



## City Manager's Update August 31, 2023

Greetings, all. It's been busy so my apologies for missing some Friday Updates.

We had a fire last night that broke out at La Bodega, 42 Main Street, around 10:40 p.m. The cause is under investigation. Thankfully, there were people who saw the smoke and called 911, and the Fire Department was able to knock it down quickly. Unfortunately, the fire significantly damaged the store and began to enter the attic space above the office next door. There were no injuries. We are immensely grateful to our Fire Department and volunteers, and for all the responding Fire Departments.



On a related topic, we were just informed that the City received a Federal grant for \$449,435 to fund structural and wildland fire safety equipment and a new volunteer coordinator position for four years. The volunteers are the backbone of the Winters Fire Department and more robust support to attract and retain volunteers will help us better serve the community and fire protection district. Kudos to Chief Snyder and the team for their successful application!

### ***Don't Miss Out!***

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- ❖ Yolo County Library is offering an opportunity for students to design a library card for their school district. Applications and designs must be submitted to the library by **September 16<sup>th</sup>**. The winner of each school district will win a \$100 gift card. The Winters Friends of the Library are sponsoring our local contest. Applications are available at the library or can be downloaded from the [Yolo County website](#).



- ❖ Saturday, **September 30<sup>th</sup>** from 4:30 – 10:30 p.m. is **Festivál de la Comunidad**, affectionately known as the Carnitas Festival, cosponsored by the City of Winters Hispanic Advisory Committee and Winters Community Corazón. Come down to Rotary Park to eat great food, vote for your favorite carnitas, watch cultural demonstrations and dance to your hearts content. Visit the [Carnitas landing page](#) for more information. Please note E. Main Street will be closed from Railroad to Elliott. Please be careful if you drive through the area; there will be extra people out and about downtown.



- ❖ The Planning Commission is conducting a workshop related to downtown visioning on Thursday, **September 7<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting will also be held via Zoom as a convenience for those who cannot attend in person. The packet is available on the [City's website](#).

### ***Please Note:***

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- ❖ Yolo County reports its first death due to West Nile Virus, which has been present in the County since 2018. One in four mosquito samples in the County have been testing positive for West Nile virus. The disease is transmitted from infected mosquitoes, which acquire the virus from infected birds. Symptoms develop within a week of a bite, and include fever, nausea,



headaches, and muscle aches. The [County's media release](#) contains more information. [www.fightthebite.net](http://www.fightthebite.net) provides helpful tips to combat mosquitoes and alerts regarding overhead spraying, which has been quite active this season.

Putah Creek Council is looking for seasonal restoration technicians for the Fall! This part-time, paid position is designed to give entry-level participants experience working with local partners and stakeholders along the Putah Creek Watershed. More information is at [www.putahcreekcouncil.org](http://www.putahcreekcouncil.org) and [here](#). Or email [brenda@putahcreekcouncil.org](mailto:brenda@putahcreekcouncil.org).



❖ **Is your property in need of stewardship for fuels management and wildfire resilience?**

Yolo County RCD has partnered with NRCS through the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP) to provide technical assistance and cost-share funding to implement projects on private land that will build wildfire resilience in Yolo County's oak woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands. The program aims to manage vegetation to lower fire intensity, reduce extreme wildfire behavior, and maintain forest carbon storage. Eligible conservation practices available for cost-share funding include prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, herbaceous weed treatment, brush management, fuel breaks, and more. Interested landowners should visit the webpage linked [here](#) for more information and get in touch with RCD staff to discuss stewardship objectives and schedule a site visit.



### **COVID-19**

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Just a note that COVID presence in our local wastewater has gone up 793% in the last two-week period. Overall, in Yolo County the presence is low; however, transmission rates are moderate. The County continues to stock free test kits in the machine next to City Hall. If in doubt, please test. To monitor public health news, please visit [Yolo County's COVID page](#).

### **Upcoming Council Meeting – September 5, 2023**

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We have a full agenda for [regular session](#); follow the links for packets. The consent calendar includes: the check register for July, ratification of change orders for the summer paving project, the purchase of a vacuum excavator for the sewer team, acceptance of a CalFire grant for safety equipment, the purchase of a new patrol vehicle for the Police Department, a general services agreement to camera the sewer lines at El Rio Villa, and Main Street closures for the high school pep rally on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and for the Carnitas Festival on September 30. Discussion items include approving the annual Animal Services agreement with Yolo County, and discussion regarding the possible censure of Councilmember Casavecchia.

We also have a [closed session](#) beginning at 5:30 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations and the potential interview of an interim city manager.

The Council will also meet in [closed session](#) on Wednesday, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss candidates for the City Manager recruitment.

As a reminder, to sign up for eNotifications when agendas are posted for either Planning Commission or the City Council, please visit <https://www.cityofwinters.org/city-council-planning-commission-meetings/> and enter your information in the box as shown below.

Email Updates

To sign up for email updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

\*Email Address



### ***Woot Woot!***

This week the Winters Fire Department received a donation from a local community member to enhance the capabilities of the Swift Water Rescue Team. Mr. Jim Witt donated a boat, motors and other water related items to us. His generous donation will help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the swift water rescue team. The new boat and accessories will help our team get to victims faster, reducing the precious seconds that could mean life or death. Winters Fire wants to thank the Witt Family for their generosity to the Department and to the community by helping make it a safer place to enjoy the outdoors and keep our responders safe in these high risk/low frequency events.



A group of Girl Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes came to visit City Hall on August 23<sup>rd</sup> as part of earning their democracy badge. We were happy to host them and talk about governance, and they were able to advocate for a new splash pad to the youth council at the dais, taking turns making public comment. Thank you, all, who participated.

