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Santa Monica Business Update

SANTA MONICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

FEBRUARY 2008

Chamber Leaders Meet For State of the City

More than 300 local business, community and city leaders gathered at The Fairmont Miramar Hotel on Tuesday, January 15, for the chamber's first State of the City luncheon. Attendees learned more about what to expect in 2008, including economic and tourism trends, the revitalization of downtown Santa Monica and this year's chamber advocacy goals. Panelists included Mayor Herb Katz, City Manager Lamont Ewell, Chamber President/CEO Laurel Rosen and Chairman Tom Larmore, Bayside Executive Director Kathleen Rawson and Convention and Visitors Bureau President/CEO Misti Kerns. The panel was moderated by chamber Board Member Nat Trives.



Senator Feinstein speaks at the State of the City.

goals for 2008 is ensuring the success of the City's General Plan Update.

Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau President/CEO, Misti Kerns reported record high (83 percent) occupancy rates for the year at Santa Monica hotels. One CVB goal for the year is to increase foreign visitors, who tend to stay longer and spend more money while they are here. Also on the plate for 2008 is the launch of the "I am Santa Monica" campaign, designed to provide Santa Monica's employees with all of the information they need to assist visitors, including homeless initiatives, smoking ban details and city history.

Bayside Executive Director Kathleen Rawson discussed planned improvements for the downtown area,

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"We know the economy is precarious," said Mayor Katz. "We live in a vibrant city that is diverse... and we should be able to weather [the recession]." Another of Katz's

Nonprofit Festival: A Chance to Give Back

Have you always wanted to get involved with the community but didn't know where to start? Do you want to volunteer for a good cause but don't know how? The chamber's 2008 Nonprofit Festival on Saturday, February 23, from 10 am - 3 pm at the Third Street Promenade is the perfect opportunity to learn more about local nonprofits and how you can give your support!

This event is sponsored by Santa Monica Place and hosted by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. In the event of rain,

the event will be rescheduled on Saturday, March 8.

What can volunteering do for you? You may already be aware that volunteering for a good cause can help you make the world a better place, but you may not have realized that volunteering can also have a positive impact on your professional life.

Getting involved with your local nonprofit organizations can enhance your current

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A Taste of Santa Monica

Ocean Avenue Seafood

1401 Ocean Avenue
www.kingsseafood.com



As a renowned beach community, Santa Monica is famous for its amazing view and fine seafood. Combining both aspects is Ocean Avenue Seafood, a seafood lover's paradise with a breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean.

We were delighted to start our meal with their Chilled Platter, a delectable combination of East Coast oysters (the chef personally chooses only the highest quality oysters available each day), Littleneck clams, and Alaskan King crab legs. All dipping sauce, including their savory champagne mignonette, is made in-house and transformed our fresh platter delicacies into pleasing indulgences. To quote the French poet Léon-Paul Fargue, eating them was "like kissing the sea on the lips."

Next we enjoyed their flavorful Lobster Taquitos, a specialty deeply embedded in the restaurant's history. The Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes' meaty center and subtle sweet sauce delighted our taste buds with each bite. Unlike most crab cakes, Ocean Avenue's did not have any fillers and was composed of pure, mouth-watering crabmeat.

Our entrées consisted of a well-seasoned Kona Kampachi, served with fingerling potatoes and a flavorful curry sauce. The Cioppino, a delightful mix of Dungeness crab, clams, shrimp, mussels, calamari, and fish served in a tomato broth, was a wonderful take on a classic dish. For dessert, we were treated with a slice of the heavenly Banana Cream Pie and a smile.

Ocean Avenue Seafood makes a great spot for a quick power lunch or a romantic evening dinner. Make it a point to visit today! Their special Valentine's Day offering includes a special menu, wine choices, and a chef's surprise.

