

# Colfax Connections

Published by the City of Colfax

## City Council Votes Unanimously In Favor Of Free Speech

By [wstockwin@hughes.net](mailto:wstockwin@hughes.net)

In the wake of the wave of hate speech that swamped the public comment section of its September 27 meeting, the city council unanimously stood up for free speech at its **October 11 meeting**.

The hate speech assault came from speakers using Zoom remote transmission, which interim city manager Mike Luken said was “happening at many city council meetings across the nation.” He reported that other cities in the region had stopped allowing public comments using Zoom, saying it was an “unfortunate choice”

City attorney Mick Cabral reminded the council that, like it or not, hate speech is legal, and “when you make restrictions, you restrict everybody.”

During the discussion council members considered reducing the amount of time allowed for public comment, as well as moving it to the end of the agenda. Eventually they decided those moves would only penalize people with legitimate comments. Two public speakers favored getting rid of Zoom altogether.

When Mayor Trinity Burruss called the question, the council voted 5-0 in favor of leaving things as they are, including al-

Mitigation Fee 3.56		Single Family per unit	Multi Family per unit	Office Building per 1000 sf	Retail Building per 1000 sf	Industrial Building per 1000 sf
Item	Code/Ordinance Section					
Roads	3.56.030A	\$ 1,802	\$ 1,301	\$ 5,285	\$ 6,342	\$ 1,172
Drainage Study	3.56.030B	\$ 74	\$ 48	\$ 57	\$ 68	\$ 43
Drainage systems on e-w culverts	3.56.030C	\$ 3,416	\$ 2,216	\$ 2,616	\$ 3,139	\$ 1,962
Trails	3.56.030D	\$ 1,125	\$ 787	\$ 35	\$ 31	\$ 12
Park & Rec.	3.56.030E	\$ 5,731	\$ 4,011	\$ 178	\$ 160	\$ 63
City Buildings	3.56.030F	\$ 684	\$ 494	\$ 2,007	\$ 2,409	\$ 445
City Vehicles	3.56.030G	\$ 130	\$ 94	\$ 380	\$ 456	\$ 84
Downtown Parking	3.56030H	\$ 581	\$ 420	\$ 1,705	\$ 2,046	\$ 378
Mitigation Fee Study		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		per unit	per unit	Totals for a	10,000	sf building, example
Total		\$ 13,543	\$ 9,372	\$ 122,628	\$ 146,522	\$ 41,595
Totals areas not using e-w culverts		\$ 10,126	\$ 7,156	\$ 96,465	\$ 115,128	\$ 21,974

lowing Zoom comments.

Also on the agenda was a request from the Chamber of Commerce for a \$7,000 donation from the city to pay for this year’s Winterfest fireworks. Councilman Hillberg questioned using all of the \$20,000 the city annually budgets to assist local non-profits on fireworks for two events. The council voted unanimously to approve the \$7,000 request for Winterfest.

The council approved two consent agenda items at the **October 25 meeting**, including the regular financial report for the council, and the approval of a grading contract for two metal

buildings at the wastewater treatment plant and the city corporation yard. The only piece of council business discussed at the meeting was approving the annual report on Mitigation Impact Fees.

Following a short presentation by city finance director Laurie Van Groningen, that elicited no comment from the council or the public, the item passed on a 4-0 vote. Mayor Burruss was absent from the meeting.

During his staff report Luken predicted a “rather long night” at the November 8 meeting where the council would be interviewing two-to-three candidates for the city manager position during an extended close session.

He said an employment contract for the new city manager, and general plan update items are scheduled for the November 29 council meeting. Luken also reported that the Colfax Hotel project was moving forward.



# City Sewer System I&I Project makes Great Progress In first Year

By Mike Luken

Colfax has old sewer pipes in many parts of town that allow storm water to seep into pipes, and then taken to the wastewater treatment plant for processing. While this is safe, having to treat storm water because it leaks into sewer pipes is very costly.

In addition, managing storm water at the wastewater treatment plant during the rainy season is challenging, and poses a risk to health and safety if it



**Interim City Manager  
Mike Luken**

overwhelms the plant's winter storage capacity.

The city received its second

grant from the state in the last decade to fix these leaky pipes. McGuire & Hester, the city's contractor, started work in July on this project that is titled "Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation Project" (I&I Project). This is a very important project that protects the city's largest piece of infrastructure, and will prevent unnecessary upgrades that could further increase sewer rates.

Tearing up the city streets and

**continued on page 5**

# Fixing Streets, Filling Potholes in Colfax

By Mike Luken

When you see roadways with large 'alligator cracks', sloughs and extended ruts on Colfax roads, they can no longer be patched and must be reconstructed. These larger roadway projects can easily cost the city millions of dollars to repair and comply with environmental rules, prevailing wages and other regulations required of cities in California.

Small cities like Colfax have limited resources to repave, reconstruct roadways and fill potholes. How do cities decide which roads to fix first? Cities in California are required to have a pavement management plan which is updated every five years to assess, categorize and prioritize city roads for improvement.

**continued on page 6**

**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COLFAX**

**Winterfest 2023**

**December 9th**

**12-8PM**

**-Photos with Santa -Light Parade-**  
**-Blitzen's Tavern - Live Music -**  
**-Food Vendors - Craft Vendors -**  
**- Fireworks & More!**

Presented by: Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce

**Update From Supervisor  
Cindy Gustafson**



After years of negotiations between Placer County and the Deputy Sheriffs' Association, I'm thrilled to announce that last week the Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding that will give deputies an immediate 10% raise and another 11% over the next three years.

The Board's \$29 million investment in law enforcement employees over the four-year term of the contract aims to bolster recruitment and retention, and we're already seeing the effects on recruitment. Before the agreement, lateral applicants for both the Deputy Sheriff and Correctional Officer positions had been non-existent. But since the agreement PCSO has received two lateral applicants for each position.

"This decision not only recognizes the dedication and sacrifice of our deputies, but it also reinforces our commitment to ensuring the safety and the security of our community," said Sheriff Wayne Woo.



**Contents  
November 2023**



**Page 1** - City Council Votes For Free Speech

**Page 2** - Ongoing City Sewer, Street Repair Projects

**Page 4** - Showcasing Photos By Alan Shuttleworth

**Page 5** - Soroptimist Sink A Putt Is A Success

**Page 6** - Colfax Library Book Club

**Page 8** - Colfax Chamber Notes And Events

**Back Cover** - December 9 Soup Kitchen At SVC

*Colfax Connections* is a monthly city publication edited by Will Stockwin, who can be contacted via e-mail at [wstockwin@hughes.net](mailto:wstockwin@hughes.net). All submissions are welcome, the earlier the better.

*Submissions 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](http://www.ColfaxChamber.com)) and on the City's Website at ([www.colfax-ca.gov](http://www.colfax-ca.gov)).**

Our Business Briefs editor, LindaLou Haines, was unable to produce her column this month, but will return in December's issue. In her place we are showcasing a selection of Alan Shuttleworth's beautiful wildlife photos.



At right – Swarming ladybugs in Spring along the American River.

At left – a foraging honeybee.

Below left – Western Swallowtail butterfly on Stevens Trail.

Below right – Egret catching a fish.



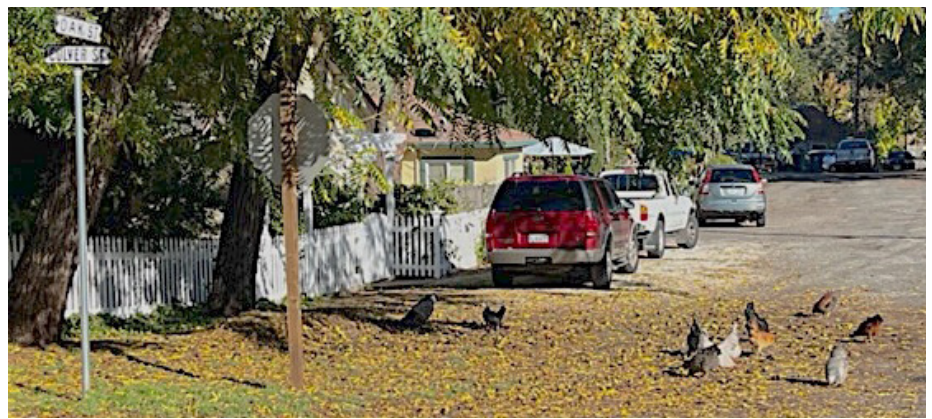
**I&I Sewer Project from page 2**

inconveniencing homeowners can be upsetting. This project, however, is a great opportunity to take advantage of state grant funding, instead of residents and businesses bearing those costs. City staff and McGuire & Hester work hard to ensure residents and businesses are notified early, with door hangers, personal contact and social media posts, as the work approaches various areas of the City.

The project will restore any property damage and streets to their original or better condi-

tion. The City is also coordinating the I&I Project with the CBDG roadway project mentioned in this newsletter so that those streets will not be torn up multiple times.

The City Council and staff appreciate residents' and businesses' patience during the construction of this project, which is expected to conclude in the Spring 2024.



**Lost your chickens? These were seen in the street at the corner of Culver and West Oak Streets on Monday, October 23rd.**

# “Sink a Putt for Soroptimist” a Big Success

The 9th Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser for the Colfax Soroptimist Club was held recently at the Black Oak Golf Course in Auburn. Held in memory of Nikki Davis, the past event chair, the tournament hosted 32 golfers and had 21 “hole sponsors.” A silent auction, lunch and awards rounded out the day’s festivities. Funds raised will be used to fund scholarships for women and girls in the Colfax area.

“We are very grateful for the support from Black Oak Golf Course, tournament co-chair Pam Rex-Smalll, our

golfers and the Colfax community for making this year’s tournament a successful and enjoyable day. This 9th Annual Event was held in honor of Nikki Davis, the past Chair of the Sink a Putt-fundraiser. Everyone’s support allows the Colfax Soroptimists to continue to make a difference in the lives of local women and girls, and we are already looking forward to planning for the 10th Annual event in 2024.”

**Randi Gibson, Event Chair 2023**



Lynn Fontana from Colfax (L) and Don Davis, awards presenter. Fontana was recognized for closest to the pin. Inset photo and copy by Alan Shuttleworth

## Fixing Potholes from page 2

Colfax then uses its limited local financial resources that come from gas tax revenues, to obtain larger amounts of state and federal grants to complete larger roadway rehabilitation and reconstruction. Grants have specific rules that must be met to obtain funding, further narrowing where Colfax can and cannot use those funds.

As reported at the Council meeting this month, the City will go out to bid on a roadway project in December to repave portions of Culver, Church, Pleasant, School, Pine and Forest Hill Streets funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

If all goes well with that public works bid, the city expects to start that project in early 2024 and complete it by the end of the year.

The city has a small but mighty public works maintenance crew that takes care of all city infrastructure. That includes parks, city buildings, the train depot, trees in city right-of-way, city landscaped areas, a closed landfill, other areas, and roads. Every year, the city public works crew spends a great deal of time in the warmer months filling potholes around the city.

This year, Acting Public Works Director Shanna Stahl, Public Works Lead Casey Merrill and their crew targeted potholes in many parts of Colfax. On South Auburn Street and South Canyon Way, which were priority areas this year, the crew filled potholes in over

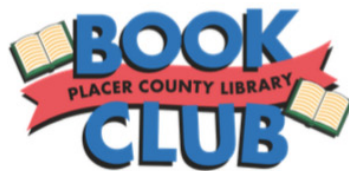
32 different sections.

Each section was anywhere between 1-to-2 feet wide and 6-to-30 feet long or between 75-to-125 feet. This does not mean that all potholes are filled on a roadway, but quite a few of the major problem areas on those roadways were addressed.

The city limited pothole repairs on streets scheduled for major repairs by the CDBG grant next

year because those streets will be completely redone. Recently, the Council requested city staff develop a revised process to identifying potholes after the winter months for repair in the coming year.

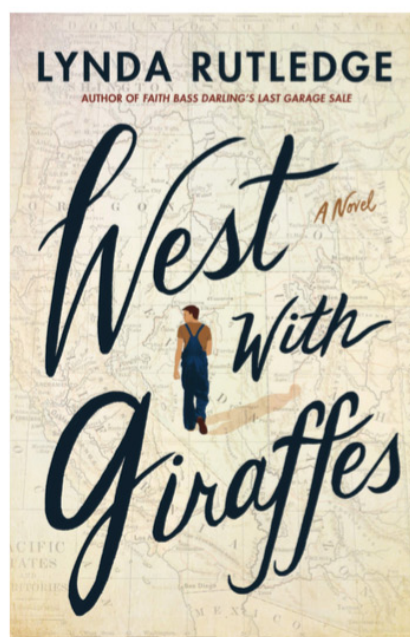
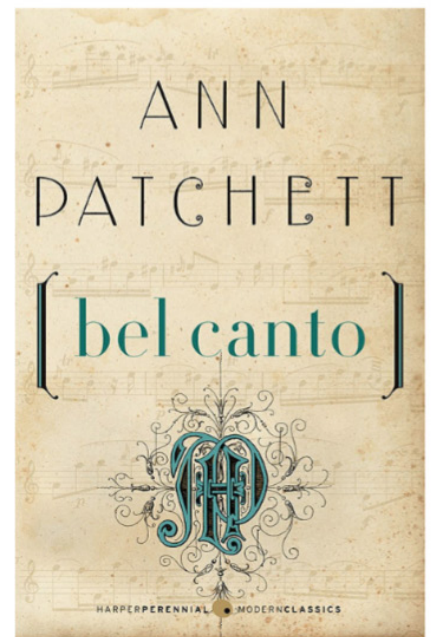
The Council and city staff appreciate residents' and businesses' patience with detours and closures resulting from the filling of these potholes around the city.



## Colfax Library

### BEL CANTO

**WEDNESDAY**  
**November 8**  
**2:00-3:00pm**



### WEST WITH GIRAFFES

**WEDNESDAY**  
**December 13**  
**2:00-3:00pm**





**COLFAX  
CRAFT  
FAIR**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**9AM-3PM**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**FEATURING LOCAL ARTISTS, CRAFTSMEN, GALLERIES AND MORE!  
THIS UNIQUE EVENT IS FOR ALL AGES, SO DON'T MISS OUT!**

**SIERRA VISTA COMMUNITY CENTER**  
55 SCHOOL STREET, COLFAX

## Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

"Don't wait until the fourth Thursday in November to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!" - Charmaine J. Forde



October has come and gone along with Colfax's first annual Oktoberfest, Chili Cook-Off and Trunk-or-Treating, but don't think you'll have time to slow down just yet!

In November you can expect the usual exciting events that Colfax has to offer along with old favorites like Coffee and Conversations- a place for business owners to gather and discuss a multitude of topics as well as encourage each other and hear from experts on various subjects.

November's Coffee and Conversations will be held on November 2 at 8:00 a.m.

This month I had the pleasure of sitting down and chatting with Marissa McSorley, the owner of Morning Glo Studio. Though Marissa's salon is a newer fixture in Colfax, she was styling hair at Invision Salon for more than four years and is a Colfaxian through and through.

Marissa moved here with her family as a child and attended Colfax High School. She loves living here with her family, enjoys the caring nature of the community and the small town feel of seeing her neighbors as she walks down Main Street.

Marissa specializes in blonding techniques but her services include haircuts, highlights, and balayage, as well as offering retail for those that enjoy the products she uses.

Marissa has created a relaxing and open atmosphere that encourages her clients to leave the stress of the day behind them and enjoy time spent sipping on a refreshing beverage, indulging in good conversation and knowing that you'll walk out feeling, and looking, better than when

you entered.

To find out more about Morning Glo Salon please visit her Instagram: marissamcsorley-hairstylist or say hello and book an appointment at her shop located at 9 Depot Street, Suite 1, Colfax. As always, Thank you from all of us at The Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce!

**Amanda Palmquist, CACC President**

**Colfax Area  
Chamber of Commerce**  
[colfaxchamber.com](http://colfaxchamber.com)

[colfaxareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:colfaxareachamber@gmail.com)

**(530) 346-8888**



### Paloma Yoga Classes

Monday 10am: Tai Chi  
Tuesday 10am: Vinyasa Yoga  
Wednesday 10am: Yin Yoga  
Wednesday 6:30pm: Vinyasa Yoga  
Thursday 10am: Vinyasa Yoga  
Friday 6:30pm: Restorative Yoga  
Saturday 9am: Vinyasa Yoga

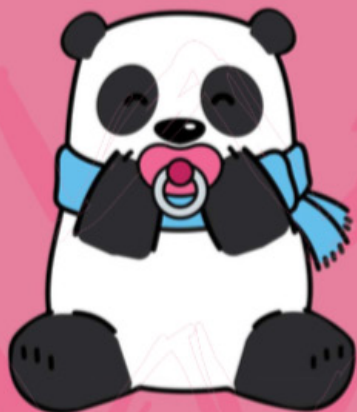
7 N. Main St., Suite 1  
Colfax, CA 95713

\$10 per class





# JOIN US FOR STORYTIME!



## BABY LAPSIT

Books, songs, rhymes, bounces, and playtime for babies 0-24 months.

Auburn

Wednesdays 9:30am

Colfax

Wednesdays 10:30am

Granite Bay

Wednesdays 10:30am

Rocklin

Thursdays 10:30am

Kings Beach

Wednesdays 10:30am

Tahoe City

Fridays 10:30am



## TODDLER TIME

Movement, songs, and books to develop First 5 skills for children ages 18-36 months.

Auburn

Thursdays 9:30am

Colfax

Thursdays 10:30am

Granite Bay

Thursdays 10:30am

Rocklin

Wednesdays 10:30am  
&  
Fridays 9:30am



## PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Stories, songs, and activities for children ages 3-5 years old.

Auburn

Fridays 9:30am

Colfax

Fridays 9:30am

Foresthill

Thursdays 10:30am

Granite Bay

Fridays 9:30am

Rocklin

Wednesdays 9:30am

Kings Beach

Tuesdays 10:30am

Tahoe City

Thursdays 10:30am



Scan the QR code to visit our Storytimes page!





**Our proposed, special, dinner for December 21<sup>st</sup> is prime rib and the price will be determined according to the cost of the meat at that time.**

# **NOVEMBER-16-2023**

## **AMERICAN LEGION**

### **POST 192 COLFAX**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month veterans fundraising dinner at the Colfax Memorial hall. *Beef Stroganoff on Pappardelle noodles, cucumber/tomato salad and whisky glazed carrots and for dessert NY cheesecake. Social hour starts at 5 pm and dinner at 6 pm***

Nonalcoholic beverages served with dinner.



**\$20.00 per person,  
\$10.00 ages 7-13 and  
under 7 are free**

**Please call ahead  
for reservations.  
Take-out available  
(with  
reservations).**

**Ric's cell 530 305-  
7526 or Lorrie 916  
202-2851  
commander@post  
192colfaxca.com**

**POST 192**  
22 Sunset Circle, Colfax  
95713

[post192colfaxca.com](http://post192colfaxca.com)

## Churches

Colfax Assembly of  
God Community  
Fellowship  
252 Culver St., Col-  
fax, CA 95713  
Email: colfaxesag@  
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  
530-305-7526  
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  
530-346-7474  
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>





SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
OF COLFAX

**34<sup>TH</sup>**

# Old Fashioned **SOUP KITCHEN**



# **SATURDAY**

## **December 9th**

### **4:00 - 6:30 P.M.**

## **Sierra Vista Community Center**

**TICKETS AT THE DOOR:**



Adults - \$12 • Children: 6-17- \$8 • 5 & under Free  
Family Pack - \$35 (2 adults & 2 children)

For more information please call (530) 320-4920

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT PROJECTS IN OUR COMMUNITY**