

# Colfax Connections

## Auditor Says: “City In Strong Financial Condition”

### January Council Meetings

At its January 8 meeting the council heard a presentation on the city audit report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019. Ingrid Shepline, managing partner for the auditing firm of Richardson and Co., said that the city had “adequate reserves” and was in “strong financial condition.”

Shepline also pointed out that instead of the projected deficit, the city had ended the previous fiscal year with a surplus in the General Fund. She said the city’s only debt was the \$7.9 million still owed the state revolving fund on the original \$12 million loan to build the waste water treatment plant.

She finished her presentation saying; “We found no compliance issues with state regulations, and no discrepancies needing adjustment.” She called that “rare” and applauded the city’s financial director, Laurie Van Groningen, for producing such a clean audit.

Later in the meeting the council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into an agreement, not to exceed \$25,000, with

**continued on page 4**

## Kyrah Thompson Wins Lions’ High School Speakers Contest

“Homelessness in California” is a fiercely debated issue. Four Colfax High School seniors had lots of constructive solution ideas at the Colfax Lions Club Students Speakers Contest held recently at TJ’s Restaurant. Speakers suggested changes in housing, mental and general health services as well as simply caring for our fellow man. Winner, Kyrah Thompson said, “Homelessness is more than a problem for government. It is a problem for humanity.” Colfax Lions Club President, Rose Craighead said, “The students had investigated the problem and were very well prepared.” Foresthill Lion and Lions Foothill Zone Chairperson, Helene Smith said, “It was interesting to hear a discussion



**Thompson**

of homelessness from the young people of today.” Smith is also the Chairperson for the upcoming Zone competition and invited Kyrah to participate in that contest.

### Photos and Text by Alan Shuttleworth



**L-R are Wayne Hild, Colfax High School teaching faculty, Finalist Mackenzie Kettwig, Finalist Brooklyn Porter, Finalist Ben Cross, Winner Kyrah Thompson and Colfax Lions Club President, Rose Craighead.**

# City Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance Workshop

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

One of the primary lessons to be learned from the wildfire that destroyed Paradise, California is that allowing hazardous vegetation to go unabated can be a fatal mistake.

The entire city council, along with the city manager and city attorney, hosted a public workshop on January 15 to review a

After initial abatement is performed, property owners will be required to regularly maintain their defensible space in accordance with requirements set forth in the ordinance.

The proposed ordinance will add Chapter 8.32 to the Municipal Code and addresses the responsibilities of landowners, neighbors and vacant lots.

as primary ingress and egress routes – as a public nuisance that must be abated by the property owners to create defensible space around those structures and roadways.

The ordinance does not require or expect removal of entire trees, but will also require:

- All trees, hazardous vegetation and ladder fuels within defensible space areas to be pruned and removed to a minimum height of 15 feet above the ground.
- Removal of tree limbs extending to within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe.
- Removal of all climbing vines from trees and structures.
- Maintenance of all vegetation adjacent to or overhanging a structure free of dead or dying wood within a 10-foot distance from the structure.
- Keeping roofs and rain gutters free of leaves, pine needles and other hazardous material.



Illustration courtesy of CalFire Website

proposed amendment to Colfax Municipal Code Title 8 to require hazardous vegetation abatement and establishment of defensible space that will apply to all parcels throughout the city.

Defensible space is defined as that area which is adjacent to each side of a building or structure and must be cleared of all combustible material, hazardous vegetation, brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth.

**“The major issue,” said CalFire Battalion Chief Brian Egan, “is getting neighbors to clean up their property.”**

Specifically, the ordinance will declare hazardous vegetation and combustible materials – within 100 feet of a structure, or within 10 feet immediately adjacent to roadways serving

Unimproved parcels will have to meet the same requirements, as well as cutting and removing all weeds and grasses down to a height of six inches.

When a house is less than 100 feet from a neighboring property line, and hazardous vegetation on the neighboring property presents a fire hazard, the owner of the neighboring property will be responsible for

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**Weed Abatement from page 2**

creating the required additional defensible space.

In all cases if a property owner fails to abate hazardous vegetation, or to maintain structure and roadway clearance requirements, the City may abate the nuisance – without further notice – at the property owner's expense.

Enforcement will not begin until January 2021. The ordinance will receive its first public hearing at one of the city council's February meetings.

## Business . . . . . . Briefs

*with LindaLou Haines*

### • What's new at Dine n Dash Pub & Grill, 1516 S. Canyon Way?

Two additional nights of dinner service in the pub, Thurs. & Sun., 5-8. Continuing hours: Dinner is served in the cafe on Fri. & Sat., 5-8; the pub is open those nights until 10.

The pub is open 8-10, Fri. & Sat. and 3-9 on Thurs. & Sun. Got all that? Breakfast continues to be served everyday starting at 7:30 till mid-afternoon.

If you're confused call 346-1000 or check their Facebook page: Facebook/Dine n Dash Pub & Grill.

*If you are starting a new business or are offering a new service or hours to an existing business, please email me:*

**[lindalouhaines14@gmail.com](mailto:lindalouhaines14@gmail.com)**

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**Colfax Connections** is a monthly 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. Deadline is the 20th of the previous month.

### STAFF

**Photography – Alan Shuttleworth**  
**Proofreading – LindaLou Haines**

**Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall, the library, and the Railroad Museum.**

**Digital copies can also be found on the Chamber's Website ([www.ColfaxChamber.com](http://www.ColfaxChamber.com)) and, soon, on the city's Website.**

## City Council from page 1

SCI Consulting for further cannabis ordinance and fee development.

The January 22 meeting was a short agenda that got everybody out the door by 6:58 p.m. Councilmember Douglas was absent.

By unanimous vote the council waived a second reading and adopted Ordinance 540, amending the municipal code and clarifying the way sewer service charges are assessed on multi-tenant commercial buildings.

Two other agenda items also received unanimous votes:

- The Village Oaks development (Iowa Hill Rd.) tentative subdivision map was extended for 12 months
- The council authorized the city attorney to draft a letter stating that the City of Colfax assumes financial responsibility of removing the Chinese Monument. The city is being considered as a permanent site for the Chinese Monument to the contribution of Chinese workers to the building of the first Transcontinental Railroad.

Chinese Monument founder, Steven Lee, had requested a letter from the city attorney stating the City of Colfax will assume the responsibility for removing the monument in the future, however unlikely that might be.

The suggested monument location in Colfax would be on the Depot Green.

## It's Been Wet, But More Rain Needed



Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

Colfax has received 20.5 inches of rain so far this season, which is five inches under what we had at the end of January 2019. It took a wet February last year, when 20 inches fell through the month, to boost the total to a low-normal of 45 inches heading into March. We eventually finished the wet season last year with 62.7 inches, but it took a wetter than normal May and a final June thunderstorm to get us there.

wstockwin@hughes.net

## Placer County's Flag Has Been Redesigned



The redesign incorporates the popular branding and design elements of Placer County's logo and color palette, which were adopted in 2015. The county seal and year of incorporation are most prominent on the flag, along with six stars representing the county's six incorporated cities. Swaths of blue and green signify the region's abundant water resources and forests. Twin Peaks Mountain is also featured.

Flag image courtesy of Dist. 5 Supervisor Gustafson's office.

# March Madness



Colfax Jr. Falcons  
Football & Cheer



**25% OFF REGISTRATION  
IN MARCH**

**Football: \$225**  
(ages 5-14)

**Cheer: \$225**  
(1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Cheer Mascots: \$112.50**  
(ages 4-6)

**Visit our website [colfaxjrfalcons.org](http://colfaxjrfalcons.org)**

Register in person at one of our Registration Nights listed below:  
Scoops on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, March 31<sup>st</sup> 5:30PM-8:00PM – Get a free Scoop!

Blondie's on March 4<sup>th</sup> or March 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30PM – 8:00PM - \$1 off No Weigh!

Email: [president@colfaxjrfalcons.org](mailto:president@colfaxjrfalcons.org) or [registrar@colfaxjrfalcons.org](mailto:registrar@colfaxjrfalcons.org)

Prices shown are for registration in March, amounts will increase after March  
Cheer also requires \$60 for Practice Shirt, Bows, and Hoodie (that you keep)

Ask about Sponsorships and Payment Plans

Call/Text: Brad Collier (530) 220-0266 or Jaclyn Collier (530) 401-7021



## Colfax Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

Welcome from your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce.

Your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Tim, Amy, Andrea, Randy, Bob, Rita, Paul, Linda, Sally, Ted, and Eric, wish you all the best for the new year.



This year we are looking forward to expanding our support, promotion, and representation to our businesses, service groups, and associates. We have a large area to cover from Applegate to Cisco Grove and Chicago Park to Iowa Hill and are looking forward to a very busy year.

Our Web site, [www.ColfaxChamber.com](http://www.ColfaxChamber.com) is building every day with our weekly event notifications. Our calendar fills up weekly with events, classes, meetings, advertisements, and so much more.

What is happening in the Colfax Area can be found on our Web site. All of our business members are listed on our site, which has been growing over the past year.

We will continue with our monthly mixers and our morning, Coffee and Conversation meetings. These are excellent venues for our businesses, service groups, and associates to interact and share ideas, concerns and solutions for our area.

Plus, we get to meet and greet many new members and a chance to encourage non-members to join our Chamber of Commerce and receive all the benefits we offer.

Call or e-mail us for more information to become a member. Phone 530-346-8888 or e-mail [colfaxareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:colfaxareachamber@gmail.com). Or stop on by our office at 99 South Railroad Street, Colfax Ca.

Grand Openings and Ribbon Cuttings will continue to grow along with the growth of our city and surrounding area. New businesses, housing subdivisions, hotels, and so much more are in our near future.

Along with providing Amtrak train and bus information, our Visitor Center will be reorganizing and adding new items for sale. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 9:30 till 3:00.

We continue to welcome new volunteers to help out and rotate duties with our existing volunteers. No experience is needed. Providing a positive and helpful experience for our customers is all we ask. Please stop by and join our team.

This year we will also continue our participation and support for 3rd of July, Railroad Days, Winterfest, and the many events our area provides. All of these events continue to grow and this year will be no exception.

We will be having our Annual Meeting and Luncheon in March. Date and time are still being finalized and notification will be following soon. This year we will be holding our Luncheon at the VFW Hall, during which we will review our past year and present our goals for 2020. Delicious Indian cuisine will be supplied by Paul Raj and his family.

The Scoop Thurman Community Service Award will also be presented for one of our outstanding community members, and new Board of Directors will be nominated and voted for.

If you would like to join our Board of Directors, please e-mail, call or stop by our Chamber office and request to be added to the election list. Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to working for you in 2020.

**Tim Ryan**  
**CACC President**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
**CIOPPINO DINNER**



**Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm**  
Sponsored by Post 192 Colfax American Legion  
Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle Colfax  
\$55 per Ticket Seating Limited to 60 People  
*For tickets call Fred or Reene Abbott 530-346-8728*

## Colfax Library

# FEBRUARY EVENTS

**WEEKLY STORYTIMES**

10:30-11:00  
Wednesday Baby Lapsit  
Thursday Toddler Time  
Friday Preschool Storytime

**E-BOOK AND TECH HELP**

Available by Appointment  
One-on-One Tutoring  
530-346-8211

**TECH RESOURCES**

Available Daily  
Computers, Printing,  
Copiers, Free Wi-Fi

**BREAKOUT TUESDAY**

February 25th 3:00-4:30  
Fluffy Slime  
Drop in Event

**COLFAX BOOK CLUB**

February 27th 5:00-6:00  
*The Miraculous Journey of  
Edward Tulane*  
By Kate DiCamillo

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**

February 28th 3:00-4:30  
Take a Magic Carpet Ride  
with this Live Action Remake

10 West Church St., Colfax  
530-346-8211



## Business . . . . . . Briefs

with LindaLou Haines

- “Yes, we’re open!” **Colfax Community Gift & Thrift**, 130 N. Main St., (not Rt. 174). Open: Tues. - Sun., 10-5; closed Mon. As a non-profit, it supports 30 beds of low income housing in the Colfax area. Owner/Mgr., Sunny Ricks, 530-512-5052. “Thanks to the community for its support for the store. But we need volunteers. Call me!”

*If you are starting a new business or are offering a new service or hours to an existing business, please email me:*

**[lindalouhaines14@gmail.com](mailto:lindalouhaines14@gmail.com)**



### Library Hours 10 Church St.

Wed.– Sat.  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed  
Sunday & Monday

Main Desk  
530-346-8211

### COLFAX LIBRARY PRESENTS

## COLFAX BOOKCLUB

January 30th

Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear  
by Elizabeth Gilbert

February 27th

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane  
by Kate DiCamillo

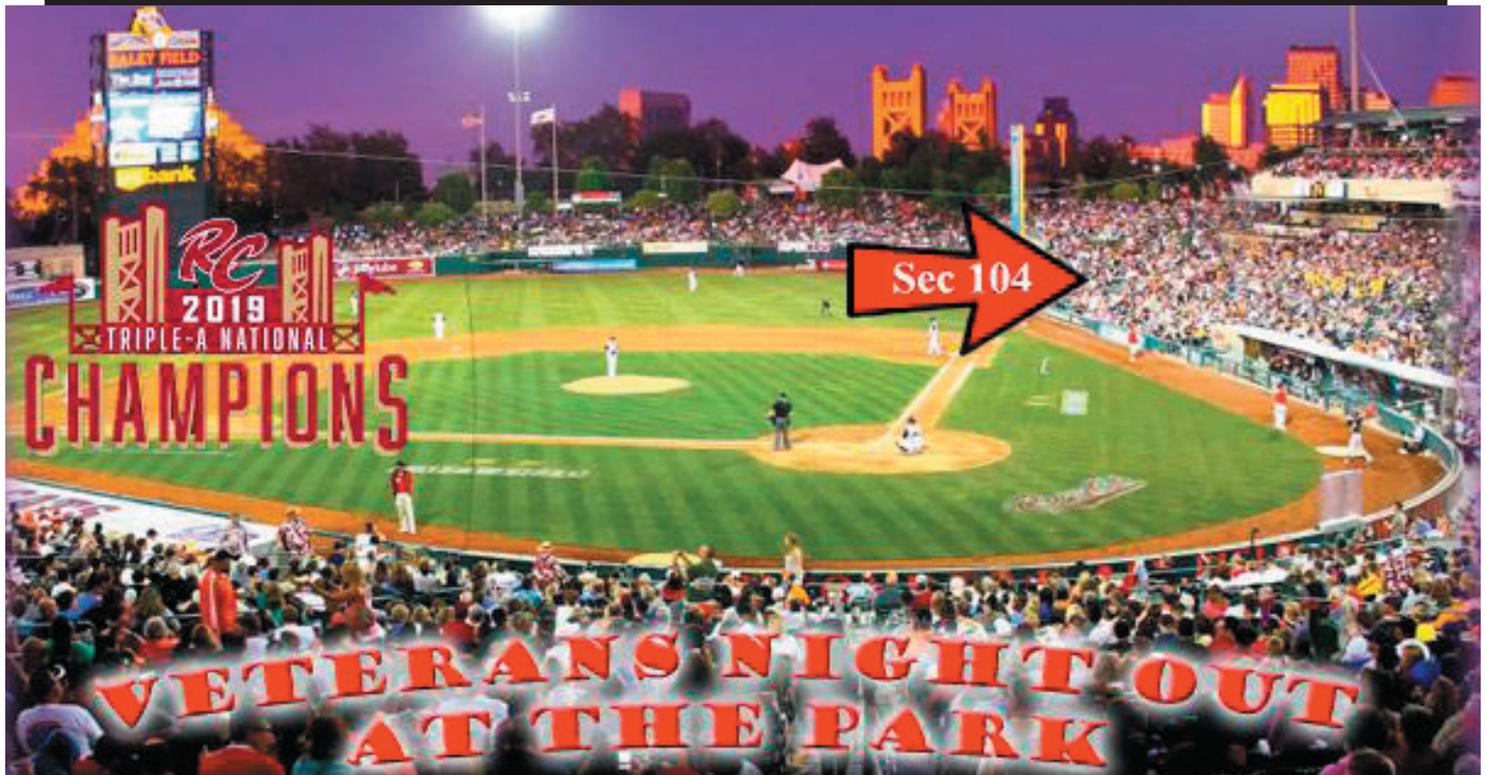
March 26th

Ghosts of Gold Mountain  
by Gordon Chang

Meets the last Thursday of the month 5:00-6:00



10 W Church St. Colfax  
530-346-8211

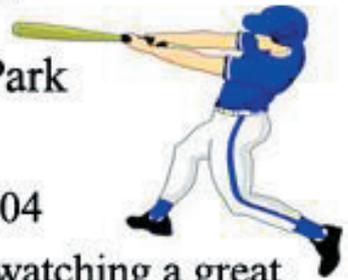


## Sacramento River Cats Baseball



Saturday, May 23, 2020 Sutter Health Park  
400 Ballpark Dr., West Sacramento

Game Starts: 7:05pm Seating in Section 104



Veterans and guests invited to attend a fun night out watching a great Sacramento baseball team, *The River Cats*, in action. All Veterans invited including spouse, guests & children. This will be a chance to meet other Veterans from all of our local organizations.

Admission: \$21 Parking: \$10 per Vehicle

Please **RSVP** for seating by February 1, 2020 to: Larry LaVerne (530) 885-1428, Email: [post84laverne@gmail.com](mailto:post84laverne@gmail.com) or Hank Silva (916) 216-8254, Email: [commander@post192colfaxca.com](mailto:commander@post192colfaxca.com). All seating must be reserved so contact us as soon as possible.

Make checks payable to "River Cats" and mail to Larry LaVerne, 12868 Erin Dr., Auburn, CA 95603 Tickets will be available at "Will Call" game night.



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## 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>

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>

Salvation Army Service Unit  
320 S. Canyon Way, Ste.A, Colfax, CA 95713  
530-346-2722

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>

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# Calendar of Events

## February 2020

- 2 – Bingo, 1:00-5:00 p.m. SVC
- 3 – Badminton, 6:00-8:00 p.m. SVC
- 4 – Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 5 – Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 7 – Nevada County Food Bank,  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. SVC
- Badminton, 9:00-11:00 a.m. SVC
- 9 – Pancake Breakfast, 8:00-11:00 a.m.,  
Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall
- 10 – Badminton, 6:00-8:00 p.m. SVC
- 11 – Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 12 – City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall**  
Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 14 – Badminton, 9:00-11:00 a.m. SVC
- 15 – Flea Market, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. SVC
- 16 – Colfax Food Train, 1 p.m. SVC
- 17 – Badminton, 6:00-8:00 p.m. SVC
- 18 – Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 19 – Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 20 – American Legion Dinner, 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall
- 21 – Badminton, 9:00-11:00 a.m. SVC
- 24 – Badminton, 6:00-8:00 p.m. SVC
- 25 – Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 26 – City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall**  
Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 28 – Badminton, 9:00-11:00 a.m. SVC

## March 2020

- 1- Bingo, 1:00-5:00 p.m. SVC
- 2 - Badminton, 6:00-8:00 p.m. SVC
- 3 - Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 4 - Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 6 - Badminton, 9:00-11:00 a.m. SVC
- 9 - Badminton, 6:00-8:00 p.m. SVC
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Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall
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- 25 - City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall**  
Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC
- 27 - Badminton, 9:00-11:00 a.m. SVC
- 30 - Badminton, 6:00-8:00 p.m. SVC
- 31 - Open Art Studio, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SVC

## City's New Broadcast system for meetings

Have you checked out city hall's new and vastly improved council meeting broadcast system? If not, it's as easy as going to the city's Web site, <http://colfax-ca.gov/>, clicking the 'Watch Meetings' button on the Home page, then reaching for the popcorn.

The new system was developed by Vision Quest, the city's IT service provider, and debuted at the last meeting in December after being in development for six months.

City manager Wes Heathcock said all of the system hardware and installation cost \$4,000, and that the subscription for the Boxcast video streaming service will run another \$1,200 a year. That includes two cameras, with one feeding Wave and the other feeding the city Web site.

### Other system features include:

- The ability to show either the council chambers or switch to a view of the chamber video screen so that viewers at home can also watch and follow along with presentations being shown the council.
- Much improved sound from all microphones in the council chamber.
- Meeting videos will be archived for 90 days on Boxcast, and essentially forever on YouTube.
- Closed captioning for the hearing impaired is also available.

### Events Notices

Please contact Will Stockwin at [wstockwin@hughes.net](mailto:wstockwin@hughes.net) with notices of your upcoming events in the coming months so they can be included in the Colfax Connections Calendar of Events. Notices can also be left at City Hall.