

# Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

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TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

*Jim Flamson, a certified public accountant working and living in Calistoga, is shown in his office with just a few of the vintage typewriters in his collection. Flamson learned this week that he has won the Art Deco Society of California's first Technology Award, honoring the preservation of technology popular in the Art Deco era.*

## Flamson collection is right type for Art Deco Society

**By Kim Beltran**

Tribune Editor

Calistoga tax man Jim Flamson is being honored by the Art Deco Society of California for his extensive typewriter collection, he learned this week.

"You and your outstanding typewriter collection have won the first Art Deco Society Technology Award," Therese Poletti, the Society's Preservation Director, wrote in an email to Flamson on Feb. 16. "Your collection, along with a typewriter repair store in

Berkeley called California Typewriter, are the joint winners of our first award to honor technology popular in the Art Deco era."

Although this is the first Technology Award handed out by the ADSC, the group has since 2013 honored builders, designers, artists, photographers, collectors and musicians with its Michael F. Crowe Award for dedication to the preservation of all things Art Deco.

In fact, last year Calistoga's Tank Garage Winery and owners James Harder and Jim

Regusci won the Michael Crowe Award for restoration and rehabilitation of a late 1930s Texaco gas station.

Art Deco is the popular name for the design movement that flourished from the 1920s through the early 1940s. Flamson began collecting typewriters by accident in 1974. He had just moved back to Calistoga to take over his late father's insurance agency on Lincoln Avenue. His father had an old typewriter sitting in the window sill in the front of the office, and Flamson was

amazed by how many people stopped while walking by to admire it.

A few months later, someone came in and asked if he would like another typewriter to go with the one in the window. He said "yes" and the rest, as they say, is history.

Since then, Flamson has accumulated more than 50 typewriters, ranging in age from 1896 through the 1940s. The collection includes typewriters

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## Council takes 1st step to OK rate increases

Residents could see hikes in June water, sewer bills

**By Kim Beltran**

Tribune Editor

A handful of determined citizens has two weeks to convince the city that there is a way to reduce the increases in water and sewer rates that are up for final adoption on March 6.

If not, Calistoga residents can expect to see this year's 15 percent increases in both water and sewer rates on their June bills, city officials said Tuesday night.

The City Council voted 3-2 to introduce and waive the first reading of a new ordinance that ushers in more than a 60 percent increase in water rates over the next five years. Sewer rates would go up more than 55 percent in that same time frame.

Councilman Gary Kraus petitioned his colleagues to put off for two more weeks a decision on the rate ordinance after being visited the night before by resident Antoinette Mailliard, who argues that the new pricing structure unfairly punishes low water users by charging them the same fixed-rate costs as higher water users.

In the four months since the proposed rate increases were made public, some 50 to 80 Calistoga residents have attended public hearings on the issue. Many more sent letters of protest to the council, which has listened to their concerns and ideas but repeatedly rebuffed suggestions that it says won't work or can't be implemented.

Residents Mailliard, Sophie Gullung, Don and Charlotte Williams, Yvonne and Chick Harranty and Paul Knoblich have refused to be swayed and continued Tuesday night to lobby the City Council to explore other options in

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## Measure T, gas tax pave way for \$4.8 million in street, sidewalk repair

**By Kim Beltran**

Tribune Editor

Ailing streets and sidewalks throughout the city are scheduled for repairs under a plan approved by the City Council Tuesday night that includes \$1.7 million in Measure T funds and \$1.6 million in state gas tax revenues.

With the city's annual contribution of just under \$290,000, Calistoga will spend nearly \$5 million over five years to improve its roads and public walkways.

The plan adopted on Tuesday is a requirement under Measure T, a half-cent sales tax increase for road maintenance approved in 2012 by Napa County voters.

The sales tax increase goes into effect on July 1, lasts for 10 years and will be administered by the Napa Valley Transportation-Taxing Authority (NVTA-TA). Tax proceeds will be allocated among local municipalities and the county according to a formula based on how much sales tax each brings in.

According to Public Works director Mike Kirm, Calistoga's annual share of Measure T revenue is projected to be \$350,030 the first year increasing to \$378,884 by year five.

Revenue from the measure is to be used only for maintenance and reconstruction of streets, roads, transportation infrastructure within the public right-of-way and "including but not limited to: sidewalks, curb and

gutters, traffic signals, curb ramps, stormwater operations, lighting, traffic signage, striping and local roadway drainage," Kirm wrote in his staff report to the council.

In order to receive the Measure T money, Calistoga (as with all jurisdictions) must calculate its average "maintenance of effort," or the average amount it spent annually on street/sidewalk maintenance, in fiscal years 2007/08 through 2009/10, and commit to spending at least that amount every year in addition to the new tax revenues.

Calistoga's annual maintenance of effort, Kirm reported, is \$287,001.

The city's Measure T plan, which must be submitted to NVTA-TA for approval, must

include a five-year work schedule detailing the projects that will be funded with revenues from the measure.

To prioritize projects in the plan, Kirm said staff used a 2017 report prepared by consultants Capitol Asset & Pavement Services, which gave city streets a Pavement Condition Index, or PCI. Out of 100 possible points, the city's overall PCI rating was 53. The work laid out in the five year Measure T plan will increase the city's PCI rating 17 points to 70, said Kirm.

In future years, according to Kirm's report, underground utility replacement "will need

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