

# Markert Times



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Aurora Farmers' Market

## Where in the Ward is Molly?

Sun.	June 1	All Day	My daughter Emily's Birthday
Mon.	June 2	7:30 PM	City Council Meeting
Wed.	June 4	12:00 - 1:30 PM	Annual Luncheon with Mayor, City Council Members and Judges (By Invitation Only)
Thurs.	June 5	5:30 - 7:00 PM	3rd Annual Employees and Families Art Exhibit Awards
Thurs.	June 5	6:00 - 7:30 PM	Teen Court Volunteer Recognition (By Invitation Only)
Sun.	June 8	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Ethiopian Unification Event, Aurora Municipal Center Great Hall
Sun.	June 8	12:00 - 9:00 PM	Fiesta Aurora, Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave.
Thurs.	June 12		Denver Urban Gardens Annual Picnic
Mon.	June 16	7:30 PM	City Council Meeting
Tues.	June 17 - Sat. June 21		Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference, Steamboat Springs
Sat.	June 21	3:00 - 9:00 PM	Cruzin' Havana Car Show and Festival (See article on page 3)
Tues.	June 24	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Aurora Farmers' Market Opens, (See article on page 3)
Wed.	June 25	All Day	Bike to Work Day (See article on page 2)
Thurs.	June 26	7:00 - 9:00 AM	Rosie's Diner, 14061 E. Iliff Ave. (Note this is a morning meeting)
Mon.	June 30	7:30 PM	City Council Meeting

## Ward IV April Trivia Quiz Answer

The question was: "Where in Ward IV is "The Orchard" and how did it get its name? Clue: It's a place where something is ripe for picking."

The answer is: The intersection of Havana and Missis-

sippi and it is so named because the tickets are ripe for picking whenever the police patrol the corner for right turns on red or running the red lights. Be aware, and beware!!!

## Up-Coming Ward IV Meetings

June 26, 7 am – 9 am (Note this is a morning meeting)  
Rosie's Diner, 14061 E. Iliff Ave.

July 24, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
Not Just Yogurt, 2275 S. Peoria St.

Aug. 28, 7 pm - 9 pm  
The Nile Ethiopian Restaurant, 1951 S. Havana St.

Sept. 25, 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Dumitri's Family Restaurant, 1911 S. Havana St.

## Ward Meeting Issues and Resolutions

### Fire Station 11 Landscaping

An observant constituent informed me that the landscaping at Fire Station 11 falls short of matching what was approved on the site plan. At my request, staff is finalizing bids to replace the missing and/or damaged landscaping and reviewing a few areas where plants. They will also review some plant material that did not handle the heat or soil conditions very well and if ne-

cessary recommend alternatives. The pruning and cleaning of the plant beds and burying of plastic pipe improved the overall appearance.

### Budget Suggestions

I have received some excellent suggestions from constituents on how to balance the City's budget and have passed them on to the Finance Director. Please continue to send me your suggestions.

## Bike to Work Day, June 25

A few years ago at the request of CDOT, the Colorado Legislature passed a bill officially declaring June as Bike to Work Month, the last Wednesday in June Bike to Work Day, June 25 this year, and the week of Bike to Work Day is Bike to Work Week.

CDOT is the official state-wide coordinator of and DRCOG is the official coordinator of Bike to Work Day (BTWD) activities in the metro area and has a team that works on this event throughout the year. DRCOG has a BTWD committee and staff from CDOT and all DRCOG member cities sit in on that committee includ-

ing Aurora.

In support of Colorado Bike to Work Month, Week, and Day, Aurora has the following events planned:

- June 5 a Lunch & Learn from 12:00-1:00 on Bike Repair 101 in the Aspen conference room (next to the City Café) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Aurora Municipal Center (AMC).
- Planning, Parks & Open Space and Libraries, Recreation & Cultural Services have joined forces to have a great BTWD breakfast station next to the fountain on the west side of the AMC from 6:30 - 9:00AM.

## Good News from APS Superintendant Barry

I am glad to say that 71% of Aurora Public Schools showed improvement in truancy this year--more than a 10% reduction throughout the district. Well done for the first year of an integrated approach to "Keeping our kids in school."

The other good news is that overall 42.4% of case managed students improved their attendance. This includes only those students who were case managed beginning in first quarter and were still enrolled in third

quarter.

Interestingly enough, overall 45.8% of truant non-case managed students improved their attendance. There could be multiple reasons for this, all of which are positive.

1. The case managers selected the more difficult students
2. The focus on truancy in a building may cause all students to be more aware of their absences.

## Please, let the Grass Grow at Utah Park

Aurora's Parks and Open Space Department asks that you stay off the new grass until the park is opened to the public. New sod, and especially seeded areas, needs to fully establish before the park can be opened for your use. They ask that you and your neighbors please be patient! Take care of our community park before and after the fences come down. The grand re-opening of Utah Park is scheduled for Aug. 9 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Everything except the following items are completed.

<u>TASKS</u>	<u>PROJECTED COMPLETION</u>
•Concrete flatwork Shelter plaza	5/28
•Parking lots & drives Peoria in/out lanes	To be determined

<u>TASKS</u>	<u>PROJECTED COMPLETION</u>
•Pavilions construction Shelter	6/6
•Irrigation pump electric service & required plumbing Lateral lines, heads & valves East	6/4
•Tree planting East	6/2
•Seeding Turf grass	6/9

NOTE: Project fence has been moved in to accommodate walking around the park perimeter. Fine grading, soil supplements, irrigation, seeding & sodding remain very dependent on weather and soil conditions.

## News on the Street--Havana Street that is:

### The Gardens on Havana

- Tenants who have signed leases include: T-Mobile, GNC, Jamba Juice, Qdoba and Dick's Sporting Goods. Miller Weingarten has received interest from and are in negotiations with a pet store user, Wachovia, Chick-fil-A, Del Taco, and an alternative grocery user.
- Miller Weingarten's permits for the infrastructure were delayed. This explains why we didn't see any activity on the site for a while. Things are on the go again.
- Since Home Depot has pulled out of the project, that 14-acre parcel has been divided into four smaller pads, three of which are spoken for.
- Residential piece: Legacy Partners is not able to get financing right now for the residential over retail units on Garden Drive (main street) due to the current credit crunch/crisis and has abandoned this part of the residential piece. Façade modifications will be made to those buildings to add interest lost by the fact that there will be no residential over retail. The townhomes and large multifamily residential pieces will still be built.

### Havana Business Improvement District

What better way to celebrate the first day of summer, June 21, than attending the **Cruzin' Havana Car Show and Festival** on Havana.

Over 3,000 classic cars! Great, free family fun! No entry fee! Proceeds go to the Old Car Council of Colorado and D.A.R.E. Art & School supply drive for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver with collection boxes at festival sites. Havana St. restaurants will be serving Cruzin' Cuisine.

Come out, enjoy the event and support the members of the Havana Business Improvement District.

The **Aurora Farmers' Market** returns to the Maya Sports Bar and Grill parking lot located at 333 Havana St. every Tuesday from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm starting June 24.

The Havana BID Board of Directors has decided to use "**On Havana**" as its tag line.

## 10 Reasons to Eat Local Food

**Eating local means more for the local economy** According to a study by the New Economics Foundation in London, a dollar spent locally generates twice as much income for the local economy. When businesses are not owned locally, money leaves the community at every transaction.

**Locally grown produce is fresher.** While produce that is purchased in the supermarket or a big-box store has been in transit or cold-stored for days or weeks, produce that you purchase at your local farmer's market has often been picked within 24 hours of your purchase. This freshness not only affects the taste of your food, but the nutritional value which declines with time.

**Local food just plain tastes better.** Ever tried a tomato that was picked within 24 hours? 'Nuff said.

**Locally grown fruits and vegetables have longer to ripen.** Because the produce will be handled less, locally grown fruit does not have to be "rugged" or to stand up to the rigors of shipping. This means that you are going to be getting peaches so ripe that they fall apart as you eat them, figs that would have been smashed to bits if they were sold using traditional methods, and melons that were allowed to ripen until the last possible minute on the vine.

**Eating local is better for air quality and pollution than eating organic.** In a March 2005 study by the journal Food Policy, it was found that the miles that organic food often travels to our plate creates environ-

mental damage that outweighs the benefit of buying organic.

**Buying local food keeps us in touch with the seasons.** By eating with the seasons, we are eating foods when they are at their peak taste, are the most abundant, and the least expensive.

**Buying locally grown food is fodder for a wonderful story.** Whether it's the farmer who brings apples to market or the baker who makes bread, knowing part of the story about your food is such a powerful part of enjoying a meal.

**Eating local protects us from bioterrorism.** Food with less distance to travel from farm to plate has less susceptibility to harmful contamination.

**Local food translates to more variety.** When a farmer is producing food that will not travel a long distance, will have a shorter shelf life, and does not have a high-yield demand, the farmer is free to try small crops of various fruits and vegetables that would probably never make it to a large supermarket. Supermarkets are interested in selling "Name brand" fruit: Romaine Lettuce, Red Delicious Apples, Russet Potatoes. Local producers often play with their crops from year to year, trying out Little Gem Lettuce, Senshu Apples, and Chieftain Potatoes.

**Supporting local providers supports responsible land development.** When you buy local, you give those with local open space - farms and pastures - an economic reason to stay open and undeveloped.

## It's a Small World

The following is part of an email I received with regard to an article in the April edition of *Markert Times*:

"FYI on the "Lucy Got Her Lungs" section, Lucy's other grandparents (and very close personal friends of

mine), are Tom and Chloe' Johnson. Chloe' serves the community on the Aurora Fox Theatre Advisory Board."

It is a small world!

## "Sunrise"

The installation of the last public art piece, in the works for four years, slated for the Aurora Municipal Center has been craned and welded into place between the east entrance of the Aurora Municipal Center and Chambers Ave.

"Sunrise," by Ft. Collins artist team Tim Upham and Rick Upham, was inspired by Aurora's city seal, which can be seen in the three glass and two stainless steel horizontal elements that depict five sun rays. "Sunrise" measures 68 feet long by 26 feet tall by 8 feet.

There are seven artworks currently installed at the Aurora Municipal Center: Dawn Fountain and Sunshell (2003) by Rafe Ropek in the Great Lawn to the west of the municipal center and in the municipal center's lobby Aurora Now and Early Aurora (2003) by Judith Poxson Fox, Aurora Eternal (2003) by Marcus Akinlana and View of the Western Land and RiverLand (2006) by Jerry Newcomb.

In an effort to become more environmentally conscious by making public artworks more self sustaining, Sunrise" artwork will be lit by solar powered lights to become more self sustaining; the artwork will be lit by solar powered lights.

About the artists. Tim Upham and Rick Upham were born and raised in Denver. Tim studied fine art at the

Colorado State University then transferred to the University of Southern California to study cinema. Tim received a Bachelor of Art and a Fellowship for two years of graduate studies, after which he worked in the film industry for ten years. When he returned to Colorado in 1994, he and his brother Rick began designing and fabricating public art. To date, the two have completed 16 public art projects and have three commissions in process.

Funding for public art projects in Aurora is made possible by the Art in Public Places Program Ordinance that requires one percent of construction and remodeling projects over \$100,000 to be used to place public art.

The Aurora Art in Public Places program maintains and expands a quality public art collection of diverse media and styles that plays an integral role in the city's architecture and community. Public art represents an opportunity for Aurora to establish a unique identity and to contribute to the civic pride of the community.

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

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethics Symposium

I thought some of you might find this of value in your work.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Exempla will sponsor its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethics Symposium. This one is particularly unique. The morning will focus on issues of particular interest to anyone who has been a patient or who serves patients. The afternoon will focus exclusively on overcoming stress for those who work in healthcare settings, whether at the bedside or in support of those who do.

The morning keynote address, "Truth Telling in Clinical Practice: When to Hold and When to Fold" will be given by Dr. Fredrick Abrams, M.D., the past Director of the Governor's Commission on Life and the Law and former Chair of the Ethics Committee of the College of Obstetricians and Gynecology. Dr. Robert Wicks, Ph.D., Professor of Pastoral Counseling at Loyola College, will

give the keynote address "The Simple Care of a Hopeful Heart" in the afternoon. Other participants will be Dr. Vincent Fugiliti, M.D., Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Dr. Marilyn Coors, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

The symposium will be held at the Arvada Center. The \$75 costs includes the registration fee, a continental breakfast, lunch, snack breaks and two books.

Go to <http://www.exempla.org/body.cfm?id=937> or call 303 689-4595 for more details on the symposium.

If you have never attended one of Exempla's Symposiums, this is the year to test the waters. If you have participated in the past, you know their value.

Please sign up today so that they can complete their planning. Thank you.

## NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE HOUSING HAPPEN

A friend of mine asked me to put the following in my newsletter.

**“You miss 100% of the shots you don’t try” - Wayne Gretzky. If we miss this opportunity to secure much needed funding, we will be waiting many years for another shot.**

There is not a single county in Colorado where our childcare workers, food servers or retail clerks can afford to rent a one-bedroom apartment. Over half our low-income workers are paying more than 50% of their paychecks to put a roof over their head. Our teachers, police officers and nurses spend more and more of their time commuting, rather than contributing to the communities where they live and work. Meanwhile, funding to address these needs is diminishing at every level and the Colorado Division of Housing has already obligated all its HOME and limited Housing Development Grant funding though April 2009.

Tired of hearing the same old bad news? As a member of the affordable housing community, we work every day to expand housing opportunities, and right now we have an incredible opportunity to improve housing choices in every corner of Colorado. But it will take every single one of us.

The campaign for a dedicated, reliable funding source for affordable housing is taking off. The Legislative Council estimates that this ballot measure could generate anywhere from \$34 - \$48 million annually for a wide range of housing needs. Polling indicates high voter support for this concept, but we have to get it on the ballot first. Petitions will be ready for signatures in just a few weeks. To put the idea of a Housing Investment Fund in front of every voter in November, we need YOU, now.

- We need you to sign up to gather signatures
- We need you to donate to the campaign. The campaign MUST raise another \$150,000 by early June. Please donate as much as you can.
- We need you to tell everyone you know why this is such an important issue.

### **So what does it mean to be part of a campaign?**

It means you’re willing to talk with your friends and neighbors and ask them to sign your petition. You bring it up at your book club or your church when someone asks you "what’s new". You can gather signatures at events. You schedule presentations on the Colorado Housing Investment Fund in your community. You host a house party with friends and family.

### **What Are We Putting on the Ballot?**

The Housing Investment Fund is a modest proposal that would use a real estate transfer tax to create a dedi-

cated and dependable fund of approximately \$30 million each year to assist local communities increase their availability to affordable housing. Put simply, this would be a closing cost of \$.04 on every \$100 of value, or \$80 for a \$200,000 transaction. This fund would enable local governments to determine the needs of their particular communities and use this public money to vastly improve access to affordable housing.

This is an investment in Colorado’s future. Affordable housing is a low risk/high return investment that creates jobs and stimulates the economy. The fund will help provide stability for Colorado’s working families, ensuring that future generations have the opportunity to thrive.

### **Petitioning:**

Housing Works for Colorado, the Issues Committee running the campaign, must gather 76,000 valid signatures by Aug. 4 to get on the ballot. This means they need around 120,000 signatures to be safe. They’ve hired a firm to collect many of those, but need us to gather 40,000. That may seem like a lot, but if everyone in Housing Colorado’s network gathers just the 24 signatures on one petition, we’ve reached our goal! **Housing Colorado will donate one free conference registration to the person who collects the MOST signatures.**

**Training** on how to gather legally valid signatures will be provided on **Mon. June 2 from 10:30-noon at Regis University in the Student Center.** Email Kim Cooke at [kim@housingworksforcolorado.org](mailto:kim@housingworksforcolorado.org) to RSVP! Written materials are available for those who can’t attend.

### **Fundraising:**

It will cost at least \$375,000 just to put the Housing Investment Fund on the ballot. There are people actively working to raise that money, but we all need to do our part. Please donate as much as you are able.

### **How Get Involved:**

To find out more about the ballot initiative and to make a donation, check out their new website: [www.housingworksforcolorado.org](http://www.housingworksforcolorado.org).

To find out more about gathering signatures, other volunteer opportunities, or to schedule a CHIF presentation for your organization, email Kim Cooke at [kim@housingworksforcolorado.org](mailto:kim@housingworksforcolorado.org)

As someone who knows the critical role that affordable housing plays in our communities, you are the best messenger for this campaign. And you also know that Coloradans will continue to struggle if we don’t step up and make this happen.

**Please join us today!**