

# Calistoga Tribune

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50¢



Daylight Savings ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 2. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

Friday, October 31, 2014

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## Interest free loans for home improvements offered by city

■ \$500,000 grant for low-income owners

By **Amanda Rhodes**  
Tribune Staff Writer

Eligible low-income homeowners can now receive interest-free loans for home improvements through Calistoga's new owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

City council approved the program guidelines, funded by a \$500,000 HOME grant from the state of California, at its Oct. 21 meeting.

The program is part of Calistoga's effort to preserve and improve the housing of low-income households.

"It is designed to assist in the form of low income households; in the form of deferred payment loans, and is used to finance the cost to make the necessary repairs that will provide the homeowner with a healthy, safe and sanitary home," Andrea Clark of Napa Housing Authority said.

In July 2013, the application to the state was submitted on behalf of the community and in January, the \$500,000 that was asked for was granted.

"Loans will be in the form of a 30 year, deferred payment loan, meaning that no payments will have to be made during that 30 year period, a requirement of the grant program," Clark said. "Offered at a zero percent interest rate," she added.

"Sounds almost too good to be true," Mayor Chris Canning said.

The maximum loan amount for conventional housing is \$60,000 and \$20,000 for mobile or manufactured homes.

Examples of eligible work in-

See **LOANS** page 6

## Bridge project will disrupt traffic for years

■ \$10 million for new Lincoln Ave. bridge replacement

By **Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

It will take at least two years of construction work to replace the existing Lincoln Avenue Bridge when Caltrans begins removing the old two-span bridge built in 1919 and building a new, single span bridge 76 feet in length.

Caltrans officials met with the

public at the Community Center last Thursday to explain the stages of construction and environmental concerns the project faces.

Project manager Kelly Hershberg said the replacement of the 95-year-old bridge was necessary because of critical scour damage, the wearing away of soil supporting the foundation by the Napa

River, which was determined by the state in 2002. Water is eroding a hole in the creek bed at the front of the central pier.

The cost for replacing the bridge Hershberg said is estimated at \$10 million, with work scheduled to begin in the summer of 2017 and finishing by the summer of 2019.

The current bridge, which was widened in 1952, will be replaced in stages, allowing two-way traffic to use the bridge during construc-

tion, Hershberg said. There may be times when construction activities could require night closures of the bridge or temporary one-way traffic.

The two bus stops next to the bridge will be relocated to the brick AT&T building and near the corner of Myrtle and Lincoln Avenue. Some parking spaces on Lincoln Avenue will be temporarily

See **BRIDGE** page 3

## RAIN or SHINE, PARADE IS ON TONIGHT



FILE PHOTO BY TONY FLORES

The annual Halloween Parade sponsored by the Lions Club starts at 6 p.m. tonight at the corner of Cedar Street and Lincoln Avenue, rain or shine.

## Happy Halloween, Calistoga!

By **Amanda Rhodes**  
Tribune Staff Writer

*Frozen's* Elsa might be the most popular Halloween costume of 2014 for more reasons than one; it's going to be a chilly, wet night. One of the few things that can put a damper on

See **HALLOWEEN** page 7

## Stores asked to clean up sidewalk clutter

■ Chamber sends letter to stores asking for help

By **Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

Retail stores are being asked to reduce clutter along Lincoln Avenue that obstructs sidewalks and violates rules established for state highways by Caltrans.

Chamber CEO Chris Canning visited retail stores on the main shopping corridor Wednesday passing out letters to store owners reminding them that there are "very strict highway codes relating to what structures, items and activities" are allowed on roadways and sidewalks.

Four years ago, Canning said, the chamber petitioned the city to allow certain types of activities such as sidewalk dining to occur. "We promoted it because it contributed to the vibrancy of our downtown," Canning said. Sidewalk dining was tolerated by the city if there were no formal complaints by Caltrans, residents or visitors to Calistoga and there was no obstruction of sidewalks that made it unsafe for pedestrians and wheelchairs.

Canning said the city planning department asked the chamber to address the growing number of complaints over store items being placed on sidewalks outside store entrances.

Complaints over "A" frame signs, tables full of items for sale, racks of hanging clothes and furniture for sale have proliferated and caused safety issues as well as aesthetic issues which have resulted in complaints, Canning said.

The letter, which Canning hand delivered, asked owners to remove any items that may infringe on safe pedestrian passage along both sides of Lincoln Avenue and

See **SIDEWALKS** page 6

Tuesday, Nov. 4 is Election Day

## It's all over but the counting of votes

■ Campaign for city council comes to an end

By **Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher



**Jim Barnes**  
Incumbent



**Doug Cook**  
Challenger



**Garry Kraus**  
Incumbent

It's all over except for the counting of ballots as most voters have decided on who will represent them in local, county, state and federal offices and how they will support seven state measures.

By now 75 percent of voters who will participate

in this year's low-turnout election have already returned their ballots by mail, according to John Tuteur, Napa County registrar of voters. Calistoga has 2,183 registered voters and 1,860 are permanent Vote By Mail (VBM) voters. One precinct still has 323 people qualified to mark their ballots in person at the polling place at

the fire station.

Locally, Tuesday's results will show whether or not incumbents Jim Barnes and Gary Kraus retain their seats on city council or whether challenger Doug Cook will take one of their seats.

All three men participated in several candidates

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