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UPCOMING MIXERS & EVENTS

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012

5:30-7:30

Nicolino's Italian Restaurant

36-325 Date Palm, Cathedral City

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\$5.00 PER PERSON

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY MIXER AT RABOBANK IN THOUSAND PALMS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

5:30-7:30

72885 Ramon Rd., Thousand Palms

Bring non-perishable food items for **Martha's Village & Kitchen** to each event/mixer and receive extra raffle tickets for a Beautiful Gift Basket.

For further info, call **1-760-343-1988**

LUNCHEONS

WED, OCTOBER 24

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

SPEAKER NANCY GENTRY

"Libraries Are No Longer Just About Books"

WED, NOVEMBER 28

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

SPEAKER DR. GREG McDONALD

"Stress, Exercise, Natural Health Care Alternatives"

Luncheons are held at the **Rendezvous Café**

At The Club at Shenandoah Springs

32700 Desert Moon Drive, Thousand Palms

\$10.00 per person

RSVP by Monday at noon prior

to **760-568-1595** or **760-343-1988**

AND THE CHAMBER BEAT GOES ON



RECOGNITION . . . in the form of a wall plaque of appreciation is accepted by **Dusty Edwards** (left) of Applebee's in Palm Desert from **Thousand Palms Chamber President Chas Allen** at the mixer held September 12, 2012 at the restaurant on Cook Street.

STATE PUTTING HEAVY BURDENS ON COUNTY

Riverside County 4th District Supervisor John Benoit gave a district update on Sept. 4 at Sun City Palm Desert. His district, he said, includes 5,000 of the 7,300 square miles of Riverside County, and it is fighting hard to keep up with the additional responsibilities the state of California has placed on its back.

To make matters worse, Benoit said, in 1990 Riverside County had 1.2 million people. In 2012 it has 2.2 million, and property taxes have been automatically reduced on 40 percent of all county homes. "It will take a long time for the county to catch up," he explained.

Riverside County did not abuse the redevelopment program, he said, but it had its redevelopment funds withdrawn anyway. Benoit said that he was the only county representative in the state who went to Sacramento to fight it.

Among the many expenses transferred to the county is the cost of housing inmates formerly in state custody. The trouble, he said, is that county jails are not equipped for long-term sentences. The state did set aside funds to build more jail space, but the county will be investing \$300 million in downtown Indio to expand the present jail. The

(COUNTY, continued on Page 3)

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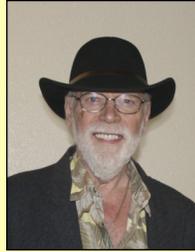
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Thousand Palms Chamber Newsletter
Editor Patricia Saleh
760-343-2440

The President's Corner



BUSINESS DIRECTORY FOR THOUSAND PALMS AREA

Our Chamber Ambassadors are currently canvassing the Thousand Palms Business Community to compile information for our Business Directory. They have started in the Rio del Sol Industrial Park, and are getting to know owners, managers, staff, and business support teams to get details about their businesses: contact information, types of services or products, scope of sales areas, and other vital information that will help the Chamber make referrals as inquiries frequently occur. In an effort to speed up the "Let's Get Acquainted" program, we have started a . . .

BUSINESS BRAINSTORMING BREAKFAST

at **Denny's on Varner Rd.** in Thousand Palms **every other Monday morning** beginning at **6:45am**. We're inviting all those doing business in Thousand Palms or seeking to get more business from Thousand Palms to send an owner, manager, sales rep, marketing person or other representative to join us, fill in our fact sheet, and tell us about your businesses. We also welcome ideas regarding business and community issues as they come up. We want to build a solid referral network within the Thousand Palms Business Community.

TO ALL THOUSAND PALMS AREA BUSINESSES.....

This is your invitation to come visit us at Denny's—no RSVP required—just buy your own breakfast, share your business facts, skills and successes with us, and help the Chamber put together a really successful Business Directory.

Dates Coming up: Mon, Sept 24; Mon, Oct 8;
Mon, Oct 22; Mon, Nov 5; Mon, Nov 19.
For more info, call **Chas at 760-568-1595** or
chas@thousandpalmschamberofcommerce.com



The Ambassadors

The fall season is coming into full swing with more Chamber networking and good times ahead. The Ambassadors make it all happen. We are the activity arm of the Thousand Palms Chamber of Commerce. We plan the luncheons, mixers and fund-raising events. We sell the tickets, decorate, collect the prizes and canvas the Thousand Palms Business Area for new members. More importantly, we have lots of fun doing it.

If you'd like to be part of the Chamber Ambassadors, please give me a call at **760-673-2877**, or call the Chamber at **760-343-1988**. You can also reach me by e-mail at info@thousandpalmschamber.com.
Looking forward to hearing from you,
Chamber Ambassadors Chairperson **Danielle Fisher**

(COUNTY, Continued from Page 1)

old County Administration building will be torn down and deputies and administration staff will increase from 150 to 500.

In the meantime, the county's budget had to be reduced across the board. So, he said, the county does not currently have enough deputies on the streets. Two thousand county employees were laid off. Riverside County went from 20,000 to 18,000 employees in all.

Hope for the Future

To compensate for the loss in tax revenue, Benoit stated that the county negotiated with two unions to require all new hires to pay 8 to 9 percent of their pensions themselves. That change, he said, will generate \$650 million in savings over the next 10 years. To attract new businesses to Riverside County an Office of Foreign Trade has been established. The Foreign Trade Zone program permits goods and parts to be bought duty-free from other countries and assembled in Riverside County, then sold duty-free from Riverside County.

Also set to increase tax revenue to the County is The Thermal Club, a race track now in the early stages of construction. Property values in Riverside County, Benoit said, have risen about 20 percent, and hotel room occupancy rates have climbed steadily for the last 20 to 30 months.

Benoit answered questions from the Sun City Palm Desert audience concerning a possible new law school in Indio, which he said is on track to happen, and the plight of the Duroville mobile home park, which he said is a huge problem for the county. The problem was created when about 300 mobile homes accumulated on Indian land without legal restrictions. The county has been able to reduce the number of mobile homes from 300 to 180 and fix some of the sewer problems, which is helping, but before the residents could be moved to new county-built housing, the withdrawal of redevelopment funds by the State brought the construction project to a halt after \$6 to \$7 million in public funds had already been spent. Although Benoit is fighting to have the funds restored as a "declared" enforceable obligation, the money has not been refunded at this time and the Indians cannot be forced to fix the problem.

Benoit went on to say that there are many farm, equestrian and transportation opportunities in the Coachella Valley that depend on immigrant labor and/or utilization. As to the first, he said he believes that farming could be helped if U.S. Immigration would provide a legal guest worker program like they used to have in the 1960s. He said that there are also a number of equestrian parks in the Coachella Valley that are underutilized. He is chairman
(COUNTY, continued on Page 4)

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

. . . the Thousand Palms Chamber of Commerce celebrates its **51st Birthday** this year?
. . . It would require 10,000 to 12,000 gallons per month of diesel fuel to replace the clean burning fuel now used on the **Sun Line Transit** buses, main office located in Thousand Palms?
. . . Thousand Palms has the **only "IN 'n' OUT" Burger** in the Coachella Valley?
. . . Thousand Palms is **less than one mile from the largest movie house** in the valley?
. . . Thousand Palms is **less than one mile from one of the largest Hotel/Casino/Convention Center & Show venues in the Valley**?
. . . **Enterprise Zone tax credits** make Thousand Palms one of the Coachella Valley's most attractive industrial/commercial destinations?

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THE CHAMBER THANKS . . .

. . . **Jimmica Guess**, Community Relations Director at **Martha's Village & Kitchen**, for helping to coordinate the Chamber's July mixer hosted by Martha's Village. Along with the delicious refreshments, attendees were treated to a **tour** of the facility to see the impressive services Martha's provides to the needy and homeless. The Mixer was co-sponsored by the La Quinta, Coachella and Thousand Palms chambers.

. . . **ROC'S Fire House Grille & Bar** on Cook Street in Palm Desert for hosting the Chamber's August mixer with tasty hors d'oeuvres and extra friendly service. ROC'S salutes the Fire Fighters of the World with displays of fire-fighting tools and memorabilia. It's a neat and nostalgic venue to meet with friends over drinks and great food!

. . . **APPLEBEE'S Neighborhood Bar & Grill** at Frank Sinatra and Cook Street in Palm Desert for hosting our September mixer with a "Beach Party" theme and special raffle. Applebee's offers a varied selection of delicious drinks, snacks and meals in a décor highlighting local teams and stage productions.

. . . **PETE LUNDY** for speaking at the Chamber's July luncheon on ways to slow down the physical effects of aging.

. . . **CASEY JONES** for his talk at the Chamber's August luncheon on healthy eating strategies to eliminate certain prescription drugs and improve health.

COPPER THIEVES HIT CHAMBER TWICE!

Copper thieves boldly made off with the innards of two air conditioning units at the Thousand Palms Chamber offices at the hottest time of the year, rendering them more expensive to fix than replace. The Sheriff's office took a report over the phone but unlike on TV no officers were sent to view the scene of the crime. Apparently these are not isolated incidents in the desert right now. The trade-in value of the copper was about \$100 per unit. The total for the new units was over \$8,000.

Thanks to **Darryl Mirsky of Farmer's Insurance** for the caring and efficient way he handled the Chamber's insurance claims. Mirsky has been a Chamber member for 20 years, and although the Chamber hasn't had a lot of claims, it was great to have him on our side when we needed him. **Thanks** to **Mike Ascani and Stan Forrest** for getting right on top of the incidents. Forrest has built some custom metal enclosures to keep future thieves at bay! And, **thanks** to **"The General" Air Conditioning**, another Chamber member, for their speed in replacing the units. **Our members really came through for us!**



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Mike Ascani
Owner **Mike the Handyman**
760-343-7789
Bill Swedeen
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(COUNTY, continued from Page 3)

of the Riverside County Transportation Commission and the Board of Supervisors recently supported Amtrak's expansion to daily train service in the Coachella Valley via the Sunset Limited line, which travels from Los Angeles to New Orleans. He cautioned that it must be supported by riders or it could fail.

It is likely that the Palm Springs Airport will add more scheduled flights soon, and Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport in Thermal is primed for commercial air flights. The probable flight path out of Thermal will not cause noise in Sun City, he said, but Thermal airport has no control tower, so flights take off and land on their own.

Several other questions were asked about the Whitewater Bike Parkway. Benoit said that the

(COUNTY, Continued on Page 5)

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LIBRARY/SCRAP GALLERY DEDICATION

Dedication of the Scrap Gallery mural at the **Art Samson (Thousand Palms) Library** will be held at **5 PM** on Thursday, **October 25, 2012**, outside the front entrance of the library at 31189 Robert Road. Refreshments will be served in the Community Center behind the library prior to the Thousand Palms Community Council meeting at 6 PM. The dedication will include an unveiling of the mural by **Thousand Palms Chamber President Chas Allen**. The mural was based on the artwork of two local children chosen from two community programs held at the Library. The two will receive a framed award certificate and a \$25 Saving account from **Rabobank**, located at 72885 Ramon Rd. in Thousand Palms. **Sharon Ballard**, Thousand Palms Library Branch Manager, and **Karen Riley**, Executive Director of the S.C.R.A.P. Gallery (Student Creative Recycle Art Program) are coordinating it. For further information, call **Ballard at 760-343-1556**.

(COUNTY, Continued from Page 4)

Air Quality Management District staff is currently reviewing various proposals for use of the \$53 million put up by the builder of the CPV Sentinel natural gas power plant going up north of Dillon Road in Desert Hot Springs' sphere of influence. The plant will produce some air polluting CO₂ emissions so the money must be spent to mitigate that pollution, not on recreation or the homeless or any other type of project, he said. The pedestrian, bicycle and electric vehicle **parkway**, Benoit said, is one of the good ways the money could be spent. With interest in golf not seeing the growth it once did, he said, tourism officials are excited about the parkway, and taking a few cars off the road will make a significant difference in the Coachella Valley's air quality. The Air Quality Management District's Governing Board will have hearings on the proposals in October and they will be open to the public. All \$53 million, he said, will be spent in the Coachella Valley. — *by Patricia Saleh*

OFFICE SPACE: The Thousand Palms Chamber is still looking to lease its extra 1,400 sq. ft. office in the Chamber building at 72715 La Canada Way in Thousand Palms, now at \$850 per month. It has a separate entrance and includes kitchen and conference room use, a fenced parking lot and an extra lot next door if needed. It's eligible for C.V. Enterprise Zone **tax credits** for qualified employees. Please call **Bill Swedeen**, 760-343-3652.



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MIXING IT UP . . . at the recent Thousand Palms Chamber "Beach Theme" mixer at Applebee's were (from left) **Sharron Kenty** of Photo Colorgraphix and **Bill Swedeen** of Central Valley Real Estate. Swedeen, who has repeatedly served on the Thousand Palms Chamber Board as president, recently announced that he will be moving to Washington after the first of the year. He will be sorely missed!



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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH
FORREST SPECIALTIES



Stan Forrest

Forrest Specialties is a custom workroom for interior designers that has created for some of the most prestigious homes and decorators in the desert. **Stanley (Stan) Forrest**, Chamber Ambassador, says his wife **Bonnie**, co-owner, is the “brains behind the shop.” Married 44 years, the two split the tasks. Bonnie, Stan says, advises designers on what fabrics work best for a particular application, and he takes care of the metal welding and installation. They sew and fabricate bedspreads; draperies; pillows and shams; upholster cornice boxes, furniture and more. But Stan is a man of many dimensions

From 1965 to 1972, he was the property manager for Palm Springs Panorama homes. Prior to that, when the government wanted to avoid above-ground nuclear tests Stan helped drill holes at a Nevada test site to set off the atomic bombs. He also worked in oil field drilling in Alaska, Algeria, Somalia, Thailand, Mozambique and here in California.

Today, he serves as an Ambassador for the Thousand Palms Chamber of Commerce, and on two recent hot summer occasions when thieves made off with crucial parts of the Chamber air conditioners, Stan partnered with **Mike Ascani** to take care of the problem. He not only helped to see that the new air conditioners were installed, but he and the Forrest Specialties staff engineered, welded and installed two custom cages to make sure it doesn't happen again. Not easy to do during fry-an-egg-on-the sidewalk weather.

Stan doesn't hesitate to say that he was born in 1931. The Thousand Palms Chamber is so glad he is willing to contribute the benefit of his 81 years of invaluable experience to us . Forrest Specialties: **760-636-6955**

Photo at right (From left, front . . . Ruth Picone shares in the joy as Michelle Demille wins a sculpture by **Stan Forrest** as (in back, from left) Chas Allen and Mike Ascani look on.



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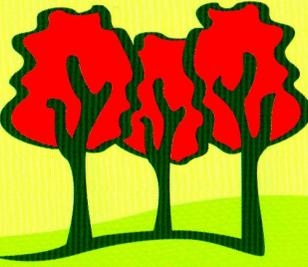


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LET'S EAT!

The Thousand Palms Chamber is striving to increase attendance at their monthly luncheons by booking dynamic speakers on important and interesting topics of wide appeal. Chamber luncheons not only provide the opportunity to learn something new, they make it possible to meet with other members, the Chamber's greatest asset. Members provide you with business resources, information about the current business climate from their doorstep, and a chance to make a friend who can pass the word along about you. Members acquaint other businesses with your products and services. They refer you sales and many other prosperous options. Bring a Friend!




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2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEP—DEC 2012	SEP—DEC 2012
<p>CHAMBER MIXERS Second Wednesday of Every Month Food, Beverages, Door Prizes, Wine 5:30-7:30 PM Location Announced Each Month \$5 Per Person</p>	<p>CHAMBER LUNCHEONS WITH SPEAKER Fourth Wednesday of Every Month 11:30 AM Rendezvous Restaurant, Shenandoah Springs 32700 Desert Moon Drive, Thousand Palms \$10 per person</p>
<p>Thousand Palms Chamber Board Meetings Third Wednesday of Every Month 8:00 AM at Chamber Office 72715 La Canada, Thousand Palms, CA 92276 1-760-343-1988 for further information</p>	<p>For Further Information on All Chamber Activities Call the Chamber at 1-760-343-1988 E-Mail: info@thousandpalmschamber.com www.thousandpalmschamber.com</p>
<p>Al Anon Wednesday and Friday Nights 7:00 PM Thousand Palms Chamber Board Room 72715 La Canada, Thousand Palms, CA 92276</p>	<p>GENERAL INFORMATION Thousand Palms Community Council Meetings 6:00 PM the last Thursday of Every Month Thousand Palms Community Center 31189 Robert Road, Thousand Palms</p>



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