

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

Welcome to the first Tuesday of 2015. I had an amazing 2014 but there is always something exhilarating about starting fresh, about wiping the slate clean and believing all things are possible.

We are off to a good start. Maggie Fleming was sworn in as Humboldt County District Attorney yesterday. We have our weekly Chamber of Commerce meeting at Noon every Monday so I was unable to attend the ceremony. But I was there in spirit. It's ironic and somewhat unfortunate that Fleming is coming in to office at a time when voters in the state of California made it easier for thugs to break laws and harder to prosecute the law breakers. I think we'd be in a bigger world of hurt if Fleming was not in office and I look forward to watching her in action this year. Go get 'em Maggie!

We're starting our new group of Leadership Fortuna this week. The last three classes raised the bar each year so I'm looking forward to seeing how this class will navigate the system and create a project to improve Fortuna.

The Fortuna Chamber is having a new fangled Mixer to kick off 2015. We're holding our next Mixer on Wednesday, January 14, in the empty Low's building on Main Street. It's a great opportunity for potential buyers to see the building. And, we're featuring young entrepreneurs at this Mixer as well as the Chamber's newest members. Stop by and see the building at 5:30 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome.

We're starting the new year with two local newscasts. News Channel 3 continues their good work with Samantha Bredeson doing an outstanding job covering Fortuna and we welcome NorthCoast News seen on both our local ABC and Fox affiliates. It's no small feat starting up a newscast. And our market is the size that attracts the young-right-out-of-school-first-job-ever candidates that learn their trade while they

are doing their job. The talented and motivated young people (ok, I almost said “kids”) don’t stay very long (for example Leshay Wesley just left last week for a much larger market in Texas) and then here we are breaking in new ones all over again. Now we have twice as many to break in.

But just think about how ambitious an undertaking it was to start up a news outlet in our small market. I’m hoping it will be like the days when we had two daily newspapers—the competition made for excellent work by the reporters. We all win if they both flourish so my fingers are crossed that Bonton’s investment in our area works out for them financially and that Channel 3 continues with their excellent community coverage.

I received a book from my sisters this past weekend called “the life-changing magic of tidying up – the Japanese art of decluttering and organizing.” Have you heard of it? My New Year outlook includes reading the book and using it as the topic for my next Community Comment.

Let’s make 2015 the best year yet—for business, for our community and for each other. All things are possible.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.