



Green panel  
tackling lots  
of issues

■ Leaf blowers, climate change, gas stations, food ware all on to-do list

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

While staff work to draft a new ordinance that would ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within the city limits, the Calistoga Green Committee has initiated its next project – zoning ordinance amendments restricting the expansion of gas stations.

The Green Committee, established only four months ago, has been tackling changes in Calistoga that will help address climate change, landfill waste, polluting gas-powered leaf blowers and tree protection measures to reduce carbon dioxide.

Gas-powered leaf blowers were identified early on by the five-member panel as a fairly easy target for change, given that bans have been implemented in many other California cities, including neighboring Yountville.

When American Canyon instituted a 45-day moratorium last March on processing new applications for gas stations, the Green Committee asked Tusinger to begin a process that would evaluate and address the city’s current codes on gas stations, charging stations, car washes and auto repair businesses. Tusinger shared a one-page report modifying parts

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Yasemin Binay waits for her boyfriend Tuesday after casting her vote at the Napa County Vote Center at Calistoga Community Center on Washington Street.

Governor defeats recall attempt

By Laurel Rosenhall & Sameea Kamal  
CalMatters.org

The attempt to throw Gov. Gavin Newsom out of office failed by a wide margin, according to vote counts released Tuesday night in California’s historic recall election.

With some 9.1 million ballots counted – out of 22.3 million ballots mailed to registered voters – the “no” vote is ahead of the “yes” vote 64% to 36%, according to the California Secretary of State.

Newsom pulled to such a big early lead that the Associated Press, CNN, NBC and other networks declared within an hour of the polls closing Tuesday night that the recall had failed and Newsom had survived.

“We are enjoying an overwhelming ‘no’ vote tonight here in the state of California,” Newsom said in a brief appearance in the courtyard of the state Democratic Party headquarters in Sacramento. “But ‘no’ was not the only thing that was expressed tonight. I want to focus on what we said ‘yes’ to as a state. We said ‘yes’ to science, ‘yes’ to vaccines, we said ‘yes’ to ending this pandemic.

“We said yes to diversity, we said yes to inclusion, we said yes to pluralism. We said yes to all those things that we hold dear as Californians, and I would argue, as Americans,” the governor added.

But there are many more votes to count. Here’s why: The votes reported first are those ballots cast

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New virus  
cases drop  
from Aug.

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

New COVID-19 cases dropped from 1,100 in August to 372 so far this month, and the county’s ICU capacity is hovering at around 10%, Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Relucio reported this week.

The good news, she said, is that 88% of all Napa County residents have been vaccinated against the disease.

“This third wave is bigger than last summer but not quite as substantial as the winter surge,” Relucio told Napa County supervisors in her weekly report on Tuesday. New cases peaked in July at 2,600.

New cases among the unvaccinated, she said, are 140 times higher than those among vaccinated residents.

Relucio said the 10% Intensive Care Unit bed availability in the county is “not good” but noted that it has improved from 3% last week. Regular hospital bed capacity is at 40%, she said.

The county’s new case rate as a seven-day average per 100,000 population currently sits at 18.7, which under the state’s former Blue Print

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Council’s Sept. 21  
meeting cancelled

The Calistoga City Council’s Sept. 21 regular meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of business.

The council approved the cancellation at its Sept. 7 meeting, and city clerk Marni Rittburg confirmed that decision this week, posting an official cancellation notice in place of an agenda.

The Council’s next meeting is set for Oct. 5, at which time it hopes to conduct its first in-person forum since early 2020. City staff is also working to create a system in which community members can continue to access the meetings online via Zoom and YouTube.

An order issued by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2020 set aside certain provisions of the state’s open meeting law, known as the Ralph M. Brown Act, in order to cut down on COVID-19 transmissions. That order is set to expire at the end of this month.

Calistoga first up in new marketing effort



PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

Visit Napa Valley President/CEO Linsey Gallagher introduces the new #CalistogaDreaming promotion at a kick-off event in Napa Sept. 9.

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

Calistoga is in the spotlight of a splashy new marketing campaign that emanates from downtown Napa and highlights the unique qualities of every town in the county for 30 days.

The goal of Visit Napa Valley’s #NapaValleyDreaming promotion is to encourage visitors and residents alike “to get off the beaten path and explore the lesser-known hidden gems in each town,” said VNV president and CEO Linsey Gallagher during a kick-off event Sept. 9 in the organization’s new Napa Valley Welcome Center on First Street in Napa.

All this month, the Napa Valley’s “crown jewel” is featured through #CalistogaDreaming. In

October, St. Helena will be highlighted, then Yountville, Napa and American Canyon in the ensuing consecutive months.

Promotion of each city begins with a kick-off reception, followed by “pop-up” activities with local businesses (wine tastings, food tastings, etc.) in the Welcome Center, where a massive digital screen rotates through a series of photos and content specific to each locale. Visit Napa Valley will post feature articles about each place on its home page during the month and will wage a social media campaign encouraging exploration of interesting spots.

“The town spotlight ‘Dreaming’ months are key to a proactive des-

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