



COLORADO BUILDING GREEN

The official newsletter of the U.S. Green Building Council - Colorado Chapter

September/October 2007
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Photo courtesy of John Fielder's Colorado

LEED Update // Tracking Current Developments from the USGBC's Feature Product

Aurora Strikes (LEED) Gold

Green Building Initiatives Confirm City's Commitment to Environmental Responsibility

by *Gabrielle Johnson,*
Communications, City of Aurora

Aurora policymakers recently approved a resolution mandating that all new city-owned buildings be constructed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED NC Gold standard, making the city the first of its size in the state to require such stringent environmental standards on new buildings.

By approving the resolution, the Aurora City Council acknowledged its responsibility to promote building practices that protect the city's natural and developed environment. The resolution notes that environmentally responsible building stan-



Aurora Municipal Center

dards increase worker productivity, reduce absenteeism and reduce maintenance costs.

The resolution also requires that all construction of new buildings and all major renovations of existing structures incorporate the energy and resource standards and practices of

the EPA's ENERGY STAR program.

While building green sometimes increases upfront construction costs, city leaders said the long-term savings – both financially and environmentally – far outweigh any nominal expense, especially considering the significant impact buildings have on



Aurora Strikes (LEED) Gold *continued*

the environment.

Environment Aurora, the team that spearheaded the effort, thoroughly researched municipal green building initiatives from across the country. They determined that 'hard' data on the costs and benefits of green building was still being compiled. However, they found consensus agreement that the long term savings in energy and water significantly outweighed the estimated 2 to 4 percent increase in initial costs. In addition to new construction considerations, the City Council's action also considered savings – to the budget and the environment - from following LEED Existing Building Guidelines.

For example, the Aurora Municipal Center has a footprint of 285,627 square feet. Based on other cost-saving studies, city staff believes the cost of implementing the LEED Existing Building guidelines could be approximately \$77,000 and the projected annual savings could be nearly \$140,000.

"The resolution recently signed by Mayor Ed Tauer confirms the city's commitment to the environment and puts Aurora ahead of many other Colorado cities by establishing a firm policy about protecting resources," Jim Schrack, Environmental Program Supervisor, said. "We already have



Jim Schrack, Environmental Program Supervisor and Environment Aurora Team Leader

numerous environmental programs in place, but this resolution confirms our commitment to continue to look at ways to be even more environmentally responsible.

Aurora's has long been committed to the protecting the environment. Many of the city's environmental efforts are coordinated through Environment Aurora, which Schrack heads. In the past, some of Environment Aurora's projects have included:

Get off Your Can...and Reduce Ozone Pollution

Aurora, along with other cities in the region, faces the threat of losing attainment status for the region under EPA's air quality rules as a result of increasing summer ozone pollution. Aurora staff wanted to do its part to maintain attainment status by

reviewing city procedures and policies and helping residents understand the importance of reducing ozone pollution. In cooperation with the Regional Air Quality Council, Environment Aurora initiated a program that provided a free exchange of old gas cans for new, more environmentally friendly ones. The gas cans were provided to residents at local fire stations, and included tips for reducing ozone pollution.

E-Waste Recycling Event

For the first time ever, Hewlett Packard partnered with a municipality to provide recycling for electronic waste. Old computers, VCRs and cell phones contain mercury and lead and are one of the leading contributors of pollution in landfills, and through the one-day event, residents dropped off 75 tons of electronic waste, one of the most successful events ever sponsored by Hewlett Packard.

Household Chemical Roundup

Environment Aurora has teamed up with Aurora Water to provide support for the Household Chemical Roundup, which provides residents with safe and free disposal of paints and chemicals. Last year, approximately 1,400 gallons of hazardous waste were collected from 1,225 households.



Sand Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant

Fuel Purchases

Well prior to mandatory EPA-required dates, Aurora's Fleet Maintenance switched to Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) in all diesel equipment, whether its used on-road or off-road.

Snow Plowing

During winter snows, the city uses anti-icing chemicals to reduce the temperatures for moisture to freeze on pavement. This reduces the need for de-icing chemicals, sand or salt. The city routinely sweeps streets to provide not only a cleaner looking city but to remove a source of air pollutants that could become entrained in the air.

Single Stream Recycling

Environment Aurora has worked to increase recycling efforts within city facilities by creating a single stream

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Thank You, Amy!

Heartfelt Reflections on Outgoing Executive Director



by **Tom Hootman**,
AIA, LEED AP
Chapter President,
USGBC CO
Director of Sustainability, RNL

Amy Jiron arrived at the interviews for USGBC Colorado's first Executive Director position nearly two years ago. She was armed with a law degree from American University Washington College, an undergraduate degree in architectural engineering, experience working at Architectural Energy Corporation and volunteering at the Natural Resources Defense Council. She was also brimming with energy and a passion for sustainability and the built environment.

The interview process proved challenging for the Chapter as well as the candidates.

There was an exceptional pool of candidates to choose from. Yet, it did not take us long to recognize Amy as a uniquely qualified individual with the talent and drive to help us take our Chapter to the next level.

We were able to hire our first Executive Director thanks to a successful grant application with National

USGBC that provided a 50% salary and expense match. This was a big next step for a Chapter that at the time was a mere 1 year old.

Although the Chapter enjoyed excellent volunteer support, we felt the need for a full time paid Executive Director to complement the volunteer work and build our Chapter's capacity.

And build it she did. Amy's contributions as Executive Director have added tremendous capacity to our organization. She is an exceptionally well rounded individual with strengths in strategic planning, organizational development, communication and financial management. Her contributions and accomplishments are numerous:

- Amy was instrumental in revamping our Chapter sponsorship program into the now successful 100 Friends of Colorado program.
- She co-chaired the Greenbuild Host Committee and its large volunteer committee structure, which was influential in making Denver Greenbuild 2006 the most successful Greenbuild conference to date.
- She spearheaded a grant from Xcel Energy and with it created the Sustainable Schools Summit.

Amy stayed active and engaged in



Amy Jiron will be missed.

all of the Chapter working committees, helping them to collaborate and achieve their goals. She regularly authored articles for Colorado Building Green, our Chapter newsletter and represented the Chapter at numerous industry events. She played a critical role in our strategic and business planning and labored tirelessly toward achieving the goals we established

Amy's contributions have been numerous and so are the thanks we give her for the time and energy she gave to our Chapter. She will be missed, although we all hope to see her return soon as volunteer or future Board member. We wish Amy the best of luck with her change in career. We are sure she will be writing another chapter of great successes in her life story.

Personal Reflections

"Amy has been wonderful to work with and she's been a great asset to the Chapter. She led us to the next level and I hope she remains involved with the Chapter." – *Dana Kose, Chapter Treasurer*

"Amy was and is an inspiration not only for USGBC but in her desire to make a difference in the world of sustainability. She helped me so much as an intern and in transitioning to the board. She is going to be missed!" – *Jeff Pring, Chapter Secretary*

"The spirit and joy Amy brought as Executive Director made problems always seem manageable and created a marvelous environment to work in. She will be missed and leaves some large polka-dotted shoes to fill." – *Conor Merrigan, Emerging Green Builders Director*

"Amy used to regularly comment to me that my job must be very satisfying. "Being an architect you actually create the green buildings we are advocating for." She would further explain. She was searching for tangible results. When I look at the Chapter and how far we have come and the impact we are making on our state's building industry I see the very tangible and impress results from Amy's hard work and dedication." – *Tom Hootman, Chapter President*

"Amy's law degree and non-profit background were a perfect fit for our young chapter. Along with her know-how, Amy's can-do spirit, work ethic, enthusiasm, credibility, knowledge, organization and personable character were a gift to me as the Chapter President as we were growing exponentially and in little over a year would be hosting Greenbuild in our backyard!" – *Annette Stelmack, Founding Member & Past President*

Colorado's Dana Kose Running for USGBC National Board of Directors

Help Ensure a Voice for Colorado and the West Region



by **Daniele Loffreda**,
LEED AP, Plateau Enviro
Associates

Colorado's Dana Kose is running for a Board seat in the Contractors and Builders category. We at Colorado Building Green wanted to learn more about her background, experience and vision than can be gleaned from the information listed on the Elections website. We sat down with her earlier this week:

CBG: We've read your bio and answers to the five questions listed on National's website, but wanted to help our readers understand why you are the best candidate for a Board Seat.

Dana: Fire away.

CBG: The profiles of the other candidates in the Contractor/Builder category are also impressive. Why are you the best choice?

Dana: I've 'climbed the ranks', if

you will, within the USGBC structure. I started years ago as a Colorado Chapter committee volunteer, then was elected to the Board of Directors, expanded my scope as West Region Co-Chair, and then assumed national responsibility as a Chapter Steering Committee member. I am intimately familiar with the operations of the organization at all levels, and the impact that decisions made at the national level have on the local levels. This experience enables me to work on both strategic direction-type issues, as well as tactical, 'roll up the sleeves' operational issues.

CBG: Experience has shown that some volunteers in these positions are very active, others less so. What tangible impacts have you had in the positions you mention above?

Dana: Well, as the Colorado Chapter Treasurer I safeguard the integrity of the Chapter's Finances, guard against any conflict of interest within the Board of Directors, and ensure compliance with a number of USGBC, Federal and State regulations. As Director-at-Large I raised nearly 10% of all donations in 2006 from our '100 Friends' program, and planned the



Dana Kose

Greenbuild 2006 Rocky Mountain Rendezvous for over 800 attendees. More recently I co-led the search for our Chapter's new Executive Director. As West Region Co-Chair, I've promoted regional LEED credit development, and improved communications between Chapters in our region. As a National Steering Committee member I've championed efforts to make Chapter/National revenue sharing arrangements more equitable and I've worked to improve communication

and collaboration between National, the Chapters, and the Regions.

CBG: How will your experience at Mortenson help you if elected to the National position?

Dana: At Mortenson I co-lead our Green Advancement Team, a group of Mortenson associates from nine business units across the country that share green building 'best practices' and make the corporation more environmentally responsible. Since our team's inception we've begun requiring waste management and recycling plans for all projects - regardless of whether or not we are pursuing LEED certification; incorporating on-site renewable sources for construction energy usage, purchased green energy credits to offset all our Regional Offices' energy use; and increased the total percentage of sustainable projects within Mortenson's portfolio. We've also made subtle changes, such as communicating with our team members on ways to live and work 'green'.

CBG: It seems like you have a very full plate. Why do you want to take on this additional responsibility?

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USGBC Northern Colorado Branch Chapter Launched

A 'Common Thread' to Support Green Communities at the Local Level



by **Greg Jones**,
Porter Industries &
Branch Chapter Chair

What do you do for a community that is home to over a dozen active 'green' organizations, a cluster of LEED® registered and certified buildings, over 100 LEED Accredited Professionals and an array of municipal green building initiatives? Easy. You create a regional branch of the U.S. Green Building Council's Colorado Chapter.

Northern Colorado Branch Formation

As is the case with many brilliant ideas, the inspiration hit as a group of 'green-minded' professionals gathered around a kitchen table. While munching snacks and sipping (soft?) drinks, the group analyzed the bevy of sustainable - focused organizations in Northern Colorado. As the number reached 15, the team experienced a collective 'aha': Although the various organizations were doing

great work in their respective areas, they lacked a common thread that would boost their collective impact.

The 'Founding Four' (Josie Paul, Sarah Fox, Sue McFaddin and Greg Jones) embarked upon a project to identify the optimal vehicle to bring the various groups into an umbrella organization to better serve Northern Colorado. The team quickly identified four key selection criteria:

- Serve as a collective force for education, event coordination, and (most importantly) the experience of the green environment
- Must include as many disciplines as possible
- Must provide outreach, education, collaboration and advocacy
- Must have existing name recognition

After much research and deliberation, the 'Founding Four' determined that the U.S. Green Building Council delivered on all counts. Decision in hand, the team then had to figure out how to make it happen.

Chapter or Branch?

The group approached the USGBC National organization, proposing to create a new Chapter in Colorado.

Discussions with National raised several issues that favored establishing a Branch of the existing Colorado Chapter rather than forming a new

Chapter: The rigors associated with applying for the IRS 501c(3) not-for-profit status; the short timeline required by the National organization; and the need to enhance the existing Chapter's ability to serve

a geographically dispersed membership. Based upon these factors, the decision to move forward as a Branch organization was easy. So was the process.

Kick Off Meeting

The group held a kick off meeting for all interested parties, hosted at New Belgium Brewery – a steadfast supporter of all things sustainable. Nearly 100 attendees participated, providing input into the needs and wants of a Branch Chapter. Representatives from the Colorado Chapter were on hand to share goals, objectives and business plan. Executive Director Amy Jiron, Chapter President Tom Hootman and Events Committee Chair Greg Borst answered questions on committee structure,

operational logistics, and what it means to become a Branch Chapter. Key to the discussion was how to best support Northern Colorado members and volunteers through strong, active committees.

Branch Structure

Recognition and heartfelt thanks go to the many volunteers that agreed to organize and serve on the various committees. These volunteers dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to help build a viable Branch. Special thanks go to the Committee Chairs that are pulling together to help make the Branch a reality.

Committee Chairs

- Education and Programs: Leslie Collins and Greg Fisher
- Communications and Membership: Matt Arabasz (and formerly Dana Villeneuve, now Branch Intern)
- Advocacy and Outreach: Sarah Fox and Sandy Hicks (formerly also involved Dana Leavitt)

Executives

- Branch Chapter Chair: Greg Jones
- Branch Chapter Vice-Chair: Sue McFaddin



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A 'Tipping Point' for Green Building in Colorado

Thoughts and First Impressions From New ED, Deb Kleinman



by *Deb Kleinman*,
Executive Director,
USGBC, CO Chapter

As 2007 continues to speed by, the buzz around green building and sustainable development is increasing to a loud roar. Since joining the Colorado Chapter in mid-September as your new Executive Director, I've had the opportunity to get to know a good number of you. The energy and excitement among Colorado's green building community is almost palpable – we truly are at a tipping point

with regard to our commitment to a more sustainable approach to doing business.

Albert Einstein once said, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." I invite each of you to contribute your energy, ideas, and commitment - your innovative approaches to sustainability - as we intensify our efforts to transform the built environment in Colorado. As Governor Ritter recently declared at the grand opening of the first LEED Platinum building in Colorado – the Signature Center in Golden – "we are working towards a time when our children will not find such an achievement remarkable, but merely the way that building is done".

Affordable Housing & LEED for Homes

Long before the current foreclosure catastrophe that has battered so many of our residents, Colorado suffered from a dearth of affordable housing. Actually It's reached a crisis point in recent years, due to the dramatic rise in energy costs. According to Energy Outreach Colorado, more than one in five Colorado households qualifies for energy assistance based on federal



North East Denver
Housing Association
LEED for Homes
Pilot Project

guidelines. Applications for assistance have doubled since the winter of 1999-2000. At the same time, federal and state assistance programs are being cut – a double whammy for cost-burdened households.

What does this have to do with green building? As we target green residential projects, we need to find ways to provide the benefits of green homes - transit-oriented, energy efficient, comfortable, and healthy - for

those most affected by higher first costs and the ever-increasing cost of heating them.

Recently, I visited an affordable housing site that challenges the assumption that LEED projects are too costly for the average home owner or renter – much less those who qualify for housing assistance. The Northeast Denver Housing Center is a twenty-five year old non profit organization working to provide sustainable,



Governor Ritter at Grand Opening
Of LEED Platinum Signature Center

A 'Tipping Point' for Green Building in Colorado *continued*

healthy housing opportunities to local residents. NDHC is nearing completion of an 18-unit affordable housing project at Stapleton, Denver – a project that is participating in the LEED for Homes Pilot Program. NDHC and its partners hope to achieve a LEED – Silver rating.

NDHC owns the property, and worked with an integrated design/build team to bring this project to fruition. This team included Eckalizzi Design, Empire Construction, Turner Construction, structural engineering firm Kirk & Young, and mechanical engineering firm Belfay. NDHC will hold a Grand Opening/25th Anniversary Celebration at the site on November 2, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. I hope you can join me there – if you would like more information or to RSVP, call NDHC at 303-377-3334.

If you are interested in getting involved with promoting LEED for Homes in Colorado, please contact Daniele Loffreda at dgloffreda@msn.com.

“... we advance the principle ‘respect diversity.’ By this we mean to include not only biodiversity but also diversity of place and of culture, of desire and need, the uniquely human element.”

- William McDonough & Michael Braungart, *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*.

Aurora Strikes (LEED) Gold *continued from pg. 2*

program that allows employees to put all of their recyclables in one bin.

Light Retrofitting

Environment Aurora worked on a program to replace light fixtures, as well as heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment with modern, energy efficient controls and equipment.

While many cities across the country have begun to pay more attention to environmental impacts, Aurora is one of the first cities in Colorado to adopt LEED gold standards on new construction of city-owned buildings. The standard ensures the city will set high performance standards concerning energy, water, material use and the healthy and productivity of employees.

Dana Kose *continued from pg. 4*

Dana: I am passionate about and personally committed to sustaining our environment through individual and corporate environmental responsibility. As I mentioned, I have been intricately involved with the Council for almost three years at the local, regional and national level. There are very few candidates who understand the intricacies of operating at those three levels. I want to offer that capability in order to make an even bigger difference. To me, serving on the USGBC National Board would be a big responsibility – and an honor. Also, the Western U.S. is woefully under-represented at the Board level. Nearly 65% of the seats are filled by Directors located in the Eastern U.S. I want to ensure that the needs and input of the Western U.S. are heard. I would be honored to bring my leadership, energy and enthusiasm to bear in order to further advance the USGBC

Note: Elections for seats on the USGBC National Board of Directors opened on October 3rd, and will continue until November 2nd. Go to <http://www.usgbc.org/elections/2008/elections.html> and make your voice heard.

Northern Colorado Branch *continued from pg. 4*

- Special Advisor: Brian Dunbar

Special thanks also go to the Colorado Chapter Board of Directors. They bring special insight and experience, and provide ongoing support and guidance to make this Branch thrive.

Launch

The Northern Colorado Branch was showcased during the Colorado Chapter Fall Conference held

September 20th -22nd in Fort Collins. Many Branch members and volunteers stepped in help

promote and coordinate a very successful event. In addition, they have provided instrumental support to the first-ever Colorado Green Schools Summit that will be held in Fort Collins on October 19th.

If the energy, enthusiasm and organization demonstrated to date by the Northern Colorado Branch exemplify the benefits of serving green communities locally, it won't be long before other regional branches sprout up throughout the State.

Colorado LEED Projects

Certified Projects

BUILDING	CITY
Sundeck Restaurant (NC 1.0 Bronze)	Aspen
CH2M Hill South Building (NC Certified)	Englewood
CH2M Hill West Building (NC Certified)	Englewood
CH2M Hill North Building (NC Certified)	Englewood
North Boulder Recreation Center (NC Silver)	Boulder
Boulder Community Hospital (NC Silver)	Boulder
U.S. Department of Transportation (NC Silver)	Lakewood
Denver Place (EB 1.0 Gold)	Denver
Russell T. Tutt Science Center (NC Certified)	Colorado Springs
Snowmass Golf Clubhouse (NC Silver)	Aspen
Colorado Springs Utilities Laboratory (NC Silver)	Colorado Springs
Fossil Ridge High School (NC Silver)	Fort Collins
University of Denver, College of Law (NC Gold)	Denver
Belmar 2M3 (NC Silver)	Lakewood
State of CO Dept. of Labor and Empl. (NC Cert)	Denver
Boulder Associates, Inc. (CI Gold)	Boulder
Pikes Peak Regional Development Center (NC Silver)	Colorado Springs
ProLogis (NC Cert)	Denver
Univ. of Colorado Memorial Center (EB Silver)	Boulder
Classrooms of Guggenheim Hall (CI 1.0 Silver)	Fort Collins
Alliance Center (EB Gold)	Denver
Porter Industries Building (EB Gold)	Loveland
City of Fort Collins Vehicle Storage Building (NC Silver)	Fort Collins
DTJ Design Office Expansion (CI Gold)	Boulder
RMI Offices (CI Platinum)	Boulder
Byron G. Rogers U.S. Courthouse (EB 1.0 Gold)	Denver
Main Street @ NorthField Stapleton (CS 1.0 Silver)	Denver
Alliance for Sustainable Colorado (CI 2.0 Silver)	Denver
Alliance for Tech, Learning and Society (ATLAS) (NC 2.0 Gold)	Boulder
NREL Science & Technology Facility (NC 2.0 Platinum)	Golden
Wolf Law Building, University of Colorado (NC 2.0 Gold)	Boulder
M-E Engineers Office Building (EB)	Wheatridge
State of CO State Services Building	Denver
State of CO Human Services Building	Denver
Judicial Building/CO History Building	Denver
Vail Resorts	Broomfield
Denver Health Pavilion	Denver
CSU Transit Center	Fort Collins
Wellington E. Webb Bldg	Denver

Certified LEED H Projects

BUILDING	CITY
Harvard Communities	Denver
McStain Neighborhoods	Denver
New Town Builders	Denver

Membership Update

Welcome New USGBC Colorado Chapter Members!

August-September

David Allen	Chris Dorsi	Sarah Josephson	Josie Plaut
Robyn Altieri	David Eads	Brian Koenigberg	Sasha Podolak
John Armstrong	James R. Fennell	Megan Kreitzberg	Jeff Pring
Anne Bailey	Atha Forsberg	Erik La Plante	Alena Rein
T. Lynn Bailey	Lee Fredrick	Velma Lane	Christina Robertson
Richard Bengé	Eric Fried	Sondra Lankston	Andrew Robertson
Jaffe Biederman	Philip Friedman	Ryan Leeser	Sari Schauer
Max Billington	Margaret Griffes	Brian Levitt	Renee Sherman
Robert Bond	Joseph Gude	Rob Luedke	Austin Sickler
Sam Boyer	Michael Guida	Annie Mann	Chuck Slade
James Bradford	Lew Guyn	Mimi Mather	Lesley Smith
Alan Brown	Brian Hall	Karen McHale	John Spidell
Jonas Buehl	Holly G Hamilton	Jana McKenzie	Sondra Spratta
Luke Burroughs	JJ Hannah	Michael Minor	Scott Steel
Ted Caulkins	Clayton Harrison	Nathan Moore	Rod Taylor
Philip Conway	Anne Hayes	Holly Murdock	Katharine Teter
Andrew Creath	Angela Heitger	Michael Murphy	Len Thomas
Karen Crilly	Kyle Hendricks	Rod Noble	Daniel Trujillo
Luke Danielson	Alvin Herbel	Steven Nunn	Justin Turner
Quentin Danziger	Adam Hillhouse	Tracy Ochsner	Michael Unger
Kathryn Darrow	Katie Hodgson	Lawrence Ognibene II	Jennifer Varner
Amy DePierre-Tindle	Kristen Ivanick	Nathaniel J Orr	Steve Walkowski
Carl Detwyler	Peter Jefferson	Anthony Perez	James Whitfield
Debra Domres	Benjamin Jenkins	John Perry	



VISION

Promote responsibility for Colorado's environmental legacy.

MISSION

Advance and promote sustainable planning, design, construction and operation of the built environment through education, improving industry guidelines, policy advocacy, and information and resource sharing.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Hootman, President

RNL Design

Tim Carey

Johns Manville

Dana Kose

M.A. Mortenson

Jeff Pring

Aardex

Jay Griffin

Norris Design

Rick Gulick

Rockey Mountain Foam

Michael Haughey

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Peter D'Antonio

PCD Engineering

Greg Borst

Swinerton Builders

Christy Woodward

Tetra Tech EM, Inc.

Conor Merrigan

Daniele Loffreda

Palteau Enviro

Deb Kleinman

Executive Director

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100 Friends of Colorado

Platinum \$5000

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COLORADO**
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Joint Platinum Supporter



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FOREST CITY
ENTERPRISES



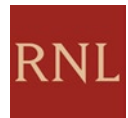
Silver \$1000

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