

Colfax Connections

Council Passes Resolution That Would Benefit The City's Streets

By wstockwin@hughes.net

The April 8 meeting started with a closed session so the council could discuss with its attorney the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees Retirement System's (CalPERS) claim that the city's consulting financial director is actually a city employee, thus obligating the city to make retirement contributions on her behalf to CalPERS.

After the open session was gaveled to order, the council moved quickly to unanimously approve a four-item consent agenda before considering a resolution supporting the South Placer District Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan and Ballot Measure (Plan).

If passed by voters in the District, comprised of Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln and Loomis, a projected \$1.2 billion for road construction and maintenance would be raised by the Plan's proposed half-cent sales tax hike within the District.

Current polling in S. Placer indicates that while a majority of voters approve the Plan, there is not yet the super majority that will be needed to pass the proposed tax measure.

The Plan would also provide the City of Colfax \$190,000/year for street and road projects if the

council approved the resolution to support the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency amending its current guidelines to provide the additional funding.

After brief discussion council unanimously approved the resolution.

At its April 23 meeting the council approved:

- Preparing a Community Development Block Grant application requesting up to \$3,500,000 for Road Rehabilitation Projects;

continued on page 2

Socially-Distanced Memorial Day Activities Planned

By Nancy Hagman

Cemetery operations are considered an essential function during the Covid-19 situation.

The Colfax Cemetery District's Board of Trustees has made the decision that the annual tradition for honoring our veterans this Memorial Day will go forward.

However, physical distancing and other safety protocols will be strictly enforced. Those participating will be required to wear face covering and other personal protection.

There is plenty of room in the open air at the facilities to keep our distance and stay cautious.

American Legion Post 192 will be placing flags at the Colfax cemetery on Saturday May 23 starting at 10:00.

We will be taking all of the pre-



Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

cautions necessary to make sure everyone is protected from the virus. We have about 600 flags that need to be placed at the gravesites and we invite everyone to participate in this event to honor our fallen soldiers.

Be sure to save Saturday, May 23rd (flag placement) and MEMORIAL DAY, Monday, May 25th on your calendar.

We will be retrieving the flags on Tuesday May 26th at 10:00 AM.



The Mayor's Corner

Mayor Marnie Mendoza

For this month's column I'm going to list some places for people to find help while struggling to get through the COVID-19 'Shelter In Place' state wide lockdown.

As of April 25 Placer County had 139 COVID-19 cases, with eight deaths. Statewide there are 39,254, with 1,562 dead. Those are very good numbers compared to other places in the country, and it's because of you. Stay safe and keep up the good work.

For people needing financial assistance, check out <https://covid19.ca.gov/get-financial-help/#top>, where you will find information on how to:

- File a Disability Insurance claim
- File a paid Family Leave claim
- File an Unemployment Insurance claim
- File a Wage claim
- File a Workers' Compensation claim

For assistance with housing and homelessness go to <https://covid19.ca.gov/housing-and-homelessness> for information on how to find:

- Emergency shelters
- How to pay Rent and Bills

Many utility providers are not shutting off services due to non-payment. Check with the California Public Utilities Commission for more information at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/covid19protections>

Have you heard the howling during the evening? All across America people are stepping outside at 8:00 p.m. and howling as a way to thank healthcare workers and first responders that are working so hard to bring us through this pandemic, and as a way of showing solidarity with neighbors and friends who are also coping with COVID-19-induced isolation at home.



Here in Colfax the evening chorus starts slow and quickly builds to a crescendo as more folks – and

their dogs – join in as dusk falls on the city. If you're not much for howling then sing, ring bells, or bang on pots and pans.

City Council from page 1

- Entering into an agreement with Retail Strategies, LLC for a three-year term in an amount not to exceed \$105,000;
- Approving a two-year On-Call Professional Services Agreement with Simpson and Simpson Inc. for those times when the City has larger asphalt, concrete or pipe projects that require specialized services that are outside the scope of the City's Public Works Department's experience and training. An option to renew for a third year would bring the city's total cost to \$75,000.

Under Council Business:

- Annual Housing Element Progress Report – Unanimously approved by Council.
- Quarterly Sales Tax Analysis report - Covid-19 outbreak has caused a massive decrease in consumer spending. Based on sales tax trend projections provided by Hdl Companies, the City can expect a budget shortfall of \$200,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. With some recovery expected in fiscal year 2020-2021 but still below fiscal year 2018-2019 levels. Staff will continue to monitor as budgets are developed for the next two fiscal years. The report was unanimously approved by Council.
- Covid-19 Economic Loss Compensation Request Letter – Council member Fatula prepared a draft letter for Council consideration showing projected losses of income to operate the City of Colfax falling between 35-to-57 percent, creating a shortfall of income between \$428,000 to \$693,000 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council agreed to hold the letter for the time being and agreed to continue discussions as more information is available.

The council's next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13.

The Colfax Theatre Seeks Input For Upcoming Shows



The Colfax Theatre is taking this sheltering-in-place time to plan for a busy and creative late summer, fall and winter season ahead.

You are invited to provide input to help us make the Colfax Theatre the best ever with plenty of community-based activities, films and performance events.

Please take 1 minute to answer a few questions. Just click on this link – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPZVC5C> – for a simple online survey. Questions include the types of movies, music and theater acts folks might want to see, possible price ranges and options for community support.

Have a say and let The Colfax Theatre know your favorites from bands to film and more...

The Morton Family sends good wishes and looks forward to seeing you post COVID-19.

Meanwhile, please consider signing up for news and checking out our re-scheduled performances at www.TheColfaxTheatre.com

Contents May, 2020



Cover - Council Passes Transportation Resolution
Socially-Distanced Memorial Day Activities

Page 2 - Mayor's Corner

Page 3 - Colfax Theater Survey

Page 4 - Business Briefs

Page 5 - No Rain In Sight, Hot & Dry Next

Page 6 - Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

Page 7 - Burn Permits Needed Starting May 1

Page 8 - Colfax Being Promoted by Thumblr

Page 9 - CalTrans Begins Acceleration Lane Project

Colfax Connections is a monthly city publication edited by Will Stockwin, who can be contacted via e-mail at wstockwin@hughes.net. All submissions are welcome, the earlier the better. Deadline is the 20th of the previous month.

STAFF
Photography – Alan Shuttleworth
Proofreading – LindaLou Haines

Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall, the Library, and the Heritage Museum.

Digital copies can also be found on the Chamber's Website at (www.ColfaxChamber.com) and on the City's Website at (www.colfax-ca.gov).



Business Briefs with Linda Lou Haines

When you read this, things may have changed. But, as of right now ... the whole world is NOT closed for business!

In Colfax, we can order a pizza from 3 Pizza shops by calling ahead or walking-in: Main Street Pizza, Pizza Factory, Pizzaiola. They all make great pizza, so treat yourself to one, right here in Colfax. Yum! (Note: All listings are alphabetical.)

Don't want a professionally-made pizza? Then, there are restaurants in Colfax open for you to get take-out. Order take-out by calling ahead, walking in or driving up: Beach Hut, Buzz Through Joe's, Homie Joe's Tacos, McDonalds, Shang Garden, Starbucks Coffee, Subway, Taco Bell and TJ's Roadhouse. Right here in Colfax, so there is no need to drive down the hill. Some venues have shortened hours or fewer days, so call ahead or don't be surprised.

To be thorough, I called each location that had a phone number listed. And, for those I wanted to double check, I drove to their location. However, if I still missed a pizza shop or restaurant, I apologize for the oversight. It was my intention to include everyone.

I've been beating the drum for this new business for a couple months now. And, she still has not been given the OK to open on Main St. yet. However, Cyndie Schwartz's Grandma C's Kitchen is still operating from her permitted Home Kitchen for local stores, most notably Beach Hut, Colfax Farm and Country Store and MarVal Sierra Market.

But, more important is that orders can be made right now from her website, grandmacskitchen.com. They include "muffins, breads, and pastries, and tasty cookies, brownies, and other treats!" I'm looking forward to enjoying her goodies in her cafe at 38 N. Main soon.

While putting out thanks to those who sell food,

I must add our two local grocery stores that are doing their best to accommodate Colfax shoppers: Colfax Market and MarVal Sierra Market. And, Sierra has Senior Hours on Tuesday and Thursday, 7-8 a.m. Again, no need to go down the hill. **SHOP COLFAX!**



For I-80 truckers there really is a free lunch!

An additional note just in: **Dine n Dash Pub & Grill** is not on the list above because they are out on I80 at the Gold Run rest areas, both east and west sides, GIVING AWAY meals to truckers who are having a hard time finding food for themselves when they are on the road these days.

So, Stacy and Steve Williams, owners of Dine n Dash, along with Scott & Kathy Zachman, owners of EZ Electric, Roseville are stepping up to fill the gap every week day, 9-4. To help fund their efforts, a GoFundMe page has been created: <http://gf.me/u/xxqm8x>.

I don't know if this effort will still be going when you read this, but if you can contribute, please try the link. Stacy and Steve need our support.

Speaking of sources to get food, the Nevada County Food Bank that comes to Colfax and all other food banks nationwide are in desperate need of donations now. Please call (530) 388-6567 and help out if you can.

If you are a new business or a business with something new going on, please contact me at lindalouhaines14@gmail.com.

With No More Rain In The Forecast, It's time To Get Ready for Hot And Dry

By wstockwin@hughes.net

A story in the April 18 Sacramento Bee cited a new study showing that since the 21st Century began, California and the West have been caught in a mega-drought that is one of the worst of the past 1,200 years.

The study also pointed out that climate change has exacerbated the prolonged dry spell, affecting a much larger area than previous droughts.

And now it's looking like 2020 will be a drier than usual year as we are about to enter May with less than 35 inches of rain so far in this current wet season.

The 4.4 inches of rain we received over the first weekend of April raised our total to-date to 32.9 inches. This is being written on Earth Day (4/22) and the short term forecast for the rest of the month offers scant hope that total will get to even 33 inches before the month is over.

Looking back over the last five years (2015-2019) the picture doesn't get any better in May. While 2019 was by far the best year in that span for May rains with 7.5 inches, the other four years produced a collective total of just 1.2 inches.

An interesting anomaly in this five-year span is that 2017, by far the wettest year with a stunning 98-inch final season total, recorded zero precipitation in May, as did 2015. That drops

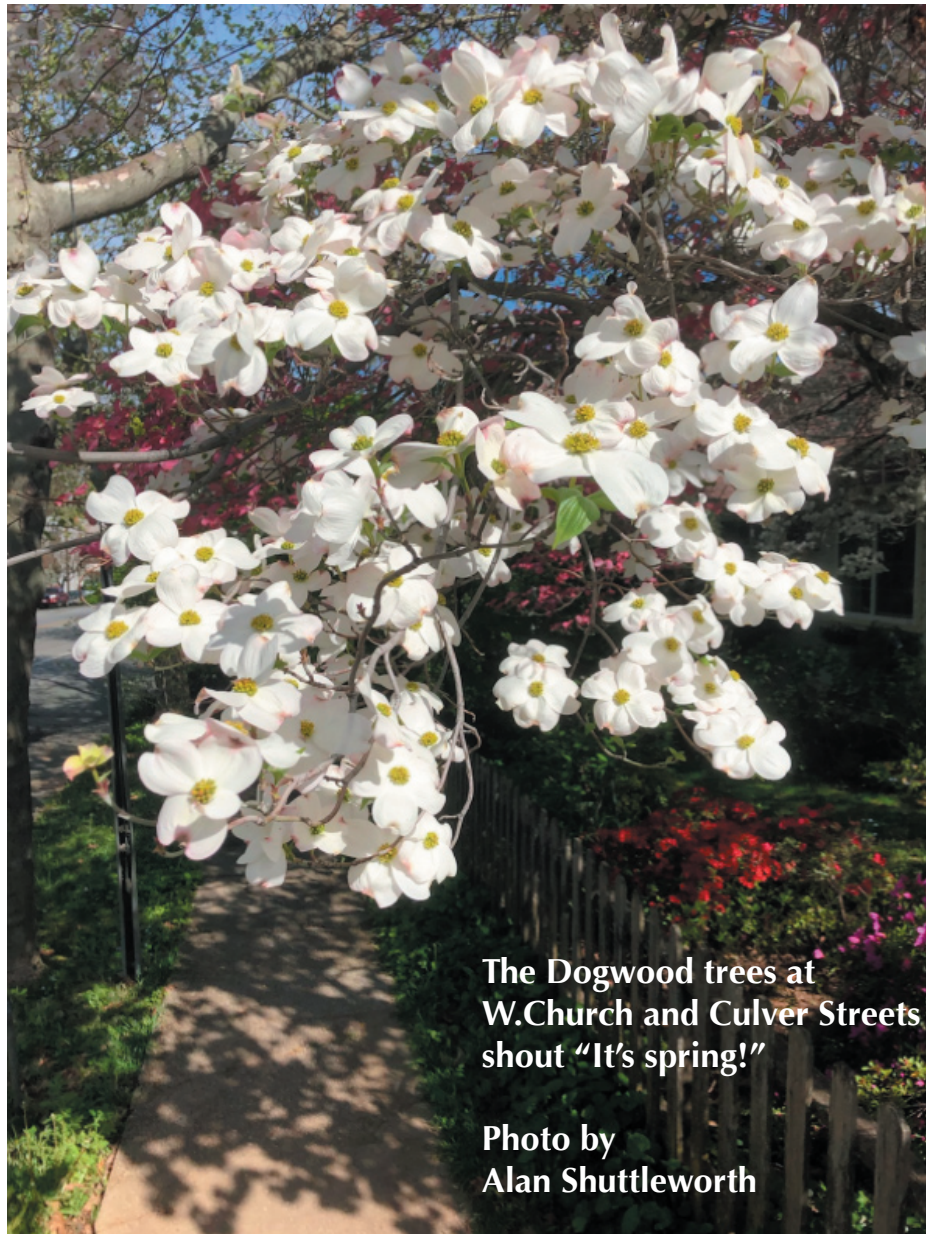
the five-year average May rainfall to a miniscule 1.74 inches.

Added to the current total, that would have us entering June with 34.6 inches on the season, which would be lower than 2015's 38.5-inch season-ending total.

The five-year average of .56 inches for June rainfall would boost our season ending total

to 35.2 inches, but still be well under what we had at the end of the 2015 wet season.

At the rate temperatures are rising and things are drying out with no precipitation in the short or long-term forecasts, it's safe to say that from here on we are in for a long, hot, dry fire season before the blessing of potential rain returns. Be ready and be safe. Wash your hands, maintain social distancing and keep a go-bag by the front door.



The Dogwood trees at W.Church and Culver Streets shout "It's spring!"

**Photo by
Alan Shuttleworth**

Colfax Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

Welcome from your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce. We are here to help.

During this difficult and uncertain time with the coronavirus, your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce is available for our members and the community. Even though our doors are closed to our office, we are continuing to answer e-mails and phone calls.

Do you need financial assistance? Are you in need of food, medical supplies, or other necessary items to be picked up and delivered to your home? Do you have any legal questions or concerns? Are you concerned about your commercial, home, or vehicle insurance needs? Do you want to get outside, walk and converse with a few others with social distance and virus precautions adhered to?

Please contact us. We have many resources available to us. Plus, we are very fortunate to have over 100 businesses, non-profit organizations and associate members we can refer you to.

Also, when you need to go out for food or supplies, please shop locally. Our city businesses can supply us with all the basics and more. You may be very surprised at the many different items our businesses carry and can order. And we get the same great food from our local restaurants, only at this time you get to take it with you! Plus you can save on gas by shopping right at home ... a "Win-Win" for all of us.

Another win is the new slate of officers for our Board of Directors. In a virtual board meeting in April, we elected: President, Dave Johnson; Vice President, Sally Laughlin; Treasurer, Randy Eley, and Secretary, Bob Morales.

A quick introduction to new President Dave Johnson: Dave and his family moved to Weimar in 1976. After several other commercial enterprises, he returned to real estate. Plus, you may know him as the "Voice of the Colfax Falcons" and the Junior Falcons.

Additionally, the Board added three new Directors to our team: Connie Heilman, Nick Lancaster and Mary Fatula. More about the whole board next month.

Our Executive Director, Amy Andrews, is continuing her excellent, professional work keeping our membership and board informed and moving forward.

Your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce is moving forward and planning for upcoming events when we get the all-clear to proceed. We are looking forward to Mixers, Coffee and Conversations, Grand Openings and Ribbon Cuttings, 3rd of July, Railroad Days, Winterfest, and more annual events we assist with. Plus, we are eagerly anticipating the reopening of our Chamber office and Visitor Center.

Please contact your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce at: colfaxareachamber@gmail.com and 530-346-8888. Or our web site: www.Colfaxchamber.com or our Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Finally, it has been my privilege as president to work with our Board of Directors and our membership. We have accomplished so much, of which I am personally very proud. Our team has been fantastic. I only see more growth and great accomplishments for the future.

Thank You all very much!

Take precautions, be safe, and look forward to a brighter future.

Tim Ryan
CACC (outgoing) President

SBA Disaster Assistance Loans

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced it will offer disaster assistance loans for up to \$2 million for small businesses impacted by the coronavirus. These low-interest loans are available to businesses that have sustained "substantial economic injury" due to the spread of the coronavirus. For more information on the SBA program go to: www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance

Burn Permits Will Be Required Starting On May First

By Brian Eagan
CalFire Battalion Chief/Colfax, Alta Battalion

As of May 1st 2020, Residential Door Yard Burn Permits will be required for all outside burning in the CAL FIRE Nevada/Yuba/Placer Unit which includes the City of Colfax. Burn permits can be obtained for free at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>

Due to the COVID 19 "Stay at Home Order" all local Fire Stations are closed to the public until the order is rescinded by Governor Newsom.

Residential door yard burning is a valuable tool for homeowners to use annually in maintaining their property and providing the necessary defensible space for their homes. It is not without risk, though. In 2018, 21 of 53 vegetation fires in the Colfax/Alta Battalion were related to residential door yard burning.

Homeowners and residents must be aware that if their fire escapes their control, or if they are not following the rules of the Residential Door Yard Burning permit, they may be found liable for any damages that occur. Outlined below are the rules for safely conducting a door yard burn:

- You must have in your possession a valid Residential Door Yard Burn Permit.
- You may only burn on permissive burn days and between the permissive hours.
- You must call the number listed on the burn permit to insure it is a permissive burn day, just prior to burning. (530-889-6868)
- You can only burn dry natural material found on your property annually.
- You may not burn any trash, lumber or household waste.
- You can only burn in a pile no larger than 4 feet in diameter.
- You must have 10 feet of clearance around the



entire pile to bare dirt.

- You must have in your possession water and a hand tool while you are burning.
- You must be in attendance at all times while your pile is burning.

Based on weather and fuel conditions residents should expect that sometime between June 1st and July 1st 2020 all outside burning will be suspended. After that date and until the suspension is lifted sometime in late fall 2020 no residential door yard burning can occur.

As an alternative to residential door yard burning, residents in Placer County, including the City of Colfax, may take advantage of the Placer Resource Conservation District Chipper Program to dispose of their annual natural material. Information about this chipping program can be found at: <http://placerrcd.org/landowner-assistance/forestry/healthy-forests/> or you can request the service at: (530) 889-0111 ext. 3.

Fishing And Hiking Around Colfax Being Promoted To Visitors

By Pamela Biery
Thumbler Agency

The small rural community of Colfax is just off Highway 80 about 50 miles east of Sacramento and only 18 miles east of Auburn and offers a number of options from the Bear River to hiking trails and fishing at Rollins Lake and nearby streams.

Spring Fishing

Rollins Lake is just a bit over 2 miles from Colfax and fishermen are starting to post their reports on this destination and nearby creeks and streams at both the FishSniffer and Hook and Bullet. You can purchase fishing licenses online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/online-sales>. CDFW is temporarily closing its high public use areas, including visitor centers and license counters, to help slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), so plan accordingly.



A view of the North Fork of the American River seen from the Pennyweight Trail. Photo provided by Thumbler.

It is recommended to follow current news for recent mandates. People need to be extra cautious, especially in places with wintry weather, because resources are strained amid the pandemic and rescues may be more difficult.

Bring your maps and directions with you! Most Visitor Centers, including the Greater Colfax Chamber of Commerce are currently closed due to COVID-19. Follow personal safety rules and do not go out in nature alone.

Hikes Near Colfax:

Stevens Trail

Just outside of Colfax is one of the most popular trails in Placer County—the Stevens Trail is very accessible just off Interstate 80, beginning conveniently at a parking area on N. Canyon Way just north of Colfax, it is simultaneously easy to access, remote and inhabited by many kinds of wildlife as well as plenty of poison oak mixed among the woodland oaks, Manzanita and laurel. Visit Placer describes this trail as 3.2 miles out, with time doubling for the 3.2 mile return. Stevens Trail is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. <https://www.visitplacer.com/discover/stevens-trail/>

Pennyweight Trail and Mineral Bar

Pennyweight is a short, family--friendly out- and-back hike of around 1.7 miles in the Auburn State Recreation Area with a day-use fee of \$10 located in the greater Colfax area.

From Hwy 80 in Colfax exit at Canyon Way, head north on Canyon Way, then turn right onto Iowa Hill Rd. It is 3 miles of narrow, paved road to campsites and river. You will see the sign on the left for the trailhead about 2 miles out. Proceed to Mineral Bar Campground for a day-use parking permit and trail access before returning to the trailhead. Take time to admire the historic Iowa Hill Bridge built in 1928 before your hike. Limited roadside parking near trailhead.

Thumbler was hired by the city to promote Colfax to visitors from around the state.

CalTrans Begins Work On I-80 Acceleration Lane Project

Caltrans is announcing a new construction work schedule for the Interstate 80 Acceleration Lane project in Colfax beginning Monday, April 20. Due to a reduction in traffic stemming from Governor Newsom’s shelter in place orders during the COVID-19 pandemic, construction crews will be permitted to work during daytime hours.

Intermittent single-lane and I-80 westbound on-ramp closures now will be scheduled from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The new work schedule is expected to remain in effect for the duration of shelter in place orders in California.

The \$1.8 million project will extend the existing westbound Interstate 80 on-ramp from

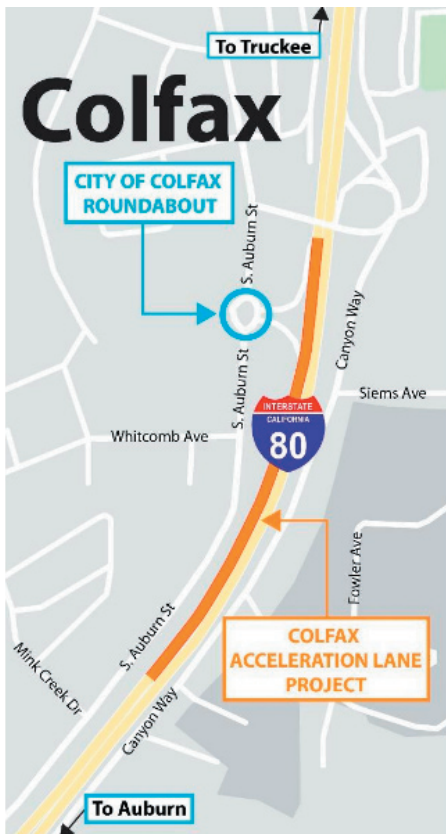
State Route 174 with a standard-length acceleration and merge lane. Project completion is still anticipated in late spring or summer 2020. Weather or unexpected events may delay or prolong the work.

Caltrans advises motorists to

“Be Work Zone Alert.” The department will issue construction updates on:

- **Twitter @CaltransDist3,**
- **Facebook at CaltransDistrict3.**

Houses Going Up At Shadow Wood



The onset of warmer weather has the pace of the construction at the Kneeland St. project moving faster.

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

FREE Residential Trash Pick-up Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Limited to three (3) yards of trash per Residence
(Equal to 18- 32 gallon bags). All trash must be set out the
night before or before 5 a.m.

ABSOLUTELY no hazardous waste

Refuse exceeding the limit will not be picked up.



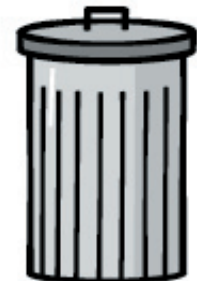
Large Appliances must be taken to the City Corporation Yard for disposal

The yard will be open from 8:00am to 3:00pm for drop off (May 6th)

Items must not weigh more than sixty pounds. Residents should contain trash in such a way to be easily removed and to prevent breakage and spillage. Wood and trimmings must be cut in three-foot lengths and bundled.



**City Staff will provide assistance
to persons with disabilities. Please
call (530) 346-2313 for assistance.**



For Questions about pick-up,
Call Recology at (530) 885-3735

Compliments of the City of Colfax and Recology Auburn Placer



Churches

Colfax Assembly of God Community Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax, CA 95713
Email: colfaxesog@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.colfaxagca.org/>

Colfax Baptist Church
24850 Ben Taylor Rd., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8110
Email: pastorgaryhoward@yahoo.com
Website: <http://colfaxbaptist.com/>

Colfax United Methodist Church
59 W. Church St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2267
Website: <https://www.colfaxumc.org/>

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
944 Canyon Way, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2525
Website: <https://www.jw.org/en/>

St. Dominic's Catholic Church
589 E. Oak St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2286
Website: <https://www.scd.org/parish/st-dominic-parish-colfax>

Seventh Day Adventist
454 Scholtz Ave., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8844
Website: <https://www.colfaxsdachurch.com>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1875 S. Auburn St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7702
Website: <https://www.lds.org/>

Social Organizations

American Legion Post 192
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-9433
Website: <http://norwellpost192.org>

Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce
99 S. Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8888
Website: <http://colfaxchamber.com>

Colfax Area Historical Society
Archives: PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713
Museum 99 Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8599
Website: <https://colfaxhistory.org>

Colfax Garden Club
PO Box 1801, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7474
Website: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/colfax-garden-club>

Colfax Lions Club
PO Box 664, Colfax, CA 95713
530-477-2533
Website: <https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colfaxca>

Gold Country Lionesses
PO Box 1852, Colfax, CA 95713

Illinoistown Clay-Mason Lodge #51 of Colfax
14 N. Main St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-6627
Website: <http://lodge51.freemason.org>

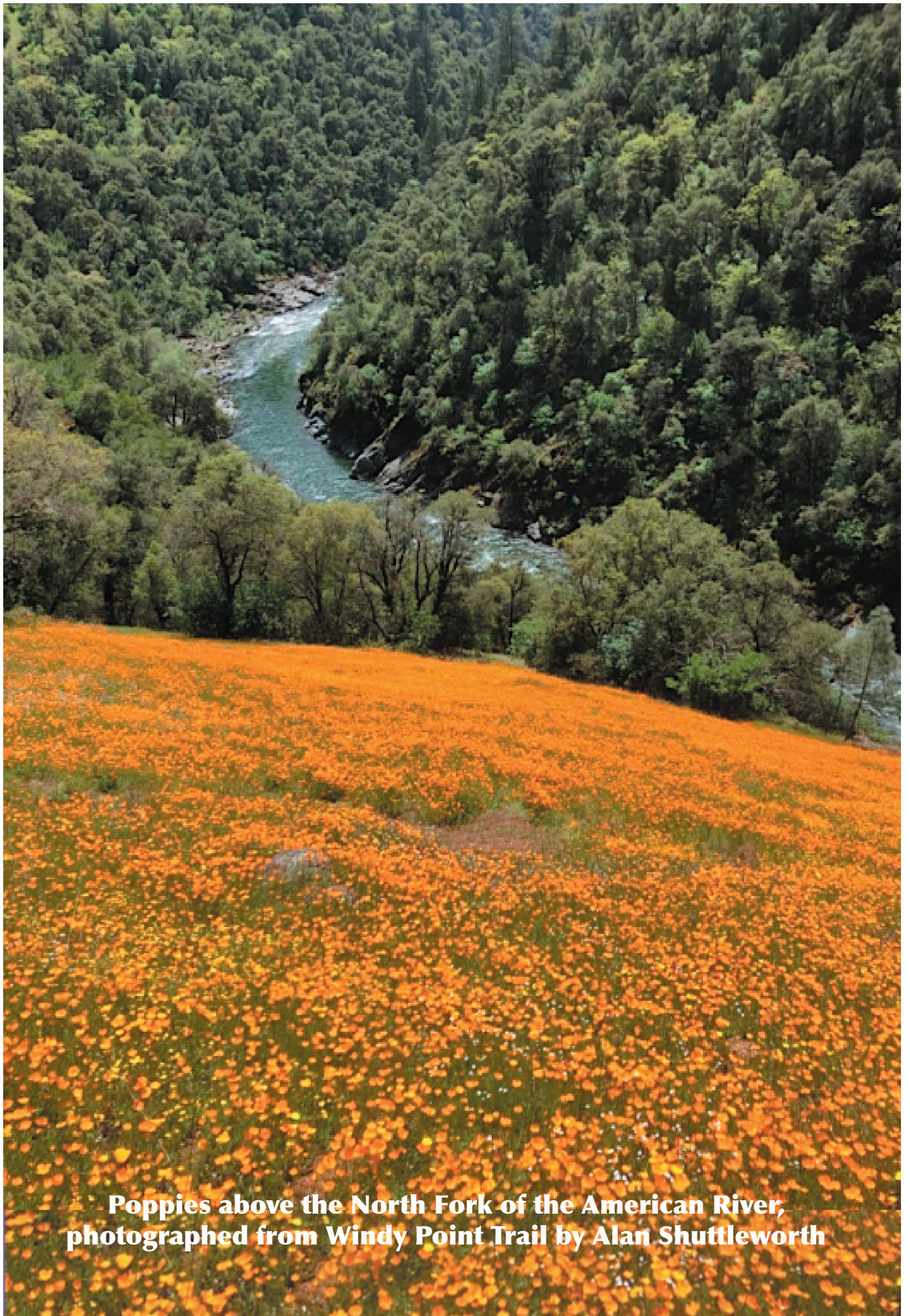
Salvation Army Service Unit
320 S. Canyon Way, Ste.A, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2722

Sierra Vista Artists
55 School St., Rm. C-4, Colfax, CA 95713
530-320-0433

Sierra Vista Center
55 School St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8726
Website: <https://sierravistacolfax.wordpress.com>

Soroptimist International of Colfax
PO Box 475, Colfax, CA 95713
530-637-4878

VFW Post 2003
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7768
<https://www.colfaxveterans.org/vfw.html>



**Poppies above the North Fork of the American River,
photographed from Windy Point Trail by Alan Shuttleworth**