

Community Comment  
December 23, 2014

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

It's the eve of Christmas eve. For many people, it means family is coming home, decorations are up in the house and wrapping paper—for some at least—is already put away.

It's also a time of reflection on the year that has been and the year yet to come (a rather Dickinsonian way to put it I suppose.)

This past year the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce celebrated many new businesses opening in town – Humboldt Threads, Real Food Grocer Café, Rare Bird, The Learning Place, Thrive Wellness, Lightning Boom Productions and more. We celebrated new locations for Dorris & Daughter Catering, Humboldt Fence Company, HealthSport and Cornerstone Realty.

There were Big Anniversaries for Horizons Business Products and Kim's Fortuna Fabrics and a name change for Shred Aware.

We had some great Mixers hosted by Mad Metals, Hops in Humboldt, River Lodge, Coast Central Credit Union and the businesses at Strongs Creek Plaza.

We honored Sequoia Gas as our Business of the Year and Becky Giacomini as our Citizen of the Year.

The Leadership Fortuna 3 class graduated in April and is now working on a mural for the City on the Ray's Food Place building. (It's going to be amazing.)

Fortuna had its first Comedy Festival produced by Fortuna Business Improvement District.

And there was a lot of collaborations happening in town between the City, McLean Foundation, Chamber, and Humboldt Lodging Alliance. Two prime examples of exceptional partnerships are the funding of an Economic Development Coordinator for the City and a River Lodge Sales and Marketing Coordinator. I think those two collaborations are unique in Humboldt County.

The WeSTOC motorcycle group chose Fortuna as their 2014 destination and met at River Lodge in September.

Women now outnumber the men on the City Council and we have a new Mayor.

Some things shouldn't change too much--Fortuna is still the premiere town for big events like Rodeo, Chili Cookoff, Apple Harvest, AutoXpo, and Daffodil Days.

And Fortuna's service clubs—2 Rotary clubs, Kiwanis and Sorpotimist—continue doing great work on the behalf of children, the food insecure, seniors and education. We owe all of them a great deal of gratitude.

Coming up in 2015 we'll have a new class of Leadership Fortuna starting on January 8; we'll have our annual State of the City Breakfast on February 5; and celebrate our Business Community again on May 7 at our Annual Dinner.

I have high hopes for Fortuna this coming year. There is new energy and positive forces working to make this community stronger. I'll have a chance to expand on that idea more in 2015.

It's an honor to be a part of the KINS family of Community Commenters and I look forward to sharing more thoughts and observations with you next year. And I'd like to take this moment to thank Precision Intermedia in Fortuna for recording these comments and getting them up to KINS.

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