

- ◀ **GUESS WHAT TIME IT IS?**
Time to toast the kickoff of the 2020 sparkling wine harvest
BELOW
- ▶ **ADU WEBINAR**
City, new agency hosting ADU informational webinar Aug. 13
- ▶ **FAREWELL, RAYMOND**
Longtime Calistoga resident, volunteer historian passes

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Local election slate filling up with newcomers, incumbents

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Incumbents in the Nov. 3 election looking to retain their seats on both the City Council and the Calistoga school board are facing challengers while mayor Chris Canning will be running unopposed if no one else files nomination papers by end of today.

Four years ago, Canning and sitting councilmembers Michael Dunsford and Irais Lopez-Ortega were reappointed to their positions after no one else chose to run against them.

Dunsford and Lopez-Ortega are being challenged by Lisa-Marie Gift

and Spiro Makras. Neither have ever held public office.

Canning's seat, as of Wednesday night, was unchallenged.

Each candidate has completed and filed nomination papers, which includes gathering 20-30 signatures of support from registered Calistoga voters, said city clerk Kendall Rose Granucci.

Political newcomer Gift, a 10-year resident and small business owner, is running for a seat at the table because she is committed to the community where's she's raising a family. "My goals for our city are straightforward



Michael Dunsford



Lisa-Marie Gift



Spiro Makras

— protect our quality of life, preserve what makes Calistoga unique and special, support our business sector, a high standard for public

safety, and to ensure Calistoga has a future of sta-

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Sirens tested; generator hub PSPS ready

■ Ongoing operational costs stall progress of Rancho De generator

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

A day after reporting on the city's readiness for power shutoffs and emergency notifications, Calistoga officials sound-tested a new set of warning sirens Wednesday to mixed public reviews.

The night before, city manager Mike Kim had told City Council members that not only was the new five-siren notification system functional but a docking station built by PG&E to house a bank of temporary power generators was operable as well.

"The intent is not for the sirens to tell people what to do but to tell them to seek additional information whether it be via the city's web page or the Nixle system — that is our primary notification system for emergencies," Kim said during the council meeting, held via Zoom Tuesday evening. Everyone in the community should be signed up for Nixle alerts, the city manager said.

Apparently, not everyone is. Moments after the noon siren test, one person posted on the community website Nextdoor: "What is the alarm for. Anyone hear the alarm? It has been twice."

Four people responded to the post, three of them telling the resident to sign up for Nixle alerts.

Former Calistoga Police Sgt. Doug O'Neill started a conversation thread

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A bit of normal during pandemic: Harvest begins

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

"We're excited to kick off harvest on Aug. 4 this year, a little bit on the early side; honestly the average is 10 days later that we would normally start," Schramsberg CEO Hugh Davies said Wednesday morning just before raising a bottle of sparkling wine and saber toward a hand-held phone, addressing a virtual audience.

Limited by COVID-19 restrictions to gatherings no larger than 10, there was a severely-diminished onsite crowd at the Schramsberg crush pad — sight of countless harvest kick-off celebrations. Absent were the throngs of valued club members and direct sales reps. Few office workers were there and only two media members.

Davies' own family members, including his wife and three young

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PHOTO BY MATTHEW LEVY/SCHRAMSBERG VINEYARDS

Schramsberg owner and president Hugh Davies, left foreground, and members of his staff celebrate the start of the 2020 harvest Wednesday with a traditional sparkling wine sabering and toast.

ATAC reviewing potential recognition of 'the loop'

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

An ad hoc committee will explore the formal recognition, signage and dedication of a 2.7-mile community walking route commonly known as "The Loop" before sending a recommendation to the Planning Commission for safety improvements.

The five-member Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) voted 4-0 to form the two-person subcommittee at Wednesday's online Zoom meeting. Planning and Building director Zach Tusinger and public works senior civil engineer Hamid Heidary presented a virtual slide show to the committee, showing the path and

suggestions for improved signage, traffic calming and safety measures along the heavily used route populated by runners, pedestrians, strollers and bicyclists.

Tusinger suggested the two-person task-force be formed to consider writing a description of The Loop, signage to help people navigate the route, and to evaluate conflicts between those who use it for recreation and drivers who use it for commutes.

Ed Kozel, whose home is on Cedar Street, brought concern for safety conflicts along The Loop to the ATAC's attention last month, pointing out that narrow sidewalks,

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Grant to promote ADUs in Calistoga

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city will work with a new arm of the Napa Valley Community Foundation to ensure that a recently-received \$160,000 state housing grant does what it's intended to do — streamline and boost the construction of granny units in Calistoga.

A contract approved by the City Council on Tuesday commits the city to working with NVCF's North Bay Accessory Dwelling Unit Project, created to facilitate the construction of ADUs.

"The grant was applied for by the city with the intent of

helping further and ease the ability of homeowners and property owners in Calistoga to build ADUs or Accessory Dwelling Units and it was always contemplated as part of that grant application that if it was successfully received we would enter some sort of agreement with the Community Foundation...to help folks further develop and possibly add ADUs to their property," Planning and Building director Zach Tusinger told council members.

The grant stems from California Senate Bill 2, the Building Homes and Jobs Act of 2017, part of a 15-bill package aimed at easing the state's housing shortage. SB 2 established a

\$75 recording fee on real estate documents to provide funding to local governments to create programs and policies that streamline building approvals and accelerate housing production.

SB 2 also directed local governments to make it easier for residents to build ADUs by updating zoning laws and reducing or eliminating some of the building and connection fees they charge.

Calistoga has been proactive in adopting new ADU policies and updating zoning and building codes to make it easier for residents to build ADUs, either

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