



# Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run COMMUNITY

Volume 32 – No. 2

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Summer 2021

## DUTCH FLAT 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION 2021



Color Guard



Firetrucks



Floats

By Sarah Fugate

There will be an Independence Day parade in Dutch Flat on Sunday, July 4, 2021, at 10:30 am. After nearly 16 months of COVID-19 restrictions, President Biden is encouraging Americans to celebrate. Join us for this family-friendly day of patriotic fun.

Dutch Flat's annual Independence Day Celebration provides something for everyone with fun, food and a parade. Come enjoy the parade featuring entries by local nonprofits and businesses, antique cars, floats, firetrucks, and marchers. Listen to music and enjoy a barbecued hamburger, served with chips and a drink, at Abe's Dutch Flat Trading Post. In the afternoon, visit the Golden Drift Museum and take the Walking Tour of Dutch Flat.

All events will be held Sunday, July 4. Events are free (with the exception of the hamburger lunch) and open to the public. This is a community-organized event having no affiliation with the Dutch Flat Community Center.

### DUTCH FLAT INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

**Date: Sunday, July 4, 2021**

**Time: 10:30 am; start lining up at 10 am**

**Place: On Stockton Street, in front of  
the Dutch Flat Community Center**

**All entries welcome**



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DUTCH FLAT, CA 95714

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## Dutch Flat Hotel has new owners



The Dutch Flat Hotel

By Debby McClatchy

“We just want to do right by the town and return the hotel to its gold rush glory.” This was stated by Leif Lowery, one of the three members of the Dutch Flat Group, who, as of March of this year, are new guardians of the Dutch Flat Hotel. They also purchased the properties across the street, including The Trading Post (Abe's), the Post office, and the drift building, previously Fanning's Antique Shop. These were acquired, not only for historic preservation, but to provide extra parking and possible septic solutions for

**“We just want to do right by the town and return the hotel to its gold rush glory.” - Leif Lowery**

the future. The other two owners are Leif's wife, Wendy, and their friend, Ken Kerner. A “square nails kind of guy”, Leif is originally from Foresthill, where the group also owns multiple B&B's and vacation rentals, as well as properties in the Sutter Creek area. As a small-town resident, he intimately understands Dutch Flat's needs. The group plans to take down the flowery Victoriana favored by former owners and replace it with real period antiques. This will harken back to a simpler, more comfy atmosphere, better suited to the hotel's gold rush heritage. They hope to bring in events and concerts, weddings and family gatherings, all with an eye to keeping it peaceful in our small town.

**Anyone is welcome to drop by for a tour and locals will get a break on prices.**

Anyone is welcome to drop by for a tour and locals will get a break on prices. There are nine rooms, including a family area and a room for handicapped guests. Abe will remain at The Trading Post. There is a future possibility of the restaurant opening up for lunch and dinner, but for now full breakfasts will be offered on the weekends. We are lucky that the Dutch Flat Group is not a “Bay Area Buyer” and seems to be genuinely ready to help keep Dutch Flat both a small town where people live as well as a holiday destination. When Charles and Mary Seffens arrived here in the early 1850's their tent was often surrounded by hungry miners, prompting them to open a boardinghouse that became the hotel. Now, 170 years later, they would be thrilled to see it still flourishing.

To reserve a room, call (530) 389-2698 or email [info@TheDutchFlatHotel.com](mailto:info@TheDutchFlatHotel.com). Drop by and meet our new neighbors. We welcome them!

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Views expressed in letters, guest opinion pieces and other contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the Dutch Flat Community Center, or its Board.

This newspaper is published quarterly and distributed to Dutch Flat Community Center members and to residents of the Center's service area from Gold Run to Emigrant Gap in Placer County, California.

We welcome contributions from readers. Submission deadline for the next issue is September 10, 2021.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**The Attic:** Thursdays, 11 am - 2 pm.

**Bingo:** 1st Fridays, 7:00 pm. Alta Community Center. Proceeds benefit the Alta Volunteer Fire Department.

**Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting:** 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Bob Kims, 530-389-8684.

**Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck:** 3rd Thursdays. June-August, 6:00 pm. Dutch Flat Swimming Pool, Mattel St. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share.

**Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast:** 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 am -10:00 am.

**Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Arts & Crafts:** Thursdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

**Dutch Flat United Methodist Church:** Sundays. Fellowship Dinner, 5:00 pm. Worship Service, 6:00 pm.

**Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting:** 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Location varies. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-389-2121.

**NFARA Board Meeting:** 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Jim Ricker, 530-389-8344.

**Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run:** Worship Service, Sundays, 10 am.

**Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta:** Worship Service, Sundays, 11 am. 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. Contact 530-389-2168.

**Sierra First Baptist Church Bible Study:** Mondays, 8:30 am,

**Sierra First Baptist Church Community Lunch:** Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Free.

**Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry:** Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm.

**CONTROLLING TRAFFIC IN DUTCH FLAT**



**Traffic Committee members:**

**Julie Kennedy, Sandy Sanders, Laura Glassco, Charlene McLaughlin, Eric McLaughlin and Kim Glassco.**  
**Not pictured: Birdsong Sundstrom**

**By Laura Glassco**

The Dutch Flat Traffic Calming Committee has met several times to discuss various ways to slow our traffic down. We received the data from the two sets of sensors that had recorded a week of activity on both Sacramento and Main Streets. Based on that data, and working very closely with the Department of Public Works, we have come to an agreement on the following measures to slow our traffic down.

1. All way stop at Sacramento and Stockton Streets, including legends, i.e., stop signs.
2. Stop on Fifth Avenue, including legend.
3. Stop on Diggins Hill Road and Main Street, including legend.
4. 25 mph signs on Main Street. Replacing End 25 mph sign and adding 2 more near railroad tracks.
5. Repainting legends at Alta School all way stop.

ALL OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY FALL 2021.

The County has offered to lend us two radar feedback signs for a period of 2-3 weeks. One will be installed on Main Street and the other on Sacramento Street. It is hoped that they'll be installed on June 25 and remain in place for 2 to 3 weeks. We would like to hear from the community as to whether you feel that these feedback signs are making a difference. Please feel free to contact Laura Glassco at 916-778-8308 or email at lauraglassco@yahoo.com.



**A message from the Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors**

**By Alex Prero**

Hello Everybody. Just a quick update on what's happening at the Community Center. As COVID restrictions are relaxing we are attempting to plan our summer activities. First, we will not be sponsoring our usual July 4th celebrations, due to time restrictions. Hopefully, next year we will be up and running.

The Community Potlucks are resuming, our first one will be (or was) June 17th, The potlucks will be held outside at the community pool, the third Thursday of the month, through August. This is due to the fact that the Community Center is being updated.

The Board is hoping to have the White Elephant Sale in September. It was voted to have a scaled-down version of the White Elephant Sale this year. Stay tuned for the exact date. We are always in need of volunteers for this event. It takes an army of people to set up for this event. Also, of course, donations for the event.

We are in need of a concrete contractor to give us a bid for the Community Center's sidewalk repair.

There are some exciting new changes happening at the Community Center. The kitchen has been remodeled, complete with a new oven, refrigerator, sink, cabinets and new countertop. Also, thanks to Bob Hampshire, we have new, updated drainage (hopefully no more flooding in the basement). There is also an ongoing discussion with Placer County over the maintenance of the grounds. Placer County will be maintaining the grounds as the County owns said grounds.

In conclusion, we are looking to fill some open Board Member slots, effective October. The Board meets the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

**Alta-Dutch Flat School Upcoming Events**

**First Day of School:** August 18, 2021

**Picture Day:** September 8, 2021

**Marin Headlands Trip for Fifth/Sixth Grade Students:** October 11,12,13, 2021

**CORRECTION**

In the Spring 2021 issue of COMMUNITY, in an article titled "Placer County in 1861", the owner of the Dutch Flat Hotel was misidentified as Charles Stephens. The correct name is Charles Seffens, not Stephens.

Letters can be sent to dfcc.newspaper@gmail.com or P.O. Box 14, Dutch Flat, CA 95714.

# Golden Drift Historical Society News



By Sarah Fugate

Some exciting changes have occurred. The Golden Drift Historical Society has taken ownership of the Hearse House from the Dutch Flat Community Center. We have also taken responsibility for maintenance of the Community Garden. Additionally, we have used a portion of our grant monies to clean up the fraternal order cemeteries in Dutch Flat.

With a quit-claim deed, the Community Center Board of Directors transferred ownership of the Hearse House, historical hearse, fire hose cart, and its property to the Golden Drift Historical Society. This transfer of ownership comes with an \$11,000 grant, donated by the Dutch Flat Volunteer Fire Department's Auxiliary. The funds are to be used to maintain the building and its contents.

Volunteers Jim and Lori DeCaro donated many hours to improve the sprinkler systems at both the Golden Drift Museum and the Community Garden. Placer County Public Works has taken over landscape maintenance at the Golden Drift Museum, enabling the Golden Drift Historical Society to use its landscaping budget to maintain

the Community Garden. Community Garden maintenance will be done, twice a month, by Gardens by Miguel.

Following the volunteer cemetery clean up on June 5, there were numerous piles of debris left over. Placer County provided two large dumpsters so that the debris piles could be removed. The Golden Drift Historical Society contracted with Miguel Sosa and his crew to fill the dumpsters. Now, the cemetery is cleaned up and fire danger has been reduced.

The Golden Drift Museum is free of charge and is open Friday through Sunday, noon until 4 pm. Visit us.



# Welcome Home *A personal story*



"Nursery" Crew of pilots and navigators, Viet Nam, 1972

By Bill Gallaher

Forty-seven years ago my buddy, John Smythe Manchester, died in a rice paddy in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam. He was 22 years old.

John never had a cell phone, a computer, or an iPad. He never heard of Samsung, Apple, or Verizon. He never texted, chatted, or emailed. He never had a Facebook page or a Twitter account. He never had a pair of Nikes or Adidas. He knew we were trying to put a man on the moon, but he died before we made it. He never saw a space shuttle. He knew Ronald Reagan was an actor, but never dreamed he would become the President. He never married, never had children, never had grandchildren. His parents buried him.

**Each Memorial Day, please spend just a moment remembering the men and women, like John, who gave their lives for our country.**

His name is engraved in the black granite on the Wall in Panel 52E, Row 40.

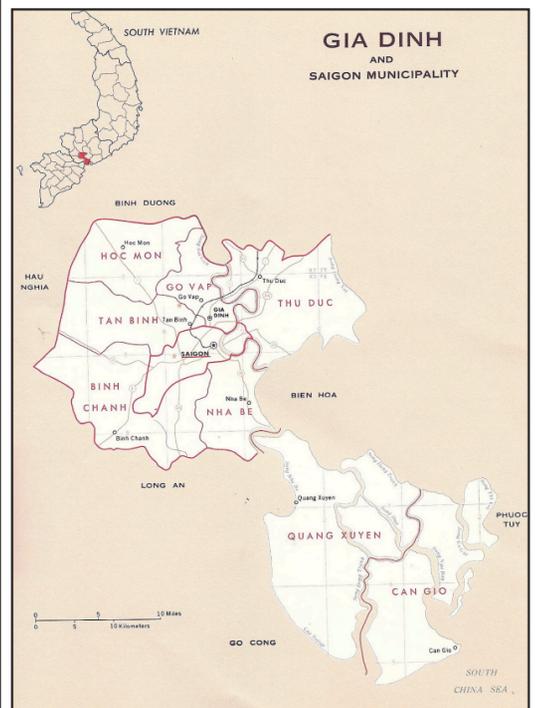
John and I were First Lieutenants and Platoon Leaders in Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, Third Infantry (Old Guard), 199th Light Infantry Brigade. I had the 2nd Platoon and he had the 3rd.

On Memorial Day in 2015, I got up at 6:00 AM and drove into DC to visit with my friend. There were a few people there, but the crowds did not arrive until later in the day and we were mostly alone. I don't know if he can hear me, but I talk to him as though he can, in the kind of crude language that infantry soldiers use to talk to each other.

I always wonder if anyone else ever comes to talk to him. I am over 70 now and wonder how many more years I will have to visit with him and let him know that I still remember him.

John was a soldier's soldier. He and I would talk privately about our fears, but never in front of the men we were charged with leading.

I wish he had made it back. We would have been life long friends.



## Monte Vista Inn

I-80 at Dutch Flat, California



**FOOD TO GO!**

**Call from 3:30-7:30 pm and pick up your food anytime that works for you between 4:30-7:30 pm**

**CALL 530-389-2333**

**Our doors are open for reservations**

**10-35 people**

**Call for more information**

**I'm asking all vets and families to join with me in sharing our stories. Email your stories to [hiddnlakes@aol.com](mailto:hiddnlakes@aol.com) to share your pain and joys with our community.**

## Get the Dirt on Dutch Flat



A dorodango

By Mia Monroe

Recently I was forming, hydrating, drying and polishing a dorodango (a Japanese mud ball) from Dutch Flat earth. I found a place recently dug, exposing the orange-y rust color of our soil. I moistened and slowly shaped the ball, then polished. Since this took daily attention over several weeks I had time to think about this special place on Earth.

When we first began spending time at Dutch Flat a few friends excitedly recalled they knew just where we are from reading John McPhee's classic, *Annals of the Former World!* Right there in the *Assembling California* section is the description of the road-cut on I-80 complete with the epic story it reveals of ancient riverbed, the Gold Rush and other geologic features here.

We were first welcomed by Chris and Susan Deck, helping us honor Griswold Morley's memory at the cabin he built in the 1930s. Soon they gifted us with a special Bear River quartz crystal egg, helped us select "one, two and three head" river rocks beautifully graced with lichen and moss for building retaining walls to establish usable "flats" for outdoor dining and camping friends at the cabin.

As I polish the dorodango I think back to Earth Marbles, beautiful blue glass orbs, we gave young rangers to remind them that our terra firma could just as easily be "Planet Water" (plus it was gifted with the suggestion they pass it along to acknowledge a good deed or special work). And I also recall Earth Balls, packed with a native seed mix pressed into moist clay and soil, dried and later thrown out into the awaiting landscape to help naturally and randomly restore the earth, protecting the seeds until nurturing rain dissolved them to stimulate germination.

And, I remind myself to learn the chemical composition of the Dutch Flat soil, the pH and clay %, the percolation rate and to seek where the organic layer is building up thanks to leaf drop from dogwood and oak, to watch which mushrooms spring forth to show underground health!

Meanwhile, I'll swing in the hammock cooled by the breeze and flip through Keith Hansen's latest "[Field Guide to the Birds of the Sierra Nevada](#)", immerse myself in Simard's "[Finding the Mother Tree](#)" (check out her TED talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVK9TCXZz6I>) leaf through some of Morley's cartography collection of USGS maps to find a hike or peak to survey the scene.



There are so many things to love about this area; the natural beauty, the rich history and the small town camaraderie. I am pleased to be a part of the lives of neighbors whether moving in or moving on.

Suzanne Vidal, GRI, Real Estate Broker  
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## Dutch Flat Pool News

By Mike Mutto

We hope that as we enter the new swim season that everybody gets a chance to visit the pool and enjoy our wonderful facility that we are blessed to have in our backyard. Please remember that we don't want or need any social media post's about the pool and please feel free to encourage any out of town visitors you meet @ the pool to respect our wishes.

For the first time in many years, we have a strong, balanced staff of new and returning lifeguards enabling us to keep the pool open 7 days a week, weather permitting. Give them a greeting and big thank you when you are there. On that note, please keep in mind that they are not babysitters, as we encourage all the parents to keep an eye on their kiddos to ensure they are playing by the rules and behaving safely at all times.

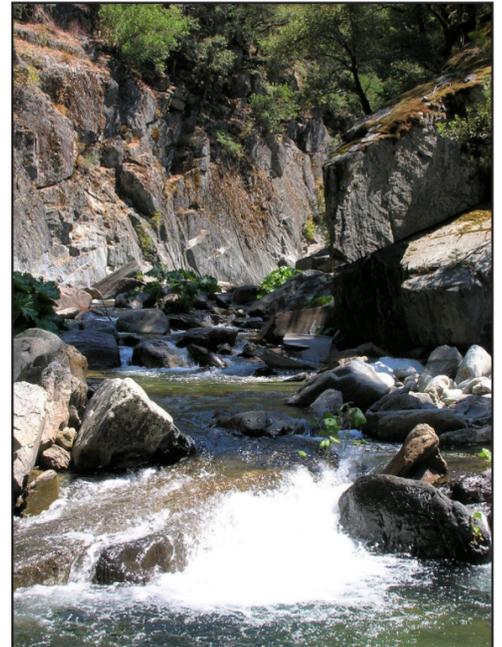
With Joel Baiocchi's help through months of negotiations "The Board & Trust" have now consummated and memorialized a new 30-year lease with Placer County. Our existing lease for the much-needed County support was due to expire in 2023 and the State required that we needed to enter into a new 30-year agreement before they would release our recently awarded Prop 68 funds for Facility upgrades. It is a good lease now, clearly defining all parties' roles and responsibilities that will benefit our communities and the facility for a long time to come.

Mark your calendars for Dutch Flat's biggest social event, the August 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pool Bar B Que. Get your tickets now, before it sells out. They are available at the Trading Post and will be on sale somewhere on the parade route, 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Kathy Mutto (530) 389-2902 and Laura Glassco ((916) 778-8308 also have tickets available. (Please do not call to ask for ticket holds). We will provide the usual and incredible "Mixed Grill", side dishes, live music and no-host bar for the biggest social event of the summer! Looking forward to seeing you all there!

## North Fork American River Alliance NFARA

By Jim Ricker

The 15 month moratorium on NFARA guided hikes into the North Fork Canyon is finally over. On June 6, in celebration of National Trails Day, 21 people and 3 dogs gathered in Blue Canyon for a hike down the China Bar Trail to the North Fork of the North Fork American River (NFARA). This short but steep trail provides one of the few places to access this seldom visited portion of the canyon. The China Bar Trail, which dates back to the Gold Rush, drops almost 1300 feet in under a mile. The beauty and solitude of the area makes the hike totally worth the effort. Chilly pools to soak your feet (and any other body part) await at the bottom. The NFNFAR is a true wilderness and opportunities for exploration abound.



The China Bar trail-head is 1.7 miles south of the community of Blue Canyon at the end of Lost Camp Road. This road and surrounding trails came into existence in the early 1850's during California's Gold Rush. Newspaper articles and General Land Office maps inform us that the road predates the building of the railroad and the community of Blue Canyon. The road and trails were used by the early miners to access mining claims and by other members of the public for hunting and recreation. Since the Gold Rush era, Lost Camp Road and nearby trails have been used continuously by the public to access public lands in the area.



Unfortunately, some people don't know or don't care about the public's right to use Lost Camp Road. In 2007, a private property owner blocked the road and, with it, access to the China Bar Trail. NFARA took legal action that resulted in an easement being put in place where the road was blocked. Recently, there have been concerns of another property owner blocking public access on this road. As in 2007, a guy living on Lost Camp Road thinks the road is his private drive and not open to the public. While the road is not blocked at this time, some people trying to use it have been harassed and told the road is private. It is not a private road and, if necessary, NFARA will take legal action once again to keep the road open to the public.

For additional information or more detailed directions, contact Jim Ricker at 530-389-8344 or [jvricker@prince-ricker.net](mailto:jvricker@prince-ricker.net).

## Alta-Dutch Flat School 2021 8th Grade Graduates



ADFS 2021 8th Grade Graduates

By Tracy Soule

The Alta-Dutch Flat School wishes to congratulate all our 2021 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates: Gloria Bailey, Elisa Barber, Milas Ellison, Adan Gonzalez, Chandler Harris, Olivia Ledsome, Hudson McDonnell, Aidan Owen, Emilee Roeder, Sydnee Roeder, and Kaitlyn Walker.

This was quite a year due to the pandemic, but our students stayed the course and completed the challenges. The following students were recognized for awards during the ceremony on June 4<sup>th</sup>:

Valedictorian: Gloria Bailey

Salutatorian: Kaitlyn Walker,  
Hudson McDonnell

Faculty Award: Milas Ellison

Soroptimist International Award:

Gloria Bailey

Dutch Flat Community Center Award:

Aidan Owen

Board Award: Kaitlyn Walker

Parents' Club Award: Hudson McDonnell

Exemplified Character Award: Sydnee Roeder

American Legion Award: Gloria Bailey

Presidential Award for Academic Excellence:

Gloria Bailey

Congratulations to Gloria, Milas, Chandler, Hudson, Owen, and Landon. You attended ADFS from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade!

## Dutch Flat Pool Clean-Up



On May 8, 2021, local residents came together as volunteers to perform the annual Dutch Flat Pool Clean Up. Their efforts were rewarded with a barbecued hot dog lunch, not to mention a clean, nicely landscaped pool for all to enjoy throughout the summer. In addition, a new flag pole with flag was installed, thanks to a generous donation from Rick Armstrong and Marybeth Blackinton.



## Dutch Flat Cemetery Clean-Up



Volunteers at the annual Dutch Flat cemetery clean up on June 5, 2021

By Diane Star

The Dutch Flat Cemetery cleanup took place on Saturday, June 5. This annual event is always scheduled for the first Saturday in June. Unfortunately, it did not happen in 2020; therefore, we had a lot to do this year. Fortunately, four Cal Fire, Placer County, Alta firefighters joined us this year which was a great addition to our faithful, yearly volunteers. (Only a few of our volunteers are in the photos) Because of everyone's hard work, we have a more beautiful and fire safe environment. One thing that did happen in 2020 was that we were hit by a huge snow storm in March. This storm brought down many trees and branches in the cemetery. A big THANKS to Joe Madrigali (Carefree Tree Care) and his crew for volunteering to climb, cut, chip and remove downed and dangerously dangling branches and trees. This year Robin Reynolds was able to arrange, through Placer County, to have Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal place a 20 yard green waste dumpster on Cemetery Road. It was placed there on the Tuesday after the cleanup. A big THANKS goes out to the Golden Drift Historical Society for paying to have a hard working crew from Gardens by Miguel to fill the dumpster up and clear the walkways through the cemetery. I am so blessed to live in this beautiful, caring Gold Run, Dutch Flat, Alta area. It is so wonderful to live in a community where people are willing to donate their time, energy and resources to benefit us all. Let's keep this good thing going!



CALFIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, stationed in Alta, also donated resources to the cemetery clean up effort

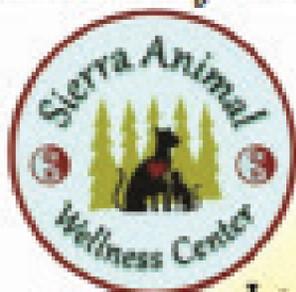
 **Sierra Animal Wellness Center**

# Thank You

*to all of our clients and friends  
for making this possible*

**Best Veterinarian, Best Veterinary  
Hospital, Best Customer Service**

*From all of us at Sierra Animal Wellness Center*



**Located at  
1506 S. Canyon Way, Colfax, CA 95713**

**530.346.6611**

*Peggy Roberts, DVM*

## CALIFORNIA IS OPEN AGAIN!

Reprinted from gov.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom today took action to lift pandemic executive orders as the state moves [Beyond the Blueprint](#) next week to fully, safely reopen. That includes terminating the Stay-at-Home Order that was implemented early in the pandemic to protect Californians and retiring the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Effective June 15, restrictions such as physical distancing, capacity limits and the county tier system will end.

**Restrictions, such as physical distancing, capacity limits and the county tier system, have been lifted.**

The Governor is also continuing the wind down of executive actions put in place since March 2020 to help facilitate a coordinated response to the pandemic and ensure the state could quickly and efficiently respond to the impacts of the pandemic. A subset of provisions that facilitate the ongoing recovery – such as the provision allowing pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations as the state continues to vaccinate millions of eligible Californians every week – will remain in place.

“California is turning the page on this pandemic, thanks to swift action by the state and the work of Californians who followed public health guidelines and got vaccinated to protect themselves and their communities,” said Governor Newsom. “With nearly 40 million vaccines administered and among the lowest case rates in the nation, we are lifting the orders that impact Californians on a day-to-day basis while remaining vigilant to protect public health and safety as the pandemic persists.”

**With nearly 40 million vaccines administered and among the lowest case rates in the country, California is entering a new phase, lifting restrictions to fully re-open.**

The state’s decisive and early action through the Stay-at-Home Order directing Californians to limit their interactions with people from other households and the Blueprint criteria guiding the tightening and loosening of allowable activities based on the level of community transmission helped slow the spread of the virus, saving lives and protecting the state’s health care delivery system from being overwhelmed. With nearly 40 million vaccines administered and among the lowest case rates in the country, California is entering a new phase, lifting these restrictions to fully reopen on June 15.

The Governor’s Office today established a timeline and process to continue winding down the various provisions of the 58 COVID-related executive orders, which suspended statutes and regulations to help the state and businesses continue operations during the pandemic. To ensure that impacted individuals and entities have time to prepare for the changes, the provisions will sunset in phases, beginning later this month, in July and in September. For example, the suspension of certain licensing requirements for manufacturers to produce hand sanitizer will end on June 30, as shortages are no longer a concern. By the end of September, nearly 90 percent of the executive actions taken since March 2020 will have been lifted.

**By the end of September, nearly 90 percent of the executive actions taken will have been lifted.**

Today the California Department of Public Health released a [new state public health officer order](#) that goes into effect on June 15. The order replaces the previous pandemic public health orders with limited requirements related to face coverings and mega events, as well as settings with children and youth pending an expected update later this month to the K-12 school guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The action supports the full and safe reopening of the state, while maintaining focused public health requirements that address the risk posed by variants as some regions across the nation and world continue to experience high levels of transmission.

## Placer County Museums Division is expanding



Fruitvale School in Lincoln

Reprinted from placer.ca.gov

The school year may be coming to a close for the summer, but school is definitely in session for the Placer County Museums Division as it welcomes the historic Fruitvale School in Lincoln to its ranks.

The new addition to the Museums Division was made possible when the Placer County Board of Supervisor unanimously approved the purchase and sale agreement to buy the property at their meeting on May 25.

“Our vision of this remarkable site is to make the history of the school come alive with fresh exhibits and an immersive living history program that targets third-grade curriculum standards,” said Placer County Museums Division Administrator Ralph Gibson. “We also endeavor to embrace this site’s use as a community center and rental hall. We are excited to welcome the Fruitvale School as our eighth addition to the Placer County Museum Division’s family.”

The Fruitvale School, which was the eleventh of 13 one-room schoolhouses built in western Placer County was operational until 1946. Since that time, it has operated as a community hall, museum and Living History site.

The Fruitvale Association, the previous owners, grew fearful that the schoolhouse would decay without proper management of the site and reached out to Placer County to request a possible transfer of the property to the county for operation by the Museum Division as a museum and Living History site.

The Museums Division intends to interpret the history of the Fruitvale School from 1888-1946, provide an immersive Living History educational experience targeted to third-grade students, establish a rental site for group meetings and events as well as provide a community hall for residents.

The Museums Division is in the process of soliciting funds for necessary repairs and to address safety issues, but they have received donations from the Placer County Historical Society (\$5,000) and the Fruitvale Hall Corporation (\$3,500) that will cover exhibits, living history materials and a new brochure.

The Museums Division anticipates having the museum and rental hall open in late fall. A living history program will be operational at the schoolhouse in spring 2022.

## BRIDGE PROJECT ON I-80 IN THE SIERRA

Reprinted from dot.ca.gov

Placer County – Caltrans announced today that major construction has started on a project to replace four Interstate 80 bridge crossings in Placer County between Crystal Springs and Cisco Grove. The \$57 million project includes \$3.48 million in funding from Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

“This project addresses the state’s top priorities by fixing aging infrastructure assets and supporting the efficient and timely movement of goods,” said Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin. “Through SB 1, we are making critical investments throughout the state – from upgrading and rebuilding bridges to facilitating freight transport in the Sierra and other commercially vital corridors that serve as gateways to California and beyond.”

**Four structures, at Crystal Springs, Baxter, Drum Forebay and Cisco Grove, are being rebuilt with wider overcrossings, eight-foot shoulders, six-foot sidewalks and ramps that comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.**

Construction activities began in April with intermittent lane closures and local detours during daytime and nightly work schedules. Walsh Construction of Concord, Calif. is the prime contractor, and the project is expected to be completed by summer 2023.

“These I-80 overcrossings serve local Sierra residents, commercial vehicles and recreational visitors, with almost 30,000 vehicles traveling this corridor segment daily,” said District 3 Director Amarjeet S. Benipal. “We look forward to completing more projects like these as we continue to improve the transportation system in the North State.”

SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding annually split between the state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1. For more information about other transportation projects funded by SB 1, visit [RebuildingCA](#).

Caltrans reminds motorists to “Be Work Zone Alert” and slow in construction zones for the safety of travelers and crews performing these improvements. The department issues construction updates on Twitter [@CaltransDist3](#) and on Facebook at [CaltransDistrict3](#). For real-time traffic, click on Caltrans’ [QuickMap](#) or download the QuickMap app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).



## SAVE YOUR MONEY

Don't buy home health equipment or supplies until you check the Dutch Flat Community Center



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**contact Roxane Bertell  
530-389-8431**

# Placer County reaches new high in community-led wildfire prevention efforts

Reprinted from [placer.ca.gov](http://placer.ca.gov)

Heading into the 2021 fire season, Placer County has one of the largest Firewise USA Communities networks in the state. Growing to 62 official Firewise Communities in 2021 with 62 more communities at various stages of formation, Placer County stands prepared for wildfire.

**To receive Firewise certification, communities must complete a wildfire risk assessment, create a local plan to reduce wildfire risk, participate in education campaigns and take action to lower local wildfire risk.**

“Wildfire safety not only is a priority among regional partners, but it takes a collaborative and continuous effort from local residents and neighborhoods,” said Placer County Office of Emergency Services Assistant Director Holly Powers. “Placer County Fire Safe Alliance is spearheading the way to educate individuals about how we can collectively make our region as fire safe as possible.”

The Firewise USA program, through the National Fire Protection Association, provides a collaborative framework for neighbors to reduce wildfire risks in their communities. It is designed to empower and engage residents living in wildfire-prone areas to develop a plan and take actions that can increase their home’s chances of surviving a wildfire, while also making it safer for firefighters and first responders.

The Placer County Fire Safe Alliance is a group of local, state and federal agencies and community partners, who support local Firewise Communities and Fire safe councils throughout the county. Fire safe councils are grassroots, community-led organizations that mobilize residents to protect their homes, communities and environments from catastrophic wildfire. The majority of the fire safe council members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors or their local municipalities.

For 2020, the Placer County fire safe councils and the 62 Firewise Communities completed 70,000 community service hours equaling \$1,601,416 in work. They also hosted 69 virtual educational meetings and nine fire safe events, invested \$4,034,578 in Firewise home improvements, received \$1,351,073 of granting funding; contributed \$6,987,067 of wildfire risk reduction investment and cleared 152,261 cubic yards of potentially flammable debris throughout the county.

# Westbound I-80 closed at Gold Run after big rig sparks forest fire



Big rig fire on I-80 at Gold Run on May 9, 2021

By Vincent Moleski

Westbound Interstate 80 was temporarily closed at Gold Run due to a small forest fire caused by a big rig Sunday, May 9.

In a social media update at 2 p.m., officials from Caltrans District 3 said westbound lanes of traffic were closed at I-80’s Secret Town Road offramp and that traffic was being diverted at the Gold Run Road exit. By 4:15 p.m., [Caltrans’ road conditions page](#) showed that one lane was reopened on the highway.

California Highway Patrol incident logs indicate that a truck caught fire on the right-hand shoulder at 1:10 p.m., and that the fire quickly spread up a hillside and into nearby forestland.

The Placer County Sheriff’s Office said the fire consumed between 1 and 2 acres.

Cal Fire’s Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, alongside Placer Hills Fire Protection District, responded to the fire.

A Cal Fire NEU spokesperson said in a text to The Sacramento Bee that as of 3:15 p.m., the fire was contained at 1.1 acres, but the big rig’s trailer was a “complete loss.” CHP logs say the truck was “melted to the ground.”

Around that same time, all aircraft were released from the area and crews were working on mopping up the remaining flames and reopening the highway, according to Cal Fire officials.

**Please contact our representatives to call for action to reduce our risk of fires emanating from I-80.**

**County Supervisor: Cindy Gustafson, (530) 889-4010, [cindygustafson@placer.ca.gov](mailto:cindygustafson@placer.ca.gov)**

**State Senator: Jim Nielsen, (916) 651-4904,**

**State Assemblyman: James Gallagher, (916) 319-2003**

**A letter to officials at Department of Transportation and Alta Fire Protection District regarding truck fires on I-80**

By Steve Holmes

The truck fire along Interstate 80 at Gold Run on May 9, 2021 was a reminder of how vulnerable we are in the Gold Run/Dutch Flat/Alta area.

After the long downhill west from Donner Summit, I-80 flattens out at Gold Run so the truck drivers can finally bring their rigs to a stop. The aesthetically pleasing canopy of predominately Ponderosa pine trees overhanging the freeway along this section snowball a truck fire into a forest fire in a matter of seconds.

In 2020, there were four (4) truck fires near Gold Run in a single week. The scorched asphalt and dead trees are solemn reminders that one day single digit humidity combined with brisk winds will burn us out !!

The fix is as simple as removing the trees along a half mile of the westbound lanes from the Gold Run exit to the top of the hill.

Dear Ms. Fugate,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding your concerns with how California agencies are addressing the issue of fuels reduction.

As a federal legislator, matters of this nature are not within my jurisdiction, though I appreciate you putting this matter on my radar. I have made my district staff aware of this situation. Because this issue involves the State of California, your **State Senator Jim Nielsen** or **State Assemblyman James Gallagher** would better serve you. If you have not already done so, you may wish to contact your state elected officials to share your concerns.

Senator Jim Nielsen  
State Capitol, Room 2068,  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
916-651-4904

Assemblyman James Gallagher  
State Capitol, Room 2158  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
916-319-2003

My number one priority here in Washington is to represent and serve the people of Northern California to the best of my ability. While I cannot be of direct assistance, I hope you will contact me in the future if you would like to comment or need assistance at the federal level. If you would like to stay connected to our office with the latest news, legislation, and other useful information, please visit my website at <http://lamalfa.house.gov>. Thank you again for your writing to me. It is an honor to be your representative in Congress.

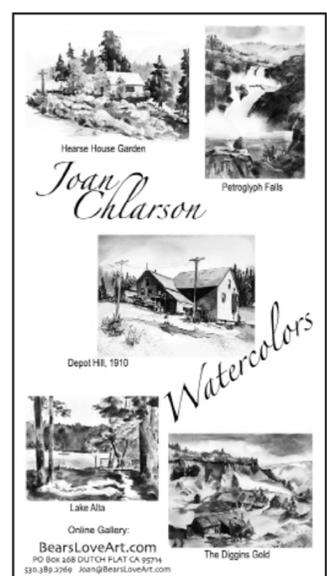
Sincerely,  
Doug LaMalfa, Member of Congress

Dutch Flat Community Center  
933 Stockton Street,  
P. O. Box 14  
Dutch Flat CA 95714  
Membership form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional - We'll send you updates on events, activities and volunteer requests)  
Donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit CID \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL YOUR DONATION TO THE DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER,  
P. O. BOX 14, DUTCH FLAT CA 95714

The Dutch Flat Community Center is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible (TIN 68-0484699).



## Auburn A's Visit Dutch Flat



Auburn A's Model A Ford Club

By Laura Glassco

The Auburn A's Model A Ford Club was founded in 1972 as a club of like-minded lovers of Model A Fords. On a beautiful spring day in April, 2021, a caravan of eight Model A Ford's and several moderns took a 50-mile, back-road trip from Auburn to Dutch Flat. During their visit, club members enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Dutch Flat Community Center. A photograph of the event was sent to the Model A Ford Club of America website. That photo was made famous, as it appeared on their home page! The caption featured the Community Center and a description of Dutch Flat's history.

Club members rave about the warm and friendly hospitality they receive from Dutch Flat. Please make sure you keep any antique cars **Water-Free** this 4th of July!



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