January 2022 Volume 4 Issue 1

# Colfax Connections

## Food Waste Reduction Hatches Chicken Regulations

**By wstockwin@hughes.net**

Regulating the use of chickens in Colfax as a way of reducing the amount of food waste going into the county landfill was the main issue at the Colfax City Council's December 8 meeting.

This issue was brought home to roost as it were by the passage of Senate Bill 1383, which mandates the reduction of organic waste (food scraps and green waste) going into the county landfill.

Colfax Municipal Code Chapter 6.20 has allowed chickens to be kept and raised on properties within the City that are zoned other than agricultural, but does not regulate the number of chickens or the conditions under which they may be kept and raised.

The proposed ordinance will allow a maximum of eight chickens to be kept and raised on appropriately sized parcels zoned Residential R-1. It also prescribes standards for the location and size of proper housing for chickens and makes provision for manure disposal, composting, use as fertilizer

**continued on page 10**

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

# The Mayor's Corner

**Mayor Trinity Burruss**

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays everyone! As we move into January, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as the Mayor of Colfax for 2022. It's an honor and a privilege to work for a town that embodies what it means to be a village in support of one another.

Winterfest was a fantastic hit this year. I would like to thank the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, Colfax Green Machine, Placer County Fire Department, CalFire, Placer County Sheriff's Office, Friends of the Colfax Library, Colfax Lions, and so many more who made this possible! As a community we are indebted to our nonprofit organizations for all they do.

As of December 20, 2021 the Best Western Hotel in Colfax is now open for business. I'm sure this was welcome news to many travelers this holiday weekend as we are expected quite a bit of snow over the summit, which caused travel delays. Some of you may or may not be aware that the Best Western Hotel is a project that was actually approved by the City Council that was seated prior to the 2018 election.

With the new hotel, Colfax now has an opportunity to use the associated transient occupancy taxes collected going forward towards improving our roads. Road improvements are a high priority for all of the current City Council members, and we are looking for more ways to fund road improvement opportunities. One such way we hope to do that is through federal Community Development Block Grant funding which we have been actively pursuing since early 2020.

This grant can be used towards construction-ready projects for infrastructure improvements. We have since qualified for up to $3.5 million for round 1 of 5. We are still waiting for our first disbursement of $2.9 million that would go towards the initial road improvements outlined in the phase 1 application submittal. This is an example of how slow the government can move, and just goes to show that the fruits of our labor most likely will not be fully realized until our elected terms are up.

In planning for the future we need to ensure that we not only complete the process of fixing our current roads, but maintaining them going forward. The current City staff and Council are working on several ideas to ensure the continual funding for ongoing maintenance. We hope to do this by reassessing our transient occupancy tax to bring it up to the general state standard of 10%. Transient occupancy tax is a tax that is paid by travelers staying in hotels, Airbnbs and other hospitality accommodations to ensure they are paying into the cost that comes with non-resident traffic.

As I-80 is closed to traffic during storm-related road closures and Colfax is left holding the bag, we need to be doing our due diligence to ensure the tourists using our infrastructure – that you as citizens paid for – are paying their fair share. For this reason there will be an upcoming ballot measure on the item. I would love to speak to anybody who has questions, concerns or comments in advance, so that we can make sure we're doing what's best for those who live here.

At any time, if there is ever an item you would like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to me, so your voice can be heard. My cell phone number is 530-278-5467.

My email is Trinity.Burruss@Colfax-Ca.Gov. I hope in the near future to schedule a reoccurring opportunity for public participation over coffee, hopefully beginning in January.

**Photo by Alan Shuttleworth**

# December Storms Pound Colfax

**By wstockwin@hughes.net**

The 2021-22 wet season has opened with quite a lot of rain arriving in alternating wet and dry months.

The five-year average (2016-2020) for December rainfall is 6.1 inches. During the final month of 2020 we collected a scant 3.3 inches, finishing the year with just 7.3 inches of rain at Downtown Farm.

This year we had a dry October that produced only 2.5 inches of rain until we were slammed with 11.2 inches over a 24-hour period in the last week of the month. That brought the annual rainfall total up to a respectable 13.7 inches.

A sunny and dry November came and went after only two days of rain that increased the seasonal total by just 1.9 inches.

December continued that pattern with only one small storm in the first two weeks of the month. By the middle of the month the storm door swung open wide, however, and during the third and fourth weeks one storm after another paraded ashore dropping

**continued on page 12**

# Contents
## January 2022

**Cover -** WinterFest Returns!
Foodwaste Reduction Hatches Chicken Regs.

**Page 2 -** The Mayor's Corner by Trinity Burruss

**Page 3 -** December Storms Pound Colfax

**Page 4 -** Business Briefs: Best Western Is Open

**Pages 6 & 7 -** WinterFest 2021 Photos

**Page 8 -** Chamber Notes and Events

**Page 10 -** PCFD Badges Pinned on Colfax Volunteers

***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**
**Assistant To Editor – LindaLou Haines**

**Hard Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall, the Colfax Library, Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, Colfax 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 LindaLou Haines*

### Best Western Colfax is open!

Despite the global supply chain crisis and weather complications, the **Best Western Colfax** finally opened for business recently with seven guests the first two nights.

During construction owner Raj Singh has had to deal with many obstacles beyond his control. For example, all the furniture for the hotel was stuck on a container ship at sea off southern California long past when the shipment was due at the construction site.

But, now the hotel is open, even though some outdoor improvements need to be completed on the property, such as paving the fire access road off Whitcomb Avenue. Also, some Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues along the sidewalk are other improvements yet to be made.

These improvements are guaranteed by a bond that Singh had to take out in order to receive an occupancy permit now from the City.

Of the 69 guest rooms, 33 have two queen beds and 36 have one king bed. Four of the rooms are ADA accessible. Each room has a microwave, a coffee maker and a mini refrigerator.

Guest rooms are priced at $130 to $180 per night. Pricing includes amenities like a full hot breakfast from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. everyday, a pool, a fitness center, a business center and free WIFI.

Also, it is 100 percent non-smoking, and well-mannered pets are welcome. The Best Western is located at 801 S Auburn St, phone numbers are 530-206-8787 or 800-780-7234 and website is BestWestern.com.

Now, not a new business but an existing business with a new owner and a new name. **L'Orange** is now **Key Salon** at the same address, 333 S. Auburn St, #4.

Founder and previous owner, Cynthia Ann Costa, owned L'Orange for seven and a half years. Prior to that she had worked at a salon in Meadow Vista for about twenty years. Cynthia said she is moving to Arizona to be near her dad and other family. And, although she considers herself to be "semi-retired," she expects to "help out in a small salon."

Now, I get to introduce you to the new owner of Key Salon: Britni Lee, who has worked for Cynthia for the last year. Britni has been cutting hair for twelve years and was working at a salon in Auburn for six years before starting with L'Orange.

Britni graduated with honors as a Master Colorist and also specializes in "Precision Haircuts."

Nails by Angelina (Luchin) are available Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Her business is known as Digits.

Key Salon maintains the same phone number, 346-6800. The hours are 10 to 6, Tuesday through Saturday.

**Former owner, Cynthia Ann Costa, left, and new owner Britni Lee. Photo by Alan Shuttleworth**

# Shop Local

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# WinterFest 2021 Lights Up Colfax

Above - Yard decorations at 121 S. Auburn St.

Right – The city's seasonal tree glows on the Depot Green.

Below – The parade of lights.

Above – Antique firetruck in parade of lights.

Center – Fireworks explode over the Colfax historic passenger train depot.

Below – Yoda at 3 Church Street.

All Photos By
Alan Shuttleworth

## Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

**By Tracy Brown**

Happy Holidays and welcome to my first article as the new President of the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce. I'm very excited to be here to help represent the Colfax Area.

I sit here looking out the window of my first snowfall since moving to the Sierra Foothills with my new puppy named River. I think back to just 10 months ago I purchased a home here in Colfax while living on the other side of the country, then answered an advertisement on Facebook to become a volunteer at the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce.

I come from a small train town just like Colfax, but did most of my growing up in a small town in the central valley. I spent many years volunteering with my two hometown Chambers of Commerce as my mom worked for the Chambers.

I want to take time in this month's article to give praise to the Colfax Area Community. Thank you to everyone that played a part in the 2021 Colfax Winterfest on Saturday, December 11th. I can't express enough gratitude for all our volunteers that spent countless hours, effort, energy, and expense pulling the event together.

I will admit I was a little worried about everyone finding that winter holiday spirit after a Winterfest hiatus in 2020. The amount of love I have witnessed in this small town was impressive. Winterfest this year was needed by everyone, I think.

I paused while serving hot toddies and selling drink tickets to observe what was happening on our Main St. The number of people that attended the event blew me away. The number of smiles, laughter, cheering, and dancing made all our hard work worth it.

Did you know that many organizations take part in pulling this festival off? The Colfax Lions Club manages the Light Parade. Photos with Santa was hosted by the Colfax Friends of the Library. Green Machine handles the Craft and Food Vendors. Thank you to our Vendors as well. Safety and Security provided by CalFire and Placer County Sheriff's Office. Thank you all.
I want to give a big thank you to my Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Lauriana Cecchi. None of this would have happened without you all.

Thank you as well to our Sponsors. General Plumbing, City of Colfax, Hansen Brothers Enterprises, Smarter Broadband, Fireworx Farms, Wave, Best Western Colfax, Railhead Saloon, AMC Church, Atlantis Casino Resort, Tahoe Donner, Pamela Keefe and Lori Halls with the Capps Group, Mar-Val Food Stores, Ambitions Performing Arts, Black Tie Affair Karaoke, The Band Malarkey, Colfax Farm & Country Store, and Out of Bounds Brewing Company.

Here at the Colfax Area Chamber, we are now focusing on 2022. We are working on revamping our member services to make sure our members know our sole purpose is to support their businesses and to serve our community.

**Tracy Brown, CACC President**
**Colfax Area**
**Chamber of Commerce**
**colfaxareachamber@gmail.com**
**colfaxchamber.com**
**(530) 346-8888**

# BOOK CLUB

## PLACER COUNTY LIBRARY

**Auburn Library**
4th Wednesday of the Month | 4:00pm

**Colfax Library**
2nd Wednesday of the Month | 4:00pm

**Foresthill Library**
4th Thursday of the Month | 2:00pm

**Granite Bay Library**
3rd Wednesday of the Month | 2:00pm

**Rocklin Library**
2nd Thursday of the Month | 3:00pm

**Tahoe Area**
1st Wednesday of the Month | 2:00pm
*Alternating between Tahoe City and Kings Beach Libraries

**Find monthly book selections and place holds at placer.ca.gov/library**

County of Placer
Library Services

**City Council from page 1**

and odor control.

A non-transferrable permit will be required along with a one-time $25 permit fee. Violations will be subject to nuisance abatement, administrative fines and penalties, and possible misdemeanor prosecution. No roosters will be permitted.

"We needed a way to determine how much food waste from Colfax was being kept out of the landfill," said councilmember Joe Fatula, who also sits on the food waste reduction committee. "If we have no way to measure the reduction we would have no way to negotiate for lowering the hauling rates we currently pay."

According to the figures presented by the city, roughly 13 percent of the solid waste generated by Colfax citizens is food waste suitable for diversion and recycling. For an average family of four, that equates to 650 pounds of food waste per year.

Following public comment, where one speaker expressed concerns that in the event of another city evacuation "we'll have chickens all over town after they get left behind," and another speaker advised the council that it can take several months to determine whether a bird is a hen or a rooster.
The item closed after further discussion and agreement to bring the item back before the council at the first meeting in February 2022.

The annual rotation of the mayor's and mayor pro tem's positions was the last item on the agenda. Outgoing mayor Sean Lomen passed the gavel to Trinity Burruss, and Marnie Mendoza was the unanimous choice for mayor pro tem.

# Placer County FD Badges Pinned On Colfax Volunteers

**Members of the Colfax Volunteer Fire Department officially became part of the Placer County Fire Fire Department, receiving PCFD badges at a ceremony held at city hall on December 15. From left to right: Fire Captain Nolan Hale, Battalion Chief Brian Eagan, Engineer Matt Christensen, Firefighter Lauren Lange, Firefighter Daniel Labrador, Firefighter Jeremy Dawson, Engineer Roger Bresnahan, Fire Chief Brian Estes, Placer County District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson.**

## Churches

Colfax Assembly of God Community Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax, CA 95713
Email: colfaxaog@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

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

**December storms from page 3**

11.3 inches of rain on Colfax by Christmas Eve.

The five-year average for total seasonal accumulation by the end of December is 15.4 inches. On the morning after Christmas, Colfax awoke to find 15 inches of snow blanketing the city, raising the total accumulation for the 2021-22 wet season to 26.6 inches.

Another 3.1 inches were added before the New Year's Eve dry spell, finishing 2021-22 with 29.7 inches total, 5.7 inches more than we finished the entire 2020-21 wet season with last spring.

**Photo by Will Stockwin**