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THE DENVER POST

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## Aurora nets new "best of"

By **Carlos Illescas**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 09/30/2009 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 09/30/2009 01:49:17 AM MDT

AURORA — The accolades keep coming for this city of 310,000.

First the city was honored with having the best-tasting water in the Rocky Mountains. Now U.S. News & World Report has named Aurora one of America's Best Affordable Places to Retire.

The main draw, according to the story, is affordable housing. Last year the median home price was \$138,000 — about \$40,000 less than in Denver.

Aurora built numerous affordable housing condos in the 1970s, said Kevin Hougen, president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

"Senior citizens don't usually buy single-family homes," Hougen said. "They're looking for communities where they don't have to do yard work or shovel snow."

The article notes the East End Arts District as well as the city's many trails. The Aurora Center for Active Adults also is featured prominently.

Aurora has plenty to offer seniors, the article said. But it fails to mention maybe the most important one: the Anschutz Medical Campus.

And what about the planned Veterans Affairs hospital at the campus that recently broke ground?

Those types of amenities are major selling points retirees consider when choosing a place to live, Hougen said.

"So often when you look at major retirement centers in the United States, one of the draws is good health care," he said.

*Carlos Illescas: 303-954-1175 or  
cillescas@denverpost.com*

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