

FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 30

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

Last night the business community in Fortuna celebrated the best of the best at the annual Fortuna Chamber Dinner.

What is it that makes a business, an organization or an individual award-winning? As last night's honors indicate, it's good business practices, it's community involvement and that little something special that can't be described or quantified.

As previously announced, Eel River Brewing Company was the Chamber's Business of the Year. They are America's first certified organic brewery. They are great employers. Their restaurant is a hub of activity. They give back to the community. If there's a fundraiser there's probably going to be a donation from Eel River Brewery. We are lucky to have them in Fortuna.

Citizen of the Year—Congratulations to Ed Tanferani, owner of Fortuna Motors. If you've been to an event in Fortuna, you've probably ridden the "people mover." Ed donates the shuttle, a truck and a driver for Apple Harvest, Grave Matters, Rodeo, and countless other events. FOR YEARS. Ed is a Rotarian, involved in community development and is

a supporter of so many causes that it would take the next three community comments to name them all.

Then there is Small Business of the Year Country Rose. Tucked along the south side of Redwood Village, Country Rose has taken the lead in organizing events for their association. Including Rodeo, Apple Harvest, sales events and stepping up to lead the efforts for the annual Christmas Lighted Parade. They took part in the Cash Mob activity and the manager is on the FBID board and a graduate of Leadership Fortuna.

New Business of the Year Advanced Cellular Repair. The owner Robert is enthusiastic, supportive of Chamber and community efforts, and he's running a great operation. Very deserving.

Best Customer Service—I think of this one as one of the most important distinction a business can credited with. This year Green's Pharmacy received this award. There are countless testimonials about how the owners and staff go “above and beyond” every day. Last year Robert and Mary Johnson were honored as our Citizens of the Year.

And a new award this year—Home Based Business of the Year. The first-ever recipient of this award is Stitch Witch. This hard-working business is a community stalwart. They are always looking for new ways to market their business and serve the needs of the Eel River Valley. Local teams,

businesses and service clubs rely on Stitch Witch to make them stand out and look smashing.

Additional awardees this year include Volunteer of the Year Marilyn Strehl, Non-Profit of the Year Friends of the Fortuna Library and Ambassador of the Year Syd Myers.

Congratulations to one and all. Fortuna rocks!

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.