

Colfax Connections

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Sidewalk Maintenance/Repair Ordinance Is Still Pending

By wstockwin2024@gmail.com

The sidewalk repair and maintenance ordinance almost made it through its second reading at the **January 22 city council meeting**, but was sent back to city staff for more clarification on determining whether trees causing problems are owned by the city or the property owner. At issue is the question of who pays for sidewalk repairs due to damage caused by tree roots.

Council member Trinity Burruss was not present for the meeting, but called in on the phone an hour after the meeting began.

After sending the sidewalk ordinance back to staff, the council heard a presentation on the Seniors First – Placer Rides Program, which helps county senior citizens get around using volunteer drivers who are then reimbursed for mileage. (See page 5 for more information).

The council also approved its committee assignments for 2025 on a 4-0 vote before moving to its last piece of official business regarding temporary improvements to the outdoor dining area on N. Main St.

The lengthy discussion between the council, business owners and members of the public boiled down to a choice between one large outdoor dining area, or three smaller ones

anchored to specific businesses. In the end, the council directed staff to set up a public workshop in late February to try and work out a plan.

The January 8 Colfax City Council meeting started on time with Mayor Pro Tem Caroline McCully holding the gavel, as Mayor Sean Lomen was absent. All other council members were present.

The consent calendar passed on a 4-0 vote, and Calfire reported that four strike teams from Placer County were working in

Los Angeles County.

An audit report on the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 was the first of two presentations on the agenda. Richardson & Co. managing partner/auditor Ingrid Shepline said the audit showed the general fund and sewer fund each stood at slightly over \$3 million, a minimum pension liability, and a state loan of \$6.2 million that's being repaid at a rate of \$374,000 a year for another 16 years.

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Colfax Lions Need A Few Good Volunteers

By wstockwin2024@gmail.com

Where have all the volunteers gone? That's the question that has Paul 'Red' Houck, president of the Colfax Area Lions club, worried these days.

"People aren't volunteering the way they used to anymore," said Houck. "And it's not just the Lions. I'm probably speaking for every other non-profit organization in town. People just aren't joining."

Houck illustrates the problem with the situation the Lions currently face. "This club's 100-year anniversary in Colfax will be in 2028 and, frankly, I don't know if we will make it to that."



Paul 'Red' Houck.
Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

He said that three years ago the club had 39 members, but now has 22. And two of those live out of state, whittling the number of available hands on deck to 20.

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Shepline called it a “clean audit requiring minimum adjustment” and applauded the city’s administrative services officer, Shanna Stahl, for her “excellent work” and finished saying “the city’s in very good financial condition.”

Following no questions from either side of the room, the council voted 4-0 to believe her and moved on to the second presentation for the winners of the city’s first annual holiday outdoor light contest. The first place winner of a \$50 MarVal gift card was Jeff Hoge, 48 West Grass Valley St.; Ken & Fabiola Morse at 102 Oak Hill St. took second and a \$30 MarVal gift card; and Karl & Debra Fullenwider at 314 N. Main St. took third and a \$20 MarVal gift card. Fourteen residents entered the contest.

The proposed sidewalk repair maintenance and liability ordinance passed its first reading after some discussion. City planning consultant Kathy Pease walked the council through the changes they’d requested at the December 11 meeting, displaying a list that included:

- Extension of the time for repairs from 60 to 90 days.
- Allowance for property owners requesting an extension beyond 90 days.
- Flexibility on payment options including voluntarily adding costs to the tax rolls.
- Definition of ‘good faith effort’ and standards of repair.
- Consideration of property owners dealing with

corners or on hillsides.

- Consideration for dead end sidewalks.

During a brief discussion, council member Larry Hillberg voiced concerns over how widely information about the proposed ordinance had been disseminated, but he joined the majority in a unanimous vote.

There were two items of official council business on the agenda. The first was a city procurement policy amendment that would raise the city manager’s purchase authority to procure supplies, equipment and other services from \$10,000 up to \$25,000. With little discussion the item passed on a 4-0 vote.

The second item was a request by Golden State Patient Care (GSPC), the city’s sole cannabis retailer, to terminate the semiannual financial audit and physical inspections that are costing GSPC \$11,000 a year.

SCI, the consultant that has conducted the audit and inspections since 2019, told the city that no deficiencies have been found to date, and that GSPC is, and has been, in compliance with all state and local regulations. GSPC founder and owner Jim Dion reminded the council that he has been in compliance since he opened 22 years ago. After no one from the council or public spoke against the request, the council voted 4-0 to grant it.

February 2025 City Council meetings on the 12th and 26th



Update From Supervisor Cindy Gustafson



As we start a new year and I begin a new term of office, I encourage you to join me in setting goals and priorities that will positively impact our residents and communities.

One of my ongoing priorities is fostering greater public engagement in the decisions that shape Placer County. While we strive daily to address the needs of our 400,000+ residents, only a small percentage of voices actively participate in our meetings, workshops, and committees.

Government works best when we collaborate with a diversity of perspectives and strive for common understanding. Your involvement can truly make a difference.

This year brings exciting opportunities to engage with critical projects, such as the continued work on long-term planning, transportation, forest health, and housing needs.

Whether you're interested in addressing local challenges or shaping policies that will guide our

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Colfax Connections is a monthly city publication edited by Will Stockwin, who can be contacted via e-mail at **wstockwin2024@gmail.com**. All submissions are welcome, the earlier the better.

***Submissions deadline is the
20th of the previous month.***

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Hard Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall, the Colfax Library, Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, Colfax Heritage Museum and Snapdragon

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).



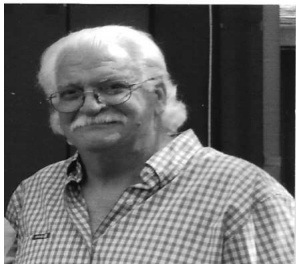
Business Briefs with Lindalou Haines will return in our March issue.



Tom Passanisi was a native San Francisco, North Beach Italian. His family were fisherman and their boats were docked at fisherman's wharf. Tom grew up in the

Italian area of San Francisco.

Tom joined the Navy and did a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of the COLFAX VFW and the American Legion and he was also a member of the Colfax lions and very active in the Colfax community.



Tom loved music and he was very good guitar player. He also performed with the lyrical locos.

Tom had a dream of a fancy Cioppino dinner with linen tablecloths, China dishes, and stemware and cloth napkins. He wanted to share his Italian fishing heritage with his friends and he was still alive to see pictures of the first Cioppino dinner, but was too sick to attend. We are all here keeping Tom's dream alive.

02-15-2025 Cioppino dinner

**AMERICAN LEGION
POST 192 COLFAX
Annual fundraiser:**



5th annual Tom Passanisi Cioppino dinner \$65.00 per person.

Social hour at 5PM, dinner served at 6PM

Cioppino dinner with Antipasto salad, bread and for dessert Tiramisu.

Please call ahead for reservations

**Commander's cell
9530 277-5798**

(commander@post192colfaxca.com)

Lorrie 916-202-2851

**VETERAN MEMORIAL HALL
22 Sunset Circle, Colfax
95713**

Placer Rides: Free Rides to Your Important Appointments



WHAT IS PLACER RIDES? Placer Rides helps you get to where you want to go, when you want to go and with whom you want to drive you... all for FREE! It's a mileage reimbursement program where you can use private cars and volunteer drivers you trust and feel safe with.

WHO CAN USE PLACER RIDES? You can use this service if:

- You live in Placer County.
- You are 60 years or older, or have a disability, or are low-income.
- You have no other way to get to your essential appointments.

WHAT TYPES OF RIDES ARE COVERED?

- Medical appointments (doctor, dentist, vision, therapy, etc.)
- Errands (grocery shopping, pharmacy, bank)
- Trips to bus/train stations or airports
- Other necessary trips as approved by Placer Rides staff

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- **Volunteer Drivers:** You'll need to find someone you know (family, friends, neighbors) to drive you. These volunteers can get reimbursed for the miles they drive.
- **Flexible Scheduling:** You and your volunteer can agree on a time for the trip, and you can even make multiple stops.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- **Monthly Limit:** You can use Placer Rides for up to 200 miles per month.
- **No Other Options:** This is a last-resort service—only use it if you have no other way to get to your appointment.
- **Service Area:** Trips must start and end in Placer County, but you can also go to hospitals in Sacramento County, like UC Davis or Sutter Sacramento.

HOW DO YOU SIGN UP?

1. Fill out the Placer Rides Application Form.
2. Submit the form to Seniors First by mail or email.
3. If approved, you'll get a welcome packet and reimbursement forms.
4. You will be reimbursed for up to 200 miles each month. You can get \$0.67 per mile for trips.

NEED HELP? Placer Rides staff is here to assist you. We can help you find volunteers and explain how the program works. Call Seniors First Placer Rides at (530) 889-9500.

Seniors First and Placer Rides takes you where you need to go, when you need to go and with whom you want to drive you... all for FREE!



PLACER
RIDES
PROGRAM

Gustafson from page 3

future, I hope you'll consider attending one of our many commission, council, and committee meetings – these are very important steps in the process to final Board of Supervisors decisions.

There are many volunteer roles available across the county. Serving on a commission, committee, or council is not always easy, but it is deeply rewarding.

Take a moment to explore the wide variety of openings on boards and advisory groups this

year. Whether your passions lie in housing, environmental conservation, public health, or youth services, there's a place where your voice can have a meaningful impact. For more information on board, commission or committee vacancies go to <https://www.placer.ca.gov/2841/Committees-Commissions>.

If you are interested in starting to serve or continuing to serve, you can find an application at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3538/Application-for-Membership-on-Advisory-Board-or-Commission-PDF>.

Lions volunteers from page 1

"And of those, about 12 are active because they are physically still able to do it," he said. "Three years from now the majority of our members will be over 80. Our youngest member right now is 45. And as much as we have tried to get people to join they just aren't interested."

And while volunteers and memberships are declining, he said requests from other groups for help are increasing. After listing some of the many school programs the Lions support, from buying sports equipment to providing various

scholarships – including a Kindle reading program in Chicago Park – Houck says, "If the Lions cease to exist the scholarships won't be there anymore because all of the fundraisers we do for the schools won't happen."

It clearly frustrates him. "In our generation we were taught to give something back to the community that gives to you. Now it's a different world than the one we grew up in.

"My big point is that I don't really care if you become a Lion, just come in and volunteer to help out. It's as simple as that."

Lions' Asian Dinner Fundraiser Packed Them In

A full-house crowd at the Colfax Veterans Hall was recently hosted to an Asian dinner fundraiser from VFW Post 2003. A social hour, a silent auction and dinner served by local scout troops boys and girls made for a

memorable evening for all guests. Sharon Connors, President of the VFW Auxiliary and Chair of the Asian Dinner said, "All of our dinner guests had a great time and the VFW is grateful for the community support

of the dinner. Because of the funds raised, we will be able to expand our program for youth activities, scholarships and a variety of Veteran's programs including "Quilts for Vets."



Photos and story by Alan Shuttleworth

They served a full house at the Lions Asian dinner. Bob Candler kept busy pulling corks while Chris and Paul 'Red' Houck enjoyed the evening

Sierra Vista Community Center Presents:

COLEMAN FLEA MARKET



Monthly, every 3rd Saturday

8AM to 2PM

55 School Street

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

“While it is February one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.”
– Patience Strong



While most of us have been enjoying the sunshine this winter, and all the outside activities that it has allowed us, we eagerly await spring and all that it has to offer.

This month we will be highlighting Historic Colfax Downtown Association (HCDA).

According to the association’s website HCDA is “dedicated to preserving, promoting, and revitalizing the heart of Colfax.

“By organizing impactful events and fostering connections among businesses, nonprofits, and the community, HCDA aims to create a thriving downtown that reflects the unique spirit of Colfax.”

I had the privilege of sitting down with Erin Newington, founder and president of the association, to discuss what the association will be bringing to Colfax as a community.

HCDA seeks to gather community input, align efforts and create a unified vision for downtown Colfax events, as well as apply for grants to benefit historic downtown Colfax as a whole.

HCDA held its first brainstorming session with community members, non-profits, local businesses and event planners at Sierra Vista Community Center on January 29, 2025. It was a time of sharing ideas, events and a networking opportunity for the upcoming year.

If you want to find out more about Historic Colfax Downtown Association and how you can get involved, please visit them at:

www.historiccolfax.com; email- info@historiccolfax.com or visit on social media: IG@VisitHistoricColfax or Facebook @VisitHistoricColfax.

Coffee and Conversations has started back up this year and is held on the first Thursday of every month from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at 99 Railroad Street, and we would love to see all of you there!

We are lining up our speakers for the year, so if you or someone you know would like to be considered, please reach out by email to: amanda@colfaxareachamber.com.

As always, thank you from all of us at The Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Amanda Palmquist,
CACC President**



**www.ColfaxChamber.com
99 Railroad St. (Physical),
PO Box 86 (Mailing),
Colfax, Ca 95713
(530) 346-8888**



SAVE THE DATE.

**GREEN
MACHINE**

18th Annual
**CRAB FEED
FUNDRAISER**

MARCH 22, 2025

MUSIC .FOOD .FUN

TICKETS GO ON SALE SOON...
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<https://colfax-green-machine.weebly.com>

SENIOR LUNCH

**& FUN ACTIVITY PROGRAM
3RD THURSDAY EVERY MONTH
FREE TO SENIORS 55+ • 12 noon - 2 PM**



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COLFAX LIONS AT THE COLFAX METHODIST CHURCH 59
CHURCH STREET, COLFAX

THE DATES FOR 2025

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| JANUARY 16 | • | APRIL 17 |
| FEBRUARY 20 | • | MAY 15 |
| MARCH 20 | • | JUNE 19 |

Churches



Colfax Assembly of
God Community
Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax,
CA 95713
Email: colfaxesagca@
gmail.com
Website: <http://www.colfaxesagca.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.colfaxesumc.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](https://www.scd.org/parish/st-dominic-parish-colfax)

Seventh Day Adventist
454 Scholtz Ave., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8844
Website: <https://www.colfaxesdachurch.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
530-305-7526
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
530-269-9467
Website: [http://californiagardenclubs.com/
content/colfax-garden-club](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](https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colfaxca)

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

Sierra Vista Community 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>

Colfax VFW Auxillary 2003
22 Sunset Dr, Colfax, CA 95713
530-305-6936
VFW Auxiliary 2003@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.auxiliary.org>



2025

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

CAMERON PARK

10am-12pm | Faith Episcopal Church
2200 Country Club Dr. Cam. Park, 95682

1/2, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1, 6/5

ROSEVILLE

8-10am | Denio's Market
1401 Church St. Roseville, 95678

1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6

SHERIDAN

10am-12pm | Celebration Fam. Worship
5721 10th St. Sheridan, 95681

1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/7, 6/11

PLACERVILLE

10am-12pm | Lot next to MORE
337 Placerville Dr. Placerville, 95667

1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12

POLLOCK PINES

10am-12pm | PP Community Center
2675 Sanders Dr. Pollock Pines, 95726

1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/16, 5/21, 6/18

GEORGETOWN

10:30am-12:30pm | St. James Church
2831 Harkness Rd. Georgetown, 95634

1/16, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15, 6/19

LINCOLN

8-10am | McBean Park
65 McBean Park Dr. Lincoln, 95648

1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20

COLFAX

10am-12pm | Sierra Community Center
55 School St. Colfax, 95713

1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/22, 5/20, 6/24

ROCKLIN

8-10am | Johnson-Springview Park
5480 5th St. Rocklin, 95677

1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/27

FORESTHILL

10am-12pm | Fire Dept. Office
24320 Main St. Foresthill, 95631

1/23, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22, 6/26

Indicates when distribution falls on a different day of the week due to a holiday.

We offer a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and more!

We will ask for basic information about you and your household to improve our services. You are also welcome to pick up for other folks in need who can't make it to the distribution.

More information at feedingthefoothills.org/get-food