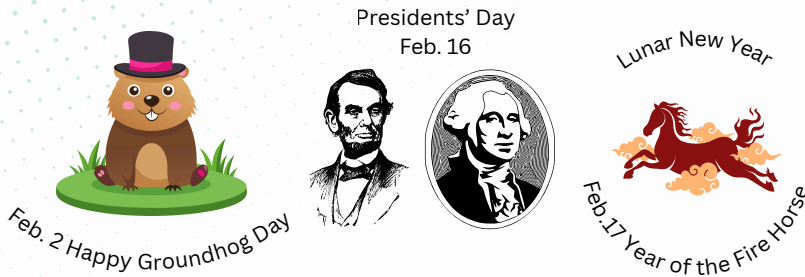


# ABOUT TOWN

## The El Sobrante Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

February 2026

Vol.2



### 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to right: Supervisor John Gioia, Directors Rajdeep Sidhu, Mavis Freeman, Jennifer Duncan, Jim Cowen, Harry Weiner, President Catherine Werner, Lorna Padia-Marcus, Beverly Wallace, Ashok Attri, Harpreet Sandhu, Marie Carayanis, Nicole Donn.

The Elks Lodge Banquet Hall in El Sobrante was the site for this year's Board Installation Dinner. Guests were witness to the swearing in of the 2026 Board of Directors administered by Supervisor John Gioia. This year's board and officers are:

- President - Catherine Werner - Retired Risk Mgmt., John Muir
- Vice-President-Harry Weiner -Dir., West County Wastewater
- Treasurer - Lorna Padia-Marcus - owner, PJs Restaurant
- Secretary - Bev Wallace - retired, West County Forum
- Ashok Attri - owner, Appian Express Mart and Gas
- Marie Carayanis - retired business owner
- Jim Cowen - Farmers Insurance Broker
- Nicole Donn - U.S.Financial Mortgage Broker
- Jen Duncan - manager, Artist Tree
- Mavis Freeman - manager, Catalyst Cares
- Ronnie Mills - Supervisor Gioia - staff member
- Max Perex- owner, Little Big Equipment Rental
- Harpreet Sandhu - Representative Garamendi - staff member
- Bob Sharp - commercial property owner
- Rajdeep Sidhu - owner, Mountain Mike's Pizza

### TOP NEWS

#### The passing of the gavel



Nicole Donn passes the gavel to incoming President Catherine Werner at the Installation Dinner on January 24th.

### STROLL COMMITTEE NOW FORMING

#### The 31st Annual Stroll - Sept. 20

The Stroll Committee is now forming to plan for this year's Stroll. Meetings are mostly conducted via ZOOM and are held once a month in the early evening. This year's theme will be "THE EL SOBRANTE STROLL IS OUT OF THIS WORLD" and will feature fun events including a Space Alien Costume Contest, Spaceship Show in conjunction with the parade, robotics demonstrations and "other-worldly" foods and more. If you would like to volunteer to be on the planning committee or volunteer some time the day of the Stroll, contact the committee at [elsobchamber793@gmail.com](mailto:elsobchamber793@gmail.com) and put Stroll Committee in the subject line. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> so get the ZOOM link before then.

[elsobrantechamber.com](http://elsobrantechamber.com)



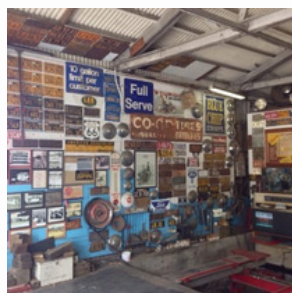
## EVENTS

DAY & DATE	TIME	ORGANIZER	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday Feb.2	5:30pm-7:00pm	Chamber	Board Meeting	OFFICE 3769-B San Pablo Dam Rd.
Saturday Feb.7	10:00am -2:00pm	Friends of the El Sobrante Library	FESL Book Sale	Fahden House El Sobrante Library
Wednesday Feb.18	5:30pm -7:00pm	Center for Elders Independence	Chamber Mixer	3645 San Pablo Dam Rd.
Saturday Feb.21	9:30am-Noon	SPAWNERS	Workday	Wilkie Creek worksite
Saturday Feb.21	10:00am -Noon	Green Team 94803	Workday	El Sobrante Library Parking Lot
Saturdays (or by Appt.)	10:00am -4:00pm	El Sobrante Historical Society	Museum OPEN	Fahden House El Sobrante Library

## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR EL SOBRANTE WHEEL & BRAKE



Don Bastin, President of the El Sobrante Historical Society presented Lyle Miller of El Sobrante Wheel & Brake with the 2025 Business of the Year Award from the Chamber. The business was founded in the 1950's by Lyle's dad , and both Lyle and his brother David worked in the shop, eventually taking it over . David later left to pursue other interests while Lyle stayed and ran the shop on his own until retiring at the end of 2024. El Sobrante Wheel & Brake had previously won Business of the Year in 2017. This time, the award was given more as a thank you from the community for the over-half century of service the Miller family provided to the motorists in the valley.



During his acceptance , Lyle stated he planned to remain in the community and continue to work with Don at the El Sobrante Historical Society and some of the other non-profits in our community.

Certificates of Appreciation from Supervisor John Gioia and from Representative John Garamendi were also presented.





*El Sobrante*  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## February Chamber Mixer

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
@5:30pm



CENTER FOR ELDERS'  
**independence**

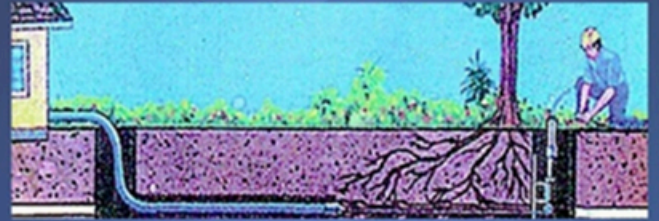
3645 san Pablo Dam Rd.  
EL Sobrante

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bbslaundromat2.com



## CLOVERFIELD FARM

cloverfield@gmail.com 510-253-8859

Here is a link to the latest article on our website:  
[CLOVERFIELD ORGANIC FARM MONTHLY ARTICLE](#)

The vegetable beds are lush with leafy greens, including pak choy, komatsuna, lettuce, parsley, kales, Swiss chard, mustards, arugula, and green onions/garlic. Flavorful herbs are also abundant....bay leaves, Thai lime leaves, cilantro, rau ram, rosemary, wormwood, thyme, motherwort, fenugreek, thyme, and mints.



MIXED MUSTARDS



**Come Join Us!**



Planting Work Parties  
Creek Clean ups  
Nature Walks  
Water Quality Monitoring

Contact us at:  
[spawners@thewatershedproject.org](mailto:spawners@thewatershedproject.org)

## SPAWNERS

The SPAWNERS mission is to protect the San Pablo Creek Watershed and inspire community appreciation and stewardship through advocacy, education and habitat restoration. JOIN US at our monthly workday events and learn more about our group and how you can help. Our next workday is Saturday February 21 at 9:30am, meeting at the Wilkie Creek worksite. Heavy rains cancels.

## GREEN TEAM 94803

The Green Team 94803 cleans up! Green Team 94803 invites you to our next monthly Third Saturday Cleanup (February 21 at 10:00m) at El Sobrante Library. We have the gear; you just need to be there! We also need help with maintaining the downtown planters and removing graffiti and stickers. Always fun and free! More at [KeepElSobranteBeautiful.info](http://KeepElSobranteBeautiful.info), send an email to help out.

Keep El Sobrante Clean and Beautiful



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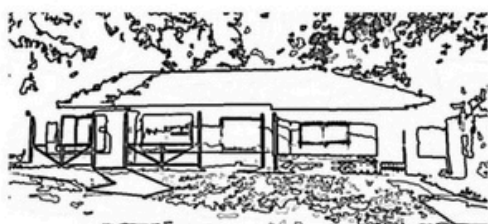
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**Friends of the El Sobrante Library  
(FESL)**

## **BOOK SALE**

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**

**Feature of the Month**

**Romance & Recipes**

**with**

**Vintage Valentine's Day Cards available**

**Members: 10 am - 12 pm**

**General: Noon - 2 pm**

**Proceeds from book sales fund El Sobrante Library  
programs**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We hope this message finds you well! As we begin a new year, we're excited to invite you to renew your membership with the Chamber. Your continued support plays a vital role in our community, allowing us to offer enriching programs, exclusive events, and valuable resources.

For our existing members, renewing is as easy as completing the application on the following page to secure your membership for another year of growth and connection.

To those considering joining us for the first time, we extend a warm welcome! Becoming a member of the Chamber offers unparalleled access to a network of like-minded individuals, expert insights, and opportunities for personal and professional development. Join today and start taking advantage of all the perks our community has to offer.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We look forward to another fantastic year together!

Warm regards,

Marie Carayanis  
Membership Chair

# El Sobrante Chamber of Commerce

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_ [year first joined]

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to appear on published mailing lists? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

Would you like to serve on a committee? What is your area of interest?  
[interest areas] \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP DUES and ADVERTISING FEES

[Membership period February 1 through January 31 of following year,  
prorated only after August 31]

Paid annually as follows:

Amount to be paid

Business with 11 or more employees ..... \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Business with 10 or less employees ..... \$150.00 \_\_\_\_\_

IN-HOME, sole Proprietor business ..... \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Profit, local Organization ..... \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Resident, non-business ..... \$ 40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Advertising opportunities:

NEWSLETTER AD:

large ad approx..4.25" x 5.5" [only \$50/mth] \$600.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Business card ad .. [less than \$20/mth] \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter ads are for the whole year, not prorated. Art formatted in  
JPEG style only accepted.**

## TOTAL AMOUNT FOR DUES AND NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

[CALCULATE THE AMOUNT YOU OWE FOR MEMBERSHIP AND  
ADVERTISING THEN PAY THIS AMOUNT USING METHOD BELOW:]

\_\_\_\_ Pay by check – make payable to EL SOBRANTE CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE 3769-B San Pablo Dam Rd. , El Sobrante, CA 94803

\_\_\_\_ Pay online – use QR code  
or copy link to pay site

<https://www.elsobrantechamber.com/membership/>



MEMBERSHIP LINK





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## DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE

**About Town Newsletter submissions will be Friday, February 20 @5:00pm**  
**Send your pictures, flyers, etc in JPEG format to be included in our newsletter to [elsobchamber793@gmail.com](mailto:elsobchamber793@gmail.com)**

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**MEAL DEAL: LARGE ONE TOPPING SMALL GARLIC STIX, 2 LTR SODA**

**\$31.99<sup>+TAX</sup>**

**FAMILY DEAL LARGE SPECIALTY LARGE 1 TOP GARLIC STICKS, 2 LTR SODA**

**\$49.99<sup>+TAX</sup>**

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# Citizen of the Year



**Gene Tapia** has been named Citizen of the Year for 2025. Gene has been an integral part of the community for decades, having raised his family in the community. For the past several years he has been a part of the Chamber's Stroll Committee, in particular in the organizing and implementing both the car show and the parade, two major components of the event. Gene spends month's before the actual Stroll date coordinating with schools to make sure there are marching bands in the parade, with the Sheriff's and Fire Departments to have the Honor Guard march, fire trucks roll and last year even a helicopter fly-over occur during the parade. Parade entries need to be lined up, their announcement cards completed and run up to the main stage announcers so they can be identified when they pass the judges booth, and that happens in the hour just before the parade starts.

But Gene was busy even before that working as the street closure was being implemented, getting the classic and custom cars registered and lined up, arranging for cars to give parade dignitaries a ride, and organizing judges for the car show. To top it all off, he's there to pick up whatever is needed from any other volunteer that day, all with the most pleasant smile and calm demeanor one can have.

At the Awards Dinner, Gene's daughter Raquel stated in an address to the gathering "Dad never sought recognition. He has simply shown up-day after day -for his family, his neighbors, and his community. To him, community isn't just a word- it's a responsibility. It's about people. It's about caring for one another and leaving things better than you found them."

Gene truly represents the kind of service, community spirit and leadership that makes a difference in our community. Congratulations Gene!



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Before you renew you owe it to yourself to call Jim. You'll be glad you did.

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- o Group Life
  
- o Home
- o Auto
- o Umbrellas



### Jim Cowen

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El Sobrante, CA 94803  
Office at Valley View & Dam Rd

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