

Colfax Connections

Pioneer Community Energy Considering JPA Expansion

By wstockwin@hughes.net

The October 28 meeting the Colfax City Council started with a presentation by Don Eckert, executive director of Pioneer Community Energy (Pioneer), regarding an opportunity to expand the original six-member Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to include Placerville and El Dorado County.

Pioneer is a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) authorized by law to provide power for the communities it serves. Pioneer currently provides energy to more than 93,000 residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural customers in Colfax, Loomis, Auburn, Rocklin, Lincoln and unincorporated Placer County.

Eckert said that Pioneer had initiated an impact assessment study in August to determine if the proposed expansion would

be beneficial to all members of the JPA. If the study is favorable to expansion, the Pioneer board will request that the Colfax City Council support amending the JPA with a council resolution at a December council meeting.

"If the study is unfavorable we will suspend the process and reconsider it again next year." Eckert said.

Eckert predicted that expansion would be a win for all members. "Placerville and El Dorado County want stable, competitive energy rates without having to form their own CCA, when it will be much simpler to join one that has been working successfully for years."

Eckert said benefits from expansion to existing JPA members would include better pricing options for the larger JPA, and increased ability to pay down Pioneer's existing \$10 million

debt. "Paying that debt down faster will also be a factor in lowering customer rates as well," he said.

Pioneer Energy Annual Customer Survey

Please complete Pioneer's annual listening survey. It should take less than seven minutes. Your feedback will be used to improve our services and inform our strategic planning process. As a thank you, we're randomly selecting two survey submissions to receive \$250 towards their Pioneer Community Energy bill.

The following links have been provided to access the survey.

- Residential customers click the following link:
pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/customer
- Business customers click the following link:
pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/business

For additional contest rules visit pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/2020surveyrules.

For additional information contact Pioneer Community Energy at: PioneerCommunityEnergy.ca.gov, or 1 (844) 937-7466.

Mendoza, Ackerman Win City Council Seats

The exhausting 2020 election is finally over and, locally, Marnie Mendoza kept her seat on the Colfax City Council with the winning high total of 451 votes.

Two seats were open this cycle and David Ackerman defeated incumbent Kim Douglass by 17 votes, 408 to 391.

Total ballots cast: 1,250.



**Council Member
Marnie Mendoza**



**Council Member
David Ackerman**

COLFAX LIBRARY

Modified Services

BROWSING HOURS

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 10AM - 4PM

WEDNESDAY 12PM - 6PM

FRIDAY 12PM - 5PM

BOOK RETURNS

24/7

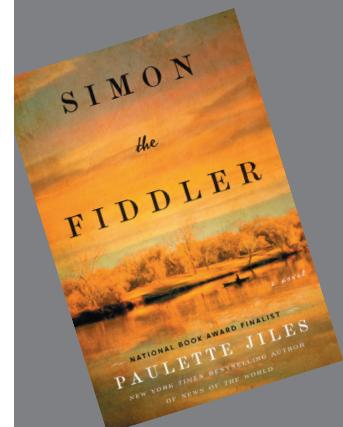
DIGITAL LIBRARY

24/7

placer.ca.gov/library

Join a Virtual Book Club!

1st Wednesday of the Month-11:00am
3rd Wednesday of the Month-6:00pm



Register at
placervirtualbookclub.eventbrite.com



LITTLE LEARNERS S.T.A.R. CHALLENGE



Join your library staff on Facebook and
take the challenge at Beanstack:
placer.beanstack.org



Burn Days Are Back, With No Permits Required

After this Fall's first two good storm systems dumped nearly four inches of rain on the foothills in early November, CalFire closed the book on another wildfire season November 16.



Colfax, Alta Battalion Chief Brian Eagan confirmed that, saying: "You are allowed to burn without a permit as long as it is a burn day."

All safety restrictions are still in effect and CalFire reminds us that fires burn hotter and cleaner when piles are kept dry before lighting them.

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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

"Help each other"

Paul Raj, owner of Colfax Market on Main St., and his family live their lives by this maxim. "It is important to share what you have," he added.

This philosophy of life directs the way Paul runs his life and his business. Colfax Market is a true community-oriented small business. Paul bought the business 20 years ago, which was after he already owned the Wienerschnitzel in Auburn (13401 Bowman rd. at the Foresthill exit from I80).

So, what is Colfax Market: a grocery store, a grocery store plus, a convenience store, a small department store? All the above! Facebook lists it as a Convenience Store.

The Market sells groceries; liquor, including a nice variety of California wines and local beers; fishing and hunting licenses; fishing tackle; dog and cat food and toys; toys for children; shoes; Lottery tickets and more.

As for services the store provides, the Market cashes payroll checks; has an ATM, and a fax and copy machine (copies 15c a page).

Don't you love walking into a store when you are greeted by friendly staff? Colfax Market is that kind of a store. And, regulars are greeted by name.

In the days before the covid pandemic when the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce used to sponsor monthly mixers, Paul and his wife, Tajinder Kaur, and sometimes one or both of their sons occasionally catered the mixer with an amazing array of Indian foods. (Yummy!) I miss those days. Hopefully, sometime after covid the Chamber will have the opportunity to host mixers again and Paul, who is a director of the Chamber, and his family will have occasion to cater the



**Owner Paul Raj in front of the Colfax Market.
Photo by Alan Shuttleworth**

event. It will be a treat.

Paul and Tajinder are from the Punjab region of India, but they met in Auburn, where they currently live. They both believe in community service, giving back to their community and beyond.

You don't need to worry about the Market during any covid restrictions or PG&E power shutoffs. They can stay open with generator power and keep their customers supplied with beer, milk, eggs and whatever else they need.

Colfax Market is open seven days a week, 7:30am to 11:00pm at 2 N. Main. Their phone number is 346-7029 and their Facebook page is facebook.com/Colfax-Market-LLC.

Note: The Colfax Library continues to be open during the County demotion to the Purple Tier rating of COVID. See flyer for details.

Please contact me with your Colfax city business news. Priority is given to new businesses and existing businesses offering something new.
lindalouhaines14@gmail.com

Shadow Wood

The “For Sale” banners went up as soon as the new paving was dry on Shadow Wood Place, the new midtown housing development off Kneeland St. There are three different home models on 20 lots including a single level and two different two-story models. All of them are listed for less than \$400,000.

All of the exterior paint schemes conform to



Colfax historic zone requirements.

Every model has a sprinkler system, and they all have solar-ready plumbing and support systems.

The single-level “Alpine” model also has 600-800 sq. ft. of useable space below the main floor.

**Photos by Alan Shuttleworth
and Will Stockwin**



Colfax Dental Center Wins First Annual Scarecrow Prize

“Minions Galore” was the theme of the wild happenings in the parking lot of the Colfax Dental Center, winners of the 2020 Halloween Scarecrow contest. Accompanying the Minions were some of the staff of the Dental Center: L, Justin Diederichs, DDS; Mary Beggerly, Hygienist; Chad Jensen, DDS; Kim Willingham, Hygienist. The Minions were created by the whole staff under the creative leadership of Nichole Morgan, receptionist. The First Annual Scarecrow contest was co-sponsored by Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce and the Colfax Green Machine.

Photo by Nichole Morgan.

BUILDING BLOCKS**Find Out If A Permit Is Needed Before Starting A Building Project**

**By Keith Bigbee
City of Colfax,
Building Inspector**



I am often asked why we have building codes and why it is necessary to have a building permit when making changes to a residence or business.

The Babylonian King, Hammurabi, published what could be considered the first building code almost 4,000 years ago. Not following the code often resulted in severe penalties.

They included the loss of property, silver or life. For example, code #229 stated that "if a builder has built a house for a man, and the work is not sound and the house has fallen, the builder would be put to death." Code #230 states that "if the owner's son is killed, the builder's son shall be put to death."



Becky Macy (L) and son Wyatt (R) placing a flag at Wyatt's Great-Grandfather's gravesite. Herbert Charles Macy Sr. served in the US Navy during WW II. Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

Modern codes require permits and while there are a few projects that do not require building permits, most do. They are required by law for the protection of life and property per the California Building Code:

"1.1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, access to persons with disabilities, sanitation, adequate lighting and ventilation and energy conservation; safety of life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment; and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations."

The benefit of obtaining a permit prior to starting a project is to insure all of the work is safe and up to current code guidelines. It also protects property owners from certain liabilities. Should you wish to sell the property, it also provides proof that any improvements made were completed and to code.

The city's goal is to help the citizens of Colfax be safe. Give us a call before starting a project to ask if a permit is required.

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events



As the days get shorter and colder, and the year comes to a close, this is the time that we normally reflect upon all the events of the past year.

This year, however, we have only to reflect on all the events that we were forced to cancel due to the pandemic. Summer came and went without 3rd of July and Railroad Days, mixers and coffee, fireworks, barbeques, parades and pancake breakfasts.

And now, as COVID-19 cases rise and Placer County moves into the more restrictive “purple” tier, we are forced to cancel Home for the Holidays as well.



Colfax Area Chamber has spent many hours calling our members to offer PPE supplies, walking business owners through grant applications, and operating limited hours at the visitors center through plexiglass window service.

We've worked harder than ever to keep up with state and county bulletins and restrictions and delivering that information on a weekly basis to our business community. We're proud of the work we've done, as we reflect on the many local businesses that have received \$2500, \$5000 and \$10,000 grants from county and city programs with our help.

The majority of our members have made it through the year safe and somewhat profitable. Some have had to close down completely, while others have learned to shift and change direction



Holiday decoration hanging from downtown lamp post.
Photo by Will Stockwin

to stay in business. We've learned a lot about what it takes to keep a community informed and supported through the toughest times of our lives.

As we move into the holidays, all of us can reflect on 2020 as being the year we came together and helped each other through. We learned one great lesson, and that is that we can't spend all our tax money online, when the price we pay is that our local businesses close down.

Let's all be a little more intentional about supporting our local gift shops, restaurants and service providers this holiday season. And together, we can look forward to happier more prosperous times in the coming year!

Sally Laughlin, CACC President

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

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>