

# Calistoga Tribune

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TIPPING THE SCALE

New no tipping policy at Lovina better for all, says owner

BELOW ▼



## Plan to alter Marchiori mural stirs debate

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

A building owner's plan to spruce up the outside of a tasting room at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Cedar Street has ruffled the feathers of the artist who painted a large-scale mural on one side 18 years ago.

But Carl Dene, who owns the building that now houses the Lower Estates Tasting Room, said his efforts to work with the artist to incorporate the mural into a new design were rebuffed because the artist – Calistoga's Carlo Marchiori – didn't like the materials Dene would be using in the exterior remodel.

"I'm an artist; a graphic designer and I went to art

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PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

Calistoga artist Carlo Marchiori painted this mural, "The Horses," on the back side of this building overlooking the Napa River 18 years ago. Marchiori and friends are speaking out about new owner Carl Dene's plan to remodel the building and cover the mural.

## Council adopts 22/23 budget; talks water issues, Green panel

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

The Calistoga City Council on Tuesday adopted a \$17 million operating budget that is "balanced" and "accomplishes a lot of" its goals, city manager Laura Snideman said.

The council also learned that its Public Works department is making strides toward eliminating contaminants in city drinking water but a full solution is \$2 million and several years away.

The role of city's Green Committee was also discussed at length, taking into consideration the fact that Calistoga plans to join a countywide Climate Action Plan consortium while maintaining its autonomy with its own CAP.

Council members voted 3-1 (Lisa Gift was absent) to adopt the 2022-23 budget, which assumes revenues of \$15,959,812 and expenditures of \$14,947,811.

Councilman Donald Williams voted no on the budget adoption. When asked by mayor Chris Canning if

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## Calistoga Independence Day celebration to span two days

### July 4 Parade returns after two year hiatus, to be preceded by Star Spangled Social Sunday in park

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

After a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, Calistoga's annual Fourth of July parade will once again rumble its way up Lincoln Avenue in celebration of America's independence from Great Britain in 1776.

The parade, which has about 35 entries, according to Celebrate Napa Valley board member Maggie Maib, will travel from Cedar Street to Fair Way beginning at 11 a.m. Monday morning.

Parade judges have yet to be named, said Maib, but Celebrate Napa Valley board president Karan Schlegal and her husband, Ron, have been chosen as parade marshalls by the Brannan Center board of directors and members, many of whom are working as volunteers for both Monday's parade and Sunday's Star Spangled Social at Pioneer Park.

Sunday's social kicks off at 11 a.m. in Pioneer Park with a Corn-

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Members of the Myrtle Street Dead Enders pose in front of a decorated home in 2021. Some 20 residents and business owners signed up to participate in a fourth of July home/business decorating contest for the holiday. Winners of both the contest and the parade will be announced at a parade after party Monday at Lincoln Avenue Brewery.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER



PHOTO COURTESY LOVINA

Lovina General Manager Michaley Chasteen prepares to serve dessert to restaurant guests dining on the upstairs deck.

## No tip policy better for workers, diners

■ Calistoga's Lovina restaurant to institute no-tipping policy next week

By Julie Mitchell  
For the Tribune

There's often that awkward moment at the end of a nice meal out, when the check arrives, and – especially if there are several people splitting the bill – when figuring what tip to leave can really take away from the experience.

Now, diners at one of Calistoga's favorite spots, Lovina, won't have to worry about leaving a tip because the restaurant is instituting a new Tip Free policy. Jennifer Bennett, Lovina's owner, did the same thing at her San Francisco restaurant, Zazie, in 2015, and it's been a great success.

Zazie, a French-inspired bistro, opened in the city's Cole Valley neighborhood in 1992. Bennett started as

general manager in 2000, ultimately buying the restaurant in 2006. Now, she owns a quarter of Zazie as a silent partner and focuses her attention on Lovina, which she opened in Calistoga in 2017.

Bennett has created a similar Tip Free system at Lovina. Servers will receive 12 percent of their individual sales, and 18 percent of each shift's sales will be divided among the rest of the staff. In addition, all employees will receive a 401(k) employer match, two weeks paid time off, 50 percent funded Kaiser medical and dental benefits, and one month of maternity/paternity leave, regardless of part-time or full-time status.

"While there was a little grumbling at first at Zazie," said Bennett, "I probably only lost just one or two employees."

Bennett said that by allowing customers the option to tip wait staff, it tends to "incentivize" bad habits.

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