



Serving our community for 35 years
Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run
COMMUNITY

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Winter 2024

Festival of Lights Parade ushers in the Christmas season in Dutch Flat

By Sarah Fugate



Ellison family entry in the Light Parade

Photo by Madison Murray

On Friday, November 29, at 5:30 pm the Community Christmas Tree was lit, signaling the start of the Festival of Lights Parade. Local resident, Brandy March, spearheaded the team that organized this new, annual event at the Dutch Flat Community Center.

The idea for this parade was suggested by Kelly Snyder. Kelly's extended family has celebrated the season with a Christmas Light Parade for more than 18 years and they were happy to share it with our community this year.

It took many volunteers to make this event a success. Helping Brandy were Kitty and Paul Thompson, Deb Harris, Mike Bell, Laura Glassco, Karen Charles, Chris March, Chris and Elise Baldoni, CalFire crews, and Heidi Suter. Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ortega donated and installed the Community Christmas Tree, as well as the large outdoor decorations. Ray Cunningham delighted the crowd as Santa.

Festivities began at 4:30 pm with a free Chili Dinner inside the Dutch Flat Community Center, followed by lighting of the tree and the parade of lights. Chili was

homemade and provided by many generous community members. The parade line up included representation by CalFire, Officer Lyman of the CHP, PCSO and their SWAT team who brought the OHV (Bearcat). Also lighting up the night sky were several floats and other forms of transport decorated and filled with merrymakers.

Following the parade, all were invited to meet Santa and his elves, then join others for a caroling walk around Dutch Flat.



Photo by Madison Murray

Placer County Sheriff's Office entry

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Photo by Sarah Fugate

Brandy March organized the event

"The showing surpassed our expectations and we are so grateful for each and every one of you. I hope the community enjoyed the event and we look forward to building upon it next year." – Brandy March



Photo by Lora Piscatelli

Everyone loved Myra the Cow



Photo by Sarah Fugate

Beautifully decorated Christmas float



Photo by Sarah Fugate

Ray Cunningham as Santa



Photo by Sarah Fugate

Community Christmas tree at the Dutch Flat Community Center

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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:

March 10, 2025.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Attic: Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting: 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Laura Glassco, 916-778-8308.

Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck: 3rd Thursdays. 6:00 pm. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share. July and August at the Dutch Flat Pool.

Dutch Flat Seventh Day Adventist: Community Worship Service, Wednesday, 6:30 pm and Saturday, 3:30 pm. 936 Stockton Street. Contact 706-633-8789.

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. All are welcome. Learn something new!

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church: Worship Service, Sundays, 11:00 am. Fellowship lunch following service. Contact: 916-847-8477.

Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting: 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Golden Drift Museum, Main Street. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-210-5085.

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

Placer County Library Mobile Service: See Page 5.

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.

A message from the DFCC President**By Laura Glassco**

What a year for helping to keep our 1898 building safe and beautiful! First Board Member, Doug Hughs, in the Spring, led the roof repair project. Then Board Member, Bill Charles, took the lead on the building repair and exterior paint project this Summer. Then, due to previous water damage, Andy McSorley, general contractor, led the project to repair the ceiling and walls at no charge to the Center. Andy was assisted by Board members Doug Hughs, Mike Bell and Bill Charles. (See photo)

Yes we saw a 30% jump in our insurance for the building and its contents this year!

Happy Winter

So it sure helped that our Board Member, Shelly Willsmore, lead a wonderful crew of dedicated volunteers to bring in one of our best sales profits for the Annual White Elephant Sale! Board Member, Deb Harris, her husband, Wade, and Board Member, Mike Bell, led a wonderful and profitable July 4th Dinner Dance. The Spring Fling and Oktoberfest also added much needed funds to help us continue to operate. Thanks to our community for attending, donating and participating in these events!

We are working with the Alta-Dutch Flat Parents Club and the Friends of the Dutch Flat Pool, as well as area churches to work collaboratively, not only on a shared



Photo by Laura Glassco

Repairing the Community Center ceiling and walls

calendar, but also on events. The recent First Responders dinner is an example of our partnership. Also, the first Festival of Lights event, held on November 29 is another. It is our commitment to bring all age groups to join in the various events and help bring the community together.

We wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

Here's what's coming up this Winter:

January 16	6 pm	Potluck at the Community Center
January 20		Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Inauguration Day
February 17		President's Day
February 20	6 pm	Potluck at the Community Center
March 9	2 am	Daylight Saving Time Starts
March 20	6 pm	Potluck at the Community Center

Become a Member of the Dutch Flat Community Center!

Dutch Flat Community Center Membership Form
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization (Tax ID# 68-0484699)

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Additional Donation to the DFCC \$ _____

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By Bill Gallaher

BAM!! YOU are this man's mother, brother, father, son, daughter, sister.... friend. YOU just received this telegram.. "DEEP REGRET"?? The writer of this telegram can't even check to be sure all the words are spelled right? And the last line. "SUGGEST YOU NOT DIVULGE THIS INFORMATION. WTF?? How about all your friends that you have just called because you knew the telegram was bad news and didn't want to open it by yourself??

In September 1965. Bill Robinson was shot down and taken captive while on a rescue mission. His experience marked one of the torturous and inhumane experiences hundreds — if not thousands — of U.S. prisoners of war endured between 1961 and 1973 in North Vietnamese and Vietcong prison camps. POWs nicknamed the camps. Hanoi Hilton, The Zoo, Alcatraz, Briarpatch and Dirty Bird.

Immediately after Robinson's capture, "I was taken out and lined up in front of a freshly dug grave. I was told to kneel in front of it and my hands were tied together ... my feet were tied together and I could see a crowd gathered. I could see the shadows of two guards standing behind me pointing their weapons and at that point, I thought my life was over". The Vietnamese spared his life but he was subjected to many forms of torture during his seven and a half years — or by his count, 2,703 days, at the "Hanoi Hilton." "Mine was a little small cell, I could stretch my arms out either direction and touch the walls. I had a wooden bed board, designed for Vietnamese about 16 inches wide and about four and a half feet long with a bucket at the end of the bed," he said.

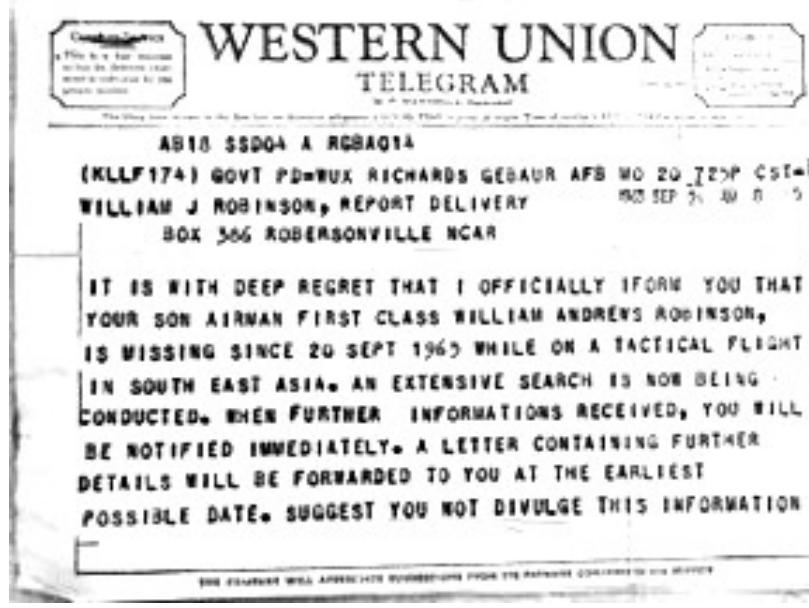
Let me, the writer of this column, digress a bit: On my way to Vietnam, as part of survival training, I spent a week in a mock POW prison. There was nothing "mock" about the camp other than we knew it was training.. Our instructors were military and many were ex-POWs. The things we endured in training were very real. We wondered if the instructors enjoyed our pain they inflicted as they prepared us for the real thing.

I arrived at the camp exhausted and hungry, like what I expected I would feel if I had been evading the enemy after being shot down. I had just come off a 4 day survival trek, where my squad of 5 was taught to "live off the land". Besides grazing as we hiked, we killed one rabbit and all 5 shared it. Every part of the rabbit was consumed. (After a few days grazing, rabbit eyeballs, blood and brains were mighty tasty.) Our destination was the POW camp. Coming through the main gate was like "Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter Here" Once we were "welcomed" into the camp with loud noises and big guards yelling in my face (former drill sergeants?) the fun was just beginning.

Robinson was among prisoners who were taunted in front of crowds of Vietnamese in what American prisoners sometimes referred to "pep rallies." It seemed to be done for propaganda efforts, he said. On one occasion, Robinson was threatened with public execution.

POWs were subjected to random beatings by multiple guards, often while tied up with

Welcome Home



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Dutch Fire

By Sarah Fugate

On the afternoon of October 5, while many locals were celebrating Oktoberfest at the Dutch Flat Hotel, a wildfire sparked near Dutch Flat and prompted mandatory evacuations in Alta and Dutch Flat. The Dutch Fire sparked about 3:30 p.m. along Lowell Hill Road near the Dutch Flat Forebay dam in Nevada County and burned almost 30 acres near the border with Placer County, according to Cal Fire's Nevada-Yuba-Placer unit. The fire blazed along heavy timber and steep terrain at a dangerous rate of spread before more than 100 personnel were able to stop forward progress. By Sunday morning, firefighters had gained 15% containment and evacuations had eased to warnings in both Placer and Nevada counties.

Full containment of the fire was achieved six days after it started. No one was injured and no structures destroyed. The cause of the fire remains unknown.



Air tanker over Dutch Fire

Photo by Michael Ellison



Helicopter retrieves water from Dutch Flat reservoir

Photo courtesy of CalFire NEU



Aerial view of Dutch Fire

Photo courtesy of CalFire NEU

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Bear River Bares Much

By Mia Monroe

Headline: Why Mount Everest is Growing ...I read on to learn that researchers now think this anomalous additional height comes in part from a rare "river capture event" and this rang a bell! Isn't this what the Yuba River did to the ancestral Bear River? Once the Bear flowed from the Sierra above Emigrant Gap but the ancestral Yuba grabbed the headwaters! Now they both tributaries of the Feather River, both have the ancient gold bearing gravels but the Bear River gets its water from rain, not snowmelt.

Now the Bear is one of the most "impounded" rivers in California and was called out in the annual *American's Most Endangered Rivers* list a few years ago but just this fall it received a new lease on life with the shelving of the Centennial Dam proposal...yeah SYRCL and friends of salmon, healthy water and better ways to get things done. Plus, we've learned how culturally significant it is, too:

"The Bear River is an important piece of Nisenan culture both today and in our long, rich history. The Gold Rush era completely changed our waterways and we cherish this last wild and free-flowing stretch of water," said Shelly Covert, spokesperson of the Nevada City Rancheria Tribal Council. "To flood this landscape is to further erase the Nisenan culture from the land; we can't face that again."



The Bear River flows west into the Bear Valley then enters a deep and narrow gorge, passing the community of Dutch Flat.

It then flows through the oak woodlands, open grasslands, pastures and fields of the Central Valley in Northern California. The lower reaches of the river support numerous iconic species, including Chinook salmon, Central Valley Steelhead, and green and white sturgeon. Many enjoy hiking, birdwatching, camping, angling, gold panning, rafting and kayaking on the Bear's four-mile class II whitewater run.

One of my winter projects is to research special ways to experience the wild and scenic North Fork of the American and now I'll add Bear River discoveries! Besides the satisfaction of cleaning up a beautiful piece of nature and thankful to Ron Gould for organizing the opportunity, I was delighted to see a new part of the North Fork last fall on the NFARA river clean-up day. So much out there to experience, see for the first time and enjoy often.

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Peggy Roberts, DVM

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News from the "Dutch Flat Forum" Newspaper

A Window into Dutch Flat's Heyday

October - December 1875

By Debby McClatchy

Main Street now houses eight saloons, although the town boasts eleven. They are The Bank Exchange, The Banner, Cap Sawyer's, The Golden Eagle, The Gem, Hoos', Hagman's, The Depot, The National, The Orleans, and The Uncle Sam. (In addition, multiple hotels, bakeries, and mercantiles also sold liquor. In fact, almost every business on Main Street sold alcohol.). An ad from Runkles Bakery states, "Fresh breads, cakes, and pies always on hand, together with an excellent assortment of wines, liquors, and cigars, and attractive and accommodating bartenders, always ready to attend to your spiritual needs."

Main Street also contains, among others, four grocery stores, three dry goods, one each a confectionery, stationery, tobacco, and drug store, two hotels, and lawyers and doctors.

There are four places of worship in Dutch Flat; the Catholic (no longer in use), Methodist, Union, and one Pagoda (correct term is Joss House), for those who worship Buddha. There are also Jewish residents who use a private home as a temple.

The hydraulic water works are being used to sprinkle down the streets and sidewalks two to three times daily. Perhaps this is why Dutch Flat has never totally burned down.

J.B. Marcovich, owner of the Dutch Flat Hotel, has it up for sale.

The Towle Brothers have established a telegraph line from their office in Dutch Flat to another office in Alta, due to increased business.

The new schoolhouse is almost finished and will have a vestibule and four classrooms. There are two staircases, one for boys and one for girls. The walls and floors have been deadened, so teachers can't be heard between the classrooms. It is built of pine and spruce. The opening will be formalized



Main Street, Dutch Flat

with a buffet and dance. (Unfortunately, this is the building, among others, that Charles Wedgewood burned down in 1898.)

The town has purchased a new hearse for \$800.

There is a heat wave this autumn, with temperatures reaching 98 degrees.

Mrs. G.H. Davidson advertises voice and instrumental lessons, stating, "He that has no music in his soul is fit for treason."

The climate is not good for tender fruits, but pear, peach, cherry, apple, blackberry, raspberry, grapes, and currents now grow throughout Dutch Flat.

Fourteen pairs of twins have been born so far in Dutch Flat.

The Chinese Theatre has presented a number of plays. They are well attended. The accompanying music is particularly well liked.

The YMCA has sponsored a popular dance. The idea is to introduce young men and women to each other, with a goal of

marriage.

Mr. Hudepohl, owner of the most successful mercantile in Dutch Flat, has opened a second store in Little York.

Some residents have suggested changing "Dutch Flat" to "German Level". Thanks to banker Philip Nicolls' efforts, we remain as before.

Thanksgiving was a joyous day with supper at the Dutch Flat Hotel, followed by a dance at the Opera House. Ike Coffin supplied the duck and the eggnog was particularly popular.

Six to seven boys from town have been congregating on the church steps to throw stones at Chinamen and disrupt Sunday services. The law will deal with them, and their parents will soon find them in the calaboose.

Enrollment in the Dutch Flat School for the year is 154 students. As there are 219 children of school age in town, we have a lot of truancy.

A fine ball on New Years Eve was well attended at the Opera House. Tickets were \$4.00, and all reported a wonderful welcome to 1876.



Dutch Flat Hotel bar

Bob Hampshire

ALL GRADING SERVICES & LAND RESTORATION

Thank you Alta-Dutch Flat

Community!

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Thinking Outside the Box

By Sara Belem

Last night, I attended a rather stilted meeting of PG&E and the County of Placer which was arranged to settle questions with the locals of Alta, and Dutch Flat, California. Alta is in the foothills of Northern California and rumored to be somewhat in the "sticks". However, at 5pm on a very hot summer day, the local gathering spot, next to the fire house up the hill apiece had already filled its parking lot and poured over into the roadside on both sides and "up apiece". As I entered, there was already a crowd of locals intermixed with corporate fixers as well as uniformed fire and police persons. Now, that's a rarity on a summer night. But the locals were geared up to ask questions and get answers.

Unfortunately, the presenters didn't quite think things out: the large meeting room was devoid of chairs except four hauled off by octogenarians. The format clearly revealed a dedication to corporate strategy: Dazzle with posters and folks ready to answer with a quick jig and a smile.

I for one had come with a mini-recorder and notebook to be sure I heard the answers correctly. I did a quick estimate of the quality I would gain and chose to save the battery power for another day.

The acoustics were hideous, so it was a steady raise-the-volume set of shouting as attendees screamed questions and several likely turned their hearing aids off to avoid the clashing cacophony.

Frankly, it was like being thrown into a blender and poured out briskly. The contents didn't stick to the sides and most of all, most people just focused on being pleasant and hoping the two hours would go away soon. Now, I need to confess I'm the diva of clarification. I want to be sure I am given the best and correct answer and after repetition and ping-ponging of responsibility, things like, "Well I don't really know", "it's not my department" or, "it's up to Placer County or PG&E" really is not going to make it all better, that I hauled out my journalism knickers and dived in. I was barraged by more pass the buck and hope she goes away and "oh, I'll get someone to come over and "explain" it to you." I said I don't need to have it explained; will you resurface the streets after they have been torn up, or not? More Ping-Pong, more redirect. I finally observed the thinning of the ranks of both attendees and answerers. And lowered the boom.....and even then I was shouting to be heard. So, let me get this straight, this particular photo is what our streets will look like when you people are finished with your safety project? "Likely" was the modest answer, but we are mandated to fix only where we repaired. So, after 1.6 hours, I'm back to "likely"? Could you point me to someone higher in rank that might be able to answer the question clearly? And I apologized for my oversight. I'm sorry, I don't want to offend you, but it's getting late and my one question hasn't been answered. I'm shouting because I can't be heard over the dull roar of people talking all at once.

I got a business card from a person with authority. I then leveled the playing field by saying, "Hey, if you can't answer the question, how about your boss or his or her boss, or perhaps the CEO of PG&E or your partner here, the esteemed County of Placer?" My dad always told me, start at the

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How about a meet and greet that ANSWERS and doesn't redirect our very important community concerns?

top and, if that is impossible, work your way up rung by rung. At the end of the night, I did not have the answer, but "try" was used a time or two, and "we'll see" was used more than once. I KNEW that the buck had been passed. I smiled and said thank you and left. Driving home in closing twilight, I saw a few streets that passed muster, with just side work that would be covered over? Though not sure of that. Resurfaced had been a term used by the muckety muck from Placer, but turning a corner down Main St, I was assured that my posse at Alamo would return with documentary photos of far more than discreet sideline patching. As I had mentioned earlier to the informants.... This isn't Beverly Hills, but we deserve something better than patch quilt repairs in the name of contracts and not enough funds? Really?

As for advance preparation and newsy kits of what will occur? I'd like to see a copy of what we all, yawl, allegedly received to prepare us for over two years of digging up our streets and to be assured that it was contracted. Let me see the contract! Oh, that's right, you'll have to contact someone in another department for that.

I requested that all the guardians of the poster displays have contact business cards, as well as be required to do a complete hike of just maybe 3 miles of local roads to KNOW what WE were asking.

I have written an email as I was asked to do, and sent it at somewhere around 6AM, about 13 hours after the shout out. It suggests a redo, rematch? And one with chairs and microphones, for both PG&E and Placer County and YES, one to hand to each local who has a question. We didn't come to shout and wonder if we were heard, let alone understood the "answers". Let's try again folks. And if you think I'm being a feisty old bitty, I've had over 55 years of corporate jousting. Trust me, this is NOT Hicksville. We are a trinity of three villages, and many of the occupants are retired business moguls, combined with lots and lots of clever people who do NOT hesitate to ask ALL the Questions. And we need you to LISTEN and promise we will as well, and those with hearing aids, will leave them on. I'd love to think that you read ALL this open letter to PG&E and the County of Placer, and maybe took notes, and yep, go get the answers and come back and we will all discuss it one question at a time. I can assure you there are maximum 10 in total, but let's be civilized and not have to shout our brains out in the process.

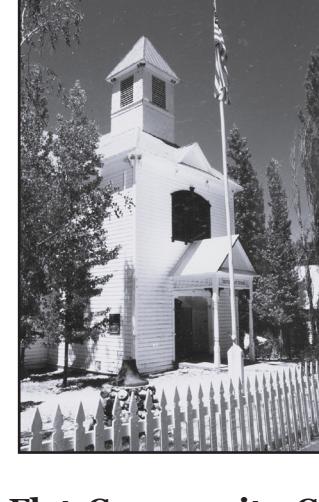
Standing in line to ask a question is not respectable, especially when the answers elude most everyone in the room including the cheeses, big and small. I tried to retain my sense of humor somehow, but know that this will be labeled as some old person's boring complaint. Most of us give great gratitude for the tireless efforts of the respectful working crews. We are now documenting issues that may arise long after the trucks go away. Cracks in the pavement will cause water damage, for starters. Logs left are a fire danger as well as an incredibly dangerous road hazard. We want questions answered by real time follow up and solutions. No more ping pong.

There's a rising pile of documentary photographs of issues that MUST be addressed BEFORE the "safety project" is completed. A regroup and revisit would help clarify intent, if clarification is possible. How about a meet and greet that ANSWERS and doesn't redirect our very important community concerns? It isn't over, says the ancient quote, "until the fat lady sings", and she isn't even close to climbing on stage.

It's time to give to local nonprofits

By Sarah Fugate

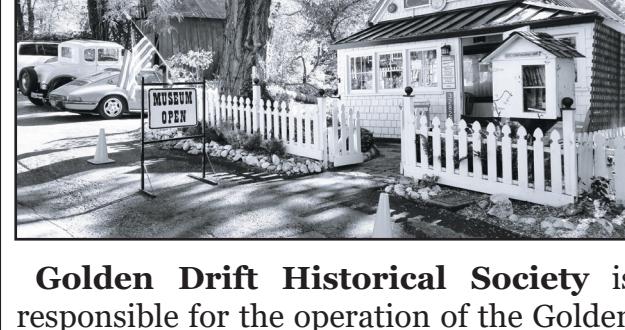
In Dutch Flat, besides schools, churches and fraternal orders, there are three nonprofit organizations: Dutch Flat Community Center, Friends of the Dutch Flat Swimming Pool, and Golden Drift Historical Society. All three organizations are vital to our community and rely almost entirely on Membership Dues and donations to continue to serve their missions.



Dutch Flat Community Center hosts monthly potlucks, several special events throughout the year, and is responsible for the care and maintenance of the historical 1898 schoolhouse, now the Community Center building. It also publishes this quarterly newspaper.



Friends of the Dutch Flat Swimming Pool provide financial resources necessary to keep the Dutch Flat Pool up and running. They provide scholarships for those wanting to become lifeguards and host the highly popular annual barbecue at the pool.



Golden Drift Historical Society is responsible for the operation of the Golden Drift Museum and Gift Shop. Each year, the Society recruits, trains, schedules and rewards docents. The Society also hosts special events throughout the year and produces brochures and other educational materials that promote our unique history. Additionally, the Society maintains the Hearse House on Main Street and the adjacent Community Garden.

Please consider giving to one or all of these organizations. Since these organizations are 501(c)(3) nonprofits, your contributions are fully tax deductible.

Send annual membership dues and any supplemental donations to:

Dutch Flat Community Center
PO Box 14
Dutch Flat, CA 95714
Tax ID#68-0484699

Friends of the Dutch Flat Swimming Pool
PO Box 414
Dutch Flat, CA 95714
Tax ID#81-1310359

Golden Drift Historical Society
PO Box 253
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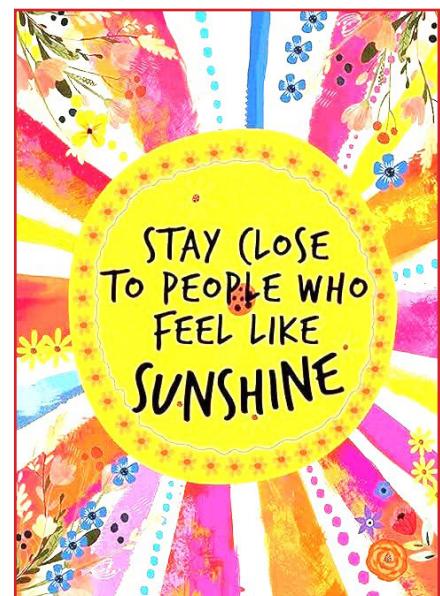
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Miss Vicky's Place opens on Main Street in Dutch Flat

By Vicky Breslin



Welcome to Miss Vicky's Place, a small but quaint art studio nestled in the heart of Dutch Flat, CA. As an artist, I revel in the exploration of various media, with a particular fondness for paint and paper. My studio is not just a gallery—it's a haven filled with art supplies, unique gifts, handmade cards, and a collection of seasonal, vintage, and antique items.

I delight in crafting pieces through jewelry-making, watercolors, and collage art, driven by a passion for the tactile transformation of raw materials into objects of beauty. I believe that art is an experience that should be accessible to everyone, which is why I offer classes designed to inspire creativity in others. For more information, feel free to call me at 530 687 2596.

Opening this studio emerged from a simple yet profound desire: to create a space that invites people to experience the joy of art in its many forms. If the door is closed, don't hesitate to reach out at the same number, and I will be more than happy to welcome you in.

For me, the subject matter is often an organic choice, dictated by the textures and colors that come alive in my mind. My approach is about discovering the relationship between diverse mediums and how they can harmoniously exist on a single canvas.

Miss Vicky's Place is more than an art studio—it's a community where artistic expression is celebrated, and creativity knows no bounds. Come explore with me at

32760 Main Street, Dutch Flat, CA 95714, or contact me via email at missvickyb@gmail.com. Let's make art a part of everyday life.



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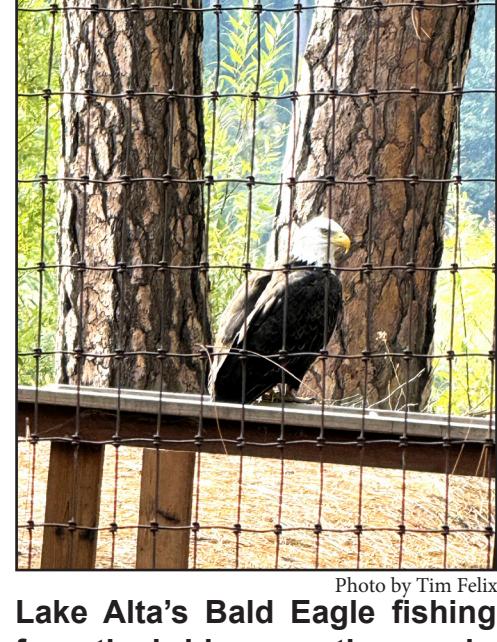


Photo by Tim Felix
Lake Alta's Bald Eagle fishing from the bridge over the canal

Susan Winje

(530) 389-8000

Lynn Oliver

(530) 305-8290

Karen Calvert

(530) 906-2336

Broker License #01184606

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*Joan Chlarson
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