Carson City Chamber 2012 Community Spirit Awards

By Rosni Hannaman

It’s always a pleasure to recognize those businesses and people that make our city a great place to live, work, and play. The Chamber instituted the Community Spirit Awards in 2011 for the expressed purpose of recognizing those who have gone above and beyond to make Carson City a better place for us all. The award recipients are truly the best of the best!

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, the Chamber proudly recognizes the following ...

Economic Development Award:

The Downtown Business Association is made up of 55 businesses that have one expressed purpose in mind: Showcase the downtown to remind citizens there is a viable downtown where there’s a lot happening. The monthly wine walk, held the first Saturday of each month, bring visitors from outside the area to enjoy our retail offerings, restaurants and more. The event continues to attract over 200 wine walkers and gives a needed boost to the bottom line of participants. The Downtown Business Association consistently searches for new venues to showcase the downtown such as the recently held Second Annual Legends of the West event.

C-A-L Ranch chose Carson City, in spite of the downturn in the economy, to bring their new store to this part of Nevada. They could have chosen anywhere, but found our city and surrounding communities to be “just right” for the products they sell. From baby chicks to upscale western clothing, C-A-L Ranch has provided a needed boost in the sales tax revenue so important to our city.

C-A-L Ranch

Best New Event of 2012:

Fandango Gourmet Food Truck Festival was held on June 30th attracting thousands to this first-time unique event. Critics proclaim this first time event to be tastefully successful and are clamoring for more, more, more! Who would have thought? This festival was the brainchild of Casino Fandango President and General Manager Court Cardinal.

Best Annual Event:

Legends of the West car and motorcycle show held on June 30.

The Downtown Business Association, the event is held in conjunction with the Carson City Sheriff’s Office.

Volunteers of the Year:

Chamber Ambassadors are essential volunteers assisting our small staff when we need them to be an integral part of any Chamber event. Cheerfully they attend most of our events and make the difference in the success of the event.

Supervisor Shelly Aldean is surrounded by those who helped her realize her dream of building gateway signage suitable for a capital city.
Business Achievement Center takes business to the next level

By Ronni Hannaman

There are those in the business world who instinctively know what it takes to operate a successful business, and then there are those who would like to own and operate or expand their business but don’t have a clue as to how to get started.

Carson City potential entrepreneurs, take heed. There’s an association of business professionals in our city that can make starting your own business a snap, and the best part is the first consultation is free! Yes, nice word, free as in extremely affordable. You’ll know immediately whether your business idea is a good one, could be a future success or whether you should keep your day job.

Who is the Business Achievement Center?

(Carson City Chamber members in bold)

Pinnacle Executive Suites offering low cost business space for small businesses
American Corporate Enterprises, Padilla’s incorporating services
Houghton Jones, APC legal services
Elite Bookkeeping and Tax Services accounting services from payroll to Quickbooks training and tax services
Jewels Benefit insurance services
Country Financial investment and insurance assistance;
Get It Write, Inc. freelance writing
Site Noticed, Inc Bournes Productions
Interaction Alliance
Monarch Direct LLC
Credo Computer & Repair Services

The group just passed their first anniversary on May 6 and so far, so good. According to Betsy Kozier, one of the founding members, they are not duplicating the services offered by the Carson City Library’s Business Innovation Resource Center. “The BRIC offers great research capabilities; we offer the needed services and advice to get started and often refer businesses to the BRIC for city licensing information and they send us potential business clients.” The group operates like a “family” according to Padilla and Kozier. They meet often to discuss how best to serve their customers and to determine new strategies and events that will be help in growing the businesses of their clients. They want to help others avoid some of the pitfalls they faced, and they keep abreast of the changing times such as in the world of social media, Padilla’s forte.

How successful has the Center been thus far? Padilla credits Kozier, a conflict management facilitator, for bringing the cohesive group together and affirms, “We are still in the process of developing and growing.”

For those seeking one-stop shopping on how to begin a business is as near as calling 775-884-6116. Strategic partners are welcome and can go to the website business-achievement.com to learn more. Just about all the start-up services needed are provided by these experts who’ve “been there, done that.”

Even struggling businesses can get a “tune-up” and businesses wanting to expand can benefit from the direction given by using the services of the privately formed Business Achievement Center that operates out of the beautiful Pinnacle Executive Suites in north Carson City.

The Center was the brainchild of Tracey Padilla, owner of American Corporate Enterprises, who began talking with like-minded individuals who could mentor new businesses while advancing their own businesses. The idea took hold and 13 small business owners launched a unique concept: Help other small business entrepreneurs to achieve success.

As Padilla states, “Carson City’s Business Achievement Center is a diverse coalition of businesses that work collaboratively to offer an array of resources, services and expertise locally, regionally and nationally to assist start-up, established and expanding businesses.” The group offers all ranges of services from how to incorporate a business to writing press releases.

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Carson City entrepreneurs and cofounders of the Business Achievement Center Tracey Padilla (left) and Betsy Kozier pose by the fountain in the courtyard of the Pinnacle Executive Suites.

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A state-of-the-art office where we take exceptional care of your smile.
By Ronni Hannaman

We’ve greatly expanded our travel offerings for 2013 and there’ll be a destination offered that has been on your travel “bucket list.”

Just announced on our 2013 travel schedule will be unforgettable journeys to Ireland the end of April when this green country will be at its very greenest; Tuscany and Provence on May 1; Australia/New Zealand in early August and two of the magnificent cities of Eastern Europe in early October.

The trip planned to Provence and Tuscany will be a delight for those who love art and all things beautiful. Provence is a journey to feed the soul and the home of some of our most famous painters– Cezanne lived in Aix-en-Provence and Vincent Van Gogh spent much of his productive years painting in Arles. We’ll stay in beautiful Monaco before heading under the Travel Club heading on the home page.

We'll discuss our affords for the coming year. We’ll discuss our afford- and buy from Brower’s Corner just inside the Carson City Library. Here paperbacks are just $1 and hardcover books start at $2. Check out Brower’s Corner and find a great get-a-way book!

Travel with us! There’s still space available for our most interesting tour to Cuba departing November 1. We’d love to have you join us as we go back to the 50’s and learn more about this culture. Call us or go online for more information.

Those who love animals will love these two fundraisers that are to benefit those less fortunate animals who find themselves in shelters. Come support CASI (Cancer Animal Shelter Initiative) at their fundraiser: Bark, Whine & Dine at Fuji Park, August 4. Tickets are $25 each and available by calling 672-2413. Funds go to build a much needed animal shelter.

The other event not to miss is Carson Tahoe SPCA’s Spay-gghetti & No Balls event at the Governor’s Mansion on August 24. Sponsored by Adela’s at only $10 per person. For more information call 885-7766. I’ll see you at both events.

Jazz, Jazz and more Jazz! All right here in Carson City beginning August 3 with a grand Garden Party at the Governor’s Mansion beginning at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy the incomparable Jakkii Ford, wines and finger foods and more. Tickets $35 pp can be purchased at Home Treasures and the Purple Avocado. Don’t miss out!

Wonder what is going in where the old Jeep used car dealer- ship used to be? AutoZone is building a brand new building and has cleaned up this lot. South Carson continues to feature busi- nesses that complement the auto dealers, in spite of the econo- my. Carson City continues to flourish and grow.

We all need to be on our very best behavior this weekend for the big women’s motorcycle rally and conference that will be rolling into our City this Thursday-Sunday, 500 American Motorcycle Association women riders enjoy a police escort as they parade from the Gold Dust West to the state capitol for their opening ceremonies. Expect to see lots of leather and cool bikes as riders from all over enjoy our City.

If you love quiche, then you simply must try the personal quiche prepared by one of our newest bakers, LA Bakery at 220 W. John Street. The quiche will melt in your mouth. Roberta Rosario, former owner of City Bakery, is one of the bakers there.

There’s an active group who want to make the Nevada State Prison a museum and they have been meeting monthly to gather facts, learn how to write the right tax papers and think of fundrais- ing ideas to create yet another reason for visitors to come to Carson City. Myron Carpenter and Lee Radcliffe are the force behind this cause. If you want to volunteer your expertise and time, contact Myron at myron@christiharter.net.

“Impeccable hospitality.” “Our favorite Hampton Inn.” “Very, very impressed.” These are the buy a few of the favorable guest reviews that earned Carson City’s Hampton Inn & Suites the 2012 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence awarded to only 10 percent of the properties listed on their website. Way to go!

Carson Coffee owner Curt Spradley turned 80 years young last weekend. Stop by and wish him a happy birthday as you order your special coffee treat.