FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | SUMMER 2019

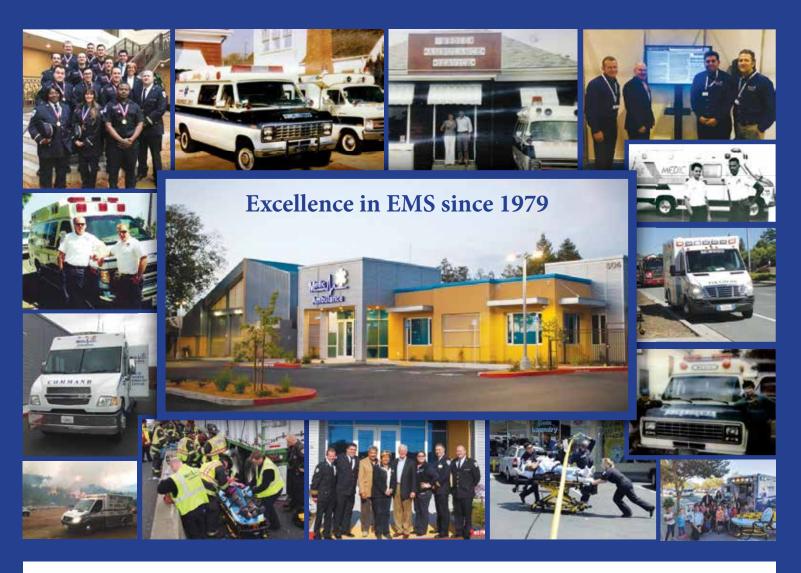
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The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Present s



Mac McManigal LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN COMMUNITY SERVICE



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THIS ISSUE

2019 Buzz Awards

The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce honors the businesses and people who make a difference in our communities. 5 A Message From Our Chairwoman

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The Voice of Business for Fairfield and Suisun City, California

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Tonya@

Membership

fairfieldsuisun

chamber.com



John Moore Director of Marketing & Communications John@ fairfieldsuisun chamber.com

a message from our chairwoman

'What can we do to help you succeed?'



t gives me great pleasure and honor to be welcomed as the 2019-2020 Chair of the Fairfield Suisun Chamber of Commerce. I am following in the footsteps of many leaders who set priorities to see our local businesses flourish within our cities and beyond!

What stands out about the year ahead of us is our Chamber's board and staff – all eager to embrace change as our community continues to unfold and grow with its lush land and rich history.

We have an incredible landscape that embraces agriculture, transportation and a working waterfront that sets the stage for tourism, business attraction and various economic development opportunities. And with a current population of 117,000 in Fairfield, plus another 29,000 in Suisun City, we are strategically positioned to leverage our local assets and create opportunities that invest in our communities.

There is no doubt that we are changing.

The fabric that spans across these two incredible cities is colorful and diverse, which is helping us to understand different perspectives within the world we live. We are diverse filled with culture and character.

As our climate continues to change, the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber works diligently in creating avenues that offer programs for all businesses to prosper.

Three years ago, the Chamber created the Advocacy Council, a platform that serves as the voice of our members to promote good policy and smart funding. As chair of this council, we endorsed legislation that strengthened the economic vitality of area businesses while enhancing quality of life.

We welcomed our local leaders and elected officials to discuss their work in our cities and find ways of collaborating for the good of our members.

The Chamber also works with community members on various programs, such as Inspire: Dreams Start Now and the Solano County Work Ready Certification, to help educate the youth of our community.

This is just the start of great things to come this year. Our members matter to us and we care about their success. For this reason, we will be asking our members, "What can we do to help you succeed?"

It was a sincere honor when asked to be Chair of this organization. I am a firm believer of this Chamber, its work, influence and true commitment to the businesses in these cities.

It is a Chamber that not only functions locally, but attracts regional businesses from across the county. We are located at the Seat of the county and serve as its heartbeat. We create impact. We *are* impact.

I thank our members for being part of this great Chamber and invite all of you to join me on this exciting journey!

Andrea Garcia

Chairman, Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce







ndata**S**tor.





2018-19 **board members**

CHAIRWOMAN



Andrea Garcia Touro University of California 1310 Club Drive Vallejo CA 94592 707-638-5272 andrea.garcia@tu.edu

CHAIRMAN



Charles Wood III Favaro, Lavezzo, Gill, Caretti & Heppell

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR



Charles McCullar Front2Back Designs Fairfield, CA 94533 707-421-1831 charles@front2backdesigns.com



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DIRECTOR

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Favaro, Lavezzo, Gill,

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DIRECTOR

Jared Neumayr

Solano First Federal

Credit Union

DIRECTOR



John Caladim Travis Credit Union

DIRECTOR



Steve Davis NorthBay Healthcare

DIRECTOR



John McKaig Hilton Garden Inn



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Dawn La Bar City of Fairfield



VICE CHAIR



Terrence Strong MV Transportation

DIRECTOR



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DIRECTOR



Tim Healer First Northern Bank

DIRECTOR



Darelynn Pazdel Pride Industries





Debbi Davis Special Care Services

DIRECTOR



Monte Hoover Gillespie's Abbey Carpet & Floor

DIRECTOR



Peter Prieto nDataStor, Inc.

6 www.fairfieldsuisunchamber.com

calendar

AUGUST

6

TUF

8 THU

14

WED

17 Sat

TUE

AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE MEETING

8 to 9 a.m., Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, 1111 Webster St.

CHAMBER MIXER

5:30 to 7 p.m., Premier Financial Alliance. Check website for details.

CHAMBER LUNCH MOB

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Check website for details. All are welcome, no RSVP required.

VIP WINE FOOD & BREW

3 to 6 p.m., at the Tomato & Vine Festival, downtown Fairfield. Contact Tonya Dretzka for details, 707-425-4625 ext. 103

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, 1111 Webster St.

SEPTEMBER

3	AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE MEETING
3 TUE	8 to 9 a.m., Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce,
101	1111 Webster St.

CHAMBER LUNCH MOB

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., check website for details. All are welcome, no RSVP required.

12

TUF

TUE

3 THU

9

WFD

11

WED

JOINT MIXER WITH THE HISPANIC CHAMBER

5:30 to 7 p.m., Fairfield Main Street Association. Check website for details.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, 1111 Webster St.

OCTOBER

AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE MEETING

8 to 9 a.m., Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, 1111 Webster St.

JOINT MIXER WITH VACAVILLE CHAMBER

5:30 to 7 p.m., Vacaville Town Square. Check website for details.

CHAMBER LUNCH MOB

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Check website for details. All are welcome, no RSVP required.

22 TUE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, 1111 Webster St.

new chamber members

Premier Financial Alliance

Evelene Lomongsod Suisun, CA 94585 650-296-6724 Insurance & Financial Services

Maaco Collision Repair & Auto Painting

Lorraine Coombes 1055 Horizon Drive, Suite D Fairfield, CA 94533 707-422-7200 Automobile Paint & Body Repair

Grocery Outlet

Jessica Hall 200 Travis Blvd.

Fairfield, CA 94533

707-428-9721

Grocers True Symmetry

Brewing

Company

Chasity Ledford 315 Marina Center Suisun, CA 94585 707-202-6000 Breweries

California

Water Service Craig Thacker 867 Ellis Drive Travis Air Force Base, CA 94535 Water Services

Encore Glass

Lenora Minkin 2925 Cordelia Road Fairfield, CA 94534 707-745-4444

Manufacturing

Solano Mortgage

Tom Grant 862 Alamo Drive Vacaville, CA 95688 707-449-4777 Real Estate, Mortgages

Construction

Concierge, Inc. Salvador Rodriquez P.O. Box 6492 Vacaville, CA 95696 707-330-8234 Construction Company Parise's Nurse's Boutique & Travel Parise Shepard P.O. Box 3203 Fairfield, CA 94533 707-720-8780 Travel, Promotional Items, Printing

Vintique Marketplace

Cj Kaialoa 735 Texas St. Fairfield, CA 94533 707-759-6762 Boutique, Restoration

The Lazy Barn

Meagan Payne 735 Texas St. Fairfield, CA 94533 707-646-1355 Bee Keeper, Boutique

Lowe's Home Improvement

Paul Davis 3400 N. Texas St. Fairfield, CA 94533 707-207-2070 Home Improvement, Hardware Supplies

Tammi T's Travel

Tammi Foreman P.O. Box 995 Suisun, CA 94585 707-344-7707 Travel Agencies

Alpha Avenue Blow Dry Bar

Alnita Odom 726 Texas St. Fairfield, CA 94533 707-673-4792 Hair Salon

Garton Tractor

Denis Evans 4088 Russell Road Fairfield, CA 94534 707-425-9545 Agriculture, Rentals

Big H Deli

Mary Brasel 4437 Central Place #B Fairfield, CA 94534 707-759-6282 Restaurants, Deli

Sonoma Raceway

Sara Grafals 29355 Arnold Drive Sonoma, CA 95476 707-938-8448 Raceway, Entertainment

Security Public

Storage

Daisha Nelson 606 Parker Road Fairfield, CA 94533 707-437-5400 Storage

Sukhothai Cuisine

Lisa Vongphrachanh 258 Sunset Ave. Suisun, CA 94585 707-399-8088 *Restaurant*

RE/MAX Gold

Nehemiah Tamba-Lebbie 490 Merchant Street, Suite 101 Vacaville, CA 95688 707-803-3304 Real Estate, Relocation

The Daily Desk

Shawn West 490 Chadbourne Road, Suite A100 Fairfield, CA 94534 707-435-3375 Office Rentals, Professional Services

Zodiac Hair Studio

Hersha Allen 721 Jefferson St. Fairfield, CA 94533 707-720-9889 Beauty, Hair Salon

Minute Press -Vacaville

Ken Imah 771 E. Monte Vista Ave. Vacaville, CA 95688 707-685-9493 Medical Benefit Plans

The Butterfly Element

Jennifer House Vacaville, CA 95758 503-310-6123 Non-Profit

Casimere Insurance Services

Tiffany Casimere 3336 N. Texas St., Suite J509 Fairfield, CA 94533 707-439-8158



Lifetime Achievement in Community Service

LIFE & TIMES OF Mac McManigal

By Steve Huddleston

PAST CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



uring my tenure on the Board of Directors, as we planned the annual Buzz Awards and pondered all of the worthy recipients to recognize, it became clear that we had been missing a very special segment of civic leaders – more like a

missing constellation of local stars.

So it was that we came to create the next award – the Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement in Community Service.

Other awards spotlight work done during a year – or maybe two. But missing was appreciation and respect for a lifetime of civic involvement, service and leadership.

This year, for the very first time, we bestowed upon a very worthy individual the Chamber's inaugural Lifetime Achievement in Community Service award.

Moreland G. 'Mac' McManigal, a former board chairman, spurred the largest increase in membership the Chamber has ever enjoyed. He took membership from 500 businesses and individuals to more than 700. That sponsorship program raised an additional \$150,000 for Chamber programs.

He often sought to praise and highlight the work of others, not only assisting in the selection of the Citizen of the Year award, but providing the elegant award that was presented to that individual each year.

His Chamber involvement - more than 25 years - is but only a sliver



The Fairfield-Suisun

commerce Dresent s



of his civic involvement.

An insurance man

A second generation insurance man, his father was a State Farm agent in Nebraska. After graduation from Wayne State University in the Cornhusker State, he would enter the profession and rise to its pinnacle, moving to California and eventually settling in Fairfield.

He was in the insurance business for 40 years, 37 in management. His agency in Solano County grew to comprise 24 agents, 41 adjusters and 65 support staff. It was the leading agency in all of California and consistently performed in the top 1 percent of all State Farm agencies nationwide.

Mac McManigal had the distinction of being the first Californian in 40 years to become president of the NALU, the National Association of Life Underwriters, which later became NAIFA, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

He is the only person to serve two terms as president of the California Association of Life Underwriters. As you might expect, he was elected president of the Solano-Napa branch of that organization.

Mac has been a coveted speaker his entire career, giving more than 800 speeches before gatherings of western insurance associations, life insurance underwriters and various groups here and around the globe.

He returned to his alma mater, Wayne State College in Nebraska, to

receive the 2006 Alumni of the Year Award. He has funded







of the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement in Community Service.

scholarships for 26 years, illustrating his passion for education and assisting scores of young people who were in pursuit of their dreams.

Contributions, accomplishments

Mac's professional and civic contributions and accomplishments would fill pages. But here is just a sample:

• President of the Fairfield Kiwanis Club;

- President of the local YMCA;
- Charter and founding director of Suisun Valley Bank;

• Falls School Board President:

• President of the Board of Directors, Green Valley Country Club;

• Fundraising chairman for his Methodist Church;

• FF-Suisun Bobby Sox president and leader of international trips for local girls' teams;

• Member of the Solano County Grand Jury; and

Chairman of the Board of the

Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce

We owe him a debt of gratitude for all he has done, and continues to do for the Chamber, forour youth here in Solano County and beyond, and for our community – past, present and future.

He is most worthy to be the inaugural recipient Business of the Year -Fairfield



Solano First Federal Credit Union



By Brianna Boyd

olano First Federal Credit Union has always been an underdog within the region's financial institutions.

With just three branches and less than 50 employees, Solano First, the chamber of commerce's Fairfield Business of the Year, has the distinction of being not only one of the smallest financial institution in the area but also the only one that serves just Solano County. They strive to create a connection with their members, and it's a way of business that makes this small but very passionate team proud.

"We're able to focus on the things that are a little more important – the people, our community, accessibility and services," said Jared Neumayr, Assistant Vice President of Member Services. "We offer many of the same services you would find in a large financial institution, even though we are so much smaller. It's because there is this fire in us, called the underdog,



that pushes us to try and be bigger and better as much as we can be."

And that has never been more apparent than in recent years, as the credit union has rolled out increased accessibility in its mobile and online banking features. By the end of the year, Solano First will offer 'instant issue' credit cards, enhanced security features and ApplePay, Android Pay and GooglePay. Some of these services are still not available at national banks. And Solano First is doing it all with three branches, one electronic call center and 50 employees.

That dedication is one reason the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce honored Solano First as the Fairfield Business of the Year at the Buzz Awards. It was an exhilarating night for the credit union's management team.

Susan Mays, Senior Vice President of Member Services, said the credit union is often described by team members as "the best-kept secret of Solano County" because people do not realize they are here.

"In just a few days, I'd already gotten phone calls from people interested in doing business with us," Neumayr said. "It's a blessing. We're just a little guy, so this has been a wonderful surprise for us."

Gary Walker, the chair of Solano First's board of directors, accepted the award amid loud applause.

"I came on to this board some years ago and at the time, we were kind of a backward organization," he said. "But we now have a team of people that have brought this credit union into the modern age. We have done unbelievable things.

"Every dime we make, we put back into our members and into our community."

Solano First Federal Credit Union was formed in February 1956 as CMT (County, Municipal & Teachers) Federal Credit Union by local residents and employees of the city, county and school districts. The original office was on Texas Street and the credit union has been headquartered on Union Avenue, along with one of their two Fairfield branches, for more than 20 years.

Russell Hatch, who served as CEO for 30 years prior to



his retirement five years ago, laid the framework for community service, Mays said. He was very involved in Kiwanis Club and encouraged his management team to join local organizations and give back to the community. Managers have gone on to join Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptimist and Fairfield PAL, to name just a few.

Michael Warrell has been the credit union's CEO for five years and his efforts to modernize the credit union has taken center stage during his tenure.

"He continued our past efforts but also brought in new products and a new philosophy on how to do business," Mays said. "He was named CEO of the Year in 2015 by the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. He's really done amazing things."

Under his leadership, Solano First launched a new trademark in their business model, Access Equals Freedom, and brought on Access Checking – which allows members to be reimbursed on fees when using other bank's ATM's – mobile banking, online banking and a "meet or beat" auto loan rate.

"Our challenge still remains getting our name out there, people recognizing who we are, what we do and what we offer," Neumayr said. "The members who are with us are typically very happy and very loyal."

"One thing I will say about this organization and I say it to new hires, to potential members and people in the community, is that we really care about people, we really care about the members we serve," Mays added. "We will do what's right for them."

Business of the Year -Suisun City

The Salvation Army Kroc Center

By Brianna Boyd

here is something for everyone at the Suisun City Kroc Center. The phrase may sound cliché but it rings true at The Salvation Army facility, the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber's Suisun City Business of the Year. The Kroc Center has only been open since 2012, but in seven years, its programs and staff have touched thousands of people of all ages, from here in Fairfield and Suisun City to across the state and country.

"We really are so much more than what people see when they walk through our

doors," said Michael Brito, the director of operations at the Kroc Center. "We're more than Zumba classes and afterschool programs and swim lessons. In the end, we are here to serve and we do it because we enjoy serving. It's what we are all called to do."

The 65,000-square-foot Suisun City Kroc Center on Wigeon Way is one of 26 Salvation Army Kroc Centers open nationwide. The facility draws Suisun and Fairfield residents of all ages with its competitive and family pools, group exercise classes, health and wellness center, a worship and performing arts center, a gymnasium, fitness equipment and weight rooms, and a climbing wall.

The Kroc is open daily and its hours – 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekends – and

hard-working staff of 100 ensure that everyone who walks in receives the support they need, physically, spiritually and socially.

The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Presents THE ALL NEW 2019

"Everyone here works really hard to create a safe and positive environment for the community," said Mariska Lehman, who has served on the Kroc Center's advisory board for six years and as chair for four. "Kids have said, 'this is a safe place for me.' They come here after school, and they don't have to be on the streets. They have a positive place where they can play games, learn new skills and be kids. There are all kinds of classes here and it's all free to our members. There is so much that happens here that helps so many people."

The center would never be able to reach the amount of people they do without the partnerships that have been





built over the past seven years. Solano County Public Health, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, Vibe Solano Alliance, Touro University, the Food

Bank of Contra Costa and Solano – the list of partners goes on and on.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano visits the Kroc on the first and third Friday of every month, distributing fresh produce for free. Touro University's Mobec unit visits monthly with free diabetes testing and nutrition advice. Kroc partners with the school district and chamber every year on the Inspire: Dreams Start Now career fair and also provides its performing arts center to the school district year-round for its music program.

Maj. Randy Hartt heads Suisun City Kroc and is also incident commander for all of The Salvation Army's disaster services in Solano County. The Salvation Army provides hot food and assistance to firefighters during emergencies. Hartt and his team ran the shelter at Solano Community College during the 2017 Atlas Fire. In 2018, they partnered with the Red Cross to provide assistance during the fires in Paradise and Mendocino County.

And of course, there is The Salvation Army's most recognizable fundraiser – bell ringing at Christmas. Locally, the Kroc Center coordinates with 100 volunteers who ring bells all over Solano County.

"We often look at our center as the epicenter that launches all of our services everywhere," Hartt said. "We couldn't do what we do without all of our partnerships. On a social service level, we have so many partners in the community who we work with to meet the rapidly growing needs for families in Solano County who are struggling just to make ends meet. Our agency alone averages over \$200,000 in assistance per month for Solano County social services."

The Kroc Center's growth has been amazing, Brito said. At the same time though, the team is so focused on their mission day in and day out that this fast pace becomes their normal. It is just what they do.

"Being at the Kroc Center, you have to serve as the speed of Kroc," Brito said. "We do it every day and we do it with a happy heart."

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K.I. Jones Award

Anand Patel



n all his years being involved in the local community, if there are two traits Anand Patel is best known for, it's his caring heart and unabashed honesty.

No ifs, ands or buts about it, Patel, the president and CEO of Visit Fairfield, California, is never afraid to say what is on his mind. He does it in a way, though, that shows he cares, and that approach has been instrumental to the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce in more ways than most know.

"Anand has been instrumental in the chamber's growth, success and innovation over the last 15-plus years," said Melissa Manry, the director of operations for the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber. "He has been an amazing mentor to all of us, providing both guidance and leadership. He is so passionate about Fairfield and the business community and seeing us all thrive and succeed."

Patel is also someone who tends to

work behind the scenes and step in wherever he is needed. Beginning in August, he will not only serve as president of Visit Fairfield but also acting president of the chamber of commerce. President/CEO Debi Tavey is on medical leave through December and Patel will fill in until she returns.



Receiving a Buzz Award, though, never crossed his mind, especially the K.I. Jones Award, which honors an individual's contributions to the chamber and community. The winner is selected by chamber staff and is secret until the reveal at the event. When Patel's picture flashed on the screen, his mouth dropped.

The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Present s THE ALL NEW 2019

> "For the first time, I'm actually speechless," he said onstage, eliciting laughter from the crowd. "This has just been my passion over many, many years, serving at the pleasure of the chamber board and chamber

This has been my passion over many, many years . . . I love this community.

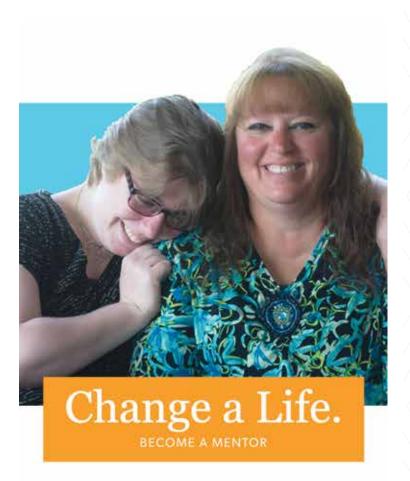
ANAND PATEL

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membership. I enjoy what I do, and I love this community."

Patel has lived in Fairfield since 2003 and is the father of two boys who attend area schools. His background is in the hotel industry. His father owned hotels and Patel followed in his footsteps. He was the owner of Fairfield's Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites – where La Quinta Inn is located



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now – when the Fairfield Tourism Association was formed in 2004. He served on the tourism board from 2004 to 2011, when he became the association's new president. The following year, the Fairfield Tourism Association rebranded to the Fairfield Conference & Visitors Bureau, or Visit Fairfield, California.

Visit Fairfield is the official destination marketing organization for Fairfield and promotes travel and tourism to the area. Patel has been able to see his destination – and his company – grow substantially in the years he has been at the helm. Visit Fairfield recently launched a new seasonal newsletter, "Rediscover Your Fairfield," that will be mailed to every business and residence in Fairfield, encouraging people to explore all that is available in their own backyard.

"The first question I often receive after telling a local what I do is, 'what else is there to do in Fairfield, other than go to Jelly Belly?' "Patel said. "While Jelly Belly is indeed our most well-known attraction, our wine region, breweries, olive oil companies, outdoor parks and local events all contribute to making Fairfield an incredible place to live, work, play and visit."

Patel has always stressed to his Visit Fairfield team the importance of community involvement. Visit Fairfield is a sponsor at many local events, and Patel has been involved with the chamber of commerce since the early 2000s, when he still owned the Holiday Inn.

He started off on the ambassador committee, a volunteer group that organizes the chamber's monthly mixers. In 2004, he was elected to the chamber's board of directors and two three-year terms. In 2009-10, at 35, he was one of the youngest board chairs the chamber has ever had. He termed off the board the following year, only to return in 2012 and serve through 2017.

"Just when you thought, after 12 years serving on our board, he was done, here he is back again serving as our acting CEO," Manry said. "We could never thank him enough for his dedication and commitment to all those around him."

Non-profit of the Year



By Brianna Boyd

ids Day of Fishing, Easter egg hunts in a local park, Breakfast with Santa Claus, Kids Day at the Park – these events all help to make Fairfield and Suisun City the communities we know and love.

And the Kiwanis Club of Fairfield/ Solano Satellite plays an important role in each and every one.

The Kiwanis Club of Fairfield/Solano Satellite, the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber's non-profit of the year, is a group of approximately 25 individuals who strive to make

their community a better place through donations of both time and money. Their annual crab feeds, for example, are critical fundraisers that allow members to raise money that goes directly back into the community toward events and activities that include the Assist-A-Grad high school scholarships, Kiwanis One Day, The Salvation Army bell ringing, Produce Pipeline, Kids Day of Fishing, the Easter egg hunt and Breakfast with Santa.

"My favorite event is our Breakfast with Santa, which I've chaired for the last 12 years," said longtime Kiwanis member and past president Dionne McCullar. "Christmas is a very special time and we love seeing all the little smiles when Santa comes riding in on his fire truck (driven by the Suisun Fire Department) with Mayor Harry Price. The moment is priceless and makes all of it worthwhile."

The Kiwanians pride themselves on not just writing



The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Present s

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checks to help but providing hands-on support to myriad local projects and entities. Children and their well-being are often the focus of these activities although club members consider any worthy community cause for potential assistance.

The Kiwanis Club of Fairfield was chartered in 1954 as one of 7,700 Kiwanis clubs in 80 countries. In October 2018, the Kiwanis Club of Solano County disbanded and merged with Kiwanis Club of Fairfield. The new club then changed its name to the Kiwanis Club of Fairfield/Solano Satellite.

The members of the original lunch club meet at noon the second and fourth Thursday of every month at Fairfield's HomeTown Buffet. The Solano Satellite Club meets at 6 p.m. the second Thursday at the bar at Stars Recreation Center in Vacaville.

Unofficially, members meet on various weekends on a

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volunteer basis to lend a hand wherever they are needed.

In the spring and fall, Kiwanis members team up with teenagers in the Key Clubs from Armijo High, Rodriguez High, Fairfield High, Vanden High and the Public Safety Academy to clean both Rolling Hills Park and Tabor Park through the city of Fairfield's Adopt-a-Park Program. All of the high school Key Clubs are sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

The club also sponsors the Kiwanis Family House in Sacramento. The Kiwanis Family House is located adjacent to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento where family members of critically ill children hospitalized nearby may stay for an unlimited time for a reduced cost. The family house is a regionally-sponsored Kiwanis mainstay for those in need.

For more information about the Kiwanis Club of Fairfield/Solano Satellite, visit www.kiwanisoffairfield. org or the Facebook page, Kiwanis Club of Fairfield.





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Ambassador of the Year Jared Neumayr

The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Presents THE ALL NEW 2019 BUIZZZ AUAGANATAS June 21, 2019

By Brianna Boyd

t was days after the Buzz Awards and Jared Neumayr was still beaming ear to ear. He had no idea when he first arrived at the event that the evening would prove to be such a defining moment for him. By the end of the night, Neumayr, the Assistant Vice-President of Member Services for Solano First Federal Credit Union, not only saw Solano First win business of the year but he also received the Ambassador of the Year award, voted on by own fellow ambassadors.

"It's hard sometimes to convey into words the emotions you feel in these

types of situations. But this has taken this whole experience to a much deeper level. It touches my heart so deeply."

And to think, one year ago, Solano First Federal Credit Union, a chamber member for decades, was really not active in the organization. The business paid its annual dues, but rarely participated in networking events.

Neumayr changed that.

When he was promoted to Assistant Vice President of Member Services in early 2018, he knew he wanted to follow in the footsteps of the other members of the credit union's executive team and get involved in the community.

Over the years, the executive team has been active in a host of organizations in and around Fairfield – Soroptimist, Rotary, Kiwanis, the PAL Center, just to name a few – but Neumayr had something else in mind.



DAILY REPUBLIC FILE

"The very first thing that came to my mind was the chamber of commerce," he said. "Although all those other organizations are great, it's the chamber that gives you so much face value out in the community."

He attended his first ambassador meeting in April 2018 and was at the Buzz Awards a few weeks later. He was impressed with the chamber, its leadership and members from the beginning and realized he had aspirations for something more than the ambassador committee.

"I knew my goal was to eventually be on the board," he said. "At my level, that's where I wanted to sit, to further my own personal growth and development. But you have to start from the ground up and that's what I did. I asked myself, how do you get people to notice you so they have an interest in you being on their board? My solution was to make some waves."

By the summer of 2018, he had enlisted his three

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Honestly, I feel like this entire year with the chamber has been mind-blowing.

JARED NEUMAYR

7

branch managers – Katie Najera and Katrina Cooper from Fairfield and Rebecca Whitaker from Vacaville – to join their respective chamber ambassador teams. Before long, Neumayr, Cooper and Najera were attending Fairfield-Suisun chamber mixers, ribbon cuttings and Lunch Mobs. Neumayr is often a captain or co-captain of the monthly mixers and in the past year, has taken on a leadership role within the group.

"We did what I call a 'divide and conquer,'" Neumayr said of his team. "We've all worked very hard to build and establish those relationships with other business owners and entrepreneurs. It's been a great learning experience for all of us."

He said he is proud to be part of a team that lifts people up. That was never more evident to him than at the Buzz Awards, as his elated colleagues showed him just how much his own award meant to them.

"It wasn't just about me winning ambassador of the year, it was about all of us," he said. "In such a short period of time, we've turned this into something so evolutionary. There's a bigger picture here and we are all clocked into that."

The experience this past year will certainly serve him well going forward, as he was recently named to the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber's board of directors.

"Honestly, I feel like this entire year with the chamber has just been mind-blowing," he said. "I went in with zero expectations and came out with everything. It's really allowed me to grow, not just in my own position but in life in general. If you stop where you feel your achievements have hit their peak, you will never be more. You always have to aspire for your next best thing."

Educator of the Year



June Collins



By Brianna Boyd

third-grade teacher at Dan O. Root II Heath and Wellness Academy has been named the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber's Educator of the Year.

June Collins is an "amazing teacher who has had a positive impact on her students," said Sheila McCabe, the assistant superintendent of educational services.

She has taught third grade at Dan O. Root for eight years and also serves as the school's Student Council Adviser. She has a strong belief that children grow into productive citizens by giving back to their community.

"I love my job," she said at the chamber's Buzz Awards. "One of the things I really enjoy is helping students connect with our community."

Over the years, she has partnered with several local organizations. Her students have collected toys for the Suisun Fire Department to distribute to other children in the community, assembled care packages for the Suisun Police Department to distribute to families in need, and raised funds to support the Suisun Wildlife Association.

"June has built strong community partnerships and has taught Dan O Root students the importance of providing service to their community," said her principal, Julie Reece.

chamber in action

Advocacy Council's Been Busy – and We're Just Getting Started

By Dawn LaBar ADVOCACY COUNCIL CHAIR

would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve as your incoming Chair of the Advocacy Council. I look forward to being a leader, motivator, and most importantly, an innovator. My background in local, state and federal legislative policy will serve as an asset alongside the Advocacy Council, Chamber Board, Chamber

Ambassadors and staff, on key issues that affect quality of life for our business community, such as business/government collaboration and increased engagement with our state policymakers.

This has been a busy time for the Advocacy Council. This past year, our 12-member Council has worked collaboratively

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with government leaders and community stakeholders to create, promote and affect policy and funding decisions on a local, state and federal level that assists our businesses to achieve economic growth and sustainability. And we're just getting started.

My goal as your new Chair is to build on the solid foundation that's been created by the Council, and take it to the next level, both locally

and at the state level. It is critical that we continue to advocate on your behalf, communicate your needs and challenges, and to be the resource you need to navigate through today's political climate. That's why we need to hear from you. What issues are important to you, and how can the Chamber's Advocacy Council best represent you? We can do this together. •



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community

Chief of Staff Also Tops in Soccer

By Matt Miller NORTHBAY HEALTHCARE

s a standout collegiate goalkeeper, Pete Zopfi spent his time making saves on the soccer pitch. Today, J. Peter Zopfi, D.O., makes very different saves – in the Emergency Department and surgery suites at NorthBay Medical Center in Fairfield.



Still, the chief of staff at NorthBay Healthcare manages to balance a demanding surgical career

with a lifelong passion for the world's most popular sport. After years as a player, coach and administrator for youth soccer in the state, Dr. Zopfi was elected board chairman of the U.S. Youth Soccer Association last year.

He blended his medical expertise with his knowledge of youth sport and injury prevention in May at a NorthBay Healthcare symposium focused on brain injuries. Titled, "Youth & Sports: What Everyone Should Know About Concussion." It featured Dr. Zopfi and a team of medical experts.

"It's important to know how to detect concussions," Dr. Zopfi said. "It's not like a broken bone. Concussions are silent. Fortunately, in my profession, I deal with them every day and for me it's almost second-nature to identify someone that has one. Knowing what to do can make a big difference."

U.S. Youth Soccer is the largest youth sports organization in the country with more than 3 million participants. The board Dr. Zopfi now heads makes vital decisions on finance, securing

sponsorships, looking at risk-management, fighting the battle against sexual abuse, and studying the effects of concussion and other injuries on young athletes. The board also coordinates the education and training of all referees, coaches and parents.

One of the biggest battles in youth soccer is trying to keep it available for all children, regardless of ability or economic standing. It can be big

business at times for those participating in costly, competitive traveling teams. But Dr. Zopfi sees soccer as a game that is great for kids of all abilities and cites the example of the U.S. Youth Soccer's "TOPSoccer" program that reaches out to kids with special needs.

"I really appreciate what youth give us as a society, the ability to be better as a whole," Dr. Zopfi said. "I think if you can give to the youth, you are giving to the future. It might sound grandiose, but I think it's a very simple truth that if you treat kids right they will turn around and treat society and the future right. Sports is an easy way to get kids engaged and a great place to mentor them."

Dr. Zopfi's role as chairman also comes with a seat on the board of the U.S. Soccer Federation, which oversees among other things the national men's and women's teams. He and his wife Kim went to France in June for the Women's World Cup.

A native of Napa, Dr. Zopfi honed his soccer skills as a youth playing in the area Latin leagues. There was no other competitive youth program at the time. He became a talented goalkeeper in





middle school and eventually at Vintage High School, where he earned a soccer scholarship to the University of San Francisco.

"In seventh-grade over at Redwood (middle school), I remember coach Bob Soper telling us we were going to do soccer," Dr. Zopfi recalled. "He said, 'I want all of you who think that you are forwards, midfielders and defenders to get up and start running laps, and those of you that think you are goalkeepers to go down there to the goal and talk about goalkeeping.' OK, run laps or talk about goalkeeping. True story. I went down to the goal and was a goalkeeper ever since."

At USF, he was part of the 1976 Division I National Championship team. But Dr. Zopfi soon became laser focused on medicine and transferred to UC Davis, continuing a soccer career while finishing his undergraduate work before heading to Pomona for medical school and later a surgical residency in Dayton, Ohio, and elective surgical training in Columbus, Ohio.

Without soccer, there would be no medical career, he said. The extra money the athletic scholarship gave him helped him get to where he is today.

"I came from a relatively poor family, rich in heart, but poor in finances," he said. "With the soccer scholarship, some other scholarships and working, as well, I was able to finish my college career and go on and become a physician."

Dr. Zopfi and Kim, also a soccer enthusiast, moved to Fairfield in 1991 and quickly both began coaching at various levels throughout the city, from youth to high school. From the beginning, medicine and soccer were the focus of much of his time. While Dr. Zopfi worked at NorthBay, he was also head coach (boys and girls) at Armijo High School for many years. And Kim Zopfi was the first head coach (boys and girls) at Rodriguez High School when it was founded in 2001.

All five of their children grew up playing soccer. There are now five grandchildren.

"I've had the privilege to coach a lot of teams," he said. "I think the thing I'm proudest of is that I have the opportunity now to meet a number of former players and see how they've grown up and the type of people they have become. You realize that you may have had a positive impact on them. We have a big Halloween display every year at home and the kids that I coached are now bringing their kids by to see the display."

Dr. Zopfi also refereed many matches and eventually moved into administrative roles throughout the city. He was the chairman of the California Youth Soccer Association North for nine years, which eventually led to his current election as national chairman of the U.S. Youth Soccer.

His work in medicine and soccer provide similar rewards, he said.

"It's kind of the same," he said. "You are helping people." •

estimonials



The Buzz Awards is such a tremendous opportunity to showcase your business and the chamber of commerce. They do an outstanding job with giving a voice to the local businesses such as the Buzz Awards. We were so honored to have won business of the year for Fairfield last year. The Chamber of commerce excels to promote local businesses which is why we decided to become a member. Not only does our business benefit from being a member but

the entire community benefits as well

PAM VALDIVIA GENERAL MANAGER/EVENT MANAGER, VEZER FAMILY VINE YARD



In 2014, the Solano County Library Foundation (SCLF) received the very first Non-Profit of the Year Buzz Award. As a member of the SCLF Board then and now, it was truly an honor to have our foundation recognized by the Fairfield/Suisun Chamber of Commerce community. The Buzz Award Ceremony provided a platform to share our mission of supporting the programs of the Solano County Library and the literacy and

lifelong learning needs of the community. Receiving the award created additional "buzz" and support for our programs and events aimed at making sure Solano County residents of all ages, from infants to adults, have opportunities to read and learn important literacy skills. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to showcase the Solano County Library Foundation through the Buzz Award.

FRANCES L. MCCULLOUGH, ED.D. PRESIDENT, SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION



I continue to be impressed by how our Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce is always "leaning in" to opportunities that provide warm welcoming recognition for our local champions who dedicate and give their daily best to lift our community spirit and make a difference! As many of you know, I've been an enthusiastic cheerleader of Solano County in pursuit of economic vitality and working together to enhance our economy and quality of life here! Often, I've been asked what makes us special? Well, for sure, it's the people! And perhaps the biggest asset that any community

can have is having a positive and limitless attitude! You can have all the physical ingredients but if you don't have leadership with integrity, love of your community, a business-friendly approach, or the spirit of teamwork – you don't thrive! The Chamber's Buzz Awards delivers on driving the heartbeat of inspiration to celebrate our champions of collaboration and teamwork!

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