



ELK GROVE'S FOCUS on Business

The Cornerstone of Business Since 1952

Nominations for Business of the Year Open

Chamber to Honor Business at Leadership Recognition Banquet

The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce will recognize a business in Elk Grove that demonstrates business excellence and contributes to the health of the Elk Grove business community. The Business of the Year award, created in 2004, will provide the winner with a forum for showcasing that business at the Chamber's Leadership Recognition Banquet on January 7, 2010, as well as throughout the year.

2009 Business of the Year – Jackson Properties



The business must be a voting member of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce that exhibits creativity and innovation in building a successful business; demonstrates high business ethics; takes a leadership role in activities that benefit the business community; provides training and career growth for employees; provides quality services or products; supports the major goals and objectives of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce; demonstrates growth in profits, sales and/or jobs and participates in activities that benefit the community in general.

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www.elkgroveca.com

November / December 2009

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Special Event

Save These Dates!

November Calendar of Events

- 4th Member Orientation
- 5th Education – BUILD
- 10th Mixer – 7:30 am
- 17th Mixer – 5:30 pm
- 18th Experience Elk Grove

December Calendar of Events

- 3rd Small Business Tax Forum

One-on-One Small Business Development Center Consulting

The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), have partnered to bring the SBDC to Elk Grove. This is an opportunity for you to get all your business questions answered.

One-on-one consulting sessions will be held at the Chamber of Commerce office, at your place of business, and/or at the SBDC center in Sacramento. These services are at NO CHARGE to you. SBDC is funded by the taxes you have already paid! The SBDC consultant, Dave McDougall, will be available the first Thursday of the month, by appointment only, starting November 5, 2009. **To schedule an appointment, please call the SBDC at 916-563-3210** – let them know you are from Elk Grove and would like to meet with Dave.

Chamber President Janet Toppenberg Leaves Chamber To Pursue New Career Challenges; Former CSD General Manager Rita Velasquez Appointed As the Chamber's Interim Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Rita Velasquez, former General Manager of the Cosumnes Community Services District, has been appointed Interim Executive Director of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Velasquez replaces Janet Toppenberg, who, after 12 years as President and CEO of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce is leaving to pursue a new career path. Ms. Toppenberg

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Visit the Chamber's website
www.elkgroveca.com or
Call for more information
916.691.3760



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 (916) 418-6018

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

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

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

Rita Velasquez, interim Executive Dir.
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 (916) 691-3760

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

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

Paul Krueger, Director
 SureWest
 (866) 787-3937

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

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

Jerry Mayberry, Director
 Allied Waste Services
 (916) 379-3692

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

Alisa Okelo-Odongo, Director
 Pacific Gas & Electric Company
 (916) 386-5705

Victoria Thomsen, Director
 River City Bank
 (916) 685-3901

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Nominations for Business of the Year Open

To nominate a business, compile a brief, historical overview of the business and its mission; statistics demonstrating measurable growth/development in sales, profits, and/or jobs; a summary of the company's participation in area business development programs and/or projects, Chamber events/programs and community activities; and a description of activities, programs, and/or projects demonstrating innovation, creativity, and business excellence. Nominations must be submitted to the Chamber by 5:00 p.m. December 14, 2009.

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Former CSD General Manager Rita Velasquez Appointed

noted that it's simply time for a new challenge. "Twelve years is a long time for a CEO of an organization," Ms. Toppenberg said. "I'm excited about where this Chamber has been the last 12 years and the things we've accomplished." Toppenberg led a significant expansion of the local business organization, which is now the largest Chamber of Commerce in the south county region, growing from about 250 members in 1997 to more than 800 in recent years.

"Janet started when the Chamber was quite small and she's grown it into an organization that can really thrive and keep growing," Board Chairman Richard Samra said. "During her tenure, she facilitated the Chamber's establishment of the political action committee and the creation of the Elk Grove Economic Development Corporation, and took the Chamber to an active advocacy role for its members. She's just been a great leader and spokesperson for businesses," Mr. Samra said. Toppenberg is a graduate of the Western Association of Chamber Executive's Academy and earned her Accredited Chamber Executive Designation in 2008.

Ms. Velasquez assumed the position of Interim Executive Director on October 1st. Ms. Velasquez, who has spent the past 20 years helping to shape the community of Elk Grove, comes to the Chamber with over 30 years experience in local government. She was instrumental in securing the financial stability for the Community Services District, which allowed for the construction of numerous parks, recreation facilities, and fire stations, providing an increase in services to the community. As a past President and Board Member for the California Special Districts Association, she was involved in affecting legislation promoting and benefiting local communities and their funding sources. During her time with the CSD, Ms. Velasquez worked closely with the City of Elk Grove, County of Sacramento, Elk Grove Unified School District, the Chamber and various businesses throughout the area for the betterment of Elk Grove.

Ms. Velasquez will serve as Interim Executive Director until a permanent Executive Director is hired.



Thomsen Appointed to Serve on Board of Directors



At the August meeting, Victoria Thomsen, Branch Manager for River City Bank was appointed to the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The Board selected Thomsen to fill out the term of a Board member who recently resigned. Vickie is a long time member of the community and is well known and respected in the business community.

Your 2010 Board of Directors

Chair - **Steve Griffin**, Grubb & Ellis

Chair Elect - **Veronica Knudson**, Methodist Hospital

Past Chair - **Richard Samra**, Richard Samra Enterprises

Sheryl Carlson, Vista Point Insurance Services

Jim Cline, Frontier Communications

Paul Krueger, SureWest

Steven Ladd, Elk Grove Unified School District

Paula Maita, Paula Maita & Co

Jerry Mayberry, Allied Waste Services

Nancy Milton, Progress Mediation

Michael Megna, Backscratchers

Sharon O'Brien, The O'Brien Company

Alisa Okelo-Odongo, Pacific Gas & Electric

James Sweeney, Sweeney & Greene

Vickie Thomsen, River City Bank

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 Elk Grove, CA 95758
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 Robert Preece
 10271 Iron Rock Way #100
 Elk Grove, CA 95624
 phone: (916) 705-0322
www.aasmobile.com

Beauty Salon
DreamGirls Fine Hair Imports & Salon
 Sharie Thompson
 9090 Elk Grove Boulevard
 Elk Grove, CA 95624
 phone: (916) 686-5030
www.dghair.com

Beauty Salon & Day Spa
Scarlett Salon & Spa
 Megan Watt
 9120 Elk Grove Boulevard #B
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 Nitish Sharma
 5428 Claudied Way
 Elk Grove, CA 95757
 phone: (916) 425-9888

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 Kevin Spease
 9487 Misty River Way
 Elk Grove, CA 95624
 phone: (916) 670-1082
www.isse-services.com

Gift Shops & Specialties/Collectibles
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 Rebecca Groner
 8868 Bond Road
 Elk Grove, CA 95624
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 Debbie Rodriguez
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 Elk Grove, CA 95758
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 Diana Martinez
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 Roseville, CA 95768
 phone: (916) 686-6605
www.jmchomes.com

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Elk Grove BBQ & Catering
 James Perino
 9577 Pochemus Drive
 Elk Grove, CA 95758
 phone: (916) 685-5198

Retail - Misc
Zackary Furniture & Home Decor
 Mary Jane Sterne
 9097 Elk Grove Boulevard
 Elk Grove, CA 95624
 phone: (916) 686-9242
www.zackaryfurniture.com

Retirement Plans
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 Jeff Olsen
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 Roseville, CA 95661
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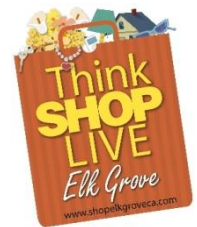
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Telecommunications
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 Elk Grove, CA 95757
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 3132 Dwight Road, #100
 (916) 393-3993



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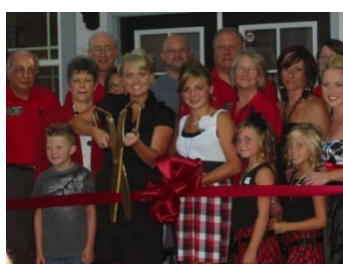
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 2301 Longport Court
 (916) 690-5321



Tutor Time Learning Center
 8160 Sheldon Road
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California Family Fitness
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 (916) 233-1300



Scarlett Salon & Spa
 9120 Elk Grove Boulevard
 (916) 686-8448



The Commons at Elk Grove
 9564 Sabrina Lane
 (916) 683-6833



Villa Vista Dental
 2471 Elk Grove Boulevard
 (916) 691-6800



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

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