

MODESTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Progress

VOL. 38 | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2017



**COMMITTED  
TO HELPING  
LOCAL KIDS**

**LEADERSHIP  
MODESTO  
WELCOME**

**SAVING LIVES  
THROUGHOUT  
THE VALLEY**

## **ACE PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE**

Goes from Concept to Reality for Modesto  
and Stanislaus County

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**DISCLAIMER:** The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Modesto Chamber of Commerce.

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**PROGRESS MAGAZINE**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

By Cecil Russell,  
Chamber President and CEO

I hope you enjoyed our new look in our July issue last month. We are continuing to improve the way information is presented to our members. We are updating our website and will become more active on social media. We welcome any suggestions and thoughts you may have.

The next few months are very busy at the Chamber as we host our annual State of Business & Education in August, Harvest Lunch in September, Oktoberfest in October, and the Disney Institute in November. Please look for more information in this issue, and sign up early for these events.

Finally, congratulations to the County for starting to invest Measure L dollars by repairing 80 percent of the roads in Salida. Check out the article and the photos on page 24. This is the start of much needed infrastructure maintenance our community has been lacking in prior years. | P

## 3 RIBBON CUTTINGS



**MODESTO KIWANIS**  
Independence Day  
Appreciation Dinner



**BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS**  
AT&T MOBILITY

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**  
FARMERS INSURANCE

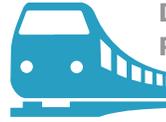


**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
BOARD MEETING

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM WITH**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER **ADAM GRAY**



## 2017 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE *(Judge)*



DoMo Partnership/Chamber ACE Train  
Rally at Gallo Center for the Arts



**MEETINGS WITH**  
**MAYOR BRANDVOLD**

**MEETINGS WITH**  
**SEVERAL PRESIDENT'S**  
**CLUB MEMBERS**



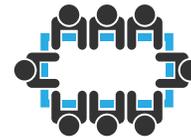
**SYLVAN ADVISORY COUNCIL AND**  
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MEETING**



**COMPREHENSIVE FEES**  
**TASK FORCE MEETING**



**SPIE BOARD**  
**MEETINGS**



**Community**  
**Organization**  
Meetings



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- BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS
- CHAMBER COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNING MEETINGS



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# CHAMBER CALENDAR

## AUGUST

**02 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING\***  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
7:30 a.m.

**15 CHAMBER ONLINE MARKETING TOOLS CLASS**  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
12 p.m.

**10 BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS**   
AT&T Mobility Store  
3900 Sisk Rd., Ste. E1  
7:30 a.m.

16

**STATE OF BUSINESS & EDUCATION**  
Martin G. Petersen Event Center  
720 12th St.  
7 a.m.



**17 STANISLAUS GREEN TEAM**  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
9 a.m.

**17 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**   
Farmers Insurance  
1101 Sylvan Ave., Ste. C201  
5:30 p.m.

**18 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING\***  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
12 p.m.

**23 AMBASSADOR/WELCOME TEAM\***  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
8 a.m.

**29 CHAMBER ONLINE MARKETING TOOLS CLASS**  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
4 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER

**06 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING\***  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
7:30 a.m.

**08 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING\***  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
12 p.m.

**12 CHAMBER ONLINE MARKETING TOOLS CLASS**  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
12 p.m.

**14 BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS**   
San Joaquin Valley College  
5380 Pirrone Rd., Salida  
7:30 a.m.

15

**HARVEST LUNCHEON**  
MJC Pavillion  
MJC West Campus  
2201 Blue Gum Ave.  
11:30 a.m.



**21 STANISLAUS GREEN TEAM**  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
9 a.m.

**21 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**   
Never Boring & Warden's  
1016 14th St.  
5:30 p.m.

**26 CHAMBER ONLINE MARKETING TOOLS CLASS**  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
4 p.m.

**27 AMBASSADOR/ WELCOME TEAM**  
Modesto Chamber of Commerce\*\*  
8 a.m.



\*\*The Modesto Chamber of Commerce is located at 1114 J St., Modesto

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*- Lonny Davis, Owner, Davis Guest Home*



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Javier Padilla,  
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the numbers**



# COMMITTED TO HELPING LOCAL KIDS

By Britta Foster, Co-Founder Therapeutic Playground

This summer a new playground opened right here in our community. While it does have swings and monkey bars and a slide, it's not the kind of playground you might be imagining. The brainchild of four local residents, Therapeutic Playground opened in June with a custom-built sensory gym designed to provide kids with a structured environment where they can develop sensory, motor and communication skills all while having fun.

"We named it Therapeutic Playground because we wanted parents to know that it was a place where their children would receive the help that they needed, hence the word Therapeutic. We added the word Playground for the kids so that they would know that this was a place where they would have fun," explained Britta Foster, Co-Founder.

While they opened this summer with limited summer camps, the clinic is now fully open. Their initial services will include: Occupational Therapy, Bal-A-Vis-X, Inclusion/Behavioral/Social Support, their Sensory Gym, Handwriting Without Tears, and Training Sessions. They will be adding Barton Tutoring soon and plan to start hosting social inclusion classes and date nights for parents of special needs children this fall. All their services are designed to balance social, sensory and behavioral needs.

"We were thrilled to open our doors this summer for camp, and are looking forward to kicking-off a full array of services," explained Wayne Stevenson, Co-Founder. "Our custom built Fun Factory gym is truly unique to our area and will be a great tool as we work with local kids. We are continually looking to add services and new techniques to benefit our clients so we are excited to see what the future holds."



The Playground works with a large age-range of clients, from very young children who are not yet attending school all the way up to adults. They specialize in working with those who might be struggling with: gross and fine motor issues, sensory issues, autism, vision and auditory challenges, ADD/ADHD, learning disabilities and handwriting challenges.

"We see every child that walks through our doors as unique. Our goal is always to partner with parents, teachers, doctors, and of course, the child themselves, to help solve whatever issues they are facing," commented April Herline, Co-Founder.

They are also looking for other local groups and individuals who might want to partner.

"We would love to talk to other organizations and specialists. Really anyone who shares our desire to make an impact right here in our community," explained Michele Wells, Co-Founder.

If you are wondering whether The Playground might be a good fit for your family and your child, their team encourages you to check out their website, [www.therapeuticpathways.com](http://www.therapeuticpathways.com), or Facebook page to learn more. | P



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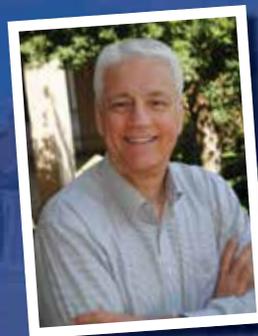


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# OVER THE EDGE For Community Hospice

By Kristin Mostowski,  
*Director of Public Relations for Community Hospice*

Community Hospice has partnered with Over the Edge to provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rappel 145 feet down the historic Medico-Dental Tower overlooking the Stockton Waterfront. Over the Edge for Community Hospice presented by Ten|Space, Wells Fargo, and Port of Stockton, is a unique fundraising challenge in which participants or “Edgers” commit to a fundraising minimum in exchange for the opportunity of a lifetime.

All funds raised will support the patients, families, and programs of Community Hospice. This exciting event appeals to thrill seekers and families alike, offering a family friendly Drop Zone Festival featuring community resources, local vendors, food trucks, a climbing wall, face painting and much more.

Space is limited! For more information or to register go to [give.hospiceheart.org](http://give.hospiceheart.org) or call 209.578.6370. Sponsorship opportunities are available!

Since 1979, Community Hospice has provided compassionate and quality care, education, and support to terminally ill patients and their families, regardless of ability to pay. Care extends to over 2,000 patients each year in private homes, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and at the 16-bed inpatient Community Hospice Alexander Cohen Hospice House. Community Hospice also provides bereavement and grief support to anyone in the community. For more information, please call 209.578.6300 or visit [hospiceheart.org](http://hospiceheart.org). | P



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# ACE PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

## Goes from Concept to Reality for Modesto and Stanislaus County

By Virginia Madueño, President of IMAGEN, LLC, Outreach Consultant-ACE and Chris Kay, Manager of Marketing and Outreach-ACE

For nearly three years, there has been a lot of advocacy, outreach, informational presentations, and meetings with key stakeholders in the community including; elected officials, business leaders, civic groups, faith-based organizations, and the general public on the possibility of bringing passenger rail service to Modesto and Stanislaus County.

Very few people had ever heard of the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE), a train that currently connects San Joaquin County to the Silicon Valley. While there was a lot to learn about ACE, there was a lot of enthusiasm and support for bringing ACE passenger rail service to Modesto.

## SO WHAT EXACTLY IS ACE AND WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND IT?

ACE was created over 18 years ago to address the growing demand between Bay Area commuters and the Silicon Valley. The continued issue of the housing/jobs imbalance set the stage for creating a system to best fit the needs of this growing market.

The *ACEforward* program has been an effort to improve and expand the existing ACE rail service. ACE operates a passenger rail service on the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track between Stockton and San Jose. The 86-mile UPRR alignment used by ACE traverses some of the most heavily congested freeway corridors in the State—including I-580 along the Altamont Pass, and I-680 over the Sunol Grade.

ACE's travel times (about 1.5 hours between Lathrop/Manteca and the Silicon Valley), consistently maintaining 94 percent on-time performance, and reasonably priced fares, make ACE a very competitive alternative to driving. The time onboard ACE is well used by passengers to work, read, socialize, relax, or sleep. ACE is also the safest way to travel in this corridor.

ACE has four round-trips during the weekdays and carries nearly 1.5 million passengers annually. ACE's largest market is carrying commuters from the San Joaquin Valley to the Silicon Valley and to the Tri-Valley Area. However travel to the San Jose International Airport on ACE has been gaining in popularity as people see the value in not having to drive through the congested corridors leading to the Bay Area.

ACE ridership in general has been growing steadily and, over the last five years, ACE's ridership has doubled. To continue to serve the region well, ACE aims to increase the frequency of service, reduce travel times, and expand ACE to additional markets.

The initial goal is to do the necessary improvements to increase the frequency of service to accommodate six daily round-trip trains by 2023, the program further identifies the improvements needed to expand service to at least 10 daily round trips. Another key component of *ACEforward* is to extend ACE service along the UPRR alignment further south in the San Joaquin Valley to the downtowns of Manteca, Ripon, Modesto, Turlock, Livingston or Atwater, and Merced.



The ACE team is hard at work to get passenger rail service to Modesto and Ceres by 2023. Immediate benefits of this service include connecting and strengthening Stanislaus County to job centers in the Bay Area, and removing motorists from an increasingly busy Highway 99.

To extend ACE to Merced, ACE cannot use the existing UPRR track without making improvements. This UPRR mainline is one of the most heavily congested freight tracks in the State. A new track is proposed to be constructed within the UPRR right-of-way from Lathrop to Merced (about 58 miles) to enable

ACE to run at least 10 daily round trips on this alignment. This track would predominantly be used by ACE during passenger-operating hours, but would also have freight utility for UPRR.

The ACE train in Modesto will no doubt be an exciting addition to help downtown thrive further by enhancing the downtown vitality with additional transit-oriented development projects adjacent to the ACE station and create a path for more business and economic development opportunities in downtown Modesto. | P



# TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN CALIFORNIA

## – SB1 “Investing and Protecting our Infrastructure”

By Matt Machado, PE, LS, Director of Public Works for Stanislaus County

The California Legislature passed Senate Bill 1 on Apr. 6, raising gas taxes and vehicle fees in hopes of generating billions of dollars annually to fix, improve and maintain state and local roads. Governor Brown signed this historic legislation on Apr. 28. The bill is accompanied by ACA 5 (Frazier), which provides constitutional protections for revenues. ACA 5 will go to voters for approval in June 2018.

SB1 tax increases will take effect November 1st and new vehicle registration fees will begin Jan. 1, 2018. Fees on zero-emission vehicles will take effect July 1, 2020. To raise a projected \$5.24 billion annually, changes to taxes and fees include:

- A 12-cent increase in the gasoline excise tax
- A 20-cent increase in the diesel excise tax
- A 4 percent increase in the diesel sales tax
- A new vehicle fee, which will annually charge drivers between \$25 and \$175, depending on the value of the vehicle
- A \$100 annual fee on zero-emission vehicles
- CPI adjustments on excise taxes / fees

The approval of SB1 brings California’s gas excise tax to 30 cents per gallon. Raising the gas tax brings them more in line with the actual costs to maintain roads that are used and damaged by vehicles that have steadily improved in fuel efficiency while the gas tax has remained unchanged for decades. This disparity has created a backlog of deferred maintenance. In Stanislaus County alone the deferred maintenance is well in excess of \$300 million.

Revenue generated by SB1 will be spent through a number of categories and programs. Program guidelines are currently being developed. In addition to guidelines and provisions to insure affective use of revenues, SB1 also includes specific oversight rules. This oversight will include:

- Creation of the Independent Office of Audits and Investigations within Caltrans, headed by an Inspector General
- Requiring Caltrans to update the Highway Design Manual to incorporate “complete streets” concept
- Requiring increased contracts awarded to small, minority-owned, and disabled veteran-owned businesses
- Ends the Traffic Congestion Relief Program and instead creates the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program to achieve a balanced set of transportation, environmental, and community access improvements within highly congested travel corridors.
- Creates an Advance Mitigation program to speed up CEQA issues and protect environmental resources. | P



## STATE OF BUSINESS AND EDUCATION

### CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Stanislaus County Office of Education and Opportunity Stanislaus are partnering to prepare today's workforce to meet employer's needs. Learn about micro-certification/badging its use and how your business can benefit. Determine ways you can support education to prepare a skilled workforce.

**AUGUST 16, 2017**

**MARTIN G. PETERSEN EVENT CENTER**

720 12TH STREET

7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST: 7:00 A.M. - 7:30 A.M.

PROGRAM BEGINS: 7:30 A.M.

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## Harvest Luncheon



September 15, 2017

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## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



**Cindy Duenas**

**Center for Human Services** is proud to announce that their Executive Director, *Cindy Duenas*, has been re-elected to the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits) Board of Directors. Duenas has been a member of this prestigious board with other nonprofit leaders from around the state for the past three years and will serve another three-year term.

"CalNonprofits is a strong advocate for California's nonprofits," said Duenas. "As a board member, I'm proud of what we have accomplished in the past three years and am honored to continue to serve. It's rewarding to represent the Central Valley region, giving voice to the issues and challenges faced by our nonprofit community."

Cal Nonprofits has nearly 10,000 members and represents the voice of California nonprofits to the legislature, government agencies, philanthropy and the public. For more information on Cal Nonprofits visit: [www.calnonprofits.org](http://www.calnonprofits.org)

For more information on Center for Human Services, please visit [www.centerforhumanservices.org](http://www.centerforhumanservices.org). | P



**Jeff Hushaw**

**Oak Valley Community Bank** recently announced that *Jeff Hushaw* has joined the Bank as Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer. He will be primarily based in Oakdale.

Hushaw has over 30 years of Central Valley commercial, agricultural, and agri-business lending experience.

He is a member of the San Joaquin Business Council. Hushaw holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Finance, from California State University, Chico. He is a graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School, Class of 2004

For more information visit [www.ovcb.com](http://www.ovcb.com) or call 1.866.844.7500. | P

## BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS



### **AT&T MOBILITY STORE**

3900 Sisk Rd., Ste E1

7:30 a.m.

The AT&T Mobility Store on Sisk Road is a corporate store that carries AT&T's mobile products such as cell phones, tablets, smart devices, and similar mobile and wifi products. In a time when people are picking up their mobile devices to connect with them, AT&T has never been more popular. AT&T's mobile products and services become part of our customers' lives so that everything works better. As our lifestyles become increasingly dependent on mobile services, AT&T is a trusted name that has serviced generations of Californians. Our local corporate store in Modesto on Sisk Road is here to help our customers get the right product and solution for their business and personal needs. | P

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



### **FARMERS INSURANCE**

1101 Sylvan Ave, Ste. C201

5:30 p.m.

We are excited to announce that Farmers Insurance here in Stanislaus County is growing! Our commitment is to provide exceptional products, services, and value to our customers. We have a need for ambitious business owners or investors who want to be the first person their customers think of when others need help in this industry. Farmers Insurance is dedicated to make your business flourish with success. We are anxious for you to come meet our team so we can share additional information with you. Help us get the word out! | P

# RIBBON CUTTINGS



## **ASHLEY HOMESTORE**

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## **SMALL WORLD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

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## **LEGAL PATHWAYS**

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# IT GETS BETTER AND BETTER AT VINTAGE FAIRE MALL

By Todd Falduti, Sr. Property Manager, Vintage Faire Mall

Vintage Faire Mall is in top form with new and expanded retailers, more tech amenities, and important property investments. All of this is designed to ensure this Class A mall remains a powerful retail magnet for the Central Valley.

Mall owner Macerich, one of the country's leading owners, operators, and developers of major retail properties in top U.S. markets, views Modesto and its surrounding communities as an important trade area for popular stores, restaurants, and brand experiences. As a result, Macerich continues to invest in this regionally dominant shopping destination that is a fit for many of the nation's best retail concepts.

New retailers that have opened at Vintage Faire Mall over the past two years include Aldo, White House I Black Market, and Pandora. As well, several retailers have expanded their stores at this dynamic property, demonstrating the continued strength of the market. These include Disney, which moved to a larger location on the second level with an inspired design featuring favorite Disney characters appearing in well-known Modesto landmarks. Both Shoe Palace and Bath & Body Works/White Barn opened expanded stores that doubled their spaces.

Looking just ahead, Box Lunch—a fun, pop culture retail experience—is set to open in fall 2017. As well, the mall is creating a new space for Panera Bread on the site of the former Elephant Bar—and stay tuned for other announcements about three additional retailers expanding in 2017.

Beyond welcoming new and expanded retailers, Vintage Faire Mall is upping the experience for shoppers in other important ways. In line with Macerich's leadership in environmental sustainability, Vintage Faire has implemented a number of key measures to benefit the environment, including a new Energy Management System and retrofitting light fixtures with new LED lights throughout the property. This year, the property will be installing all new HVAC units, and in 2018 look for new, drought-friendly xeriscaping to replace more water-intensive landscaping.

To further enhance the shopping experience, the property is adding digital directories to make wayfinding on site even easier and more convenient, and is upgrading the family restrooms. On the exterior, shoppers might notice parking lot improvements—with more to come in 2018—plus a variety of new outdoor signage directing guests to the property. Also planned for next year are ADA updates around the property and attractive, eye-catching entrance upgrades.

A strong contributor to the local economy since the property opened in 1977, Vintage Faire Mall is located at 3401 Dale Rd. and has four anchors, including JCPenney, Forever 21, Macy's, and Sears, plus more than 140 top-drawing shops and restaurants, including Apple, Coach, Sephora and Victoria's Secret. Macerich added an outdoor village component to the property in 2008, which continues to offer a tailored collection of specialty restaurants and shops.

For complete information on Vintage Faire Mall, visit the website, [ShopVintageFaireMall.com](http://ShopVintageFaireMall.com), or follow the property on Facebook. Shoppers also are invited to text the property for immediate, personalized answers to questions at 209.284.6240. | P





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# LEADERSHIP MODESTO WELCOME

By Amy Vickery, Public Information Officer, City of Modesto

Leadership Modesto is a program facilitated by the Modesto Chamber of Commerce that identifies, educates and helps motivate community leaders into change makers in the community. The ten month program begins with a weekend retreat for the purpose of team building and leadership skills development, followed by nine one-day seminars over the year that provide insight into how our city works. Day seminars include public safety, local government, community services, education, healthcare, business, arts and culture, and land use and agriculture. In addition, the class will participate in a visit to the state capital that exposes the group to law makers and stakeholders at the state level.

The Leadership Modesto program has an astounding 33 year history of inspiring, growing and uniting high quality leadership in our community. It provides a unique opportunity for participants to meet and exchange ideas, network with community leaders, learn about local needs along with regional issues, and begin the important self-development necessary to assume leadership roles.

This coming year we welcome the largest Leadership Modesto class ever!

More information on the program at [modchamber.org](http://modchamber.org) | P



## CONGRATULATIONS

to the Leadership Modesto Class of 2017-2018

### MONICA NELSON

Center for Human Services

### LAURIE SANNY

Atherton and Associates

### VICTORIA POPOFF

Studio V Pilates & Fitness

### STAN CARLSON

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### PAUL TUNISON

Cloudy in California

### AUSTIN GRANT

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### JEROD HAVEL

Wells Fargo Advisors

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### PATRICK KELLY

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### JAMES TODD

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### DENISE HECHT

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### WILLIAM WONG

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### BRANDON REBIERO

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### JOHN WILSON

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### CELISE KRICK

United Cerebral Palsy

### RYAN DZIADOSZ

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### BRENT BURNSIDE

Burnside Body Shop

### DOMENICA ESCATEL

Stanislaus County Office of Education

### NICKI TYLER

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McCormick Barstow

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Cathie Hoover* is the guest artist for September at Carolyn Huff Photography Studio and Gallery. Cathie says that, throughout her life, she has done just about everything with fabric, including dressmaking, knitting with fabric, quilting, and quilted wearable art. She earned a B.S. degree in Home Economics from Chico State College. She also studied tailoring, pattern drafting, and added a year of weaving to her knowledge of textiles.

Since 1988, she has taught quilting workshops and given lectures at large and small quilting venues throughout California and much of the United States. In addition to the textile work of Cathie Hoover, we will also be hosting Sharon Maney LoManto, a painter from the Modesto area. Join us for an artist reception on Sept. 21 from 5 to 9 p.m., in conjunction with the Modesto Art Walk. The gallery is located at 1224 K St. in downtown Modesto. For more information, call 209.918.6627 or visit our website at [carolynhuff.org](http://carolynhuff.org) | P

Join *Community Hospice Foundation* Sept. 18, at Del Rio Country Club as they host their 16th annual Golf Fore Community Hospice tournament to benefit the patients, families and programs of Community Hospice.

Golfers will enjoy a fun-filled day on the greens, lunch, dinner and Silent and Live auction. Ladies are invited to a complementary exclusive opportunity to sip Champagne Bubbles while enjoying a private shopping experience with local artisans and vendors.

Sept. 18, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m

For more information or to register visit, [give.hospiceheart.org](http://give.hospiceheart.org) or contact the Community Hospice Foundation at 209.578.6370. | P

*Modesto Gospel Mission* presents, "An Evening with Mandisa" on Sept. 14, 2017 at Gallo Center for the Arts. The 4th annual Modesto Gospel Mission Gala starts at 5:30 p.m. with a pre-show reception featuring appetizers from "Top Chefs of Modesto" and a silent auction. It will be a night to be enjoyed by all!

Mandisa is a gospel and contemporary Christian recording artist. Her career began as a contestant in the fifth season of American Idol. She is the fifth American Idol alumni to win a Grammy Award. Recently, Mandisa released her newest album titled "Out Of The Dark" featuring her new hit single "Unfinished."

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the Gallo Center Box office or at [www.galloarts.com](http://www.galloarts.com). General Seating tickets start at \$35 and Premium Seats are \$50. | P

*MHD Group* adds talent, experience of Martino Graphic Design to serve regional market.

At MHD Group, we have collaborated with our clients for more than three decades to create visual communications strategies that stand the test of time. MHD Group now features 10 employees with the expertise to meet the sophisticated expectations of today's business leaders.

MHD Group is proud to announce that as of July 1, 2017, we will welcome into our firm another leading Modesto company—Martino Graphic Design. Marian and Paul Martino collectively bring more than 60 years of proven ability and success to MHD Group. Their diverse graphic design and communications portfolio includes some of the region's leading companies and organizations. The Martino's have earned respect for their creativity, integrity and commitment to improving the level of professional design in the area.

"We are delighted to join the MHD Group," said Marian Martino. "This is a great fit for us and a fantastic opportunity to blend our experience and creativity with this highly talented and dedicated team." Visit [www.MHDGroup.com](http://www.MHDGroup.com) to learn more. | P

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209.577.5757



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Modesto Rotary Club 26th Annual Senior Stride Fun Walk

Senior Stride Fun Walk event provides seniors, families and friends the opportunity to enjoy fellowship, a fun walk, entertainment and more while learning about services and resources available to them in our community. The event takes place Sept. 8 from 8 to 11 a.m. at East La Loma Park.

Modesto Rotary Club has been committed to improving the world, on a local and global level. With over 200 members, we are among the largest Rotary clubs in California's Central Valley.

The registration fee to participate is \$2 and includes a Senior Stride t-shirt, light breakfast, community vendor fair, and more. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Event sponsorship opportunities are available. For additional information, visit [modestorotary.org](http://modestorotary.org) or call 209.578.9999. | P

## Nonprofits Appreciation Day at Funworks

Funworks thanks you for what you do in our community! Funworks invites you and up to four family members, five total, to some FREE Family Fun at Funworks!

Wednesday, Aug. 16 from 3 - 8 p.m.

Free Wristband includes:

Five Hour Unlimited • Putt-Putt Golf Splashworks • Pirate Ship Ride • Freddy's Treehouse (*for children 10 and under. Socks are required*) • Up to six Rides between The Lightning Raceway, Xtreme • XD Theater or Spin Zone Bumper Cars (*Track Drivers must be at least 46" tall and seven years old. Passengers must be at least three years old and 36" and must go with a licensed driver*)

NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS!

Rides are subject to closure depending on weather. If this should happen compensation will be made.

Extra Guests only \$15 each

R.S.V.P. with a manager at 209.549.7888 by Aug. 9

4307 Coffee Rd. Modesto, CA 95357

[www.funworksfuncompany.com](http://www.funworksfuncompany.com)

E-mail: [kayla@funworksfuncompany.com](mailto:kayla@funworksfuncompany.com). | P



Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group Ranked Fifth in Nation as 2017 'Best Civil Engineering Firm to Work For'

The Zweig Group, a leading publishing company, recently ranked Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group in the top five among the "2017 Best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For" nationwide. Provost & Pritchard has been selected for the "Best Firms" list each of the 15 years they have participated in the award competition.

"We are honored to continue to be ranked among the "Best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For" nationwide," said Ronald Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard's president. "We strive to maintain a family atmosphere and stay true to our founder's philosophy that 'People who enjoy their work are happier, more productive and more satisfied'. We work hard to recruit and retain the best professionals in the industry, who in turn provide the highest level of services for our clients and their projects." | P



## 2017 Excellence in Business

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 Excellence in Business awards. The Excellence in Business program will grant nine awards to area businesses and organizations, and one person in the community will receive the Hall of Fame award. Awards will be presented in the following categories: agribusiness, charities/nonprofits, finance/banking/insurance, health care, manufacturing, professional services, real estate/development, retail/wholesale/general business and small business, defined as having fewer than 30 employees.

Winners will be announced later this summer with a special section and an awards luncheon to honor and celebrate the honorees in later September.

To make a nomination visit [www.modbee.com/events](http://www.modbee.com/events). | P



## Save The Date: November 1, 2017 Disney's Approach to Business Excellence

The Modesto Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with C.S.U. Stanislaus, will be hosting the Disney Institute® 1-day training course and workshop, Disney's Approach to Business Excellence on November 1st at Stan State. This course will emphasize the 5 powerful pillars of a successful business developed by the Disney® organization in its never-ending pursuit of excellence. These pillars are leadership, culture, service, brand, and innovation, and they are applicable to small start-ups and large corporations, non-profits and charities, government agencies, and educational organizations. There will be a limited number of seats, so save the date and contact the Chamber office or visit its website @ modchamber.org to purchase tickets.



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# MEASURE L ALREADY PAVING THE WAY FOR BETTER ROADS

By Kendall Flint, *Director of Communications & Strategic Planning, Regional Government Service*

Voters last November overwhelmingly supported Measure L based on the promise of its ability to deliver better roads in Stanislaus County. The tax went into effect on Apr. 1 with an anticipated annual revenue of approximately \$38 million—half of which is designated for repairing local roadways.

Stanislaus County and the City of Oakdale are wasting no time in putting their allocations for local investments to work. Last month, residents, elected officials, and representatives from the County gathered at the Salida Neighborhood Park to celebrate the beginning of a large scale-resurfacing project for Salida’s residential neighborhoods. 80 percent of Salida’s streets will be upgraded with new asphalt rubberized chip seal, slurry seal, or micro surfacing. This will help protect them from the elements, including heat and rainfall and result in a fresh new look, new striping, and a better ride for drivers and cyclists.

Supervisors Vito Chisea and Terry Withrow, Modesto Council member Bill Zolocki, and County Public Works Director Matt Machado were among those who helped celebrate the start of the work along with Measure L supporter Paul Van Konyneburg.

The City of Oakdale is also making good on its promises to voters with work commencing on a large resurfacing project in the city’s downtown area with work plans to resurface 1st Street to Yosemite this fall. Oakdale has an aggressive resurfacing program in place, with plans to move through the city’s neighborhoods and downtown as quickly as possible.

Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, and Waterford are also planning their projects and are expected to start work later this fall.

More than 30 residents applied to serve on the Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee, which will review all Measure L expenditures to ensure that funds are spent as promised to voters. Local agencies will be appointing members to the committee this summer with the first meeting of the group expected to be in October. One member will be selected to represent each of the 10 jurisdictions.

For more information about upcoming projects funded by Measure L, please visit [www.Stanislaus-LocalRoadsFirst.com](http://www.Stanislaus-LocalRoadsFirst.com) | **P**





MODESTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# WORK IN PROGRESS

A SERIES SPOTLIGHTING SOME OF OUR AREA'S MOST INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES

## SAVING LIVES THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY

By: Ashley Stinson

One of the hardest experiences a parent can go through is seeing their child diagnosed with a serious illness. In areas like the Central Valley, which are historically poorer and medically underserved, this can often mean that to find a doctor who can treat their child's condition, families have to travel to the Bay Area or to Southern California.

Thankfully, though, the rapidly expanding is making sure that the already strained families of sick children can find quality care locally in their communities.

Valley Children's Medical Group was founded in 1952 in Fresno, and began with five mothers' vision of creating an organization in the Central Valley that could provide care to children throughout the area. It was an enormous undertaking, and now, over sixty years later, Valley Children's Medical Group is serving 11 counties encompassing an area of 45,000 square miles. And the organization is still expanding, adding more outpatient specialty care centers in the northern valley.

"We're building relatively large specialty centers. I believe the Modesto site is forty thousand square feet," said Michael Goldring, president of Valley Children's Medical Group. "We're looking to expand to Merced and other locations with the goal of making sure there's not a child in the Valley who's more than thirty minutes or thirty miles from a Valley Children's location."

"In addition to providing pediatric outpatient specialty care closer to home, Valley Children's is also bringing the most advanced pediatric services to the area," Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Jane Willson said. "Those advancements include minimally invasive brain surgery for the treatment of epilepsy. Valley Children's can provide the entire spectrum of medical care a child would need—from primary care to outpatient specialty visits to advanced inpatient and surgical care. Receiving care closer to home and to their families helps children heal."

*Valley Children's was recently recognized as one of the country's best children's hospitals by U.S. News & World Report in several pediatric specialties.*

Valley Children's Hospital in Madera and its network of outpatient specialty care centers offer specialties which are difficult to find in the Central Valley, from pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgery to state-of-the-art heart and neurosurgery care. | P

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You can find new and current members online at [www.ModChamber.org](http://www.ModChamber.org).

Progress Magazine is the voice of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, and the leading business publication in Stanislaus County. For more information or advertising info call 209.526.9136.



# PRESIDENT'S CLUB CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

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Kaiser Permanente  
Walmart  
Walmart Neighborhood Market

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Health Center- DMC  
Doctors Medical Center-DMC  
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Modesto & Empire Traction Co.  
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DoubleTree Hotel  
Fiscallini Cheese Company  
HealthSouth Rehabilitation  
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Memorial Medical Center  
Modesto Irrigation District  
Modesto Nuts Professional Baseball  
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Central Valley Medical Group  
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Rehabilitation Hospital  
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Mocse Credit Union  
The Modesto Bee  
Modesto Toyota  
Oak Valley Community Bank  
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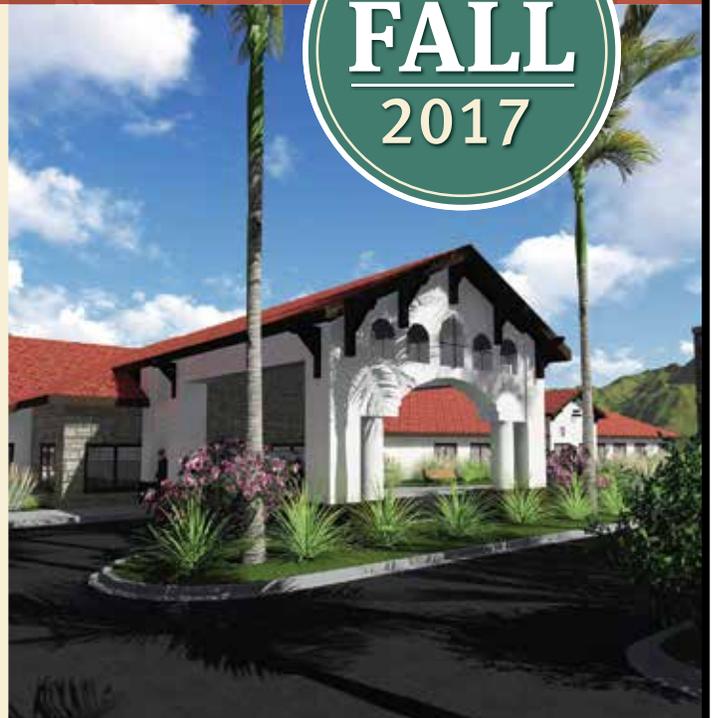
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