



Riverbank

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Professional Business Course Upcoming

You've made a serious commitment to your business; you plan to be successful; but how do you get there? No matter how long you've been in business there is always something to learn, something new on the market that can assist you. Now combine a 12-week commitment with your desire to learn how to keep your business on the cutting edge by attending a professional business course being offered here in Riverbank. Beginning Feb. 11, NexLevel, a nationally recognized program, will bring certified business experts

to the Riverbank council chambers, every Wednesday for 12 weeks. The instruction begins at 6 p.m. and runs until 9 p.m.

Leadership training of this caliber comes with a cost; normally NexLevel requires a financial investment of \$400. For this event the City of Riverbank is offering a \$300 scholarship to any business attending. Your cost is \$100, which includes textbooks and all course materials, however the news gets better. All graduates will receive a \$100 refund, which brings your cost to absolute-

ly zero. You must register by Feb. 9 to receive the scholarship.

This program is being made possible through the efforts of the Alliance Small Business Development Center; Stanislaus Economic Development & Workforce Alliance; University of California, Merced; U.S. Small Business Administration; the City of Riverbank, and the Riverbank Business Association.

For more information, contact the Small Business Development Center at 567-4910.

Valentine Coffee Hour

Don't miss the networking opportunities, which are the biggest benefit to Chamber membership. Senator David Cogdill is scheduled to be the guest speaker on Friday, Feb. 13 beginning at 9 a.m. at Za-

vattero's Café on Santa Fe Street in downtown Riverbank. Why it is so difficult to complete California's budget process is sure to be one of the main topics for discussion. What do you think of changing the two-

thirds vote required in order to pass a budget? What is a super majority vote?

Zavattero's will be providing a continental breakfast for your enjoyment and specialty coffees will be available for purchase.

New Board Sworn In

The 2009 Board of Directors was sworn in on Jan. 13 during the annual meeting of the membership that took place at Zavattero's Café downtown. Guest speakers, Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson and Chief of Riverbank Police Bill Pooley, spoke briefly about issues facing their department, as well as taking questions from the audience. Chamber Board meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month at County Bank with the annual planning session set for Wednesday, Feb. 11.

"This gives us an opportunity to focus on the successes we have had in the

past year and set a path for 2009," said Director Leonard Hansen.

"We have a lot of work to do this year," said Chairperson Vikki Peters. "The business community in Riverbank is facing some significant challenges and the new board hopes to offer seminars and other opportunities assisting our membership this year."

It was pointed out that the annual membership dues have not been increased in several years.

"We also have not dropped any of our members for not paying their dues in 2008," said Peters.

"We face some real tough

decisions moving forward. A long-term goal of the board is to once again have an office location with at least part-time staffing. That all takes a consistent source of funding; we don't have that at this time nor do we see it in the near future," said Finance Director, Carla Strong.

Membership renewal notices will go out in March, due by April 1. The board hopes that the membership will consider the positive effect a strong Chamber of Commerce can have on the business community when making decisions to pay expenses.

It's Time For A Commercial

After a brief thank you to all who attended the annual awards dinner, VP/Finance Director, Carla Strong, thanked the MOY/COY committee for all their efforts in putting together the annual Community Awards Dinner. The 2009 Board members in attendance were recognized for their continued commitment to the Riverbank community.

Strong went on to read the following list of organizations: Make A wish Foundation, Riverbank Rotary, Riverbank Business Association, Senior Movie Day, Non-profit fundraiser, Student teaching, Pajama

Rama, SEAPA, Beyond Earth Day, Job Shadowing, Riverbank High School Financial Responsibility Scholarship, Riverbank Language Academy, Adopt a Grandparent, School Fundraisers, Riverbank Cheese & Wine Expo, Miss Riverbank, Riverbank Christmas Parade, Rio Altura School, Rio Arts, Tracy Rotary, Sister City Committee, among others.

The audience was asked "What do all these organizations have in common?" They are just a few of the organizations that have benefited from the generous contributions that this year's nominees for Busi-

ness of the Year have made to the community.

With that in mind came the commercial. "Please pledge to shop Riverbank! These businesses must make money in order to continue to give back to our community. We need to support them in order to provide for our own continued success," said Strong.

The festivities continued with top honors going to Galaxy Theatres for being voted Business of the Year 2008 by the Chamber membership. Hats off to Vikki Peters and her staff at the theatre for their accomplishment.

Riverbank Chamber of Commerce 2009 Board of Directors

Vikki Peters – Galaxy 12 Theatres
Chairperson
vpeters@riverbankchamber.org

Leonard O. Hansen II, Ph.D – Cold Stone Creamery
lohansen@riverbankchamber.org

Carla J. Strong – County Bank, Riverbank Branch
VP/Finance Director
cstrong@riverbankchamber.org

Daniel Nerat – Best Buy
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Maribeth Reece – PMZ Real Estate
Secretary
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Millie Sanders – The Write Design
msanders@riverbankchamber.org

Directors

Jerry G. VanHouten – American Asset & Wealth Mgt.
jvanhouten@riverbankchamber.org

John Cox – TSM Insurance
jcox@riverbankchamber.org

Chamber web site: www.riverbankchamber.org
Chamber email: info@riverbankchamber.org

Chamber Voice Mail: 209-869-4541

The Wing Experts

Wing Stop was founded in 1994 with rich entrepreneurial roots. The chicken wing, not traditionally a desired part of the chicken, quickly became a craved favorite. After successfully creating a niche in chicken dining, Wing Stop began franchising in 1997.

Wing Stop continues that success, with over 600 locations currently operating or in development, reaching No. 1 in the chicken-wing category for Entrepreneur Magazine and reaching No. 5 in the top 25 New Franchises.

Made to order food combined with that entrepreneurial ingenuity makes Wing Stop's future growth just as exciting.

Wing Stop is not fast food; our wings are made with care and served up piping hot. Every order is made fresh when you order it; nothing sits under a heat lamp. In addition to hot fresh wings our sides are homemade. Fresh-cut seasoned fries are cut daily in every restaurant from Idaho potatoes. Wing Stop is proud to have sauced and tossed our first billion wings and we look forward to serv-



ing up a billion more.

Jim and Sharon Toal have owned Wing Stop in Riverbank for almost three years, and have had the Modesto location at Prescott and Standiford for over five years.

"We bought into the Wing

Stop culture of providing quality products with a superior guest experience at an exceptional value every day," said the Toal family.

Stop in at Wing Stop located at 2251 Claribel Road., B, Riverbank, or phone 869-(TOGO) 8646.



TSM Insurance And Financial Services, Inc.

TSM Insurance and Financial Services Inc. has over 60 years of experience in the Riverbank community. Owners Guy M. Miligi, Tony Miligi, and Randy Clark, TSM handles many large accounts in the fields of transportation, health services, school districts, food processing plants, and other large and small business, as well as individual family coverage.

Their primary objectives are to reduce insurance costs, eliminate gaps in coverage and most importantly to establish a relationship between you, the insurance company and their agency. They take extreme pride in their customer service department. TSM has a service staff of seven full-time employ-

ees that are always available to assist clients with any questions or problems they may have.

Service is the most important part of their business. When placing your insurance needs with TSM Insurance & Financial Services, Inc., clients can expect a complete analysis of all their insurance needs, which includes assistance in designing a responsible safety program for you and your employees. They will also "shop the market" each and every year to make sure that the current insurance company is the best choice.

TSM is an independent insurance company, which means that they work for their clients. They represent a carefully selected

group of financially sound, reputable insurance companies and place your insurance program with the company offering the best coverage at the most competitive price. TSM has access to all California State programs with local contact.

TSM Insurance and Financial Services also provides a full service financial services department. This department specializes in life insurance, asset management, estate and financial planning, mutual funds, and 401k employee retirement plans.

For assistance with your insurance needs, call John Cox at 524-6366 or stop by the TSM office located at 1317 Oakdale Road, No. 910, in Modesto.

Interested In Hosting A Coffee Hour Or Mixer?

You may have noticed that each month there is at least one business highlighted in our community page. The board of directors considers this to be an opportunity for members to tell the entire membership about what they do. Each month, the PDF format of the community page is also emailed out to our entire database. Even if someone cannot attend a particular event, they can still read about it.

Host a coffee hour or mixer and gain a place in

the monthly community page. In order to ensure that your business is included in the community page that month, we do need at least 45 days notice to get things scheduled. All we ask is that you supply us with information we can use in the article. We will even come out a take a photo of your business location and/or staff.

If you are interested in showing off your business, please contact your Chamber Secretary, Maribeth Reece at mbreece@

riverbankchamber.org or call 869-4541. Remember, we request at least 45 days advance notice in order to meet publishing deadlines. Take advantage of this low cost opportunity for maximizing exposure for you and your business!

Have an event coming up or just want to share some news about your business or staff; contact us at info@riverbankchamber.org and we'll share your news with the entire Chamber membership.