

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Erin Dunn, Fortuna Chamber of Commerce

Run date: Tuesday, March 5

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

I need to address a rumor I heard last week. An artist friend of mine took me aside and told me in hushed tones and with some reluctance, that Fortuna is becoming “hip.” No one was more shocked about that fact than the person sharing that revelation.

It’s been happening slowly and quietly....it seems Fortuna, is in fact, becoming hip...well, at least hip-ER.

We have an arts night ^{they have} now on First Fridays that started last summer and ~~have~~ been very well attended every month. And we’ve been home to the Fortuna Concert Series for a number of years already.

At the City we have a new City Manager who is under 50 years of age and who has a true vision of how to grow Fortuna’s potential. Have you seen our ~~two~~ new police cars—super cute! And have you noticed, our Police Chief looks a little like “MR. BIG” from Sex and the City.

Fortuna is of course fortunate to have River Lodge. It’s the premiere conference center on the North Coast with an unbeatable view of the Eel River. We actually shot a lip dub there a little over a year ago...that might land us back in the dorky category but it’s still on YouTube so judge that for yourself. You’ll see we had lots of fun doing it.

We’re also the home of Eel River Brewery—the first certified organic brewery in AMERICA. And now renovations are underway for a brandy distillery to move in to Downtown.

We have new bocce ball courts. We are close to having a bike park and plans are underway for a dog park.

Fortuna is host to some of the best events in the County—Rodeo, AutoXpo, Apple Harvest, Art & Wine in the Park...although it might be Grave Matters and Hops in Humboldt that are putting us in the “hip” column.

Thanks to a donor who has chosen to remain anonymous, we have new public art at the triangle by Rays. The three deer-- made out of tools and *rusty* stuff--are at once whimsical and striking. *other*

And the long-awaited MGC (multi-generational center) is up and running, led by the vibrant Trina Pockett. This organization will be providing unique programming for our area--serving a wide range of ages spanning all of our generations.

Fortuna is becoming hip while retaining its reputation for friendliness and community spirit. Those are the traits that continue to be most important to us and they are what make Fortuna well, Fortuna. *the*

All we need now is a standalone bakery—or bagel shop--then the rumor of *rumored* hipness would become a reality... Are you listening Los Bagels?

For Community Comment, this is Erin Dunn from the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce.