NORTHWEST AURORA’S DINING SCENE bursting with newly opened eateries

If you haven’t visited northwest Aurora in a while, there are four new reasons to make this your new stamping grounds in the city.

Baba & Pop’s Pierogi Kitchen & Bar, Carm & Gia Metropolitan, Mason’s Dumpling Shop and Third Culture Bakery all recently opened, bringing freshly renovated and unique spaces and food worth Instagramming.

These four eateries benefited from the city of Aurora’s pilot restaurant incentive program, an innovative public-private partnership that targets redevelopment of restaurants and blighted properties in northwest Aurora with a focus on up-and-coming concepts and chefs.

Aurora’s reputation as the place to eat continues to grow. These new restaurants not only lift up the neighborhoods where they reside but give people another great reason to visit Colorado’s third largest city.

Here’s a guide to plan your visit to these new Aurora hotspots designed to tempt your taste buds and fill your belly:

- **Baba & Pop’s Pierogi Kitchen & Bar, 9945 E. Colfax Ave.:** Handmade pierogis (some gluten free) and other Polish-inspired dishes with a reliance on simple, honest ingredients and family traditions, plus a full-service bar with cocktail menu and a selection of vodkas
- **Carm & Gia Metropolitan, 9598 E. Montview Blvd.:** Hamburgers, sandwiches, burritos, shakes and spirits inspired by DenMex flavors and Chicago street food in a sleek Googie-inspired retro-futuristic setting
- **Mason’s Dumpling Shop, 9655 E. Montview Blvd.:** Legendary homemade dumplings in a hip, casual setting; get there early in the day before they run out
- **Third Culture Bakery, 9935 E. Colfax Ave.:** Home of the Original Mochi Muffin, mochi donuts, waffles, custard cakes and an array of colorful beverages

Upcoming Aurora City Council Town Meetings

Aurora City Council town meetings are open to all. To find out your council ward, visit AuroraGov.org and click on the Property Information button on the home page. Please call 303.739.7015 or visit AuroraGov.org/Council to confirm meeting times and dates.

**Ward I Town Meeting**
- **Council Member Crystal Murillo**
  - April 23, 6-7:30 p.m.
  - Moorhead Recreation Center
  - 2390 Havana St.
  - May 21, 6-7:30 p.m.
  - Martin Luther King Jr. Library
  - 9898 E. Colfax Ave.

**Ward II Town Meeting**
- **Council Member Nicole Johnston**
  - April 16, 6:30-8 p.m.
  - May 21, 6:30-8 p.m.
  - Beck Recreation Center
  - 800 Telluride St.

**Ward III Town Meeting**
- **Council Member Marsha Berzins**
  - April 16, 7:30-8:45 a.m.
  - May 21, 7:30-8:45 a.m.
  - Tin Cup at Aurora Hills Golf Course
  - 50 Peoria St.

**Ward IV Town Meeting**
- **Council Member Juan Marcano**
  - April 16, 6:30-8 p.m.
  - May 21, 6:30-8 p.m.
  - Bella Vita Community
  - 1470 S. Havana St.

**Ward V Town Meeting**
- **Council Member Alison Coombs**
  - April 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
  - Central Recreation Center
  - 18150 E. Vassar Place
  - May 2, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
  - Meadowood Recreation Center
  - 3054 S. Laredo St.
  - May 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
  - Heather Gardens Clubhouse
  - 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way

**Ward VI Town Meeting**
- **Council Member Françoise Bergan**
  - May 13, 6-8 p.m.
  - City of Aurora Public Safety Training Center
  - 25950 E. Quincy Ave.
The 2020 Census online survey is live, and you can fill out yours right now from your phone, tablet or computer. It is a safe and easy way to respond—the U.S. Census Bureau follows industry best practices and federal requirements to protect your data.

Make sure to count all babies and young children, including babies born on April 1, 2020. Ensure everyone at your address—including people not related to you—is counted, e.g. your tenant, your roommate, your partner and such. Each of you represents $2,300 a year in federal funding for the next 10 years.

Census data is used to determine federal funding for things such as schools, health care, housing assistance, public transportation, Medicare Part B and many others.

You may complete the Census in one of 13 languages. If you need assistance there are instructions and guidance in 59 languages. For more information, visit AuroraCensus2020.org, email census2020@auroragov.org or text 303.622.5881 (text and data rates apply).

Aurora’s City Center area—the area east of I-225 and flanking Alameda Avenue to the north and south—has seen significant investment in new shopping, services and restaurants in recent years. But there’s potentially much more to come, with much development interest in the area and opportunities for investment that could transform the area even further.

To help shape and support this development interest, the city plans to create a vision and development framework for this area. The Aurora community is invited to share its vision and hopes for how City Center continues to develop over time at a public meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 30 at the Aurora Central Library Community Room, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway.

Join us to contribute thoughts about the right mix of housing, shopping, jobs, entertainment, recreation and other activities that could be a part of City Center. Tell the city what will draw people to this area for years to come.

To stay informed, visit AuroraGov.org/CityCenter where additional opportunities for input will be posted as the project progresses. For questions, contact Daniel Krzyzanowski at 303.739.7187 or dkrzyzan@auroragov.org.

As the city of Aurora continues to grow, improving and maintaining transportation infrastructure remains a top priority.

In 2018, the Aurora City Council approved funding for more than two dozen transportation priority projects. One of those projects is the widening of Mississippi Avenue near Buckley Air Force Base. The project will widen the stretch of road from Aspen Street (the southern Air Force Base entrance) to Louisiana Avenue from two to four lanes (no private property will be used).

Residents are invited to learn more about the project and provide feedback on the new and improved Mississippi Avenue at an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. May 19 at the Central Recreation Center, 18150 E. Vassar Place, in the Black Canyon Room. Stop by anytime to visit with the project team; no formal presentation is planned.

The project also will improve access for cyclists and pedestrians, including widening the sidewalk on the south and west side of Mississippi Avenue, adding a new 12-foot shared use path on the north and east side of Mississippi Avenue, and adding continuous bike facilities from Dunkirk to Aspen streets. New streetlights will be installed as well.

The project design will be complete in 2020, with construction finished in 2021. For more details, call 303.739.7295 or visit AuroraGov.org/TPP.

The city of Aurora is accepting nominations from the community for the annual Aurora Business Recognition Awards Program. The program recognizes not only the economic vitality that businesses of all sizes and types bring to Aurora, but also the support these businesses provide to their employees and broader community.

To view a list of past award winners and complete a nomination form, visit AuroraGov.org/BusinessAwards. For more information, contact Elena Vasconez at 303.326.8808 or evascone@auroragov.org.
STAY INFORMED DURING AN EMERGENCY

Aurora is equipped with more than 50 outdoor warning sirens, strategically located throughout the city to alert residents who are outdoors when an actual or possible hazard or emergency is threatening the area. These sirens are checked regularly through weekly silent and biannual audible tests.

If there is a hazard nearby, such as a tornado, residents will hear a three-minute wailing sound alerting them to seek shelter immediately and tune into local television or radio stations, or AuroraGov on Facebook and Twitter, for more information. Please do not call 9-1-1 to find out why a siren is sounding; these lines need to be kept open for emergency calls.

To stay informed about severe weather, purchase a NOAA Weather Alert Radio or sign up for weather notifications through local television station websites.

For non-weather emergencies like disasters, a missing child or other public safety emergencies, notifications are available through the Alert Aurora system. Register your preferred means of communication (email, mobile phone, text message or all) at AuroraGov.org/AlertAurora so the city may contact you when a non-weather emergency occurs in your area. Please note that cellphones are not automatically included in the city’s emergency notifications; you must opt in to receive emergency notices.

SPRING STREET SWEEPING STARTS IN APRIL

The Public Works Department just wrapped up its winter street sweeping activities, focusing on larger city streets and industrial areas. In April and May, sweepers will target the smaller neighborhood streets citywide as part of a spring street sweeping effort. The work will occur again in the fall. Air and water pollution are reduced with a comprehensive sweeping plan, in addition to keeping the city clean. For more information on street sweeping locations, visit AuroraGov.org and search for street sweeping or call 303.326.8200.

LAUNCH PAD BREWERY TAPPED AS STATE’S TOP SMALL BUSINESS

Launch Pad Brewery, a funky microbrewery specializing in offbeat craft beers served in a rocket-themed taproom in Aurora, recently earned Colorado’s Small Business Persons of the Year award from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center nominated the owners of Launch Pad Brewery for the award, which is given to small business owners who represent the nation’s strong entrepreneurial spirit and rich diversity.

The brewery will be honored along with the nation’s top small businesses in the other 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam at a May ceremony in Washington, D.C.

OUT & ABOUT IN AURORA

“FREAKY FRIDAY” | April 17 to May 10
Aurora Fox Arts Center
9900 E. Colfax Ave.
Tickets at 303.739.1970 or AuroraFox.org
An overworked mom and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies for one freaky day in this new Disney musical that’s perfect for the entire family.

AURORA POTTERS’ GUILD SALE | May 1, noon to 8 p.m. | May 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Community College of Aurora
Student Center Rotunda
16000 E. CentreTech Parkway
Enjoy and shop for unique handmade functional pottery, outdoor art, holiday decorations, hand-built sculptures, jewelry, gifts and more. Free admission and parking.

NEW AMERICAN ARTS FESTIVAL
May 15, 6 to 10 p.m.
May 16, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
May 17, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Aurora Cultural Arts District
Six venues near 9898 E. Colfax Ave.
More info at RoshniIsLight.org
Enjoy dance, music, poetry and performances focused on diversity and inclusivity in art and culture at The People’s Building, the Vintage Theatre, Aurora Cultural Arts District, Red Delicious Press, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts and Fletcher Plaza. Artists include comedian Xavier Soller, SpokeNMotion, Just Dance Denver, Lighthouse Writer’s Workshop, Nueva Escuela de Musica, Aurora Symphony Orchestra and many more. Presented by Roshni, Step Into the Light, with support from participating venues and the city of Aurora. Free admission; food trucks selling on site.

COLORADO REMEMBERS | May 23, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Colorado Freedom Memorial
756 Telluride St.
AuroraGov.org/ColoradoRemembers
Gather with family and friends to honor Colorado’s fallen military heroes with a free-will donation pancake breakfast, displays of military artifacts and themed entertainment, tours of the memorial, and a special commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and salute to World War II veterans in attendance.

MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING RECYCLING EVENT | May 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Central Facilities Recycling Station
13646 E. Ellsworth Ave.
303.739.7173 or khancock@auroragov.org
Recycle your mattress and/or box spring for $25 per item. Spring Back Colorado’s mattress recycling process breaks down over 90% of each mattress into its constituent materials (steel, foam, ticking, cotton and wood). Cash, check or credit/debit card will be accepted.

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WATER CONSERVATION CLASSES
Learn how to lower your water bill, help conserve water and create an incredible landscape. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** For more information or to register, visit AuroraGov.org/WaterClasses or call 303.739.7195.

BUILD YOUR OWN DRIP SYSTEM
Drip irrigation systems are easy to install, simple to design and effectively reduce water waste. Learn how to design, construct and maintain a drip system in this hands-on class. This class can accommodate only 20 registered participants.
**May 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**
Aurora Municipal Center, Aurora Room 15151 E. Alameda Parkway

COMPOSTING
Create magic when you recycle kitchen and yard waste. Compost enriches soil, retains moisture and suppresses plant diseases and pests. Learn how to successfully compost at home.
**May 7, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**
Aurora Water-wise Garden, meet at the shade structure 15151 E. Alameda Parkway

BUG CONDOS
Bug condos, which can be visually stunning, give beneficial pollinators (such as native bees) a safe place to nest right in your garden. Learn how to design and build your own condo. Be prepared to kneel on the ground, get a little dirty and use power tools. For ages 15 and up.
**May 9, 9 to 11 a.m.**
Aurora Water-wise Garden, meet at the shade structure 15151 E. Alameda Parkway

INSTALLING YOUR WATER-WISE LANDSCAPE
Are you ready to get started on a low-water landscape? In this hands-on class, learn the practical steps from removing sod to installing a landscape suited to Aurora’s climate. If you plan on converting your own yard, this is your class.
**May 16, 9 to 11 a.m.**
Aurora Water-wise Garden, meet at the shade structure 15151 E. Alameda Parkway

SPRINKLER SYSTEM TUNE-UP
Each month you should take a look at your sprinkler system to ensure it’s working properly. Get to know your system components, tune up your sprinkler system for maximum efficiency and learn how to check for leaks in this hands-on class.
**May 19, 5:30 to 7 p.m.**
Aurora Water-wise Garden, meet at the shade structure 15151 E. Alameda Parkway

INTRODUCTION TO WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING
You’re curious about a low-water landscape, but where do you start? Knock your creativity into gear as we introduce the necessary foundations of creating a functional water-wise landscape. Also covered are landscape ideas and the beautiful and resilient plants that replace thirsty turf.
**May 26, 5:30 to 7 p.m.**
Central Library, Large Community Room 14949 E. Alameda Parkway

AVOID COSTLY AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER REPAIRS
Freezing temperatures can still be expected between now and May 15. Protect your sprinkler system from expensive damages by not turning it on and waiting until mid-month to get it started. Your lawn and trees, however, may need a drink. Visit AuroraGov.org/Trees for more information.

FREE OUTDOOR WATER ASSESSMENTS
After a long winter, your sprinkler system probably needs some attention. Aurora Water offers free outdoor water assessments. With an assessment, Aurora Water specialists identify any items that need to be repaired or replaced and usually find ways to improve your sprinkler system. Beginning May 1, customers can contact Water Conservation any time during the summer to be added to the wait list.