

Geyserville Opens New Businesses

Things are happening in Geyserville. And if you weren't there – it seemed like half the town was. Here is what happened: four new businesses opened with ribbon cuttings and there was a ground breaking for the new Commuter Park & Ride / Chamber Visitor Kiosk.

First there was the ribbon cutting for Geyserville Arts Gallery, Tom Higgins, owner and Emily Scheibal director. Scheibal is the co-owner of Quinterra a designing and manufacturing business which makes garden art sold in garden shops from Seattle to San Diego with her husband. They are showing the wonderful works of painter Arminiee Chahbazian from Knights Valley, potter Julia Terr for outside Cloverdale, sculptor Victoria Heiges of Geyserville, painter Quinn Scheibal of Calistoga, sister team painters Melissa and Mercedes from St. Helena, sculptor John Torrey and painter Cort Sinnes of Napa and others not to be missed.

Next, we ambled to Diavola Pizzeria & Salumeria. Chef-owner Dino Bugico and partner Doug Swett (of Santi fame) and Corbin Sinclair the General Manager, recently opened Diavola with its wood burning oven at the former Geyserville Smoke House a seriously historic building with roots as a speakeasy and shooting gallery. They have a wonderfully simple menu of appetizers and pizzas and a great wine list. Their flavors of subtle herbs will melt in your mouth.

Moving to our next target for grand openings and ribbon cuttings: owner Sam Racina cut the ribbon for his new Terranean Gallery. Known in Healdsburg for some time has now created a one-man gallery in Geyserville. Racina has been a professional artist since 1974, and his works will astound you. "Taking the photographs for my art is the part I like best," because yes, he paints from his photographs in a life-like style. Of particular interest to Racina are the "old things" a baby boomer relates to, like old trucks, beautiful scenery and local history. Can you relate?

As we toast yet another opening we reach Route 128 a new and upcoming local boutique winery tasting room (under 500 cases) in Geyserville. Grower and winemaker Pete and Lorna Opatz opened their tasting room in the historic old Ford Dealership built in 1948. They showcase wines from grapes they grow; Viognier '06 (white peach, beautifully balanced, honey suckle, long finish) and Syrah [Noir] '04 (blueberry, tannic, excellent with BIG foods like BBQ), Pinot Noir '05 (wonderful fruity, nutty nose and flavor), and last but not least a Cabernet Sauvignon '04, (100% Alexander Valley Cab) (very mineral from the serpentine soil, dark cherry, very cab with a long finish). Thirsty yet? Open Thursday thru Monday 11-6pm.

Now, the moment we've been waiting for since 1997. Bryan Albee, Transit Systems Manager for Sonoma County Transit, "We are delighted to break ground today for the new Commuter Park & Ride / Chamber Kiosk. It will be a central place for the Geyserville community. We will begin construction the last week of July and complete it by the end of October." Cosette Trautman-Scheiber (Hope Merrill House Inns) spear headed the Visitor Plaza project over the last few years and was delighted to have it finally begun.

Story submitted by Vickie Norris

Photos by Rick Tang Photography, captions as follows:



Geyserville Chamber Board members, Chamber members and community persons celebrate Geyserville Arts Gallery opening in Geyserville. Center Emily Scheibal, director, to the left of Scheibal Vice-President of the Chamber Shirley Buchignani, to the right of Scheibal– Vickie Norris, Chamber Marketing Chair.



Diavola Pizzeria & Salumeria cuts the ribbon, pictured from left: Karen Waelde, Vickie Norris, Doug Swett (co-owner), Mateo Bugico (Dino's nephew), Dino Bugico (Chef – Owner), Morgan Bugico (Dino's niece), behind Colin Sinclair (General Manager), Rand Dericco, President of the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce



Chamber and community members joined the ribbon cutting for Terranean Gallery, Sam Racina owner (cutting ribbon), to the right of him Shirley Buchignani, Vice-President of the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce to the left of Racina – Rand Dericco, President of the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce



The Board and Chair Directors for the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce welcome Route 128. From left: Dennis Gary, Treasurer; Karen Waelde, Past President; Ann Mackenzie, Graphic Artist; Rand Dericco, President; Deborah Serval, Bar Maven; Diana Barrett, Harry Bosworth, Past President; Pete and Lorna Opatz, owners of Route 128; Louise Madden, Membership Chair; Doreen Murphy, June BBQ Chair; Vickie Norris, Marketing Chair; Shirley Buchignani, Vice-President; Cosette Trautman-Scheiber, Fall Colors Chair



Community and Chamber members and directors welcome Pete & Lorna Opatz and their new tasting room Route 128 located in the old Ford building.



Breaking ground for the new Commuter Park & Ride and Chamber Kiosk from left: Brian Albee with Sonoma County Transit, Ron Scheiber, Kathy Zunino, [Brian – name please?], Cosette Trautman-Scheiber, Harry Bosworth