



# ELK GROVE'S FOCUS on Business

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## Looking Forward to 2009

By Richard Samra,  
2009 Chairman of the Board



The past year was witness to many remarkable and historic events. Once again, Americans witnessed the election cycle for a new president. History was made when the first African American was nominated by a major party. The election was also of historic proportions, with the first African American ever elected as President of the United States.

2008 also played witness to stock market gyrations that many consider (and perhaps hope) are once in a lifetime events. 2008 was plagued with financial turmoil that engulfed some of the largest banks and brokerage houses not only in the United States but also around the world. Residential property values dropped dramatically causing great suffering among our citizens. All of which highlights the interdependence of the world's economies.

The citizens and business community of Elk Grove are linked to all of these events whether they are national or international in scope. Our friends and neighbors continue dealing with the impacts of these events on a daily basis. Understanding that things will improve in time does not lessen the pain of those struggling in today's business climate, nor is it easy for many who find themselves either unemployed or underemployed in this job market.

Elk Grove is on the front line of tomorrow and the many opportunities that beckon. For all the development that has occurred, we still have a city to build. At least three new hospitals are currently in the pipeline for our area. These will provide medical offices and support services required to meet the needs of our citizens. Technical schools and advanced research centers will be in our future. A regional shopping mall will be realized at some point. Industrial parks and other major employers will help round out the jobs to housing balance within our community.

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[www.elkgroveca.com](http://www.elkgroveca.com)

January / February 2009

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### Special Event

Save These Dates!

#### January Calendar of Events

- 8<sup>th</sup> Member Orientation
- 10<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Leadership Recognition
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mixer
- 30<sup>th</sup> Membership Luncheon

#### February Calendar of Events

- 17<sup>th</sup> Mixer
- 27<sup>th</sup> Membership Luncheon

Visit the Chamber's website  
[www.ElkGroveCa.com](http://www.ElkGroveCa.com) or  
Call for more information  
916.691.3760

## Chamber Leadership Ready for 2009

Election of the 2009 Officers and Board of Directors was finalized in December, and already they have developed an action plan for the coming year.

Richard Samra, principal of Richard Samra Enterprises, was elected to lead the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in 2009 as Chair of the Board. Steve Griffin, Grubb & Ellis, has been named Chair-Elect.

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 Elk Grove, CA 95758-8046  
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 www.ElkGroveCa.com  
 Chamber@ElkGroveCa.com

2009 Board Officers and Directors

Richard Samra, Chair  
 Richard Samra Enterprises  
 (916) 683-5850

Steve Griffin, Chair Elect  
 Grubb & Ellis  
 (916) 418-6018

Paul Krueger, Vice Chair  
 SureWest  
 (866) 787-3937

Jack Williams, Past Chair  
 Smog 'N Go, LLC  
 (916) 712-4280

James Sweeney, Treasurer  
 Sweeney & Greene, LLP  
 (916) 388-5170

Janet Toppenberg, Corporate Secretary  
 Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce  
 (916) 691-3760

Sheryl Carlson, Director  
 Vista Point Insurance Services  
 (916) 686-8686

Debbie Fee, Director  
 Raleys / Bel Air Stores  
 (916) 685-1200

Terry Haupt, Director  
 Frontier Communications Solutions  
 (916) 691-5580

Veronica Knudson, Director  
 Methodist Hospital of Sacramento  
 (916) 423-6010

Steve Ladd, Director  
 Elk Grove Unified School District  
 (916) 686-5085

Michael Megna, Director  
 Backscratchers Salon Systems, Inc  
 (916) 686-2400

Sharon O'Brien, Director  
 The O'Brien Company  
 (916) 684-7301

Michelle Odell, Director  
 Kaiser Permanente  
 (916) 688-2000

Todd Vermillion, Director  
 River City Bank  
 (916) 685-3901

Sandy Yuyama, Director  
 The Mechanics Bank  
 (916) 478-2333

## Looking Forward to 2009 (continued from page 1)

The goal of expanding our existing businesses and to support an environment for other businesses to start or relocate to Elk Grove has not changed. The current cycle will run its course and Elk Grove will be ready for the opportunities that follow.

Our local elected officials understand that they must work with business in a strong spirit of cooperation. We share a common goal of building a strong community that will afford opportunities to all of its citizens. Only with the strong sense of cooperation can we find true success.

The spirit of the Gold Rush of 1849 continues to this day. We walk in the footsteps of pioneers and risk takers who came to a new land to seek their fortunes. They settled here and lead the way for others to follow. They faced many trials, and responded with great courage. They believed in themselves and this remarkable land!

I am humbled with the opportunity to serve as Chairman of your Chamber. The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce will continue to be a strong voice for the business community. Many people are responsible for the success of your Chamber. The staff and volunteers (Ambassadors / members of the Board of Directors) devote many hours without complaint. Please join me in recognizing Jack Williams for his leadership and work as our Chairman in 2008. For all those Ambassadors, Board Members and volunteers who do so much please accept my gratitude for your efforts.

I look forward to working with our incoming board of Directors and all of our supporters and volunteers. The true heart and soul of this organization, of course, are the members! For your continued support and confidence, I am very appreciative.

## Chamber Leadership Ready for 2009 (continued from page 1)

During a retreat on December 5<sup>th</sup>, the new officers, along with newly elected and returning Directors, laid out plans for Chamber action in 2009. Those plans include:

- Getting the word out on the Chamber services that can help businesses through tough times;
- Concentrating efforts on the core services of the Chamber such as referrals, networking, seminars and counseling;
- Development of new programs to help small businesses cope with current economic conditions, and
- Scaling events to fit business resources given current economic conditions.

Four new business representatives will join the Board of Directors in 2009, filling seats vacated by the expiration of the terms of current members. The following members will be filling terms on the Board:

- Steven Ladd, EGUSD; Micheal Megna, Backscratchers; Debra Fee, Raley's /BelAir; Sandy Yuyama, Mechanics Bank

Filling out the governing Board are returning Directors:

- Sheryl Carlson, Vista Point Insurance Services; Terry Haupt, Frontier; Veronica Knudsen, Methodist Hospital; Sharon O'Brien, The O'Brien Company; Michelle Odell, Kaiser Permanente; Todd Vermillion, River City Bank

Other officers elected are Paul Krueger, SureWest Communications as Vice Chair, James Sweeney, Sweeney & Greene, as Treasurer and Janet Toppenberg, Chamber CEO as Corporate Secretary. Ongoing 2008 Board Chair Jack Williams of Smog 'N Go, will continue on the Board in the position of Immediate Past Board Chair.



## Travel with the Chamber in 2009

Tuscany, Egypt, China, Ireland

Contact the Office 691-3760 or visit the Chamber's website

[www.ElkGroveCa.com](http://www.ElkGroveCa.com)

**Apartments - Senior**  
**Seasons at Laguna Ridge**  
 Kerri Reynolds  
 7301 Bilby Road  
 Elk Grove, CA 95757  
 phone: (916) 714-4400  
 fax: (916) 405-3744

**Art Galleries**  
**Elk Grove Fine Arts Center**  
 Arlene Palmer  
 9701 Elk Grove-Florin Road  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 835-8366  
 www.elkgrovetineartscenter.org

**Associate Member**  
**Richard Renfro**

**Clothing - Women's**  
**DressBarn**  
 Colleen Leary  
 9630 Bruceville Road  
 Elk Grove, CA 95757  
 phone: (916) 685-0887  
 www.dressbarn.com

**Country Club**  
**Diplomat Resort & Country Club**  
 William Norwood  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 821-0960

**Entertainment**  
**Sacramento County Fair**  
 T.J. Plew  
 1600 Exposition Boulevard  
 Sacramento, CA 95815  
 phone: (916) 263-2975  
 fax: (916) 263-2973  
 www.sacfair.com

**Flooring**  
**Lars Custom Tile**  
 Lars Rustmann  
 9001 El Oro Plaza Drive  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 230-2793  
 fax: (916) 714-3994  
 www.tilesacramento.com

**Hotels/Motels/Bed & Breakfasts**  
**Diplomat Resort & Country Club**  
 William Norwood  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 821-0960  
 fax: (916) 333-3286

**Ice Cream**  
**Yogurt Bowl**  
 Stephany Wang  
 8234 Laguna Boulevard #140  
 Elk Grove, CA 95758  
 phone: (916) 684-3635  
 fax: (916) 685-4627

**Marketing Consultants**  
**Avaunt Advantage**  
 Brandon Miller  
 9401 E. Stockton Blvd., #145  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 239-7164  
 fax: (916) 714-4788  
 www.avauntadvantage.com

**Payroll Services**  
**Payroll People, Inc.**  
 Angela Bajar  
 11344 Gold River Drive, #625  
 Gold River, CA 95670  
 phone: (916) 956-8161  
 fax: (916) 720-0468

**Pre-Schools**  
**Knowledge Learning Corporation**  
 Lilla Thwaites  
 9250 Elk Grove-Florin Road  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 714-2772  
 fknowledgelearning.com

**Public Relations**  
**Paul Hegyi & Associates**  
 Paul Hegyi  
 5637 Lilyview Way  
 Elk Grove, CA 95757  
 phone: (916) 215-9842

**Real Estate - Residential**  
**Keller Williams Realty**  
 Bruce Slaton  
 9355 E. Stockton Blvd., #210  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 480-8658  
 fax: (916) 241-8803  
 www.ElkGroveHomeSource.com

**Restaurants**  
**Sizzler Restaurant**  
 Sharif Umair  
 8531 Bond Road  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 685-1553

**Schools, Colleges & Education**  
**National University**  
 Stephanie Marsh  
 9320 Tech Center Drive  
 Sacramento, CA 95826  
 phone: (916) 855-4101  
 fax: (916) 855-4397  
 www.nu.edu

**Senior Services**  
**CA Carehomes, LLC**  
 Vernon Billy  
 8700 Seckel Court  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 212-3115

**Tax Preparation**  
**Roni Lynn Deutch, A Professional Tax Corp.**  
 Nicole Elton  
 4815 Watt Avenue  
 North Highlands, CA 95660  
 phone: (916) 443-1080  
 fax: (800) 340-1084  
 www.RoniDeutch.com

**Transaction Facilitator**  
**R. J. Ludeking & Associates**  
 R. J. Ludeking  
 9455 Winding River Way  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 541-3514  
 fax: (916) 685-1040

**Veterinary Hospital**  
**Franklin Ranch Pet Hospital & Hotel**  
 Steve Zehnder  
 10207 Franklin Boulevard  
 Elk Grove, CA 95757  
 phone: (916) 683-4000  
 fax: (916) 683-4040  
 www.franklinpet.com

**Youth services**  
**Young Life Elk Grove**  
 Andi Yanok  
 9728 Kent Street, #B  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 phone: (916) 501-0773  
 www.younglife.org



**Aim Higher, Inc.**  
 3151 Dwight Road, #100  
 (916) 391-4668



**Another Dimension Apostolic Ministries**  
 9055 Locust Street, #B-2  
 (916) 681-7341



**BBQ Luxury Olive Chicken**  
 8868 Bond Road #500  
 (916) 714-5575



**Elk Grove Carpet One**  
 9027 Elk Grove Blvd., #101  
 (916) 714-3652



**Seasons Senior Apartments**  
 7301 Bilby Road  
 (916) 714-4400



**Sizzler Restaurant**  
 8531 Bond Road  
 (916) 685-1553



**Firestone Complete Tire Care**  
 8055 Orchard Loop Lane  
 (916) 689-2180



**DressBarn**  
 9630 Bruceville Road  
 (916) 685-0887



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Chamber Mission  
 to develop, promote and  
 advance the Elk Grove area  
 business community

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