

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

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

There are a lot of congratulations to give out today so I'm just going to launch into it.

First, congratulations to the Fortuna Business Improvement District and Dianna Rios for a super successful Redwood Comedy Fest in Fortuna on Saturday. An almost-day-long affair, comedians from up and down the West Coast landed in Fortuna for the big show. Who says Fortuna isn't hip?

As you may know, the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce hosted our Annual Dinner last night at River Lodge. The sold-out evening was a celebration of our incredible business community.

Our Business of the Year is Sequoia Gas, a business run by the McWhorter family for years. They not only have a successful business venture that employs many people in our County, but they are always giving back to the community. Thank you Sequoia Gas for all you do.

Our New Business of the Year is Timeout Sports Pub in Strongs Creek Plaza. It's a great place to watch your favorite sporting event and they've been hosting comedy nights and other special functions at their pub. We're glad you are here.

Congratulations to our Small Business of the Year – Hoppy's Fro-Yo on Main Street. It's definitely a happy place in Fortuna.

Best Customer Service was awarded to Redwood Capital Bank. And our Volunteer of the Year is Simon Kriger. You may know him as Stir Fry Willie.

Our Home-Based Business Award winner is Doris Miller from Travel with Doris. All of our awards are kept a secret except our business of the year. We caught Doris, well, traveling—so she couldn't be there last night.

We gave a new award at this year's dinner—our Tourism & Hospitality Award. It went to a City Employee—Mike Johnson. Mike has gone above and beyond with so many projects this year – his help was vital for the Dog Park, the new Entry Sign on Kenmar, the Lights Before Christmas—way too many projects to mention here today.

Our Non-Profit of the Year is the Eel River Masons. For the past several years, they created and paid for the military banners that hang in Fortuna. The banners are incredible and such a wonderful tribute to our active military members.

And finally our Citizen of the Year. Becky Giacomini. What a remarkable person she is and how lucky we are to have her in our community. Becky is a past Chair of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce, is the current President of the Redwood Memorial Hospital Foundation Board; a past President of Kiwanis, on the board of the MGC, Cattlemwomen, has been honored as the Woman of Distinction by Kiwanis, and helps keep our Elementary School District running smoothly. There are so many credits that I would need another day to finish. If there is an event in the Eel River Valley, Becky has probably been involved in some way. Thank you Becky.

And thank you to all of our businesses in Humboldt County who help keep us moving forward.

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