

Colfax Connections

Cannabis Business Application Continued To February 24 Meeting

By wstockwin@hughes.net

Of the two city council meetings held in January, the second one certainly garnered the most public interest. Cannabis was back on the agenda, prompting nearly 30 people to e-mail, text or phone in their comments during the meeting.

The question before the council was whether or not to approve a resolution authorizing the city manager to issue a commercial cannabis cultivation business

permit valid for one year to Fireworx Farms, LLC. The application from Fireworx was the only one received by the city during the application period that ran from September 25 to November 24.

The Fireworx application details a proposed growing operation that would feature eight, 2,500 square-foot, fully enclosed greenhouses, and that would hire 18-20 full-time employees from Colfax and Placer County starting at \$17/hr. The estimated

annual tax revenue from the operation would add \$140,000 in unrestricted funds to the city's general fund.

The application before the council had been previously vetted and scored by SCI Consulting Group, based on the nine criteria established by city ordinance. Those criteria included:

- the qualifications of owners and managers

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Anna Anderson at work.

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

The Mask Lady

By wstockwin@hughes.net

Anna Anderson took her first box of homemade, cloth face-masks to the Colfax Post Office on a Tuesday morning in late summer 2020. On Friday the Postal clerk called hoping to get more masks because the first batch was all gone.

Anna's masks come individually packaged, made from fabric of varying colors and designs, and are engineered with a metal nose wire for a tighter fit. Best of all, they're free.

"And they all have a card inside that says to wash the

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Mask Lady from Page 1

mask before wearing it," she said. "It's always better to be safe."

The design she uses, called an 'Olson' mask, is one she found on the Internet. "It has a pocket on the inside so that the wearer can add extra protection if they want to," she said.

The material comes from remnants ('fat quarters') that she

finds in fabric stores and thrift shops and people, who support what Anna is doing donate some as well.

Anna started making masks for friends and family in March 2020, when masks were generally in short supply. She rapidly built up an over supply and decided to begin giving them away at the Post Office, and at the Creative Corner gift shop in downtown Colfax.

After nearly a year producing them, she's made close to 800 masks and intends to keep on going, as long as masks are needed for public safety.

"Giving them away instead of selling them is my way of contributing to the COVID war effort, by encouraging people to wear a mask," Anna said. "It also gives me something to do and makes me feel like I have a purpose."



Snow In Colfax, Jan. 25, 2021
 Photos by Will Stockwin (top left) and
 Alan Shuttleworth (the other two)





Update From Supervisor Cindy Gustafson

As you can imagine many people are calling, writing and emailing in search of more information on when they can get vaccinated. I understand that this is an extremely frustrating time for all of us – so I am hoping to help explain what we know and, just as importantly, what we don't know. Information changes rapidly, but here is where we stand as of 1/25/2021.

The limitations on vaccine availability are entirely due to limitations on the supply of doses. Placer has been allocated an average of 4,343 doses of the Covid-19 vaccination (first and second) per week. To give you an idea on how far that goes, there are approximately 80,000 Placer residents who are 65 or older - not to mention the thousands of healthcare workers and others that fall into the Phase 1a category as well.

At this pace, it would take us four-to-six months to vaccinate our most vulnerable and our essential workers. We do know that

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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

Hard Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall, the Colfax Library and Lumenaris.

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

Main Street Pizza: "Thanks for your support."

Basement Wines & Main Street Pizza is right downtown on, of all places, Main street, 46 North Main, to be exact. Right next door to another of my favorites, Grandma C's Kitchen.

In addition to the wines and pizzas mentioned in the name, what else will you find there? How's this sound: 20 beers on tap, sandwiches, appetizers and more. Beers include local craft beers, ciders and old favorites like Coors Light.

As for the wines, they have a wide variety of wines from near and far, including their signature wine made in Colfax, Two Monsters. The label on the wine bottle suggests the name of the wine, Two Monsters, was inspired by their two sons! Their first release was in 2009, and the 2012 release includes a delightful, well-balanced Petite Sirah, plus a Barbera/Petite Sirah.

Owners Lee and Laurie Shahin wanted to have a business, so in 2003 they opened Basement Wines on south Main Street. In 2009 they opened Main Street Pizza on north Main. For a couple years, they tried bringing pizzas from the

Main St. Pizza owner Lee Shahin in front of his store in Colfax.

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

shop on north Main to customers enjoying the wine bar on south Main. But that quickly got old. So, in 2012 the Shahins combined the two businesses into one location at 46 N. Main, where it remains. Wines, beers, pizzas, sandwiches, appetizers all together now. Much better.

All that is well and good. But, what about this last year and continuing now during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lee told me that his shop is surviving due to his support from the community. "Please tell the community how much we appreciate their faithfulness and support. Thank you."

Basement Wines and Main Street Pizza, 46 N. Main, 346-8200, is on Facebook.com/mainstreetpizzacolfax/. There you'll find their menu and other info, like the current winter hours, 11-8, 7 days.

Please contact me with your Colfax city business news. Priority is given to new businesses and existing businesses offering something new. Lindalouhaines14@gmail.com



Supervisor Gustafson from Page 3

more vaccine is on the way and we are actively fighting to secure as much as we can for our residents. As soon as we get it - we get it out. Unfortunately none of us believe this is fast enough.

Placer County does have capacity to give the vaccines once we receive more doses. Placer County Public Health and Safeway alone currently have the capability to administer around 7,400 per week and other health providers throughout the county have the capacity to administer thousands more. Also, Public Health continues to cultivate partnerships with other pharmacies to further expand capacity as we receive more vaccines.

As we see additional doses become available, more appointments for vaccines will also be available to community members. One of the best ways to be notified when large new batches of appointments are made available at county clinics and about progression through the vac-

ination phases is to sign up for text alerts. To do that, **text PLACERVACCINE to the number 898211.**

For more information, you can also check: (<https://www.placer.ca.gov/FAQ.aspx?TID=218>) for answers to some additional frequently asked questions.

I know this is a challenging time, but please be patient and have confidence that more vaccines are coming. I encourage you to sign up for text alerts and to continue to check the Website, and I will also continue to update you through newsletters as we have more information to share.

Finally, a reminder to all of us – whether we’ve received the vaccine or not – please continue to work together and follow safety protocols.

Please wash your hands, wear a face covering, and physically distance yourself from others.

COLFAX LIBRARY
 Modified Service Hours
 Saturday Hours Start February 6th

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| TUESDAY | 10AM TO 4PM |
| WEDNESDAY | 12PM TO 6PM |
| THURSDAY | 10AM TO 4PM |
| FRIDAY | 12PM TO 5PM |
| SATURDAY | 1PM TO 5PM |

Returns 24 hours/7 days a week

Account info and current information at placer.ca.gov/library

New PCSO Station Sgt. In Colfax



Sgt. Kevin Griffiths is pleased to begin his new role as Colfax and Foresthill Station Commander. Sgt. Griffiths is an 18-year veteran of the Placer County Sheriff's Office who has held a variety of assignments including field operations administrative sergeant, jail sergeant, SET team member, and homeless liaison deputy.

Griffiths relieves Sgt. Ty Conners, who is moving on to a new assignment.

Sgt. Griffiths currently serves as team leader for the Auburn Dive and Swift Water Rescue Team, supervises the Auburn Marine Patrol Division, leads the Homeless Liaison Team, and is a member of the Honor Guard.

Sgt. Griffiths is committed to keeping Placer County a safe place to live, work, and play, and he is eager to meet with residents in Foresthill and Colfax to discuss how he and his team can continue to serve the area.

Photo and story
Placer County



courtesy of
Sheriff's Office

Slightly Fewer Colfax Volunteer Fire Department Incident Dispatches in 2020

The Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVECC) dispatched 31,533 incidents in 2020, a decrease of 550 incidents a percentage of 1.71% from 2019 which had 32,083 incidents.

- In 2020 Colfax Vol FD was dispatched a total of 624 times – 329 times in the City and 295 times outside of the City.
- In 2019 Colfax Vol FD was dispatched 650 times total – 325 in the City and 325 outside of the City.
- There was a difference of 26 fewer incident dispatches in 2020 than 2019, a 4.2% decrease. There were four more dispatches in the City, but 30 fewer outside of the City.
- The three-year average shows 323 incidents



Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

were dispatched in the City, and 336 outside of the City. Submitted by Brian Eagan, Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE Nevada/Yuba/Placer Unit

City Council from page 1

- plans and location
- a business plan
- operations plan
- safety plan
- security plan
- neighborhood compatibility plan
- community benefits plan
- labor and employment plan

Those criteria also mandated that applicants must score a minimum of 80 percent to earn a public hearing on the application before the council. Fireworx scored 95.22 percent.

After hearing more public comment than usual following the Fireworx presentation and asking questions of their own, the council voted unanimously to continue the public hearing to the second meeting in February. Before that meeting council members will tour one of the other Fireworx growing operations in Sacramento on February 8. The date of the Continued hearing will be February 24.

CARES Act –The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was also back on the council agenda because additional funding has been made available to the state for allocation to counties and cities. Of the roughly \$130 million in additional funding Colfax would receive \$219,150.00. The money can be used for community development and/or economic development related to directly preventing, preparing for, or responding to COVID-19.

Before submitting an application, the city was required to hold a public hearing to gather information regarding the needs of the community and business community. Staff will then work to prepare the final application for approval at a future meeting. The deadline for the submittal is on a rolling due date beginning February 12, 2021.

CalFIRE Contract –The final piece of business was establishing an Ad Hoc committee to review the current Placer County/CalFIRE contract and recommend changes. When all five members expressed a desire to sit on the committee that approach was scrapped in favor of holding a public workshop with all council members in

attendance on a future date. The current Placer County/CalFIRE contract is scheduled to expire June 30, 2021.

At its January 13 meeting the council heard a proposal from Colfax High School student Griffin Vernon to build a mountain biking complex at the old city landfill site on Iowa Hill Rd.

Vernon laid out an ambitious concept for mountain bike venue that he estimated would cost between \$20,000 and \$40,000, and be built in three phases depending on funding and community involvement. He said funding would largely come from donations.

Following Vernon's presentation and comments from the council, the city manager reminded everyone that the old landfill site is regulated by state and county agencies. He said that their approval on the concept would be required before any further steps could be taken and that approval wasn't assured.

Council members also questioned if a bike park was the best use for the property, as well as concerns that fundraising for a bike park might hamper fundraising for the skate park proposed for the city's old pool site.

A subcommittee was formed to investigate the proposal further.

Feb. 2021 council meetings: Wed. 2/10, 2/24



Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

By **Sally Laughlin**

It's a great pleasure to live in a railroad town. In fact, Colfax is steeped in history surrounding the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.



Our visitors' center and museum are worth a trip, once the Covid restrictions have been lifted. Our historians can't wait to be able to tell stories once again of the gold rush era and our local lore.

Who doesn't love trains? It is with great delight that I can announce that the first event to be placed on our 2021 calendar is Railroad Days! Mark your calendars for September 18th and 19th, 10am-5pm.

There will be model train displays, craft vendors, food, balloon artists, 1840's Re-enactment Camp, Living Legends of the Old West, and much more. Our revered organizers, Fred & Reene Abbott, have agreed to begin working on this year's event, and after all these months without any events, we are grateful that they have given us all something to look forward to.

We are cautiously optimistic that by September, with the widespread rollout of vaccinations, the Covid-19 pandemic will be well under control. Meanwhile, our Chamber will be working with our community leaders and the City of Colfax in the planning of all of our traditional events, including 3rd of July and Winterfest. We have so much to look forward to!

Throughout these past long months, our Chamber directors have been putting in long hours supporting our community, but not in the traditional ways. Instead of hosting fun events, our directors have been making phone calls and sending out messages to get grant funding out to as many of our local businesses as possible to help them survive the Covid shut-downs.

There has been an enormous amount of grant money coming from the state, county and city level, but it has been a confusing process for most business owners to navigate the online applications. We've been working tirelessly to raise community awareness and connect people with resources. There is more grant money coming in, and we will continue in this work with the goal to keep our treasured local businesses alive until the pandemic is over.

We all have a part in this, so remember to Shop Local! The tide is turning soon, and happier and more prosperous times are just around the corner!

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Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce
colfaxareachamber@gmail.com
colfaxchamber.com
(530) 346-8888



Sally Laughlin, CACC President
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FREE FARMERS MARKETS MERCADO DE VEGETALES GRATIS



2021 Schedule – Placer County

JANUARY

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 8 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 11 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 22 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 25 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |
| 29 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 8 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 12 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 19 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 22 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |
| 26 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |

MARCH

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 8 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 12 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 19 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 26 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 29 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |

APRIL

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 9 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 12 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 23 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 26 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |
| 30 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |

MAY

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 10 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 14 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 21 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 24 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |
| 28 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |

JUNE

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 11 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 14 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 18 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 25 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 28 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |

JULY

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 9 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 12 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 23 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 26 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |
| 30 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |

AUGUST

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 9 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 13 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 20 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 27 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 30 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 10 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 13 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 17 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 24 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 27 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |

OCTOBER

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 8 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 11 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 22 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 25 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |
| 29 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 8 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 12 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 19 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 24 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 29 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |

DECEMBER

| | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 10 | Sheridan | 8:30 - 10:30 am |
| 13 | Colfax | 10:00 am - noon |
| 23 | Lincoln | 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 20 | Foresthill | 10:00 am - noon |
| 30 | Rocklin | 8:00 - 10:00 am |

Sheridan Celebration Family Worship
Lincoln McBean Park
Rocklin Johnson-Springview Park

5721 10 Street
 65 McBean Park Drive
 5480 5th Street

Colfax
Foresthill

Sierra Vista Comm Center
 Harrison Street Yard
 55 School Street
 24625 Harrison Street

Placerfoodbank.org 916.783.0481

Western Monarch Butterfly Population In Severe Decline

By wstockwin@hughes.net

During its annual winter survey of Western Monarch butterflies in 2020, the non-profit Xerces Society counted 29,000 of the orange and black insects. That was considered a hopeful sign after the winter survey in 2019 found an all-time low of 27,000.

This year's annual survey could only find some 2,000 Western Monarchs in their usual overwintering grounds along the central and southern California coast.

The steep decline in Monarch population numbers is attributed to continued loss of the butterfly's milkweed breeding habitat to agriculture and urban development, as well as the accelerating climate change that is producing larger and more de-



Monarch butterfly on milkweed at Downtown Farm in Colfax.

structive wildfires along western coastal areas.

Monarchs all but disappeared here in the western Sierra Foothills following the punishing 2016-17 wet season, when mul-

tipale 'atmospheric river' storms blasted California coastal areas.

Washington State University researchers predicted in 2017 that Monarchs would likely be extinct in the very near future if nothing were done to reverse population declines.

Monarchs have neither state nor federal protection to prevent their critical breeding habitat from being destroyed. In December 2020 the butterfly became a candidate for threatened or endangered status, but federal officials declined to take immediate action to list it as such.

For more information go to <https://xerces.org/>

Monarch butterfly caterpillar eating milkweed at Downtown Farm in Colfax.

Photos by Will Stockwin



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](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/con-
tent/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/col-
faxca](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>

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>

Shop Local



Invest in your community this holiday season.

Shopping locally...



Preserves jobs in your community.



Helps keep businesses open.



Keeps your tax dollars invested where you live.

#ShopPlacer is a collaborative initiative with Placer County cities, chambers, and communities.

ShopPlacer.com