

ERIN DUNN
Community Comment
January 30, 2018

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

This Thursday, February 1, is the 8th Annual Fortuna State of the City Breakfast at River Lodge. Fortuna is poised to have a thriving year in 2018. But there will also be some challenges.

The good stuff: the County tax known as Measure Z, and the less than one cent sales tax Measure E, have added tremendous value to Fortuna and has helped fund additional safety officers that Fortuna Police Chief Bill Dobberstein will introduce us to at the breakfast.

Our Mayor Sue Long, Mayor Pro-Tem Tami Trent and City Manager Mark Wheetley will provide updates on the City, including more details on Measures E and Z.

Public Works Director Merritt Perry will also give updates on current and new projects going on around town.

We will hear the latest on the McLean Foundation's new Community Center campus. It's no longer just the Gene Lucas Community Center—which will house the Fortuna Senior Center, the MGC and the McLean Foundation—it's an entire campus that will be home to additional important community organizations. Come to the breakfast to find out more!

Our Challenges for 2018: As I look at the future of Fortuna, I'm personally worried about having quality candidates run for City Council during this election year when 2 of the 3 incumbents are retiring. We need people to step up and serve our community as City Councilmembers.

Are we making it too difficult to be a Council person? It's not just sitting at the dais two Mondays a month. There are special meetings, County meetings and Regional meetings. There are reports to read and preparation for all of those meetings.

This isn't to dissuade people from running—actually, I'm hoping that it will persuade people to run. It's the ultimate community engagement.

We need strong leaders in our community who will continue to stand up for Fortuna in a county that sometimes treats us as an afterthought. Case in point—the County Planning Department that has been eager to approve Cannabis permits on land that is adjacent to our City limits—next to neighborhoods and ball fields

If you have ever thought of running for office or want to find out more about what that means, consider attending Run, Serve, Lead! – an Introduction to Civic Engagement workshop at the MGC on Sunday, February 4, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Find out comprehensive information about running for office, serving on an appointed board, volunteering for a local campaign, or simply becoming a more actively engaged member of the community. It includes a panel discussion with audience Q&A.

Next year at the 9th Annual State of the City Breakfast we can meet the newly installed Council members and let them know how much they are appreciated.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.