# Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce and VISITORS CENTER



#### The Lark

August 2011 Volume XXV Issue 8

#### BRINGING BUSINESS & THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

4787 Old Redwood Highway, Suite 101, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 10am - 3pm <u>www.markwest.org</u>

#### **ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!**

A wonderful time was had at the *Spaghetti Western* Annual Installation Dinner held at Cloverleaf Ranch, which was attended by 65 members and their guests. A special Congratulations to all of our Board Members. It was great hearing all of us with our right hands raised high making the pledge to be of service to our Chamber. The pledge was led by Supervisor Mike McGuire who as always was engaging, charming and informative, and presented the attendees with the latest, important community updates (chicken poo – lol)!

Members enjoyed the "Spaghetti Western" theme this year, including delicious appetizers and local wines during the "networking" hour, followed by dinner featuring three kinds of pasta, two fresh salads and fruit. Wine was on the tables making the whole event very festive! We wrapped up the night with dancing to DJ Eric Berg's dance favorities.

A special thank you to Shawna DeGrange and her wonderful staff at Cloverleaf Ranch for making this event a success. There is nothing like having a beautiful young person greeting you with a smile. In my mind this set the tone for the event which included great food, wine and music. Oops - do not want to forget that all attendees had an opportunity to ride the Polar Bear. What a great addition to the event.

The following members were recognized for their contributions to the success of the Chamber in the past year.

Business of the Year: Sonoma County Airport Express
Their award was accepted by Anthony Geraldi, General Manager,
who was accompanied by his lovely niece.

Director of the Year: John Essman, Sonoma CONNECTION

Kathleen Palmer, Sonoma CONNECTION

Volunteer of the Year: Patricia Dearmin

A special **Life Time Award** went to **Don and Barbara Wilson, RVFD** It is individuals like these that make our Chamber such a success!

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707.578.7975

office@markwest.org

Business of the Year Sonoma County Airport Express Anthony Geraldi, GM



Director of the Year
John Essman & Kathleen Palmer
Sonoma CONNECTION



Volunteer of the Year Patti Dearmin



July Social hosted by Supervisor Mike McGuire page 3

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

next AFTER HOURS BUSINESS SOCIAL hosted by

**CLOVERLEAF RANCH** 

3892 Old Redwood Hwy. map & directions

Thursday, August 11 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport Master Plan Implementation Project Open House Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, Carston Cabaret 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa

Monday, August 15 6:00 to 9:00 pm



Brian Molsberry. Molsberry Markets. President

Our Mission: The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce is organized to advance the economic well-being and uniqueness of the Mark West Area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.

The next Board of Director's meeting is August 9 at Grace Fellowship 608 Larkfield Center 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Want to keep abreast of important information pertinent to local business issues?

Visit: sonoma-county.org/edb

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I would first like to thank Will Brodt for a great job for his term as President last year. With August already upon us, I'm sure a lot of parents are preparing their children for back to school. When I went to school, we went back the Tuesday after Labor Day. With schools starting back in August it sure seems to make the summers feel shorter.

The installation dinner was a huge success! Thank you for all that attended. A special thanks to Shawna and her staff from Cloverleaf Ranch for a great dinner. Thanks to Supervisor Mike McGuire for the swearing in of officers. Congratulations to the following businesses; Tony Geraldi at Airport Express for Business of the Year, John Essman and Kathleen Palmer with Sonoma Connection for Director of the Year, Pat Dearmin for Volunteer of the Year, and to Don & Barbara Wilson for Honorary Lifetime Members. For anybody that missed the dinner Cloverleaf Ranch will be hosting the August social on the 11th.

Just a reminder to everyone, the Trade Show sign-ups are filling up fast, with two months to go. This is an excellent time to showcase your place of business. You can sign up on line at MarkWest.org or call the Chamber office at 578-7975.

Have a great month!

Brian Molsberry



THANK YOU TO OUR **CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER!** 

Community members will soon have a new location to pay their water bills!

California American Water will be moving into the Chamber building in the fall.

Residents will have easy access via the large TRADESHOW SPONSOR parking lot, and a beautiful location with a water conservation garden - sponsored by California American Water!

WINE COUNTRY HARVEST FAIRE & BUSINESS SHOWCASE IOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5 4:00 - 8:00 PM Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, CA



Purchase Your Tradeshow Booth Online NOW: http://www.markwest.org

Member's Price:

4' Table= **\$250** 8' Table= **\$350** 

**Support Your Chamber = Support Your Community!** 

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522 Larkfield Center, Santa Rosa 707/546-0307

www.lescure-engineers.com

#### SOCIAL HOSTED BY SUPERVISOR MIKE MCGUIRE

July's Business After Hours Social - Mike's After Work Fiesta! - was hosted by Supervisor Mike McGuire at the Chamber offices. We had a great turnout!

Mike's team; District Director Jenny Kidd and wife Erika McGuire; organized a wonderful Mexican Fiesta buffet and delicious North County beverages, plus a gift basket of local products, and the soothing sounds of the student Bellamor String Quartet.

Members and their guests enjoyed the wide open spaces of the Chamber's offices, which are currently being remodeled for our new tenants, California American Water Company.

The business drawn for the Pot of Gold was not present. The Pot of Gold payout at the August social hosted by Cloverleaf Ranch will increase to \$100.00. A member of your business must attend the social to win!

The 50 / 50 raffle of \$58.00 was won by Brian Molsberry of Molsberry Markets, Inc.

Thanks to Supervisor Mike McGuire and Windsor Times, which donated prizes for our business card drawing. Winners of the business card drawings were Sally Crain, Broker @ Hurd Real Estate and Kathleen Palmer of Sonoma CONNECTION.

Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you to the businesses donating prizes. Thanks to Supervisor McGuire and his team for a great social!

contributed by Kathleen Palmer, Ambassador



Bellamor String Quartet



Volunteer, Jenny Kidd, Supervisor Mike McGuire's office, Erika McGuire



Sally Crain, Broker @ Hurd Real Estate, Supervisor Mike McGuire, Kathleen Palmer, Sonoma CONNECTION Kimberlee Anderson, Assets Insurance



Laura Buhrer, Exchange Bank, Missy Dannenburg, Extended Child Care Coalition

#### JULY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS SOCIAL



Supervisor Mike McGuire, Elaine B. Holtz, Norton & Holtz, Planning Comm. Jason Liles



Enjoy an incredible array of authentic Fiesta appetizers, exquisite North County wines



Volunteers for Supervisor Mike McGuire



Paul Erickson & wife, Real Estate Appraisals, Pete Lescure, Lescure Engineers



Jerry Hankins, Internet Sales good cookie!

**SOCIALS** see schedule on page 5

#### **BRINGING BUSINESS & THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER!**

# ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!



Supervisor Mike McGuire installs Chamber Board of Directors



Don & Barbara Wilson honored with Life Time Membership



The Cloverleaf Ranch crew



Brenda, Dean & Tina Molsberry

#### **RENEWALS:**

Lescure Engineers 1993

AutoBahn Anything 2005 Detailing

Essner Tree Service 2008

Charlie's Restaurant 2009 at the Windsor Golf Club

Computers Can Work 2010

Thank You!

#### **ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!**

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For me the highlight of the evening was seeing people dressed up in cowboy attire, smiles on their faces, talking with one another and dancing. Being part of this Chamber is truly a wonderous experience. Check out the great pictures taken by our Photographer John Essman of Sonoma CONNECTION on Facebook and on the Chamber website. I never saw a group of photos with so many smiles.

Will Brodt, Promos Oncall, served as MC, and he was recognized for his leadership as our President during the past 1½ years – a job very well done! Anthony Geraldi, Sonoma County Airport Express, outgoing Board member, was thanked for his 4 years of service, and for his continuing work as a Chamber Ambassador. Brian Molsberry, Molsberry Markets, was welcomed as our incoming President. Molsberry Markets is a founding member of the Chamber as well as a Corporate Sponsor and key attraction at our annual Wine Country Harvest Faire and Business Showcase.

And, many, many thanks to all of you who donated items to the Chamber gift baskets: Aggie Maggio, Coldwell Banker, Brian Molsberry, Molsberry Markets, Dian Nunes, TD & Associates, Don & Barbara Wilson, John Essman and Kathleen Palmer, Sonoma CONNECTION, Kimberlee Anderson, Assets Insurance, Max McDonald, AutoBahn Anything Detailing, Missy Danneburg, Extended Child Care Coalition, Patricia Dearmin, Stephanie Munson, Goodwill Industries, Susan Lindstrom, GUARDIAN Caregiver Connections, Todd Anderson, Best Western Plus Wine Country Inn & Suites, Anthony Geraldi, Sonoma County Airport Express, Tony Lindstrom, California American Water, Will and Denise Brodt, Promos Oncall, Judith Light, Allegiant Family Circle, Tom Eichler, Eichler Auto & Truck Repair.

The baskets turned out beautifully thanks to Susan Lindstrom of Guardian Caregiver Connections. I was in awe of how great those baskets looked.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS** to the WINNERS of the business card drawing:

Don & Barbara Wilson, RVFD

Beverly Graham, GRP Wealth Strategies Group Sue Sloat, Mark West Union School District Tony Geraldi, Sonoma County Airport Express

#### THIS CHAMBER ROCKS!!

The 2011-2012 Chamber Board of Directors:

President Brian Molsberry, Molsberry Markets

Past President &

VP Public Relations Will Brodt, Promos Oncall

Corporate Secretary Susan Lindstrom, Guardian Caregiver Connections

Corporate Treasurer John Essman, Sonoma CONNECTION

VP Business Services Elaine B. Holtz, Norton & Holtz Business Solutions

VP Community Services &

Membership Patricia Dearmin

Directors James Bajgrowicz, Office of James Bajgrowicz

Laura Buhrer, Exchange Bank/Larkfield Shawna DeGrange, Cloverleaf Ranch Stephanie Munson, Goodwill Industries Sue Sloat, Mark West Union School District Doug Williams, Rincon Valley Fire District

contributed by Elaine B. Holtz, Susan Lindstrom & Kathleen Palmer

#### **UPCOMING BUSINESS SOCIALS**

Thursday, August 11 5:30-7:30pm

Hosted by Cloverleaf Ranch

Location: 3892 Old Redwood Hwy., Santa Rosa

Thursday, September 8 5:30-7:30pm

Hosted by California American Water & Aaction Rents

Location: Aaction Rents, 1000 River Rd., Fulton

Thursday, October 13 5:30-7:30pm

Hosted by **Anytime Fitness** 

Location: 490 Larkfield Center, Santa Rosa

Thursday, November 8 5:30-7:30pm Hosted by **Extended Child Care Coalition** 

Location: TBD

Thursday, December 8 5:30-7:30pm

Hosted by Molsberry Markets, Inc. & Exchange Bank

Location: 500 Larkfield Center, Santa Rosa

## Sign Up NOW for 2012 Socials - dates are filling up - schedule yours NOW!

If you are a member interested in hosting a Business After Hours Social, please contact Kimberlee Anderson, 546-8020, email assetsinsurance@gmail.com, or visit our Calendar of Events page at markwest.org.



Interested in joining our Ambassador Club? Contact Kim Anderson Assets Insurance 546-8020 assetsinsurance@gmail.com

### WINE COUNTRY HARVEST FAIRE & BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Wednesday, October 5 4 - 8 pm
Hosted by 60+ Local Businesses
Location: Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
50 Mark West Springs Road Santa Rosa



#### **HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING**

Wednesday, December 7 6:00-7:00pm Hosted by the **Mark West Area Chamber** Location: Larkfield Center in front of Molsberrys Market

#### **CHAMBER MEETINGS**

Tuesday, August 9
Board of Directors
11:30am - 1:00pm
Grace Fellowship

Thursday, August 11
Ambassadors
4:00pm - 5:00pm
Chamber Office



#### **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY 2011**

Our new membership directory has been printed. A Chamber volunteer will be contacting you to deliver your copy.

Use your directory to find Chamber businesses who offer the services you need, and who may be a prospective customer for you!





## Sonoma CONNECTION

John Essman Kathleen Palmer P O Box 1381

Healdsburg, CA 95448 **(707) 433-8774** 

info@sonomaconnection.com www.sonomaconnection.com

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## REASONS FOR OPTIMISM:

#### AN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR SONOMA COUNTY

Prepared for Sonoma County Economic Development Board

#### LONG-TERM OUTLOOK: POSITIVE FACTORS

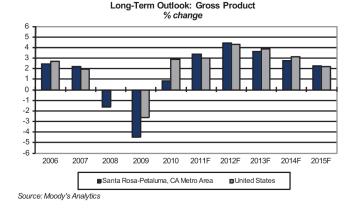
The new Moody's Analytics forecast for Sonoma County reveals that Sonoma County's cost of doing business is at a record low and now below the national average. Housing affordability now exceeds most of the Bay Area, and the outlook is positive for tourism, wine, and specialty food processing. Job creation is expected to be relatively strong over the next three years.

Link: http://edb.sonoma-county.org/documents/2011/june\_2011\_revised\_ada.pdf

Ben Stone, Economic Development Board

excerpt from the full report:

Sonoma County's basic industries such as its wineries and specialty foods, travel and tourism, and technology production provide considerable long-term potential for economic growth. These industries build on the comparative advantages that are inherent in the county's resources—its workforce, its natural resources, and its capital.



These resources are plentiful. For example, the metro area's workforce is relatively skilled. According to the 2009 American Community Survey, 33% of the adult population has a college degree, higher than the U.S. rate of 28% and California's 30% rate. Its natural resources are bountiful, as attested by its rich soil, mild climate, & extensive shoreline, forests & parklands. It has built up local capital through entrepreneurship over the past several decades. Per capita income in Sonoma County exceeds the national & statewide averages.

The long-term outlook for the winemaking industry remains especially favorable. That said, as the industry matures, growth in the coming decade will not be as fast as it was in the past. Much depends upon how quickly the emerging millennial generation—the children of the baby boomers—takes up the mantle of wine consumption and knowledge in the coming decade and how much of the recent flight to value by consumers is permanent. Furthermore, expansion of the industry within Sonoma County will become increasingly difficult as land becomes scarcer and conservation of resources becomes increasingly important.

National demographic trends, however, do suggest healthy long-term prospects for grape growers and winemakers. Total wine consumption in the U.S. surpassed France's in 2010 despite the lingering effects of the recession. International markets are increasingly important, particularly in developing Asian economies.

The long-term outlook for Sonoma County's tourism remains favorable. The region is growing in recognition, and its proximity to Bay Area attractions will continue to support tourist traffic. Moreover, the strong popularity of wine and the wine-related culture underpins the positive fundamental outlook for the industry. The expansion of the visitor experience toward wellness programs and spa experiences adds further long-term upside potential.

Travel and tourism also have the potential to expand internationally as the region—including its wine-producing areas—becomes better known overseas and as accommodations and attractions improve. This is especially pertinent as overseas travelers tend to spend more per day than domestic travelers. There is good potential for accelerating demand from Asian travelers given the rapid rebound and renewed expansion of the developing Asian economy. In contrast, travelers from Europe and Japan may be slow to return to the wine country.

#### MARK WEST AREA COMMUNITY INFORMATION

AREA POPULATION - within a 3 mile radius - 20,000

ELEVATION - 160 feet above sea level

BOUNDARIES - Area approximately bounded by: Shiloh Road - North Piner Road - South

West Olivet Road - West Lodge on Mark West Springs Rd - East

The Lark Newsletter is published monthly under the direction of:
The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
4787 Old Redwood Hiwy, Suite 101, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

ADVERTISING: 6 months \$107.50; 1 year \$200

FLYER INSERTION: \$35 per issue.

You supply a pdf version of your 8.5" x 11" flyer to info@markwest.org

You can pay online @ http://markwest.org/payment/

The Lark Newsletter is emailed to member businesses each month. For more information, contact the Chamber Office at 578-7975.

Editors: Kathleen Palmer & John Essman (707) 433-8774 Sonoma CONNECTION info@sonomaconnection.com

Deadline for publication is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Please email your materials to info@markwest.org

Promote your business with your flyer in the Chamber newsletter. You supply the flyers - We do the work!

#### CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Effective May 1, 2006

Standard Dues		Non-Profit Dues
\$125.00	Business (1-5 Personnel)	\$110.00
\$175.00	Business (6-10 Personnel)	\$155.00
\$245.00	Business (11+ Personnel)	\$215.00
\$625.00	Corporate Sponsor	
\$ 95.00	Individual (no business affiliation)	

You can pay online @ http://markwest.org/payment/



David Hartman

15 Lark Center Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95403

707-546-5717 FAX 707-546-0902

#### **OFFICERS**

**President** 

Brian Molsberry Molsberry Markets, Inc. 546-5041 Molsberry522@sbcglobal.net

Past President, VP Public Relations

Will Brodt Promos Oncall 539-5133 will@grafixoncall.com

Corporate Secretary

Susan Lindstrom Guardian Caregiver Connections 328-2588 guardian givers@gmail.com

Corporate Treasurer

John Essman Sonoma CONNECTION 433-8774 john@sonomaconnection.com

VP Business Services

Elaine B. Holtz Norton & Holtz Business Solutions 527-5987 elaine@nortonholtz.com

VP Community Services, Membership
Patricia Dearmin 539-4945

#### **DIRECTORS**

James Bajgrowicz Office of James Bajgrowicz 235-9774 jimbajgrowicz@gmail.com

Laura Buhrer Exchange Bank/Larkfield 524-3077 buhrerl@exchangebank.com

Shawna DeGrange Cloverleaf Ranch 545-5906 cloverleafranch@hotmail.com

Stephanie Munson Goodwill Industries 523-0550 ext. 213 smunson@gire.org

Sue Sloat Mark West Union School District 524-2970 ssloat@mwusd.org

Doug Williams Rincon Valley Fire District 539-1801 dwilliams@rvfire.org

#### **HEAD AMBASSADOR**

Kimberlee Anderson Assets Insurance 546-8020 assetsinsurance@gmail.com

#### **PUBLICITY**

Evan Jacobs Cal-American Water Co. 542-8329 Evan.Jacobs@amwater.com

#### CONSULTANT

Daryl Anderson Wikiup Properties 546-8000 andybaum@comcast.net

#### **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

PatriciaDearmin Elaine B. Holtz JimBajgrowicz 578-7975 office@markwest.org

## REASONS FOR OPTIMISM:

#### AN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR SONOMA COUNTY

Prepared for Sonoma County Economic Development Board

#### LONG-TERM OUTLOOK: POSITIVE FACTORS

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Domestic demographic trends suggest healthy longer-term prospects as well. The first wave of baby boomers have reached the retirement age, with well-developed tastes for travel and recreation in addition to the discretionary income to fund these tastes. Retirees in the coming decade will generate strong demand for travel to the wine country.

Experience shows that retirees many times chose to retire in places that they love to travel to, suggesting that travel and tourism could have an impact on housing market trends over the coming decade.

Specialty food products have the long-term potential to complement the wine industry within the region. These include olive oils, cheeses, and a range of organic vegetables and meat products. Such goods are linked to the tourism industry as well, as visitors sample these products locally and then generate new markets once they return home. Similarly, these niche industries play an increasingly important role as suppliers to restaurants throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Consumer demand for locally grown products is bound to rise in coming years.

The completed expansion of Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport will assist in attempts to expand air service to the county. The expansion project—funded by \$2.3 million from the federal stimulus—increased terminal space by a third, including space for additional airline counters. Horizon Air—the airport's sole carrier— provides service to Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and Las Vegas. The addition of flights to and from major hub airports in the West and the Rockies would further improve access to Sonoma County. The risk at hand, however, is that the U.S. domestic airlines are consolidating and reducing capacity, often at the expense of smaller regional airports. Thus, there is some risk that the current air connections may not be expanded.

A sharp improvement in the cost of doing business in Sonoma County is a significant shift in the comparative advantage of its economy that will support a recovery in the near term. The index of the cost of doing business is below average at 93 and is at a record low for the county going back to the origin of the index in 1990. The energy component of the index has come down substantially from its peak in 2003. The office rent component of the index has fallen considerably over the past three years, a sign of the distressed nature of the commercial property market but also an indicator of the much improved affordability for new and expanding businesses.

1) Rank is out of 392 metro areas. 2) U.S. average = 100. 3) Labor Costs are measured by total earnings per employee at the 3-digit SIC level. 4) Tax Burdens are measured by all taxes excluding severance, education, and hospital taxes relative to personal income. 5) Energy costs are measured by cents per kWh for industrial and commercial users. 6) Office costs are measured by rent per square foot. 7) In the Overall Index, Labor Costs have 65% weight, Energy Costs have 15% weight, and Office Costs and Taxes have 10% weight.

Similarly, housing costs no longer put Sonoma County at a serious disadvantage. The Moody's Analytics housing affordability index for Sonoma County stands at 97, meaning a median income-earning family could afford a house priced at 97% of the median sales price. This is more than double the level of 44 reached at the end of 2005 and above the earlier high reached at the beginning of 2009. Sonoma County's housing affordability exceeds that of the San Francisco metropolitan division— which includes the counties of San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin—and the San Jose metropolitan area and is approaching the levels of the East Bay counties of Alameda and Contra Costa.



4787 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 101 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

## AFTER HOURS BUSINESS SOCIAL

Thursday, August 11 5:30-7:30pm

Hosted by
CLOVERLEAF
RANCH
3892 Old Redwood Hwy.

#### **BRINGING BUSINESS & THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER!**

#### Thank you to our 21st Annual Harvest Faire & Business Showcase Vendors & Participants!

MORE PHOTOS NEXT MONTH!



Press Democrat

Molsberry Markets

Harvest Faire

Silent Auction

Pink Fire Truck

#### Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors!







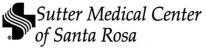












A Sutter Health Affiliate

# 22nd Annual Wine Country Harvest Faire Business Showcase & Silent Auction



# Wednesday, October 5, 2011 4 – 8 PM

presented by the Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center



Exhibits, Entertainment, Networking

# FUN, FOOD & WINE

Please call the Chamber at 578-7975 or visit www.MarkWest.org to participate.  Company Contact	WE	us at the LLS FARO CENTI THE ARTS	<b>ER</b> FOR
Address		Members	Non-Members
City/State/ZIPPhone/FAX	4′ Table 8′ Table	\$250 \$350	\$375* \$475*
Email Check payable to: Mark West Chamber	(50	% deposit required preserve a space)	(* includes 1 Year Membership)
☐ Pay Online: MarkWest.org☐ Please charge my VISA/MASTERCARD☐	Booth Fee includes display space, table, 2 chairs, tablecloth, and exhibitor ribbons.  Electricity available on request, at no additional charge.		
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