

NETWORKING CALENDAR

SPARKS CHAMBER PROGRESS

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.,
Tuesday

Join the Sparks Chamber of Commerce for a pizza luncheon on progress of programs, events and membership. **Where:** Holiday Inn Reno/Sparks, 55 E. Nugget Ave., Sparks. **To RSVP:** call 775-358-1976 or e-mail your name and company to info@sparkschamber.org to reserve a spot.

BREAKFAST NETWORKING

7:30 to 9 a.m., Tuesday

C4CUBE will hold a "Breakfast with Fran" networking event open to all business owners and representatives. **Where:** 300 E. Second St., Suite 1405. **To RSVP:** e-mail mandrews@sageintl.com.

CHAMBER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

7:30 to 9 a.m., Wednesday

David Humke, Washoe County Commission chair, and Katy Simon, Washoe County manager, will speak to event sponsored by the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce. **Where:** Harrah's Reno, Douglas-Ormsby Room. **Cost:** \$20 members, \$30 nonmembers, \$35 day of event. **Details:** www.renosparkschamber.org events or call 775-337-3030.

SPARKS CHAMBER MIXER

5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday

Join Sparks Chamber of Commerce members for a membership mixer. **Where:** Wild Island Family Adventure Park, 250 Wild Island Court, Sparks. **Details:** 775-358-1976.

JULY BIZFLASH

7:30 to 9 a.m., Thursday

The Sparks Chamber of Commerce's monthly event will focus on "Seven Ways Your Website Can Make You Money," with presenter David Schwartz. **Where:** Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno. **Cost:** members free; nonmembers, \$10; late registration after June 30, \$20. **To register:** 775-358-1976.

PROJECT COMPASSION GRAND OPENING

5 to 7 p.m., July 7

Join Sparks Chamber of Commerce members for the grand opening

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD GET TO KNOW

VICKIE FRANCOVICH



MARILYN NEWTON/RGJ

VICKIE FRANCOVICH is president and chief executive officer of Building Solutions Inc. She moved to Reno in 1995.

WHAT WORK EXPERIENCES LED TO YOUR CURRENT POSITION?

I acquired a solid work ethic while being raised on a farm in Arkansas where we grew the majority of our food, raised cattle, various crops and made our own clothes. Though life on the farm was challenging, it left me with a survivor's instinct. I am confident that I will never go hungry unless it's self inflicted due to a monthly cleansing regimen and if I had to I could easily feed my family of three with a high degree of nutrition on \$20 a week. Without exception, every work experience and skill learned during 20 years of banking prepared me to better serve as president and CEO of a multi-discipline construction firm.

WHY DO I DO WHAT I DO?

What I do places me in a position to learn something new and different almost daily. I also think that success at BSI will lead to more women to consider careers or opportunities in the construction field.

WHAT DO I DO TO LEAVE WORK AT THE OFFICE?

Leaving work at the office has proven to be an ongoing challenge for me, I think because we started the company from our home. Also, some proposal requests require a very comprehensive and detailed response and for some reason my creative juices kick in at about 2 a.m.

HOW DO I GIVE BACK TO MY COMMUNITY?

My husband will tell you that I am a dedicated shopper and whole-heartedly support Nevada's economy. Kidding aside, fiscally maintaining a company that provides employment and benefits to about 40 full-time employees could also be perceived as a way of giving back

to the community. Additionally I am privileged to serve on a board dedicated to excellence in education, the Associated General Contractor's board and contribute to several scholarship funds annually. As often as possible I volunteer to teach Junior Achievement at the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade levels.

WHAT BROUGHT ME TO RENO?

In 1995, I moved from San Diego to Reno to head the main office of a major bank. I got here on May 31st and it snowed on June 6th. Where does it snow on June 6th? I came here to do a job, but didn't know a soul. I thought I would seek reassignment in a couple of years but to my surprise within six months I had purchased home, made friends and was well assimilated in the business community. The Biggest Little City had grown on me and I was happy to call Reno home. Although I travel quite frequently between our headquarters here in Reno and our San Diego, and Sacramento offices and visit clients throughout the country, I'm always delighted to get home.

BEST BUSINESS BOOK I'VE READ LATELY?

"Good to Great" by Jim Collins, Why some companies make the leap and others don't.

BEST PLACE IN RENO TO MEET WITH CLIENTS OR COLLEAGUES?

Not just because my brother and sister-in-law own it, but "The Grill at Quail Corners." Also Rapsallion is high on my list.

WHO DO YOU KNOW?

Know someone we should get to know? E-mail Pamela Heisler at pheisler@rgj.com.