

Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY GRANVILLE FOX

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Officials meet with neighbors to talk options for damaged bridge
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Calistoga officials lay out framework of fair JPA

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

A large gathering of Calistoga residents were among the first in the county Wednesday to hear details about a proposed agreement between the city and the county to run the Napa County Fairgrounds. Under a new Joint Powers Authority, the city of Calistoga for the first time in the 70-acre property's history will have a major say in how the fairgrounds and its various enterprises are managed.

"This is a remarkable opportunity for this community for the first time in 80 years to actually have a direct influence on a very significant piece of property in the heart of our community," Calistoga mayor Chris Canning said at a community forum designed to explain how the JPA plan would work and to answer questions. The Napa County Fairgrounds property is owned by the county but has always been managed by the Napa County Fair Association Board
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Calistoga mayor Chris Canning explains how a new agency partnership between the city and Napa County to operate the Napa County Fairgrounds would work during a public forum Wednesday night at the Community Center.
PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

30 years of beer making

By Granville Fox
Tribune Reporter

Travelers from around the globe come to Calistoga to sample the world famous wine that is produced in the region, but few are aware that this little town features one of the state's oldest microbreweries as well. The Calistoga Inn will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its Napa Valley Brewing Company on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m. The "Bier Fest" celebration will take place in the outdoor beer garden and feature live music, food and beer – brewed in house of course. Located inside a water tower behind the restaurant and 18-room inn, the brewery was founded in 1987 by Phil Rogers, becoming the first establishment to brew beer commercially in the Napa Valley since prohibition, said current co-owner Mike Dunsford, who with his mom, Rosie, purchased the business in 1989.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL DUNSFORD



Above, Napa Valley Brewing Co. master-brewer Brad Smisloff at work in the brewery, housed in a water tower behind Calistoga Restaurant & Inn. The businesses are all owned by mother and son team Rosie and Michael Dunsford, pictured at left.

Whether it's a special dinner event like the annual Pauper's Feast, grabbing a drink at the indoor bar, enjoying a nice lunch sitting on the Napa River patio or tasting the local craft brews in the "Back 40" beer garden, the

Calistoga Inn has been a part of the town's allure for three decades. This wasn't the case, however, in 1987 when the Inn opened. The outdoor patio was once a parking lot before Rogers converted it into a beer garden that served

hamburgers and hotdogs, while the inside had fine dining with an emphasis on seafood. At the time formal outside dining was not a popular trend but upon taking over the Dunsford's realized that the customers inside longed to enjoy their food with the ambient atmosphere of the patio. So they ditched the picnic tables on the patio, hauled the fine dining tables outside and never looked back. While much has changed over the years, one of the staples has been the draught beer brewed in house. "We have four main house beers that we inherited from Phil Rogers, and we really haven't deviated much from those original recipes," Michael Dunsford said in an interview with the Tribune this week. "We've tweaked them little over time." Dunsford refers to these as their principle
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City to patch, then replace meeting center

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city will spend about \$50,000 now to give the Calistoga Community Center a minor facelift, including new paint and bathroom upgrades. But the City Council on Tuesday indicated that it plans to move forward with an effort to replace the outmoded building and create an events plaza within the next decade. "I think we can probably do this in five years," said City Councilman Jim Barnes, acknowledging that the cost of a preliminary design prepared by architect Tom Stimpert is likely to cost several million dollars. "Let's put a little lipstick on the pig and start raising money," he said. For many years, various City Councils have discussed the need for a modern, more useful community center but, as with all projects, funding is the determining factor for what gets built when. The current council, however, has been more adamant about making the project a reality and with the city budget in healthy shape and the economy seemingly on the rise, it hired Stimpert to come up with a design to be used as a starting point for discussion about
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Options for Greenwood Ave. damaged bridge discussed

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

County officials this week offered four potential options for dealing with the quake-damaged, 103-year-old Garnett Creek bridge on Greenwood Avenue: Tear it down, rehabilitate it, replace it or make it a pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists. Depending on the final decision, it could still be three to seven years

before the route is reopened, according to county Public Works director Steve Lederer who, along with Napa County supervisor Diane Dillon, addressed a few dozen neighbors at the defunct span on Monday. The old, stone bridge has been closed since being damaged by a 6.0 earthquake centered south of Napa struck on Aug. 24, causing more than \$350 million in damages
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Napa County supervisor Diane Dillon discusses options at a meeting this week with neighbors for dealing with a 103-year-old stone bridge on Greenwood Avenue damaged by a 2014 earthquake. The county was seeking public input as it works its way through the pros and cons for fixing or closing the closed span.
PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON