



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes three new members: Signal Signs and Graphics, Machado Burgers, and CyberAuthority! Get to know them below via our Q&A. We encourage you to meet and support our new members!

SIGNAL SIGNS AND GRAPHICS



Miles Haefner, Signal Signs and Graphics Photo credit: Signal Signs and Graphics

Q: What services does Signal Signs and Graphics provide?

A: Signal Signs and Graphics is a client's one stop shop for design, build, and installation of custom signs and graphics.

We work with businesses and organizations of all sizes to develop solutions for their visual communications. Our services include interior signs, exterior signs, electrical and digital signage, monuments, wayfinding and ADA, events, vehicle graphics, window/wall/floor graphics, and more!

Q: What are some examples of your work?

A: We completed the exterior dimensional letters, window graphics, and lobby sign for Heal Wellness Center in Larkfield Wikiup. They're at 124 Wikiup Drive, a little ways down Old Redwood Highway from the Chamber office. They're in the back right corner of the complex. Check them out!

Q: How long have you been in business?

A: We've been in business for one year.

Q: Why did you join the Chamber?

A: Joining the Chamber was an important decision for me, as it opened doors to connect with fellow business owners and entrepreneurs within our community.

MACHADO BURGERS



L to R: Dakota, Kristen, Dusty, and Tony Machado. Photo credit: Tony Machado

Q: What services does Machado Burgers provide?

A: At Machado Burgers we are a quick service restaurant that offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. We pride ourselves on quality, great

service and our community. We buy almost all of our product from Cotati Foods, including our 100% Angus ground chuck patties (that are always fresh and never frozen!) pressed daily and charbroiled to perfection. Our fresh baked buns and bread are baked in Santa Rosa and delivered from Franco American Bakery. Our sliced daily produce is sourced from Marin-Sonoma Produce. We host our free weekly car events every Sunday from 11-2, year-round weather permitting. We host our big Friday events mid-March through the end of October. We also offer large order pick-ups and deliveries for businesses and parties.

Q: What is your best selling item?

A: That would be our Bacon Cheeseburger which won 2022 Sonoma Magazine Best Burger in Santa Rosa.

Q: How long have you been in business?

A: March 27, 2024 will mark our second birthday.

Q: Why did you join the Chamber?

A: We decided to join the Chamber

CYBERAUTHORITY



Nick Eicken, Cyberauthority.

Q: What services does CyberAuthority provide?

A: CyberAuthority provides comprehensive vCISO (virtual chief information security officer) services,

focusing on enhancing the cybersecurity posture of organizations. A vCISO is essentially a top-tier security expert who offers their skills and expertise on a flexible basis. This role involves overseeing the organization's cybersecurity strategy, managing risk, and ensuring compliance with relevant regulations, all tailored to the unique needs of each business. Our offerings include: information security risk assessments, strategic security planning, compliance and regulatory guidance, security awareness training, and utilizing innovative tools like KnowBe4.

Q: How does your business stand out from the others?

A: What sets us apart is our blend of extensive experience, personalized service, and a commitment to making cybersecurity accessible and understandable. With over 20 years in IT and network security, I bring a depth of knowledge and a practical approach to complex challenges. CyberAuthority is veteran-owned, and my experience spans government, non-profit, and private sectors, allowing us to offer a unique

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.



Brad Sherwood
President

CHAMBER EVENTS

The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce invites all members of the community to attend our events.

Board of Directors meetings

Every second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am.

Business After Hours Socials

Have some snacks, win some prizes, make connections! Second Thursday of each month from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at a different business each month.

Luncheons

Quarterly luncheons with a featured speaker discussing hot topics and issues. Our next luncheon will be announced once it is scheduled. Go to markwest.org to get your luncheon tickets!

Community Business Faire

An annual event, this will return in fall 2024. Stay tuned for more information.

Next Socials**April 11**

Next One Staffing

May 9

Charlie's Restaurant at the Windsor Golf Club

June 13

Bisordi Ranch & Vineyards

For a full listing of events, please visit our home page <https://markwest.org/> and scroll down to News & Events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Mark West Area, including Larkfield, Wikiup, Fulton, and Mark West hills, is the most populated unincorporated community in Sonoma County. Our population is equal to if not more than the cities of Cloverdale, Cotati and Sebastopol. Our business community is robust, including the growing Airport Business Park, Larkfield Center, and areas within Fountaingrove and Coffey Park.

We call the Mark West Area home and do business in our community because of our first-class public school system (the Mark West Union School District), dedicated public safety and local government agencies (Sonoma County Fire, Sheriff, Sonoma Public Infrastructure, just to name a few!), access to top-rated healthcare (Sutter Santa Rosa for example), employment opportunities within walking or biking distance from the center of town (including a range of small family-owned businesses and multinational corporations), and walkability to our new downtown community park and plaza (newly acquired by the Mark West Area Community Fund – a non-profit 501(c)3). We even have the newest, most artistic and beautiful sidewalk in the county located along Mark West Springs Road. We also have an active citizens advisory council that represents our community interests with the County of Sonoma (the Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council). And our neighbors are the most supportive, friendly and encouraging people you could ask for.

The Chamber is proud to serve our community, both businesses and neighbors, to ensure we continue to improve our community for today and future generations. You can do your part as well by continuing to support our local businesses, become a member of the Chamber, attend municipal advisory council meetings, or volunteer at our new community park. Every dollar spent locally, every minute volunteered, and every new connection and friend made in our community, helps our community continue to be the best place to live in Sonoma County.

Brad Sherwood, President

WHY HOST OR ATTEND A SOCIAL?

A social is one of the best ways to promote your business and network with your fellow Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce members!

At socials, our members and their guests have the opportunity to gather and mingle in a fun environment, hosted by their fellow Chamber members. Not only are these great networking opportunities, but they also allow business owners to discuss things that are happening in the Mark West Area (and beyond).

Members will also be able to participate in our three drawings:

- The business card prize drawing
- The 50/50 raffle
- The Pot of Gold drawing

For more information on our socials, visit our website at <https://markwest.org/chamber-socials/>



There's always good company and good food at our socials! We enjoyed corned beef and cabbage at the March event. See page 7.

Photo credit: Steve Plamann.

MARK WEST AREA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) is an advisory council to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. In our case, the Mark West Area MAC provides community input and feedback to District 4 and Supervisor James Gore, for the area covered by the Mark West Union School District.

The MAC welcomed three new members in February:

Ron Calloway – representing the Mark West Union School District

Becky Menzel – representing an “at large” seat.

Haley Skerrett – representing the Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce

The MAC has one current vacancy. If you are interested in being more involved in our community, please go online to <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/boardsandcommissions> to apply to become a member of the MAC. Learn more about the MAC at markwestareamac.org.



Karen Fies. Photo credit: Karen Fies.

Please join us at the MAC public meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Learning Center located at the Mark West Union School District office, 315 Mark West Springs Rd. Come and learn what's happening in our community!



Ron Calloway. Photo credit: Ron Calloway.



Becky Menzel. Photo credit: Becky Menzel.



Haley Skerrett. Photo credit: Haley Skerrett.

Contributed by Karen Fies, Chair, Mark West MAC

SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE

We've had a difficult few weeks here at the Sheriff's Office.

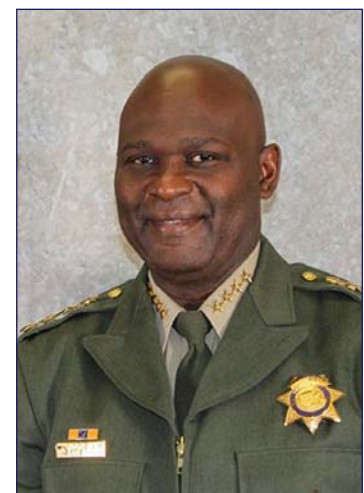
On February 25, two deputies swam into the Russian River to save a woman from drowning. She fought them, but they saved her and Sonoma County Fire District firefighters rescued all three of them. She was booked on several charges, including battery on a peace officer and being under the influence of drugs. Both deputies came close to losing their lives.

Eight days later, several deputies were involved in a chaotic shooting in unincorporated Santa Rosa that left the suspect dead and four deputies injured. One of those deputies has serious injuries.

Our culture is rooted in service over self. This culture is evident in the recent heroism, bravery, and commitment to protect the community and each other – even at great personal expense. These incidents take a toll on all of us here at the Sheriff's Office. They are a stark reminder of the dangers we face and how quickly things can change. Our Peer Support Team is facilitating critical incident stress debriefings, and our on-site mental health clinician is available to all staff.

The outpouring of support from our community is overwhelming. I want to take a moment to thank all of you who have expressed your support and gratitude for my staff. It truly makes a difference.

Contributed by Sheriff Eddie Engram, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Eddie Engram. Photo credit: Sonoma Co. Sheriff's Office

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91
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JULY 2017*

EDITORS' CHOICE
VINTAGE 2016
91
POINTS
APRIL 2018*

VINTAGE 2017
90
POINTS
MAY 2019*

VINTAGE 2018
90
POINTS
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MONTHLY SOCIALS: JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

January: The Lodge at Piner Road

The start of the New Year saw the opportunity for the Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the occasion with its members. The Lodge at Piner Road – a member who hosted a previous social prior to their official opening – welcomed the Chamber and its members to the now-open building, which was beautifully designed and provided a great space for the social.



Tracy, from COOKIE...take a bite!, won a beautiful wine glass and chocolates from the Treasure House, in the business card drawing. Photo credit: Steve Plamann

The evening began with the customary period of mingling as Chamber members and guests arrived to celebrate the evening. The Lodge at Piner Road provided an amazing spread of food prepared by the facility's own chefs.

Following the mingling period, emcee Paul Peck, who was also one of the hosts for the evening, took attendees on a brief tour of the facility before returning to attend to the rest of the social. Paul began by thanking everyone for attending, and allowed time for both himself and Executive Director Eric Perry to speak about The Lodge at Piner Road. Following this, announcements were made regarding organizations such as the Section on Aging, and Chamber member Karen Rutkowski of KMR Skincare shared her business's latest updates. The Chamber was also proud to welcome new Chamber member Nick Eicken of CyberAuthority and present him with his new member plaque. The evening concluded with the traditional raffles and drawings. Paul thanked attendees once again, and the Chamber was thankful to be able to celebrate another successful social.



Great turnout for our January social hosted by The Lodge at Piner Road. Photo credit: Steve Plamann

February: Treasure House, with Tambayan Filipino Eatery, Kellson's Bookkeeping, and Homerun Pizza

Following quickly on the heels of a successful January social, the Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce saw another amazing social take place in February. Hosted at Treasure House Fine Home Consignment Shop, the social was co-hosted by Chamber members Tambayan Filipino Eatery, Kellson's Bookkeeping, and Homerun Pizza. Additional support from guests such as Christopher Creek Winery made the evening an outstanding success.

The busy crowd spread throughout the store sampled a wide variety of delicious food supplied by



Head Ambassador Paul Peck addresses the members and guests at Treasure House. Photo credit: Steve Plamann

Tambayan and Homerun Pizza. Following the mingling period, emcee Paul Peck was able to wrangle the large crowd and begin the evening's announcements. After thanking the co-hosts for

Continued on page 7



Four more new businesses joined the Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce in February; holding their new member plaques are (left to right): Miles Hiefner - Signal Signs and Graphics; Ryan Buxbaum - Next One Staffing; Willie Billeter - BC Engineering Group; and Lauren Schwing - Allied Medical Center. Photo credit: Steve Plamann

New Member Spotlight, continued from page 1**SIGNAL SIGNS AND GRAPHICS**

It's rewarding to build relationships with others who share a similar drive and passion. Additionally, my two children attend school in the Mark West area so it's important to our family to engage actively within the community.

Q: What do you like to do outside of work?

A: I'm a barbecue enthusiast and we love to cook and entertain. I do briskets, ribs, pork belly, wood fired pizzas, and more! I also enjoy spending time with my two children (age 5 and 3), getting outside, exercising, and cheering on my favorite teams in sports.

<https://signalsignsandgraphics.com/>

MACHADO BURGERS

to further our path of becoming part of our community. We look forward to meeting and networking with all the wonderful people and businesses that make up the community that we live and work in.

Q: When you are not at Machado Burgers, what do you like to do?

A: Kristen and I have two amazing children: our son Tony, and daughter Dakota. We have three dogs (Murphy, Molly, Sugar) and one cat (Stormy). Tony and Dakota are proud San Miguel Eagles. We spend the majority of our time with them when we're not working. We all enjoy the outdoors and even though I was born and raised here I still love going to the amazing places right here in Sonoma County, and taking the kids. When we have enough time you will usually find us in the redwoods or by water.

<https://www.machadoburgers.com/>

CYBERAUTHORITY

perspective and diverse expertise to our clients.

Q: Why should a business care about cybersecurity?

A: In today's digital age, cybersecurity is as essential as a life jacket on a boat. It's not just about protecting data; it's about safeguarding your business's reputation, trust, and bottom line. Cyber threats are evolving rapidly, and the cost of a breach can be significant. Investing in cybersecurity is not just a defensive measure; it's a strategic move that ensures business continuity, protects customer trust, and aligns with regulatory requirements.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: Raised in Walnut Creek in the East Bay, I pursued my higher education at the University of California, Davis, majoring in sociology with a minor in contemporary leadership, complemented by the discipline of the Army ROTC program. My transition from academic life to a full-time role in the Army, followed by service in the Army Reserves, honed my leadership and strategic skills, which have been pivotal in my career. My journey led me to Sonoma County when I met my wife, a native of the area, marking a new chapter both personally and professionally. We have two amazing daughters and a myriad of animals. In my career, I've navigated through roles in consulting, non-profit, and private sectors, applying my diverse experiences to each challenge. My professional expertise is underpinned by key certifications, including the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), which equip me to effectively address the complexities of cybersecurity.

<https://cyberauthority.it>

AIRPORT NEWS: DEVELOPMENTS AT CHARLES M. SCHULZ-SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT**Alaska Airlines adds direct flights from Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport to Las Vegas**

Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport announced that Alaska Airlines will add nonstop service from Sonoma County Airport to Las Vegas. The daily, year-round flight, which starts Oct. 1, is Alaska Airlines' seventh nonstop destination from Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport. By this fall, Alaska will operate 13 peak day departures, including nonstop service to Los Angeles, Burbank, Orange County, Seattle, Portland, San Diego, and Las Vegas. Read the press release: <https://files.constantcontact.com/2497b4ec301/bb6a3bff-85c5-45e2-8b41-0e80429e65d0.pdf?rdr=true>

Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport to replace storm culvert, refurbish sections of pavement at regional airfield

The Sonoma County Department of Public Infrastructure announced plans to refurbish a section of runway pavement and replace a deteriorating culvert following an annual inspection and report issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA, which has oversight of safety and operations at the regional airfield, conducts annual audits at all active airports with airline service in the United States to ensure compliance with federal safety regulations and provides a checklist of required improvements. The projected cost of the project is roughly \$600,000. Read the press release: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/charles-m-schulz-sonoma-county-airport-to-replace-storm-culvert-refurbish-sections-of-pavement-at-regional-airfield>

Contributed by the office of James Gore, Fourth District Supervisor

the amazing food and drink, Paul called up multiple new Chamber members to receive their new member plaques. New members BC Engineering Group, Next One Staffing, Signal Signs and Graphics, and Alliance Medical Center were given a warm welcome. The Chamber looks forward to continuing to work with them all in the future.

Paul then gave the floor to the Treasure House Board of Directors so that they were able to talk about their business. The evening concluded with the traditional raffle drawings and final announcements.

The February Social was a tremendous success. The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce thanks Treasure House, Tambayan, Homerun Pizza, and Kellson for co-hosting, and thanks guests as well for attending and helping out.

March: Todd Walling & Tracey Cooper, W Real Estate

As the year progressed into March, the Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce was able to have a fantastic March social with a great St. Patrick’s Day flair. Attendees gathered at the office of Chamber members Todd Walling and Tracey Cooper of W Real Estate, where both Chamber members and guests were able to mingle and learn about each other’s businesses. Todd and Tracey also prepared a delicious St. Patrick’s Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage for attendees to enjoy, making for an altogether amazing evening.



We had a big turnout of members and guests at our March Social. Photo credit: Steve Plamann



Our hosts, Todd Walling and Tracey Cooper from W Real Estate, welcome the attendees. They served us corned beef and cabbage. Photo credit: Steve Plamann

After the initial mingling period, the meeting was called to order

by Paul Peck of The Lodge at Piner Road. Paul thanked Todd and Tracey for opening their business for the social, and allowed them to say a few words to the attendees. After a brief question-and-answer session, Paul then invited up guests who had never been to a social before, so that they could introduce themselves and what they do. Following this, David Mohle of Accent Printing and Design announced his upcoming July Fundraiser for Honor Flights, which will be a multi-chamber event.

After the announcements, Paul moved on to the raffle drawings. For the first time in nearly a year, the Pot of Gold was won by an attending Chamber member. Congratulations to Nick Eicken of Cyber Authority on winning the prize!

All in all, the March Social was a fantastic success thanks to the hard work of Todd Walling and Tracey Cooper. The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce thanks Todd and Tracey for hosting the event, and we hope to be able to return next year! The April Social will be held on April 11th at Next One Staffing. Please look forward to reading about that social in the next issue of The Lark!

Contributed by Johnathan Williams

Hablo Español

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REBUILDING BETTER: MARK WEST SPRINGS SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

We are excited to announce that the County of Sonoma Department of Public Infrastructure is putting the finishing touches on the Mark West Springs Sidewalks Improvement project, which includes about a half mile of paving and striping of the roadway, bike lanes, sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, along with retaining walls, storm drain culverts, and ADA improvements. The project greatly improves safety conditions for biking and walking routes, including for children to and from schools.

The work completed along Mark West Springs Road, between Old Redwood Highway and Ursuline Road, provides increased connectivity for the Mark West, Larkfield, and Wikiup neighborhoods, and links to the site of the future Mark West Area Community Park.

Supervisor Gore sees the project as transformational for a community devastated by wildfires. "We were not just going to rebuild, but



Janice Thompson, Deputy Director, Public Infrastructure, County of Sonoma (left), and Supervisor James Gore (right). Photo credit: Office of Supervisor James Gore.



The new sidewalk, with its "sparkle grain" river. Photo credit: Office of Supervisor James Gore.

rebuild better," he told residents.

This project incorporates public artwork that celebrates the strength of the community in the wake of the 2017 wildfires. Sonoma County artists Peter Hassen, Ene Oстераas-Constable, and Scott Constable engaged the community to find inspiration for the artistic elements. At the intersections will be three landmark plinths featuring key words that embody the community response of coming together to support each other after the fires: renewal, unity, and resilience. The sidewalks include "sparkle grain" in the design of a flowing river that shimmers in the sunlight, just as Mark West Springs Road flows through the community, connecting people.

The project supports the Board of Supervisors 5-year strategic plan for increased bicycle and pedestrian facilities and infrastructure resiliency. It was funded with Supervisor Gore's District 4 infrastructure funds, Sonoma County Transportation Authority's Measure M local tax, and PG&E settlement funds.

View a recent video update of Supervisor Gore and Janice Thompson, Deputy Director of Public Infrastructure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DbctQ3M3qg>

Contributed by Keith Roberts, Community Relations Specialist for James Gore, Fourth District Supervisor

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ABOUT CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER SAMANTHA PAUL

The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce is fortunate to have many highly talented people serving on its Board and related organizing bodies. Here's a brief interview with Samantha Paul, who's been on the Board of Directors since 2021.

Q: When did you join the Chamber board and why did you join?

A: I joined the Board in September of 2021. For several months prior I had been serving as a committee co-chair for planning the annual Community Faire, and it was through those efforts and interaction with the Board of Directors that I was asked to join. Having served on many boards and committees previously, this one was a unique opportunity to support the community in which my family lives. I have always believed there is tremendous value in chambers for the business community and community as a whole, so I welcomed the opportunity to get involved.

Q: Tell us about your business.

A: I am an event producer, strategizing with my clients to engage their audiences through memorable, impactful experiences. Collaborating with trusted industry partners, I thoughtfully plan every detail, with a commitment to meeting (and hopefully exceeding) the event goals and objectives. I find great joy curating exceptional, unique experiences and thrive on witnessing guests' enjoyment.

I plan and produce events of all sizes, with a main area of focus in supporting corporate and non-profit events. I also do festivals and community/industry gatherings. While I do not plan weddings, I do enjoy the opportunity to help families honor loved ones with thoughtful celebrations, be that a celebration of life or a milestone occasion.

I am fortunate to have a supportive husband and son who often join me onsite for setup, event operations, and strike. I am also grateful for a small but mighty team that joins me for onsite production and management of details. I am thankful for the fact that my business has grown via referrals since launching. I thrive on staying busy, producing 50-60 events annually. Sharing a sense of calm is always my goal throughout planning and while managing things onsite. It's always the greatest compliment when my clients tell me I kept their stress low and their nerves calm.

Q: Where were you born and tell us a little about yourself.

A: I was born in Colorado. However, I was there only a short time so I feel like I am from California. I was raised in the Monterey area and after high school I moved to Sonoma County where I've lived ever since. I've been in Larkfield for 19 years.

I have been working since I was 15 years old, starting off doing multiple jobs. To this day I tend to keep as busy as possible. I am thankful to be a mom and I enjoy every moment I get with our 22-year-old son. My husband and I met 25 years ago and I am grateful for his incredible love and support.

Q: What is your favorite Chamber event to organize and attend?

A: Although I think mixers are of tremendous value to the community, I do not organize those nor do I get to attend them as often as I'd like. That said, I enjoy planning the Community Faire, as it's a great opportunity to gather the community for a showcase of local businesses. I also enjoy organizing and attending luncheons and events where we bring in speakers. That helps ensure that our community is well informed on a wide range of topics.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?

A: My husband, son, and I enjoy taking in baseball games as often as possible during the season - be that watching friends' and neighbors' kids play in their little league games, Prune Packers games, watching our favorite Major League Baseball team (the A's), or traveling to a new MLB stadium. (Our goal is to catch a game at every MLB ballpark and we are slowly making our way to each!)

I also enjoy being creative, be that crafting gifts to share with others, home improvement projects, or customizing decor elements to feature at one of my events. Additionally, I love to cook and bake, and find great joy in making something delicious to share with my family and friends. Outside of those, we have fun visiting local parks and eateries.

Q: What makes our chamber different from the others?

A: The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce supports and gathers a tight-knit community that can sometimes be forgotten. Our unique area is a connector or crossroads to many other cities and towns, located as it is between Santa Rosa and Windsor, and smack in the middle of a thoroughfare for those traveling to other parts of Sonoma County. The Chamber strives to thoughtfully schedule events and share learning opportunities.

Often we hear members talk about the feeling or vibe of our events and how it is different from events at other chambers. I think this sets us apart; and it comes from the fact that the Board is made up of longtime residents focused on connecting local businesses with the community as a whole.



Samantha Paul. Photo credit: Samantha Paul.

MARK WEST AREA COMMUNITY PARK PURCHASE COMPLETE

The Mark West Area Community Fund is proud to report to our community that the acquisition of the property located at 4614 Old Redwood Highway has been finalized and construction plans for a new park are underway.

In partnership with the Sonoma Land Trust, the Fund has taken ownership of the property thanks to a

whirlwind fundraising campaign that raised nearly \$2 million to complete the purchase. Funding for the purchase came from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore, Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council, Saba Foundation, Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital, California American Water, Jackson Family Wines, Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce, and many individual contributions from local business and community members.

The Fund will be seeking community and business volunteers to help with construction costs. Sponsorship opportunities are available to help construct park amenities, such as a gazebo, walking and fitness path, butterfly garden and more. The Saba Foundation has graciously donated funds for the children’s playground. Learn more at www.markwestarea.org. Volunteer opportunities are available and all help is welcome!



With the purchase complete, this empty lot is ready to become a valuable community asset. Photo credit: Mark West Area Community Fund.

GOT LEAKS?

At California American Water, we’re here to help you conserve water **INDOORS** so you can use less and save water and money on your water bill. Here are some simple tips:



Install aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets: Check for worn washers and gaskets that might cause drips. Aerators add air into the water stream so you can use less water noticing a difference in water flow.



Replace old, non-efficient toilets with a new, high-efficiency models: A leaking toilet can double the total monthly water usage by the whole household. Save water and money with every flush.



Regularly check your toilet, faucets and pipes for leaks: Download our free leak detection kit at californiaamwater.com > Conservation > Detecting Leaks. If you find a leak, have it fixed as soon as possible.



The Lark Newsletter is published quarterly under the direction of:

The Mark West Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
 4787 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 101, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
 707-578-7975 office@markwest.org www.markwest.org

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The Lark Newsletter is emailed to member businesses each month.
 For more information, contact the Chamber office at 707-578-7975.

CONTRIBUTE your article to The Lark!

Contact our Content Coordinator for requirements and deadlines.
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCLAIMS MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IN SONOMA COUNTY

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution proclaiming March 2024 as Women's History Month in Sonoma County. Gina Fortino Dickson, Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, and one of Supervisor Gore's District 4 appointees, spoke about the ongoing importance of the commission's advocacy role in today's society. Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYtOdvPCptl>

Contributed by the office of James Gore, Fourth District Supervisor



Gina Fortino Dickson speaking to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Photo credit: Office of Supervisor James Gore.

GET INVOLVED WITH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

The Dry Creek Valley Citizens Advisory Council (DCVCAC), Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council (MWAMAC), and Geyserville - Alexander Valley Municipal Advisory Council (GAV MAC), were each established to advise the Board of Supervisors and other county decision makers on various local issues including land use, infrastructure, and community needs. These councils provide a forum for citizen participation, bridging communication between residents and Supervisor Gore. Feel free to attend to join in on the discussions.

Join MWAMAC every second Wednesday at 6pm at the Mark West School District Office Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Rd or by Zoom. Visit the MWAMAC page on the Sonoma County website to learn more.

Contributed by the office of James Gore, Fourth District Supervisor

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