

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



THORNTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Ay Güey Mexican Snacks

WHAT'S NEW

Dar Chocolate Retail Shop

12189 Pennsylvania St Suite D

Explore Dar Chocolate's new retail section, featuring an expanded selection of handcrafted chocolate bars and truffles.

Ferguson

14827 Grant St Building 6

A leading supplier of plumbing and HVAC needs has opened a new warehouse and retail store in the 25 North Business Park.

Fun City Adventure Park

1440 E 104th Ave

The ultimate indoor playground for kids featuring trampolines, foam pits, climbing walls, and more all under one roof.

LatinA Flavor Cafe

5877 E. 120th Ave

This Latina-owned cafe brings authentic flavors to Anythink Wright Farms featuring homemade pupusas.

Liang's Thai Food

4243 E 136th Ave Unit 312

Authentic Thai flavors served fresh, from classic curries and stir-fries to noodles and appetizers.

Little Sunshine's Playhouse

7124 E 128th Ave

A preschool for children ages 6 weeks to 6 years, where play inspires purpose, learning comes to life, and kids feel at home.

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DAR CHOCOLATE RIBBON CUTTING





K1 SPEED

COMING SOON

Dick's House of Sport

📍 Larkridge, Opening late 2026

An immersive sports retail experience featuring climbing walls, batting cages, training zones, and more all inside the sporting goods store.

Gordon Food Service

📍 1400 E 104th Ave, Opening November 2025

This Michigan-based food distributor is bringing its public-friendly, bulk grocery concept to Thornton, perfect for families who love to save.

Handel's Ice Cream

📍 Larkridge, Opening early 2026

Known for its rich, handcrafted flavors made fresh daily, Handel's is bringing its iconic treats to Larkridge in early 2026.

K1 Speed

📍 Larkridge, Opening 2026

An exciting indoor go-kart racing destination, featuring high-performance electric karts and professionally designed tracks.

Malibu Jack's

📍 10001 Grant St, Opening Q4 2025

An all-ages indoor adventure park featuring go-karts, mini-golf, laser tag, arcade games, bowling, rides, and more.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: CHICKEN N PICKLE

Thornton has a new hotspot with the arrival of Chicken N Pickle, a unique destination combining dining, entertainment, and, the nation's fastest-growing sport, pickleball. This marks the company's first Colorado location and its 13th nationwide.

Founded in 2015 after Dave Johnson discovered pickleball, Chicken N Pickle has grown into a community favorite. The Thornton venue features a rooftop bar, two outdoor and six indoor courts, a sports bar, yard games, and chef-driven dishes, plus plenty of space for watch parties and private events.

Located in The Grove Shopping Center (14225 Lincoln St.), it's an all-ages spot to eat, play, or just hang out.

Thornton's Economic Development team continues to bring exciting restaurants and entertainment to the city. Learn more at chickennpickle.com.





THORNTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business
NETWORKING PARTY

Thursday, October 9
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

LOCATION:
Billy Birch Pub & Yard
11915 Holly Street
Thornton, CO 80233



Scan here to RSVP

BUSINESS NETWORKING PARTY

Business Networking Party

📅 Thursday, October 9

🕒 4:30 – 6:30 PM

📍 Billy Birch Pub and Yard

11915 Holly St, Thornton, CO 80233

Join us for an evening of food, drinks, fun, and networking at Thornton's newest local spot, Billy Birch!

👤 Bring a guest - Adults only | [RSVP required](#)

BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS



People's Choice: Ay Güey Mexican Snacks

📍 3947 E 120th Ave

Ay Güey Mexican Snacks, a beloved Thornton staple, clinched the People's Choice Award, proof of its popularity among residents. Known for its vibrant atmosphere and delicious menu featuring Mexican snacks, crepes, mangonadas, and handmade ice cream, Ay Güey celebrates Thornton's rich Mexican American community by serving up flavorful cultural favorites. Owned by two sisters with the help of their parents, it's truly a family-run gem.



Community Spirit: Allegro Coffee Company

📍 12799 Claude Ct Building B

Founded in Boulder in 1977, Allegro Coffee Company received the Community Spirit Award for its commitment to sustainability. As one of the first specialty coffee roasters in the natural foods industry, Allegro built a reputation for ethical sourcing and Fair Trade practices. Since joining forces with Whole Foods Market in 1997, Allegro has continued to champion farmers, support communities, and promote environmental stewardship, living out its mission to brew a better world.



Small Business of the Year: Lisa's Place

📍 10285 Washington St

Lisa's Place, a beloved Thornton diner, earned the Small Business of the Year Award for its long-standing dedication to the community. Family-owned and operated since 1983 by a mother with her son, who serves as the chef, Lisa's Place is known for its hearty home cooking, welcoming atmosphere, and commitment to keeping prices affordable for working-class residents. It's a true neighborhood staple built on loyalty, good food, and genuine care for its customers.



Retailer of the Year: Costco Wholesale

📍 16375 Washington St

Costco Wholesale was named Retailer of the Year for its exceptional customer service and quality products. Known for its wide selection, unbeatable value, and member satisfaction, Costco has become a trusted destination for everything from groceries and electronics to home goods and hot dogs. The Thornton location continues to impress with a well-organized shopping experience, helpful staff, and high standards across every department. With a reputation built on consistency and care, Costco sets the bar for retail excellence.



Employer of the Year: Ace Thermal Systems

📍 14903 Grant St

Ace Thermal Systems, an innovative aerospace materials company, earned the Employer of the Year Award for its commitment to job creation, community development, and industry leadership. Formed through the unification of two proven leaders in thermal management and environmental control systems, Ace solves complex challenges for the future of aerospace while providing top-tier customer support and expanded solutions.



FIRST FRIDAY ADVENTURE

The First Friday adventure began at **H&H Metals**, where Thornton City Manager Tansy Hayward and the Office of Economic Development enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at how raw materials are transformed into innovative products and designs, including a hands-on welding experience for Tansy and Economic Development Director Adam Krueger.

From there, the group visited **Bricks & Minifigs**, a paradise for LEGO® fans of all ages featuring rare sets, collectible minifigures, and endless building possibilities.

The day wrapped up at **Ca Phe Vietnamese Coffee and Banh Mi**, where guests enjoyed tea and treats in their beautifully renovated, welcoming space. Perfect for winding down and reflecting on the day's experiences.

Three stops, three unique experiences, one unforgettable First Friday!



BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Basic Selling Skills

 Tuesday, October 28 | ⌚ 4:00–5:00 PM

 Alliance Business Assistance Center (In-Person or Zoom)

 RSVP: [Register Here](#)

Colorado Sales Tax 201

 Thursday, November 6 | ⌚ 4:00–5:00 PM

 Alliance Business Assistance Center (In-Person or Zoom)

 RSVP: [Register Here](#)

Preparándose Para Fin de Año e Impuestos 2024 (Spanish Workshop)

 Martes, 18 de Noviembre | ⌚ 4:00–6:00 PM

 Alianza Centro de Asistencia para Negocios (En Persona o Zoom)

 RSVP: [Regístrate Aquí](#)

Is Small Business Right for You?

 Tuesday, December 9 | ⌚ 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

 Alliance Business Assistance Center (In-Person (with lunch) or Zoom)

 RSVP: [Register Here](#)



ALLIANCE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Alliance Business Assistance Center is a dedicated resource hub that supports and empowers local businesses as they start, grow, and thrive! Our expert business counselors are ready to help you navigate your financial, legal, marketing, and management questions.

All counselors and Business Specialists are bilingual and available for both in-person and virtual meetings to fit your schedule.

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All services are free!



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