS:

APRIL 5 - MAY 5, 2013 - STAGE 1

AND THEN THERE WAS NUN:

MAY 17 - JUNE 16, 2013 - STAGE 1

CLOSER:

JUNE 28 - JULY 21, 2013 - STAGE 2

IN THE HEIGHTS:

AUGUST 2 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 - STAGE 1

VERONICA'S ROOM:

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 6, 2013 - STAGE 2

SHADOWLANDS:

OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 10, 2013 - STAGE 1

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS:

NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 15, 2013 - STAGE 2



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www.vintagetheatre.com

June: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

July: The Hobbit

VINTAGE THEATRE 1468 Dayton St., 303-839-1361, www.vintagetheatre.com After 10 years as Vintage Theatre Productions, the renamed Vintage Theatre has moved to a new home in Aurora, the former Dayton Street Theatre. "What's Wrong with This Picture" runs March 8-31. Check the website for more show information.

VISUAL ARTS / GALLERIES

AD LOPEZ ORIGINALS La Cueva Restaurant, 9742 E. Colfax., 720-254-6679; www.adlopezoriginals.com. Necklaces and bracelets of semiprecious stones, done in contemporary, Asian and Native American styles.

AURORA ARTISTS GUILD 303-947-6949, www.auroraartistsguild.com. Artists meet at 7pm on the second Monday of each month (except during July and December) at the Garden Plaza, 14221 E. Evans Ave. Members are invited to bring artwork for a show-and-tell that follows the business meeting. The remainder of the evening is devoted to a demonstration by a professional local artist. This group presents a premier art show and exhibit called "Gateway to the Rockies," displayed October-November. Work is shown throughout the year at various venues throughout Aurora.

AURORA POTTERS GUILD Bicentennial Art Center, 13655 E. Alameda Ave., 303-344-1776. This loosely knit group of experienced Aurora potters uses the studio at Bicentennial Art Center for weekly sessions on Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

BICENTENNIAL ART CENTER 13655 E. Alameda Ave., 303-344-1776. A continually evolving artwork, the building features a pair of sea-themed totem poles, giant pots and murals created by young artists. The pottery studio is open to Potters Guild members and city of Aurora visual arts students. A small display area in the lobby features recent work. Open Mon-Wed from 8:30am-8pm (closed noon-1pm), Thurs from 1-8pm, Fri from 8:30am-5pm (closed noon-1pm) and Sat from 9:30am-4pm.

CITY OF AURORA ART IN PUBLIC PLACES Established at the request of City Council more than a decade ago, the city of Aurora Art in Public Places (AIPP) program has made it possible for locally and nationally renowned artists to enhance the city's public spaces with works of art ranging from outdoor sculptures and murals to functional works integrated into the architecture. This has resulted in a community asset of 240 pieces valued at over \$3 million, creating cultural landmarks that serve as cornerstones of the community's identity. These public art pieces contribute to the economic vitality of Aurora, establish a unique identity that enhances and revitalizes the city, and help transform the city's image. The program is funded through the Art in Public Places Ordinance, which requires that all city construction and remodeling projects set aside 1 percent of their budgets for public art. Additionally, Metropolitan Districts and Transit Oriented Developments—private developments—provide public art to create unique public spaces. For information, to serve on an art selection panel, or to apply to the AIPP Commission, call 303-739-6670 or email amain@auroragov.org. For photos and locations of the artworks, visit www.auroragov.org/publicart.

CITY OF AURORA VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMS 303-326-8650 (registration), 303-344-1776 (information); www.auroragov.org/arts; culturalservices@auroragov.org. The city's Cultural Services Division offers a variety of art classes for children and adults, including drawing, painting, pottery, sculpture, stained glass, photography, wood carving and more. Classes are held at recreation centers and the Bicentennial Art Center pottery studio. For information, see the Aurora Recreation Guide, available at recreation centers and libraries, call, or visit the website.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA—CENTRETECH 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-360-4700, www.ccaurora.edu. Student art exhibits and awards ceremonies are held during both spring and fall performing-arts weekends. Call or visit the website for details.

DENVER ART MUSEUM 100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway, 720-865-5000; www.denverartmuseum.org. The 356,000-square-foot museum complex includes collection gallery space, three temporary exhibition venues, and the Lewis I. Sharp Auditorium. Museum hours are Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sat 10am-5pm, Fri 10am-8pm, and Sun 10am-5pm. Check the website for a complete list of exhibits.

- **Feb. 10-April 28:** Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico: Architecture, Katsinam, and the Land. Explores the local culture, architecture and spirituality that inspired the artist. The show features 53 O'Keeffe works, including 15 rarely seen pictures of Hopi spiritual figures (katsina dolls), along with examples of these types of figures.
- **May 19-Sept. 22:** Spun: Adventures in Textiles. A wide-ranging look at textiles, from pre-Columbian weavings to modern fiber art; Navajo blankets to an examination of clothing in art and photography.



"Marge and Harry" at the Aurora Fox.

- **June 9-Sept. 22:** Nick Cave: Sojourn. Features about 40 new artworks including 20 "Soundsuits," described as "textiles-meet-modern-dance." Cave's multisensory installations transport visitors to a new world of color, texture, sound and movement. Live performance June 28.

DOWNTOWN AURORA VISUAL ARTS (DAVA) 1405 Florence St., 303-367-5886, www.davarts.org. This nonprofit community arts organization gives children and families a variety of creative ways to experience art in a safe, constructive learning environment. Programs include:

OASIS: Free, supervised after-school workshop offers youngsters 7-17 a variety of painting, drawing, mixed-media and ceramic projects. Open Mon-Fri from 2:30-4:45pm (summer hours 1:30-4:30pm) at 1419 Florence St.

Job Training in Visual Arts and Computer Lab: This program offers 11-14-year-olds the chance to use computers as an artistic tool. Mon-Thurs 3-5pm (summer hours 1:30-4:30pm). Call for more information.

Family Arts: Free program for 3-to-6-year-olds and their parents, Tues and Fri 10am-noon.

Portable Arts School: Traveling art program brings art experiences to schools, organizations and local community events.

The DAVA gallery is open from 10am-5pm Mon-Fri. Below is a list of selected events. Opening receptions occur on the first day of a given event. For full event details call DAVA or check the website.

Feb. 28-March 21: Artworks by DAVA staff
 March 29-May 17: Prevention and Photography
 May 31-July 19: Building a Better Future
 Aug. 2-Sept. 20: Mapping in Art
 Oct. 4-Nov. 22: A Cultural Approach to Architecture
 Opening Dec. 6: Annual Holiday Show and Sale

FLORENCE GRIFFITH POTTERY STUDIO 1556 Florence St., 303-680-6389, www.auroraartsdistrict.com/attractions/education. Located near the Aurora Fox, this studio sells functional pottery and paintings and offers classes in pottery. Join a class or just drop in and use the studio for practice and fun. Studio hours are Wed 5-9pm and Sat 10:30am-4pm.

HOUSE OF FLOWERS 303-344-4310, www.houseofflowersauroraco.com. Visit this funky, cool neighborhood in the heart of original Aurora (9955 E. Colfax) to buy affordable art, create some of your own, participate in community events and have some fun. Check the website for info on events held every second Friday 5-8pm. Email cgardener@houseofflowersauroraco.com for information on events and details.

MUD HUT CERAMICS 1550 Elmira St., 303-809-7483; www.mudhutceramics.com. Buy a piece of bisque pottery and paint it yourself. Fun for families and parties.

RED DELICIOUS PRESS 9901 E. 16th Ave., 303-366-2922, www.reddeliciouspress.com. Named for its bright-red press, Red Delicious is a volunteer-run contemporary art center with printmaking facilities for intaglio, etching, screen printing, monotypes, woodcuts, papermaking and photo imaging. Accessible to anyone interested in printmaking, it offers classes, workshops, exhibits, gallery space, affordable press time, nontoxic materials and visits from experienced artists. Printmaking classes are typically held on Wednesday evenings. Check website for current hours and events.

SECOND FRIDAYS On the second Friday of each month, the galleries, studios and businesses that make up the East End Arts District are open from 4-8pm. For details, check the calendar at www.auroraartsdistrict.com.

SUNRISE ARTWORKS 1556 Florence St., 303-361-9282. A gallery and artists' studio, Sunrise ArtWorks features pottery, paintings, woodwork, photography and sculpture, as well as small-group instruction in wheel-thrown and hand-built pottery, jewelry making and weaving. The gallery hosts periodic exhibits. Call for information. ●

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Vintage Theatre, at Dayton Street and East Colfax Avenue, occupies the former Dayton Street Theatre/Shadow Theatre building. In addition to a play or musical almost every weekend, it offers films, cabaret and a summer theater camp for kids.



VINTAGE THEATRE

At Home in Aurora

Spacious new location allows for more activity

BY LISA TRUESDALE

Bond—Craig Bond—is a little bit like James (no relation). He doesn't have an arsenal of high-tech gadgets and gizmos, but as the artistic director for Vintage Theatre, he sure knows how to multitask like the legendary international spy.

As one of the founders of Vintage Theatre Productions, Bond has been involved since 2002, when the theater first opened in a small space at 2119 E. 17th Ave. near downtown Denver. Then, last spring, Bond spearheaded the theater's purchase of a larger building at 1468 Dayton St. in Aurora, formerly the home of Shadow Theatre. It has three performance spaces as opposed to a single small one in the old place, which means Vintage can now stage enough productions each year to cover nearly every weekend—Friday and Saturday nights, and Sunday matinées.

"Instead of being dark for 20 weeks, like we were for almost 10 years, now there are only two or three weekends in the year when we don't have something scheduled," says Bond. He's also busy with some extra projects he's always wanted to take on, like promoting the theater's summer camp for "twens" aged 9-14; curating the rotating exhibits of artwork for the small gallery in the lobby; and selecting classic movies such as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* for the new third-Sunday film screenings.



He'd like to find more time to direct—he usually directs one or two of the theater's productions each year—but his other main role is that of doting father. He has two adopted sons with partner and Vintage Theatre board member David Trimble, and he wants to spend every ounce of his free time with his family.

"As Vintage has grown, especially in the last year, I've taken on more of an executive-director position," Bond says. "But I love how this job allows me to create a nice balance between work and family. I just bring the baby [1-year-old Jacob] to the theater with me while Jonathan [age 5] is at school."

HEART & HUMANITY

Bond admits that some longtime subscribers were more than a little skeptical of the new place at first, because they didn't want to lose the intimacy they had grown to love at the theater's previous location. "When you're right up there, so close to the performers, it's hard to escape the emotion; you're like a fly on the wall," Bond explains, using this January's production of *RFK: A Portrait of Robert Kennedy* (Vintage's 57th show since 2002) as an example of a play best suited to a small theater. "You can really become part of the work, and that's very appealing to theatrical patrons."

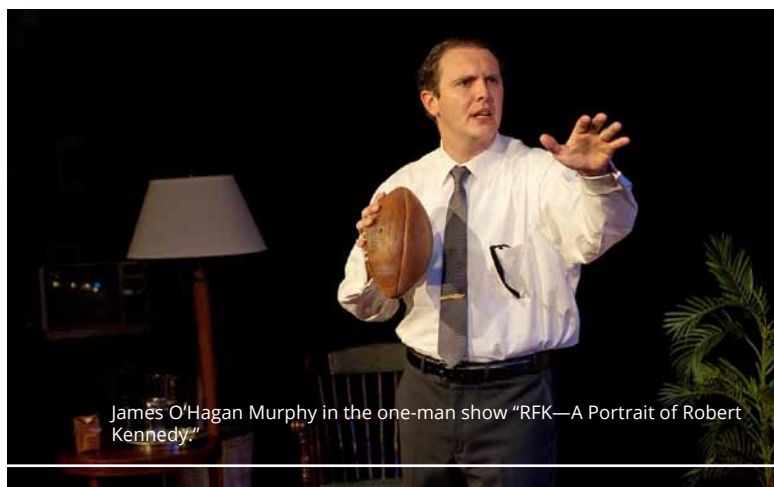
Above: Artistic director Craig Bond co-founded Vintage Theatre in 2002, moving it to Aurora in 2012.



Megan Van De Hay as the Spider Woman



Carolyn Lohr and Keith Rubin in last season's production of "Avenue Q," an "adult puppet comedy."



James O'Hagan Murphy in the one-man show "RFK—A Portrait of Robert Kennedy."



"The Joy Luck Club" was the first Vintage show staged in Aurora.

But now, he says, with the 147-seat, nine-row Jeffrey Nickelson Auditorium (named in honor of the late founder of Shadow Theatre) as well as the 69-seat, three-row Bond-Trimble Theatre, Vintage is finally able to offer the best of both worlds. "Over the years, we've been one of the most intimate theaters in Colorado; it's part of our draw and our longevity," Bond says. "I enjoy those intimate productions, and the smaller space is perfect for them, but now with the Nickelson, we can also stage big-scale musicals and bigger theatrical productions. It's a nice mix.

"Plus," he adds, "when we're performing on one stage, we can be rehearsing on the other."

Despite the initial doubts of some of the theater's loyal fans, the new and improved Vintage Theatre is definitely thriving. Besides the two stages and a cabaret-style space in the lobby, where film screenings and other small-scale events are held, Bond sees many other exciting advantages to the new location.

"For one, we're now part of the Aurora Arts District," he says, "and the city is very supportive of us being here, because they really want to grow the district. We also have ample free parking, which is a huge draw—no more fighting with restaurants for space on busy weekend nights."

Vintage holds auditions about twice a year for several plays at once, and Bond invites members of the community to give it a try; the next auditions are in April 2013. "We're not a 'company' of actors,"

he explains. "We are very inclusive, so auditions are open to anyone, and we choose the very best."

For those who prefer to be audience members rather than the cast, Vintage offers a variety of low-cost ticket options—as little as \$16 per ticket if you subscribe to all 10 plays in a season. Productions for 2013 include *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (April 5-May 5); *In the Heights* (Aug. 2-Sept. 1); and *Snow Falling on Cedars* (Nov. 23-Dec. 15).

The latter is an example of the type of play Bond most enjoys offering at Vintage. "As artistic director, I like to pick productions based on major novels, although some were actually plays first," he says. "I try to find those gems that really explore the heart and humanity, so audiences are pleasantly surprised." ●

Lisa Truesdale, a Brock Media editor and freelance writer, is a regular contributor to the Aurora Guide.

Vintage Theatre (303-856-7830; www.vintagetheatre.com) is located at 1468 Dayton St. Upcoming productions include "City of Angels," "What's Wrong with This Picture," "And Then There Was Nun," "Closer," "Veronica's Room" and "Shadowlands." Tickets are \$25 for plays and \$30 for musicals (\$5 off when preordered). Classic movies (\$5) are screened at 6:30pm the third Sunday of each month. Free parking is available in nearby lots, but read signs carefully—some lots tow.

libraries & museums

LIBRARIES

The Aurora Public Library offers books and periodicals, computers with email access, CDs, books on tape, VHS tapes, DVDs, investment information, newspapers and job-search assistance.

Library resources also may be accessed online. To review inventory, renew books, download e-books or movies, or reserve books for later pickup, simply log on to www.auroralibrary.org. For help answering research questions, check out Ask Colorado on the website to chat online with a librarian; this service is available in English and Spanish.

The library offers free research assistance via email or phone, or in person when you drop in. For the quickest response from staff, explain your question as completely as possible, providing all pertinent information. For reference questions, send an email to aplref@auroragov.org. For business questions, send an email to brcbiz@auroragov.org, or call 303-739-6600.

The libraries also offer literacy classes, tutoring, homework help and storytimes for various ages and abilities. Learn how to write a résumé, search for a job or operate a computer. Call the library nearest you; check the Aurora Recreation Guide, available at recreation centers and libraries; or visit the website, www.auroralibrary.org.

Additional public computer labs are now available at both Beck Recreation Center and Moorhead Recreation Center.

AURORA CENTRAL LIBRARY (central) 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6600. Open Mon-Thurs 8am-10pm, Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 8am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm. Storytimes (ages 2-6): Tues at 7pm (pajama storytime); Wed at 10am (preschool); R.I.S.E. storytime and parent literacy class (ages 3-5) Thurs at 10am. Computers, two meeting rooms, early literacy center, Spanish collections, Aurora Genealogy Library, health reference collection and wireless Internet access.

FRIENDS OF THE AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK OUTLET, 2243 S. Peoria St., 720-747-7977. Open Wed 10am-6pm, Fri 4:30-8pm, Sat 10am-4pm.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY (northwest), 9898 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1940. Open Tues 11am-7pm; Wed-Sat 10am-6pm. Storytimes (ages 2-6) Fri 10:30am; R.I.S.E. Storytime Wed 10:30am. Computer lab, Spanish collection, John and Edna Mosley African-American Culture Collection and wireless Internet access.

MISSION VIEJO LIBRARY (south), 15324 E. Hampden Circle, 303-326-8600. Open Tues 11am-7pm, Wed, Thurs, Sat 10am-6pm. Storytime: Thurs 10am (ages 2-6). Computers, meeting rooms and wireless Internet access.

SMOKY HILL LIBRARY—ARAPAHOE LIBRARY DISTRICT (southeast), 5430 S. Biscay Circle, Centennial, 303-542-7279. Open Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm, Fri-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm. Baby storytimes (up to 24 months) at 9:15am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sat. Toddler storytimes (ages 2-3) at 10am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sat. Preschool storytimes (ages 4-6) at 10:45am Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs. Family storytimes at 11am Fri, 10:45am Sat and 7pm Wed & Thurs. Spanish storytimes at 7pm on Tues. Because of limited space, preregistration is required for all above events.

TALLYN'S REACH LIBRARY (southeast), 23911 E. Arapahoe Road, 303-627-3050. Open Wed, Fri, Sat 10am-6pm; Tues, Thurs 1-9pm. Storytime (ages 2-6) Wed at 10:30am. Computers, meeting rooms and wireless Internet access.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Through March 2: Power of One Winter Reading Program, all ages. Escape from dreary weather with a good book. Read three books in six weeks, or read two books and complete a treasure hunt at the Aurora History Museum to receive your prize. Last day to pick up your prize is March 2. www.auroralibrary.org

March 1-29: Jelly Bean Contest, all ages. Tallyn's Reach Library. Guess the correct number of candies in the jar and you could win it all.

March 2, 2-4pm: Happy Birthday Dr. Suess!, ages 7-12. Mission Viejo Library. Celebrate Dr. Suess's birthday by eating green eggs, making a Cat-in-the-Hat hat, and more. Registration required.

April 13, 10am-4pm: Power of One: Aurora's Green Revolution Kickoff. Aurora Municipal Center Great Lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway.

303-739-7473.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

TeenZone programs are free, but please register at www.auroralibrary.org.

- **GameZone:** grades 6-12, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, 4pm (Mission Viejo)
- **SnackZone:** grade 6-12, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, 4 pm (Mission Viejo)
- **DIY Zone,** grades 6 to 12, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, 4pm (Mission Viejo)
- **TechZone:** grades 6 to 12, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, 4 pm (Mission Viejo)
- **Family Art Program:** Craft fun for the whole family, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30am (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- **Science in the Stacks:** Preservation Has Many Pieces. March 10, April 14, 2-3pm (Central Library)
- **Digital Camera Workshop:** March 16, 2pm (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- **Crafts at Tallyn's Reach Library:** March 22, 10:30am
- **Hip-Hop Funkenetics!:** March 26, 4pm (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- **Spring Break Surprise!:** March 27, 2pm (Central)
- **Go Fly a Kite!:** March 30, 2 pm (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- **Earth Mosaics:** ages 7 to 12, April 6, 2-3pm (Mission Viejo)
- **Recycled Plastic Bag Flowers:** ages 5 and older, April 22, 4pm (Tallyn's Reach)

MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6666. Experience Aurora's diverse cultural heritage at the Aurora History Museum. Special events scheduled throughout the year (a few are listed below) include lectures, live performances and creative outlets for the whole family. The museum features three exhibit galleries, the Collector's Corner, a hands-on room, reference library, the city's history archive and a museum store. Open Tues-Fri 9am-4pm and Sat-Sun 11am-4pm. Free admission.

☉ Brown Bag & White Linen Lecture Series

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6666, www.aurora-museum.org. Lectures are scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month from noon-1pm. The cost is \$4 (\$3 for Aurora residents). Bring a lunch. This monthly series is sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society. Call or check the website at www.auroragov.org for topic information.

March 20: Balancing Green and Brown

April 17: Colorado's Biological Treasures

May 15: Raptors of the Rockies

☉ Permanent Exhibit Gallery

"Living Aurora" explores more than 100 years of the city's progress, through photographs and artifacts. The exhibit also includes the geologic past, indigenous peoples, the founding of Aurora, and military and social history.

☉ Changing Exhibit Gallery

Exhibits change every three or four months. Topics include "Growing Up Gamer: A History of Video Games," "Wolves and Wildlands," "The Green Revolution" and "Civilian Conservation Corps of Colorado." For more information, visit www.auroramuseum.org.

Growing Up Gamer: A History Of Video Games: Feb. 12-May 26

Nintendo or Sega? Oregon Trail or Carmen Sandiego? Come relive your childhood and find out more about the history of video games, their influence on pop culture, and how they revolutionized the way we learn.

Wolves and the Wild Lands in the 21st Century: June 11-Sept 29

A national traveling exhibition from the Bell Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn. Discover the story of wolves in North America while viewing a variety of wolf mounts. Travel to many places, from the Arctic to the southwestern United States, to see where wolves thrive or struggle to survive. Learn about cultural and economic pressures and how they continue to shape the wolves' existence. Also featured, with the help of Morrison Nature Center: information about Aurora's coyote populations.



Growing Up Gamer: A History Of Video Games: Feb. 12-May 26 at the Aurora History Museum

Gateway To The Rockies Art Show: Oct. 8-Nov. 9

Discover a city alive with culture. View a juried exhibit of paintings, photography and miniatures by artists of local, regional and national importance. Co-sponsored by the Aurora Artists Guild, the Aurora Cultural Services Division, and the Aurora History Museum. Artwork is for sale.

Collector's Corner Exhibits

An ever-changing showcase of collections from local residents. If you have an interesting collection to feature, call 303-739-6658 or email mvalade@auroragov.org.

Community Gallery

Earth From Space: Through March 31

Beautifully detailed satellite images of Earth illustrate a massive hurricane, Kansas farmland, the Great Pyramids and much more. Examine how satellite imagery is used to expand our understanding of life on Earth; courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Smithsonian Institution.

Green Revolution: April 9-June 30

What is a carbon footprint? Why is it important to conserve water? What are the four Rs? Become a partner in the Green Revolution. Learn some interesting facts and helpful hints and, armed with Aurora's many resources, discover how you can make a difference not only in your home, but also in our community. Free. All ages.

Festival Of Wreaths: Nov. 12-Dec. 13

Get in the holiday spirit at the Aurora History Museum with this colorful and decorative display. See more than 40 festive and imaginative wreaths decorated and donated by local individuals, businesses and organizations. All wreaths are sold through a silent auction, both at the museum and online, to raise money for the Aurora Museum Foundation.

Programs and Special Events

A Perspective: Iraq's Cultural Heritage: March 10, 2:30pm

Discover the ancient history and more recent story of Iraq's cultural heritage with former Aurora History Museum director Dr. Gordon Davis. Learn about the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad and Dr. Davis's multi-year project to reopen this internationally significant museum. Sponsored by the Aurora Museum Foundation. All ages, \$4 (\$3 Aurora residents). Free for Aurora Museum Foundation Members.

An Affair Of The Heart Tea: March 16, 2 pm

Enjoy tea while learning about the close relationships President Franklin D. Roosevelt had with several women. Using information from letters and personal documents, Mary Jane Bradbury and Richard Marold will bring these characters to life. Ages 8-adult, \$26 (\$20 Aurora residents).

Aurora's 122nd Birthday Party: April 28, 1-4pm

Celebrate Aurora's 122nd birthday with your family and friends. Enjoy entertainment, games, face painting, a scavenger hunt, cake and more. Sponsored by the Aurora Museum Foundation. Free. All ages.

HISTORIC SITES 303-739-6660; www.auroramuseum.org. The four historic sites belonging to the city of Aurora are open by appointment only, unless a special program is planned. Call or visit the website for program details.

Centennial House

1671 Galena St. One of Aurora's few remaining Queen Anne-style houses was built as a spec home by town father Donald Fletcher in 1891. Call 303-739-6666 for more information.

Coal Creek Schoolhouse

Near intersection of First Avenue and Chambers Road. This 1920s one-room schoolhouse was in use until the 1960s, when it was relocated to grounds west of Beck Recreation Center and restored to historical authenticity. More recently it moved to the DeLaney Farm Historic District.

Delaney Farm Historic District

170 S. Chambers Road. Originally homesteaded in the 1880s, DeLaney Farm features the state's only surviving round barn. In addition to the historic buildings, the farm is home to an urban garden complex, a riding arena and special events.

Gully Homestead

200 S. Chambers Road. Irish immigrants built Aurora's oldest surviving residence in 1870. Originally at Mississippi Avenue and Chambers Road, it has been relocated to DeLaney Farm Historic District.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF DENVER 2121 Children's Museum Drive, Denver, 303-433-7444, www.cmdenver.org. The Children's Museum is Denver's best learn-while-you-play experience for children of all ages. Programs and playscapes, both educational and just plain fun, are designed for newborns through 8-year-olds and their adult companions. Special events include storytimes, hands-on art programs, and Super Science Sundays. Free from 4-8pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

COLORADO GRANGE MUSEUM 21901 E. Hampden Ave., 303-693-3621. This museum is the country's first to preserve the history of the Grange, a rural fraternal organization that began in the United States in 1867. Located in an old Air Force barracks at the Plains Conservation Center, the museum houses a replica of a Grange hall along with clothing and historic photos. Open by appointment.

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, 303-322-7009, www.dmns.org. This museum inspires curiosity and excites minds of all ages through a variety of permanent exhibits, programs and activities that help museum visitors experience the natural wonders of Colorado, wildlife, mummies, Earth, the human body and the universe. Open daily 9am-5pm except Dec. 25.

MELVIN SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM-LIBRARY 16100 E. Smoky Hill Road (at Laredo). Built in 1922 and used continuously until 1949, the schoolhouse today serves as an old-fashioned classroom for students of all ages. It offers occasional museum displays and is open to the public by appointment for browsing, library research and appropriate meetings. To make an appointment, please call 303-690-5005.

MORRISON NATURE CENTER 16002 E. Smith Road, 303-739-2428. Located on the 200-acre Star K Ranch, off the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, the Morrison Nature Center offers scenic strolls, great exhibits, and a comfortable "family room" full of books and other nature-study resources. A full spectrum of nature programming for families, kids and adults is offered Wed-Sun year-round, including monthly bird walks for adults. Star K Kids ages 5 and under can discover Aurora's wild side with puppets, stories, activities and outdoor exploration. Junior Rangers ages 6-12 get outside to explore plants and animals at Star K Ranch. Open Wed-Fri noon-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 9am-4:30pm, closed Mon and Tue. For a calendar and newsletter, visit www.auroragov.org/nature.

PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER 21901 E. Hampden Ave., 303-693-3621; www.plainscenter.org. This approximately 1,100-acre area of shortgrass prairie is a refuge for plants and animals of eastern Colorado, providing visitors with a deeper appreciation and understanding of grassland ecology. Prairie cultural heritage is represented by the replica sod homestead, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop and Cheyenne tipis. Wagon rides are a summer highlight, along with 11 different day camp programs for preschoolers through teens. Badge workshops and other Scouting activities are held throughout the year. Volunteer training is available. The center is open year-round Mon-Sat, 8am-4pm for free drop-in visits (no reservations). Visit the website to learn about parent-child preschool programs. Most events require reservations; please call to schedule.

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM 7711 E. Academy Blvd., 303-360-5360, www.wingsmuseum.org. Located in a vintage 1930s hangar in the Lowry Community (formerly Lowry Air Force Base), Wings Over the Rockies houses more than three dozen historic military and civilian aircraft, including a rare B-1A Lancer, several Century Series fighters, a 1930s B-18A Bolo bomber, an Alexander Eaglerock built in Colorado, and the X-Wing fighter used in the movie "Star Wars." Exhibits feature the history and science of flight, Lowry heritage, and aviation artifacts, photos and memorabilia. Cockpit Demo Day happens monthly; call for hours. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm. •

recreation



Martial arts at Beck Recreation Center.

Aurora has an amazing array of parks, trails, golf courses, natural areas and other places to have fun. For a free, up-to-date trail map, visit your local library or call the Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department at 303-739-7160, or email parks@auroragov.org. Listings of Aurora's recreational amenities can also be found at www.AuroraGuide.com.

ARCHERY

AURORA RESERVOIR ARCHERY RANGE Learn a new sport or prepare for hunting season at Aurora Reservoir's Archery Range. Targets offer a variety of distances in a natural setting located at 5800 S. Powhatan Road in Aurora. \$10 per vehicle daily entry fee.

3D ARCHERY SHOOT Practice your archery skills with 3D targets before the season begins. Aug 3-4 at Pronghorn Natural Area, 27800 E. Quincy Ave. Call 303-690-1286 or visit www.auroragov.org/reservoirs.

FAMILY ARCHERY A fun-filled morning of archery followed by friendly competition. No experience necessary. Equipment provided or bring your own. Sat 9:30am-noon, March 16, April 20, May 11; meet at Beck Recreation Center, 800 Telluride St. \$30 (\$25 resident)/person.

BIKING & MULTIUSE TRAILS

AURORA RESERVOIR TRAIL circles the reservoir for 8 miles. Access the hard-surface trail at Quincy Ave and Powhatan Road, pay a \$10 day-use fee and park your car at the swim beach. A new certified 5k trail is perfect for training. The reservoir is open daily from dawn until dusk, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For details, visit www.auroragov.org/reservoirs.

CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR LOOP circles the reservoir in a 9-mile ride. The trail alternates between concrete and badly cracked asphalt, passing wetlands, woodlands and prairie landscapes.

CHERRY CREEK SPILLWAY serves as the connecting trail between the Toll Gate trail system and Cherry Creek State Park and Greenway.

CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK NORTHEAST starts at the intersection of Vaughn Way and Dam Road. Stay left at junctions and head straight through fields of mullein and rabbitbrush with magnificent views of the Rockies

CONSERVATORY WEST TRAIL begins at the popular Great Plains Park and travels south 2 miles, passing neighborhood parks and providing connections to the Powerline Trail, Unnamed Creek Trail and Plains Trail.

HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL Colorado's most famous urban parkway, runs more than 10 miles through the heart of Aurora. It's open to equestrians, except in Denver.

HORSESHOE PARK TRAIL is a flat 2.3-mile loop around Horseshoe Park's perimeter.

PLAINS TRAIL borders the expansive Plains Conservation Center open space.

POWERLINE TRAIL provides critical east-west connection between Horseshoe Park and the ever-popular Great Plains Park, where it meets the Plains Trail and Conservatory Trail.

SAND CREEK REGIONAL GREENWAY is a soft-surface trail that parallels the wildlife-rich Sand Creek corridor at Aurora's northern border. After 6.2 miles in Aurora, the trail extends west into Denver another 8 miles to meet up with the South Platte River Trail. Open to equestrians.

TOLL GATE CREEK TRAIL is a 6.3-mile hard surface trail through the heart of Aurora.

WEST TOLL GATE CREEK TRAIL is a 3.4-mile hard-surface trail connecting numerous parks, including La Parquita, Mission Viejo, Meadowood Park and Horseshoe Park.

WESTERLY CREEK TRAIL is a paved 4-mile multiuse trail that runs southeast from Expo Park to Utah Park. The trail connects to the High Line Canal Trail at Expo Park.

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

ARAPAHOE LITTLE LEAGUE 720-505-3169 or email arapahoeLL@gmail.com, www.arapahoeLL.com.

AURORA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION 303-692-5129 (hotline), www.agsacolorado.com. Sponsors semicompetitive fast-pitch softball for all girls in Aurora (ages 6-16).

CENTENNIAL BASEBALL For boys and girls 3-18. 720-249-7696, 720-435-6709; www.centennialbaseball.com.

CHERRY CREEK LITTLE LEAGUE 303-680-0168 or email info@cherrycreekLL.com, www.cherrycreekLL.com.

CITY OF AURORA ADULT LEAGUES Recreational and competitive basketball, softball, volleyball and Futsal. 303-326-8700 (information), 303-326-8650 (registration), www.auroragov.org/adultsports.

CITY OF AURORA YOUTH LEAGUES & CAMPS Recreational basketball, T-ball, softball, baseball, lacrosse, soccer, roller hockey, volleyball and flag football. 303-326-8700 (information), 303-326-8650 (registration), www.auroragov.org/youthsports.

COLORADO AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION 530 S. Newland St., Lakewood. 303-936-0951 (office), coloradosoftball@yahoo.com, www.coloradosoftball.org.

COLORADO RAPIDS YOUTH SOCCER CLUB (FORMERLY COLORADO FUSION) (recreational and competitive), 7808 Cherry Creek South Drive, #401, Denver. 303-399-5858; www.rapidsyouthsoccer.org. The club provides developmental as well as competitive opportunities for boys and girls 4-18. Also offers league play and clinics throughout the year, and camps during school breaks.

COLORADO STORM SOCCER ASSOCIATION 7002 S. Revere Parkway, Centennial. 303-799-0151; www.coloradostorm.com.

FISHING & WATER SPORTS

Anglers 16 and older must have a Colorado fishing license. Children younger than 16 are not required to have fishing licenses but are allowed to catch the full adult bag limit. Licenses are available at most sporting goods stores and can be ordered online at www.wildlife.state.co.us/fishing or by phone at 1-800-244-5613. The Colorado Fishing Season Information and Wildlife Property booklet may be ordered through the Colorado Division of Wildlife (303-297-1192) and is also available on the DOW website. For a recorded statewide fish report, call 303-291-7534. For a recorded report on metro-area fishing conditions, call 303-291-7535. Weekly regional reports appear from April 1 through October on the DOW website.

AURORA RESERVOIR 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-690-1286. Offers fishing, sailing, wind-surfing, boating (electric motors only), seasonal rental of canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, aqua cycles, fishing boats and bicycles, as well as offshore moorings, dry storage, an archery range, scuba area, seasonal swim beach, paved 8-mile multiuse trail, certified 5-k trail, playground, picnic shelters and more. Admission is \$10 per vehicle daily or \$64 for annual pass.

AURORA RESERVOIR TROUT TOURNAMENT Fishing enthusiasts, come to Aurora Reservoir on May 18 from 5:30am-2pm and compete to win one \$10,000 cash prize. Participation is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Register online at www.aurora.gov/reservoirs. Call 303-690-1286 for more information.

CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK 4201 S. Parker Road, 303-690-1166, www.parks.state.co.us/parks/cherrycreek. Offers swimming, water sports, fishing, boating (motorized boats allowed), picnic shelters and grills, multiuse trails, a model airplane field, a shooting range (303-680-5401, familyshootingcenter.com), the Paint Horse Stables and camping. Campgrounds are open year-round.

FISHING WITH A RANGER AT AURORA RESERVOIR Come learn how to fish for rainbow trout April 2, 16, 30 and May 14 from 6:30-7:30pm. Bring your family and fishing rods; bait and tackle are supplied. No registration required. Meet Ranger Aaron Staack at the East Dam parking lot; \$10 admission fee into the reservoir. For more information email astaack@auroragov.org.

QUINCY RESERVOIR 18350 E. Quincy Ave., 303-693-5463. Offers fishing, non-motorized and electric boating (hand-launched boats only), boat rentals and an accessible fishing pier. Open March 1-Oct. 31. Daily entry fee: \$7 per person (adult).

RAFT MASTERS 2315 E. Main St., Cañon City, 1-800-568-7238, www.raftmasters.com. Offers whitewater rafting on the scenic Arkansas River, just 45 miles southwest of Colorado Springs. Choose thrill rides through the Royal Gorge or family fun on Bighorn Sheep Canyon. Rafting trips down steep and narrow Clear Creek, located just 30 miles west of Denver, offer something for everyone, from beginners to experts. Trip lengths range from half-day to three days. Free use of wetsuits. Photos and souvenirs available.

GOLF COURSES

To book city of Aurora tee times, go to www.golfaurora.com and click on "Book a Tee Time," or call the golf course directly.

ANTELOPE HILLS GOLF COURSE 600 Antelope Drive West, Bennett, www.antelopehills-golfcourse.com. An 18-hole private course.

AURORA HILLS GOLF COURSE 50 S. Peoria St., 303-739-1550. An 18-hole, city-owned public golf course.

CENTRE HILLS PAR-3 GOLF COURSE 16300 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-326-8674. Nine-hole city-owned course with lighted driving range.

COMMON GROUNDS GOLF COURSE 10300 E. Golfer's Way, 303-340-1520, www.com-mongroundgc.com. An 18-hole championship privately managed public course.

FITZSIMONS GOLF COURSE 2323 Scranton St., 303-364-8125. An 18-hole city-owned public golf course.

GREEN VALLEY RANCH GOLF CLUB 4900 Himalaya Road, Denver, 303-371-3131, www.gvrgolf.com. An 18-hole privately owned public golf course.

HEATHER GARDENS GOLF COURSE 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, 303-751-2390, www.heathergardens.org. A nine-hole executive golf course open to the public.

HERITAGE EAGLE BEND GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB 23155 E. Heritage Parkway, 303-400-6700, www.heritageeaglebend.com. An 18-hole membership golf course.

MEADOW HILLS GOLF COURSE 3609 S. Dawson St., 303-690-2500. An 18-hole championship city-owned public golf course.

MURPHY CREEK GOLF COURSE 1700 S. Old Tom Morris Road, 303-361-7300. An 18-hole city-owned public championship golf course.

SADDLE ROCK GOLF COURSE 21705 E. Arapahoe Road, 303-699-3939. An 18-hole city-owned public championship golf course.

SPRINGHILL GOLF COURSE 800 Telluride St., 303-739-6854. An 18-hole executive city-owned public golf course.

WINDSOR GARDENS GOLF CLUB 595 S. Clinton St., 303-364-7485, www.windsorgardensdenver.org. A nine-hole privately owned public executive golf course.

HORSES

ARAPAHOE PARK 26000 E. Quincy Ave., 303-690-2400, www.mihiracing.com/arapahoe-park.shtml. Watch thoroughbred or quarterhorse racing from the comfort of a climate-controlled grandstand and clubhouse. Live racing in summer. An adult must accompany children under 12.

COLORADO RAPIDS YOUTH SOCCER CLUB SUMMER CAMPS

Whether an aspiring elite player or a young player just starting in the sport, our camp offerings will engage and challenge all participating players in a safe and enjoyable environment. Each Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club Summer Camp is designed and led by our highly qualified technical staff and is based on our Colorado Rapids youth development curriculum.

SUMMER CAMP	DATES	AGE
Striker/Goalkeeper Camp	May 20-22	8-14 years
Development Camp 1 (or 2)	June 10-14 or June 24-27	8-14 years
Junior Academy Day Camp	June 10-14 or July 8-12	4-7 years
Junior Academy Skills Camp	June 17-20 or July 22-25	4-7 years
U9-U14 Skills Camp	June 17-20 or July 22-25	8-14 years
Development Camp 3	July 8-11	8-14 years
Boys Elite Preseason Camp	July 22-25	10-14 years
Boys High School Preseason Camp	Aug. 5-8	14-18 years
Goal Keeper Camp	6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/1	8-18 years
Girls Elite Preseason Camp	July 22-25	10-18 years

To register visit rapidsyouthsoccer.org/camps
or call 303.399.5858



recreation

CHATFIELD STABLES (formerly PAINT HORSE STABLES) Located inside Chatfield State Park at 11500 North Roxborough Park Road, Littleton, 303-933-3636; www.chatfield-stables.net.

THE URBAN FARM AT STAPLETON 10200 Smith Road, 303-307-9332, www.theurbanfarm.org. This grant-assisted 4-H program helps low-income children build confidence and learn responsibility through horseback riding and caring for horses and other farm animals.

PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS

The Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department has more than 100 parks located throughout the city. Amenities vary, but most parks have playground equipment and picnic shelters. The department also maintains 6,000 acres of open space, including trail corridors, natural areas and reservoirs. These natural spaces offer residents and visitors alike the opportunity to discover Aurora's true nature. For picnic shelter reservations, call 303-739-7213. For sports field rentals, call 303-326-8719. For information about Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space, call 303-739-7160 or visit www.auroragov.org/pros.

For further recreation listings of Aurora's many parks, visit www.AuroraGuide.com.

☉ Aurora's Parks Include:

AURORA SPORTS PARK 18601 E. Sports Park Drive, 303-326-8700. This 220-acre complex hosts major local, state and national competitions and offers 12 baseball/softball fields and 23 soccer/multiuse fields.

CHERRY CREEK SOCCER COMPLEX 12201 E. Arapahoe Road. Has 58 acres with soccer fields (league use only).

CITY PARK 9701 E. 16th Ave. Has 5.3 acres with playground, basketball courts and skate plaza.

DEL MAR PARK 12000 E. Sixth Ave. Forty acres with playground, large shelter, sports fields, basketball court, lighted tennis courts, and seasonal outdoor pool.

EXPO PARK 10955 E. Exposition Ave. Fifty-seven acres with playground, sports fields, lighted tennis courts, disc golf course, basketball courts and a community center.

GRANDVIEW DOG PARK 17500 E. Quincy Ave. Offers 5.7 acres of off-leash fun with separate small-dog area, and drinking water for dogs (seasonal).

GREAT PLAINS PARK 20100 E. Jewell Ave. Fifty-seven acres with playground, shelters, basketball court, sports fields, perimeter trail and outdoor water sprayground (May-October).

HIGHLINE PARK, 70 N. Peoria St. Thirty acres with sports fields and playground.

HOOPS PARK 16300 E. Sixth Ave. Consists of 1.4 acres with three high school regulation outdoor basketball courts.

HORSESHOE PARK 2141 S. Kittredge Way. Eleven acres with playground, softball fields, trail and natural area.

MISSION VIEJO PARK 3990 S. Mission Parkway. Twenty-one acres with playground, sports fields, and picnic shelter.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF AURORA

MOORHEAD PARK 2390 Havana St. Has 4.5 acres with playground, basketball courts, picnic shelter, seasonal outdoor pool and a community center with gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, weight room, Library Learning Center and kitchen.

OLYMPIC PARK 15501 E. Yale Ave. Over 65 acres with lighted sports fields, picnic shelter and sand volleyball courts.

RED-TAILED HAWK PARK 23701 E. Hinsdale Way. Thirty-five acres with playground, picnic shelters, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball courts, outdoor water sprayground (May-October) open turf field and wetland boardwalk.

UTAH PARK 1800 S. Peoria St. Over 45 acres with playground, sports fields, 10 lighted tennis courts, walking trail with wetland boardwalk, large picnic shelter and indoor pool.

WHEEL PARK 2500 S. Wheel Park Circle. This 14.5-acre park offers a large skateboard bowl, BMX track, in-line hockey rinks and RC track.

RECREATION CENTERS

All city of Aurora recreation facilities may be rented for birthday parties, meetings, church groups, reunions, wedding receptions and more. Facility capacities vary. For information, call 303-739-6640 or visit www.auroragov.org/recreation.

BECK RECREATION CENTER 800 Telluride St., 303-739-6886 (recreation center), 303-739-6894 (pool). Renovated full-service recreation center with indoor pool, hot tub, two saunas, full-court gymnasium, four racquetball courts, weight room with free weights and cardiovascular machines, evening fitness classes, a kitchen, and multipurpose rooms available for rentals for up to 400 people.

BICENTENNIAL ART CENTER 13655 E. Alameda Ave., 303-344-1776. Home to the city's pottery arts studio.

EXPO CENTER 10955 E. Exposition Ave., 303-326-8630. Home of Kitchen on the Green, a state-of-the-art professional teaching kitchen, multipurpose rooms for dance and other recreation classes and public-use computers.

LOWRY INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER 1016 Boston St., in historic Lowry Building 880. Preschool (303-326-8328) and intergenerational programs, including Morning Star Adult Day Program (303-326-8320) for adults with cognitive or physical challenges.

MEADOWOOD RECREATION CENTER 3054 S. Laredo St., 303-326-8300. Home of the Aurora Gymnastics program, with multipurpose rooms, dance space and kitchen. Surrounding park features outdoor tennis courts (lighted), playground and softball diamond.

MOORHEAD CENTER 2390 Havana St., 303-326-8315. Small community center that focuses on youth, teens and their families, with weight room, kitchen, adjacent seasonal outdoor swimming pool, half-court gym, and a game room with pool tables, air hockey and foosball.

SUMMER VALLEY CENTER 17400 E. Lehigh Place, 303-326-8640. Small center offers preschool classes and evening recreation classes.

VILLAGE GREEN CENTER 1300 S. Chambers Circle, 303-696-4300. Small center with multipurpose rooms, a dance/activity room, kitchen and tennis court.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

AURORA CENTER FOR ACTIVE ADULTS 30 Del Mar Circle, 303-739-7950 or www.auroragov.org/recreation. Provides activities and services for adults 50 and over. Classes include computer technology, art, dance, fitness, ceramics, health and wellness, painting, photography, crafts, foreign languages and more. Fitness and exercise room open to all adults.

KOREAN SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION 1565 Elmira St., 303-363-8782.

MORNING STAR ADULT DAY PROGRAM 1016 Boston St., in historic Lowry Building 880, 303-326-8320, www.auroragov.org/morningstar. Provides a variety of coordinated daytime activities for adults with cognitive or physical challenges.

SKATING (ICE, IN-LINE & ROLLER)

AURORA WHEEL PARK 2500 S. Wheel Park Circle, 303-326-8700. Located near Iloff Avenue and Chambers Road, just north of Olympic Park. BMX dirt racetrack, three full-size in-line hockey rinks, and an 18,200-square-foot skateboard bowl with street-skating (freestyle) course.

BIG BEAR ICE ARENA 8580 E. Lowry Blvd., 303-343-1111, www.bigbearice.com. Public ice skating, lessons, hockey leagues, laser tag and snack bar.

PANORAMA PARK 17400 E. Arizona Ave. In-line hockey rink.

SEVEN HILLS PARK 2970 S. Ceylon Way. In-line hockey rink.

SKATE CITY MEADOWOOD 15100 E. Girard Ave., 303-690-1444, www.skatecitycolorado.com. Roller rink. Adult and youth in-line hockey leagues.

SOUTHLANDS SHOPPING CENTER-ICE SKATING AT THE POND E-470 and Smoky Hill Road, 303-928-7536. Aurora's only outdoor seasonal ice rink is open November-March. Call for specific dates and hours.

Fun. Safe. Convenient.



Register Today for Flag Football, Soccer, T-Ball and Basketball Leagues

- Organized programs for boys and girls ages 3 – 14
- Focused on fun, good sportsmanship and safe play
- All skill levels. No Tryouts!
- All coaches background checked and certified
- No fundraisers or mandatory volunteering
- Games and practices held on the same day, once a week

Each location independently owned and operated.



Register Online at i9sports.com
or call (303)730-2793

SWIMMING

Outdoor pools operate approximately June-August. Swim lessons available during the season. For a complete description of Aurora area pools including fees, classes and hours visit www.AuroraGuide.com.

AQUA VISTA OUTDOOR POOL 18700 E. Wagontrail Circle, 303-680-7794.

AURORA RESERVOIR 5800 S. Powhatan Rd. 303-690-1286 Seasonal swim beach (May-Sep).

BECK INDOOR POOL 800 Telluride St., 303-739-6894. Warm-water indoor pool at full-service recreation center. Offers a full range of swim lessons and aqua fitness classes.

CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK (RESERVOIR) 4201 S. Parker Road, 303-690-1166.

DEL MAR OUTDOOR POOL 12000 E. Sixth Ave., 303-341-2560. Closed in 2013 for renovation.

MEADOW HILLS OUTDOOR POOL 3609 S. Dawson St., 303-693-0018.

MOORHEAD OUTDOOR POOL 2390 Havana St., 303-341-2575.

PARKLANE OUTDOOR POOL 13003 E. 30th Ave., 303-341-2650.

UTAH INDOOR POOL 1800 S. Peoria St., 303-696-4303. Offers a full range of swim lessons and aqua fitness classes.

TENNIS

Most city tennis courts are kept locked. Players can purchase a key for \$3 at the Aurora Center for Active Adults, Expo Center, Meadowood Center or the Highline Recreation Office. Call 303-326-8700 for more info. Tournaments can be arranged for companies, associations, clubs and church groups. For locations of Aurora's tennis courts, including the number of courts and lighting, visit www.AuroraGuide.com.

WELLNESS

AURORA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER WELLNESS PROGRAM 11059 E. Bethany Drive, Suite 200, 303-617-2300; www.aumhc.org. The award-winning Wellness Program offers dynamic, strength-based programs to improve well-being, relationships and quality of life. Topics include assertiveness training, relaxation, couples' issues, positive parenting, body image, self-esteem, empowerment, anxiety control and substance-abuse education and prevention.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Information about Aurora youth activities can also be found at www.AuroraGuide.com.

AQUA LOUNGE AT AURORA RESERVOIR 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-739-2428, www.auroragov.org/nature. The Aurora Water Quality Understanding and Awareness Lounge offers "all the information you can drink" in a fun and funky "underwater" atmosphere. Day vehicle pass (\$10) required.

CITY OF AURORA LIBRARY & CULTURAL SERVICES 303-739-6640 (information), 303-326-8650 (registration), 303-739-6600 (libraries); www.auroragov.org/leisure. Numerous classes in visual and performing arts, and historic and cultural themes, as well as birthday parties, drop-in programs and more.

CITY OF AURORA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM 303-696-4300. www.auroragov.org/recreation. Classes for children 2-6 provide learning and play opportunities in a safe, positive environment. Check the Aurora Recreation Guide brochure, available at recreation centers, pools, libraries and cultural venues, or visit www.auroragov.org/preschool.

CITY OF AURORA RECREATION SERVICES 303-326-7160 (information), 303-326-8650 (registration), 303-337-1458 (gymnastics), 303-326-8700 (sports); www.auroragov.org/recreation. For preschoolers: year-round classes, parent-tot activities. For ages 2-18 and adults: more than 8,000 classes in crafts, hobbies, music, cooking, golf, gymnastics, fitness, martial arts, archery, fishing, sports, swimming, therapeutic recreation and tennis. Also available: clubs, parties and drop-in programs. See Aurora Recreation Guide brochure for current programs. **i9SPORTS** 7260 W. 28th Ave., Wheat Ridge, office: 303-462-1520, weather hotline: 303-785-8797. i9Sports is the first franchise of its kind, with programs in basketball, flag football, lacrosse, cheerleading, soccer and baseball, as well as camps. Sports are redefined with core principles of fun, inclusivity, safety and good sportsmanship. Locations in Arvada, Broomfield and Denver. Register your child at www.i9Sports.com.

LITTLE FOXES SUMMER CHILDREN'S THEATRE Aurora Fox Arts Center, Theater Education, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970. Young performers work with professional actors, directors and designers in a series of summer productions and camps. Tickets for these popular shows sell quickly, so it is recommended to buy them early. Call 303-739-1973 for information on summer camps and year-round theater classes for children.

MOBILE PLAYGROUND 303-326-8315. City-sponsored truck brings board games, portable video games, bicycles, sports equipment, and arts and crafts materials to various Aurora locations for free after-school drop-in activities. Call for current schedule.

MORRISON NATURE CENTER AT STAR K RANCH 16002 E. Smith Road, 303-739-2428; www.auroragov.org/nature. Offering year-round programs, classes and interactive exhibits, Aurora's Morrison Nature Center is your gateway to discovering Aurora's true nature.

PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER DAY CAMPS 21901 E. Hampden Ave., 303-693-3621, www.plainsconservationcenter.org. Explore the shortgrass prairie with nature treks, wagon rides, archaeology, life in a sod village and a Cheyenne tepee. Activities for all ages include weeklong programs for children 6-12.

TEEN DROP-IN AT MOORHEAD CENTER 2390 Havana St., 303-326-8315. Free drop-in program for ages 12-17 offers basketball, pool, foosball, air hockey, ping-pong, board games and more in a safe, fun environment. It meets Mon-Sat from noon-6pm. See Aurora Recreation Guide brochure for further information.

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS 303-326-8650; www.auroragov.org/recreation. Camps in sports, gymnastics, art, cooking, preschool and more take place in summer for youth up to age 18. See Aurora Recreation Guide brochure for information. ●

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City of Aurora
Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS)
The Quality of Life Department

relocation guide

Culturally diverse, economically vital, well-educated, and technologically more advanced than most other large American cities, Aurora is a city of surprises. As you settle into your new home, check this guide as well as Events (page 31), Arts & Culture (page 37) and Recreation (page 46) to see the wealth of activities and facilities Aurora has in store for you.



ANIMAL ISSUES/PET LICENSING

For additional information, call the City of Aurora/Access Aurora at 303-739-7000 or visit www.auroragov.org.

Aurora Animal Care Division (pet licensing)
15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-326-8280

Aurora Animal Shelter (lost and found/complaints)
15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-326-8280

BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Aurora Business Development Center

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Suite 2300, 303-326-8690, www.aurorabdc.com

Aurora Economic Development Council

14001 E. Iliff Ave., Suite 211, 303-755-2223, www.auroraedc.com

Better Business Bureau

1020 Cherokee St., Denver, 303-758-2100, www.denver.bbb.org

Business Licensing 303-739-7057

Chamber of Commerce

14305 E. Alameda Ave., Suite 300, 303-344-1500, www.aurorachamber.org

City of Aurora Job Line 303-739-7222, www.auroragov.org

State of Colorado Small Business Assistance Center

..... 303-692-3175

CITY AGENCIES

Website for all city agencies: www.auroragov.org

Access Aurora Information 303-739-7000

City Clerk 303-739-7094

City Council/Mayor's Office 303-739-7015

Fire (non-emergency) 303-627-3100

Library Services 303-739-6600, www.auroralibrary.org

Neighborhood Services 303-739-7280

Parks and Open Space 303-739-7160

Police (non-emergency) 303-627-3100

Recreation Services 303-326-8700

Voter Registration 303-739-7094

Office of Youth Development (youth services) 303-326-8700

COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL AGENCIES

Adams County Justice Center 303-659-1161

Arapahoe County Courthouse 303-798-4591

Colorado Division of Wildlife (hunting and fishing licensing)
..... 303-297-1192

Colorado State Capitol

Governor's Office 303-866-2471

Information 303-866-5000

Tours 303-866-2604

Colorado Parks and Wildlife 303-866-3437

U.S. Forest Service 303-275-5350

U.S. National Park Service 303-969-2000

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Diana DeGette (1st Dist.), 303-844-4988, www.degette.house.gov

Jared Polis (2nd Dist.), 303-484-9596, www.polis.house.gov

Scott Tipton (3rd Dist.), 202-225-4761, www.tipton.house.gov

Cory Gardner (4th Dist.), 202-225-4676, www.gardner.house.gov

Douglas Lamborn (5th Dist.), 202-225-4422, www.lamborn.house.gov

Mike Coffman (6th Dist.), 202-225-7882, www.coffman.house.gov

Ed Perlmutter (7th Dist.), 303-274-7944, www.perlmutter.house.gov

U.S. SENATORS

Michael Bennet, 303-455-7600, www.bennet.senate.gov

Mark Udall, 303-650-7820, www.markudall.senate.gov

CRISIS HOT LINES

Battered Women's Shelter Crisis Line 303-343-1851, www.gatewayshelter.org

Comitis Crisis Center 24-hour Help Line 303-343-9890, www.comitis.org

EDUCATION

Aurora Education Foundation

303-326-2042, www.apsef.aurorak12.org

Aurora Public Schools

1085 Peoria St. (administration building),

303-344-8060, www.aurorak12.org

Cherry Creek Public Schools

4700 S. Yosemite St., Greenwood Village,

303-773-1184, www.cherrycreekschools.org

Columbia College

6892 S. Yosemite Court, 303-340-8050, www.ccis.edu

Community College of Aurora

16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-360-4700, www.ccaurora.edu

Huntington Learning Center

11153 S. Parker Road, Suite H, 720-851-0677 (Parker location); 303-617-0476

(corporate); www.parker.huntingtonlearning.com

Pickens Technical Center

500 Airport Blvd., 303-344-4910, www.aurorak12.org/pickens

HEALTH SERVICES

Advanced Pediatric Associates

13650 E. Mississippi Ave., Suite 110; 5657 S. Himalaya St., No. 100,
Centennial, 303-699-6200; www.advancedpediatricassociates.com

Bonfils Blood Center

717 Yosemite St., Denver, 303-341-4000, www.bonfils.org

Kaiser Permanente-Aurora Centrepont (members only)

14701 E. Exposition Ave., 303-338-4545; www.kaiserpermanente.org

Kaiser Permanente-Smoky Hill (members only)

16290 E. Quincy Ave., 303-338-4545; www.kaiserpermanente.org

Life Care Center of Aurora

14101 E. Evans Ave., 303-751-2000, www.lcca.com

The Medical Center of Aurora-HealthONE

1501 S. Potomac St., 303-695-2600; www.auroramed.com

The Medical Center of Aurora, North Campus-HealthONE

(no emergency services) 700 Potomac St., 303-695-2600; www.auroramed.com

New Day In-Home Support and Respite

303-841-1399, www.newdayinhome.com

Physician Referral-HealthONE

..... 1-877-432-5846

Sable Care Center

656 Dillon Way, 303-344-0636

Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital-HealthONE

900 Potomac St., 303-367-1166, www.spaldingrehab.com

Tri-County Health Department
6162 S. Willow Drive, Suite 100, Greenwood Village, 303-220-9200,
www.tchd.org

POST OFFICES

Altura Station (northeast) 15355 E. Colfax Ave., Unit A
Aurora Main Post Office (central)..... 16890 E. Alameda Parkway
Fletcher Station (northwest)..... 1550 Dayton St.
Gateway Station (southwest)..... 2500 S. Abilene St.
Hoffman Heights Station (north)..... 738 Peoria St., Suite D
Tower Station (southeast, Centennial).....18555 E. Smoky Hill Road
U.S. Postal Service 1-800-275-8777, www.usps.com

SENIOR SERVICES

Aurora Center for Active Adults (Aurora Senior Center)
30 Del Mar Circle, 303-739-7950
Eldercare Locator1-800-677-1116, www.eldercare.gov

TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORTS

Denver International Airport (DIA)
8500 Peña Blvd., 303-342-2000, www.flydenver.com

Front Range Airport

5200 Front Range Parkway, Watkins, 303-261-9103, www.ftg-airport.com

BICYCLING

Bicycle Aurora303-699-9260, www.bicycleaurora.org

Colorado Department of Transportation

303-757-9011, www.coloradodot.info

City of Aurora Parks and Open Space Department

303-326-8650, www.auroragov.org/recreation

BUS LINES

Greyhound Bus Lines

1055 19th St., Denver, 303-293-6555, 1-800-531-5332 (en español),
www.greyhound.com

Regional Transportation District (RTD), 303-299-6000, www.rtd-denver.com

MOTOR VEHICLES

Adams County Motor Vehicle Division (registration),

12200 Pecos St., 720-523-6010; www.dmv.org/co-colorado

Arapahoe County Motor Vehicle Division (registration)

490 S. Chambers Road, 303-795-4500

Driver's License Office, 14391 E. Fourth Ave..... 303-344-8400

Emissions Inspections Hotline 303-456-7090, www.aircarecolorado.com

Metro Area Road Conditions..... 303-639-1111, www.cotrip.org

TAXIS

Metro Taxi.....303-333-3333

Yellow Cab303-777-7777, www.denveryellowcab.com

TRAINS

Amtrak, temporary station until 2014: 1800 21st St., Denver, 303-825-2583

UTILITIES

CABLE TV

Comcast303-930-2000, www.comcast.com

GAS/ELECTRICITY

Xcel Energy 1-800-895-4999 (customer service), www.xcelenergy.com

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Qwest Communications 1-800-475-7526

TRASH REMOVAL

Allied Waste.....303-286-1200, www.disposal.com

*Azteca de Oro 303-286-8059

*Garbage Man.720-222-0692, www.garbagemanco.com

Packman Disposal..... 303-288-5279

*Pro Disposal..... 303-791-3827, www.prodisposal.net

Rubbish Solutions303-394-9800

Waste Management.....303-797-1600, www.wmcolorado.com

*Limited service areas

WATER/SEWER SERVICE

City of Aurora303-739-7388, www.aurorawater.org

MISCELLANEOUS

Aurora Visitors Promotion Advisory Board ...1-866-441-3334, www.visitaurora.com

National Do Not Call Registrywww.donotcall.gov

Ski Conditions/Colorado Ski Country USAwww.coloradoski.com

Utility Notification Center of Colorado (buried cables, etc.) 1-800-922-1987 •



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Lodging



ALOFT DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 16470 E. 40th Circle, 303-371-9500. Hotel features 144 loft-inspired rooms with oversize windows, flat-screen TVs and WiFi.

AURORA BEST WESTERN GATEWAY INN AND SUITES 800 S. Abilene St., 720-748-4800. Has 66 guest rooms and two suites with refrigerator and microwave, cable TV and WiFi. Children 12 and under stay free.

AURORA SUPER 8 14200 E. 6th Ave., 303-366-7333. Centrally located with heated pool, satellite TV, and free high-speed Internet, muffins and coffee.

BAYMONT INN & SUITES DIA 6805 N. Argonne St., Denver, 303-373-5400. Features free airport shuttle, breakfast and Internet access.

BEST INN & SUITES 4590 Quebec St., 303-320-0260. Features 197 guest rooms and bar, restaurant and breakfast room. Offers free warm breakfast, outdoor pool and on-site fitness center. Children under 17 stay free.

BEST WESTERN PLUS (FORMERLY RAMADA INN & SUITES) 7020 Tower Road, 303-373-1600. All 102 guest rooms have microwave, fridge, coffee maker and two phone lines with dial-up Internet service. Free continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

BEST WESTERN PLUS DENVER HOTEL 3737 Quebec St., 303-388-6161. Features 147 guest rooms, each with data port; seasonal outdoor pool, restaurant, free parking and business services. Children under 17 stay free.

PHOTO BY ANDREY BURMAKIN



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■ **BEST WESTERN PLUS GATEWAY INN & SUITES** 800 S. Abilene St., 720-748-4800; www.bestwestern.com. With 67 rooms, this inn is located near the Denver Tech Center and the new Gateway Corporate Business Park, and is a short drive from downtown Denver and DIA. Amenities include HD TVs with a selection of free pay-per-view movies, microwave, refrigerator, free long-distance access, wired/wireless high-speed Internet and a coffee/tea maker, as well as complimentary hot breakfast, cocktail hour Mon-Thurs, heated indoor pool, hot tub, on-site exercise facility and freshly baked cookies every afternoon in the lobby. Pets allowed. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 54**

CAMBRIA SUITES DIA 16001 E. 40th Circle, 303-576-9600. Offers 151 suites with free WiFi and airport shuttle.

■ **CANDLEWOOD SUITES-DTC/MERIDIAN** 10535 El Diente Court, Englewood, 303-858-9900 or 1-877-660-8543; www.candlewoodsuites.com. Features 90 suites equipped with full-size refrigerators, dishwashers, microwaves and stovetops, TVs, DVD players and high-speed Internet. The gym is open 24 hours a day, and the hotel has a small convenience store. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 54**

■ **COMFORT INN-DENVER SOUTHEAST** 14071 E. Iliff Ave., 303-755-8000 or 1-800-228-5150. The 62 guest rooms have microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, wet bars, hair dryers, ironing boards and irons, and data-port phones with voice mail. The hotel also features an exercise facility, guest laundry, high-speed wireless Internet access, business center and complimentary continental breakfast. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 56**

■ **COMFORT INN-DIA** 16921 E. 32nd Ave., 303-367-5000 or 1-800-228-5150. Features 95 guest rooms, a 25-person conference room, business services, and indoor pool, spa and fitness center. Offers laundry facilities, complimentary hot breakfast, high-speed Internet access and 24-hour shuttle service. Children 12 and under stay free. Pet friendly. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 58**

COMFORT SUITES-DENVER TECH CENTER 7374 S. Clinton St., 303-858-0700. With 78 rooms, this hotel offers free breakfast, wireless Internet access and local calls, and an indoor pool. Pets welcome.

COMFORT SUITES-DIA 6210 Tower Road, 303-371-9300. The 82 guest suites have refrigerators, microwaves and coffee makers. Offers fitness and business centers, continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

COUNTRY INN AND SUITES 4343 Airport Way, 303-375-1105. Suites come with free high-speed Internet, a business center, airport shuttle, free extended continental breakfast, and recreational facilities.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-DIA 6901 Tower Road, 303-371-0300. Features 202 guest rooms, six suites, restaurant and lounge, indoor pool, business services and free airport shuttle.

CRESTWOOD SUITES 14090 E. Evans St., 303-481-0379. The 148 fully furnished suites have kitchenettes, cable TV, phones with voice mail (free local calls), data ports and wireless Internet access. Pets welcome.

CROSSLAND ECONOMY STUDIOS 3705 N. Chambers Road, 303-307-1088. All rooms have kitchenettes, and "double doubles" are available.

CROWNE PLAZA DENVER AIRPORT 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver, 303-371-9494; www.ihotels.com. This facility has 157 guest rooms, free breakfast and airport shuttle service.

DAYS INN BUSINESS PLACE-DIA 7030 Tower Road, 303-373-1500. The 105 guest rooms have microwaves, refrigerators, two-line phones and data ports. Free continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

DENVER AIRPORT MARRIOTT AT GATEWAY PARK 16455 E. 40th Circle, 303-371-4333. Has 236 guest rooms, 6,000 square feet of meeting space, self-serve business center, 24-hour indoor pool, exercise facility and lounge.

DENVER MARRIOTT TECH CENTER 4900 S. Syracuse St., 303-779-1100. The 628 guest rooms have two phone lines, modems and voice messaging. More than 42,000 square feet of meeting space.

DENVER MEADOWS MOBILE AND RV PARK 2075 N. Potomac St., 303-364-9483. The area's largest RV park has a seasonal outdoor pool and hot tub, shower/laundry room, picnic area and free wireless Internet.

■ **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON-DENVER SOUTHEAST** 13696 E. Iliff Place, 303-337-2800. This large hotel has 224 guest rooms, a restaurant and lounge with room service, an indoor heated pool, state-of-the-art fitness center and business services. Offers 14,000 square feet of meet-

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lodging

ing space. Only 20 minutes from DIA and 5 minutes from Cherry Creek Reservoir. Dine in Fitzgerald's Restaurant & Pub or order room service. Complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport as well as area malls and restaurants. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 52**

■ **DOUBLETREE HILTON DENVER-STAPELTON NORTH** 4040 Quebec St., 303-321-6666. Features 297 newly renovated guest rooms and bathrooms with ironing boards and irons, hair dryers and coffee makers. The hotel also has an outdoor pool, indoor workout facility, restaurant, lounge and room service, plus 15,000 square feet of meeting space. Offers complimentary airport shuttle service. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 56**

DOUBLETREE HOTEL-DENVER 3203 Quebec St., 303-321-3333. Features 570 guest rooms, 32,000 square feet of meeting space, pool, free airport shuttle, and daily shuttle service to and from downtown Denver.

DRURY INN DENVER EAST 4380 Peoria St., 303-373-1983. This 137-room inn has three meeting rooms and a pool. Free amenities include breakfast, high-speed Internet, local calls and 60 minutes of long-distance calls.

EMBASSY SUITES-DENVER AURORA 4444 N. Havana St., 303-375-0400. Has 210 guest suites, 5,000 square feet of meeting space, pool, restaurant, lounge, room service. Free breakfast and airport shuttle. Children 18 and under stay free.

EMBASSY SUITES-DENVER SOUTHEAST 7525 E. Hampden Ave., 303-696-6644. This hotel has 206 two-room suites, conference center, restaurant/lounge with room service, pool, business services and free breakfast

EMBASSY SUITES-DENVER TECH CENTER 10250 E. Costilla Ave., Centennial, 303-792-0433. All accommodations are two-room suites. Complimentary full breakfast, local shuttle service and evening manager's reception.

EMBASSY SUITES-DIA 7001 Yampa St., 303-574-3000. Offers 174 guest suites, 5,000 square feet of meeting space, pool, restaurant, lounge, room service. Free breakfast and airport shuttle. Children 18 and under stay free.

EXTENDED STAY DELUXE-AURORA 14095 E. Evans Ave., 303-337-7000. The 136 guest rooms and suites have fully equipped kitchens. Business services, wireless Internet access, outdoor pool, free continental breakfast.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES SOUTHLANDS 24192 E. Prospect Ave., 303-928-7500; Hotel has 131 rooms and 13 suites, with fitness center, pool, guest laundry, free WiFi and continental breakfast.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DIA 6851 Tower Road, 303-576-9640; marriott.com/denfa. The 161 guest rooms come with cable TV, free local calls and high-speed Internet access, coffeemaker, iron and ironing board. Hotel amenities include indoor pool and whirlpool, fitness center, 24-hour business center, complimentary continental breakfast and airport shuttle service. Park-and-fly packages offer up to seven days' free parking. Over 1,100 sq. ft. of meeting space accommodates up to 40 people. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 53**

FAIRFIELD INN BY MARRIOTT-DENVER/AURORA 13851 E. Harvard Ave., 303-745-6700. Hotel features 82 guest rooms and 20 executive suites with microwaves and refrigerators, plus indoor pool and free continental breakfast.

HAMPTON INN & SUITES-DENVER AIRPORT GATEWAY PARK 4310 Airport Way, Denver, 303-375-8118. Located in Gateway Business Park just outside DIA. In close proximity to major corporations and training centers including Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Buckley AFB and Boeing and also near shopping centers, sporting events and museums. The 115 rooms come equipped with a 40-inch LCD flat-panel TV with cable and in-room movie channels, granite countertops and vanities, free high-speed Internet access and more. Every stay includes a free shuttle and local transportation, complimentary hot breakfast, and gym and fitness center use. This is a nonsmoking facility. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 57**

HAMPTON INN-DIA 6290 Tower Road, 303-371-0200, 1-888-318-0200. Has 122 guest rooms, business center, pool and adjacent diner. Free parking, continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

HILTON GARDEN INN-DIA 16475 E. 40th Circle, 303-371-9393. Offers 157 guest rooms with flat-screen TV, microwave and fridge, working desk and other amenities. Restaurants and businesses are within walking distance.

HOLIDAY INN-DENVER STAPLETON PLAZA 3333 Quebec St., 303-321-3500 or 800-333-3333. Features 300 guest rooms with 24,000 square feet of meeting space; bistro, lounge and deli; fitness center and full-service business center.



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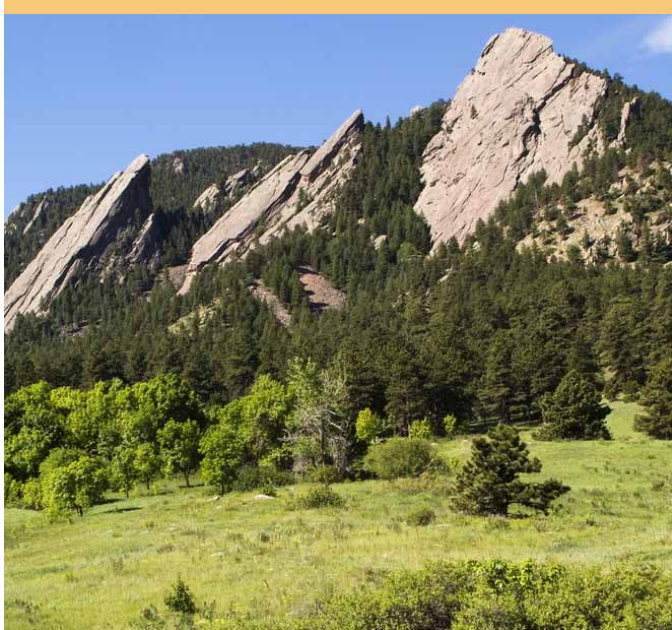
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DAY TRIPS



They say variety is the spice of life, so when you need to change things up a bit, take a day trip to Boulder County.

Nestled between the foothills and prairie, Boulder County offers all the comforts of Aurora, but with a slightly different twist. Hiking trails here range from huff-'n'-puff mountain paths to easy strolls along creek paths and prairie trails with mountains looming in the distance.

Culture is big there, too. Between Chautauqua, the University of Colorado Boulder, the Dairy Center for the Arts and countless local theater and musical venues, you'll have many options. Pick up Boulder Magazine while you're in town, or visit www.getboulder.com to see what's happening in Boulder County.

Local galleries offer everything from inexpensive mementos to exquisite fine art, and the university's newly opened Visual Arts Complex will satisfy avid art lovers. The campus also stages cultural and music events year-round, and many of them are free. Visit www.colorado.edu for listings.

Science buffs will feel right at home in Boulder, which houses the atomic clock, Fiske Planetarium, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology and the National Center for Atmospheric Research, which offers science exhibits, art displays, hiking on a scenic mesa and homemade cafeteria lunches.

This county prides itself on sports, so running and biking trails abound in Boulder and nearby towns like Niwot, where you can go antiquing, visit the Old Fire House Museum, listen to free live music and view tree sculptures. Learn more at www.niwot.com

By day's end, you'll likely be hungry and thirsty and pleasantly surprised by the fact that Boulder County eateries rival Aurora's in terms of ethnicity, quality and ambience.

A day in Boulder County basically comes down to this: You'll need much more than one day to do everything there is to do, so you'll just have to visit again.

—Carol Brock

PHOTO BY NELSON SIRLIN

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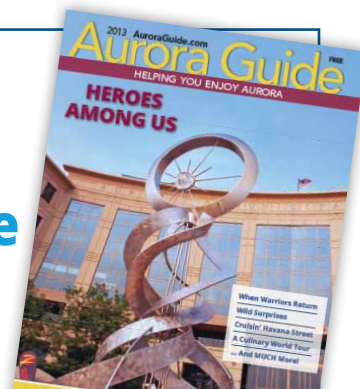
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HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES AURORA/DENVER-MEDICAL CENTER 1500 S. Abilene St., 303-369-8400; www.holidayinnexpress.com/aurora. Conveniently located between Denver International Airport and downtown Denver, Holiday Inn Express & Suites is also close to corporations such as Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Wells Fargo, Walgreens Corp., Cambridge College and Kaiser Permanente. This 129-room hotel offers a 24-hour business center, free local calls and high-speed wireless Internet access, on-site laundry, outdoor pool, and 925 square feet of meeting space to accommodate 60 people. Start your day off right with the complimentary breakfast bar featuring cinnamon rolls and other hot items. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 58**

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES-DIA 6910 Tower Road, 303-373-4100. The 87 guest rooms have microwaves, refrigerators, wireless high-speed Internet, and two phone lines with data port. Free airport shuttle.

HOLIDAY INN SELECT DENVER-CHERRY CREEK 455 S. Colorado Blvd., 303-388-5561. Has 276 rooms and seven suites with Internet access, two phone lines and data port. Restaurant; hair salon; shuttle to anywhere within 5 miles.

HOMESTEAD STUDIO SUITES 13941 E. Harvard Ave., 303-750-9116. A 137-room extended-stay facility with laundry, free local calls, WiFi, personalized voicemail. Each room has a full kitchen and work area with data port.

■ **HOMEWOOD SUITES-DIA** 4210 Airport Way, 303-371-4555. With 117 studio, one- and two-bedroom suites, this spacious lodge is only 15 miles from the airport and even closer to eateries and Denver attractions. Your stay includes complimentary hot breakfast, laundry, on-site gym, pool and basketball court, and a business center. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 52**

HYATT PLACE 16250 E. 40th Ave., 303-371-0700. This 128-suite hotel features microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker and cable TV in every room. Offers a 24-hour fitness center, pool, free breakfast buffet and airport shuttle.

INTOWN SUITES 2221 S. Havana St., 303-283-8421 or 800-553-9338. The 137 guest rooms offer voicemail, wireless Internet access, free local calls, full-size refrigerators, microwaves and two-burner stoves. Children stay free.

LA QUINTA INN DENVER-AURORA 1011 S. Abilene St., 303-337-0206. Features 122 guest rooms, wireless high-speed Internet access, and seasonal outdoor pool. Free breakfast and local calls. Children 18 and under stay free.

DAY TRIP: WALK ON THE WILDSIDE

The Wild Animal Sanctuary, near Keenesburg, Weld County

A refuge for rescued exotic animals, mostly large carnivores like lions, tigers, bears and wolves, The Wild Animal Sanctuary offers huge natural habitats where animals once painfully confined can roam freely. Instead of crowding close to cages, which is stressful for these highly territorial, intelligent animals, visitors watch them from an elevated walkway called "A Mile Into the Wild." The sanctuary is open daily, except on holidays and in bad weather, from 9am-4pm (October-April) and 9am-sunset (May-September). For information visit www.wildanimalsanctuary.org or call 303-536-0118. To get there, take I-76 to Exit 31; then go east on Highway 52 to County Road 53.



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MARRIOTT TOWNEPLACE SUITES-DENVER SOUTHEAST 3699 S. Monaco Parkway, 303-759-9393. The 113 suites have well-equipped kitchens, personal phone numbers, free local calls, high-speed Internet access and data ports. Pets welcome.

QUALITY INN & SUITES-DIA 6890 Tower Road, 303-371-5300. The 123 guest rooms have free high-speed Internet and expanded cable. Year-round pool, free continental breakfast, 24-hour airport shuttle. Children 18 and under stay free.

QUALITY INN-DENVER AIRPORT SOUTH 3975 Peoria Way, 303-371-5640. The 112 guest rooms have 25-inch TVs with on-demand movies and free local calls. Offers a heated outdoor pool and free continental breakfast.

DAY TRIP: UNUSUAL HIKE

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, City of Fort Collins Open Space

Located 25 miles north of Fort Collins and recently reopened to the public for the first time since the 1870s, Soapstone Prairie is a linchpin in an impressive conservation effort that has protected nearly 200,000 acres of foothills-to-plains terrain. It preserves a critical wildlife corridor as well as a remarkable record of human occupation dating back more than 12,000 years. Soapstone's Lindenmeier archaeological site is recognized as the most extensive campsite ever found from the Stone Age Folsom tradition. Hikers, bikers and equestrians can now explore the extensive trail network in this relatively unknown parcel.

Paint Mines Interpretive Park, near Calhan, El Paso County

Over the last 9,000 years, Native Americans frequently visited this cluster of soft, gullied badlands on the Great Plains east of Colorado Springs to collect the colorful rock for use as pottery pigments and ceremonial paint. Artfully splashed with pigments of red, pink, yellow and purple, the badlands are the product of intense chemical weathering. Researchers believe these ancient soils formed during a hothouse event that occurred 55 million years ago when our planet warmed as much as 18° F in just a few thousand years—perhaps providing a glimpse into our near-term climatic future, as well as a wonderful and unusual hiking opportunity. Calhan is located between Limon and Colorado Springs on U.S. Route 24.

Pawnee Buttes, Pawnee National Grassland, near Briggsdale, Weld County

Remnants of the sediment layers that once covered the entire area, the 300-foot-high Pawnee Buttes are distinctive landmarks rising above the plains in this national grassland, which spans 193,000 acres of shortgrass prairie north of Greeley. The grasslands support a diversity of wildlife and are renowned as a birding destination, especially in spring, before the weather is too hot. Highlights include a short, family-friendly hike to the base of the buttes as well as a self-guided tour to view birds, including burrowing owls, Swainson's and red-tailed hawks, and lark buntings, known for their dramatic courtship behavior—known as "larking"—when the birds plummet toward the ground while singing their distinctive song.

—Terri Cook

RED LION SOUTHEAST 3200 S. Parker Road, 303-695-1700 or 800-962-7672. This hotel has 475 guest rooms, a cafe and lounge, and 25,000 square feet of meeting facilities. Offers a pool, business center, and free guest parking and airport shuttle.

RENAISSANCE DENVER HOTEL 3801 Quebec St., 303-399-7500. Features 400 guest rooms with refrigerators and phones with data ports. Large ballroom, 20 additional meeting rooms, pools, business center and parking garage.

RESIDENCE INN DENVER AIRPORT 16490 E. 40th Circle, 303-459-8000. Located 10 miles from the airport, with free shuttle service available 24/7. Other amenities include free breakfast buffet, parking and wireless Internet.

SLEEP INN-DIA 15900 E. 40th Ave., 303-373-1616. Offers 119 guest rooms with wireless Internet access, free local calls and cable TV. Amenities include indoor pool, free continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DIA 18350 E. 68th Ave., Denver, 303-371-9400; marriott.com/denda. This all-suite hotel 124 rooms, each with fridge, microwave and extra pull-out sofa. Complimentary breakfast from 5-10am. Amenities include indoor pool and hot tub, 24/7 free shuttle to and from DIA, park-and-fly packages that offer up to seven days' free parking, and meeting space for up to 40 people. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 53**



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STAPLETON COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT 7415 E. 41st Ave., 303-333-3303 or 1-888-238-8240. Hotel features 146 guest rooms and two conference facilities. Children under 10 stay free.

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DAY TRIP: WHEN BUFFALO ROAMED THE WILD WEST

From the top of Lookout Mountain in Golden, where Buffalo Bill Cody is buried, the views are spectacular—you feel as if you can almost see Buffalo Bill's ranch in North Platte, Neb., or the town he founded in Cody, Wyo. But there's more here than just fantastic scenery and a world-famous gravesite. If you visit the museum dedicated to his memory, you'll feel like you've spent a day in the Wild West.

A favorite with kids and adults alike, the museum was started in 1921 by Johnny Baker, Buffalo Bill Cody's foster son. Cody, the most famous person in the world before he died in 1917, created the Wild West show to memorialize the West he idealized. Before movies or TV, a Wild West show that came to your town was great entertainment, and the fabulous Buffalo Bill show, with a cast and crew of thousands, criss-crossed America and Europe playing shows almost everywhere a train could stop. In the museum, you can see Chief Sitting Bull's bow and arrows, Cody's costumes, and many other artifacts from the show.

The museum is less than 30 minutes from downtown Denver. Take Interstate 70 west to Exit 256 and follow the signs. Or drive the famed

Lariat Trail road to the top of Lookout Mountain from Sixth Avenue (Colorado 93) in Golden. The scenic, winding road is a favorite of bicyclists, hikers and soaring aficionados, so drive carefully as you soak in the scenery.

And don't miss the buffalo herds. Heading west on I-70, take the Genesee Park exit (254). The tunnel under the highway is for the buffalo, so you may see them on either side of the road. You can also see buffalo on the way to Daniels Park. Take Interstate 25 south to Castle Pines Parkway (Exit 188) and follow it west to Daniels Park Road, where you turn north. The bison may be on either side of the road. The animals can roam large distances, so you may not always see them in the summer months. But in the late fall, winter and early spring, when Denver Parks crews feed them daily, you will see them almost every day.

Call 303-526-0747 or visit www.buffalobill.org for information.

—Kay Turnbaugh



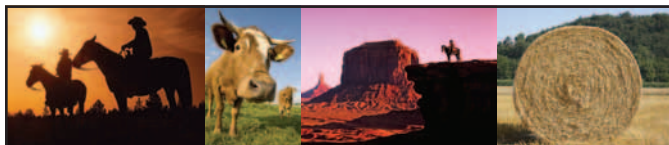
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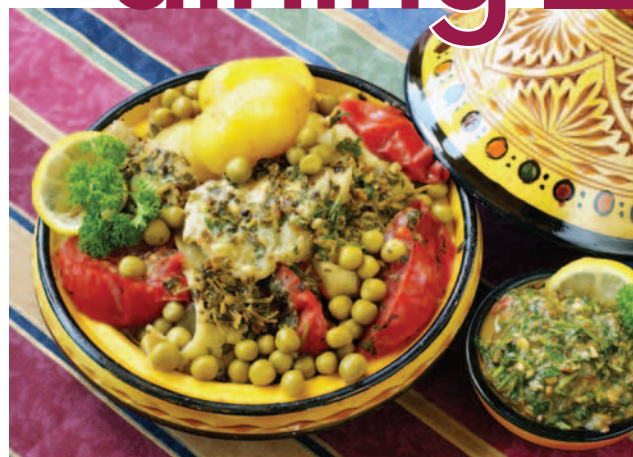
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Aurora's Culinary World Tour

Aurora's many ethnic restaurants serve up delicious dishes from around the world

BY REBECCA CARO

Here's what you won't find in Aurora: hip, spendy restaurants with celebrity chefs. Trendy bartenders mixing cocktails from unpronounceable infusions. A historic downtown with quaint-looking building façades. No, dissecting Aurora's dining scene takes a bit of patience and an openness to trying new things—qualities that the city's restaurants and food shops pay back handsomely.

Some have called Aurora “the Brooklyn of Denver,” referring to its array of ethnic eateries and markets. But in truth, Aurora is unique in the world for its diversity. Per capita, it's more diverse than cities like Los Angeles, according to a study from Brown University. While its sprawl may leave newcomers feeling like they've bitten off more than they can chew, the city's best gems are tucked away in nondescript strip malls that the culinary explorer's heart will soar to discover.

Aurora's food landscape unfolds like a patchwork quilt—here, a family-run Mexican market and butcher; next door, an African restaurant that shares its parking lot with a Russian restaurant and a Vietnamese bakery, all cobbled together in a delicious mishmash. This scenario plays out in strip mall after strip mall across town. For the visitor who wants to globetrot via the flavors of the world, Aurora



is a slice of heaven. You can virtually visit a number of countries in a day, sample the flavors of each, learn about the customs of the culture, and check out markets to pursue your culinary journeys at home.

Most of the ethnic restaurants and markets are family-owned. The city's multitude of immigrants have opened shops to offer traditional foods to their homesick compatriots, but also to share them with fellow Coloradans. Far from feeling shut out in an unfamiliar place, newcomers are welcomed and happily guided through menus to sample the riches of each locale.



ASIAN FOODS

Korean culture is one that has a strong presence in Aurora; the area where Aurora meets Parker is known to locals as Koreatown. No trip there would be complete without a visit to H-Mart, the Korean megamarket that sells every Asian ingredient under the sun, and more. Locals of every ethnicity flock there for outstanding prices and variety in the produce and seafood departments. The store also has a number of boutiques within, including a smaller version of local favorite Dah Won Rice Cake, home of the sweet, Technicolor treat called *tteok*.

After a stroll through the aisles of H-Mart leaves you famished, smokeless Korean barbecue haven Silla will satisfy. Known for its made-to-order *soon* bowls and the ice-cold noodle soup called *naengmyeon*, Silla also features traditional Korean favorites like *bibimbap* (a seasoned vegetable and rice bowl), *bulgogi* (marinated meat) and *galbi* short ribs grilled right at your table, accompanied by a seemingly endless stream of *banchan*, traditional Korean side dishes.

Fans of other Asian cuisines will find

their favorites represented across Aurora. The city boasts one of Colorado's two Filipino restaurants, the SunBurst Grill, while Vietnamese *pho* restaurants number over 100. The hub of this addictive noodle soup is known locally as Pho Row—a strip of South Havana peppered with Vietnamese restaurants. Pho-heads will love sampling them all to find their favorite, but many like the noodle bowls found at the always crowded Kim-Ba, which pioneered Vietnamese eating in the metro area when it opened more than 20 years ago.

China Jade has been called Colorado's best Chinese restaurant. While it has a menu of American-Chinese favorites, the hidden treasure lies in its other menu, full of Sichuan and Tianjin delicacies. Diners in the know will ask for the Chinese menu.

Aficionados of Thai food won't want to miss Thai Street Food, whose origins as a popular food cart on Denver's 16th Street Mall led the owners to open up shop in Aurora. Each dish is handmade from scratch (even the noodles are hand-cut) and can be ordered at the desired level of spice.

Spice fiends will thrive in Aurora, home of the metro area's best-loved Indian restaurants and markets. A South Indian adventure awaits in Masalaa's award-winning all-vegetarian menu, while relative newcomer Jai Ho boasts an ever-changing buffet and Bollywood-themed bar. A trip to nearby Sathvik Foods will stock your pantry with the spices and Indian imports you'll need to recreate the flavors of India at home.

EXOTIC TREATS & CLASSICS

One of Aurora's most popular markets is Arash, a Persian grocer that stocks delicacies from across the Mediterranean and Middle East—candies, jams, olives and cheeses, plus fresh bread, produce and meats. After a trip to Arash stimulates your senses and



appetite, a Moroccan feast at Café Paprika will leave you feeling like you've spent the evening being pampered in a luxurious courtyard. The meal begins with a pot of steaming peppermint tea in decorative glasses, moves on to housemade hummus and delicately spiced *tagines* (stews made in Morocco's famous domed clay pot) filled with couscous, vegetables and meat. Dessert is *m'hench*a: layered phyllo dough, almond paste and rosewater.

Should you long to toast by throwing back a few shots of ice-cold vodka, Mirage Restaurant and Nightclub will welcome with traditional Russian hospitality. Russian clientele and live music and dancing on the weekends enhance the experience as you dine on classics from beef Stroganoff to chicken Kiev. If dining at home with *Doctor Zhivago* on your screen is more your style, Aurora boasts the state's best Russian and Eastern European markets. Solomon's Grocery, Elite Deli and Europa Grocery stock everything from sausages to caviar, *kvass* (a fermented rye beverage) to *vareniki*, or Ukrainian dumplings.

These markets are a gateway to Aurora's European dining scene, which gets at the heart of what Aurora dining is all about. A far cry from upscale European restaurants, places like the English Tea Cup, Helga's German Restaurant, Daniel's of Paris and the Athenian are all family-run restaurants that bring the tastes of home to expats and provide a virtual vacation for the rest of us, with authentic flavors from across the pond.

WARM WELCOMES

If you're ready for a trip to a Mexican beachside resort, Guadalajara brings all the sunshine of the beach to you, with brightly painted chairs, generous Margaritas, and

live Mariachi music alongside its menu of Mexican favorites from *mole* to fajitas. Similar in name but with an altogether different style, the award-winning Colfax gem Guadalajara Authentic Mexican Buffet is just what its name suggests, with a homemade salsa bar and build-your-own taco buffet, plus a host of other authentic favorites from central Mexico. An added bonus: Colfax is dotted with Mexican and Latin American *mercaditos* (like Mi Pueblito) and restaurants (try La Guatemalteca or Little Wagon/La Pradera), including taco trucks (La Cascada).

Notably, some of the places that might be the least familiar (and therefore, intimidating) turn out to be the ones that provide the warmest welcome. Nile Ethiopian Café serves its dishes family-style, believing that sharing food from the same plate strengthens people's bonds. At African Grill and Bar, the host patiently walks patrons through the menu plate by plate, sharing advice and anecdotes, and serving dishes both delicious and satisfying.

Aurora's diverse restaurant scene is the hallmark of the 21st-century global village—a community of citizens living together, sharing the best of their customs, and moving with ease within a number of cultures. For residents and visitors alike, Aurora offers a unique opportunity to sample foods from around the world without straying far from home. ●

Rebecca Caro is a food writer and culinary instructor. She is the author of "Yum!", a guide to Aurora's ethnic and independent restaurants, and writes the blog "From Argentina With Love."





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■ **LEGENDS OF AURORA SPORTS GRILL** 13690 E. Illif Ave. (at-225), 303-671-0560, www.legendsofaurora.com. A friendly, comfortable favorite with both locals and travelers, Legends offers tasty classics and unique food items like calzones, Philly cheese steaks, salads, "Snake Bites" (grilled bacon-wrapped, cheese-stuffed jalapenos) and award-winning pizzas. Gluten-free menu options including pizza are now available. An unbeatable offering of HD TVs allows viewing of multiple games from any seating angle. NTN, UFC, Live Trivia, bingo, poker, karaoke, sports packages and fast, free Wifi keep you entertained. Long happy hours with generous daily specials are easy on the wallet. Open daily 11am-2am. Happy hour runs from 11am-6:30pm and 11pm-close daily on bar items, and 2-6:30pm on food. Come relax in front of the big-screen TVs, surf the 'Net, play some pool, or just enjoy the food. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 62**



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