

February Events

16
Business After Five Mixer
 San Bruno/Millbrae
 Chambers with BNI
 at Sixteen Mile House
 5:30 – 7pm

24
Art & Wine Committee
 Chamber Office
 11am

26
Lunar New Year
Celebration
 City Hall/Library Complex
 10:30am-4pm

28
Board of Directors
 El Rancho Inn
 6pm

March Events

17
Business After Five Mixer
 Save the Date
 Details TBA

21
Board of Directors
 El Rancho Inn
 6pm

24
Art & Wine Committee
 Chamber Office
 11:30am

26
Millbrae Street Scramble
 Chetcuti Room
 10am

Mission Statement:
 The mission of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce is to provide leadership and support to effect positive results for the business

Excellence in Business Awards Recap

Once again, the Palm Room at the El Rancho Inn was at capacity with our sold-out crowd for the 12th Annual Millbrae Excellence in Business Awards on January 20th.

The Business of the Year award went to Pape Meat Company, a well-deserved win for this involved community business who has been supplying the community with top-quality meats and unmatched customer service since 1958.



Pape Meat Company after receiving Business of the Year award

Larry Pape, owner Ron Pape's son, accepted the award on behalf of the company. They also received numerous commendations from local and state officials. "Pape Meat Company is a great example of a small business that grew into a local institution and deserves to be recognized for their longevity, quality, customer service and commitment to the community," stated Rotary President Walter Gladwin.

The Sixteen Mile House was given the Restaurant of the Year award. Owner Peter Liu graciously accepted the award and noted that Millbrae has many excellent restaurants and that he and his staff were humbled to have been selected.



Peter Liu accepting Restaurant of the Year award from John Ford

Peter purchased the restaurant, located at 448 Broadway in downtown Millbrae, from the Bottarini family in late 2006 and after a major remodel, he reopened the fine dining establishment to rave reviews. Not only was the "16" recognized for their great food and comfortable lounge, but also on becoming the first certified "Green" restaurant in Millbrae.

This year's Chamber Excellence Award was given to the Millbrae Volunteers in Policing for their exceptional efforts in helping to keep our community safe. The Millbrae Volunteers in Policing (or MVP) program was started in 1999 and now has over 40 volunteers. The volunteers come to the program with a wealth of different talents and backgrounds but have a common goal: effective advocacy regarding the welfare, safety, and well-being of our community.

Special Services officer Chris Co received the award on behalf of the volunteers (many of whom were in attendance at the dinner). Chief Neil Telford spoke on behalf of the police department and thanked the volunteers for the 5,000+ hours that they spend working in the program each year.



Chris Co Accepting Chamber Excellence award for Millbrae Volunteers in Policing

We would like to congratulate all of the award winners and thank the members of the community who took the time to submit nominations. The chamber would also like to thank the Rotary Club of Millbrae for co-sponsoring the Business of the Year award and Tom Dawdy of Dawdy Photography for his fantastic photos. The event continues to grow in terms of attendance and importance.



Winter Mixer & Networking Event

Hosted by



in conjunction with
San Bruno Chamber of Commerce
Millbrae Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday, February 16th

Sixteen Mile House

448 Broadway, Millbrae

5:30 - 7pm

No Host Bar



Membership Renewals

*Thanks For Your Continuing Support -
There Would Be No Chamber Without YOU!*

1 - 5 Years

Sweet Memories – 2009
Caffe Roma – 2008
Reviv Med Spa – 2008
Walgreens – 2007
Amro Carpet Cleaning Services - 2007

6 - 10 Years

Glen Oaks Montessori – 2004
Shope Ten Liquidators – 2005
Top Oil / Atlas Asia Pacific – 2001
Millbrae Lions Club – 2002

11 - 20 Years

State Farm Insurance (Phil Grites) – 1992
Harry Aubright – 1992
Gil Construction – 1997
Judith Hillstead, Accountant – 1995
Marymount Greenhills Retirement Center – 1992
Robert Gottschalk, Attorney – 1999
O Sole Mio – 1996
Dan Quigg, Handyman – 1992
Millbrae Furniture & Appliance – 1991

21+ Years

Marjorie Wilson – 1969
James Kim D.M.D. – 1987
Millwood Inn & Suites – 1973
Numis International – 1976
Prudential California Realty – 1973
Best Western El Rancho Inn & Suites – 1973
Nan Hai Arts Center - 1990
Chapel of the Highlands – 1973
Marc Hershman – 1990
Millbrae Lumber Company – 1973
Millbrae Square Shopping Center – 1985
Bronzini Dental Group – 1975
Millbrae Library – 1985

Board Chair's Message

by Chris Benson, Board Chair

"We measure progress by the success of our people. By the jobs they can find and the quality of life those jobs offer. By the prospects of a small business owner who dreams of turning a good idea into a thriving enterprise. By the opportunities for a better life that we pass on to our children." This quote from President Obama's recent State of the Union address really sums up to me, what a local Chamber of Commerce is all about.

As your new Millbrae Chamber Board Chair for 2011, I am excited to work with the Millbrae businesses, residents, local government, and other organizations to help further the growth of this fantastic city. Millbrae already stands out as a city of forward thinking and positive changes. Centrally located in the Peninsula, our city has so much to offer—BART, CalTrain, future high speed rail, our proximity to SFO, the abundance of lodging, retail stores, and of course, all the wonderful restaurants.

It is part of my new task, along with my fellow board members, to prove to even more people just how great Millbrae really is. I hope we can work with all of you to make your business, your idea, or your dream of owning a business in Millbrae come true. Our team of dedicated volunteers on the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce board want to create an even stronger network of businesses who can come together, help each other, learn from each other, and most importantly, prosper together.

Please don't hesitate to contact the local chamber office, or any of our board of directors with questions, concerns, or ideas towards making Millbrae even better.

Kind regards,
Chris Benson

Our New Directors



Janet Chen and Marilou Edwards being sworn in as Directors
by Vice Mayor Marge Colapietro

Labor Law Corner

Set Guidelines for Social Media Use

Q. I have an employee who posted some very negative comments about our company on his Facebook page. Can I take action against this employee based on the Facebook comments?

The rapid growth of the social media, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Plaxo and many more, have raised a lot of issues for employers, including the proper response to the question posed above.

Labor Code Section 96(k) protects an employee engaging in "lawful conduct occurring during non-working hours away from the employer's premises." In addition, all employees have the right to freedom of speech as guaranteed in both the U.S. and California constitutions.

Defamatory Comments

That right, however, is not without limits. It is impermissible to post defamatory comments on social media, and employers can pursue legal remedies when blatantly defamatory comments are posted for everyone to read.

Another example of when an employer can take action is when employees brag about misconduct on their Facebook page, such as calling in sick when they want to go skiing or revealing confidential information about the company.

The more difficult issue is when an employee posts his/her opinion, which might not be pleasant, but isn't specifically actionable. An employee can cause awkward, even possibly harassing situations by misuse of social media.

Additional difficult situations result when former employees ask their former bosses to provide references, often on LinkedIn. Supervisors who do so should be aware that such a reference has the force and effect of a written recommendation, and therefore should proceed with caution.

Suggested Guidelines

To help prevent difficult situations, it is advisable for employers to issue guidelines to their employees. Some recommendations include:

- Prohibit the use of their blogs and posts during business hours.
- Give notice that misuse of social media may be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
- Ask that employees bring any complaints to the company's human resources contact versus posting on the Internet.
- Prohibit employees from revealing the employer's confidential information or trade secrets on social media.

This list is by no means all inclusive, and it is recommended that employers consult their attorneys to draft appropriate language.

Employers cannot ignore social media use, however. They must understand all the issues involved, and then draft policies and procedures to address those concerns accordingly.

Lunar New Year Events

Year of the Rabbit

Millbrae will be celebrating the Lunar New Year at a variety of events during the month of February. Here is a short list of some of the events:

- The Rotary Club of Millbrae will host a traditional 10 course Chinese banquet on Friday, February 11th at the Zen Peninsula Restaurant (1180 El Camino Real, Millbrae). Net proceeds from this fundraising event will help support the Club's community health, hunger and literacy service projects. Please RSVP by Feb. 4th with names of your party by e-mail: millbraerotary@sbcglobal.net, or phone (650) 678-0715.
- The Nan Hai Arts Center will have a display of works by renowned Chinese painting masters at the Nan Hai Gallery from February 11th through 28th. Please call (650) 259-2100 for more information.
- The Lunar Year Festival on February 26th will be a city-wide celebration to welcome the Year of the Rabbit. The Millbrae Sister Cities Committee along with the Peninsula Chinese Business Association and the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event. An entertainment stage and cultural exhibition will take place in the Millbrae Library/City Hall complex from 10:30am until 4:00pm.
- A lion dance parade will take place in downtown Millbrae beginning at 2:00pm. Businesses that are interested in having the lion visit them should contact the Chamber office as soon as possible.
- The Peninsula Chinese Business Association (PCBA) will host a Spring Festival Banquet on February 27th at 6:30pm also at the Zen Peninsula Restaurant. For more information on this event, please contact the Chamber office.



City/County News

Caltrain Begins Transition to Regional Fare Card

Caltrain has begun the transition of two of its "big tickets" to ClipperSM, the reloadable fare payment card now in use by five major Bay Area transit systems.

In early 2011, Caltrain is scheduled to phase out paper Monthly Passes and 8-ride tickets, the two ticket types used by the majority of Caltrain's customers. After the transition is completed, customers will be able to purchase those two major ticket types only on the Clipper card.

Clipper is in use on AC Transit, BART, Golden Gate Ferry and Transit, and Muni, all of which are implementing phase-out plans for certain paper passes. The move from paper to plastic is the fulfillment of a multi-year effort by the regional Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the transit agencies to provide riders with a seamless and convenient payment method.

Customers who don't already have Clipper cards are strongly encouraged to request one from the Clipper Customer Service Bureau or to visit a Clipper vendor, which includes many Walgreen's stores. For Clipper information, call 1-877-878-8883 or visit clippercard.com. For answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.caltrain.com/clipper.

Water Pipeline Upgrades to Occur in the Southbound Lane of El Camino Real in Early 2011

Beginning in early 2011 and until the end of 2012, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will be upgrading a large water pipeline beneath El Camino Real in the cities of Burlingame and Millbrae. The Crystal Springs Pipeline No.2 Replacement Project (CSPL2) has identified three work areas in the city of Millbrae for repair. The existing pipeline is located in the southbound lane, and is nearest the sidewalk.

The project's goal is to seismically upgrade the pipe to ensure water reliability in the event of an earthquake or drought. CSPL2 was built in the early 1920s and the SFPUC anticipates these improvements to last more than 80 years.

While water service will not be interrupted as a result of this work, minor traffic impacts and noise impacts are anticipated.

To ensure that residents and businesses receive the latest construction updates, the SFPUC encourages Millbrae citizens, businesses and employees to subscribe on the project website or contacting their 24-hour answering service for more information.

Project blog: www.sfwater.org/cspl2

E-mail: djames@sfwater.org ■ Telephone: 866-973-5786

New Bus Route to Serve Millbrae

By David Carini (originally published Friday, January 14, 2011, by Millbrae.Patch.com)

MV Transportation, a private bus company, will begin servicing weekday passengers in Millbrae on Feb. 1 with 26 stops along schools, parks, downtown and Caltrain.

The company presented the details of the new service, the Millbrae Roundabout, to city council members on Jan. 13. Essentially, the 16-passenger bus will replace the SamTrans 342 route that was discontinued in Dec. 2009 due to limited ridership.

Tickets will cost \$2 each way during peak hours, 7:15 to 9:35 a.m. and 2:40 to 6:00 p.m., and \$4 during off-peak, the hours in between, when the bus will run on-demand, similar to a taxi. Initially, MV Transportation will not offer monthly passes or multiple-ride discount tickets.

John Murphy, MV Transportation regional vice president, believes this on-call system will save the company enough money to spare it from the fate of the 342 SamTrans, which with an average of 127 passengers per day, was the least used route in the county, according to Murphy.

Murphy, along with the Leo's Club and other volunteers, will distribute flyers to advertise the route that runs an 8-mile trip in approximately 40 minutes and includes stops at Mills High School, Vallejo Drive apartments, the Millbrae Recreation Center and Caltrain.

Millbrae secured \$25,720 in county grants for the bus service, and MV Transportation will need to raise another \$18,000 just to operate for five months. Millbrae Roundabout stops will be marked by balloons and 5x8 inch stickers on utility poles. Call 650-482-9360 for more info.

2011 Officers

Board Chair	Chris Benson	Walgreens
First Vice Chair	Ron Frediani	Associated Window Cleaning
Second Vice Chair	Rob Lee	Chapel of the Highlands
Secretary	Stephen Cheung	SIS Insurance Services

2011 Board Members

Dr. Nicolas Bronzini	Bronzini Dental Group
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Sharlene Chew	Super Supper / SereniTea House
Judy Clarke	Cashin Company Realtors
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Staff Members

John Ford	President/CEO
Lorianne Richardson	Executive Assistant
James Barrett	Farmers Market Manager

ADVERTISE in our NEWSLETTER !

Members of the Millbrae Chamber have the opportunity to advertise their business services or products in the Chamber newsletter.

Call the Chamber @ 697-7324 to reserve your advertising space.

Community Events

Farmers' Market

Sponsored by the Chamber, held every Saturday, year-round from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 200 block of El Camino/Broadway.

Millbrae Annual Art & Wine Festival
Labor Day Weekend

Publication Information

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce. For information on submitting articles, ads and flyers, call 697-7324.

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