

Where was this picture taken? See page 2 for details.



A Monthly Publication of the
San Benito County Chamber of Commerce



Chamber E-News

San Benito County is Strengthened by Your Support

November 2009

Volume 33 No. 11



October Business of the Month Dona Esther Restaurant



Ambassadors honored Al Casteneda of Dona Esther restaurant in San Juan Bautista as Business of the Month. Dona Esther offers authentic mexican cuisine in a family friendly atmosphere. They also offer catering services. Contact them at (831)623-2518.

The San Benito County Chamber of Commerce presents our 89th Annual Dinner, Dance & Awards

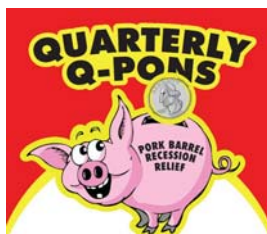
We are happy to announce this years' theme will be "Have a Ball! Celebrating Success-A Black & White Affair". Join us for an evening of elegance and sophistication as we celebrate and honor Man, Woman and Business of the Year. The evening will include dinner, raffle, live auction, award presentations, live music and dancing. This years' event is planned for Saturday, January 16, 2010 at San Juan Oaks Golf Club in Hollister.

Sponsorship forms are now available online or on page 7 of this newsletter. Sponsoring this event is a great way to showcase your business as well as show support for the community and those individuals and businesses who help to make it a great place to live and do business.

Tickets for the event will be available the end of November. You will receive an email announcement when they are available.

Theft and Loss Prevention Workshop this week.

The San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Hollister, the Hollister Downtown Association, the San Juan Bautista Chamber of Commerce and San Benito Bank are presenting a Theft and Loss Prevention Workshop on Wednesday, November 4th from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Vets Building, room 218. For more information please see the flyer in this newsletter.



Rabobank

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BIANCINI, KASAVAN & POPE, LLP
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TEKNOVA
science matters



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES
HOME HEALTH AGENCY
San Benito Health Care District



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		Union Bank

Want Your Logo Posted in the Next E-Newsletter? Become A Sponsor!
Click here to find out how

Contact us: San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, 650 San Benito St. Ste. 130
831-637-5315 / Fax 831-637-1008
info@sanbenitocountychamber.com

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Reports from Your Chamber President

Chamber Directors

Scott Fuller
Chairman

San Juan Oaks Golf Club

Terri Rovella
Vice Chairman

*California State Auto
Association*

Bette Grace
Finance Chairman

Grace & Associates

Sylvia Perez
Secretary

CALSTAR

Rosemary Bridwell
*Landscape Design by
Rosemary Bridwell*

Kathy Carlson
San Benito Bank

Cesar Flores
San Benito Arts Council

Dr. Ron Crates
Hollister School District

Jim West
Graniterock

Paul Rovella
Lombardo & Gilles

Katherine Vais-Bedolla
Bishop Lusink Insurance

Gretchen Blatter
Casa de Fruta

Staff

Jessica French
President/CEO

Mimi Cooper
Member Relations Manager

Bryn Calderon
Administrative Assistant

Newsletter
Chamber Staff



*Jessica French
President/CEO*

2nd Annual Condor Classic a Success.

The 2nd Annual Condor Classic Bicycle Ride was held on October 10th and was a huge success! The ride was started by the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee to create awareness about our county through a family friendly event. The venue was slightly different than the prior year as the staging area was held at the beautiful Windhaven Ranch in San Juan Bautista. We had 489 riders participate in five different routes; including a 100 mile, 100K, 40 mile, 25 mile and 10 mile ride. The feed back we received was excellent. We had over 125 terrific volunteers come out and help as well as an abundance of food and great weather. We hope that you will join us next year either as a rider or volunteer!

Community Foundation of San Benito County National Philanthropy Day

The Community Foundation of San Benito County will be hosting it's annual National Philanthropy Day on Friday, November 13th, 2009. This event will give attendees the chance to honor those individuals in our community who have volunteered time and talents to community organizations throughout San Benito County. For more information contact co-chair Jessica French at 831-637-5315 or Co-Chair Mindy Sotelo at 831-637-7643 or visit: <http://www.cffsbc.org/philanthropyday.php>

Where was the picture taken?

Look at the picture on the front page and be the first one to call the Chamber at 831-637-5315 and tell us where it was taken. You will receive 6 free raffle tickets at the next Business After Hours and be mentioned in the next newsletter. Good Luck!

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Member Connection

Member Renewals

We want to thank the following businesses for their continued support of the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce

1+ Year

**Your Green Connection
San Benito Dance Academy**

5+ Years

**Nino Real Estate
Bourdet's Christmas Trees**

10+ Years

**Designing Women
S.B.C. County Office of
Education**



*Mimi Cooper
Member Relations Manager*

Wow, has a month gone by already! This last month has been so much fun! And I want to thank Jessica and Bryn for making it such an easy transition for me.

As I was learning everything I came across the Member – to – Member discount program and I would like to build that program back up. If you are not familiar with the program I will give you a brief description of it. The program is intended to encourage other members to do business with other members and enjoy cost savings only available with your Chamber membership.

Your discount must take the form of an ongoing offer, money off the price of a single item or service, a percentage discount on total purchases, or some other option. Just be creative! I have attached a form to the news letter just fill it out and fax it back! Everybody could use a discount!

Here is a list of the members participating now:

Claudia's Bookkeeping
Hometown Hello
Greenwood Chevrolet
The Car Doctor
Dataflow Business Systems
Little Golden Wings Daycare
Comp-Connection
Visual Heat
Rustic Turtle Embroidery
Maddux Jewelry

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Hometown Hello
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The Car Doctor
Dataflow Business Systems
Little Golden Wings Daycare
Comp-Connection
Visual Heat
Rustic Turtle Embroidery
Maddux Jewelry
Ridgemark Golf & Country Club
Extreme Air
Landscape Design by Rosemary
Country Rose Gallery & Frame
Bertao Real Estate Group
Phyllis Swllow-Bertao Real Estate
Flapjacks Country Cafe
Papa Murphy's Pizza
Mini Max Public Storage & RV
Ellen Fisher's Bookkeeping
Shannon Grissom, Artist
Tiffany Motors
The Golden 1 Credit Union
Monterey Bay Office Products
Drapoel - Teezers
South Valley Internet
Postal Graphics
Manpower Staffing
Precision Laser Engraving
Curves
Rianda Air
Dassel's Petroleum
Village Shopper Web Design
Peter Fleming - Intero Real Estate
The Elegant Touch
Round Table Pizza
Waste Water Solutions
California State Auto Association

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET 100 MEMBERS PARTICIPATING!

Business After Hours 2010: Openings Still Available for Host Businesses:

If your organization or business is interested in hosting a "Business After Hours" event in 2010 please contact me at the Chamber office at 831-637-5315 or send me an email at mimi@sanbenitocountychamber.com We still currently have some months available. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business to the rest of the Chamber membership and local business community. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Events and Happenings

Calendar Submissions:

Please send your event information to bryn@sanbenitocountychamber.com to be included on the Calendar of Events. The full Calendar of Events is updated throughout the month on our website at: www.sanbenitocountychamber.com/CalendarofEvents.pdf

On-Going Events

Every Weekend Bike Rides
Every weekend at 8a.m. Meet at
Off the Chain Bikes, Hollister
Brian 831-636-0802

NOVEMBER

November 1st
San Benito Stage Company
presents:
Little Shop of Horrors
Granada Theater
2pm
Info: 831-636-3787
www.sanbenitostage.com

November 1st
YMCA presents the Pacific
Brass Band Concert
Presbyterian Church
2pm - 4pm
Info: 831-637-8600

November 3rd
Health Seekers Workshop
"Healthy Choices & Whole
Food Nutrition"
YMCA - 5th St. Hollister
7pm
Info: 831-637-8600

November 6th
San Benito Stage Company
presents:
Little Shop of Horrors
Granada Theater
7pm - Pre show 6:45pm
Info: 831-636-3787
www.sanbenitostage.com

November 7th
Hollister Free Wheelers
Power Wheelchair Soccer
Team Season Opener
9am to 5pm
Ribbon Cutting, Food Games,
Drawing
Info: 831-636-3271

Upcoming Events!

November 7th
San Benito Stage Company
presents:
Little Shop of Horrors
Granada Theater
7pm - Pre show 6:45pm
Info: 831-636-3787
www.sanbenitostage.com

November 7th
Small Steps Volunteer
Shopping Morning, Target
Shopping Center, Hollister
6:30am to 10:30am
Volunteers needed to help with
shopping, set up and clean up.
Info: 638-2111

November 7th
Annual Harvest Bazaar
United Methodist Church
9am - 2pm
Gifts, crafts, seasonal decor,
baked goods.
Info: 831-637-4240

November 8th
San Benito Stage Company
presents:
Little Shop of Horrors
Granada Theater
2pm
Info: 831-636-3787
www.sanbenitostage.com

November 11th
Veteran's Day Parade
Downtown Hollister
Info: 831-636-8406

November 11th
Business After Hours
Hosted by: Garlic Festival Foods
and Crossfit Hollister
1803 Shelton Drive, Hollister
5:30pm - 7pm
Info: 831-637-5315

November 13th
National Philanthropy Day
Luncheon
11:30am to 1:30pm
San Juan Oaks Golf Club
Info: 831-630-1924

November 14th
The Sacred Heart
Foundation presents:
"Celebrating Catholic
Education" Dinner Dance
7pm to 11pm
San Juan Oaks Golf Club
Info: 831-637-4157

November 14th
Pedro Party
6pm to 9pm
Bolado Park Blue Room
Door Prizes, Raffle Prizes, Dessert
and Drinks
Info: 801-1009

November 14th
Corralitos Artists' Collective
Harvest Festival
11am to 5pm
Corralitos Cultural Center
Wine, food, art, live music and
more...

November 27th
Black Friday
Downtown Hollister
Info: 831-636-8406

November 28th
18th Annual Lights on
Celebration
Downtown Hollister
Info: 831-636-8406

*The San Benito County
Chamber of Commerce is
now accepting calendar
submissions for our 2010
Calendar. If you have an
event happening next year
please email it to
bryn@sanbenitocountychamber.com*

Lunch with Leaders



*Dennis Kurtz and Anita Franchi of
the Hollister School District posing
as Dr. Ronald Crates*



*Dennis Kurtz and Anita Franchi
unmasked*

We would like to thank Dennis Kurtz and Anita Franchi for stepping in as guest speakers at our last Lunch with Leaders when our original speaker, Dr. Ronald Crates was not able to attend due to a last minute conflict. We also would like to thank Sam Perez and Alison Fahey of San Benito County Public Health for speaking and Hospice Foundation - Trees of Life for sponsoring and speaking at the event which was held on October 28th at San Juan Oaks.

There is no Lunch with Leaders scheduled for November or December. Watch the calendar of events for other business events during these months.

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Business After Hours

Thank You for
Raffle Prizes at the
October
"Business After
Hours"

YMCA
1 Month Wellness Program

Elegant Touch
\$25 Gift Card

Toni Rovella
Bath Spa

K & S Properties
Pumpkin Candy Bowl

Rustic Turtle
Hollister Sweatshirt

Health Markets
Halloween Gift Basket

San Benito Stage Co.
Pair of Tickets to "Little Shop
of Horrors"

SBC Chamber
November Business
Showcase

There is a small entry fee of \$5 for non-members to attend the Business After Hours. However a member may call the Chamber and put them on a guest list to have this fee waived for the first visit. 831-637-5315.

October Business After Hours hosted by Elegant Touch

Chamber Members and guests enjoyed getting together at this months Business After Hours held at Elegant Touch at 501a San Benito Street.

The Elegant Touch is among Hollister's favorites morning and lunch time destinations. They feature signature sandwiches, home-made soups, gormet salads and decadent baked goods, as well as a full coffee bar. They also offer catering services. Visit them on the web at www.bestsandwichhollister.com.



Last month we said goodbye to Michele Diaz as Member Relations Manager at the Chamber. We were happy to welcome her this month as a new Chamber Member, World Financial Group. For more information on Michele's services contact her at m_diaz@chamber.net.

Join us November 11th for our next Business After Hours which will be hosted by Garlic Festival Foods and Crossfit Hollister. The event will be held at 1803 Shelton Drive, Hollister, from 5:30 to 7pm. Remember to bring a prospective Chamber member and receive 6 free raffle tickets.

CANNED FOOD FOR COMMUNITY PANTRY! We will be collecting canned food for the local Community Pantry all month...bring 6 cans of food and receive 6 free raffle tickets at this month's Business After Hours. You can also drop off canned goods in our office anytime during office hours.

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Non Profit Spotlight & Member Press Releases

Information on Organizational Meeting the SBC Free Library

An organizational meeting will be held in January to form a committee to determine the community's desires for their library. You are cordially invited to attend. Date and time for the meeting will be announced later.

Our present library was built in 1960, and expanded in 1986. County population has grown from 15,000 to over 56,000. The number of library cardholders has increased 25% since 2006, but the number of books and periodicals has increased only 3%.

A new Bookmobile was recently purchased to help bring library services to those who cannot travel to the main library. But major expansion will be required in our library system, and we wish to ensure that library planning will meet the needs and desires of our community.

If you would like to participate, or just be informed of our progress, please inform Mary Schneider, President of Friends of the San Benito County Free Library. Telephone 831-637-1794 E-mail: mpschne@att.net 475 5th Street, Hollister, CA 95023

Non-Profit Organizations are a crucial part of San Benito County. They provide services, opportunities and outreach locally which in turn enhances our community. Support a non-profit this year.

Non-Profit Spotlight: Hollister Youth Alliance



Hollister Youth Alliance is a non profit public benefit organization which has served San Benito County since 1995.

The Hollister Youth Alliance mission is to assist young people in developing skills so that they can contribute to the social and economic betterment of their community. The guiding principle is to provide culturally competent services to empower and enrich families while working as a model for collaboration and advocacy in the community.

The Hollister Youth Alliance offers a number of programs which provide opportunities for children and youth to become successful, production members of society including after school programs, Club CASA for children 6 to 12 years old which focuses on academic tutoring, homework assistance, cultural and social enrichment, arts and crafts, guest speakers, summer reading programs, organized recreation and more. They also offer Collaborative After School Academy which focuses on grades 1st through 8th and provides a highly specialized and unique curriculum that directly addresses both the needs of the school

community and the larger community.

In direct collaboration with the Hollister School District, the Hollister Youth Alliance is able to address the needs of their student population by offering homework help, organized recreation, and enrichment.

HYA membership to after school programs is free and are held at various locations in the community.

Funding for the HYA is through community support from various community organizations including, Community Foundation, United Way, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Monterey Peninsula Foundation, The City of Hollister, and First Five San Benito. The HYA also has strategic partnerships with the Hollister School District, San Benito County Probation Department, San Benito County Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention Services of the Mental Health Services Act. Many others also donate time and money to the HYA.

For more information on the HYA or to find out how you can help or utilize their services please contact them at: Hollister Youth Alliance P.O. Box 1291, Hollister CA, 95023 / 831-636-2853 / www.hollisteryouthalliance.org

Friends of the San Benito County Free Library Recruiting for Board Members

The Friends of the San Benito County Free Library are looking for people to serve on the board and help plan the future of our Library. Due to the large increases of library card holders and circulation, your help and input will be very welcome and important for the benefit of the whole community.

During this poor economy, the county library and their new bookmobile, are even more important to the residents of this community. This is your opportunity to attend **the next meeting of the Friends at 5:30pm, on Thursday, November 19th**, in the Barbara Memorial Room at the San Benito County Free Library, 470 Fifth Street, Hollister. For further details please contact Mary Schneider at 831-637-1794. Board meetings will take place on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30pm.

San Benito County Chamber of Commerce is a drop off location for Community Food Bank & Pantry!

Please visit the Chamber Office during business hours and drop off your canned goods in the Community Pantry Barrel. The Pantry is in desperate need of canned goods this winter due to the economy...be a part of helping our community and stop by today with your donation.