

Central Pacific Chamber of Commerce

February 12, 2008 Meeting Agenda

Central Pacific Chamber of Commerce Office is in the Pacific Center across from Cable Tica.

The office hours are 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday-Friday.

The telephone is 643-2853. Website: www.cenpac.net

Membership—Our first year was very successful. Please see an attached list of our supporting members. The Application and Fee Schedule has been set and is on our website. The 2008 Decal Stickers are ready for members and we are in the process of renewing memberships.

Projects : Safety, Security and Tourist Assistance: The Chamber of Commerce continues to lobby within the national government and coordinate among commerce plans for bettering security. Currently, there exists Fuerza Publica, Tourist Police, OIJ and the newly formed Municipal Police. We continue to be involved with several private meetings discussing how to better security in the area. We are continuing to help support security forces in the area and lobby the Minister of Security to help focus more attention and resources in the area.

Municipal Police: The municipal police project has been approved and they plan to be fully operational by the end of March. Currently, the appointed Police Commissioner is Juan Gabriel Hildago. There are 12 men working 12 hours during the daytime. They have two rental cars and are in the process of locating a local for their office.

Beach: The beach cleaning equipment has been operational. The hours of operation during high season have been during the night to prevent interruption of tourism on the beach during the day and on Saturdays early in the morning. A flatbed truck has been purchased to help remove the large piles of debris and certain areas of rock on a more timely basis. Additionally, three men have been hired to work to help keep our beaches clean. The municipality has also purchased three trucks that are also helping with trash collection, recycling and emptying trash in the sanitary landfill.

Road Repair: The Chamber of Commerce is working together with the municipality to repair the road from the bridge down to club del mar and down Pastor Diaz to the Costanera. This project has been finished. The municipality has plans to finish all of the entry roads to the beach with the final coat of asphalt in this month. They plan to finish Jaco Sol at the end of the month. They are also going to work on the roads in Copey, Herradura, Quebrada Ganado and Calle Hermosa within the next three months. There have been proposals to make a Boulevard Project in front of the Beach in Jaco.

Plan Regulator: The Municipality Plano Regulator Commission has presented the new city plan governing zoning and regulations for Jaco to the city council. This plan is currently in the legal process. INVU has accepted the contract to review this plan and are currently doing so. A special Plano Regulator Commission Committee has been established and we secured a spot on the commission to help offer planning advice for roads, emergencies, water treatment systems, electric systems, parking, zoning and heights. Our Secretary, Juan Carlos Rodo sits on this commission.

Water: The Chamber of Commerce is working together with the municipality to coordinate meetings and discuss solutions for a water treatment system here in the Central Pacific region. A special Commission has been established and we secured a spot on the commission to help offer planning advice. Peter Van Hussen sits on this commission.

Schools: We have established an education committee. We have met with the superintendent of the school system here and we visited every school within the Garabito school system. We interviewed the principals, took photographs of their situations and are in the process of compiling the information. Afterwards, we plan to assemble a presentation for the Minister of Education in conjunction with the municipality. If anyone else is interested in volunteering in any of the schools, we can help establish

that relationship and make the introduction. Generally, the schools are in need of the following: (Notebooks, pens, crayons & pencils, handwriting notebooks; Materials for lesson plans in Spanish & English; Spanish / English dictionaries; Computer Technician to help fix computers; Repair Man to help fix things; Food; and Musical Instruments). The Central Pacific Chamber of Commerce held its annual Education Fundraiser last Thursday, Jan 17th from 5PM to 8PM at Bahia Encantada and it was very successful. It was truly incredible to see such support from members and business owners of the community. Over 100 people were in attendance and we received approximately \$1500 and significant other pledges that we are in the process of collecting. In addition to monies donated for school uniforms; people of the community donated many school supplies. Extra special thanks to local businesses and members : Gerardo Dirks, Siria Herrera and the employees of Daystar, Chris Petrick and the employees of El Bohio Bar and Jerry from Bubba's for providing the venue, drinks and food and to Brad Sanson from VistaCR and Larry Savage from Stay In Costa Rica for leading the purchase of school packs. We are grateful that we have gotten off to a good start. However, we need to continue to ask for more help in this area.

There are approximately 2,500 registered children in our school system and we estimate that a minimum of 15% require aid in the form of uniforms and school supplies. We have assembled the "School Pack" which includes all of the necessities for a child to attend school for the year for a price of \$35.00. We are looking for additional community support either by monetary donations or item donations. If you are able to donate one, two or more school packs or even just some school supply items, please contact us at 643-2853 or stop in our [office.in](#) front of Cable Tica in the Pacific Center in Jaco. Congratulations to our Education Committee: Enid Valverde from Golden Roads, Kimberley Laferriere from VistaCR; and Matt Stringer from Tranquilo Punta Leona for leading these efforts. The contact names and numbers of our education committee are below.

Kimberley Laferriere Kimberley@VistaCR.com 643-1084
Enid Valverde goldenroads1@gmail.com 397-1749
Matthew Stringer mstringer@tranquilopuntaleona.com 364-3974
Christina Truitt christinatruitt@gmail.com 899-1520
Gabriela Arias Chacón gabrielaariaschacon@gmail.com 392-7506

CENTRAL PACIFIC WOMENS' GROUP: We have formed a new bilingual women's group in Jaco that is going to meet monthly on the third Thursday of every month to discuss ideas for the community and host informational speakers. The group is going to meet for coffee on Thursday, Feb 21st at 9AM at Balcon del Mar in Central Jaco to discuss current events and possibilities for the future. We hope that you will join us for the next meeting of The Central Pacific Womens Group which will be held on Thursday, February 21st at 9AM on the second floor of Balcon Del Mar. The Womens Group will be hosting a "trunk show" from Guacamole. Veronica Rodriguez will be bringing show items for sale from this popular store to our group. The presentation will feature clothing, jewelry, shoes and bags from Guacamole. We hope women will mark their calendar and join us for this fun social event. Please make a reservation if you plan on attending 643-2853. Additionally, the group is also interested in promoting ideas that focus on social, cultural, and educational activities. Women are invited for a positive discussion about our community. If you are interested in attending, please make a reservation at 643-2853.

ATTENTION CHAMBER MEMBERS: High Season is here and our office is ready to promote our members' businesses and services to the community and tourists who visit our office. Any information about your businesses and tourism services are welcome at our office for display. Additionally, if any of our members have upcoming events to add to our calendar, please let us know.