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Rio Vista Elementary School

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**Congratulations To Forest Lawn!**

*Forest Lawn wins 2014 Excellence in Customer Service Award*

The Johnson Consulting Group of Scottsdale, Arizona presented the Forest Lawn Cathedral City with the Excellence in Customer Service Award for achieving the highest levels of customer satisfaction in 2014.

The Johnson Consulting Group is a nationally acclaimed funeral home consulting firm that developed and implemented the first of its kind JCG Performance Tracker™ TO MEASURE A FAMILY'S LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THEIR FUNERAL HOME PROVIDER. The Awards were presented to select JCG client funeral homes who achieved the highest Overall Performance Scores from responses to family satisfaction surveys sent to each family they served during 2014.

“Forest Lawn Mortuary has been recognized as a leader in delivering exceptional customer service and has raised the standard for other funeral homes, nationally, to achieve this level of success,” said Jake Johnson, President of Johnson Consulting Group.

The Forest Lawn, Cathedral City was founded in 2005. “Maintaining a tradition of quality service is our top priority. It is a privilege to uphold that tradition while helping those in their time of need,” according to Larry Davis, Vice President of Forest Lawn Mortuaries of the Coachella Valley.

“Receiving this award is very humbling. I credit our devoted and outstanding staff with their attention to detail with each and every family we serve,” he continued.

In addition Forest Lawn Mortuary, Cathedral City, the Forest Lawn has locations in Indio, Coachella, Covina, Glendale, Hollywood Hills, Cypress, Long Beach and Monrovia.

**Chamber Power Lunch, May 6,  
Cimarron Golf Resort**

“How to Turn 30 Minutes into 30 Seconds: Creating a Compelling 30 Sec. Self Introduction”

Dominique Fruchtman, Desert Cow Computers, Guest Speaker

The Cathedral City Chamber of Commerce is hosting its monthly Power Lunch, Wed., May 6th, at the Cimarron Golf Resort, 67-703 30th Ave., Cathedral City. Check-in is at 11:45am. Lunch is at 12 noon.

Guest speaker is Dominique Fruchtman, owner of Desert Cow Computers. Ms. Fruchtman’s presentation topic is “Turning 30 Minutes into 30 Seconds: Creating a Compelling 30 Second Self-Introduction”. Well known for her own creative and introductions, Dominique Fruchtman has created a fun and easy method for business owners to be remembered with their own catchy tagline.

Lunch is \$25 with a reservation by Mon. May 4th at noon. Call the Cathedral City Chamber of Commerce at (760) 328-1213 or visit [www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com) for reservations.



Scan to quickly access our website, register for events, read our newsletter and more!



# 2016 Chevrolet Camaro: 10 Things to Expect

By Sean Szymkowski

GM is one month away until the new 2016 Chevrolet Camaro officially shows itself to the public and press, alike. Mark your calendar for May 16th, and Belle Isle in Detroit is the site for the fast approaching “big reveal” of the six-generation Camaro. What are the highlights of the highly anticipated vehicle? Car enthusiasts’ predictions are founded on firm footing facts, but still believe Chevrolet has surprising awaiting an anxious public. Here’s what the experts are saying:

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### 1. The New LGX V6 Engine

A lot of the commotion surrounded Cadillac with the introduction of new engines for the brand, one being GM’s new LGX 3.6-liter V6. The engine will debut in the 2016 CT6, CTS and ATS but it likely won’t stop there. Expect the 2016 Camaro to benefit from the latest V6 technology, which includes a patented “targeted cooling system” to send coolant to the heads and block in the most efficient manner. The engine has been rated at 355 hp and 287 lb-ft of torque in the CT6, and we can expect similar numbers from the 2016 Camaro.

### 2. The Glorious LT1 Small-Block V8

Now it’s time for the really good stuff. Chevrolet has already confirmed the 2016 Camaro will see the latest in small-block engineering under the hood. The mighty 6.2-liter LT1 V8 will reside in the SS variant of the car. This will replace the LS3 V8 currently employed, which made 426 hp in stock formation. Now, imagine the LT1 with the C7 Stingray’s 455 hp in a Camaro riding on the much nimbler Alpha platform. It should be what dreams are made of. Speaking of Alpha...

### 3. Alpha-Platform Awesomeness

We already know how spectacular GM’s Alpha platform translates to driving dynamics, as seen in the Cadillac ATS and CTS. The platform was engineered from the beginning for sublime driving feel, light weight and can support a variety of engine specifications, including forced-induction. The current Camaro’s Zeta bones are simply too bulky, but we’ve seen what clever engineering can make out of it. Just look at the 1LE, ZL1 and Z/28. The platform has been specifically adjusted for the 2016 Camaro to fit the car’s proportions, and features a unique dash-to-axle to support the car’s iconic profile. With the 2016 Camaro riding on Alpha, expect superior driving dynamics, and most importantly, for the car to go on a much needed diet.

*Continued on next page*

#### 4. A Smaller Package, And Lighter Curb Weight

With the shift to Alpha, the 2016 Camaro's dimensions will undoubtedly shrink. Expect a shorter front overhang, and tidier bodywork to compliment the car's newfound weight reduction. General Motors has previously stated the car will weight "at least 200 pounds" lighter than the current Camaro. Most of this was possible thanks to the Alpha platform, but certain areas were examined specifically for the sake of weight. Particularly, the cross-beam that supports the instrument panel is now made from aluminum, a savings of 9.7 pounds. Lighter weight and more power is never a bad recipe.

#### 5. Improved Aerodynamics

With a smaller package, expect the design of the 2016 Camaro to also offer up aerodynamic capabilities to surpass the outgoing car. Chevrolet has said over nine million hours of computational time has been sunk into the sixth-generation Camaro. Some of those hours were spent of drive time, some on weight reduction and plenty of it was spent ensuring the car isn't a mass hindered by airflow.

#### 6. Performance Superiority Over The Fifth-Generation Camaro

A no brainer, really. But, it's definitely something to expect from the 2016 Camaro. When you combine everything we've touched on so far, the 2016 Camaro will be a very compelling driver's package. It will be lighter, faster and have the best driving dynamics seen in a Camaro to date. And that doesn't just include the SS model, either. The V6 should be a compelling entry-level engine, and make for a great hustle car for those who skip out on the muscle car. Our gut tells us not to expect a turbo-four, however.

#### 7. Evolutionary Styling

For better, or for worse, don't expect the 2016 Camaro to get a radical makeover on the outside. Chevrolet won't mess with success regarding its semi-retro themed look, harkening back to the iconic 1969 Camaro. Do expect a more modern take on the design, with a tad less retro, especially inside the cockpit. The design will most likely flow very well considering the car's nimbleness and ability to shed much of the bulk the Zeta platform left it with.

#### 8. A Performance Data Recorder System

This one hasn't been confirmed, but we have a strong hunch buyers will be able to enjoy at least a simplified version of the PDR system, seen on the C7 Corvette and V-series Cadillacs. The PDR system allows owners with the system to record their lap times and watch it with telemetry overlay displaying speed, RPM, G-readings and much more. It also doubles as a convenient dash cam. We think more than a few perspective Camaro owners would enjoy this technology.

#### 9. 4G LTE Wireless Capability

The entire Chevrolet lineup offers 4G LTE WiFi capability, so it only seems reasonable the 2016 Camaro will include this as an option for those looking to stay on the grid while parading the latest pony car around town. GM expects 4G LTE capa-

bility to pay off big in the near future, so expect even the most driver-oriented of Chevrolet vehicles to offer it.

#### 10. Brembo Brakes Will Continue To Handle Stopping Duties

The standard of stopping power will continue to be seen on the 2016 Camaro, and should work quite well in concert with the car's weight loss. Less mass means less force to stop said mass. Chevrolet included a photo of the latest Brembos with its most recent teaser, touting the car's 28 percent greater structural stiffness.

And that's only ten things to expect from the latest challenger in the pony car war. As the industry awaits the reveal, Chevrolet most likely continues to parse out small bits of info, so stay tuned as we bring you the latest.

Article provided by Past Chamber Chairman Andy Jessup, Jr., Gen. Mgr., Jessup Auto Plaza.

Since 1938, Jessup Auto Plaza has been providing automotive sales, service, and parts to communities throughout the Coachella Valley. Located in the Cathedral City Auto Center, Jessup offers Cadillac, Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and GM Certified Pre-Owned vehicles and is the only dealership in the Coachella Valley with an on-site Auto Body and Collision Center.

**Tim Townsley**  
**"Circular Forms"**



Lunar-Solar Eclipse  
Acrylic on canvas/diptych  
60" x 76"



Fried Egg  
Soft Pastel on Paper  
10" x 28"

**Paintings and drawings of common objects  
that fit to a circular theme**

April 29 to May 24, 2015  
**Reception: Sunday, May 3, 2015, 12-3 p.m.**  
East Gallery: Tim Townsley (painting)  
West Gallery: Karine Swenson (painting)  
Pickering Room: Members Exhibition

**The 29 Palms Gallery**  
74055 Cottonwood Drive  
29 Palms, CA 92277  
Near the east entrance to Joshua Tree National Park  
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[www.29palmsartgallery.com](http://www.29palmsartgallery.com)

# Chamber Honors 24 individuals from Palm Springs Unified School District

The Cathedral City Chamber of Commerce honored 24 exceptional individuals in the field of education at the 11th Annual Red and Golden Apple Awards, Thurs., April 9th at the UltraStar Mary Pickford Theatre in Cathedral City.

## The 11th Annual Golden Apple Honorees are as follows:

Gerardine Dooley, Site Support Employee of the Year  
Brenda Martinez, Classified Employee of the Year  
Linda Riccio, Confidential Employee of the Year  
Joan Boiko, Classified Administrator of the Year  
Kelly Hughes, District Elementary School Teacher of the Year  
Michael Cloutier, District Middle School Teacher of the Year  
Brian McDaniel, District High School Teacher of the Year  
Diana Lamar, Certificated Administrator of the Year  
Lucinda Killebrew, Principal of the Year

## 2014-2015 Red Apple Teacher of the Year Honorees are:

Edwin Howard, Agua Caliente Elementary  
Art Graeber, Cathedral City Elementary  
Georgia Terlaje, Della S. Lindley Elementary

Honorees, family, friends and public officials are gathered for 5:30 Cocktail Reception catered by Cello's Pantry, followed by the Awards Ceremony at 6:30pm.

Alan Schwartz, Landau Elementary  
Martha Vann, Rancho Mirage Elementary  
Jamie Mauer, Rio Vista Elementary  
Kelly Hughes, Sunny Sands Elementary  
Michael Cloutier, James Workman Middle School  
Lisa Ellen, Nellie Coffman Middle School  
Ronald Winter, Nellie Coffman Middle School  
Jessica Parent, Cathedral City High School  
Brian McDaniel, Desert Hot Springs High School  
Andrew Eisenmann, Rancho Mirage High School  
Mary Jo Mosby, Alternative Education, Mt. San Jacinto High School  
Taiza Ceja, Early Childhood Education, Della S. Lindley, Elementary

## Chamber and SCORE to Host Sunrise Business MasterMind Classes

The Cathedral City Chamber, in partnership with SCORE, is sponsoring five workshops for small business owners. All workshops are FREE, and hosted from 7:30am-8:30am. The workshops provided practical guidance and easy-to-use instruction for expanding your business opportunities. Coffee and pastries are provided.

Amy Anderson, Jeff Harrison and Andrew McCauley are the workshop facilitators. All three talented individuals have an extensive online marketing and internet background in the corporate, and golf/sports fields. The team brings an easy, new and refreshing approach to enhancing a small business owner's marketing efforts.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Class Date	Class Description	Register by:
Tues., May 19	Content Marketing	Tues., May 12
Tues., June 9	Automation	Tues., June 2
Tues., July 28	Social Media Marketing	Tues., July 21
Tues., Sept. 2	2nd Email Marketing	Tues., Aug. 25
Tues., Nov. 17th	Blogging	Tues., Nov. 10

The May 19th & June 9th classes are at the Cathedral City Civic Center, in the Study Session Room. Please check in at the City Hall lobby on class day. Registration for the class is required. For information and registration access the Chamber website at: [www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com)

## Frankie's Italian Bakery to Host June Mixer

Frankie's Italian Bakery, 68845 Perez Rd., Ste. H-30, is the site of the Chamber's June Mixer, Thurs. June. 18, 5:30-7:30pm.

Proud proprietors Frankie Mamone and Luca Arias are sharing samplings of the bakery's finest Italian cookies, biscotti and exquisite desserts, along with an introduction of their main entrée selections of baked Ziti, Lasagna, Mostaciolli, Eggplant – just some of the offerings as the pair look to expand their bakery to a banquet hall this fall.

Italian cookies, cakes, cannoli and fresh baked bread are drawing valley residents of Italian heritage to Frankie's – for a taste of home. Now known as "Cathedral City's gem", the bakery brings a warmth and delight to its new customers as they rediscover the many wonderful treats and staples, once commonplace in their childhood. Customers are considered 'family' with a special customer service and familiarity of a time gone by. The bakery now serves lunch, along with traditional espresso, cappuccino, and rich Italian roast coffee.

Frankie's Italian Bakery relocated to Cathedral City early fall 2013 from the Los Angeles area, keeping some of their special customers. The pair baked weekly for Connie Stevens, Italian restaurants, and 168 lbs. of cookies per week exclusively for Jay Leno to share with his Tonight Show audience. Frankie's has many commercial customers with special orders such as San Antonio Winery, filling its holiday gift baskets with traditional biscotti cookies to accompany its wine selections.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 HONOREES OF THE  
**RED & GOLD**  
 APPLE AWARDS



*Classified Administrator of the Year  
 Joan Boiko*



*Classified Employee of the Year  
 Brenda Martinez*



*Confidential Employee of the Year  
 Linda Riccio*



*District Elementary School Teacher  
 of the Year Kelly Hughes*



*District High School of the Year  
 Brian McDaniel*



*District Middle School Teacher  
 of the Year Michael Cloutier*



*Honoree Diana LaMar and  
 Christine Anderson, Supt.*



*Honorees Linda Riccio and  
 Mary Jo Mosby*



*Principal of the Year  
 Lucinda Lillebrew*



*Rancho Mirage Elementary Teacher  
 of the Year Martha Vann*



*Site Support Employee of the Year  
 Gerardine Dooley*



*Student of the Year  
 Chai Arnold*

## CalChamber Releases 2015 Job Creator List

### *CalChamber Job Creator, Lede Story*

The California Chamber of Commerce this week released its list of job creator bills, calling attention to the 11 bills that will improve the state's job climate and stimulate the economy.

Bills identified as job creators are consistent with the goals outlined in the Foundation for a Better California, a guide which provides policymakers with a framework to position California competitively to take advantage of the economic recovery.

Since 2008, the CalChamber has identified bills that will improve the state's job climate and stimulate the economy, designating these proposals as job creators. In general, the job creator bills include solutions that will enhance the state's economy by, for example:

- significantly reducing costs to employers;
- providing balanced regulatory policies;
- reforming the legal climate;
- increasing construction jobs; and
- encouraging investments.

CalChamber may add more bills to the list in the coming weeks as legislation is amended.

The list of 2015 job creator bills follows:

### **Creates Construction Jobs**

***AB 35 (Chiu; D-San Francisco) Creates Affordable Housing Opportunities.*** Expands the existing low-income housing tax credit program, making the state better able to leverage an estimated \$200 million more in Federal Tax Credits.

***AB 323 (Olsen; R-Modesto) Expedites and Reduces Cost for Roadway Repair and Maintenance Projects.*** Streamlines infrastructure development by extending indefinitely the current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for certain roadway repair and maintenance projects.

***AB 641 (Mayes; R-Yucca Valley) Expedites and Reduces Cost for Housing Projects.*** Streamlines and reduces regulatory burdens for the approval and construction of housing developments by providing an expedited review process under CEQA.

### **Improved Legal Climate**

***AB 52 (Gray; D-Merced) Disability Access Litigation Reform.*** Seeks to improve access for disabled customers and limit frivolous litigation against businesses for construction-related accessibility claims by providing an opportunity for the busi-

nesses to timely resolve any potential violations.

***AB 54 (Olsen; R-Modesto) Disability Access Litigation Reform.*** Seeks to improve access for disabled patrons without harming businesses through frivolous lawsuits by providing businesses with a 60-day right to correct the violation for a claim based upon a constructed-related accessibility standard that was changed or modified in the prior three years.

***AB 588 (Grove; R-Bakersfield) Reduces Frivolous Litigation.*** Seeks to limit frivolous litigation under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, by allowing an employer a 33-day right to cure technical violations on an itemized wage statement that did not cause any injury to the employee.

***AB 1252 (Jones; R-Santee) Protects Businesses from Proposition 65 Lawsuits.*** Provides needed relief to small businesses by prohibiting a person from bringing a Proposition 65 lawsuit against a business employing fewer than 25 employees. Failed passage in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, April 14. Reconsideration granted

***AB 1470 (Alejo; D-Salinas) Reduction of Costly Employment Class Action Litigation.*** Limits frivolous class action litigation against employers in California who are creating high-paying jobs by creating a rebuttable presumption that employees earning at least \$100,000 and performing non-manual labor and at least one exempt duty are exempt from overtime requirements.

***SB 67 (Galgiani; D-Stockton) Disability Access Litigation Reform.*** Seeks to limit frivolous litigation against small businesses and those that have sought to comply, by limiting remedies to injunctive relief and expanding the current period to correct any violation from 60 to 120 days.

### **Tourism**

***SB 249 (Hueso; D-San Diego) Enhanced Driver's License.*** Encourages international trade and tourism by authorizing the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue enhanced driver licenses to U.S. citizens to expedite legal traffic at the border.

### **Workplace Improvements/Training**

***AB 1038 (Jones; R-Santee) Flexible Workweek.*** Provides employers with the opportunity to accommodate employees' needs as well as business demands by allowing employees to request a voluntary, flexible workweek agreement that can be repealed by the employee at any time with proper notice. Failed passage in Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, April 22. Reconsideration granted.



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TOURNAMENT

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## Outdoor Workers Subject to New Heat Illness Prevention Rule on May 1st

Cal/OSHA Corner

*Mel Davis Cal/Osha Corner*

I have outdoor workers. How are recent heat illness prevention regulation revisions going to affect the way I do business?

On September 25, 2014, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Standards Board presented for public comment revisions to Section 3395, the heat illness prevention regulation. The comments resulted in modifications to the original proposal. On February 19, 2015, the proposal was adopted and submitted to the Office of Administrative Law.

The revised regulation takes effect on May 1, 2015.

### **Shade, Rest Requirement**

The revisions, as they apply to all affected employers, now require shade to be available or provided when temperatures exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

The shade will be located as close as practicable to the areas where employees are working and sufficient enough to accommodate all employees on recovery or rest periods, without the employees having to be in physical contact with each other. This shade requirement also applies during meal periods for employees who remain on site.

Employees are now permitted to take a preventative cool down rest in the shade, and are to be monitored and asked if they are experiencing symptoms of heat illness.

The regulation further specifies that the employer is to take/provide appropriate first aid or emergency response if the employee exhibits symptoms of heat illness.

### **High-Heat Procedures**

The regulation section pertaining to high-heat procedures (temperatures exceeding 95 degrees Fahrenheit) has been extensively revised. The section requiring observing employees for symptoms of heat illness has been modified with specific requirements for observation and communication, and designating one or more employees to be responsible for contacting emergency services if the need arises.

Employers are now required to hold pre-shift meetings

to review the high-heat procedures and stress the importance of drinking water and cooling down when necessary.

### **Agricultural Employers**

The agricultural employer must comply with the high-heat regulation. An additional regulation specific to the agriculture industry has been added.

Agricultural employers will ensure that workers take a minimum 10-minute heat preventative “cool-down” rest period every two hours when temperatures reach 95 degrees or above.

This rest period may be provided concurrently with any other meal or rest period as required by the Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 14 (agricultural occupations) if these times coincide.

### **Emergency Response**

Emergency response procedures are to be in place. Supervisors and workers are to be trained to recognize heat illness symptoms and take appropriate action.

There is to be effective means of communication on site, and other procedures to ensure effective care is administered when necessary.

### **Downloadable Guidance**

A news release issued by the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) contains links to the revised regulation, a guidance document, and enforcement questions and answers. The news release, dated April 7, is available at [dir.ca.gov](http://dir.ca.gov).

A side-by-side comparison of the previous and newly revised heat illness prevention regulation is available from HRCalifornia, [www.calchamber.com](http://www.calchamber.com) and Cal/OSHA’s heat illness information page, [www.dir.ca.gov](http://www.dir.ca.gov).

The Labor Law Helpline is a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at [www.hrcalifornia.com](http://www.hrcalifornia.com).

# Historical Society Hosts Book Signing Event June 14

Former Mayor Robert Hillery, author, of *Cathedral City – The Early Years, 1925-1981*

The Cathedral City Historical Society is hosting a book signing event, featuring the new released book, *Cathedral City – The Early Years 1925-1981*, by Robert Hillery, the City's first elected Mayor. The event is from 11am-2pm at Bonta Restaurant, 68510 E. Palm Canyon Drive, Cathedral City. The community gathering is free and open to the public, with food, entertainment, and historical videos are part. The event is sponsored by the City of Cathedral City and the Bonta Restaurant. The Hiller Family's contributions, dedication and support of Cathedral City is an 85 year legacy. Robert Hillery's father, Williard, once the Vice President of the Bank of Alaska and the Paymaster for the Yukon Railroad and Navigation Company, used his financial background to purchase and secured the site Palm Springs High School is now located; and, secured the land for the local cemetery, now known as Desert Memorial Park on Ramon Road in Cathedral City.

Williard had a vision of opportunity and a good future for Cathedral City. Hillery is credited with founding the Chamber of Commerce in 1937, serving as its President from 1939-1941. He partnered with neighboring founding fathers George Allen, Plumley, Van Fleet and Grove - - all later would have street names to commemorate their efforts. Hillery was instrumental in the building and management of the area schools; assisted with the funding and forming the Cathedral City Sanitation District and wrote a weekly column in the *Desert Sun* during the 1930's and 1940's, most articles, can be viewed 'on reels' at the Palm Springs Library, according to family members.

Marguerite, a graduate of Woodbury Business College and banking experience, managed the financial books for the Chamber of Commerce, and managed rental property. Mrs. Hillery is credited with founding the Cathedral City Library, and the Cathedral City Women's Club.

The Hillery boys – John and Robert (Bob) – played an integral in the community, returning to the 'village' after serving in Navy during World War, to become Cathedral City's Postmaster. Bob spent his days climbing and hunting in the hills and canyons south of the Hwy. 111 with pal Bill Carey. Bob was the *Desert Sun's* first paper boy, delivering papers on the

bike he won in a contest. Bob fulfilled his father's requests of becoming an Eagle Scout, graduating college and to become a commissioned officer. Bob was a scout leader, earning his Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver designation. He attended the Scout Jamboree in Japan. Bob graduated from San Diego State with a Business Degree and became a Second Lieutenant in the Army. Though he did not see the war front, he served at the Pentagon during the Korean conflict.

After the war, Bob was an insurance agent, receiving his CLU licensing and certifications, using his skills as an Inheritance Tax Appraiser for Riverside County. Working for the County, Bob became so proficient in real estate appraisal, upon leaving the County, chose appraisal as his private profession.

Bob Hillery served as a City Councilman for eight years with the City of Cathedral City and, he was the first elected mayor by the voting public.

**A DAY TO REMEMBER**  
**MEMORIAL DAY 2015**

**MONDAY, MAY 25**  
**10:30 AM**

**FOREST LAWN – CATHEDRAL CITY**  
69835 E. RAMON ROAD, CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92234

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Keynote Address by The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD  
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## Committee OKs Job Creator Bill Improving Disability Access

A California Chamber of Commerce-supported job creator bill that improves access for disabled customers and limits frivolous litigation against businesses passed an Assembly policy committee this week.

**AB 54 (Olsen; R-Modesto)** was approved as amended by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. The bill seeks to improve access for disabled patrons without harming businesses through frivolous lawsuits by providing businesses with a 60-day right to correct the violation for a claim based upon a constructed-related accessibility standard that was changed or modified in the prior three years.

### Cottage Industry of Litigation

Due to California's current statutory framework for construction-related accessibility claims, small businesses have, unfortunately, been targeted by a limited group of attorneys to leverage extortion-type settlements for technical construction-related standards, which do not actually impede physical access to the facility for disabled patrons.

For example, the California Commission on Disability Access has a Top 10 list of construction-related accessibility claims set forth in demand letters or complaints, which includes alleged violations for failure to have the appropriate signage or symbol.

Such violations do not necessarily impede physical access to the facility and could be easily resolved. However, businesses are pressured into paying settlements for these lawsuits instead of focusing financial resources on improving access at the business.

AB 54 provides business owners with 60 days to correct an alleged accessibility violation that is based upon a recently enacted construction-related accessibility standard.

If the violation is resolved within the 60-day period, the business owner would not be assessed any statutory damages. AB 54 creates a balanced approach to the current lawsuit abuse regarding construction-related accessibility claims by providing a limited opportunity to correct for recently modified construction-related accessibility standards of which the business owner may not have been aware.

### Key Vote

AB 54 passed Assembly Judiciary with unanimous, bipartisan support, 10-0:

Ayes: Mark Stone (D-Scotts Valley), Wagner (R-Irvine), Alejo (D-Salinas), Chau (D-Monterey Park), Chiu (D-San Francisco), Gallagher (R-Yuba City), Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens), Holden (D-Pasadena), Maienschein (R-San Diego), O'Donnell (D-Long Beach).

AB 54 will be considered next by the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

### Other Reform Bills

Other disability access litigation reform bills are pending in the Legislature:

- **Reduces Statutory Damages: AB 52 (Gray; D-Merced)** seeks to improve access for disabled customers and limit frivolous litigation against businesses for construction-related accessibility claims by providing an opportunity for the businesses to timely resolve any potential violations.

AB 52 will reduce statutory damages for businesses that have corrected any construction-related accessibility standard within 180 days of receiving a civil complaint. In exchange for fixing the alleged violation, AB 52 would reduce the statutory damages from \$4,000 to \$1,000.

This reduction creates a fair balance between providing a remedy for the fixed violation, yet also recognizing the good faith efforts of the business at efficiently resolving the alleged violation.

- **Creates Fair Balance: SB 67 (Galgiani; D-Stockton)** limits frivolous litigation against small businesses for alleged construction-related accessibility violations, by eliminating statutory damages and providing only injunctive relief and attorney's fees.

This will allow those claims that have merit to still be filed, and discourage the frivolous claims from being pursued. SB 67 also extends the period to resolve the alleged violation in order to reduce the statutory damages from \$4,000 to \$1,000. This reduction creates a fair balance between providing a remedy for the fixed violation, yet also recognizing the good faith efforts of the business at efficiently resolving the alleged violation.

SB 67 will allow a small business to utilize its resources in a manner that improves accessibility for all patrons, so that it can continue to succeed and expand in California

*Staff Contact: Jennifer Barrera*



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**5pm – 7:30pm**

Admission is \$5

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Free  
Tours



## 2015 CATHEDRAL CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY 2015

- May 1 Pre-Registration – Health Glo Run  
3pm-8pm – Town Square
- May 2 Passport to Health 2015  
3-10pm – Town Square
- May 2 Health Glo Run/Walk  
5-11pm- Town Square
- May 3 Artist’s Reception – Tim Townsley  
12-3pm The 29 Palms Gallery  
74055 Cottonwood Drive, 29 Palms  
(760) 367-7819
- May 4 Early Bird Registration Opens  
May 4-June 1; End of Summer Golf  
Tournament. Register early for Summer  
Special Card at Escena
- May 5 DIGICOM Conference – 6pm  
Free Admission - Palm Springs  
Convention Center. Featuring Boys &  
Girls Club of Cathedral City
- May 6 Power Lunch – Cimarron Golf Resort  
11:45am – Check-in; 12pm Lunch  
Guest Speaker – Dominique Fruchtmann,  
Owner Desert Cow Computers  
RSVP by Mon., May 5, noon at  
[www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com)
- May 13 City Council Meeting – Civic Center  
Study Session 4: 30pm  
Council Meeting 6:30pm

### MAY 2015

- May 19 Sunrise Business MasterMind Class –  
“Content Marketing”. 7:30am – 8:30am,  
Free Admission – Coffee & Pastries  
Study Session Room – Civic Center  
RSVP (760)328-1213 or [www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com)
- May 19 Joint Chamber Mixer, 5:30-7:30pm  
Palm Springs Air Museum  
RSVP (760) 343-1988  
[info@thousandpalmschamber.com](mailto:info@thousandpalmschamber.com)
- May 25 Memorial Day – A Day of Remembrance  
Forest Lawn – Cathedral City, 10:30am
- May 27 City Council Meeting – Civic Center  
Study Session 4: 30pm  
Council Meeting 6:30pm

### JUNE 2015

- June 1 Summer Special Free Round of Golf  
Promo. Early Bird Registration Ends  
End of Summer Golf Tournament  
[www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com)
- June 9 Sunrise Business MasterMind Class –  
“Marketing Automation”  
7:30am – 8:30am, Free Admission  
Coffee & Pastries, Study Session Room  
Civic Center. RSVP (760)328-1213 or  
[www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com)
- June 10 City Council Meeting – Civic Center  
Study Session 4: 30pm  
Council Meeting 6:30pm
- June 14 Robert A. Hillery Book Signing  
“Cathedral City – the Early Years 1925-  
1981. 11am-2pm – Bonta Restaurant
- June 18 Chamber Networking Mixer, 5:30-  
7:30pm. Frankie’s Italian Bakery  
68-845 Perez Rd., Ste. H 30  
RSVP (760) 328-1213 or,  
[www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com)
- June 24 City Council Meeting – Civic Center  
Study Session 4: 30pm  
Council Meeting 6:30pm
- June 30 Last day to Register for \$100 Foursome  
Savings!  
End of Summer Golf Tournament  
[www.cathedralcitycc.com](http://www.cathedralcitycc.com)

