

Community Comment

February 27, 2018

Erin Dunn

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

We recently celebrated our business community at the Fortuna Chamber's annual dinner.

It was an extraordinary night that put the spotlight on our businesses and individuals that help make our community special. The award announced prior to the dinner was our business of the year—Green's Pharmacy. Robert and Mary Johnson, along with their dedicated group of employees, make a huge impact on Fortuna and Humboldt County.

Our Small Business of the Year was Redwood Glass and Windows, a business that generally shies away from the limelight and quietly offers incredible craftsmanship and customer service.

Speaking of Customer Service, George's Glass was highlighted this year as the company offering that special something to their customers. If you've ever had them fix a chip in your window—or replace the full windshield—and I've had both—you know this small but important business is deserving of the honor.

Fortuna Chamber recognized Body Works as the New Business of the Year. It's not really a new business, but the new owners have an approach to marketing and client services that make it seem like a new business.

We honored two individuals for the work they do for our Chamber, businesses and community. Becky Giacomini was our Ambassador of the Year and Seth McGrath of Grocery Outlet was our Volunteer of the Year. Both contribute to Fortuna in ways that resemble an ice berg, if

you will—you think you see all they do but with closer inspection, their commitment to supporting our area goes deeper than you would ever imagine.

Our most time-honored award in Fortuna is the Fortuna Chamber Citizen of the Year. It's an award with a storied history given to remarkable people who help make Fortuna an exceptional place to reside and do business.

This year our Chamber honored Dianna Rios—executive director of the Fortuna Business Improvement District. Her dedication to our businesses and community is unsurpassed. Her boundless energy and positive impacts on an area she loves so dearly makes her a role model for both young and old.

And finally, we recognized our 2018 Dog of the Year. Six dogs took on the task of raising money for the Chamber and Miranda's Rescue. The winner is Winnie with her owner Chris Broadstock. You might have seen them at Safeway selling Golden Retriever cookies. A few days after taking the title they were fulfilling their duties at the ribbon cutting for our Dog of the Year sponsor Northcoast Horticulture Supply/Fortuna Feed.

As a Chamber, we work to be a catalyst for Business Growth; a Convener of leaders and influencers to get things done; and a Champion for a thriving community. We do those things for a wide range of businesses—a one-man-shop like ASAP Lock and Key and Redwood Memorial Hospital—one of the largest employers in the Eel River Valley. And everyone in between.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.