

# Atwater Chamber of Commerce News

Winter rains have provided us with much to celebrate. Lawns are green and spring blossoms are bursting out on trees. Spring March and April are shaping up to be busy months for your Atwater Chamber of Commerce. With morning coffees meetups and “breakfast with the chief” on tap, we invite you to get involved with your Chamber. Remember, we are here to support you and your business.

## Two Atwater Chamber Coffees and Breakfast with the Chief

### March Coffee

Merced School Employee Federal Credit Union

Wednesday, March 20th

101 Bellevue Road, at the corner of Bellevue and Shaffer roads in Atwater

8 a.m. -- Meet and Greet

8:15 to 9 a.m. -- Program

### April Coffee

Farmers Insurance - Annissa Fragoso's Agency

Wednesday, April 10th

Atwater Chamber of Commerce Office, 1181 Third Street, at the corner of Third Street and Cedar Avenue (Enter on the Cedar Avenue side)

8 a.m. -- Meet and Greet

8:15 to 9 a.m. -- Program

### Breakfast with the Chief

## Granny's Pantry

Tuesday, April 2, at 1221 Broadway Avenue in downtown Atwater

9 a.m.

Atwater Police Chief Mike Salvador is inviting the public to join him for breakfast and conversation during his "Breakfast with the Chief" events on the first Tuesday of each month. These will be held at an Atwater restaurant. This month, Granny's Pantry is the location of the breakfast. Come out and meet our new police chief and enjoy breakfast.

## Atwater Chamber Volunteers

Do you have time and talent to lend to your Chamber of Commerce? We are seeking individuals who would like to volunteer at the Chamber office. Volunteers would be tasked with routine office duties such as answering the phone, preparing e-mails, and other clerical responsibilities, as well as assisting those who visit the Chamber office.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for a few hours a week, please call the Chamber office at 209-358-4251 or e-mail [info@atwaterchamberofcommerce.com](mailto:info@atwaterchamberofcommerce.com).

## In Memoriam

Kenneth "Ken" DeVoe

Atwater Chamber of Commerce members were saddened to learn that former city mayor Ken DeVoe had died. Ken was born on September 13, 1944 and passed away on February 24 in Coulterville. He was 74 years old.

Ken was an outstanding mayor of Atwater during a difficult time when Castle Air Force Base closed in 1995. As mayor he represented the City of Atwater at a number of local events and was always available to speak with local residents about their concerns.

Ken was a very involved and dedicated volunteer in our area. He served on the Atwater Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and was a member of the Castle Now and Beyond organization. He was an active member of the Castle-Atwater Kiwanis Club. He was honored by the district governor with the Distinguished Past President Award.

As a business owner of the Atwater Jack in the Box, he understood the challenges and opportunities that those in the business community face. Ken DeVoe was very devoted to serving Atwater and he was heard to say "I love this town!" He served Atwater well and will be

greatly missed by his friends and family.

### Robert "Bob" Ayers

Atwater Chamber members note with sadness the passing of area businessman Robert "Bob" Ayers. Bob was born on June 14, 1925 and died on March 3 in Merced.

Bob owned TransCounty Title Co., with an office in Atwater. He was involved in numerous community endeavors, contributing time and money to causes such as Mercy Hospital and UC Merced. He will continue to be remembered for his knowledge, expertise, and willingness to help others.

A long-time member, Bob supported the Atwater Chamber of Commerce for many years. He encouraged his staff to serve on the Chamber's board of directors, and his employees had key roles in the activities and significant events held by the organization.

Bob retired as a Chief Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force. He was proud of serving his country and he cherished those memories. He had a key role in Castle's "Airman of the Month" recognition dinners.

He was pleased to help obtain the VC-9 (commonly referred to as Air Force 1) for the local air museum, which was used to transport presidents, vice presidents, first ladies and other VIPs during its service. He continued to support the museum and other local projects to the end of his life. Well into his 90s, he continued to show up to work every day at the title company.

Bob served as the Castle-Atwater Kiwanis President. Many people sought his advice, and he was a trusted mentor, as well. In 2018 he and his wife were honored with the Community Philanthropist Award by the Merced County Board of Realtors. He served our area well and will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Atwater Chamber of Commerce  
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If you have questions, please call Louise Farley at 209-564-6261.