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2020-21



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DEAR VISITORS AND RESIDENTS:

In all we do in Aurora, we go big.



From the people who live here, to the work that is done here, to the promise that we share here, we have a lot to celebrate in Aurora.

From our early settlers who founded Aurora amid breathtaking mountain vistas and awe-inspiring views of the vast Colorado plains, to our modern leaders who complement that enviable setting with intelligent growth, we celebrate Aurora's beauty and location.

From the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Conference Center — the largest hotel in Colorado — to the ongoing hospitality of our people, our businesses and our other great hotels and conference facilities, we celebrate Aurora's welcoming and friendly nature.

From the groundbreaking bioscience research and top-level care at our medical campuses, to our state-of-the-art renewable-energy development, we celebrate Aurora's innovation.

From our access to the world through proximity to Denver International Airport and location along major freight and commuter rail routes, to our international and entrepreneurial residents, we celebrate Aurora's status as a connected, educated and diverse city.

From Buckley Air Force Base and its global space operations, to the aerospace and defense companies that call us home, we celebrate Aurora's role as a military city.

Whether you are here visiting, are new to Aurora or a longtime resident, I invite you to explore our great community. Grab a bite at one of more than 250 international eateries. Stroll the unique shops at Stanley Marketplace. Connect with nature at our award-winning parks, golf courses and trails. Expand your mind with our nationally recognized public art.

What truly sets Aurora apart is our people. We welcome and celebrate people from all walks of life, and because of that, our city is rich in cultural diversity. You'll find that Aurora is a big city with small-town community warmth and hospitality, and we're glad you're here.

**With all we've got going on, we invite you
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Mayor

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FEATURES

6 **Welcome to Aurora**
A letter from the mayor

17 **Aurora Buzz**
News from around the city



24 **The Words Ring On**
Local children share what Martin Luther King Jr.'s words mean to them

26 **Even Heroes Have Bad Days**
The things our first responders witness can take its mental toll

32 **Building Bridges**
Grand Design takes its message of equality through arts to the small screen

34 **One Single Voice**
Aurora's poet laureate weighs in on equality, gender, race and how a single voice can make a difference

36 **Fallen, But Not Forgotten**
Aurora is preserving the memories of local fallen heroes



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DEPARTMENTS

EVENTS + LOCAL FUN

- 38 Animal Services
- 38 Arts Events
- 40 Benefits & Fundraisers
- 40 Children's Events
- 41 Community & Holiday Festivals
- 42 Cultural Festivals
- 42 Farmers' Markets & Garden Events
- 42 Forums & Lectures
- 43 Runs/Walks
- 43 Senior Events
- 43 Sports & Outdoor Events
- 43 Star Shows
- 43 Volunteer Opportunities

ARTS + CULTURE

- 45 Dance
- 45 Film/Video/TV
- 45 Music
- 47 Theater
- 47 Visual Arts/Galleries

LIBRARIES + MUSEUMS

- 50 Libraries
- 51 Museums & Historic Sites

GET OUT + ENJOY

- 52 Archery
- 52 Biking & Multiuse Trails
- 52 Competitive Sports
- 52 Disc Golf
- 53 Fishing & Water Sports
- 53 Golf Courses
- 53 Horses
- 53 Parks & Playing Fields
- 54 Recreation Centers
- 54 Senior Activities
- 54 Skating
- 54 Swimming
- 55 Tennis
- 55 Wellness
- 55 Youth Activities

LODGING

- 56 Hotels, Motels & Suites

DINING FAVORITES

- 61 Favorite Restaurants

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On the Cover

THE MANY FACES OF AURORA

(clockwise from top left): Colorado Remembers event at the Colorado Freedom Memorial; see the event listing on page 41 for more information.

The Paper Fashion Show benefits Downtown Aurora Visual Arts; for ticket information, see the event listing on page 40.

The Vintage Theatre recently added an audition-free program for youth; read about it on page 18, see the event listings on page 47.

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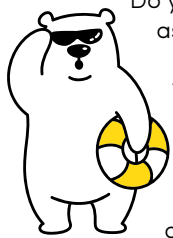
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Join hundreds of brave souls as they plunge — by choice — into the freezing February waters of the Aurora Reservoir in 2021.

Challenge family, friends and coworkers to take the plunge or participate in the Aurora Plunge 5K presented by Westerra Credit Union. By participating in the 5K and maybe even plunging, participants help bring opportunity and inclusion to more than 20,000 Special Olympics athletes across the state of Colorado.

Stay tuned for details on the 2021 Polar Plunge Series. To learn more about how you can support Special Olympics Colorado, visit www.SpecialOlympicsCO.org.



PEOPLE'S BUILDING

Whether you’re planning an event or want to attend an event, The People’s Building is one of the hippest joints around. You can play there, display there and even plié there. In a city that prioritizes the arts, it’s no wonder the Office of Urban Renewal and Redevelopment purchased this building and revitalized it as a cultural hub. The building is also home to one of the city’s newest public art displays — a mural called “Art in Motion” by David Ocelotl Garcia.

Stop by to be a part of the conversation around complicated issues (a recent showing of the documentary

“PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools” sparked lively discussions), or gather with new friends from the local art community at a monthly Aurora Cultural Arts District mixer. For more info on upcoming events, visit www.thepeoplesbuilding.com.



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VINTAGE THEATRE GIVES A STAGE TO ALL KIDS

Question: What do you get when you mix a group of friends, a passion for theater and Dr. Seuss?

Answer: A venue where local artists and youth are challenged and educated, striving to inspire the community through live theater. In other words, Vintage Theatre Productions (VTP).

Founded in August 2002, VTP's humble beginnings — they performed a total of two shows that first year — set the stage (pun intended) for the development of a bold and creative locus of artistic expression. Now a thriving venue in the Aurora Arts District, the theater stages Friday and Saturday evening performances and Sunday matinees.

They recently added the Vintage Youth Spotlight program. Facilitated by professional directors, choreographers, instructors and technicians, the youth program sets itself apart from others like it: enrollment operates on an audition-free basis. "We would like anyone and everyone to have a chance to be on stage," says Bernie Cardell, artistic director for Vintage Theatre. "If a young person has a desire to see if the theater is something they would like to experiment with, we want to encourage that."

Past productions include "Beauty and the Beast," "Seussical the Musical" and "Frozen Jr."

"People who experience live theater (either on stage or in the audience) have a higher capacity for empathy, compassion and interpersonal relationships. It's a win-win all around," says Cardell. "Plus, we get to encourage the next generation of actors and theater-goers!"

To learn more about upcoming productions, visit www.vintagetheatre.com/vintage-youth-program/ or call 303-537-7233.

ENTERING A NEW ORBIT

We live in exciting times. That's the message from leaders at the Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) and the 460th Space Wing at Buckley Air Force Base. Space travel and defense technologies — once only imagined in science fiction — are being developed and implemented at locations just minutes away from every Aurora doorstep.

The development of CASP and the soon-to-be-named Buckley Space Force Base make it a compelling time not just for Aurora, but also for the whole Denver metro area and state of



Colorado, says Kevin Hougen, Aurora Chamber president and CEO.

The two facilities, along with Denver International Airport, have created what Hougen calls a “platinum triangle of opportunity,” providing billions of dollars in economic impact.

Read this entire article at www.AuroraGuide.com.

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To most companies, “CSR” means “corporate social responsibility” — the practice of being conscious of the impact they’re having on the world, and giving back to the community whenever possible.

But Lightshade Labs isn’t most companies. Yes, they’ve been practicing their own CSR since 2016, but to them, it stands for cannabis social responsibility, not corporate. And they don’t just give back — they prefer to say that they “give forward.”

The company’s corporate giving efforts are focused on nonprofits that support seniors, veterans and people experiencing homelessness or hunger. Employees from each of Lightshade Labs’ eight metro-area dispensaries (two in Aurora) are encouraged to volunteer with an area nonprofit at least once per quarter. One of those important organizations is Aurora Warms the Night (AWTN), which offers year-round services for Aurora’s homeless population, including shelter in the winter, warming kits, food packages and a mobile shower truck.

Lightshade was recognized with the 2019 “Good Neighbor Award” from Cannabis Doing Good, a Colorado-based group that helps cannabis businesses build their community engagement programs. The award



Top photo: Lightshade Lab employees man the pizza station at the Aurora Warms the Night mobile shower truck for the homeless. Bottom photo: Boots on the ground at DeLaney Community Garden to benefit Denver Urban Gardens, a nonprofit with the mission to cultivate gardeners, grow food and nourish community.

recognizes “companies implementing community engagement programs, encouraging volunteer hours and meeting community need in new and thoughtful ways.”

Lightshade’s work with AWTN was also recently featured in the filming of an episode for a new MSNBC series called “Streets of Dreams,” hosted by Marcus Lemonis. (An air date for the episode has not yet been confirmed.)

“We support AWTN financially, and also by putting ‘boots on the ground’ to provide food, assistance and fellowship at the shower truck,” says Lisa Gee, Lightshade’s director of marketing and CSR. “It’s our honor to be considered a ‘unicorn’ in our industry for the community work we do, which helps our neighbors recognize ‘cannabis doing good.’”

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HearseCon will take place June 11–14 at the Stampede Mesquite Grill & Dance Emporium. For double the dark fun, visitors can also peruse Morbid Curiosities, a concurrent event that features ghastly art and creepy crafts. Parents are advised that these events may not be suitable for children. Find more information at www.hearsecon.org.

PHOTO BY KORY MCNAIL, WWW.KUSTOMCARPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Christina O'Neill poses in front of a 1937 Buick Byzantine hearse.

Leading Ladies

When Ellin Mrachek wanted to get a master's degree at the University of Colorado in the 1950s, the school advised her that there were no married women on campus because "married women don't have a need for such a thing." Not one to give up, she earned that degree anyway, then went on to get elected to the Aurora School Board in 1963.

Ellin's passionate service to the Aurora community didn't stop there. She was a driving force in establishing the Aurora Mental Health Center, T.H. Pickens Vocational Technical School and the Community College of Aurora. Mrachek Middle School in Aurora is named after Ellin and her husband, Harry. And, in 2013, Ellin was one of three inaugural inductees into the Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

Know an Aurora woman just as inspiring as Ellin? Nominations for the biennial Women's Hall of Fame awards are open through November 16, 2020, and the 2021 ceremony takes place next spring. Check www.aucowof.org for all the details.



Art That Honors

2019 was a hot one for public art throughout the city, adding four more designated works. And, new in 2020, is "Never Forgetting Our Heroes" by Austin Weishel. The bronze and steel bench statue honors the 343 New York firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11. Stop by and pay your respects and see this artwork at the New Fire Station #5 at 1141 Laredo Street. Read more about our local firefighters and the challenges they face in "Even Heroes Have Bad Days" on page 26. ★



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HAVE TO THIS DAY.
– Sara Van Holbeck

This page: Phoebe, a fifth-grader at Aurora Quest K-8. Opposite page: The winning art entry, “Hope & Despair,” by Dominik, a sixth-grader at Vista Peak Exploratory School.

THE WORDS RING ON

Celebrating the legacy of
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
through the eyes of the
younger generations.

BY VICKI MARTINEZ

His words were powerful, thought-provoking and timeless. So much so, that the legacy created by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. remains steady, more than 50 years later.

But how has that legacy translated into the lives of younger generations — those that never had the opportunity to experience firsthand such world-altering moments in history? That’s what the Aurora Public Library set out to discover.

How Would You Answer?

Collaborating with Aurora Public Schools at a district level, the library challenged Aurora students in grades K-12 to share their interpretation of Dr. King’s words through art, po-

etry or an essay in the inaugural Words Ring On contest. They answered the question, “How do Dr. King’s words affect you, and how can you ensure they keep echoing into the future?”

“The Words Ring On art, poetry and essay contest saw a tremendous response from kids and teens in our community. We received amazing entries from all ages, and it shows what great talent we have in Aurora,” says Sara Van Holbeck, outreach and programming librarian with the City of Aurora’s Library & Cultural Services Department. “The thought and creativity that went into each piece is inspiring, and it really shows how much of an impact Dr. King’s message continues to have to this day,” she says.

Each year, Aurora hosts a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration. January 2020 marked the 34th celebration. The most anticipated event of the week-long commemoration — at least by a few students, to be named later — was the community celebration. The celebration included Global Village Academy students reading the “I Have a Dream” speech in multiple languages, a performance by Grammy-winning artist Dorinda Clark-Cole, presentation of the Human Relations Commission MLK Jr. Legacy Award and a recognition ceremony for winners of the art, poetry and essay contest.

“It was so great to be able to recognize the wonderful work of students during the community celebration. The students put a lot of thought and work into their pieces, so it was special to be able to recognize them and share their works with the community,” says Van Holbeck.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The winners were proud (and a little nervous) about the celebration.

Contest Winner: Phoebe

"I was really excited to learn more about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," says Phoebe, a fifth-grader at Aurora Quest K-8, after hearing about the Words Ring On contest from her literacy teacher.

Phoebe let that excitement flow into her creativity. She was the only contestant to submit entries for all three categories! Of all her submissions, the essay — her winning entry — was the most difficult. "Because I had to put together a lot of pieces, then edit it to make it what I wanted it to be," she says.

Phoebe says she was nervous during the community celebration but also pleasantly surprised upon hearing that Colorado Senator Rhonda Fields was in attendance. A year ago, Phoebe's fourth-grade class wrote letters to government officials, encouraging passage of a pet store-related law. It just so happens, "Senator Rhonda Fields was the one I picked to write my letter to," says Phoebe.

As for what she learned about Dr. King: "What he did for everybody affects the way we all live and the freedoms we have today."

Contest Winner: Dominik

Dominik is a sixth-grader at Vista Peak Exploratory School. When his art teacher told the class about the contest, Dominik chose to create an artwork piece to describe what Martin Lu-

ther King's legacy meant to him. He entered the contest with a geometric art piece that impressed all the judges. Not only was this Dominik's first attempt at geometric art — he prefers to draw landscapes — it was also the first time he'd entered a contest of any kind.

Dominik was

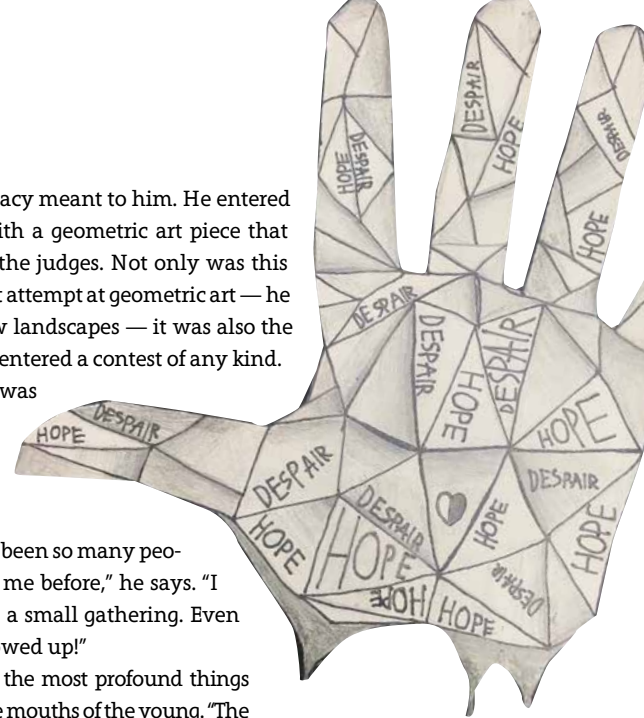
taken by surprise at the recognition ceremony.

"There's never been so many people in front of me before," he says. "I was expecting a small gathering. Even the mayor showed up!"

Sometimes the most profound things come out of the mouths of the young. "The only thing that can conquer the despair of racism is the hope of all people," says Dominik of his "Hope & Despair" art piece.

Van Holbeck says they plan to make the contest a regular part of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration.

"Attendees seemed to enjoy looking at the pieces on display [during the community celebration], and there were many compliments given about the winners' entries," she says. "We hope attendees found it to be an inspiring component to an overall wonderful and uplifting event." ★



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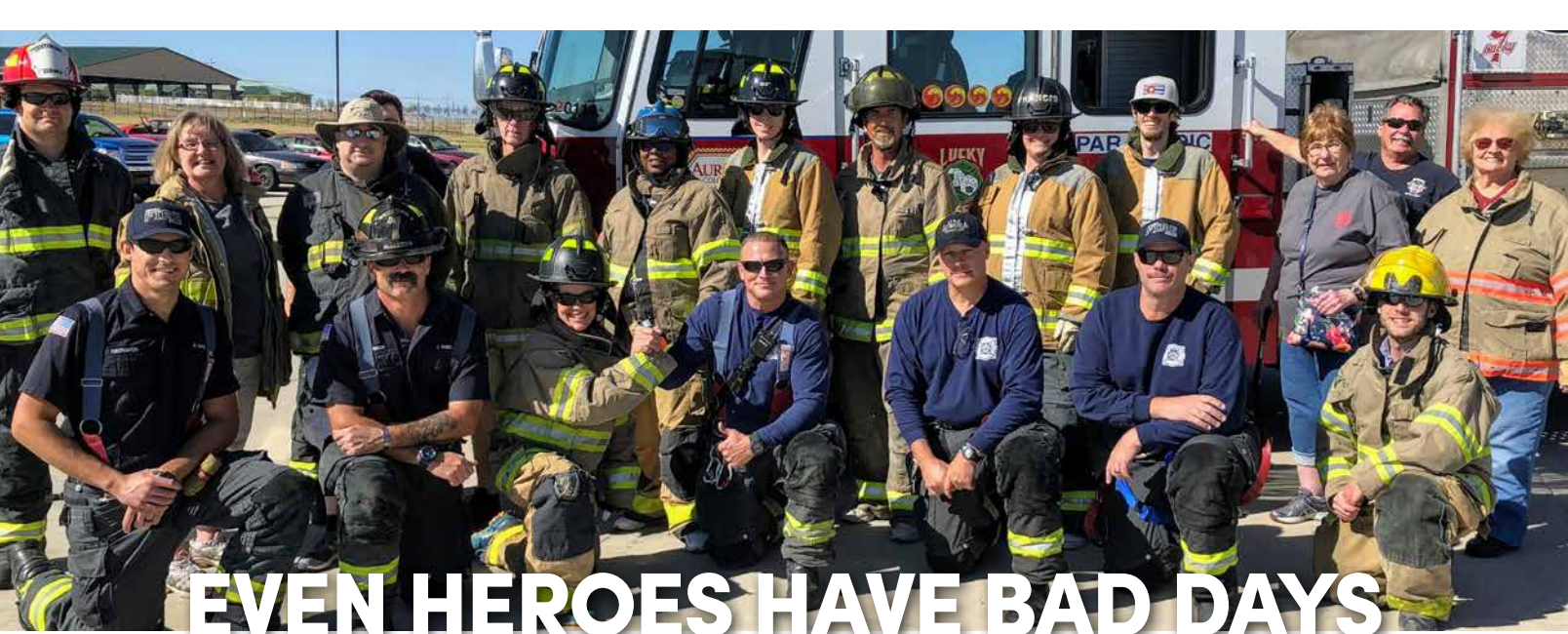
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EVEN HEROES HAVE BAD DAYS

BY VICKI MARTINEZ

She was first to respond to a pediatric call. Alone, waiting for a crew to arrive, tears cascaded down her cheeks as she performed CPR on a baby whose heart had stopped beating.

This woman is no softie. She's all grit and guts and cool under pressure. Exactly what we picture all firefighters to be.

"I thought I had worked through all that," she says. "I did all the therapy, I worked hard to heal, but there I was, tears streaming down my face."

Everyone responds to traumatic events in different ways, based on their own experiences before the event. It's impossible to predict short- or long-term effects of trauma.

So, what was going on with our firefighter?

At the time, commander Wendy Lippman, a 21-year Aurora Fire Rescue veteran, had recently returned to the line from maternity leave.

Lippman's son, born a preemie, had a rough start. Lippman and her husband (also a firefighter) practically lived at the NICU for their son's first two months of life. It was during one of those visits, Lippman says, "he died on us once." She happened to be holding her son when his heart stopped beating.

"That's when I realized firsthand how much your life outside of work can impact how you respond to things," says Lippman. Soon after, she made it her mission to push forward, building more momentum for the great strides already being made in firefighter mental health.

The Best of Times, the Worst of Times

Any firefighter who's spent a few years on the line has experienced some amazing things. A teenager in icy cold waters, rescued. A fire, before it inflicted irreparable damage, quenched. An infant, heart stopped, brought back to life.

"But we also see some really horrible things," Lippman says. "It's the nature of the job, to be present on people's worst days." And it's more common than not for a firefighter to compartmentalize, filing those traumas away. If left unchecked, the results can be devastating.

That's why, over the last decade, many people with Aurora Fire Rescue (AFR), including Lippman, have worked diligently to bring the mental health issues of firefighters and all first responders to the forefront of policy-making change.

"I didn't invent this," she's quick to explain. In fact, Lippman credits former health and safety officer Rhonda Kelly for bringing the department's policies on firefighter mental health into the 21st century. "I'm just really passionate about it. I'm carrying on what was already started."

Lippman's passion didn't go unnoticed. In 2019, she was the recipient of the Firefighter Hero Award from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and



**SHE TRULY RECOGNIZES
THE NEED TO ADDRESS
THE STRESS AND
EMOTIONAL TRAUMA
THAT FIREFIGHTERS
EXPERIENCE ON THE
JOB AND THE STRAIN IT
HAS ON THEIR
PERSONAL LIVES.**

— From a letter nominating then-battalion chief Wendy Lippman for the 2019 Firefighter Hero Award

DO YOUR PART FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Aurora Fire Rescue responds to an average of 140 calls every day.

As citizens and residents of the city, we can all do our part to help reduce that number. Aurora Fire Rescue (AFR) offers several programs to create a community that's informed, inspired and involved.

Community Fire Academy

This 9-week, hands-on program isn't designed to train residents as firefighters, but to provide the community an opportunity to learn the intricacies of AFR by covering important topics:

- Fire department operations
- Specialty teams
- Station, engine and truck tours
- The chemistry of fire
- Investigations

- Auto extrication
- Emergency medical services

Camp Spark

This three-day camp, led by AFR personnel and female leaders from different parts of the country, offers young women ages 12–18 a unique way to build important life skills through hands-on fire training. These include teamwork, leadership skills, self-confidence, how to handle physical challenges and how to stay calm under pressure. Camp Spark has limited space and is open to Aurora residents only.

Fire Affect Program

This program is designed to provide early intervention and education regard-

ing the misuse of fire. The free program is available to juveniles ages 8–17 and their families.

Car Seat Consultations

No firefighter wants to answer a call for a child injured due to the incorrect installation of a car seat. Specially trained child passenger safety technicians offer free inspections and installation education every Wednesday and second Saturday of the month, between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. Call 303-326-8976 for locations and to schedule an appointment.

For information on all four programs, visit: www.auroragov.org/departments/fire and click on the "Community Relations" icon on the right.

Maglite for her extraordinary commitment to the emotional health of firefighters.

Her now seven-year-old son was in attendance.

Awareness, Support, Change

"Firefighters are wired to help — fix and make things better. That's what we signed on to do," Lippman says. "When we spend most of our energy taking care of other people's problems, we sometimes forget to take care of our own."

Nationwide, police and fire departments are losing more people to suicide than line-of-duty deaths. Substance abuse, marital issues, family dysfunction, depression and suicide run rampant if the underlying causes remain unaddressed. AFR has taken a proactive stance to help their firefighters avoid these serious effects of mental trauma through a series of protocols for handling events with significant psychological impact. These incidents include:

- The death or severe injury of a firefighter, on or off duty
- Death or severe injury to a child
- Scenes with multiple casualties or fatalities (multi-car accidents, for example)
- Lengthy exposure events (crews re-

main hyper-alert for long periods on scenes with the potential for casualties, such as a SWAT standby or hostage situations)

Hold Out of Service

When a critical incident occurs, commanders and battalion chiefs have a set procedure that is implemented immediately. First, crews are put on "out of service" status upon returning to their firehouse. Out of service means they aren't required to head back out to the line should another call come in right away. Another station or one of the other firehouse crews respond to the call if necessary.

During this downtime, firefighters decompress, take long showers or are respectfully allowed private time. Not long after, AFR deploys a peer support team.

Peer Support Team

By design, the peer support team consists of a diverse group of 12–15 firefighters: male, female, all different ranks, moms, dads, those with no kids. "It can be a lot to shoulder, listening to the same horrible incident described over and over," says Lippman, a peer support team member herself. For that reason, training

to become a peer support team facilitator is on a strictly volunteer basis, and there's no required time commitment.

All AFR peer support team volunteers go through a unique training course to develop the skills to effectively lead and moderate a critical incident debriefing.

Critical Incident Debriefing

During the debriefing, the crew is encouraged to openly discuss the critical incident and how it affected them. Exposure to this type of peer-directed therapy helps erase the stigma often associated with opening up and sharing feelings.

There may be several minutes of "crickets" at the start of a roundtable discussion, but they don't last for long. "It's pretty amazing," says Lippman. "Eventually somebody says something that draws another out to speak and share. It's rare someone sits quietly and doesn't participate."

Post Debriefing

In the past, if a traumatic call significantly impacted a crew, everyone was sent home. Lippman says a blanket response like that often ended up doing more harm than good. "What if I live alone?" Lippman asks to make her point. "That makes it a lot easier to have

a few drinks to deal with the issue, rather than facing it head-on.”

AFR now has a unique approach. After a critical incident debriefing, every individual chooses one of the following options:

- Take the rest of the shift off
- Stay and continue working
- Stay together as a crew and call in another crew to cover calls
- Go home and spend time with family

No one is ever expected to jump right back into service.

Employee Assistance Program

If someone is not comfortable sharing with coworkers, whether

that’s discussing a critical incident or talking about more personal issues, they have the option to meet with a trained professional. The first six sessions are paid for by the city.

In the 21 years Lippman has been with Aurora Fire Rescue, they haven’t lost one firefighter to suicide. “We’ve done some great things, we’re taking huge strides, and we’re changing the culture,” she says. But it’s not all attributed to programs and protocols. She gives much of the credit to the individual men and women with the strength and courage to put their lives and their minds on the line every day. “Our firefighters are willing to show up on other people’s worst days. It’s an amazing group of people.”

A HISTORY OF HEROES

Originally four square miles, the City of Aurora now encompasses 162 square miles with over 380,000 residents. Growing right alongside: Aurora Fire Rescue.

The first Aurora fire service consisted of a group of civic-minded citizens, pulling a fire cart through the often muddy dirt roads of a small town. Today, the department includes 16 Aurora stations and 12 battalions. The men and women of Aurora Fire Rescue proudly embrace their humble beginnings while keeping an eye on the future.

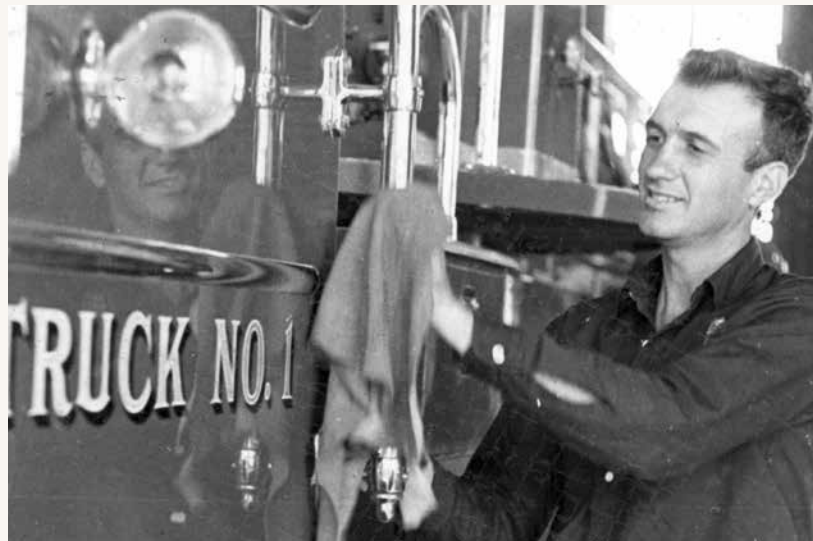
Aurora Fire Rescue Milestones

1907 – Citizen petition to change the town’s name from Fletcher (the original name since 1891) to Aurora.

1922 – Aurora receives its first motorized firefighting apparatus.

Post WWI years – Al Lewand and John O’Kane begin training volunteers to create a skilled and disciplined small-town fire department.

1930 – Fire preparedness takes a step forward with the adoption of state vocational training, equipment upgrades and station moves.



1945 – Aurora names George Moorhead its first fire chief.

1951 – Aurora hires its first paid firefighter, Ray Sallies.

1957 – The department joins the International Association of Firefighters, becoming the local #1290, and is officially dubbed Aurora Firefighters Protective Association.

1958 – Aurora adds Fire Station 2, and William Hawkins becomes the first paid fire chief.

1960s – The fleet adds its first aerial apparatus.

1970s – Aurora builds five more stations and creates the 3rd Battalion.

1976 – The city hires John Speed as fire chief.

1977 – The first paramedics graduate, the first advanced life support squad is created, and an

Arson Division is established.

1978 – Aurora’s first fire academy opens to train new recruits.

1980 – Creation of specially trained units including HAZMAT, Technical Rescue and Decon teams.

1985 – Combining resources, Aurora Fire and Denver Fire create “the ROCK” (Rocky Mountain Fire Academy), a joint training facility.

1993 – Aurora creates its heavy rescue/rapid intervention company and purchases a heavy rescue apparatus.

2016 – CAPSTC opens. The City of Aurora Public Safety Training Center is a 23-acre, state-of-the-art tandem training facility for Aurora Fire Rescue and Aurora Police Department.

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IN THE HANDS OF A HERO

It's no cliché. Firefighters are heroes. They don't wear capes and they don't swoop in like Tony Stark (aka Iron Man), pulling mere mortals from the jaws of death at the last second. Or do they?

Nearly 70 percent of the emergency calls Aurora Fire Rescue responds to are non-fire related. These include anything from car accidents and ice rescues to childbirth, severe allergic reactions and cardiac arrest.

In these situations, many fire departments perform basic life support, attempting to stabilize the patient until an EMT crew arrives. What makes AFR truly unique: every crew has at least one firefighter who is a highly skilled, specially trained paramedic. Each battalion is prepared to care for even the most critical of medical emergencies.

"The men and women of Aurora Fire Rescue are passionate about serving every patient with the utmost quality care," said Fire Chief Fernando Gray. "It's critical for our community that we train our members to the highest certification level to ensure our patients receive the best services possible. Lives are on the line when we respond — our firefighters and paramedics take that responsibility to heart each and every day."

Each year at the Aurora Fire Rescue Annual Awards Ceremony, recipients of the distinguished Phoenix Award are



recognized. Phoenix Awards are given to crews who administered advanced life support to cardiac arrest patients who, once released from the hospital, experienced no neurological deficits.

In 2019, more than 20 AFR crews received Phoenix Awards.

Swooping down? They can't. Wearing capes? They don't. Saving Aurora residents from the jaws of death? Yes.

That's why they're heroes. ★



Commander Wendy Lippman (center) with members of Aurora Fire Rescue accepting the Firefighter Hero Award.



BUILDING BRIDGES

Grand Design aims to promote and preserve African American performing arts and has a new avenue to do so.

BY VALERIE GLEATON

In 1994, Barbara Shannon-Banister and several colleagues had an idea: to create a company to support creative works by African Americans while enhancing society's cultural awareness of these talented, but often overlooked artists. These discussions culminated in the creation of Grand Design Inc., in August of that year.

Grand Design is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit primarily dedicated to promoting and preserving the performing arts of African

Americans, although it is also inclusive of other cultural performing arts. It does this through dance and theater performances, concerts, presentations, visual art exhibits and cultural-awareness training.

The company, Aurora's first owned-and-operated African American performing arts company, provides high-quality, affordable performance training and opportunities for individuals and families who otherwise might not be able to ex-

PHOTOS COURTESY GRAND DESIGN



perience the beauty of the arts.

"I love the arts and have been blessed to experience a plethora of diversity in the arts," says Shannon-Banister. "To witness first-hand how the opportunities of participating in the arts changes lives summarizes our mission."

Some of Grand Design's most popular programs include the New Century Jubilee Choir Project, an ethnic and culturally diverse choir group; the Sing, Step, Dance and Act Program, which offers training and classes in various performing arts; the Grand Design Chorale; and original stage productions like "Amistad." Grand Design has provided employment opportunities to teachers and performers, as well as occasions for the broader Aurora community to enjoy free or low-cost performing arts events.

The company also partners with the Boettcher Boys & Girls Club to provide free art instruction to adolescents in a variety of areas, including chorale, hip hop dance, visual arts, precision movement, step movement, Latin dance, African drumming and more.

This year, the team is especially excited about Grand Design's newest project — a TV series titled "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges." Grand Design recognizes that there is still significant work to be done in addressing the inequity of opportunities for people of color in the arts. This new project brings together experts to discuss the barriers that exist for people of color. It aims to foster a heightened knowledge and understanding of African Americans in the arts. "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges" will promote black arts and culture with 30-minute episodes featuring songs, discussions, film and live performances.

To find out more about "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," including when and where to watch, or to learn how to get involved with Grand Design's other programs, visit www.grandbydesign.org or send a message to granddesigninc@comcast.net. ★



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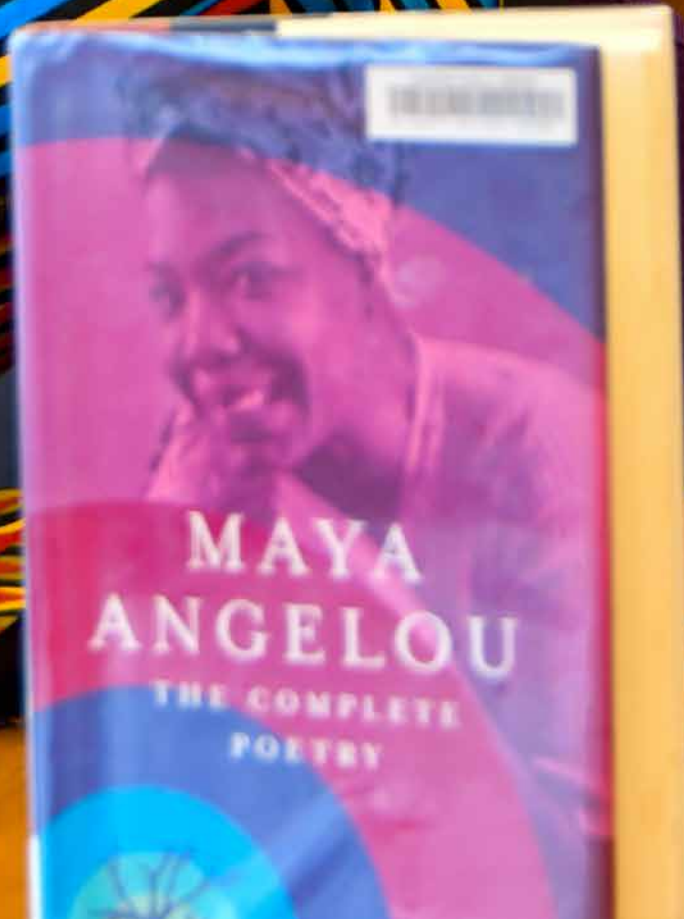


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A SINGLE VOICE



Aurora's poet laureate Assétou Xango weighs in on what it's like to connect with the community through the lens of poetry.

BY SARA BRUSKIN

Only the second person to hold the position of poet laureate for the city of Aurora, Assétou Xango (pronouns they/their) talks about the evolution of the job, their goals for the future and how one voice can make a difference around topics such as race, gender, equality and more.

Aurora Guide: What are some of your responsibilities as Aurora's poet laureate?

Xango: The position is still really being developed. What Patti Bateman and Debi Holen [Poet Laureate Program organizers] had in mind was that they would bring a poet in who can really speak to Aurora about the importance of poetry and do some programs. That was the earlier conversation, and my predecessor, Jovan Mays, pulled me aside and said, "I did this thing for three years, and it was a bit of a mess, but a lot of beautiful things came out of it. Here's everything I know, and here's what I think you can do with it." By telling me his experiences, I got to do just a little bit more, and then I'm hoping whoever follows me can take off with it, and so on and so forth. Because we're all just these geeky poets who just want to spread poetry love.

AG: Do you think Aurora does a good job of fostering that creativity and poetic spirit?

Read the complete interview at www.AuroraGuide.com



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Fallen, But Not Forgotten

The Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation commemorates our local heroes.

BY VICKI MARTINEZ

A 12-foot-high structure conveys an aura of pride and solemnity as it reaches through the Colorado sky toward the heavens. Steel and granite, representing the strength and courage of the Colorado men and women who gave their lives for their country. Glass, representing the delicate and fragile nature of life.

Located southwest of Springhill Golf Course, the Colorado Freedom Memorial (CFM) displays the names of more than 6,000 Coloradans, paying tribute to their ultimate sacrifice. Yet, not every soldier's story is complete. The CFM Foundation wants to change that.

#TellUsTheirStories

The CFM Foundation is on a mission to memorialize every fallen soldier from Colorado. "Of the 6,218 names [etched in glass], there are more than 3,000 that we know nothing more than name, rank, branch of service and date they were killed," says radio personality Rick Crandall, who spearheaded the idea for the memorial 20 years ago.

The #TellUsTheirStories campaign encourages anyone who has more detailed information about a fallen soldier to contact the CFM Foundation or to provide it via the CFM website. The type of biographical data they're looking for:

Branch of service • War or action • Highest rank • Birthplace

CO county of residence • Date of death • Place of death • Place of burial

Family biography • Service biography

To add information to an incomplete listing or submit a veteran's name, visit www.coloradofreedommemorial.com/tellustheirstories.

“

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VALIANT WOMEN
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OF OUR COUNTRY
CAN NEVER BE
REPAID. THEY
HAVE EARNED
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AMERICA
WILL NEVER
FORGET THEIR
SACRIFICES.

– Harry S. Truman



Gold Star Families

The Colorado Freedom Memorial was the first military tribute of its kind in the U.S. The monument is unique because it includes:

- All honorees are from the same state, living in Colorado when called to service
- Every branch of military service is represented
- It commemorates servicemen and women who died in every war from the Spanish-American War to the present day

Through the efforts of the CFM Foundation and the help of numerous volunteers, "...we are certain we have the most accurate accounting of Colorado's war dead that exists," says Crandall.

Soon, the location will be even more unique with the addition of a second monument: The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. Gold Star memorials are double-sided granite monuments designed to thank and honor the families that lost loved ones who were serving our country, fighting for our freedom.

Visit www.coloradofreedommemorial.com for a prototype of the memorial and to find out how your contributions can help make the Gold Star Monument a reality.

See the Colorado Freedom Memorial in person at 756 Telluride St., Aurora, CO 80011. ★

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ANIMAL SERVICES AND RECREATION

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Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-326-8280; www.auroraanimalshelter.org. Whether you want to adopt a pet or license one that's already part of your family, Animal Services is the one to call with questions about our four-legged friends. City pet licenses are required for all dogs and cats and are available online, at the Aurora Animal Shelter or at many local veterinarians. The Aurora Animal Shelter offers a safe place for lost animals, and operates a full pet adoption center at the Westminster PetSmart, 10460 Town Center Drive. Animal Protection Officers can pick up injured or stray animals, and the division's veterinary services can examine them. Veterinary Services also offers quarterly vaccine clinics to the public.

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. Visit www.greyhoundadoption.com or call 303-816-2799.

DENVER ZOO

2300 Steele St., Denver, 720-337-1400; www.denverzoo.org. Visit Denver Zoo and revel in up-close experiences with its more than 4,000 animals. The zoo aims to inspire the next generation of animal lovers through kids' events such as safari mini camps and overnights at the zoo. Grounds are open every day of the year, weather permitting; free days are Oct. 20, Nov. 10 and 14.

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. Popular favorites include the interactive Stingray 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.

LOST & FOUND PETS

Come to the Aurora Animal Shelter to look for lost pets; 15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-326-8280; or check www.auroraanimalshelter.org. Staff researches license, rabies tag and microchip information to notify owners of their pets' whereabouts.

PET LICENSE & VACCINATION CLINICS

Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-326-8280; www.auroraanimalshelter.org. Clinics held from 9am-1pm May 18, May 16, Aug. 8 and Nov. 7. Pet licenses

are required for all cats and dogs in Aurora over the age of 6 months. Check the shelter's website or call for fees and other information.

SPAY AND NEUTER CLINICS

Locations vary, 303-751-5772; www.ddfl.org/spayneuter. The Aurora Animal Shelter partners with the Dumb Friends League to host mobile spay and neuter clinics for cats and dogs. The Lulu Mobile & Meow Mobile are fully-contained surgical suites operated by a veterinarian and a veterinary technician. Pet owners in underserved areas can get spay/neuter services for their pets at reduced fees. Walk-ins accepted when possible, but appointments are recommended.

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 S. Peoria St., Parker, 720-488-3300; www.thewildlifeexperience.org. Now part of CU South Denver, The Wildlife Experience is an interactive nature museum offering a wide range of educational programs designed for any age. Meeting and event spaces available to rent.

ARTS EVENTS

ARTS ON THE BLOCK (AURORA ARTS FESTIVAL)

Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave. 303-344-2223; www.auroraculture.org/arts-on-the-block. Enjoy this two-day celebration of live music, theater and dance performances, and patronize local artists and businesses at this arts festival on June 27-28, noon-8pm.

ATHENA PROJECT PLAYS IN PROGRESS SERIES

Aurora Fox Theatre—Black Box Studio, 9900 E. Colfax Ave.; 303-219-0882; www.athenaprojectarts.org. In this innovative program, women playwrights collaborate with directors, dramaturgs and actors to bring brand new work to the public. See plays at all levels of development and give playwrights invaluable feedback at the end of each workshop production. The series runs June 6-7. Visit the website for show times and tickets.

AURORA POTTERS GUILD POTTERY SALE

Community College of Aurora, 1600 E. CentreTech Parkway, Student Center Rotunda. Facebook.com/aurorapottersguild. Discover unique handmade pottery created by local artists, May 1, noon-8pm; May 2, 9am-4pm; Nov. 1, noon-8pm; and Nov. 2, 9am-4pm.

AURORA RHYTHMS—SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Aurora Municipal Center Great Lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7000; www.auroragov.org/concerts. Tap your toes during these free outdoor concerts sponsored by the city of Aurora Department of Library and Cultural Services Division. The concerts are planned for June 18, June 25, July 9 and July 16 from 6:30-8pm.

CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL

Cherry Creek North Shopping District (Second and Third avenues between Clayton and Steele streets), Denver, 303-355-2787; www.cherrycreekartsfestival.org. A global art collection right in your own backyard, the annual Cherry Creek Arts Festival displays selected work by international artists. Held July 3-5, this juried outdoor arts festival also brings artist demonstrations, culinary events, kids' activities



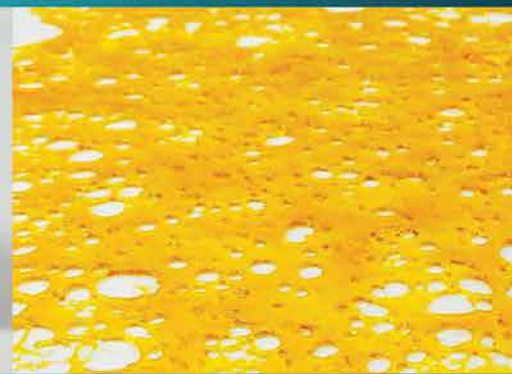
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Healthy Kids Running Series, Red-tailed Hawk Park

on "Artivity Avenue" and live music. Festival hours are 10am-8pm, Friday-Saturday, and 10am-6pm, Sunday. Admission is free.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA ARTS EVENTS

Community College of Aurora—CentreTech campus at 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway and Lowry campus at 710 Alton Way, 303-340-7529; www.ccaurora.edu. Spring and fall arts weekends feature music, theater and dance performances. The Donna Moravec Gallery showcases student and professional artist exhibits. Check the calendar online for a complete list of events.

FIRST THURSDAY MIXERS

Aurora Cultural Arts District, 1400 Dallas St., 303-344-2223; www.auroraculture.org/acad-events. Monthly mixers for artists and other creative people. The mixers will take place on the first Thursday each month in various locations. Check website for updated info.

GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES ART EXHIBIT & SALE

Community College of Aurora, 1600 E. Centre Tech Parkway, Fine Arts Building; www.auroraartistsguild.com. 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 Nov. 4 - Dec. 4. Opening reception is Nov. 6. Call for entry is July 1. Deadline is Sept. 1. All artwork, including unframed bin work, is for sale and a percentage of proceeds benefits the city's cultural programs. Admission is free.

HEATHER GARDENS 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 their free fairs in spring and autumn. Check website for dates.

PAPER FASHION SHOW

The Paper Fashion Show (see cover), held at the Fillmore Auditorium, 1510 N Clarkson St., Denver, shines light on Colorado talent and features haute couture fashions made entirely from paper that are showcased on the grand runway and judged by an esteemed panel of top Colorado-area designers and celebrities. This all-volunteer organized and run event, helps support not only our mission to elevate Colorado art and design to the national level but also the non-profit Downtown Aurora Visual Arts, a local community organization that provides after-school arts programs for urban youth. Sept. 17. Tickets start at \$35. For more information and to purchase, tickets, visit www.paperfashionshow.com.

STANLEY ARTS FESTIVAL

Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St., 303-355-2787; www.stanleyartsfestival.org. Produced by Cherry Creek Arts Festival, this festival features a juried national art show, live entertainment, home-design vignettes, children's activities and

more. Spend a fall weekend enjoying art, local flavor and creative living. Sept. 19-20, 10am-7pm Saturday, 10am-5pm Sunday. Admission is free.

BENEFITS & FUNDRAISERS

AURORA FOX GALA

Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970; www.aurorafox.org. This annual fundraising gala supports the historic Aurora Fox Theater, and this year will feature Denver's favorite leading lady, Mary Louise Lee. Event begins with a delicious dinner from Annette, a silent auction and the 2020-2021 season announcement at The People's Building, May 2, 6pm (dinner), 8 pm (concert).

DONATE TO THE AURORA ANIMAL SHELTER

15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-326-8280; www.auroraanimalshelter.org. The Aurora Animal Shelter gratefully accepts both cash and in-kind donations. All contributions are used to benefit animals in the shelter's care. Donate online or by mail to the Aurora Animal Shelter. Call for more information.

FESTIVAL OF WREATHS

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660; www.aurora-museum.org. The Aurora Museum Foundation's annual Festival of Wreaths display raises funds for upcoming exhibits and education programs. Each wreath is sold through an online silent auction. Local businesses, organizations, individuals and families sponsor and decorate wreaths. Creative, colorful and imaginative designs are encouraged, and often reflect the makers' products, services or other interests. Anyone can participate. To participate, call or visit the website. Display runs from Nov. 3 through to Dec. 11. Admission is free.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

THE STINKY CHEESE MAN and other fairly stupid tales

Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970; www.aurorafoxartscenter.org. The Aurora Fox Arts Center presents Little Foxes Summer Children's Theatre. Once upon a time, all your favorite characters from the enchanted land of Fairy Tales got tossed into a magical spin cycle of storytelling, where nothing is what you expect, and everything is as it seems. Show runs June 26-July 3 (contact the theater for auditions in the spring).

HEALTHY KIDS RUNNING SERIES

Red-tailed Hawk Park, 23701 East Hinsdale Way, 720-771-3981; www.healthykid-runningseries.org. Kids ages 2-14 participate in five-week running programs in the spring and fall. Each age group runs a different distance, and runners track their progress over the five weeks. The spring 2020 series is on Sundays, May 8, 17 and 31 from 4:30-5:30pm. Registration is \$35-40 and runners get a shirt, bib numbers and medal. Call or go online to register.

MORRISON NATURE CENTER AT STAR K RANCH

16002 E. Smith Road, 303-326-8445; www.auroragov.org/nature. From family bird-watching and naturalists' talks to bugs, puppets and junior rangers, the Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch offers aactivities for children of all ages.

PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER

21901 E. Hampden Ave., 303-326-8380; www.auroragov.org/nature. Take a trip back in time to Colorado's high plains and pioneer life in the mid-1800s. Visitors can hike along the rolling trails where they may see wildlife, take a prairie wagon tour, feed an array of farm animals such as cows, donkeys and sheep, and take a peek into old sod houses.

PURRFECT READING BUDDY

Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-739-6589; www.auroraanimalshelter.org. Make reading fun for your youngster. Kids can practice their reading skills while providing enrichment to a cat waiting for a forever home at the Aurora Animal Shelter.

SENAC CREEK NATURE CENTER AT AURORA RESERVOIR

5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-326-8429, www.auroragov.org/nature. The Senac Creek Nature Center at the Aurora Reservoir focuses on educational programming about water ecosystems and the importance of water to our communities. Entry to the nature center and reservoir property is free if visiting the nature center only, and \$10 per day per vehicle when enjoying other reservoir amenities.

SENSITIVE BUNNY AND SENSITIVE SANTA

Town Center at Aurora, 14200 E. Alameda Ave., 303-344-9764; www.towncenterataurora.com. Around Easter and Christmas, the Town Center hosts private photo sessions with the Easter Bunny and Santa for children with special needs and their fami-

lies. Extra care is taken to accommodate children's sensory, physical and other needs. Call or check the Town Center at Aurora's Facebook page or website for dates.

SENSORY STORYTIME

Aurora Public Library-Central; 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6600; www.aurora.libnet.info/events. Stories, songs and sensory experiences for children ages 3-10 who are living with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental challenges.

SUMMER IN THE CITY

Various locations, 303-739-7170; www.auroragov.org/events. Between June and August, have fun in neighborhoods around the city and enjoy free entertainment, inflatables, games, crafts and snacks. June 5 and 17; July 8, 15, 22 and 29; Aug. 5.

SUMMER OF IMAGINATION READING PROGRAM

All Aurora Public Library locations, 303-739-6600; www.auroralibrary.org. Enjoy a summer of space-themed learning as you earn prizes for completing activities and reading challenges. Available May 27-August 1.

WEEKLY STORYTIMES AT AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.auroralibrary.org. Join the library for finger plays, stories and songs for children and their caregivers.

Central: 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6600; call for complete schedule.

Hoffman Heights, 1298 Peoria St., 303-739-1572; Tuesday, 10:30am.

Iliff Square Library (southwest) 2253 S. Peoria St., 303-739-1567. Tuesday, 10:30am.

Mission Viejo: 15324 E. Hampden Circle, 303-326-8600; call for complete schedule.

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

Tallyn's Reach: 23911 E. Arapahoe Road, 303-627-3050; call for complete schedule.

COMMUNITY & HOLIDAY FESTIVALS

ACAD Trick or Trick.

Aurora Cultural Arts District, 1400 Dallas St., 303-344-2223; www.auroraculture.org/acad-events Oct. 31; various locations throughout the district. 12pm-5pm.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY FAIR

25690 E. Quincy Ave., 303-795-4955; www.arapahoecountyfair.com. It's fair fun for everyone at the 2020 Arapahoe County Fair, which runs from July 23-26. Four days of carnival rides, rodeos, mutton bustin', concerts, fireworks, 4-H and open class exhibits, tractor pulls, games, live entertainment and more. Check the website for hours.

BUSKERS, BREWS & BBQ

Aurora Municipal Center, great lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7163; www.auroragov.org/BBQ. Enjoy favorite local brews, a smoking Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) sanctioned state BBQ competition and live entertainment from a variety of musicians and buskers (quirky street performers). June 13, 1-6pm. Free admission.

COLORADO REMEMBERS

Colorado Freedom Memorial, 756 Telluride St., 303-739-6706; www.auroragov.org/coloradoremembers. May 23, 8am-1pm, Memorial Day weekend, join the city of Aurora and the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation in this commemorative event. Bring your friends and family to help honor those who have served our country.

FOOD TRUCK RODEO

Aurora Municipal Center, great lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7182; www.auroragov.org/events. Experience new lunch flavors with the assortment of food trucks at each rodeo. Fridays, May 1, June 5, July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, and Oct. 2 from 11am-2pm.

FOURTH OF JULY SPECTACULAR


Aurora Municipal Center, west lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7163; www.auroragov.org/events. Honor our nation's birthday at Aurora's Independence Day celebration, featuring one of the metro area's largest fireworks displays and live entertainment. On July 4, bring a blanket and the whole family to the lawn on the west side of the Aurora Municipal Center. Event runs from 6-10pm.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Centennial House, 1671 Galena St., 303-739-6660; www.auroramuseum.org. Celebrate the holidays in this historic landmark, which was built in 1890. Enjoy free tours, tea and cookies. Check website for dates in December.

HOLIDAYS ON THE HOMESTEAD

DeLaney Homestead Historic District, 170 S. Chambers Road, 303-739-6660; www.auroramuseum.org. Celebrate the holidays in the 1930s with a glimpse into Au-



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rora's past. Enjoy hot chocolate and tour the oldest home in Aurora. Check website for dates in December.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

At the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7182; www.auroragov.org/events. Trees are illuminated with seasonal cheer as Aurora city mayor and city council host the community holiday tree lighting on Dec. 1, 5-7pm. Enjoy strolling carolers, holiday refreshments, live reindeer and Santa Claus arriving on a fire engine. View the Festival of Wreaths at the Aurora History Museum.

PUNKIN CHUNKIN COLORADO

Arapahoe Park Race Track, 26000 E. Quincy Ave., 303-739-7163; www.auroragov.org/punkinchunkin. Celebrate the season Sept. 26-27, 10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-3pm Sunday. Watch the show as pumpkins are hurled thousands of feet at Punkin Chunkin Colorado, the state's only official Punkin Chunkin competition. Teams and individuals create pumpkin-tossing contraptions, then vie for record-breaking pumpkin airtime and distance. Family activities, music, food and more round out the fun. \$5 admission (children 4 and under get in free).

VETERANS SALUTE

Wings over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, 7711 E. Academy Blvd. #1, Denver, 303-739-7170; www.auroragov.org/salute. Join the annual Veterans Salute that recognizes and honors military service members on Nov. 13. Tickets are required, and the event sells out well in advance. Order tickets at www.auroragov.org/salute or call 303-739-7950.

CULTURAL FESTIVALS

AURORA CINCO DE MAYO

Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave. 303-344-2223; www.auroracincodemayo.com. This celebration of Mexican culture commemorates the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Entertainment includes music, games, arts and crafts, dance, theater and cultural performances. May 2-3, noon-8pm and May 5, noon-6pm.

AURORA GLOBAL FEST

Aurora Municipal Center, great lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7182; www.auroragov.org/globalfest. Global Fest is the city of Aurora's free annual celebration of international cultures, with a fun-filled day of music, dance, art and food from around the world. The event includes two stages of performances, food vendors with global flavors, a parade of nations, an international fashion show, and more. Aug. 15, 11am-6pm.

COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Sloan's Lake Park, 3000 Youngfield St., 303-953-7277; www.cdbf.org. Immerse yourself in Asian culture with dancing, live performances, arts and crafts, tasty food and of course competitive dragon-boat races. July 25-26, 10am-7pm. Park at Sports Authority Field for a small fee and shuttle to the lake.

IMMIFEST

Aurora Cultural Arts District Studios, 1400 Dallas St., 303-344-2223; www.aurora-culture.org. Celebrate Aurora's immigrant communities with music, dancing, per-

formances and authentic regional cuisine. Buy from local vendors and support Aurora's diverse community. Sept. 26 noon-4pm.

TASTE OF PUERTO RICO

Civic Center Park, downtown Denver, www.facebook.com/atoprdenver. Take in the joy of Puerto Rican culture with music, authentic foods, activities for kids, dance contests and lots of fun on June 14. Check website for specific dates and times.

TONOS LATINOS

Aurora Cultural Arts District Studios, 1400 Dallas St., 303-344-2223; www.aurora-culture.org. Tonos Latinos is a Latin American Festival that celebrates art, literature music and performing arts in the city of Aurora. May 30 and June 7, 14, 21 and 28.

FARMERS' MARKETS & GARDEN EVENTS

DELANEY COMMUNITY FARM & COMMUNITY GARDEN

170 S. Chambers Road. 303-739-6666; www.dug.org/about-delaney. DeLaney Community Farm is a partnership between Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) and Project Worthmore (PWM). Their mission is to support refugees through sustainable agriculture and community building. They provide the space, support, resources, and expertise for refugees to grow healthy, organically-produced food for themselves and their broader community.

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

1007 York St., Denver and Chatfield Farms, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton, 720-865-3500; for more information visit www.botanicgardens.org.

DENVER URBAN GARDENS

Various locations, 303-292-9900; www.dug.org. A collection of more than 180 gardens and urban farms in the Metro Denver Area that are organized by local residents. Aurora residents can apply for plots in their area. Check the online map for available garden plots near you.

SOUTHLANDS FARMERS' MARKET

Smoky Hill Road and E-470, 303-627-5000; www.shopsouthlands.com. Find loads of fresh produce, baked goods, specialty foods and ripe fruit at this beautiful market, set in Town Square at the Southlands Shopping Center. Open Saturdays, May-September, 8am-1pm.

XERISCAPE GARDENS

Aurora Municipal Center Demonstration Xeriscape Garden, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7195; www.aurorawater.org. Take a stroll through Aurora Water's 10-acre Xeriscape Demonstration Garden to see all of the great and colorful options available for xeric (low-water) landscaping. Want to learn more about xeriscape? Sign up for one of Aurora Water's free xeriscape classes, held at various locations throughout the city. Call or visit website for more information on the many free programs and services that will help you save water and money on your bill.

FORUMS & LECTURES

AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

14305 E. Alameda Ave., Suite 300, 303-344-1500; www.aurorachamber.org. The chamber offers a variety of events throughout the year. Check website for times and locations.

Monthly or bi-monthly:

- Business After Hours: fourth Thursday of the month.
- English as a Second Language Conversation Meetup: every other Sunday
- Health Series: second Thursday of the month.
- Leadership Aurora Class: third Thursday of the month.
- NAACP Aurora Branch General Body Meeting: second Saturday of the month.
- Young Professionals: third Wednesday of the month.
- Wine, Women and Wellness: fourth Wednesday of the month.

Annual:

- May 8: 44th Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon
- Sept. 16: !Quest Aurora!

LUNCH & LEARN LECTURE SERIES

Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660; www.aurora-museum.org. New lecture on the third Wednesday of each month, noon-1pm. Call



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or check the website for specific topic information. Bring a lunch. \$4 (\$3 for Aurora residents).

RUNS/WALKS

COLFAX MARATHON

Colfax Avenue, beginning and ending at Denver's City Park, 303-770-9600; www.run-colfax.com. Make 2020 your year to get fit, stay fit and set new goals. The Colfax Marathon happens May 16-17. Denver's springtime race tradition has a distance for everyone, including the 26.2-mile marathon, a 13.1-mile half-marathon, an urban 10-miler and a five-person team marathon relay. In conjunction with the races, a Health & Fitness Expo takes place at Wings Over the Rockies in Lowry. Register online.

SHESPRINTS—A WOMEN'S DUATHLON/TRIATHLON

Cherry Creek State Park, 4201 S. Parker Road; www.triforthecure-denver.com. On Aug. 1, Cherry Creek State Park hosts these sprint duathlons and triathlons for women, raising money for breast and ovarian cancer research. Registration is required.

SENIOR EVENTS

BOOK CLUBS AT AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Various locations, 303-739-6600; www.auroralibrary.org and follow the banner to the events page. The Aurora Public Library has a wide variety of book clubs that explore various reading topics such as nonfiction, fantasy, cookbooks, comic books and more.

HEATHER GARDENS CLUBHOUSE

2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, 303-751-1811; www.heathergardens.org. The Heather Gardens Clubhouse 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; \$6 for residents, \$8 for nonresidents. Fall Craft Fair: date TBD.

SPORTS & OUTDOOR EVENTS

AURORA SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

Aurora Sports Park, 19300 E. Colfax, 18601 E. Sports Park Drive, 303-326-8700 or www.auroragov.org/recreation. Here's your opportunity to see future world-class athletes. The city of Aurora hosts numerous national, state and local sports tourna-

ments from March to October at its 220-acre facility that boasts 27 multi-use fields, 12 baseball/softball fields and synthetic turf fields.

COLORADO SPARKLER & FIREWORKS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Aurora Sports Park, 18601 E. Sports Park Drive, and Olympic Park, 15501 E. Yale Ave., 303-326-8700; www.cosparkfire.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 takes place June 28-July 5, with games from 8am until after dark.

STAR SHOWS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA

16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-340-7037; www.ccaurora.edu/cca-observatory. CCA's Science Department sponsors public astronomy lectures and observatory nights. All events take place at the Forum (F100); 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/visit/planetarium. The planetarium offers a variety of daily shows about science and space that are entertaining and educational. Call or visit the website to see the full lineup and ticket information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

AURORA ANIMAL SHELTER FOSTER HOME PROGRAM

Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-326-8280; www.auroraanimalshelter.org. The shelter accepts volunteers over the age of 18 as foster-care providers. Support immature, sick or injured pets in your home until they are ready for adoption.

AURORA'S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Varied meeting locations, 303-739-7094; www.auroragov.org/boards. Plan a park, build a road, support seniors or engage in the arts. These rewarding opportunities and more are yours when you put your exciting ideas and insights to work on a city board or commission.

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

15001 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6050 (volunteer coordinator); www.aurora.gov/residents/giving_back/police_volunteers. Volunteers are an essential part



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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.

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

All Aurora Public Library locations, 303-739-6600; 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.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF COLORADO

750 W Hampden Ave., #450, Englewood, 303-433-6002; www.biglittlecolorado.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 throughout the school year.

CITY OF AURORA VOLUNTEER CENTER

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, third floor, 303-739-7248; www.auroragov.org/volunteer. Get involved, meet new friends and make a difference 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. For a searchable database of current opportunities, visit website.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENTS

Various locations, 303-739-7000; www.auroragov.org/recycle. The city of Aurora hosts e-cycle events each year, which are open to Aurora residents and nonresidents. Electronics are collected and recycled by Techno Rescue, which can recycle more than just TVs and computers. 2020 pricing: \$5 per car/individual, \$5 each LCD Monitors, \$20 each for TVs 21 inches and under, \$40 each for floor model printers, \$50 each for TVs 22 inches and up, \$100 each for Projection, DLP and Console TVs. Please contact Techno Rescue for more information. Prices are subject to change.

All data-storage media are wiped and physically destroyed to protect your identity. More information and a list of drop-off fees are available on the website.

March 28: Central Facilities Recycling Center, 13646 E. Ellsworth Ave., 9am-1pm

Aug. 29: Tallyn's Reach Library, 23911 E. Arapahoe Road, 9am-1pm

GIVE BACK @ YOUR LIBRARY SEASON OF GIVING

All Aurora Public Libraries, 303-739-6589; www.auroralibrary.org. Throughout November, donate stocking stuffers at any Aurora Public Library location. In early December, join Aurora Central Library for a stocking stuffing party, where volunteers will stuff donations into stockings to be given to Arapahoe County Human Services for charitable distribution. During the first two weeks of December, also consider purchasing items for families in need from the giving trees located at Aurora Public Libraries. For information or to get involved, call or visit website.

PARKS & OPEN SPACE VOLUNTEER STEWARDS

Various locations, 303-739-7889; www.auroragov.org/residents/giving_back. Enjoy the outdoors and connect with neighbors and area wildlife as you work to improve the quality of life in Aurora by creating healthy environments for people, nature and community. The city of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department provides training, supplies and ongoing support. No experience required—volunteers just need to sign up and pass a background check (which the city pays for).

XERISCAPE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Aurora Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at the northwest corner of Alameda Parkway and Chambers Road, 720-859-4366; www.auroragov.org/residents/water/get_involved/volunteer. Get hands-on experience with xeric plants. Volunteers play a critical role in sustaining the Aurora Water-Wise Garden as a beautiful and educational attraction. Volunteers enhance the visitor experience by maintaining the gardens, answering questions and pointing out interesting features. The volunteer experience helps participants build relationships, learn about conserving water resources, and develop personally and professionally. The volunteer season is April through October. Call or visit website to register. ★

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**Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all dates are subject to change.
Please confirm your plans online or with a phone call.**

DANCE

AURORA DANCE ARTS 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-326-8308; www.aurora.gov/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. Instructors implement a detailed youth syllabus in ballet, tap, pointe, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, poms and more, with annual recitals in May and June and a fully staged production in November or December. Adult classes include ballet, ballroom, jazz, tap, belly dancing and other styles that offer dance education and a creative workout in a social setting. Check the website or the quarterly Aurora Recreation Guide booklet (available at recreation centers and libraries) for details.

BALLET FOLKLORICO SOL DE MI TIERRA 12600 E. Hoffman Blvd., 915-740-2975. Learn traditional Mexican dances that emphasize local folk culture with ballet characteristics. Each region in Mexico is known for a handful of locally characteristic dances that participants will learn and perform on stage in community events. Children of all ages are welcome!

COLORADO BALLET Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis streets, Denver, 303-837-8888 (ticketing); www.coloradoballet.org. Celebrate Colorado Ballet's 60th season by attending one of its world-class performances in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA—CENTRETECH 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-340-7529; www.ccaurora.edu. A venue for theater and music productions, the Larry D. Carter Theatre at CCA also hosts dance performances throughout the year.

DANCE SCENE STUDIOS 15161 E. Hampden Ave., 303-680-9536; www.dancescenestudios.com. Dance classes for ages 3 and up in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, poms, acro, lyrical, hip hop, clogging, modern, contemporary and more.

KIM ROBARDS DANCE 1550 Dayton St., #70, 303-825-4847; www.kimrobardsdance.org. Offerings include modern, ballet, pointe, hip-hop and jazz for ages 2 through adult, as well as fitness classes like barre. A preprofessional program and a trainee program prepare young dancers for the professional dance world. The award-winning professional touring company also offers workshops and demonstrations.

LET'S DANCE DENVER/STAMPEDE AURORA 2430 S. Havana St., 303-423-6755; www.letsdancedenver.com. 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.

MILLER'S DANCE STUDIO 5940 S. Gun Club Road, 303-693-7493; 15162 E. Hampden Ave., 303-690-6040; www.millersdancestudio.com. Providing dance classes in Aurora since 1957, Miller's Dance Studio offers common styles of dance such as hip-hop and ballet, as well as harder-to-find classes like Irish step dance and ballroom. They also feature an award-winning competitive dance company. Classes available for students of all ages beginning at 18 months.

MOMMIE DEAREST SCHOOL OF DANCE AND CHARM 1488 Joliet St., 303-344-5799; www.mommiedearestdance.com. Primarily adult classes in jazz, tap and musical theater, with a weekly kids class in ballet and tap.

IMPACT DANCE ACADEMY 7450 S. Gartrell Road, Suite B-4, 303-699-8130; www.mpactdanceacademy.com. Offering classes for ages 2 1/2 and up in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, tap, musical theater, modern and more.

MUDRA DANCE STUDIO 15162 E. Hampden Ave., 720-288-0351; www.mudradancestudio.us. Indian dance classes aimed at developing students into stronger dancers and more well-rounded people. Mudra dance includes contemporary and folk dances and performing arts of India. See the website for information on classes, registration and performances.

SCHOOL OF BREAKING 14190 E. Jewell Ave, Unit 7, 720-295-6265; www.schoolorbreaking.com. School of Breaking is the premier studio in the Denver area to learn break dancing. They emphasize breaking as an art form and physical expression of hip-hop, and encourage the study of dance history, influential people and values. See website for information on classes, private lessons, summer camps and studio rentals.

FILM/VIDEO/TV

AURORATV 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-7000; www.auroratv.org. Watch the award-winning news show Aurora News Weekly and community programming on Comcast channels 8 and HD, and streamed on the AuroraTV website. AuroraTV is the city of Aurora's television and video source program that makes finding out what's happening in Aurora quick, easy and convenient. Browse, click and engage with video-on-demand. Watch Aurora City Council live streaming and more.

COLORADO FILM SCHOOL AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA 9075 E. Lowry Blvd., Building 965, Denver, 303-340-7321; www.coloradofilmschool.co. CFS has been repeatedly identified as one of the best film schools in the country by the Hollywood Reporter and International Cinematographers Guild (icg) Magazine. Students shoot 1,000 films per year that are presented to the community in free screenings at Harkins Theatre each May and December.

PHIPPS IMAX THEATER Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver, 303-370-6000; www.dmn.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. Check website for showing information.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE ART

GRAND DESIGN Various locations, 303-955-2724; www.grandbydesign.org. Grand Design is dedicated to supporting and preserving the performing arts of African Americans (with inclusion of other cultures). Their programs include theater performances, dance classes, concerts and more.

MUSIC

AURORA MUSIC PROGRAMS Various locations, 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. Check the website, call or consult the quarterly Aurora Recreation Guide booklet (available at recreation centers and libraries) for details.

AURORA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION Most performances at Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway; www.auroramusicteachers.org. This professional organization of independent music teachers meets to explore teacher-student enrichment and also offers student recitals and activities.

AURORA RHYTHMS - SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
See full listing on page 38.

AURORA SINGERS Performances at East Middle School, 1275 Fraser St., 303-343-3377 (information and tickets); www.aurorasingers.org. The Aurora Singers have showcased choral and dance styles in the Denver metro area since 1977. The ensemble strives to provide the highest-quality choral and musical performances through an eclectic mixture of popular tunes and musical theater. See website for upcoming shows.

AURORA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 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. For performances, see the website.

CENTRAL CITY OPERA Central City Opera House, 124 Eureka St., Central City, 303-292-6700; www.centralcityopera.org. World-class opera in a historic town's acoustically superb opera house. This summer's 87th festival season features performances sure to please longtime opera lovers and newbies alike. Summer Opera Festival performances run July 6-Aug. 6.

CHAUTAUQUA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Chautauqua Auditorium, 900 Baseline Road, Boulder, 303-440-7666; 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 Performances at Chautauqua Auditorium, 900 Baseline Road, Boulder, 303-665-0599; www.comusic.org. The six-week season of this classical music festival runs June 25-Aug. 1. Check website for lineup.

COLORADO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Boettcher Concert Hall, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis streets, Denver, 303-623-7876; www.coloradosymphony.org. Experience world-class performances by the region's only full-time professional orchestra. The Colorado Symphony performs more than 150 concerts during its regular season at Boettcher Concert Hall and on location throughout the state and region. A sampling of 2020 concerts is listed below.

July 30: Dispatch with the Colorado Symphony, plus Ripe & Emelise

Aug. 5: Not Our First Goat Rodeo, featuring Yo=Yo Ma, Stuart Duncan, Edgar Meyer & Chris Thile with guest Aoife O'Donovan

Sept. 12-13: Brandi Carlile with the Colorado Symphony

Nov. 28: At Last: A Tribute to Etta James

CULTURAL CONCERTS ON COLFAX Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 720-329-0869; www.coloradofolkartsCouncil.yolasite.com This free series of lively performances—by musicians, dancers, storytellers and others—spotlights Colorado's cultural diversity.

LITTLETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Performances at Littleton United Methodist Church, 5894 South Datura St., Littleton, 303-933-6824; www.littletonsymphony.org. This full symphony orchestra is in its 36th season. Check the website for show details and times.

OPERA COLORADO Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th and Curtis streets, Denver, 303-468-2030; www.operacolorado.org. Opera Colorado has brought world-class opera to Denver and Beyond since it opened in 1981. The 2020/2021 season includes:

May 2, 5, 8 and 10, 2020: "Tosca"

Nov. 7, 10, 12-13 and 15, 2020: Moravec's "The Shining"

Feb. 20, 23, 26 and 28, 2021: Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana"

PACE CENTER 20000 Pikes Peak Ave., Parker, 303-805-6800; www.parkerarts.org. The Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center boasts an impressive lineup of music, theater, dance and family events all year long. The PACE Center is about 30 minutes from Aurora. Check the website for a full list of events.

May 16: Rocky Mountain Brassworks' Annual Brass Band Festival

June 25-July 18: Mamma Mia!

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND CU PRESENTS CU Boulder campus, 303-492-8008; www.cupresents.org. CU-Boulder's outstanding music department annually presents more than 120 faculty, student and ensemble concerts, most of them free. CU Presents offers the very best in the performing arts on campus, including the Artist Series, Colorado Shakespeare Festival,

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Takács Quartet, Holiday Festival and the Eklund Opera Program. For a full listing of events, visit the website.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER NEWMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS 2344 Iliff Ave., 303-871-6400 or 303-871-6412 (concert line); www.du.edu/lamont. DU's Lamont School of Music presents more than 300 concerts, operas, musicals and jazz events each year, including 250 free concerts.

THEATER

AURORA FOX ARTS CENTER 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970; www.aurorafox.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; and the Aurora Fox Studio Theatre, a smaller black-box theater where cutting-edge works are produced. Aurora Fox features productions that are sure to entertain audiences, bringing a collection of unique stories to the stage that connect with the community.

May 1-5: "Freaky Friday the Musical"

May 2: Aurora Fox Gala Featuring Cuisine by Annette, entertainment by Mary Louise Lee and announcement of 36th season

June 12-13: Zikr Dance Ensemble presents "Lifting the Veil"

June 16-July 3: Little Foxes Summer Theatre program presents "The Stinky Cheese Man and other Fairly Stupid Tales"

June 27: Natalie Oliver Atherton presents "Magdalene Woman of Light... A New Rock Opera"

COLORADO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER CU Boulder campus, 303-492-8008; www.coloradoshakes.org. CSF is a professional acting company in association with the University of Colorado Boulder. The nation's second-oldest Shakespeare festival, it has presented the works of Shakespeare, as well as modern classics, in the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre and University Theatre since 1958.

INDOOR STAGE

June 19-Aug. 8: All's Well That Ends Well

July 17-Aug. 9: Coriolanus

Outdoor Stage

June 5-Aug. 9: A Midsummer Night's Dream

July 3-Aug. 8: The Odyssey

Aug. 2: Pericles

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA—CENTRETECH 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-340-7529; www.ccaurora.edu. Larry D. Carter Theatre, a 180-seat, flexible black-box performance space suitable for theater, music and dance. Call for events, dates and times.

CULTURAL ARTS SUMMER THEATRE CLASSES AND CAMPS Various locations. www.auroragov.org/arts, 303-739-6520. Classes and camps for youth, ages 4-18, are provided year-round. Classes provide specific instruction in theater skills, while exploring youth literature. All classes and camps culminate in a performance or sharing with family and friends

PHAMALY THEATRE COMPANY 3532 Franklin St., Suite T2 (performance venues vary), 303-365-0005; www.phamaly.org. Formerly known as The Physically Handicapped Actors & Musical Artists League, Phamaly presents professional-scale shows cast entirely with performers with disabilities, with the goals of empowerment and increasing opportunity. See the website for details on upcoming performances.

THE THREE LEACHES Most performances take place at Stapleton MCA's event center, The Cube, Denver, 8371 Northfield Blvd., with one annual musical at Founders Green, 7601 29th Ave., Denver; www.thethreeleaches.com. The theater company founders produce all of their plays for under \$1,000 to ensure that the world of theater is affordable and accessible to everybody. Shows at The Cube cost \$16, and the annual musical is free.

VINTAGE THEATRE 1468 Dayton St., 303-856-7830; www.vintage theatre.org. Vintage Theatre's three performance spaces host performances most Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons.

April 17-May 24: "Shakespeare in Love"

May 1-June 14: "Fireflies"

June 19-Aug. 2: "Gypsy"

VISUAL ARTS/GALLERIES

ACAA FALL QUILT SALE Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle, 303-739-7950; www.auroragov.org/residents/senior_resources. The sale features quilts made by program participants, and proceeds benefit special projects at the ACAA. Dates for 2020 are Oct. 1, 10am-6pm; Oct. 2, 10am-5pm and Oct. 3, 9am-2pm.



April 17 – May 24

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

May 1 – June 14

FIREFLIES

June 19 – August 2

GYPSY

July 10 – August 9

CROSS WORDS

August 28 – October 11

QUILTERS

September 11 – October 14

ANGELS IN AMERICA

November 6 – December 20

THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO

November 20 – January 3

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&
May 3 - 2 p.m.



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1275 Fraser St., Aurora, CO

*For more info about shows and
to purchase tickets visit:*

www.aurorasingers.org
303.343.3377



AURORA ARTISTS GUILD Garden Plaza, 14221 E. Evans Ave.; www.auroraartists-guild.com. Artists meet at 7pm on the second Monday of each month (except July and December). 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 premiere art show called "Gateway to the Rockies" in November-December. Work is shown throughout the year at various venues around Aurora.

AURORA CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT GALLERY AND STUDIOS 1400 Dallas St., 303-344-2223; www.auroraculture.org, satya@auroraculture.org. The headquarters of the Aurora Cultural Arts District holds eleven artist studios, a classroom space, one marketspace, one room for retail space and a gallery with rotating exhibits. The studio spaces are available for rent; email tracy@auroraculture.org to see if spaces are available.

BICENTENNIAL ART CENTER 13655 E. Alameda Ave., 303-344-1776; www.auroragov.org/arts. The Center offers year-round pottery classes six days a week to children and adults of all skill levels, and hosts the Aurora Potters' Guild. Open Monday-Saturday.

CITY OF AURORA ART IN PUBLIC PLACES Various locations, 303-739-6747; www.auroragov.org/publicart. Established at the request of the Aurora City Council in 1993, Aurora's Art in Public Places (AIPP) program has made it possible for artists to enhance the city's public spaces with works ranging from outdoor sculptures and murals to functional works integrated into the architecture. Current collection includes more than 300 artwork pieces.

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

DENVER ART MUSEUM 100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway, 720-865-5000; www.denverartmuseum.org. This 356,000-square-foot museum complex includes collection gallery space, three temporary exhibition venues and the Lewis I. Sharp Auditorium. Museum hours are Saturday-Thursday 10am-5pm and Friday 10am-8pm. Tickets free on the first Saturday of the month, with bilingual offerings. On the final Friday of the month, DAM offers behind-the-scenes tours, local artist performances, food and drink. Current and upcoming exhibits:

On view through July 12: "Treasures of British Art: The Berger Collection"

May 2-Aug. 23: "Norman Rockwell: Imagining Freedom"

Opening June 6: "Gio Ponti: Designer of a Thousand Talents"

Opening Oct. 25: "Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and Mexican Modernism"

See website for full list of exhibits.

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 Open Studio, Job Training in Computer Art Lab, Job Training in Studio Arts, Family Arts, and Traveling Arts School. For full event details, call DAVA or check the website.

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. Check website for current hours and events. ★

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libraries + museums

Aurora Central Library

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Please confirm your plans online or with a phone call.**

For general information on all libraries and library programs, call 303-739-6600 or visit www.auroralibrary.org.

About 1.2 million library visits a year keep Aurora Public Library workers busy. They provide traditional library services, as well as unique and innovative free programming for all ages at six convenient locations around Aurora. They also partner with schools, several events, and local businesses to expand their offerings. Check out your favorite branch for more information.

LIBRARIES

AURORA CENTRAL LIBRARY (central) 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6600. Computers, two meeting rooms, early literacy center, Spanish collections, Aurora Genealogical Society Library, and wireless Internet access. Open Monday-Thursday 8am-10pm, Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 8am-6pm and Sunday 10am-6pm. Full-service hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm, Friday-Saturday 10am-6pm and Sunday 12:30-6pm. Storytimes: Call 303-739-6626 or visit www.auroralibrary.org for schedule.

FRIENDS OF THE AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK OUTLET 2243 S. Peoria St., 720-747-7977; www.fapl.info/book-outlet. Open Monday 10am-4pm, Wednesday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-8pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. Closed Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

HOFFMAN LIBRARY (north) 1298 Peoria St., 303-739-1572. Sewing Lab and Create Space. Open Monday 11am-7pm, and Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm. Closed Sunday. Storytime: Tuesday 10:30am.

ILIFF SQUARE LIBRARY (southwest) 2253 S. Peoria St., 303-739-1567. Open Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday 10am-6pm, Wednesday 11am-7pm and Sunday 11am-5pm. Storytime: Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY (northwest) 9898 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1940. Computer lab, Spanish collection, John and Edna Mosley African-American Culture Collection and wireless Internet access. Open Monday and Wednesday-Saturday 10am-6pm and Tuesday 11am-7pm. Closed Sunday. Storytime: Wednesday 10:30am.

MISSION VIEJO LIBRARY (central) 15324 E. Hampden Circle, 303-326-8600. Computers, meeting rooms and wireless Internet access. Open Monday and Wednesday-Saturday 10am-6pm and Tuesday 11am-7pm. Closed Sunday. Storytimes: Call 303-326-8600 or visit www.auroralibrary.org for schedule.

TALLYN'S REACH LIBRARY (southeast) 23911 E. Arapahoe Road, 303-627-3050. Computers, meeting rooms and wireless Internet, and weekly teen and young adult programs. Open Monday 11am-7pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm. Closed Sunday. Storytimes: Call 303-627-3050 or visit www.auroralibrary.org for schedule.

SPECIAL EVENTS

AURORA CRAFT BREW TOUR May-October. Explore the Aurora area's great craft beer scene. Visit participating locations, purchase a pint and get your passport stamped. Visit any Aurora public library to pick up your free prizes.

SEASON OF GIVING November-December 2019. See full listing on page 46.

STORYWALK Sidecreek Park, 19001 E. Colorado Drive, 303-739-6584. A deconstructed picture book is mounted on a series of 20 signposts throughout the park. The story begins on the first sign and as the family walks a 0.4 mile spiral to the playground, they are able to read the book in its entirety.

SUMMER OF IMAGINATION All library branches, May 27-Aug. 1. With a program for everyone from babies to adults, there's fun and prizes for all ages.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ADULT SEWING LAB Hoffman Library and PC Center. Want to learn basic repairs to clothing and other items? Need alterations to your favorite clothes and want to learn to do it yourself? Need help reading a pattern? One-on-one direction or help when you need it.



BOOKS AT THE BAR Various locations. Meet up at a local brewery for lively discussions on popular and contemporary literature. Register online at www.auroralibrary.org and coordinators will contact you via email with the title of the next book and the location of that month's brewery. Adults 21 and over only.

LUNCH & LECTURE SERIES Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660. New lecture every month on the third Wednesday of each month, noon-1pm. Call or check the museum's website for specific topic information. Bring a lunch. \$4; \$3 for Aurora residents.

COMPUTER CLASSES Computer classes covering a variety of subjects are available at several branches. To schedule a computer tutoring session at Aurora Central Library, call 303-739-6630. Hoffman PC Center hosts weekly classes and one-on-one tutoring by request; for information call 303-739-1572. Mission Viejo and Tallyn's Reach libraries host weekly classes. To reserve a time at Mission Viejo, call 303-326-8600; to reserve a time at Tallyn's Reach, call 303-627-3050.

FESTIVAL OF WREATHS Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660. www.auroramuseum.org. See full listing on page 40.

PURRFECT READING BUDDY Aurora Animal Shelter, 15750 E. 32nd Ave., 303-739-6589; www.auroraanimalshelter.org. Children can practice their reading skills while providing enrichment to cats waiting for their forever homes at the city of Aurora Animal Shelter.

TEEN ADVISORY GROUPS Tallyn's Reach, Mission Viejo and Central libraries, 303-739-6600; www.aurorapubliclibrary.org. Are you a teen looking to get involved? Do you need community-service hours or extracurricular activities for college applications? Are you just looking for a great place to hang out and meet people?

MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

AURORA HISTORIC SITES 303-739-6660, www.auroragov.org/historicsites. Call or visit the website for more details about the City of Aurora Local Landmark program and view an interactive map of Aurora's local landmarks. Historic sites owned and operated by the city of Aurora include Centennial House and the buildings at Delaney Homestead Historic District.

AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, 303-739-6660; www.auroramuseum.org. Experience Aurora's diverse cultural heritage at the Aurora History Museum. Special events include lectures, performances and education programs for the whole family. Displays with historical themes are presented throughout the museum and the Collector's Corner highlights artifacts in a local resident's collection. Children engage in history through interactive experiences in the Hands-on Room. Permanent exhibit, "Growing Home" includes over 100 historic images, unique objects from the museum's collection, and the fully restored 1913 Trolley Trailer No. 610 in the Ruth Fountain Gallery. Reference library and museum archives are available by appointment only. Open Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm and Saturday-Sunday 11am-4pm. Closed Monday. Free admission.

CENTENNIAL HOUSE 1671 Galena St., 303-739-6660; www.auroragov.org/historicsites. This 1890 Queen Anne Victorian style home is one of the oldest original houses built as part of the Town of Fletcher, now called Aurora. Like all Fletcher homes, it was built with indoor plumbing to the kitchen and upstairs bath. The city of Aurora purchased the house in 1990 and community members restored it for Aurora's centennial year in 1991. Open days are scheduled during June-August from 11am-2pm with special holiday open days in December.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF DENVER 2121 Children's Museum Drive, Denver, 303-433-7444; www.mychildsmuseum.org. The Children's Museum is Denver's best learn-while-you-play experience for children of all ages. Programs and play-scapes, 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 year-round family events. Open Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday 9am-4pm, Wednesday 9am-7pm and Saturday-Sunday 10am-5pm.

COLORADO GRANGE MUSEUM 21901 E. Hampden Ave.; www.coloradogrange.org/museum. 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 only; to schedule, email costategrange@gmail.com.

DELANEY HOMESTEAD HISTORIC DISTRICT 170 S. Chambers Road, 303-739-6660; www.auroragov.org/historicsites. Originally homesteaded in the 1880s, DeLaney Homestead features a rare round barn and the oldest known home in Aurora. In addition to the historic buildings, the farm is home to an urban garden complex, a riding arena and special events. The historic buildings are open on scheduled days between June and August from 10am-2pm, with special holiday open days in December.

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, 303-370-6000; www.dmns.org. This museum inspires curiosity and excites minds of all ages through a variety of permanent exhibitions, programs and activities that help museum visitors experience the natural wonders of Colorado, wildlife, mummies, Earth, the human body and the universe. Special upcoming exhibition "The Art of the Brick" (LEGO sculptures) opens June 19. Museum open daily 9am-5pm, except Dec. 25.

MELVIN SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM-LIBRARY 16100 E. Smoky Hill Road (at Laredo); www.ccvhsco.com/melvin-schoolhouse-and-museum.html. 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. Email the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society at ccvhsco@gmail.com.

MORRISON NATURE CENTER 16002 E. Smith Road, 303-326-8445; www.auroragov.org/nature. 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 Wednesday-Sunday year-round, including monthly bird walks for adults. Star K Kids aged 5 and under can discover Aurora's wild side with puppets, stories, activities and outdoor exploration. Junior Rangers aged 6-12 get outside to explore plants and animals at Star K Ranch. Open Wednesday-Friday noon-4pm and Saturday-Sunday 9am-4pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER 21901 E. Hampden Ave. 303-326-8380. www.auroragov.org/nature. Explore the nature center, authentic Cheyenne camp with tipis, sod houses, blacksmith shop and schoolhouse. The Denver Botanic Gardens organizes student programs as well as guided group tours. Participants watch for wildlife and tour the structures, learning what it was like to be a homesteader and a Native American living on the prairie in the 1800s.

SENAC CREEK NATURE CENTER AT AURORA RESERVOIR 5800 S. Powhatten Road, 303-326-8425, www.auroragov.org/nature. The Senac Creek Nature Center at the Aurora Reservoir focuses on educational programming about water ecosystems and the importance of water to our communities. Entry to the nature center and reservoir property is free if visiting the nature center only, and \$10 per day per vehicle when enjoying other reservoir amenities. Open Wednesday-Friday noon-4:30pm and Saturday-Sunday 9am-4:30pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM 7711 E. Academy Blvd., 303-360-5360; www.wingsmuseum.org. Located in a 1930s Air Force hangar in the Lowry neighborhood, Wings Over the Rockies houses dozens of historic airplanes, space vehicles and interactive exhibits. Wings' collection includes a rare B-18A Bolo, five Century-Series fighters, an RF-84K Thunderflash, one of two B-1A Lancers and a replica of the Star Wars X-Wing Starfighter. Wings Member events include Cockpit Demo Day, Member Mondays, Storytime in the Exploration Station and Stories from Space. Open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm and Sundays from noon-5pm. ★



get out + enjoy

Aurora Sports Park

**Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all dates are subject to change.
Please confirm your plans online or with a phone call.**

ARCHERY

AURORA RESERVOIR ARCHERY RANGE 5800 S. Powhathon Road, 303-690-1633; www.auroragov.org/reservoirs 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. \$10 per vehicle daily entry fee.

FAMILY SHOOTING CENTER Cherry Creek State Park, 4201 South Parker Road, 303-680-5401; www.familyshootingcenter.com. A fun-filled morning of archery followed by friendly competition. No experience necessary. Equipment provided or bring your own. Ages 7-adult.

BIKING & MULTIUSE TRAILS

Call 303-739-7160 for trail information. Pick up a copy of the park and trail system map at recreation centers, libraries, reservoirs, golf courses and the Aurora Municipal Center. View online at www.auroragov.org/parks.

AURORA RESERVOIR TRAIL circles the reservoir for 8 miles. Access the hard-surface trail at Quincy Avenue and Powhathon Road, pay a \$10 day-use fee and park your car at the swim beach. A 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 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 and Plains Trail.

HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL Colorado's most famous urban parkway runs more than 12 miles through the heart of Aurora. It's open to equestrians, except in Denver.

PARKLANE TRAIL is a 0.5 miles hard surface trail accessed from Parklane Park and Sand Creek Park. It connects to Sand Creek Greenway Trail.

PINEY CREEK TRAIL runs for 3.9 paved-surface miles in Aurora, continuing into the Denver metro area for 9.4 miles. Connects the Cherry Creek State Park southeast to the Aurora Reservoir area trails.

PLAINS TRAIL borders the expansive Plains Conservation Center open space for 1.8 miles.

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

QUINCY RESERVOIR TRAIL can be accessed from Quincy Reservoir (fee area); it is a certified 5k (3.1 miles) soft surface trail. NOTE: no dogs or bikes allowed at Quincy Reservoir.

RIDGEVIEW TRAIL is a 1-mile, hard surface trail with access from Horseshoe Park.

SAND CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL 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.

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.

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.

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

ARAPAHOE LITTLE LEAGUE Various locations, www.arapahoeleague.com. Baseball and softball for ages 4-16.

CENTENNIAL YOUTH BASEBALL Various locations, 720-353-0826; www.centennialbaseball.com. Baseball and softball for boys and girls ages 4-19.

CHERRY CREEK LITTLE LEAGUE Various locations, www.cherrycreekLL.com. Baseball for ages 4-16.

CITY OF AURORA ADULT LEAGUES Various locations, 303-326-8700; www.auroragov.org/adultsports. Recreational and competitive softball, volleyball (indoor and outdoor), tennis and kickball.

CITY OF AURORA YOUTH LEAGUES & CAMPS Various locations, 303-326-8650; www.auroragov.org/youthsports. Recreational basketball, T-ball, softball, baseball, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, track and volleyball.

COLORADO AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION Various locations. 720-593-2272; www.usasoftballofcolorado.org. Adult softball teams, umpire training, and a Junior Olympic program.

COLORADO RAPIDS YOUTH SOCCER CLUB 111 Havana St., Suite 120, 303-399-5858; www.rapidsyouthsoccer.org. Recreational and competitive, this club provides developmental and fun opportunities for boys and girls ages 3-18. Also offers league play and clinics throughout the year, and camps during school breaks.

DISC GOLF

These 18-hole public courses are available on a first-come, first-served basis. They are open from 5am-11pm daily. Download a map and scorecard at www.auroragov.org.

CENTRE HILLS PARK DISC GOLF COURSE 16300 E. CentreTech Parkway, 303-739-7160.

EXPO PARK DISC GOLF COURSE 10955 E. Exposition Ave., 303-739-7160.

FISHING & WATER SPORTS

AURORA RESERVOIR 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-326-8425; www.auroragov.org/reservoirs. Play at the beach, enjoy some of the state's best fishing, or try your hand at standup paddleboarding. Whether you choose to play on water or the shore, you'll love this picturesque destination. A great park to visit with your family or to find peace and quiet on the many surrounding trails. \$10 daily fee per vehicle, or choose a season pass that is also valid at Quincy Reservoir.

CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK 4201 S. Parker Road, 303-690-1166, www.cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/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, www.familyshootingcenter.com), horseback riding and camping. Campgrounds are open year-round.

QUINCY RESERVOIR 18350 E. Quincy Ave., 303-326-8424; www.auroragov.org/reservoirs. 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: \$10/vehicle, or get a season pass that's also valid at Aurora Reservoir.

GOLF COURSES

To book a tee time, call the golf course directly.

AURORA HILLS GOLF COURSE 50 S. Peoria St., 303-739-1550; www.golfaurora.com. An 18-hole, city-owned public regulation golf course and driving range. On-site restaurant, Tin Cup Bar & Grill, 303-739-1566.

COMMONGROUND GOLF COURSE 10300 E. Golfers Way, 303-340-1520; www.commongroundgc.com. An 18-hole championship privately managed public course.

EMERALD GREENS GOLF CLUB 597 S. Clinton St., 303-366-3133; www.windsorgardensdenver.org. A 9-hole privately owned public executive 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.heathergardensgolf.com. A 9-hole executive golf course open to the public.

HERITAGE EAGLE BEND GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB 23155 E. Heritage Parkway, 303-693-7788; www.heritageeaglebend.com. An 18-hole membership golf course.

MEADOW HILLS GOLF COURSE 3609 S. Dawson St., 303-326-8450; www.golfaurora.com. An 18-hole championship city-owned public golf course and driving range. On-site restaurant, Tin Cup Bar & Grill @Meadow Hills, 303-326-8452.

MURPHY CREEK GOLF COURSE 1700 S. Old Tom Morris Road, 303-739-1560; www.golfaurora.com. An 18-hole city-owned public championship golf course and driving range. On-site restaurant, Murphy Creek Tavern, 303-739-1510.

SADDLE ROCK GOLF COURSE 21705 E. Arapahoe Road, 303-326-8460; www.golfaurora.com. An 18-hole city-owned public championship golf course and driving range. On-site restaurant, Saddle Rock Grill, 303-326-8462.

SPRINGHILL GOLF COURSE 800 N. Telluride St., 303-739-6854; www.golfaurora.com. An 18-hole executive city-owned public golf course and driving range. On-site snack shop, The Shack, 303-739-6856.

HORSES

12 MILE STABLES Located inside Cherry Creek State Park at 5547 S. Parker Road, 303-699-6128; www.horserentalsdenver.com. Horse rentals, lessons, boarding and special events.

ARAPAHOE PARK RACETRACK 26000 E. Quincy Ave., 303-690-2400; www.mihiracing.com/mhre/miarapahoe. Watch horse racing from the comfort of a climate-controlled grandstand and clubhouse. Live racing in summer.

THE URBAN FARM AT STAPLETON 10200 Smith Road, Denver, 303-307-9332, www.theurbanfarm.org. This nonprofit provides experiential learning and practical work experience to young people in a farm setting.

PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS

The Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department has more than 97 developed parks located throughout the city. Amenities vary, but most parks have playground equipment and picnic shelters. The department also maintains over 8,000 acres of open space, including trail corridors, natural areas and reservoirs, open 5am-11pm daily. These natural spaces offer residents and visitors the opportunity to discover Aurora's true nature. For picnic shelter reservations, call 303-739-7213. For sports field rentals, call 303-326-8719.



Parks, Recreation & Open Space

AuroraGov.org/PROS

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Central Recreation Center



Red-Tailed Hawk Park Sprayground



97 developed parks
6 recreation centers



10 public pools
3 nature centers



91 miles of trails
2 reservoirs



For more information about Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space, call 303-739-7160 or visit www.auroragov.org/pros. Aurora's parks include:

AURORA SPORTS PARK 19300 E. Colfax, 303-326-8700. This 220-acre complex hosts major local, state and national competitions and offers 12 baseball/softball fields and 27 soccer/multiuse fields. The park has four lighted synthetic fields for year-round play, four playgrounds, seven picnic shelters and five concession areas.

CITY PARK 9701 E. 16th Ave. Has 5.3 acres with playground, two 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, outdoor fitness area, seasonal outdoor aquatic center (Del Mar Family Aquatic Center) and the Aurora Center for Active Adults (ACAA).

EXPO PARK 10955 E. Exposition Ave., 303-326-8630. Fifty-seven acres with playground, sports fields, lighted tennis courts, disc golf course, basketball courts and a recreation center. Trail connections to High Line Canal and Westerly Creek Trails.

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). Located next to the Quincy Reservoir.

GREAT PLAINS PARK 20100 E. Jewell Ave. Fifty-five acres with playground, shelters, basketball court, sport fields, perimeter trail and outdoor water "sprayground" (May-September).

HIGHLINE PARK 70 N. Peoria St. Thirty acres with baseball diamonds and a playground.

HOOPS PARK 16300 E. Sixth Ave. Consists of 1.4 acres with three newly resurfaced, regulation-sized outdoor basketball courts.

HORSESHOE PARK 2125 S. Kittredge Way. Eleven acres with playground, softball fields, trail connections to High Line Canal and Toll Gate trails and natural area.

MISSION VIEJO PARK 3999 S. Mission Parkway. Twenty-one acres with playground, sports fields and picnic shelter.

OLYMPIC PARK 15775 E. Yale Ave. Over 35 acres with lighted sports fields, picnic shelter and sand volleyball courts. Access to the Cherry Creek Spillway Trail and to Wheel Park.

RED-TAILED HAWK PARK 23701 E. Hinsdale Way. Thirty-five acres with playground, picnic shelters, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball court, outdoor water "sprayground" (May-September), open turf field and wetland boardwalk. A newly built, all-inclusive playground is featured in the park with sensory play equipment, a public art installation and plenty of fun for people of all abilities. Access to Piney Creek Trail.

SAND CREEK PARK 2700 N. Peoria St. This newly renovated 85.6-acre park features play equipment, an overlook boardwalk and access to the Sand Creek Greenway Trail, Toll Gate Creek Trail and Parklane Trail to both Parklane Park and Parklane Outdoor Pool.

UTAH PARK 1800 S. Peoria St., 303-739-6919. Over 45 acres with playground, sports fields, 10 lighted tennis courts, walking trail with wetland boardwalk, large picnic shelter and indoor pool. Access to Westerly Creek Trail and Jewell Wetlands.

WHEEL PARK 2500 S. Wheel Park Circle., 303-326-8716. This 25.2-acre park offers a large skateboard bowl, BMX track, synthetic turf hockey rink and RC (remote-control) track. Access to Cherry Creek Spillway Trail and Olympic Park.

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 303-326-8650 or visit www.auroragov.org/recreation.

AURORA CENTER FOR ACTIVE ADULTS (ACAA) 30 Del Mar Circle, 303-739-7950. Provides programs and services for adults aged 50 and over. Features weight and cardiovascular areas, drop-in fitness classes, day trips, crafts and hobbies.

BECK RECREATION CENTER 800 Telluride St., 303-739-6888 (recreation center), 303-739-6919 (pool). Full-service recreation center with indoor pool, hot tub, 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. (in Bicentennial Park), 303-344-1776. Home to the city's pottery arts studio for kids, teens and adults.

CENTRAL RECREATION CENTER 18150 E. Vassar Place, 303-326-8650 A new facility featuring a lap pool, indoor wave pool, lazy river, indoor/outdoor waterslide, indoor running track, gymnasium, escape room, fitness classes, weight room with free weights and cardiovascular machines, teaching kitchen and multipurpose rooms available for rentals.

EXPO RECREATION CENTER 10955 E. Exposition Ave., 303-326-8630. Home of the Aurora Cooks program, a professional teaching kitchen, multipurpose rooms

for dance and other recreation classes, state-of-the-art fitness equipment 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 memory 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 RECREATION CENTER 2390 Havana St., 303-326-8315. Full-service recreation center with indoor pool, hot tub, lazy river and waterslide, full-court gymnasium, weight room with free weights and cardiovascular machines, fitness classes, covered outdoor patio, public-use computers, a teaching kitchen and multipurpose rooms available for rentals for 400 people.

VILLAGE GREEN CENTER 1300 S. Chambers Circle, 303-326-8640. Small community center with multipurpose rooms, a dance/activity room, kitchen and tennis court. Surrounding park property includes the Village Green Outdoor Pool.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

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

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 memory or physical challenges.

SKATING (ICE, IN-LINE & ROLLER)

AURORA WHEEL PARK 2500 S. Wheel Park Circle, 303-326-8700; www.auroragov.org/pros. Located near Iliff Avenue and Chambers Road, just north of Olympic Park. BMX dirt racetrack, synthetic turf hockey rink 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., 303-739-7160; www.auroragov.org/pros. In-line hockey rink.

SEVEN HILLS PARK 3000 S. Ceylon Way, 303-739-7160; www.auroragov.org/pros. In-line hockey rink.

SKATE CITY AURORA 15100 E. Girard Ave., 303-690-1444; www.skatecitycolorado.com. Roller rink. Adult and youth inline hockey leagues.

SOUTHLANDS SHOPPING CENTER—ICE SKATING AT THE POND E-470 and Smoky Hill Road, 303-627-5000; www.shopsouthlands.com/thepond. Aurora's only outdoor seasonal ice rink is open November-March. Visit website for specific dates and hours.

SWIMMING

Outdoor pools operate approximately June-August. Swim lessons available during the season.

AQUA VISTA OUTDOOR POOL 18700 E. Wagontrail Circle, 303-680-7794; www.auroragov.org/pools. Summer swim lessons, lap and leisure swim, CARA Swim Team.

AURORA RESERVOIR 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-326-8425; www.auroragov.org/reservoirs. Seasonal swim beach (May-October).

BECK RECREATION CENTER INDOOR POOL 800 Telluride St., 303-739-6894; www.auroragov.org/pools. Warm-water indoor pool at full-service recreation center. Offers a full range of swim lessons and aquatic fitness classes, lap swimming and hot tub.

CENTRAL RECREATION CENTER INDOOR POOL 18150 E. Vassar Pl., 303-326-8650. www.auroragov.org/pools. Warm-water indoor pool at a brand new, full-service recreation center. Amenities include lap pool, indoor wave pool, lazy river, indoor/outdoor waterslide and indoor "sprayground." Offers a full range of swim lessons and aquatic fitness classes.

CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK (RESERVOIR) 4201 S. Parker Road, 303-690-1166; www.auroragov.org/reservoirs. Open summers.

DEL MAR FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER 12000 E. Sixth Ave., 303-739-1520; www.auroragov.org/pools. Offers waterslides, a large water playground, lap swimming and picnic shelter rentals.

MEADOW HILLS OUTDOOR POOL 3609 S. Dawson St., 303-693-0018; www.auroragov.org/pools. Summer swim lessons, lap and leisure swim.

MOORHEAD RECREATION CENTER INDOOR POOL 2390 Havana St., 303-326-8315; www.auroragov.org/pools. Warm-water indoor pool at a full-service recreation center. Amenities include lap pool, indoor water "sprayground," indoor/outdoor waterslide, hot tub and lazy river. Offers a full range of swim lessons and aquatic fitness classes.

PARKLANE OUTDOOR POOL 13003 E. 30th Ave., 303-341-2650; www.auroragov.org/pools. Summer swim lessons and leisure swim.

PHEASANT RUN OUTDOOR POOL 14971 E. Pheasant Run Parkway, 303-693-0863; www.auroragov.org/pools. Summer swim lessons, aquatic fitness classes, lap and leisure swim.

UTAH INDOOR POOL 1800 S. Peoria St., 303-739-1534; www.auroragov.org/pools. Offers a full range of swim lessons, aqua fitness classes, indoor water "sprayground," lap and leisure swimming.

VILLAGE GREEN OUTDOOR POOL 1300 S. Chambers Circle, 303-750-0253; www.auroragov.org/pools. Summer swim lessons, aquatic fitness and leisure swim.

TENNIS

Various locations, 303-326-8650; www.auroragov.org/tennis. Most city tennis courts are kept locked. Players can purchase a key for \$3 at the Aurora Center for Active Adults (ACAA), Expo Recreation Center, Meadowood Recreation Center or the Highline Recreation Office. Check court availability and make reservations online. Tournaments can be arranged for companies, associations, clubs and church groups.

WELLNESS

AURORA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER WELLNESS PROGRAM 11059 E. Bethany Drive, Suite 200, 303-617-2300; www.aumhc.org. This award-winning center 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

AURORA SUMMER CAMPS Various locations, 303-326-8650; www.auroragov.org/daycamps. Partial- and full-day camps include Zombie Apocalypse, cooking, sports and Youth Voyager, for ages 7-18. See website or Aurora Recreation Guide brochure for information.

CITY OF AURORA LIBRARY 303-739-6600; www.auroralibrary.org. Assorted programs for children of all ages. See full listing on page 50.

CITY OF AURORA LIBRARY & CULTURAL SERVICES Various locations, 303-739-6600; www.auroragov.org. Numerous classes in visual and performing arts, and historic and cultural themes, drop-in programs and more.

CITY OF AURORA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM www.auroragov.org/preschool. Programs feature year-round classes for children ages 2-6 that provide learning and play opportunities in a safe, positive environment.

Beck Preschool, 800 Telluride St., 303.739.6878

Lowry Preschool, 1016 Boston St., #880, 303.326.8328

Meadowood Preschool, 3054 S. Laredo St., 303.326.8304

Summer Valley Preschool, 17400 E. Lehigh Place, 303.326.8676

Village Green Preschool, 1300 S. Chambers Circle, 303.326.8640

CITY OF AURORA RECREATION SERVICES Various locations, 303-326-8650; www.auroragov.org/recreation. For preschoolers: year-round classes and 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 (available at recreation centers and libraries) for current programs.

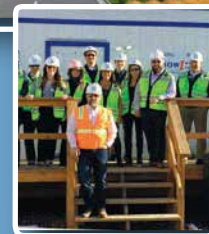
MOBILE PLAYGROUND 303-326-8315; www.auroragov.org/youth. City-sponsored truck brings board games, portable video games, bicycles, sports equipment and arts and crafts materials to various Aurora locations for free after-school drop-in activities. Call or visit website for current schedule.

MORRISON NATURE CENTER 16002 E. Smith Road, 303-326-8445; www.auroragov.org/nature. See full listing on page 40.

PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER 21901 E. Hampden Ave., 303-326-8390; www.auroragov.org/nature. See full listing on page 40.

SENAC CREEK NATURE CENTER AT AURORA RESERVOIR 5800 S. Powhatan Road, 303-326-8425; www.auroragov.org/nature. The Senac Creek Nature Center nestled inside the Aurora Reservoir property is open throughout all week. The nature center focuses on educational programming about our water ecosystems and the importance of water to our communities. Entry to the nature center and reservoir property is free if visiting the nature center only, and \$10 per day per vehicle when enjoying other reservoir amenities. *

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ALOFT DENVER AIRPORT AT GATEWAY PARK 16470 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, 303-371-9500; www.aloftdia.com. Hotel features 144 loft-inspired rooms with oversize windows, flat-screen TVs and WiFi.

BAYMONT INN & SUITES DIA 6805 N. Argonne St., Denver, 303-373-5400; www.baymontinns.com. Features 128 rooms, free airport shuttle, breakfast and WiFi.

BEST WESTERN PLUS DIA 7020 Tower Road, Denver, 303-373-1600; www.bestwesterncolorado.com. Free WiFi in all 102 guest rooms. Hot tub, on-site laundry, business center, convenience store, free continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

BEST WESTERN PLUS GATEWAY INN & SUITES 800 S. Abilene St., Aurora, 720-748-4800; www.bestwesterncolorado.com. With 67 rooms, this inn is located near the Denver Tech Center, the new Gateway Corporate Business Park and the Anschutz campus, and is a short drive from downtown Denver and DIA. Amenities include HD TVs with cable, microwave, refrigerator, free long-distance calling, 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, fitness center and freshly baked cookies every afternoon in the lobby. Pets allowed. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 58.**

CAMBRIA HOTEL DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 16001 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, 303-576-9600; www.cambriasuitesdenverairport.com. Offers 151 suites with free WiFi and airport shuttle.

COMFORT INN-DENVER SOUTHEAST 14071 E. Iliff Ave., Aurora, 720-961-7494; www.choicehotels.com. 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 a fitness center, guest laundry, high-speed WiFi, business center and complimentary continental breakfast. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 60.**

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-DENVER AIRPORT 6901 Tower Road, Denver, 303-371-0300; www.marriott.com/denap. Features 202 guest rooms, six suites, restaurant and lounge, indoor pool, business services and free airport shuttle.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-DENVER AIRPORT AT GATEWAY PARK 4343 Airport Way, Denver, 303-574-1212; www.marriott.com/denuc. Rooms come with free WiFi, and hotel features a business center, airport shuttle, on-site restaurant and meeting/event space.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-DENVER STAPLETON 7415 E. 41st Ave., Denver, 303-333-3303; www.marriott.com/denca. Hotel features 146 guest rooms, two conference facilities, fitness center, and pool. Pets allowed.

CROWNE PLAZA DENVER AIRPORT CONVENTION CENTER 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver, 303-371-9494; www.cpdenverairport.com. Located minutes from DIA, this facility has 254 guest rooms, complimentary parking and 24-hour airport shuttle service. Enjoy the full fitness center and indoor pool, plus business center and on-site dining at the Terrace Restaurant and the Atrium Lounge. Same-day dry cleaning and laundry service available for your convenience, as well as 24-hour room service and on-site convenience store. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 60.**

nience, as well as 24-hour room service and on-site convenience store. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 60.**

DENVERAIRPORTMARRIOTTATGATEWAYPARK 16455 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, 303-371-4333; www.marriott.com/dengp. Has 236 guest rooms, business center, 24-hour indoor pool, exercise facility, lounge and airport shuttle.

DENVER MARRIOTT TECH CENTER 4900 S. Syracuse St., Denver, 303-779-1100; www.marriott.com/dentc. The 605 guest rooms all have kitchenettes, and the hotel features more than 50,000 square feet of meeting space, a pool and fitness center. Pets allowed.

DENVER'S BEST INN & SUITES 4590 Quebec St., Denver, 303-320-0260; www.denverbstinn.com. Features 197 guest rooms, restaurant, free warm breakfast, outdoor pool and fitness center. Children under 17 stay free.

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON DENVER 3203 Quebec St., Denver, 303-321-3333; www.denver.doubletree.com. Conveniently located between downtown Denver and DIA, the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver has 561 guest rooms and six suites with free WiFi. It features 32,000 square feet of meeting space, an indoor pool and on-site restaurant. The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to the Central Park RTD Station and daily shuttle service to and from the Stapleton/Northfield shopping area. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 59.**

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON-DENVER AURORA 13696 E. Iliff Place, Aurora, 303-337-2800; www.denveraurora.doubletree.com. This hotel has 248 guest rooms, a restaurant and lounge, an indoor pool, airport shuttle and 14,000 square feet of meeting/event space.

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON DENVER-STAPLETON NORTH 4040 Quebec St., Denver, 303-321-6666; www.doubletree.com. This hotel features three suites and 300 guest rooms with refrigerators and large work desks. The hotel also has an outdoor pool, indoor workout facility, restaurant, lounge and room service, plus 15,000 square feet of meeting space. Offers free WiFi in guest rooms and lobby, and shuttle service to Central Park RTD station, Quebec Square retail center and Stapleton/Northfield shopping area. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 59.**

DRURY INN & SUITES DENVER STAPLETON 4550 N. Central Park Blvd., Denver, 303-373-1983; www.druryhotels.com. This 180-room inn has three meeting rooms and a pool. Amenities include breakfast, high-speed Internet, fitness center, business center and evening socials with complementary refreshments.

ECONO LODGE-DIA 15900 E. 40th Ave., Aurora, 303-373-1616; www.choicehotels.com. Offers 119 guest rooms with free WiFi, free local calls and cable TV. Sundek, free continental breakfast and airport shuttle. Pets allowed.

EMBASSY SUITES-DENVER STAPLETON 4444 N. Havana St., Denver, 303-375-0400; www.embassysuites.com. Has 210 guest suites, pool, restaurant and room service. Complimentary breakfast and airport shuttle, business center and meeting room.

EMBASSY SUITES DENVER TECH CENTER NORTH 7525 E. Hampden Ave., Denver, 303-696-6644; www.embassysuites.com. This hotel is located minutes from the Denver Tech Center and features two-room suites with free WiFi. Free made-to-order breakfasts and complimentary refreshments at evening receptions. The hotel also has an indoor pool and hot tub, fitness center, business center, restaurant, five meeting rooms and a grand ballroom for events of up to 500 people. **PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 58.**

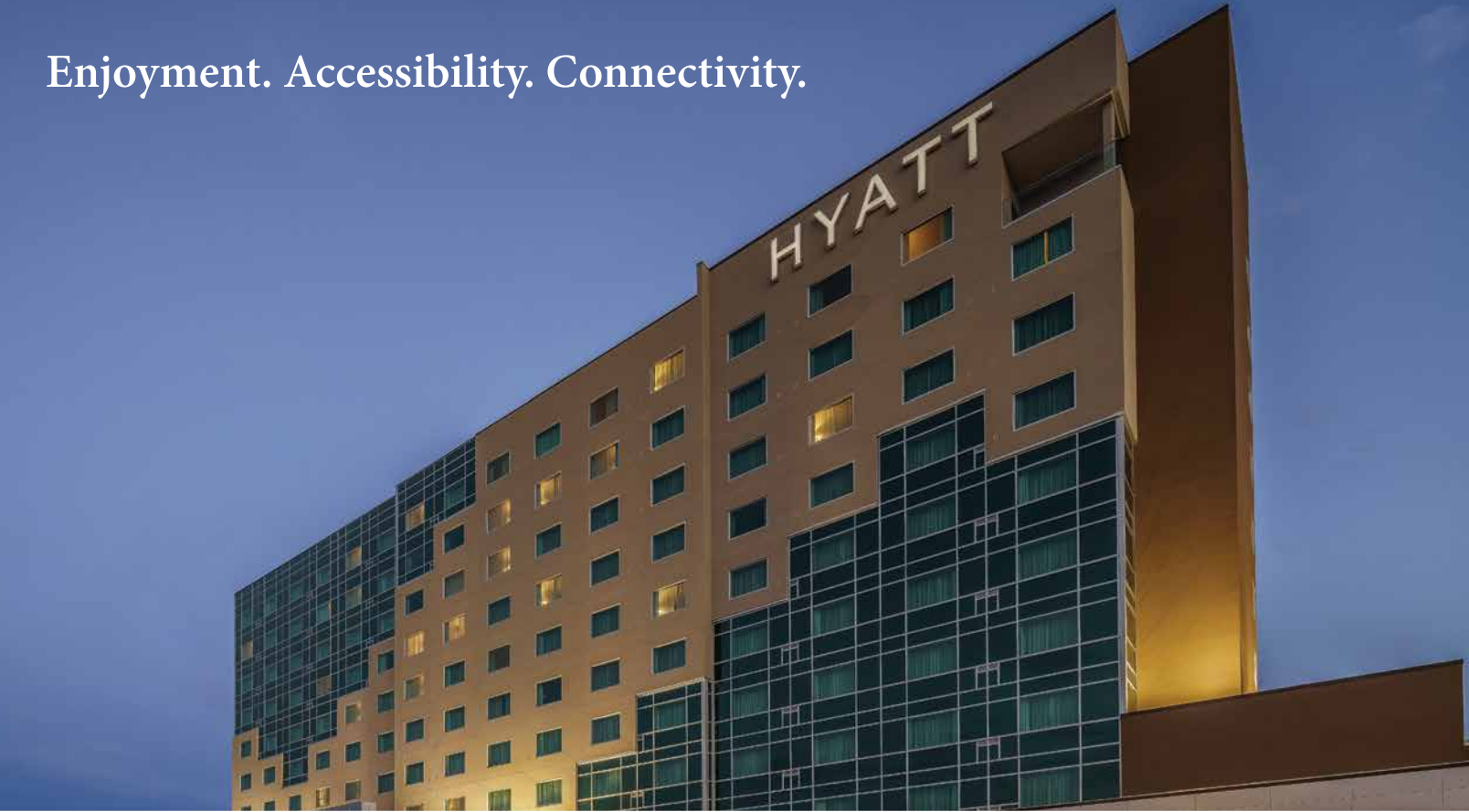
EMBASSY SUITES-DIA 7001 Yampa St., Denver, 303-574-3000; www.embassysuites.com. Offers 174 guest suites, pool, restaurant, lounge, fitness center, and room service. Free breakfast and airport shuttle.

EXTENDED STAY AMERICA-DENVER-AURORA NORTH 14095 E. Evans Ave., Aurora, 303-337-7000; www.extendedstayamerica.com. The 136 guest rooms and suites have fully equipped kitchens. WiFi, seasonal outdoor pool, meeting room, fitness center and free grab-and-go breakfast. Pets allowed.

EXTENDED STAY AMERICA-DENVER AURORA SOUTH 13941 E. Harvard Ave., Aurora, 303-750-9116; www.extendedstayamerica.com. Extended-stay facility has 137 rooms with full kitchen and work area, laundry and free grab-and-go breakfast. Pets allowed.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DENVER AIRPORT 6851 Tower Road, Denver, 303-576-9640; www.marriott.com/denfa. The 161 guest rooms come with free WiFi. Hotel includes indoor pool, fitness center, business center, complimentary continental breakfast and airport shuttle service.

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FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DENVER AURORA/MEDICAL CENTER 13851 E. Harvard Ave., Aurora, 303-745-6700; www.marriott.com/denau. Hotel features 82 guest rooms and 20 executive suites with microwaves and refrigerators upon request, plus indoor pool and free continental breakfast.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DENVER AURORA/PARKER 24192 E. Prospect Ave., Aurora, 303-928-7500; www.marriott.com/denas. Hotel has 131 rooms and 13 suites, with fitness center, pool, guest laundry, free WiFi and continental breakfast.

GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER 6700 N. Gaylord Rockies Blvd., Aurora, 720-452-6900; www.marriott.com/dengr. New resort with 1500 rooms, eight dining areas, full spa and fitness center, indoor/outdoor pool and lazy river, and over 485,000 square feet of meeting and convention space.

HAMPTON INN-DENVER/AIRPORT-GATEWAY PARK 4310 Airport Way, Denver, 303-375-8118; www.hamptoninn.com. Nonsmoking facility has 115 rooms, an indoor pool, hot tub and fitness center. Free WiFi, airport shuttle and breakfast.

HAMPTON INN-DIA 6290 Tower Road, Denver, 303-371-0200; www.hamptoninn.com. Has 122 guest rooms, business center, large and small meeting rooms, a saline pool and fitness center. Free continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

HILTON GARDEN INN-DIA 16475 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, 303-371-9393; www.hiltongardeninn.com. Offers 157 guest rooms with free WiFi, meeting rooms, an on-site restaurant, fitness center, indoor pool and business center.

HOLIDAY INN-DENVER EAST/STAPLETON 3333 E. Quebec St., Denver, 303-321-3500; www.holidayinn.com. Features 300 guest rooms with free WiFi, 20,000 square feet of meeting space, indoor/outdoor pool, fitness center, and restaurant.

HOLIDAY INN-DENVER AIRPORT 6900 Tower Road, Denver, 303-574-1300; www.holidayinn.com. The hotel features 161 guest rooms with free WiFi, a sports bar, fitness center and indoor pool. Free airport shuttle.

HOMETOWNE STUDIOS DENVER AIRPORT-AURORA 3705 N. Chambers Road, Aurora, 303-307-1088; www.redroof.com/extendedstay/hometownstudios. Extended stay rooms with kitchenettes, free WiFi, and flat-screen TVs.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON-DIA 6792 Tower Road, Denver, 303-307-4444; www.home2suites.com. Extended-stay hotel offers spacious suites with full kitchens, an indoor saline pool, business center, fitness center, and free airport shuttle. Pets allowed.

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON-DIA 4210 Airport Way, Denver, 303-371-4555; www.homewoodsuites.com. With 117 studio, one- and two-bedroom suites, this inn offers free breakfast, fitness center, pool, basketball court and meeting space.

HYATT PLACE DENVER AIRPORT 16250 E. 40th Ave., Aurora, 303-371-0700; www.hyatt.com. This 128-suite hotel features free WiFi, 24/7 dining, meeting space and a pool. Pets allowed.

HYATT REGENCY AURORA-DENVER CONFERENCE CENTER 13200 E. 14th Place, Aurora, 303-365-1234; www.aurora.regency.hyatt.com. Conveniently located across from the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus, this hotel offers 249 guest rooms and suites and more than 30,000 square feet of flexible conference and event venue space. Amenities include free WiFi, a 500-vehicle parking garage, fitness center, on-site restaurant and an outdoor pool. Accessible to the light rail system linking the hotel to the city and Denver International Airport.

PLEASE SEE AD ON PAGE 57.

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INTOWN SUITES-AURORA EAST 2221 S. Havana St., Aurora, 303-283-8421; www.intownsuites.com. Extended stay hotel features 137 guest rooms with free WiFi, full kitchens and laundry.

INTOWN SUITES-AURORA WEST 14090 E. Evans Ave., Aurora, 303-481-0379; www.intownsuites.com. Extended stay hotel features 148 guest rooms with free WiFi, full kitchens and laundry.

KNIGHTS INN AURORA 14200 E. Sixth Ave., Aurora, 303-366-7333; www.redlion.com/knights-inn. Centrally located with heated pool, WiFi, free breakfast and an on-site bar. Pets allowed.

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES DENVER-AURORA MEDICAL CENTER 1500 S. Abilene St., Aurora, 303-369-8400; www.lq.com. This 129-room hotel offers an outdoor pool, fitness center, business center, meeting rooms, free WiFi and breakfast. Pets allowed.

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES-DIA 6801 Tower Road, Denver, 303-371-0888; www.lq.com. Features 169 guest rooms with free WiFi, a business center, fitness center, pool, free continental breakfast and airport shuttle. Pets allowed.

OYO HOTEL DENVER I-70 NORTHEAST 3975 Peoria Way, Denver, 628-239-4299; www.oyorooms.com. Features 112 guest rooms with free WiFi, a heated outdoor pool, fitness center and free continental breakfast.

QUALITY INN 1011 S. Abilene St., Aurora, 303-337-0206; www.qualityinn.com. This smoke-free inn features 122 guest rooms with free WiFi, meeting space, an outdoor pool and free hot breakfast.

QUALITY INN & SUITES DENVER AIRPORT-GATEWAY PARK 3300 Ouray St., Aurora, 303-340-3800; www.qualityinn.com. 100 percent smoke-free hotel with free Wifi, business center, fitness center, convenience store, indoor heated pool, free hot breakfast and free airport shuttle. Pets Allowed.

QUALITY INN & SUITES-DIA 6890 Tower Road, Aurora, 303-371-5300; www.qualityinnindia.com. The 110 guest rooms have free WiFi. Year-round pool, fitness center, meeting space, convenience store and 24-hour airport shuttle. Pets allowed.

RADISSON HOTEL DENVER-AURORA 3155 S. Vaughn Way, Aurora, 720-857-9000; www.radisson.com. Features 287 rooms with free WiFi, fitness center, business center, on-site restaurant, outdoor pool and 25,000 square feet of professional meeting space.

RAMADA-DIA 6210 Tower Road, Denver, 303-785-7011; www.ramada.com. The 83 guest suites have free WiFi, access to fitness center, business center, jacuzzi, free continental breakfast and airport shuttle.

RED LION INN & SUITES-DENVER AIRPORT 16921 E. 32nd Ave., Aurora, 303-367-5000; www.redlion.com. Features 95 rooms, indoor pool, free hot breakfast, shuttle service, business center and fitness center. Children 12 and under stay free. Pet friendly with daily fee.

RENAISSANCE DENVER STAPLETON HOTEL 3801 Quebec St., Denver, 303-399-7500; www.marriott.com/densa. Hotel features a fitness facility, indoor/outdoor pool and whirlpool, on-site restaurant and 41,482 square feet of event space. Pets allowed.

RESIDENCE INN DENVER AIRPORT-CONVENTION CENTER 6762 Tower Road, Denver, 303-307-9100; www.marriott.com/denra. All-suite hotel located a few miles from DIA with full kitchens, fitness center, indoor saline pool, 24-hour airport shuttle, free breakfast and evening socials. Pets allowed.

RESIDENCE INN DENVER AIRPORT-GATEWAY PARK 16490 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, 303-459-8000; www.residenceinindia.com. Located 10 miles from the

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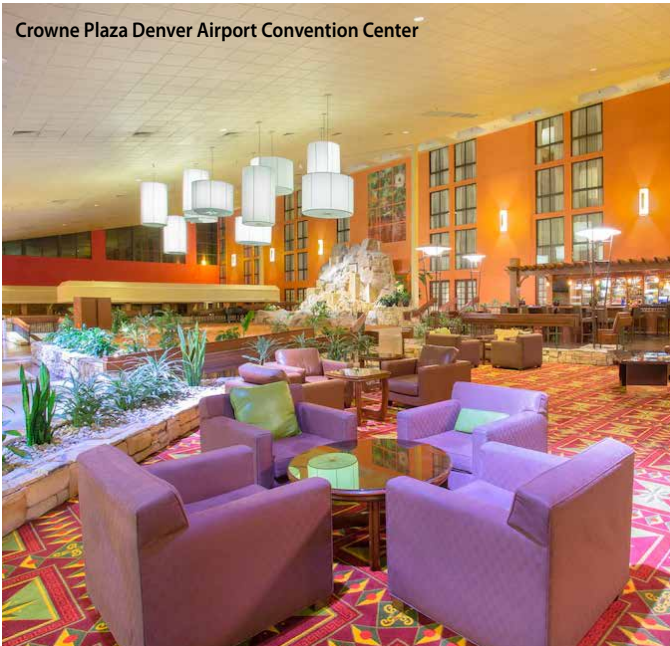
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SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DENVER AT ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS 13400 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, 720-859-1100; www.marriott.com/denaf. All-suites hotel has 153 rooms, free WiFi, an indoor pool, fitness center, business center, bar, free hot breakfast and shuttle.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 18350 E. 68th Ave., Denver, 303-371-9400; marriott.com/denda. This all-suites

hotel features 124 rooms with free WiFi, an indoor pool, hot tub, meeting space for up to 40 people, 24/7 free airport shuttle and complimentary breakfast.

STAYBRIDGE SUITES DENVER STAPLETON 8101 Northfield Blvd., Denver, 303-227-3000; www.staybridge.com. This hotel features rooms with free WiFi and full kitchens, on-site business center, fitness center, indoor heated pool and whirlpool. Complimentary breakfast and evening socials Mon-Wed.

STAYBRIDGE SUITES-DIA 6951 Tower Road, Denver, 303-574-0888; www.staydia.com. Amenities include fully equipped kitchens, pool, fitness center, business center, free WiFi, and free parking and breakfast. Pets allowed.

THE TIMBERS HOTEL 4411 Peoria St., Denver, 303-373-1444; www.thetimbersdenver.com. Residence hotel features one- and two-bedroom suites, a fitness center, business center, on-site restaurant and more than 5,000 square feet of meeting space.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DENVER AIRPORT AT GATEWAY PARK 4100 N. Kittredge St., Denver, 303-373-4243; www.marriott.com/denta. Extended-stay hotel has 99 suites with kitchens and free WiFi, fitness center, meeting room, indoor pool, free breakfast and airport shuttle. Pets welcome.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT-DENVER SOUTHEAST 3699 S. Monaco Parkway, Denver, 303-759-9393; www.marriott.com/dentn. The 113 suites have kitchens, free WiFi, access to a fitness center, outdoor pool and free breakfast. Pets allowed.

WOODSPRING SUITES DENVER AURORA 575 N. Billings St., Aurora, 303-344-4646. www.woodspring.com. Extended stay hotel. Rooms come with kitchens, free WiFi and on-site laundry. Pets allowed.

WOOLLEY'S CLASSIC SUITES-DENVER AIRPORT 16450 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, 720-599-3750; www.woolleysclassicsuites.com. Features 191 guest suites with free WiFi, meeting spaces, fitness center, business center, indoor pool, on-site restaurant, free airport shuttle, breakfast and cocktail hours. *

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13690 E. Iliff Ave. (at I-225), Aurora, 303-671-0560, www.legendsofaurora.com. A friendly, comfortable favorite with locals, travelers and "Yelpers," Legends offers tasty classics and unique food items like Philly cheese steaks, salads, Snake Bites (grilled, bacon-wrapped, cheese-stuffed jalapeños), calzones and award-winning pizzas. Gluten-free menu options including pizza are available. An unbeatable offering of HD TVs allows viewing of multiple games from any seating angle. Buzz Time, UFC, live trivia, bingo, poker, karaoke, sports packages and fast, free Wi-Fi keep you entertained. The long happy hour with generous daily specials is easy on the wallet. Two semi-private side rooms are available for parties, corporate events and more. Large party platters are perfect for on-site gatherings or take-away catering, with specials that include their famous chicken wings, pizza rolls and veggie alfredo baked ziti. Open 11am-2am daily. Happy hour drink specials available 11am-7pm, and food specials available 2-7pm. Voted one of CNN Travel's U.S. 101 best sports bars.

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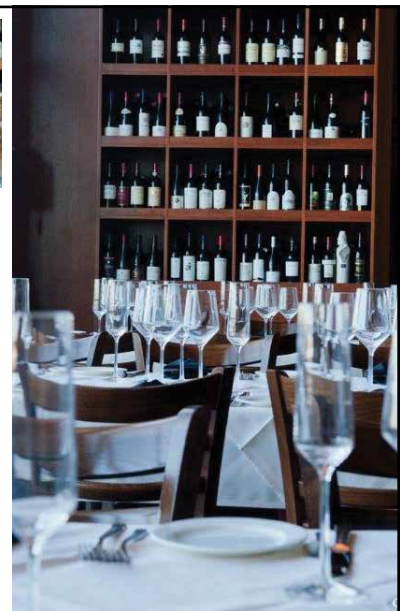
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NORTH DOCK 2801 Tower Road, Aurora, 303-400-5606, www.drydockbrewing.com. North Dock is Dry Dock's production facility. In 2013, this 30,000-square-foot building became home to the bulk of its brewing operations (currently at approximately 20,000 barrels each year) and all of its canning and bottling. North Dock includes a tap room with 12 varieties of Dry Dock beer on draft, and an 18-hole disc golf course. Try its famous Apricot Blonde ale or Hop Abomination IPA. Open Sun-Thurs from 2-8pm and Fri-Sat from noon-8pm. Brewing tours available on Saturdays at 2pm. Outside food welcome.

SOUTH DOCK 15120 E. Hampden Ave., Aurora, 303-400-5606, www.drydockbrewing.com. South Dock is Dry Dock's original location, right next door to The Brew Hut. Here they brew about 1500 barrels per year on their seven-barrel pub system. South Dock's tap room serves 16 beers on draft, hosts weekly live music and trivia, and offers indoor and outdoor seating. Enjoy board games, shuffleboard and free popcorn while you sip Dry Dock's iconic brews, like the Grapefruit Double IPA or Vanilla Porter. Open Mon-Thurs from noon-10pm, Friday from noon-11pm, Saturday from 11am-11pm and Sunday from 11am-10pm. Outside food welcome.

CULINARY WAVE CATERING

4880 Havana St., Denver, 303-371-8883, www.culinarywave.com. Offering unique, gourmet catering for private parties, corporate events, weddings and more, Culinary Wave is a full-service catering company with rentals and staff available for hire. For early events, treat your guests to unexpected breakfast and brunch fare like the breakfast lasagna buffet, lobster omelettes and southern peach blintzes. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktail party menus include spicy duck and pear wontons, mini beef Wellingtons and mini relleno poppers (full bar service available). Prepare for a picnic with boxed lunches or barbecue spreads, featuring slow-roasted meat and their signature honey chipotle barbecue sauce. For full buffets and plated meals, pick from menus that offer eclectic dishes from all over the world, specific regional dishes, local favorites, vegan and vegetarian offerings or create your own menu. Finish things off with fresh-baked desserts including wedding cakes, tortes, pies, cream puffs and éclairs. Get a taste of their casual fare at CW's Café, serving burgers, sandwiches, salads, soups and desserts. Café open Mon-Fri from 11am-2:30pm.

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ADVERTISER INDEX

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|----|---|--------------------|
| 225 Self Storage | 49 | Comfort Inn Denver SE | 60 | iPlace Seniors | 46 |
| 3 Day Blinds | 44 | Comfort Pest Control | 44 | Jordan Road Collision | 30 |
| 3D Electric | 42 | Comitis Crisis | 5 | Legends of Aurora Sports Grille | 61 |
| Advanced Pediatric Associates | 25 | Community College of Aurora | 1 | Lightshade | 39 |
| Allstate/Danielle Shannon Agency | 30 | Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center | 60 | Medical Center of Aurora | inside front cover |
| Alpine Auto Body | 30 | Culinary Wave Catering | 63 | Navy Federal Credit Union | 37 |
| Arapahoe County Fairgrounds | 7 | Day & Night Mechanical | 12 | Newman Center Presents | 16 |
| Aurora Chamber of Commerce | 55 | Double Tree by Hilton Denver | 59 | OB Painting | 4 |
| Aurora City Council | 2 | Double Tree by Hilton Denver-Stapleton North | 59 | Outback Steakhouse | 63 |
| Aurora Fox Arts Center | 49 | Dry Dock Brewing | 62 | Pickens Technical Center | back cover |
| Aurora Public Schools | 35 | Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Tech Center North | 58 | Pradia Home Health | 11 |
| Aurora Singers | 48 | Extra Building Materials | 9 | Saddle Rock Pediatric Dentistry | 29 |
| Aurora Symphony Orchestra | 46 | FirstBank | 19 | STRIDE Community Health | 43 |
| Backflow Consulting | 35 | Gardner Roofing | 30 | Tenaker Pet Care Center | 29 |
| Best Western Plus Gateway Inn & Suites | 58 | GE Heating | 14 | Terrapin Care Station | 15 |
| CareNow Urgent Care | 21 | Goal Academy | 29 | V-Esprit Active Adult Community | 18 |
| Cherry Creek Retirement Village | 33 | Good Chemistry | 23 | Vintage Theatre | 47 |
| Cherry Creek Schools | 3 | Grand Design | 13 | Westerra Credit Union | 41 |
| City of Aurora | inside back cover | Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center | 57 | Wine Experience Café | 61 |
| City of Aurora Park & Open Space | 53 | | | | |
| College America/Independence University | 21 | | | | |

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