

Colfax Connections

Published by the City of Colfax

General Plan Housing Element Update Is Now An Unfunded Mandate

By wstockwin2024@gmail.com

The **August 26** city council meeting opened with all council members present.

There were two items of official council business to deal with: hiring a consultant to prepare updates of the General Plan Housing Element and also the city's General Plan Safety Element as required by state law, and adopting an updated City Council Policy Manual by resolution.

The Housing Element identifies the housing

needs in the community, including availability, affordability and adequacy of housing. State law requires the city to update its Housing Element and Safety element every eight years, and these updates must be approved for state certification by October 2029.

In past years the city was able to use grant funding to pay for these updates. This time, however, there were no available grants and it appears the city will have to fund the entire cost out of its General Fund, making this an unfunded state

continued on page 9

Investing In The Roads We All Depend On

The city's streets, roads and sidewalks are vital pieces of infrastructure that connect our community, and years of increasing costs and declining state and federal funding are making it increasingly difficult to repair and maintain them.

The proposed **1% Special Sales Tax** that will be on the November ballot would provide a dedicated, local funding source to help restore and maintain our deteriorating streets and sidewalks. It is anticipated the tax will raise approximately \$1.8 million annually.

And because this would be a **Special Tax**, the revenue could **ONLY** be used for repairing and maintaining city streets and sidewalks. By law, it cannot be diverted to

Ballot Argument As Written By Colfax City Hall



other city programs, salaries or unrelated programs.

The measure would also establish a community oversight committee to ensure that the funds generated are used only for our streets, roads and sidewalks.

An advantage to enacting a local sales tax is that everyone who shops in Colfax would be contributing. That will include the many travelers exiting I-80

each year to fuel up, dine, shop and visit local businesses. A local sales tax reduces the burden on local residents by also generating revenue from these visitors.

The **Special Tax** is necessary because state and federal grant funding the city has used in past years for street repairs have been significantly reduced or are no longer available. It will keep local dollars in Colfax, ensuring the funds are used only for their intended purpose, guaranteed by community oversight.

The **Special Tax** will remain in effect until terminated by city voters. The measure will require approval by two thirds of Colfax voters to become law.



After 15+ years of public discussion, a skate park begins taking shape where Colfax once had a community swimming pool. October 3 will be opening day for the park. Photo by Will Stockwin

PLACER MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



REPORT

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

Fridays 9:30am



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COUNTY OF **Placer**
LIBRARY SERVICES

City Council from Page 1

mandate. The city has applied for a CalFire Wildfire Planning Grant of \$100,000 to fund updating the Safety Element, but there's no assurance the city will get the money.

When passed the agenda item would authorize the city manager to hire a consultant (PlaceWorks) at a cost not to exceed \$224,391, which had already been previously budgeted. City staff recommended hiring PlaceWorks because it prepared the city's previous Housing and Safety Elements, and is familiar with Colfax. The process will include regular staff reports and up to three public hearings/study sessions. The item passed with a unanimous vote.

The City Council Policy Manual provides procedures and guidelines for council members. It was prepared by the city attorney and was reviewed by the city manager and the council's policy review committee: mayor McCully and council member Burruss.

The policy manual addresses: selection of mayor and mayor pro tem, councilmember compensation, councilmember training and conflicts code, parliamentary procedure using Rosenberg's Rules of Order, decorum, unfinished business, council agenda preparation, and city manager and city attorney communications. After more than an hour of discussion, the item was tabled until the September 9 meeting.

September Council meetings will be on the 9th and 23

Contents September 2026



Page 1 - General Plan Updates To Cost City \$224,391 Investing In The Roads We All Depend On

Page 2 - Colfax Skate Park Begins to Take Shape

Page 4 - Historic Colfax Railroad Days

Page 6 - Live in Colfax With *Steelhorse Stampede*

Page 7 - Aperitivo In The Garden

Page 8 - Chamber Of Commerce Notes And Events

Page 12 - August Moon, By Alan Shuttleworth

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.

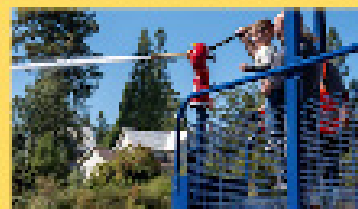
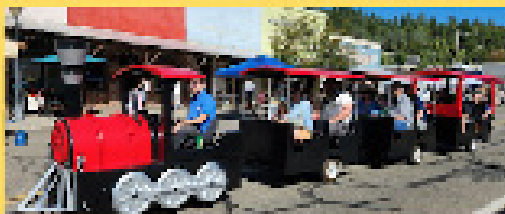
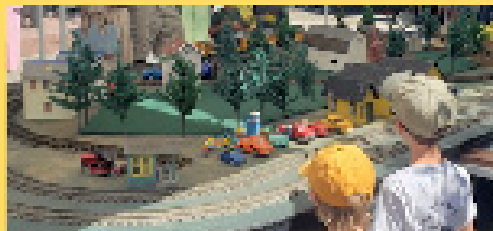
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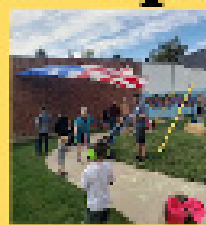
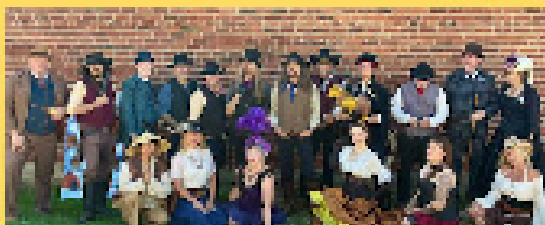
Hard Copies of *Colfax Connections* can be found at City Hall, the Colfax Library, the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, the Colfax Heritage Museum and the Snapdragon Cafe.

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).

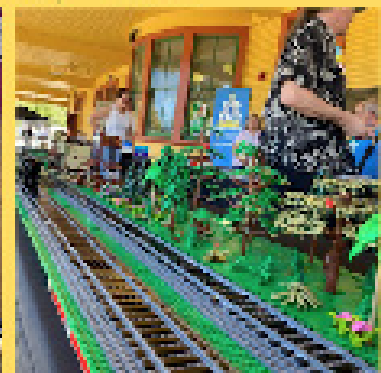
HISTORIC COLFAX RAILROAD DAYS



**September 12 & 13, 2026
10am-5pm**



Downtown Colfax, Ca



**Trains, Crafts, Food, Music, Historical
Reenactors, Gunslingers, Free Kids Zone**

LindaLou Haines will return in the October issue.



Photo depicting Colfax in the 1800s provided by Alan Shuttleworth, who said “no comment” when asked about the rumor going around that he actually took the picture himself.

DISTRICT 5 HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

A look back at the people, places, and moments that shaped our communities

The community that would become the City of Colfax began in 1865, when the Central Pacific Railroad reached the area and laid out the townsite. It was named after Schuyler Colfax, then Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and a supporter of the transcontinental railroad. Since its founding, Colfax has remained an important transportation hub.



Just a half-mile away, the historic community of Illinoistown began as a trading post in 1849 and became a key stage stop between Auburn, Iowa Hill, and Donner Lake. By 1852, it was home to hotels, a thriving fruit tree nursery, and was known as the “head of wagon navigation” for travelers.

Colfax’s transportation legacy continued with the completion of the Colfax–Nevada City narrow gauge railroad (1874–1876), the arrival of the Lincoln Highway around 1915, and the paving of U.S. Highway 40 in the 1930s, making year-round Sierra travel possible. Today, visitors continue to experience Colfax’s rich transportation history by traveling the historic Lincoln Highway or riding the same rail route completed through Placer County in 1868.

Photo: Historic U.S. Route 40 through Colfax, circa 1940. Placer County Museums Collection.

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225 Railroad St, Colfax

TheColfaxBazaar.com

Historic Colfax Downtown Association

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SEE THE LINE UP AT
LiveinColfax.com

SAT, SEPTEMBER 26TH

SOUTH MAIN STREET - FREE CONCERT - 5-9PM

AN EVENT BY THE HISTORIC COLFAX DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Outfielders Garden's Third Annual Fundraiser

Nearly 100 people gathered at Sierra Vista Community Center on Saturday evening, August 22. They came to support Colfax's hidden gem, Outfielders' Community Garden, for its third annual fundraiser – ***Aperitivo in the Garden***.

Music was provided by Bee Eigen and her guitar, while guests enjoyed delicious food prepared by Chef Kallie of Snapdragon Provisions.

The money raised will support the Outfielders Community Garden.



Photographs by
Ashlay Catalina and Kelsey Terry

Story by Nicole LaFerriere

Bartenders Zack LaFerriere (left)
and Paul Legge



Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

Our life is a constant journey, from birth to death. The landscape changes, the people change, our needs change, but the train keeps moving. Life is the train, not the station.

-Paul Coelho



The Chamber of Commerce is proud to join our community in celebrating Railroad Days, a local tradition that honors the history, people, and community spirit that helped shape our town on September 12 & 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For a long time, the railroad was more than tracks and trains running through communities. It was a vital connection to the outside world. Trains brought passengers, mail, supplies, and new opportunities while carrying local products to markets throughout California. The railroad helped businesses grow, families connect, and our community grew to become part of something larger.

Railroad Days gives us an opportunity to remember the people that were a part of creating the transcontinental railroad and the myriad contributions they made.

As a Chamber of Commerce, we understand the importance of remembering where our community came from. Our history is closely connected to the success of local businesses and the determination of the people who built this town. The same qualities that helped our community thrive during the railroad era – hard work, cooperation, innovation, and a willingness to invest in the future – continue to define us today.

Railroad Days is a celebration of what makes a small town special: people coming together. It is a time to support the businesses and organizations that make our community strong. We encourage everyone attending Railroad Days to visit local shops, restaurants, service providers,

and community organizations.

Every purchase made locally and every business supported helps keep our community vibrant. Most of all, Railroad Days reminds us that our community's history is something worth preserving and sharing.

The Chamber of Commerce is honored to celebrate this important part of our heritage with each of you. We look forward to seeing neighbors, welcoming visitors, supporting our local businesses, and creating new memories together.

As always, look for ways to get involved in the community. The City Council holds meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. The Chamber hosts a Coffee & Conversations on the first Friday of the month at the Train Depot from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. 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

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COLFAX LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY SEP 9 | 2PM



Sierra Vista Community Center Presents:

COLFAX Flea Market



Monthly, every 3rd Saturday
8AM to 2PM
55 School Street

COLFAX VISITOR CENTER

Train Depot • Gift Shop
VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



Love Colfax?
Love meeting people?
Join our friendly volunteer team!

Perfect for Retirees & Retired Couples
Recently retired and looking for something meaningful to do?
Volunteer at the Colfax Visitor Center and enjoy connecting with people, staying active, and giving back to the community you love.

 Meet people from around the world
  Help visitors discover Colfax
  Fun, welcoming environment

Colfax Visitor Center ☎ Mon-Fri 9-2 / Sat 10-2 📞 530-346-8888
✉ colfaxvisitorcenter@gmail.com
📍 99 Railroad St, Colfax, CA 95713
Email is the best way to contact us

BINGO

Every **1st** Sunday 1:30

Sierra Vista Community Center
55 School St. Colfax

Churches

Colfax Assembly of God Community Fellowship

252 Culver St., Colfax, CA 95713

Email: colfaxesag@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>

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>

Historic Colfax Downtown Association

P.O. Box 396

Colfax, CA 95713

(916)548-9198

info@historiccolfax.com

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>

Colfax Lions Club

PO Box 664, Colfax, CA 95713

530-477-2533

Website: <https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colfaxca>

Colfax Visitors Center

99 S. Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713

530-346-8888

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>

Colfax VFW Auxillary 2003

22 Sunset Dr, Colfax, CA 95713

530-305-6936

VFW Auxiliary 2003@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.auxiliary.org>



August Moon
by
Alan Shuttleworth