

# Colfax Connections

## Mayor’s Gavel Passes To Lomen, Pioneer Expansion Approved

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

The new mayor of Colfax, Sean Lomen, mayor pro tem Trinity Burruss, and new council member David Ackerman all took their oaths of office at the end of the December 16 city council meeting, the only meeting of December 2020. Congratulations to them all.

The swearing-in ceremony closed a meeting that worked through a busy agenda over the course of three hours.

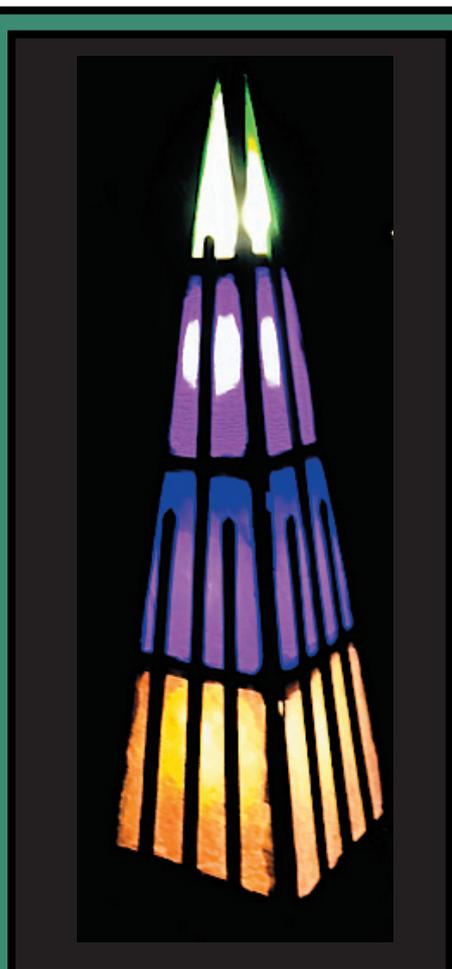
Retail Strategies, a business recruiter, started things off with an extensive presentation on marketing strategies for bringing new businesses to the Colfax I-80 business corridor. Presenter Matt Tate said that local available I-80 frontage property was “sitting on go,” and would benefit from accelerating growth along I-80 between Roseville and the summit.

Next up was a public hearing on Osborn Engineering and Construction’s site plan and design review approval for two

buildings at 1836 Canyon Way. After a brief discussion the council went with staff’s recommendation to approve on a 5-0 vote.

Pioneer Community Energy Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was back before the council urging a “yes” vote on a resolution approving the expansion of the existing, six-member JPA. (See Colfax Connections, December 2020 issue.) Pioneer made a council presentation on the expansion in October. Pioneer

**continued on page 10**



**City Lights**  
 Left – Seen on Pine Ct.  
 Below – 121 S. Auburn St.  
**More City Lights on page 6**  
 Photos by Alan Shuttleworth and Will Stockwin



# The Mayor's Corner

Mayor Sean Lomen

Over the last few years your City Council has been working with our partner agencies to better protect our community from the threat of catastrophic wildfires that are becoming the norm in California.

The North Fork of The American River Shaded Fuel Break and fuel reduction projects at our wastewater treatment facility and closed landfill site are part of this effort.

In 2020 council approved a hazardous vegetation ordinance, which took effect on January 1, 2021. The goal of this ordinance is to help provide property owners with the information they need to keep their properties fire safe. It will also provide city staff with guidelines and tools they need to insure that the homes and businesses in our community can be protected should a wild-fire threaten Colfax in the future. You can find a link to the ordinance on the city Web site at Colfax-Ca.gov, or summary on Page 3.

The City Council will also be hosting a public workshop during the first quarter of 2021 to take a holistic look at the City's current fire protection model and what can be done to improve fire services for our community. We will have representatives from CAL Fire/Placer County Fire, Placer Hills Fire Protection District, Placer County Resource Conservation District, the state

insurance commission, and local insurance companies attending to help us improve fire services in our City.

Our goal is to put a fire protection plan in place that will provide the best fire service while improving our community's fire insurance rates. We encourage the community to attend this workshop.

## Fire Protection Agreement Due To Expire On June 30 this Year

By Brian Eagan  
CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Colfax/Alta

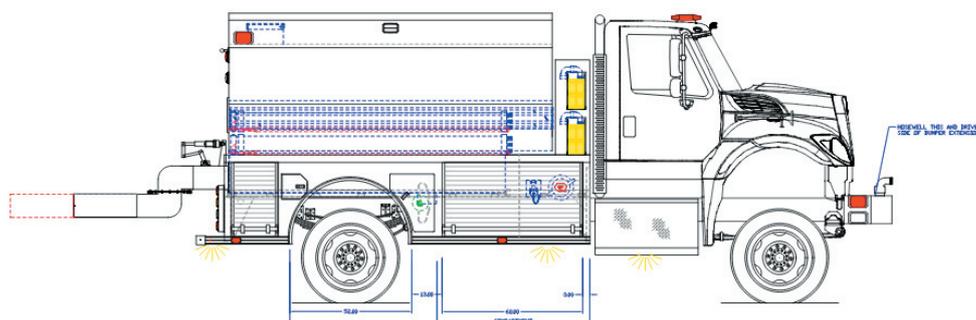
Currently the City of Colfax (City) and Placer County share in a Fire Protection Agreement (FPA) that directs and provides a professional and fulltime administrative and operational oversight of the Colfax Volunteer Fire Department by CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire Department (PCFD).

This FPA, which has been in place since 2001, has been renewed by the City every three years since 2003 and is set to expire on June 30, 2021.

Through this FPA Colfax receives Chief Officer or Company Officer Command and Control of all emergency incidents as the Incident Commander within the City. It also provides administrative and operational oversight of its volunteers, and management of the Volunteer Department including training, apparatus and equipment maintenance and purchasing.

Although this agreement has been in place since 2001, the City of Colfax, Placer County and CAL FIRE/PCFD have for many decades shared the professional emergency services provided to the

**Below is a technical drawing of a Tactical Water Tender. The estimated cost would \$375,000.**



continued on page 5

APPROVED BY:	
CHASSIS: NAVISTAR	
PUMP: WATEROUS 1500 GPM	
TANK: POLY/2000	
PANEL MATL: LINE X	
COMP INTERIOR: SPATTER PAINTED	
MAXIMUM HEIGHT	10'6"
MAXIMUM LENGTH	30'
BODY WIDTH	96"
COLFAX CITY FIRE DEPT., CA	
ROSENBAUER WETSIDE 1/8"	
colfax city, ca 0	

## Colfax Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance Is Now The Law

The city's hazardous vegetation ordinance took effect on New Year's Day.

The ordinance declares hazardous vegetation and combustible materials within 100 feet of a structure, or within 10 feet immediately adjacent to roadways serving 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.

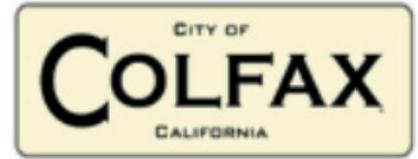
The ordinance also requires:

- 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.



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.

## Contents January 2021



**Cover** - Mayor's Gavel Passes To Lomen

**Page 2** - Mayor's Corner

**Page 3** - Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance Is Law

**Page 4** - Business Briefs: Creative Corner Going Strong

**Page 5** - National Wreaths Across America

**Page 6 & 7** - City Christmas Lights Undimmed

**Page 8** - Chamber Notes and Events

**Page 10** - Soroptimists Deliver Food Vouchers

*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.

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



## Business Briefs . . . . . . with LindaLou Haines

### Creative Corner Is Still Going Strong

Creative Corner Arts & Crafts Co-op, 55 S. Main st., started out as Connie's Decors Holiday Co-op Boutique in 2010. The shop took on its current name after the holiday the next year.

Connie is Connie Heilaman, Certified Interior Designer since 1976. She is the founder and creative force behind Creative Corner. At this time Connie's Decors designs only windows and drapes. In the boutique Connie displays her own watercolors and acrylics, jewelry, floral arrangements, greeting cards and more.

The other vendors are Chuck Borgandt, ceramics and Barbara Hoffman, art; Pam Catrambone, sewing projects and knitted items; Anna Anderson, knitted items and covid face masks; Shirley Williams, painted glassware and cards; Peggy Evanovka, "Mountain Soaps" soaps, essential oils, personal products.

Each member of the co-op commits to staff the store one day a week. While there, they represent all the store's products, not just their own. The shop also has a selection of beautiful, discounted fabrics, accent pillows and area rugs. It offers gift certificates too.

Connie bought her building in



Connie in front of her store.

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

1987. It dates from early in the 1900's, when it was a stable then later a grocery. She just freshened up the inside and gave a spiffy new paint job on the outside.

The building is on the corner of Main and Church, across the street from the library. Creative Corner is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 to 5. You can contact the shop by calling 346-8250. Connie is also on Facebook.com/Creative Corner~arts and crafts co-op.

The quality of the arts and crafts in the shop is very high quality and worthy of personal and gift purchases. This can also be

said about many of our small businesses in Colfax. Their businesses are needing your support and purchase power.

When you get set to go shopping for an item of any kind, ask yourself if you can purchase that item in Colfax. Make phone calls or go online to check availability. Whenever you can, SHOP LOCALLY. The whole Colfax community will benefit when you do.

**Please contact me with your Colfax city business news. Priority is given to new businesses and existing businesses offering something new.**  
**Lindalouhaines14@gmail.com**

### Eagan from page 2

county by CAL FIRE. Colfax has benefitted from the guaranteed response of the CAL FIRE/PCFD engine from the Colfax CAL FIRE/PCFD Station 30 to every emergency in the City.

This benefit was strengthened even more in 2019 when CAL FIRE re-funded the second CAL FIRE engine at Colfax Station 30 that was lost to state budget cuts in 1992. Indirectly through this agreement the City not only has access to these two paid fire engines at Station 30, but also, if needed:

- 20 CAL FIRE Engines
- 6 PCFD Engines
- 2 PCFD Truck Companies
- 1 PCFD Hazardous Material Response Team
- 1 PCFD Technical Rescue Team
- 7 CAL FIRE Type 1 Fire Crews
- 3 CAL FIRE Bull Dozers
- CAL FIRE Fixed Wing and Rotor Wing Aircraft
- Regional access to additional Local Fire Department resources.

Discussions are currently going on between Colfax city council and staff, and the CAL FIRE/PCFD Administration looking for ways to better support the city’s volunteer department. It is the goal of the fire department’s administration to seek the best model for our entire fire department, including both our Volunteers and the CAL FIRE/PCFD paid staff.



Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

## National Wreaths Across America

National Wreaths Across America is an event each December to remember the sacrifices that veterans have made since the American Revolution. In 2200 locations across all 50 states, over 2 million wreaths were placed at veteran’s gravesites.

In Colfax, VFW Post 292 and American Legion Post funded wreaths that were placed at the gravesites of local veterans. Boy Scouts from Troop #6 in Meadow Vista and members of the Colfax Lions Club provided assistance in the placing of the wreaths.

Left – Army veteran and Colfax VFW member, Foxey McCleary, places a wreath on her father’s gravesite. John McCleary Jr. was a World War II and Korea veteran.

# Colfax Christmas Lights Undimmed By COVID-19 Lockdown



*Left – 1110 Hillcrest Ave.*

*Middle – 131 W. Grass Valley St.*

*Below – 1175 Hillcrest Ave.*



*All Photos by  
Alan Shuttleworth*





*Above – City Tree on Depot Green*

*Middle – 120 School House Alley*

*Below – 145 Culver St.*



## Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

By Sally Laughlin

January has arrived in Colfax, and with it the cold, wet weather. Those pleasant evenings dining outdoors are just a memory now, and we are faced with the realization that we will be spending a long winter trying to stay safe indoors. The blessing that living in a small town offers us is that we actually can go out and frequent our downtown businesses without the fear of crowds.



It can be such a pleasure to stop by Connie's Creative Corner or Feather & Quill for a gift or two, and then get dinner to go at Main Street Pizza and a bottle of wine at Colfax Market before heading home. We don't have any big box stores, and yes, that does mean shopping more online for some things, but it's nice to know that we have so many quaint, family-owned shops right here in our own backyard.

Placer County has launched a program called SHOW LOVE FOR LOCAL, and our Chamber has been very busy making it happen here. The idea is for all of us to be intentional about spending more of our dollars shopping at our local stores instead of going online or to the big box stores. Our local businesses are struggling, and they need us to help them through this winter.

Our Chamber Executive Director, Amy Andrews, has been making videos of our local business owners giving us a tour of their stores and telling us a bit about what they offer. These charming videos can be seen on social media, and also on our e-blasts, and they're drawing a lot of attention! We'll be advertising these videos for our members over the next couple of months. In case you're curious about what our business community has to offer, here are a just few of the many local businesses to be found right here in Colfax:

Scoops Ice Cream, Lumenaris (quilts, games), L'Orange Salon, Colfax Farm & Country Store, Colfax Drug, TJ's Roadhouse, Winner Chevrolet, Motherlode Realty, Homie Joe's (Mexican takeout), Hansen Brothers (soil/landscape supplies), Rebel Health (fitness), Foothill Properties, Colfax Dental Center, Herbal Alternatives, Kurtis Fox MD, Mar Val Grocery, Creative Corner (gifts made by local artists), Railhead Saloon, Shang Garden (Chinese takeout), Wandering Wardrobe, Dine n Dash, Plaza Tire, US Bank, Colfax Market, Hills Flat Lumber, Ambitions, and Sierra Self Storage. This winter, think before you go online or get on the freeway, and SHOP LOCAL FIRST!

Best Wishes for a Bright and Prosperous New Year!



**Sally Laughlin, CACC President  
Colfax Area**

**Chamber of Commerce  
colfaxareachamber@gmail.com**

**colfaxchamber.com**

**(530) 346-8888**

# WE ARE OPEN!

For Modified Services

## COLFAX LIBRARY

### 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](http://PLACER.CA.GOV/LIBRARY)



## 40-Year-Old Soroptimist Xmas Project Delivers Food Vouchers

By Alan Shuttleworth

In Decembers-past, the Colfax downtown was transformed into its Winterfest. Now, enter the Corona Virus and the necessary restrictions that go with it and the activities start to go into the "cancelled" file.

However, in recognition of the recent economic hardships placed on so many of our community members, the Colfax Soroptimist Club continued to support needy families with their 40th annual Christmas Project.

Families undergoing economic hardships were identified, and over 250 food vouchers to MarVal Supermarket were distributed on Saturday, December 13th. In addition, those families with young children received a voucher to Target and were able to purchase necessities as well as gifts for placing under the tree. Karen Miller, President of the Soroptimist Club extended her special thanks to the Placer County Board of Realtors and Sierra Self Storage. "We could not have done this special project without the support of area businesses and individual donors!"

While the Soroptimist Club's Christmas Project has been providing holiday support to needy families for decades, the Colfax Lioness Club has recently partnered with the Christmas Project. In the past several years, the Lioness' have donated literally hundreds of winter

coats and jackets to the same needy families.

While 2020 was a dark time for us all, the Colfax Christmas

Project for this year is a reminder that caring for your fellow man is still a strong community value and a sign that 2021 will be brighter and more hopeful.



**The donations from area businesses as well as individuals made the Christmas Project possible. Shown receiving a cash donation to the project from Sierra Self Storage is (L-R) Sonja Conklin, Judy Cowart-Anderson, Soroptimist President Karen Miller, Nikki Davis, Sierra Self Storage Manager, Pam Bristow, Pam Rex-Small and Janis Quinn.**  
Photo by Katie Bradley

### City Council from page 1

executive director Don Eckert summarized the main points again for the council, adding that the other JPA members had voted to approve. Colfax joined them after a brief council discussion and a 5-0 vote.

The last item of council business dealt with a two-part Colfax Volunteer Fire Dept. item that included: the potential purchase of a Tactical Water Tender that would cost \$375,000, and the potential for merging fire services with Placer County. After some brief discussion,

council member Fatula said the council needed more information and suggested a public workshop in January. (For more information on this issue see Mayor's Corner on page two.)

**City Council meeting dates in January are:**

**Wednesday, January 13  
&  
Wednesday, January 27**

## 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](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/con-  
tent/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/col-  
faxca](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>

# Shop Local



**Invest in your community this holiday season.**

**Shopping locally...**



Preserves jobs in your community.



Helps keep businesses open.



Keeps your tax dollars invested where you live.

**#ShopPlacer is a collaborative initiative with Placer County cities, chambers, and communities.**

**ShopPlacer.com**