

*And the honorees are...*



**TOPAZ BESS**  
*Student of the Year*



**REN PARTRIDGE**  
*Senior of the Year*



## 50th Annual Awards & Installation Dinner

## Milestones in every way were honored in one special night

Fifty years of celebrations, hundreds of award winners, thousands of attendees and innumerable memories all came together in one beautiful gala honoring not just the award recipients, but the Pinole Chamber itself— from how it started, how it has evolved, what it has accomplished, who it has benefitted, and where it will go in the future.

From recognizing a life just beginning to blossom to a life full of vigor to a business enriching our lives as well as our community to a wonderfully supportive entrepreneur to accolades of those who helped shape our wonderful town... the night was an endless festival of who and what makes Pinole so amazing.

But it is not just about those who have or will do great things— the night is also about those who do magnificent things now, and to them we say a warm thank you... drum roll please:



**KAISER PERMANENTE** - *Business of the Year*  
(pictured, Dr. David Velek & Nicole Barnett, RN)



**GARY WONG**  
*Special Recognition Award*

**June 2011**



**TOM CUTINO**  
*Lifetime Achievement Recipient*



**JACK MEEHAN**  
*Lifetime Achievement Recipient*

Lee Ann Miller, Stacey Dillon, Deanna and Dave Million, PCTV, Cafe Soleil, Mechanics Bank, Bank of the West, Pinole Valley Boot Camp, PVHS Leadership Club, as well as the Board, the Ambassadors, the Event Committee and anyone else who helped the Chamber put on a spectacular event only rivaled by the accomplishments of the winners themselves.

If you were unable to attend this year, we will be happy to save you a seat to an even better presentation in 2012!



## From the Desk of

President, Pinole Chamber of Commerce

*2011 has been a busy time  
for the Pinole Chamber of Commerce*

In spite of a sagging and slowly recovering economy, the Chamber has been kept busy promoting new ideas and accepting new challenges.

The Chamber and its leaders have played an important part in Pinole's development. Upon realizing that the Chamber would be celebrating its 50th Awards and Installation Dinner in 2011, we decided it was time to honor and recognize the former officers and directors of the Pinole Chamber of Commerce.

Two of our past presidents are still very involved in the community and their service to the Chamber and to the Community were acknowledged with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Another past president was surprised with a special recognition award, Gary Wong. Along with the other award recipients, Ren Partridge, Senior Citizen of the Year, Topaz Bess, Student of the Year and Kaiser Permanente, Business of the Year, this golden anniversary was an event to remember.

The Chamber has also been involved in a community service project, the Community Corner. In 2010 we brought forth an idea to beautify the vacant lot at 2301 San Pablo Avenue. Roy Swearingen, liaison to the Chamber, supported this idea and it was presented to the City Council in February 2011.

Roy has been working with the Chamber to see this vision become a reality. Council member Tim Banuelos has given of his personal time to help develop the site plan and sign structure. Council members Phil Green and Debbie Long worked side by side with volunteers on June 4th to landscape the lot, as were over 50 community volunteers.

The Chamber has encouraged the Old Town Merchants to form an organization to represent and promote their business district. They now have a leader, Lee Ann Miller owner of the Garden of Gems. They also have a Facebook page, an Old Town/Downtown web page on the Chamber site, and an Old Town/Downtown, online newsletter. This group has indicated their willingness to continue the

*Ivette continued page 4*

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# Unexpected illness garners a whirlwind tour of Doctors Medical Center-San Pablo

We have heard the usual comments about hospitals—the odd (sterile) smells, over-priced aspirin, bland food, etc.—we rarely hear about the people who take care of you, about the more human side of a hospital experience. Rather tell you about the services Doctors Medical Center (DMC) has to offer in general, I would like to tell about my experience as their patient.

Last year I became seriously ill and, under high recommendation (I generally live by the “it’ll go away” philosophy of life), had to make my first trip (as a patient) to the emergency room.

Reluctant to walk in (I was afraid what might be wrong), I entered the doors of DMC’s emergency entrance and was directed to the booth of the registrar. The woman was warm and welcoming. While she inquired the usual name, insurance, identification information, she told me how the doctors were very good and the staff would take good care of me. Her upbeat demeanor made me feel less apprehensive and a lot calmer about what may or may not lie ahead of me.

Next, I was seen by the triage nurse. More professional in her approach, she inquired about my symptoms and pretty much instantly escorted me to a bed, supplied with a gown and warm blankets. Within a few minutes, the doctor came in to see me. She asked about my symptoms and assured me they would take care of me. I liked her because she wasn’t too



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chatty, but answered questions and was straight to the point—plus she had fun, semi-spiky blond hair! She told me a nurse would be in shortly.

My nurse was Michael. He had a slight drawl I remember. He took my vitals and I have to say he is one of the best people with a needle—I hardly felt it at all. He had to take quite a few blood samples, but he kept me informed and he answered all my questions. He came to check in on me periodically, sprinkling in some random facts and jokes to lighten things up. The jokes helped, as there were times I was kind of scared (I was in the ER for about seven hours while they ran quite a few tests and brought in consults) and I appreciate that DMC would hire people who put you at ease in the most stressed of times.

A CT scan was ordered (to confirm what the doctors diagnosed) and the first (and thankfully only) course of action recommended by Dr. Brown was a short procedure—taking me on a trip to the operating room.

The operating room staff was wonderful. They were very friendly, thorough

with their explanations and more than willing to answer any questions one may have. In the operating room, the personnel were helpful and informative as well. I’m not sure how most react to an operating room, but I was kind of scared and the easy-going nature of those caring for me, made it seem much less frightening.

When I awoke, there were two nurses there. They explained, that as a precaution, I would spend the night in the ICU. Of course, “precaution” or not, it’s the ICU!

The nurses in the ICU were personable and comforting. They too explained there was nothing truly wrong (warranting true ICU care) with me—it was all precautionary and just for the one night (unless an issue arose).

I will say, if ever you are in the DMC ICU (and hopefully none of you will be) you are well taken care of there. The nurses are very nice, they will also ask if you have any questions, they are more than happy to answer any questions and once there, I was not afraid of the ICU in any way.

The next morning I was moved to a regular hospital room.

I will preface this by first saying—there is a huge difference between the ICU and a regular room. This by no means is the fault of nurses, they just have more patients to care for and just cannot be there to chat. The medical floor is also noisier,

*DMC continued page 6*



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## Ivette from Page 2

“beautification” process in Old Town and to coordinate special events for the Old Town district. Expect to hear and see a lot of great ideas coming from the Old Town/Down-town Merchants. They will help support and promote the Chamber’s, \$hop \$mart, \$hop Local, \$hop Pinole campaign.

Last but certainly not least, the West County Business Expo 2011 a collaborative event that started in 2009 sponsored by the West Contra Costa County Chambers and Business Organization and Associations and hosted annually by the Pinole Chamber will be held on Friday, August 19, 2011 from 4 to 7 pm.

This event offers businesses, large and small, home based or brick and mortar, an opportunity to promote their products or services to other businesses and to consumers. It has become the Chamber’s Signature Event and we look forward to it annually.

Finally, the City of Pinole, as most other cities in California, and throughout the na-

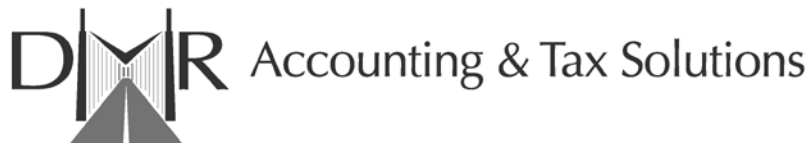
tion, has been fiscally challenged as property tax revenues and sales tax revenues continue to nose dive. The City of Pinole’s sales tax revenue has been a major part of the City’s general fund and a constant source of revenue, but the “great recession” has hit that part of the general fund revenue very hard.

There was some good news in the fourth quarter of 2010; receipts from October through December were 9.6% higher than the same period one year earlier. Net receipts for this period were \$857,429.00. The top 25 business producers in Pinole for this period are (in alphabetical order):

Applebees  
Best Buy  
Beverages & More  
Burlington Coat Factory  
CVS Pharmacy  
Dolans Pinole Lumber  
Hometown Buffet  
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### LEEANN MILLER

Garden of Gems  
GemGarden@aol.com

## Chamber Charm:

“Consider the postage stamp, my son. It secures success through its ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.”

— Josh Billings

# Even Rain Can't Dampen Pinole Pride

Saturday June 4th was rainy, windy, chill and gray and could have turned into a do nothing day had it not been for the planned Community Service Day in Pinole.

The Pinole Community Services Commission organized this event. The Pinole Chamber of Commerce was responsible for the corner lot! Hundreds of residents showed up to help out with the many clean up tasks around town.

People planted flowers, the Boy Scouts cleaned out the shore line of the bay, the youth center got a new paint job and the corner of San Pablo Avenue and Tenant got a great new makeover!

Why? Because this event was publicized and organized and mostly because our town matters to our community. There was no rainout; there was no excuse to not participate. People in Pinole counted on their community to show up and do the job, rain or shine!

As we saw on this day, anything is possible if you put your mind and effort into it. There were kids and grandparents, board members, the mayor, teens from our youth center, moms and daughters, chamber ambassadors all working together to make our town look more appealing.

The corner lot had many volunteers waiting to be given a task. There were wheelbarrows, shovels, and hammers, being moved and used throughout the morning. The weather didn't seem to bother anyone, even when it started pouring towards the end of the morning.

Pinole has pride in it's community, Pinole has residents who care, we have a Chamber that takes action, and this was obvious on June 4th.

And wow, what a difference a day makes. ***The corner looks fantastic!***

*Story contributed by Sue D'Alonzo, Pinole Valley Bootcamp*



## DMC from Page 3

for there are more people and more activity there. The nurses here are friendly and they will answer your questions if asked, but they do need to move on to the other patients in their care. I spent one night there and was released the next morning.

From the time I walked in the ER to the time I was wheeled out, I spent three days at Doctors Medical Center. In those three days, I got a whirlwind tour—the emergency room, the operating room, the Intensive Care Unit and a general hospital

room. I also had all the things that go with the diagnosis and treatment of my condition: a CT scan, an EKG and lots of blood tests. In all, I have to admit, aside from having to be there (no one WANTS to be there) it was a good first experience. I went in afraid what they would find and I left confident in my treatment.

I had always planned to go back and thank (at least) the ER staff that cared for me, but I have not been able to yet. I am hoping somehow they will see this

article (as well as all the other hospital staff that cared for me) and know how much I appreciated them, am grateful for their professionalism, and the care they provided me. I thank them for their efficiency, though I know it is their job, and I thank them for the time specific to me. Thank you to all I met those three days, and thank you to Doctors Medical Center for being there when I needed you.

*Contributed by Melody Yee*



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# The Tax Corner

*with*

*Dina Rosales, CPA*

## *How To File Your Tax Returns When You May Have Lost Your Documents*

Did you know that by the end of September, employers, banks, and other entities will have reported to the IRS much of the information for taxable wages and deductible expenses that is needed by an individual to file their tax return? Authorized tax professionals have the ability to access this information to help individuals who may not have their documents. Your signature on a Power of Attorney gives the tax professional authorization to access your records with the IRS. If you are behind with filing your taxes, contact a tax professional that has an office open year-round in your neighborhood so they can help you put this issue to rest.

## *Checking Your Withholdings Mid-Year*

As we head in to the second half of the year, it is always a good idea to look at your withholdings for federal taxes to see if you will

have enough withheld by the end of the year. This is particularly important if you purchased or sold a new or second home, had a child or adopted a child, got married or divorced, you received a bonus during the first half of the year, or you have several part-time jobs. The IRS has a good withholding calculator that you can walk through to see if you need to adjust your withholdings for the remainder of the year. Log on to the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and do a Search for IRS Withholding Calculator. It would be helpful to have your latest pay stub(s) that reflect year-to-date taxes withheld. Even if you find that you may need to adjust your withholdings to have more taxes withheld from your paycheck, and you chose to not change your withholdings, it's better to have the information than to be surprised next April.

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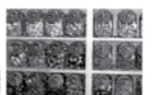
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*Please join us in welcoming them to the Chamber and please visit their establishments and/or utilize their services.*

*For more information about the Chamber or how you can join, please visit our website at [www.pinolechamber.org](http://www.pinolechamber.org)!*

## WEST COUNTY business expo 2011

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Extravaganza**

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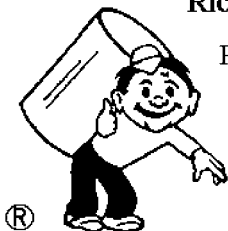
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## July 2011

**July 19, 2011 • 8:30-10:30am**  
 Coffee and Commerce  
 with Senator Mark DeSaulnier  
 Kaiser - Room 201a/b  
 1301 Pinole Valley Road • Pinole

**July 28, 2011 • 5:30-7:30pm**  
 Summer Mixer - Hosted by: Able to Loan,  
 Dr. Douglas Oliver, DDS, SaShays Salon  
 & Carol White Insurance  
 2200 San Pablo Avenue • Pinole

## August 2011

**August 19, 2011 • 4:00-7:00pm**  
 West County Business Expo  
 Pinole City Hall Plaza  
 2131 Pear Street • Pinole  
*Registration for Vendors Required*

## September 2011

**September 10, 2011 • 10:00am-3:00pm**  
 FREE Electronic Recycling Drop-off Event  
 1400 Pinole Valley Road • Pinole  
*Parking lot across from Kaiser*

**September 22, 2011 • 5:30-7:30pm**  
 New Deli Cafe - 25 Years in Business Mixer  
 1400 Pinole Valley Road • Pinole

## Ongoing Events

**Chamber Board Meetings**  
 Second Wednesday of Each Month  
 4:00pm @ Kaiser

**Ambassador Meetings**  
 Third Thursday of Each Month  
 4:00pm @ a "Member Restaurant"

**Pinole Farmers Market**  
 Every Saturday - Year 'Round  
 9:00am-1:00pm @ Fernandez & Pear  
 Ask about using the Chamber's Booth

## Upcoming Events

Please visit our website  
**www.pinolechamber.org**  
 for all current events!