

Northern Sonoma County's Favorite Paper

FREE

Cloverdale Connect

Bringing our community together since 2020

March 2025



Editor's Note

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade" Charles Dickens

Put the patio cushions out or bring them in? That's the March question. As soon as I put them out, the rain comes. I always jump the gun in Spring as I'm so ready to sit outside in the warm sun and read. Happy Spring, everyone! We all enjoyed a drizzly Citrus Fair, and now it's time to kick off the Little League Season.

Just a quick acknowledgement to our growing group of **Cloverdale Connect Champions**. We are so grateful for your extraordinary support of the paper. You all truly make a difference. For me, the most heart-warming aspects are the wonderful, personal notes that people send with their gifts. Thank you, Cloverdale community, for your appreciation of **Cloverdale Connect**.

I'll see you around town!

Dana



Sam Beeson at ACE Hardware takes a rare break to read the latest issue of *Cloverdale Connect*



Front Page Photo Contest Winner Chuck Harris Wins a Gift Card from **West Coast Sourdough**

Neighbors

Cloverdale Arts Alliance Gallery
March 22 - May 23, 2025
Reception: March 22 • 5:30 - 7:30 pm
204 N. Cloverdale Blvd. • Cloverdale

Guest Artist: Robert Milano

Artists: Mona Ashbaugh • Laura Paine Carr • Trudie Folsom • Jane Gardner
Cyndi Gonzalez • Pamela Heck • Terry Hallemann • Robert Milano
Jason Taylor Morgan • Sharon Pillsbury • Jennifer Weiss

Featured Resident Artist:
Trudie Folsom

Dynâ Gonzalez - Community Annex Artist
Mona Ashbaugh - Community Annex Artist
Sharon Pillsbury - Community Annex Artist

DAHLIA & SAGE

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COME SAY HELLO TO OUR PRODUCE PROS TOMMY & ANGEL

Spring is in the air, and our produce is beyond compare! As the season blooms, we're excited to bring you the freshest fruits and vegetables around. Did you know? We can special order fish straight from The Tides Wharf in Bodega Bay—bringing you the finest, freshest seafood upon request. Our beer and wine department is growing! We're adding more local wines and even Wolf House Beers to our selection. A huge thank you for supporting Cloverdale High School Valentines Flowers! Because of you, we proudly gave a check for \$2,000.00 to the CTE program, investing in our students' future. Stop by and see what's new—we can't wait to serve you!

10% OFF FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS~ THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US SAFE

OUR FRESH FISH MAKES A DELISH DISH



Look Inside! New City Council Member, New Chamber staff, Asti Bridge Update, Call for Artists and more...

Cloverdale Connect Inc PO Box 404 Cloverdale CA 95425



CUSD Employee of the Month

Sean Geske

Sponsored by

Dahlia & Sage Community Market



Cloverdale Unified School District is proud to recognize **Sean Geske** as Employee of the Month! As a campus supervisor, Sean plays a vital role in creating a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for students. His approachable nature and genuine care for students make him a trusted presence on campus.

Whether he's offering encouragement, helping resolve conflicts, or simply checking in with students throughout the day, Sean's positive impact is felt by everyone.

In addition to his role as a campus supervisor, Sean is deeply involved in Cloverdale High's athletic programs, contributing to both the football and basketball teams. His passion for sports and mentorship helps student-athletes develop not just their skills but also their character and teamwork. Sean's dedication to the school community is evident in everything he does, and Cloverdale High is grateful to have such a committed and caring staff member supporting our students every day.

When you see Sean around town, please thank him for all he does for our students and community.

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 MARCH 20TH-23RD
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LIBRARY CLOSURE IN MARCH

Cloverdale Regional Library will be renovating our patio and restrooms this spring. As a result, will be closed from **March 3-24** (dates subject to change).

The patio remodel will create a welcoming and flexible outdoor events space with a performance platform focused around the existing heritage trees. A gate and walkway from the patio to the sidewalk will be added.

The restrooms will be upgraded to meet ADA code and create single-occupancy restrooms.

This project is funded by the Claire M. McGowan Trust and the Sonoma County Library Tax.

Key Notes:

- Your checkouts won't be due until we reopen (April 1) - you can return them at the library while we are closed, but we encourage you to keep them later
- Yes, SonomaFi hotspots will work for the duration of the library closure
- During the closure, you can pick up holds in a few different ways:
 - At the Healdsburg Mini Library, located at 1557 Healdsburg Avenue
 - At another branch of your choice
 - At the Cloverdale Bibliobox
- You can also "suspend" your holds to arrive after we reopen
- Please do not drop off donations during the closure; any donated items will be discarded

CLOVERDALE REGIONAL LIBRARY - 401 NORTH CLOVERDALE BOULEVARD - 707-894-5271

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PET of the MONTH

Precious

Here is my 5 year old terrier type rescue dog - the happiest dog around who spreads nothing but joy. ~ **Robert Redner**

Send your pet photos for PET of the MONTH to: info@cloverdaleconnect.com



Prizes courtesy of DogGonit and Cloverdale Connect

Whisker Talk Brigid Wasson

Winter is almost over! As we look forward to Spring, we plan for camping and other outdoor adventures with our dogs. It is very easy for a dog to become separated from his family while traveling, and now they (and you) are lost in an unfamiliar place. Here are some tips for keeping your dog safe on the road.



- 1) ID tag and collar. A basic tag with your cell phone number is the easiest ticket home. QR tags are another option, as are collars with the phone number embroidered. Don't attach your dog's leash to this collar! If he spooks and slips out of it, he will have no ID. Instead use a martingale or harness for walking.
- 2) Microchip. See my articles on FirstStreetPets.com about how microchips work. Even if your dog does not have a collar or tags, the chip is a good backup ID that cannot be lost. However, it is useless if not currently registered.
- 3) GPS collar. This is a good option to track your dog's location at all times. Just be aware that they usually work off of a cell signal or wifi, so may not be effective in remote areas.

March is Family Justice Center Awareness Month

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has deemed March as the Family Justice Center Awareness Month. The Family Justice Center Sonoma County (FJCSC) provides free services in one secure location to adults, seniors, children, and teens.

Services are provided regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, income or immigration status. These services are provided for victims and their pets experiencing domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, stalking/harassment, human trafficking, and homeless victims of crime. The services at the FJCSC include advocacy, safety planning, survivor groups, restraining order assistance, immigration services and access to a safe house.

The FJCSC works closely with our county-wide network of partner agencies, to deliver confidential wrap-around services at a single location.

Share your story - **just one time- in one safe place-** and get the help you need. ~ www.FJCSC.org



May the luck of the Irish be with you...
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TEDI SPAIN & MARIA KENNEY
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Annual Garden, Landscape & Building Guide

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When It's Time for a Spring Refresh Paula Hall

The Land's End catalog announces that "it's closet refresh season." However, a refresh of your files to review your insurance policies and estate plan is more important.

Ensure that your trust is named as an additional insured on your homeowner's insurance policy. Insurance policies are designed to protect the named insured. Third parties have no rights unless explicitly named. When you transfer your home to your trust, you don't own your home as an individual, but as trustee of your trust. Confirm with your insurance agent that you, as trustee of your trust, are named as an additional insured on the policy.

Review your life insurance policies and retirement plans to confirm primary and contingent beneficiaries are named. If the named beneficiary dies and no contingent beneficiary is named, the life insurance or retirement plan must pass through probate.

If you have a trust, verify that your trust holds money so your trustee can pay your bills upon your death. Frequently, people create a trust, fund the trust with their homes, but never transfer a bank account to the trust. The trustee needs money to pay the bills. Often parents name an adult child as a joint tenant on the bank account, instead of putting the bank account into the trust, believing the child needs money to "take care of things." The child has no legal obligation to use that money for trust expenses, or to give any to his or her siblings. Most believe the child "will do the right thing," but that doesn't always happen. Therefore, transfer your bank accounts to your trust, so your trustee has funds. To operate as planned, the trust must be funded with property and bank accounts. Confirm that you transferred your home to your trust.

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Cloverdale Church Guide

Cloverdale Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Cloverdale, CA 95425



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
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www.GraceCloverdale.org
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Jehovah's Witnesses
27100 Dutcher Creek Rd.
Cloverdale, CA 95425
Phone: 707.894.4490

Living Water Church
450 S. Franklin St.
Cloverdale, CA 95425
707.894.3274

Oat Valley Baptist Church
31000 Cooley Lane
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Join us for our Sunday service at 10am.
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St. Peter's Catholic Church
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The Bridge Foursquare
50 Commerce Lane Ste. C
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mail@TheBridge4sq.net

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
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- We are a church that tries to follow the example and teachings of Jesus through kindness and compassion
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- Our message and music give us hope and lead us to a closer spiritual relationship with God

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439 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale 707-894-2039 www.uccloverdale.org
Sunday Worship, Third Sunday of the Month only, 10am (in person or via Zoom)
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Integrity Nora Archambeau, M.A.

"Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. It is about doing the right thing, even when it is difficult or no one is watching." (AI Internet) I think the word integrity is often diminished to mean being truthful. Sharing what is true in our hearts ultimately benefits all. Adhering to integrity, however, takes more chutzpah and requires more of oneself than being truthful. Integrity involves a depth of character and a foundation that is integral to one's moral makeup.

When I was an information technical (IT) recruiter for a private recruiting firm in San Francisco, it was 2008, the early stages of the Great Recession. Securing companies seeking star IT candidates was becoming more challenging. Attracting top-notch IT engineers, architects, and programmers was even tougher. The financial crisis soon hit the firm. One of the recruitment managers shared our strife with a client. A big no-no. Almost immediately, the president fired her. It felt surreal. She had been instrumental in helping to train me to become the successful young IT Recruiter that I was. I had an allegiance to her and felt sad. I decided to soften the blow and accompany her to SF's Ferry Terminal. One of my colleagues asked me, "Do you actually know what you are about to do?" I replied, "At this point, I don't give a damn. She deserves my respect." I told the president I was walking her to the dock. She was completely distraught and grateful I had shown her my support. When I returned to work, the president asked me to meet him in the conference room. That usually was not a good sign. He asked, "Do you understand why we did what we did?" I answered, "Completely." "Can you let this go and continue giving your best to the job?" "Absolutely!" I respect what my intuition told me to do. When have you demonstrated integrity?

Artist Spotlight ~ Steven Brown Cloverdale Sculpture Trail



Sculpture:
"Survivor"

Winner of the People's Choice Award

Steven Brown's piece, *Survivor*, was voted People's Choice Award and is placed on Cloverdale Blvd. and First Street in front of Tien Yuen restaurant. The piece is carved from the remnants of a burned-out ancient redwood stump on his property

in Westport on the Mendocino Coast. He left some of the original surfaces and set it on a base, which is also cut from an ancient redwood stump. The piece was then sanded and oil rubbed to a beautiful satin finish highlighting the wood's natural grain and beauty.

Artist's Statement:

"There is a process of discovering the elemental form within the natural piece of wood, so I don't start with any preconceived idea of what the final result will be. I leave it to the viewer's imagination to see whatever they will. Some of the driftwood and ancient redwood roots are already works of art, so only certain pieces call out to me for further development. I study the pieces from various angles before deciding if there is a sculpture inside to be revealed".

Steven graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 1970 and worked on his family ranch in Carpinteria until 1981. His emphasis in college was painting and he had his first one-man show in 1973. He moved to the northern Mendocino coast in 1981 and turned his focus to sculpture. He has been working on reshaping a logged-over ridge top into a landscaped homestead ever since.

City Council Report Eleanore Webster

Unfortunately, there were technical difficulties at both the January 22nd and February 12th City Council meetings. Neither is available yet on YouTube, although the second half of the February 12th meeting was available for online Zoom viewing. The appointment of a new City Council member was the primary topic at the February meeting, due to the resignation of Gus Wolter. Discussion primarily revolved around which process to use to fill Gus' seat. There are two options: an appointment and a special election.

An election in November 2025 would be expensive (exceeding \$10,000) and would probably have only this one issue on the ballot. The appointment would be faster and cheaper, but would limit input on who is chosen. Both would fill out the current term ending in November 2026. In the appointment process, the Council could solicit applications and interview candidates or simply make an appointment. Council members discussed the fairness and openness of the process as well as the cost of an election. There were comments from the public about who to appoint. Several speakers suggested appointing Andrés Marquez to fill the seat for the remainder of Gus' term. As one of five qualified candidates who ran for the two open Council seats in the November election, Marquez received the third highest number of votes from Cloverdale voters, so the public had input only a few months ago. Several members of the public were present at the City Council meeting to speak in support of Andrés. The decision by Council was to appoint Andrés to fill the seat. This appointment is effective the first meeting in March and Andrés will be sworn in at the February 26th meeting. Gus Wolter's resignation was set for February 25th.

The next order of business was to set Board of Directors and Committee appointments. There were a number of county and regional boards that required appointments and nominations. For the SMART Commission, Mayor Lands will remain active because of its importance to Cloverdale and his work to date on the Commission.

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Parental Assistance in Homebuying Elissa Morrash

Affordability is a challenge for first time homebuyers and younger generations. There are options that allow for parental assistance.

3% down payment. If a buyer has not owned a home in the last 3 years, they are allowed to put as little as 3% down payment which can all come from their parents as a gift in addition to the needed closing costs.

Parents as Co-Signers. Parents are not required to be on the loan as co-signers unless the lender determines that this is needed for qualifying. They do not need to be on title to the home (unless they want to be). If parents elect to go on the loan and title with their children, it is important to know that the only way they can come off the loan is to be refinanced. They can be deeded off title any time they wish.

No Gift Cap. There is no cap on how much a parent can 'gift' into a purchase transaction for their child.

Gifting into a real estate transaction is qualified differently than guidelines associated with estate tax and gifting. Parents considering gifting should consult with their tax, legal and fiduciary advisors about potential tax and other consequences.

Elissa Morrash is a licensed Realtor® DRE 01872845 with W Real Estate in Cloverdale and is an active member of the local professional real estate community. She is sometimes on social media and can be reached in person at (707) 694-8821, elissa.morrash@gmail.com.

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L is for Literacy Michele Armanino

Julie Carter has a passion. She wants every child to be able to access books despite their location or family income. This commitment began in Santa Ana, California as she watched her mother set up tables on street corners near schools to distribute free books to any child who wanted them.

Julie, her husband Greg and their three sons relocated to Cloverdale for Greg's job in 1998. Julie soon began her educational career at Pathways Charter, a hybrid alternative state school, and the couple, eager to serve the community, joined the Cloverdale Kiwanis Club.

While attending a convention in Nashville, Greg learned about Dolly Parton's project, Imagination Library, which provides free monthly books to children up to five years of age regardless of household income. The couple successfully raised enough money from the first Cloverdale Harvest Run in 2011 to charter a new chapter of Imagination Library sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

Julie is now the Race Director of the Cloverdale Kiwanis Vineyard Races at the Gallo Vineyards in Asti. Since 2011, the proceeds from the races have made it possible for the Kiwanis Club to give away over 40,000 books to the children of Cloverdale through a variety of projects. The profits also fund the Jefferson Book Project, which provides students with two books, twice a year, to take home and keep.

Well known graphic novelist, illustrator and cartoonist, Raina Telgemeier, was a guest speaker at Jefferson and Washington schools. Julie, who serves as the Kiwanis Literacy Chair, asked the schools what they needed. Because of a donation from the Kiwanis Club Literacy Project, the schools were able to purchase signed copies of Telgemeier's book. "People come to us with all sorts of requests," says Julie. "If the request falls in the realm of literacy, we try our best to fulfill it."

Julie will be leaving her job at Pathways Charter in June of this year because, as she puts it, "I want to do things that are really important to me, like the Imagination Library project. Joining the Kiwanis Club is one of the best things I've ever done because it gave me direction to pursue my passions."

Correction notice: the correct author for the recent article about Tex Dickens is Teri Evans



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March Gardening Tips from Sonoma County Master Gardeners *Sponsored by Sanz Nursery*

- Fertilize roses. Give them a first application at bud break then once a month thereafter.
- Plant summer bulbs such as gladiolus, dahlia, callas, amaryllis, and lilies.
- Continue to look for and control snails. Hand pick them or apply Sluggo (non-toxic to pets, children, and wildlife) to control snails that are hatching now.
- Watch carefully for aphids on tender new growth and use insecticidal soap or spray with water from a garden hose as necessary. Excess nitrogen fertilizer stimulates new growth that is attractive to aphids.
- Pull out what weeds you can by hand. If you get to them before they go to seed, put them on your compost pile. However, to avoid compacting the soil, avoid walking on planted areas sodden from rains.
- Use a few layers of newspaper or cardboard and cover with mulch to discourage areas of unwanted grass or weeds. By the end of the season, the paper barrier along with dead grass and weeds will be decomposed and become compost.
- If you've started plants in peat pots indoors, in a cold frame, or greenhouse, make sure that when you transplant them into the garden, you either bury the entire pot completely or cut off the part that will be above ground. That excess portion will suck moisture out if exposed to open air.
- To speed up decomposition in your compost pile, add sources of nitrogen such as food scraps, alfalfa meal, blood meal, cottonseed meal, or fish meal and stir the pile every day or two.
- Remember, the last frost date in Sonoma County is April 15th. Don't be fooled by any heat spells; cold nights are still possible.



New at the Chamber



Taylor Hernandez, a proud sixth generation Cloverdale native, has recently joined the staff at the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce as an Administrative Assistant. When she's not baking sourdough or soaking up the sun at the beach, Taylor loves diving into creative projects, spending quality time with family, and helping her dad with ranching.

Taylor is currently working toward her Bachelor's in Finance to become a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). She

is passionate about connecting with new people and learning the ins and outs of local businesses. For her, the Chamber is the perfect way to give back to the amazing community that raised her.

MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR SPONSORED BY West Coast Sourdough

- March 3-14** Read Across America
Jefferson Elementary School
- March 8 Sat.** 7:30pm Blues Night, Second Saturdays
Cloverdale Arts Alliance
- March 13 Thurs.** 6pm Washington School PTA Mtg,
2025-26 Board Nominations
- March 14, 15, 16** CPAC presents "1984", adapted from
George Orwell novel
- March 15 Sat.** 11am-1pm, 2-4pm J Rickards & Mercury
Wines "Brats & Barrels", tix \$20
- March 20 Thurs.** 7:30pm Bluegrass band, Caltucky
Americana Night CAA
- March 21, 22, 23** CPAC presents "1984", adapted from
George Orwell novel
- March 22 Sat.** 5:30-7:30pm Artist Reception
Cloverdale Arts Alliance
- March 25 Tues.** 1:30-5:15pm Papa's Pizza Blood Drive
- March 27 Thurs.** 6pm Cloverdale Music Workshop
Cloverdale Arts Alliance
- March 29 Sat.** 9am Little League Opening Day
Daly Field
- April 6 Sun.** 7 - 9pm KOWS 92.5FM Radio
Fundraising Event Comedy Show



Creative Corner ~ Christy Anne

Spring is in the air and desperately trying to worm its way into our souls. Still a bit achy from the winter we have had, that has apparently thought it was from the east coast and tried to freeze us into submission. Luckily, Spring is a delightful trickster that will always find a way to shake the dead leaves off her branches and make room for fresh new growth. Of course, tax season will soon be approaching as well, so for those of us in need of a refresh on the home front, taking a moment to be creative with our budgets can allow joy in, whilst not getting into too much trouble.



As my husband and I are plagued by narrow cabinets and drawers for storage, I have for years now opted to not relegate the prized real estate of a drawer to silverware and instead have opted for a more whimsical approach. White ceramic planters have worked beautifully, with the side benefit of being next to the sink and over the dishwasher. However, after 7 years of faithful service they were feeling...dingy.

After a good scrubbing and dry time, I grabbed some painters tape, color of spray paint pretty darn close to cabinet color, and some vinyl black stripe tape I found

online (apparently designed for race car models). Taped off a band at the top, placed face down on cardboard outside on porch, followed the directions of light coats until achieved the hue I desired and left to dry fully. Removed painter's tape and gently overlapped paint line (hid imperfections perfectly!) with racing stripes tape, making sure start and finish tape ended up on the cabinet side and hung back up. Farewell dingy and hello you sparkling new vessels of convenience! It is actually mind boggling the number of things that can be refreshed with simply spray paint, patience and oh ya...a little bit of creativity!



As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing Cloverdale's infrastructure, the Public Works Department is leading a series of critical upgrades at Cloverdale Municipal Airport. These projects, funded primarily through FAA entitlement grants, will improve safety, operational efficiency, and prepare the airport for future expansion. To ensure top-quality design and execution, the City has selected C&S Companies—a comprehensive engineering, design, and construction firm trusted by clients nationwide—to perform engineering services for these improvements.

Key Projects (FY2026-2030):

Infield Area Drainage Improvements (2025-2027) – Addressing drainage issues to enhance safety and long-term maintenance.

Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) & Runway End Identifier Lights (2026) – Upgrading navigation aids to improve visibility and pilot safety.

Wildlife Hazard Assessment (2027) – Identifying and mitigating risks from local wildlife to ensure safe airport operations.

Apron Pavement Reconstruction & Lighting (2028-2030) – Enhancing aircraft parking areas and lighting to accommodate more traffic and improve security.

Perimeter Fencing & Security Upgrades (2028) – Strengthening airport security with new fencing and access controls.

Investing in Future Growth

These upgrades are not just about maintaining current operations - they are about preparing for future expansion. By improving infrastructure, we will have the capability to increase the number of hangars, allowing us to accommodate more aircraft and generate additional revenue for the city. This investment in our airport's future will support economic growth, attract aviation-related

businesses, and reinforce Cloverdale as a hub for general aviation.

With FAA funding, local matching contributions, and the expertise of C&S Companies, these projects are a strategic investment in both safety and economic development. Construction timelines vary, with completion expected by 2031.

New Council Member Marquez

Long time Councilmember Gus Wolter submitted his letter of resignation and participated in his last Council meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. The City, Staff, and Council thanks Councilmember Wolter for his decades of dedicated service as a Councilmember, Vice Mayor, and Mayor, and for his significant contributions to the City of Cloverdale!



At the same meeting, City Council appointed Andrés Marquez to fill the vacated Council seat and serve the remainder of Wolter's term. As one of five qualified candidates who ran for the two open council seats in the November election, Marquez received the third highest number of Cloverdalian votes and was

ceremoniously sworn into office at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on February 26, 2025.

Andrés Marquez was born in San Francisco, California where his Grandparents and family have lived since the 1920's. He graduated from Mills High School in Millbrae and took the entrepreneurial path by creating his painting and general contracting business, Symphonic Finishing, which has been successful for the past 25 years.

He and his wife Mari are immensely grateful to call Cloverdale home. The natural beauty of Cloverdale is unique across Sonoma County and the kindness of this community is inspiring. He is humbled by the support of the community and City Council Members in receiving this appointment and will work hard to bring value to Cloverdale in this role.

Enrolling in Medicare through the Social Security Administration

To actively enroll in Medicare, contact the Social Security Administration. You can enroll through Social Security in three different ways.

Visit your local Social Security office. If you need to visit your local Social Security office to enroll in Medicare, you should make an appointment. Appointments are strongly recommended so that you can avoid delays and waiting in line.

Call Social Security at 800-772-1213 to make an appointment at your local office. Visit <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp> to find the address for your local office.

Enroll online. To avoid waiting in line, consider enrolling in Medicare online. There are two ways to apply for Medicare online:

- If you are applying for Medicare Part A and Part B at the same time, you can use the online application found here: www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/
- If you are applying for Medicare Part B using the Part B Special Enrollment Period (SEP), you can use the online application found here: <https://secure.ssa.gov/mpboa/medicare-part-b-online-application>

Enroll over the phone. Call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 to enroll in Medicare over the phone.

Did you miss your enrollment deadline? If you need to enroll in Medicare, but you missed your enrollment period, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for help.



Local SHIP contact information	
Toll-free phone number:	877-839-2675 (To connect with your SHIP, say "Medicare")
Online SHIP Locator:	www.shiphelp.org Click: Find Local Medicare Help



Cloverdale Citrus Fair

EVENTS SCHEDULE

2025 EVENTS & MORE

MARCH 29	Wine Tasting	11 - 3:00 PM
APRIL 06	Spring Market	10 - 4:00 PM
JUNE 14	Clover FoodFest	5 - 10:00 PM
JULY 04	4th of July	11 - 3:00 PM
SEPT. 12	Fiesta de Independencia	5 - 10:00 PM
OCT. 25	Dia de Los Muertos	5 - 10:00 PM
OCT. 30-31	Haunted House	5 - 9:00 PM
NOV. 08	Holiday Craft Faire	10 - 3:00 PM



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Schedule an appointment in advance or they can come to you at an agreed upon safe location.

La Familia Sana 233 N. Cloverdale Blvd. 707-308-2513

Wednesdays 1:30-4:30pm

Services are confidential

Potential clients must first go through their intake process; either in person at one of their outreach locations or over the phone. Some legal services may not be completed on the same day/ follow-up appointments, at a location near you, may be required.

On the Wild Side ~ Jennifer Molidor

Open spaces let us all experience the natural world and time outdoors. That's the promise of the new 209-acre Soda Springs Ranch Open Space, located north of the Porterfield trails, and west of City Park, connecting Porterfield and Cloverdale Creek tributaries.

The Soda Springs Ranch is a vital wildlife corridor, preserving native habitats and space for migrating animals. And that helps keep our wild lands healthier.

We share the hills with deer, mountain lions, wild turkeys, California quail, acorn woodpeckers, raptors, ash-throated flycatchers, coyotes, foxes, owls, and bats as well as native wildflowers. Black bears have even been known to pass through.

The land around Cloverdale is also home to oak woodlands, grasslands, fir forests, and redwood groves, and a watershed rich in resources that help ensure our community has access to fresh air and clean water. Conserving lands around town helps build resilience to wildfires and flooding, and strengthens emergency responses to the effects of climate change.

The Lyda family owned the ranch land for four generations and this conservation of it is a way to honor that heritage. The land has been transferred to Cloverdale through Ag + Open Space which helps ensure local land will be a resource for future generations.

It is also the ancestral land of the Pomo tribes, who lived in Sonoma County for thousands of years and whose presence continues. Most recently, the land had been used for timber and cattle grazing.

Looking to early fall, crews will be repairing roads and building a new trail entrance for the north end of S. Foothill Blvd. Multi-use trails, fire gates, picnic tables, fencing, along with signs and trail markers and vegetation management are all in the works. Thanks to everyone working to preserve this land.



True West Film Center Summer Film Camps - Sign Up Now!

Register now to save your child's place for our Summer Film Camps! Each one-week session provides students with hands-on filmmaking experience and complimentary activities designed by our amazing partner organizations.

Spots fill up quickly so register now!

Go to truwestfilmcenter.org or call 707-893-7150

info@truwestfilmcenter.org

June 16-20 — Lights, Camera, Action! Theater + Film Camp

June 23-27 — Game Makers + Movie Makers Camp

July 7-11 — Lights, Camera, Action! Theater + Film Camp 2

July 14-18 — Music Production + Filmmakers Camp

July 21-25 — Adventure Farms + Documentary Camp

July 28-Aug 1 — Adventure Farms + Filmmaking Camp

July 28-Aug 8 — Future Filmmakers Summer Camp (ages 13+)

Aug 4-8 — Art Makers + Filmmakers Camp

Are You a Cloverdale Connect Champion?

Go to cloverdaleconnect.com, click **Champion!**

Thank you to the following readers who are now **Cloverdale Connect Champions!** Please see our expanded list of Champions below as of 2/25/25.

Allen Roberts	Mike Barnett
Audrey Brush	Millie & Phil Thomas
C. D. Grant	Neva Godman
Carolyn Adkins	Robert Redner
Cecily G. Henry	Shelli Byers
Deborah Hall	Susan Lile
Debra Jack	Thana Brunges
Denis Thoms	Valerie Chestovich
Ellen Boulanger	William Wagy
Frances Giacalone	Ann & Jack Mackenzie
Frances Ramage	Bob & Jeanne Cox
Gail Collins	Dan Henkle & Steve Kawa
Gaudelia D. Newhart	David & Beverly McChesney
George Artemoff	Deborah & Patrick Nurisso
Jeanine Thorpe	Elaine & Scott Carlson
Joy Camilli	Francoise & Burt Lang
Joyce Sartori	Gene & Carolyn Marcinkowski
June Drake	Lewis Nashner & Ann Flores
Krista Rector	Richard J. & Michele D. Stratton
Laurie Kneeland	Robert Scott & Tim McDonald
Linda Elliott	Scott & Rachel Allred
Lucille Ogden	Sharon & Thomas Koch
Lynn Caruso	Sheila & Kevin Kostoff
M.R. Wallace	Shelley & Sam Witten
Maria Erickson	Susan & Jason Connolly Foote
Mary Jo Winter	Tammy Azcarate & John Pearson
Melanie Hall	Virginia & Dan Greenwald
Michael Olson	William & Susan Walters

SUPER CHAMPIONS!

Debbi & Frank Davis
 Drew & Candace Delgado
 Kiwanis Club
 Mark Thayer
 Nancy Dalwin
 Richard Price
 Stephen & Dianne Oliver

Compassionate Trauma Care

Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital's Level II Trauma Center excels at saving lives and easing psychological pain.



If you're critically injured in Northern California, you're likely to receive lifesaving care at Providence Santa Rosa Memorial's Trauma Center. "Ours is the only Level II trauma center between the Oregon state line and the San Francisco Bay Area," says Omar Ferrari, DO, director of the Department of Emergency Medicine. "We care for

more than 4,500 trauma patients each year, including around 600 who are transported by helicopter. And we're in the top 10% nationally when it comes to positive patient outcomes."

Santa Rosa Memorial's team of specialized emergency physicians, trauma surgeons, nurses and other staff treat patients with life-threatening injuries 24/7/365. "There is no injury we can't treat, but the ones we see most often stem from traffic accidents, falls by people who are on blood thinners, gunshots, stabbings and the like," Dr. Ferrari says. Injured people are stabilized, triaged, then transferred to Santa Rosa Memorial immediately via ambulance or helicopter.

"I want to make sure people know how important Santa Rosa Memorial's trauma center is to the community. It was astounding how swiftly I received treatment," says Rebecca Green Birdsall, who was treated for sepsis in the ER.

To ease financial burdens, Providence hospitals often offer medication vouchers or pay for Uber rides home for patients who live hundreds of miles away. "We all work together as a family, and that results in better care for our patients' medical as well as emotional needs," says Dr. Ferrari.

To learn more about Santa Rosa Memorial's Trauma Center and Injury Prevention Programs, visit providence.org/srmhtrauma



Cloverdale Connect Photo Contest

Each month a *Cloverdale Connect* **Front Page Photo Winner** receives a gift card from a participating merchant.

Email your photos to info@cloverdaleconnect.com or Mail to P.O. Box 404 Cloverdale, CA 95425

Connect with C.H.S. Cheyenne Schriener

Over Citrus-Fair weekend, the front of the school was provided with some extra love in the spirit of Valentine's day with landscaping. With seeds provided by the agriculture department, 30 rose bushes were planted courtesy of Earthworks Landscaping to decorate the strip of green outside the front office. CHS extends a thank you to owner Joe Schriener for providing the service of his team and Floral Design teacher, Riley Dale, for taking initiative in the next few steps to beautify CHS. (Thanks Dad!)

The senior class would like to send an open invitation to the community for their upcoming all-boys pageant: Mr Eagle. A CHS tradition, it will be hosted in the East gym on March 5th at 7:00pm with a \$15 entry fee. All proceeds will directly benefit the senior class in their fundraising efforts towards their campus gift and senior-trip. Contestants Caden Mccutchen, Bryan Garcia, Luis Santos, Santino Demattei, and Douglas Clemmer will complete 6 categories to determine who has the smarts, charm, and talent of the 2025 Mr. Eagle crown. In addition, a highschool band featuring Deigo Orozco, Jonathan Sanchez, and Zach Lewis will play a set of music in between the final act and judge consultation - mark your calendars and bring friends for a silly night!



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CUSD News

Glen Senestraro, CUSD Superintendent

As we approach another crucial phase in our academic calendar, Cloverdale Unified School District gears up for the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) and California state testing. These assessments play a pivotal role in evaluating our students' progress and ensuring they have the necessary skills to thrive academically.

What is ELPAC?

The ELPAC assesses English proficiency of students whose primary language is not English. It helps identify areas where students may need additional support in language development, ensuring they can fully engage in the academic curriculum.

California State Testing

In addition to ELPAC, all our CUSD students will participate in California state testing, evaluating their proficiency in subjects like mathematics, English language arts, and science. These tests provide valuable insights into each student's academic strengths and areas that may require more attention.

Preparation and Support

To ensure our students perform their best, Cloverdale Unified is committed to thorough preparation and support:

1. **Curriculum Alignment:** Our educators align classroom instruction with state standards, ensuring students are well-prepared for the content and format of the assessments.

2. **Targeted Resources:** Additional resources and support are provided to students needing assistance, including tutoring sessions, study materials, and practice tests.

3. **Parental Involvement:** We encourage parents and guardians to participate actively in their child's education, offering guidance and resources to support their preparation at home.

The Importance of Assessment

These assessments are not just about test scores; they reflect our district's commitment to equipping every student with the skills and knowledge needed for future success. By identifying strengths and areas for improvement, we can tailor our educational strategies to better meet the needs of each student.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the upcoming testing period, we encourage our students to approach these assessments with confidence and determination. Each test is an opportunity to demonstrate growth and achievement, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.

Together, we can ensure that every student in Cloverdale Unified School District reaches their full potential. Let's continue to support and empower our students as they prepare for these important assessments.

Grange Hall Welcomes New Manager

Odalis Sanchez is now the new manager of the Cloverdale Grange Hall. She is excited to bring her skills and passion to the position. Her goal is to ensure that every event held at the Grange Hall is a memorable and seamless experience for all.

Located at 201 N. Commercial St., the Grange Hall is a fun and affordable place to rent for parties and celebrations including birthdays, anniversaries, quinceañeras, and baptismal celebrations.

- The capacity of the hall is 80 people.
- The Grange Hall space does not have a kitchen, so all refreshment accessories must be provided by the renter.
- A cleaning deposit is required which is fully refundable if the hall is returned in the state in which it was found.

For information please contact: Odalis Sanchez - 831-710-7757

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Alexander Valley Healthcare
Cloverdale Citrus Fair Tea Room
1 Citrus Fair Drive, Cloverdale, CA 95425
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Notice is hereby given of a public meeting to solicit public comment regarding the intent of Coppertower Family Medical Center dba Alexander Valley Healthcare (AVH) to apply for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the purpose of construction of the new Alexander Valley Health and Wellness Center. The total cost of the project is about \$30,000,000 with AVH matching approximately \$29,500,000.


The public meeting will be held on March 18, 2025, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

For additional information contact Kirsten Tellez, Director of Development at (707) 203-2135
kitellez@alexandervalleyhealthcare.org
visit <https://alexandervalleyhealthcare.org/>

The public is encouraged to attend and offer comments regarding the project and USDA funding application.

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Cloverdale Connect provides our readers with local news each month at no cost, supported by our local businesses, including FREE home delivery.

Roots of Rock
MJ Girard ~ KOWSfm.com
March Madness? Or just Springtime looming? It's always pleasant when the weather begins to warm, flowers blooming and days drawn out. The Citrus Fair was wonderful, so many beautiful exhibits and scrumptious food and beverages to enjoy.



Along with the changing climate comes gardening and outdoor activities. An occasional shower shouldn't dampen our appetite for barbecued meals. We have such an abundance of fresh ingredients here in the Golden State!

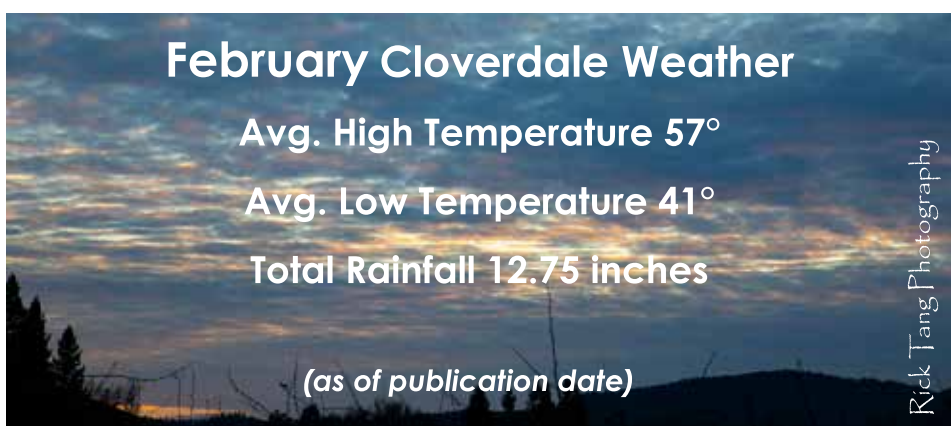
As Spring approaches, let's plan on getting together with our neighbors to celebrate life and the good times ahead.

Be sure to include the diversity of KOWSfm.com your local community radio station, offering a wide variety of talk, opinions and musical experiences to enhance your day and nighttime listening. We thank all of you for tuning in.

Pavelka's Puns
"If you ate pasta and anti pasta, would you still be hungry?"



February Cloverdale Weather
Avg. High Temperature 57°
Avg. Low Temperature 41°
Total Rainfall 12.75 inches
(as of publication date)



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Benefactor: \$1,000: 1 Hour Library Access, Newsletter, Early Access to Event Tickets, Private Cocktail party in the Gould-Shaw House for up to 8 people includes charcuterie, wine and signature cocktail

Lifetime: \$5,000: 1 Hour Library Access, Newsletter, Early Access to Event Tickets, Cemetery Private Dinner & Tour for 6, All of the above.

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The CloDems Ask

Are you experiencing politics fatigue? There has been a fire hose of executive orders that will impact national security, federal law enforcement, foreign relations, tariffs, citizenship, economic security – the cost of food, gas, health care – and equal representation. Let's not forget about efforts to defund government agencies like the U S Agency for International Development (USAID) and even entire departments like the Department of Education whose mission includes ensuring equal access to students with disabilities and providing nutritional lunches to impoverished kids.

New Executive Orders seem to be surfacing every day with more, surely on the horizon. At least that appears to be the plan.

What is the antidote to political fatigue? Let your voice be heard! Our State and Federal representatives are members of a co-equal branch of government. They work for the citizenry, not for any specific individual or administration. Our representatives can't be our voice if we don't contact them with our comments, questions, concerns, and even support for their efforts.

Placing a call is the most effective way to ensure that your representative hears you before they take a public stance.

Congressional staffers tally phone calls right away. (Be sure to leave your name, the town you live in with zip code.)

U.S. Senate:

Honorable Alex Padilla
Washington D.C. (202) 224-3553
California (619) 239-3884

Honorable Adam Schiff
Washington D.C. (202) 224-3841
California (559) 485-7430

U.S House of Representatives:

Honorable Jared Huffman
Washington D.C. (202) 225-5161
San Rafael office (415) 258-9657

The word democracy comes from the Greek "demos", meaning people, and "kratos" meaning power; so democracy can be thought of as the "power of the people." Being in touch with our elected representatives is one way to exercise that power.

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Let's Travel Craig Clark

Don't Let the REAL ID Deadline Catch You Off Guard and cause you to be denied boarding your flight.

Take steps to secure your REAL ID before the May 7, 2025, federal enforcement date. This is when a REAL ID or other federally approved documents will be required for individuals to fly within the U.S. or enter secure federal facilities. Here's how to get a Real ID online, <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/real-id/>

And while you're traveling, be sure that you have adequate travel insurance coverage. You'll want insurance to cover the trip cost if you have to cancel, medical expenses while traveling, and incidental expenses from possible trip delay, lost luggage, and other incidental inconveniences. Be sure that the policy is primary coverage (pays first) and take advantage of pre-existing medical conditions waiver as a reason for cancellation. The waiver is often included if purchased within a short time frame from the initial trip deposit date. Be sure to check the entry requirements for the countries you're visiting as some require that you carry insurance.

Check your passport to be sure it is still valid for the return travel date as some countries require you to have 6 months remaining validity from your return travel date. Review your phone plan for calling from outside of the US, to avoid unintended charges. Pack an extra week of daily medications you may be taking, in case of delays returning home, and keep a photo or other record of any prescription medication you're taking should you need a refill.

Take enough cash, mostly in small denominations, for incidentals like tips, and purchases on the street. For all other purchases and expenses, use your credit card, not a debit card, and take at least two, so if one is compromised you still have resources to fall back on.

Bridging Education and Community at the Cloverdale Library Kat Gore, Sonoma County Library

Joel Smith, a dedicated member and chair of the Cloverdale Regional Library Advisory Board (LAB), is a lifelong library enthusiast. His connection to libraries began as a child, when his mother enrolled him in a summer reading program. Over the years, his passion for libraries grew, particularly as a grad student working at the UCLA Research Library.

Smith and his wife took their twins to the library from an early age. Their children graduated high school last year, also his fifth year working as a high school librarian in Windsor. A resident of Cloverdale, Smith was invited to join the LAB around 15 years ago by Cindy Wilson, the former Cloverdale library children's librarian and branch manager. "I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to give back to the community and further my connection with the library," Smith said.

Smith reflected on the recent passage of Measure W—the library sales tax—noting that it is a testament to how valuable the Cloverdale branch is to the community. "The passage of Measure W means Sonoma County Library can continue to sustain and develop amazing programs and services, and retain our amazing librarians," Smith said. "Our relatively small community in Cloverdale benefits greatly from our staff and programs."

In his role as a high school librarian, Smith often directs students to the Sonoma County Library; particularly WiFi hotspots, the StudentOne program—which enables most students in the County to easily use their Student ID as a library card, and the Libby app, which offers digital access to books and audiobooks.

For more on the library's offerings, visit sonomalibrary.org.

Permanent Asti Bridge Update ~ Erik Terreri

The recent community meeting at the Cloverdale Veterans Hall on January 31, 2025, underscored the need to expedite the approval of the Special Finance Assessment District for the construction of the Permanent Asti Bridge. Johannes J. Hoevertsz, Director of Sonoma Public Infrastructure, provided an update on the project.

The CEQA environmental work has been completed. With an estimated \$30 million construction cost and a two-year timeline post-approval, the project is poised for progress. However, the design, permitting, and open bidding phases must be completed before construction can commence, a process projected to take 18 to 24 months. If a finance assessment district were approved today, the project would be completed sometime in 2029.

While waiting for grant funding is an option, it risks stalling the project and losing critical political support. Establishing the Finance Assessment District now is the more proactive approach, enabling the county to issue bonds and initiate design work promptly. The assessment district would cap property owners' contribution at \$4 million. The average property closest to the bridge would pay about \$588 per year for 20 years. Commercial and large vineyard properties would be assessed at a higher rate and there are 3 proposed zones with decreasing assessment levels the further North you move up River Road.

The benefits of a Permanent Asti Bridge extend beyond immediate access improvements. It promises enhanced fire safety, offering dual egress routes, crucial in light of recent fire events. Additionally, the bridge could lead to reduced fuel costs, lower insurance

premiums due to decreased risk profiles, and increased property values, boosting county tax revenues.

Construction costs are estimated to rise by 3.7% annually, and external factors like the LA fires could exacerbate these cost increases. Delays could also jeopardize the political will of County officials to support the project. Continuation of the Asti Summer Bridge isn't guaranteed if a permanent bridge isn't constructed.

Community involvement is key. Geoff Peters is coordinating a first-class mail announcement for the next meeting on March 8, 2025, from 2:00-3:30 pm at the Veterans Center. Erik Terreri is obtaining emails and phone numbers to conduct an online poll, as well as to facilitate targeted outreach to ensure the district's approval.



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Saturday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Savings Wednesdays
Sidewalk Sale Table
(up to 50% off select items)
1st Wed. of the month 50%
off store wide! (except yarn)

DONATIONS

M-F 8:30-4 PM, 311 N. Main St.
Please get in touch with the Senior
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All proceeds support our local
Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center.

Senior Center
(707) 894-4826
311 N. Main
Cloverdale, CA.



Cloverdale Senior Center Endowment Program

Now is the time to support the Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center with your participation in our Community Endowment Program. Working with Redwood Credit Union, we have set up a fund to provide for future generations to enjoy the benefits and programs available at the Senior Center. With your help, the Senior Center will exist far into the future for all to enjoy.

Make the choice today to set up a one-time, weekly or monthly contribution to the CSMC Endowment Fund at RCU. In addition, we invite you to include the Senior Center in your estate plan as part of your will or your trust. Invest in our community's future. Make a difference.

La Familia Sana

La Familia Sana offers empowerment, education, direct support services and advocacy for underserved individuals and families, a helping hand to those in need. It is a nimble grassroots organization that assists underserved members in the community, partnering to co-create equitable and culturally relevant solutions with community members to address long-term needs for healthcare, jobs, food and education.

Strong, collaborative partnerships are essential to achieving the mission. La Familia Sana's work is deeply rooted in the community, in partnership with organizations that share the commitment to equity, health, and empowerment. By working alongside these trusted partners, La Familia Sana can offer a wide range of resources and services to underserved populations, ensuring that the community has access to healthcare, food security, education, and other critical support systems.

Partners Include:

- Alexander Valley Healthcare
- Catholic Charities
- California Health Medical Reserve Corps (CHMRC)
- The California Wellness Foundation
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center
- Community Foundation Sonoma County
- Community Action Partnership (CAP)
- City of Cloverdale
- Corazon Healdsburg
- CURA, On the Move & La Plaza: Nuestra Cultura Cura
- Healthcare Foundation of Northern Sonoma County
- Healdsburg Forever
- Joblink
- Latino Community Foundation
- Positive Images
- Redwood Empire Food Bank
- Farm 2 Pantry
- Peter Hass Jr. Foundation
- St. Joseph's Providence Health Care
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Sonoma County Office of Equity
- Sonoma Connect/Sonoma Unidos
- Together Towards Health/Public Health Institute
- On the Margins

Lafamiliasana.org

TRANSLATE to Spanish Button

Easily translate *Cloverdale Connect* content from English to Spanish on our website by using the orange **TRANSLATE** button in the upper right-hand corner.
¡Pruébalo! www.CloverdaleConnect.com



Donations On Hold

The Friends of the Cloverdale Library will not be able to accept book, magazine, CD, DVD or puzzle donations beginning in March due to a Cloverdale Library Renovation Project. We will not have access to our storage space until the end of May. So for the months of March, April and May, NO DONATIONS will be accepted. As soon as the renovation project is completed, we will welcome your donations. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Coming to Cloverdale Performing Arts Center

1984

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Sundays at 2:00pm

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\$15 Seniors/Students

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Adapted from the novel by George Orwell

www.CloverdalePerformingArts.com



Easter Candy!

The Cloverdale Kiwanis
will be selling See's
Candy for Easter!

Details in the April issue

Cloverdale's Original Speed Trap

Kevin Moore and the Staff of the Cloverdale Historical Society

Before highway 101 bypassed Cloverdale in 1994, Cloverdale police had a reputation for strictly enforcing the town's speed limit. Some people called Cloverdale a "speed trap." One hundred years earlier, Cloverdale had a landmark known for its strictly enforced speed limit, while still being considered the "coolest place around."

The covered bridge at Preston just north of Cloverdale was a well-known landmark for travelers and residents for many years. The original bridge was built in the 1870's and dismantled in the early 1930's.



The sign above the bridge warns, "\$5 fine for riding or driving faster than a walk over this bridge." This rule might have been needed to protect the bridge from rocking on its footings or to avoid collisions on the long and narrow bridge. The speed limit may also have been in place to help avoid conflicts, as it must have been very frightening for horses to meet a loud and smokey automobile in the confines of the covered bridge.

The area under the bridge was a popular swimming hole known for a deep area of the river. A newspaper article in 1904 noted that a world-renowned diver, Captain A. L. Midgley will give an exhibition of "high and fancy diving" by jumping from the top of the Preston Bridge into the river below.

Early residents of Cloverdale told stories of baptisms and picnics at the edge of the river under the shade of the bridge. It was well known as a welcome, cool spot on a hot summer day long before air conditioning was available.



In 1910, swimming attire for ladies and gentlemen was much more modest than today's. The wooden structure on the river's edge were "changing rooms" as it was inappropriate to wear swimwear other than while in the water. Pop McCray's provided wagon transportation to the swim hole from his resort located near what is now the Hamburger Ranch restaurant.



Ray Pesce, owner of the original Hamburger Ranch and Pasta Farm

Flames Destroyed Cloverdale's Historic Depot

Mary Jo Winter

The first train arrived in Cloverdale on March 19, 1872.

While an actual date could not be found, the original Cloverdale Depot, once the focal point of Cloverdale's economic and social activity, was built on Railroad Avenue long before the freeway bisected that section of town about 110 years later.

Shortly after 1 a.m. on Sept. 21, 1991, a suspected arson fire completely destroyed the depot. Firefighters watched helplessly as the dry building collapsed shortly after their arrival.

Because of the then-pending construction of the 101 Bypass, the depot had been slated to be moved to a new location and converted into a railroad museum and community building with space available for the Chamber of Commerce and a visitor center.

Plans for what was first dubbed the Cloverdale Bypass Project started in 1976 as part of Cloverdale's participation in the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

A committee of dedicated volunteers set about raising money and making plans for the preservation and restoration of the historic depot. The non-profit Cloverdale Depot Association was formed in 1977 and the depot was soon placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Working with CalTrans, the committee's plan was to move the building to a two-acre parcel about ½ mile south of where it had stood. Funding for this portion of the project would have been supplied by the Federal Highway Administration.

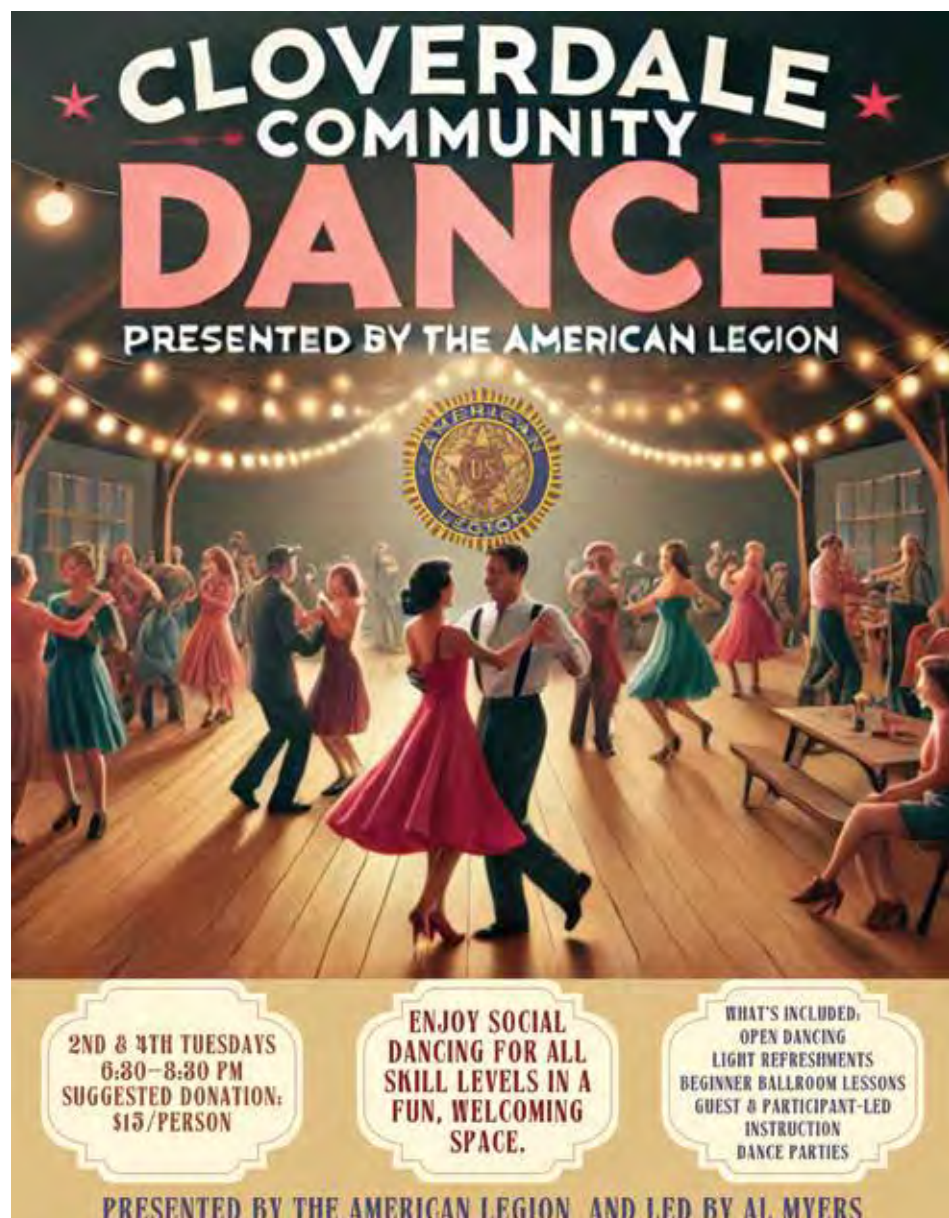
The Depot Association met a few days after the fire and voted unanimously to disband and present their remaining funds of \$1,238.09 to the Cloverdale Historical Society to help retire the museum's mortgage.

In 1998, the newly-constructed depot on Asti Rd. was closed almost as soon as it opened when the Federal Railroad Administration shut down all train operations on the line due to safety concerns over lack of track maintenance and repairs by Northwest Pacific Railroad.

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Learn About People From Our Community Who Contribute Articles To Cloverdale Connect*



Melanie Hall

I have lived in Sonoma County since 1981. I have been married to my husband, Jim, since 1980. We have two adult children who we both adore. My background is in Human Development with a focus on Early Childhood Education. After teaching for 25 years, I switched age groups in 2017 and started working at the Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center. My articles in the Cloverdale Connect focus on important

subjects for seniors and others in our community along with sharing about upcoming classes, workshops, and events at the Senior Center. I find joy in writing my articles and hope you find useful information. In my spare time when I am not working at the Senior Center or composing articles for Cloverdale Connect, I love playing with my dogs, hiking around my neighborhood, gardening, cooking, and reading.



Michele Armanino

I am an elementary school teacher, writer and avid sewist. I enjoy writing about Cloverdale businesses and individuals because I love learning about everyone's lives and sharing their unique stories. "The bonus for me, is that I've met a lot of interesting and inspiring people and have become even more connected to this caring community."

Most of all, I am thankful for the time I am able to spend with my husband, family and friends!



Kevin Moore

Known to most people as the "windmill guy", I am a long-time resident of Cloverdale. I have been collecting historical postcards and early photos of the area for over 45 years. The collection has grown to over 350 postcards and photos.

I have been busy using software to enhance the images in my collection and am working with the Cloverdale Historical Society and the Sonoma County Library to make my collection available to the public.



Nora Archambeau, M.A.

I greatly enjoy writing because it takes me into an altered state of consciousness. I allow inspired words to flow to me based on what Cloverdale readers may wish to hear. Our town and its wonderful people are ever-evolving. Times are rapidly changing. If I can help to smooth out the challenges, I am happy to do so. Key interests: 5D consciousness, spirituality, singing, yoga, dreams, dancing, mother nature, etc. Namaste.

*Part 1 - see April issue for Part 2



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Judy Warren



Once dubbed mayor of the town by many she encountered over the years with her hugs, joy and kisses, Judy has moved on to a higher position. She greeted people with her customary smile and "Hi! Hi!" and hugged them. People generally looked forward to Judy's solid hugs and she became known as an unofficial ambassador of Cloverdale.

Judith Janiese Warren passed away Jan. 29, 2025, in

Cloverdale surrounded by family. She was 58 years old. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. on March 15 at Parkside Christian Chapel followed by a lunch celebration.

Judy was born in Nyssa, Oregon on Feb. 14, 1966 into a large family of eight siblings. She was raised in Alaska, on a farm in Palmer near Pioneer Peak and came to live in Cloverdale 12 years ago with her sister, Victoria Martineau. From the frozen mountains to sunny palms of California, Judy made a happy transition.

People may recall her delivering Meals on Wheels – a plate of food with a hug. They may remember her at Zini's where she occupied her "desk," at an employee table near the cash register and popped up to chat with patrons and peeled potatoes or vacuumed the rugs for the owner, Chris Ambrosini, whom she claimed as her "boyfriend." Or they may remember her from the time she attended the Ivy Church or the Good Shepherd where she held her singing debut. She also was known to dance in the Towns Square during festivities there.

A major milestone for Judy was her trip to Disneyland where she saw all her favorite Disney characters in person, especially dear Mickey Mouse.

In a write-up for the Cloverdale Reveille in 2014, Judy was described as all about Valentine's Day, her birthday. "Her excitement barely contains itself for the bounty of possibilities. This is Judy Territory, one staked out and well-worn by her touches. It's Judy Day, a national holiday all her own to be shared with all who know her – and many who don't. Glowingly she informs strangers nearby in aisles that soon it's her birthday."

One time a woman was sitting in her car outside the Cloverdale Pharmacy. Judy made eye contact with her, and blew her a kiss. The woman came over and wanted to give Judy the bracelet off her wrist. "I needed her love today," the woman told Victoria.

Such occurrences happened often.

In her final years, Judy was bedbound. Still, she greeted her caregivers each day in her customary joy and love.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Judy's name to Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area.

Call For Artists

Following our exciting and successful launch of The Cloverdale Arts Alliance Gallery's Community Art Annex, we are again welcoming proposals from local Cloverdale artists to exhibit their artwork in a sectioned area of the Gallery dedicated to exhibiting notable amateur and emerging local artists. Through our new Community Arts Program, we seek to support the many artists in our city and immediate area who are new to, or may not have been quite ready for, a professional exhibition. This can be your first step. Or, this can be your next step, if you have exhibited before and want to resume your art career.

We are offering four 5-foot sections of wall space for \$30 each, for a two-month run. We are currently considering submissions for our May 24, 2025 Exhibition, then for later exhibits. We will provide you with more information and detail after your submission. Your proposal should include up to five sample images (jpgs) of your work, preferably the pieces you plan to submit. Please include information about the work, including the title, date, medium, dimensions, and a brief description of each piece submitted.

Please include a short Bio, your Artist Statement, and your plans to further your art journey. (Brief descriptions are fine. We just want to get to know you a little.)

Direct your submission:

Jason Taylor Morgan, Director
jasontaylormorgan9@gmail.com or

Laura Paine Carr, Director
lauracarr232@comcast.net.

This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for accomplished local amateur artists who, after this, won't be amateur any longer and needed just a little nudge to bring their art out to the world. We look forward to hearing from you. And thank you for supporting the Cloverdale Arts Alliance, and our Gallery.



The troops at Wednesday coffee hour read **Cloverdale Connect** and discuss local topics in earnest!

Thank you all for your service to our country.

Soda Springs Ranch Open Space Preserve

To the west of Cloverdale sits the Soda Springs Ranch Open Space Preserve, a mountainous land laced with oaks, fir trees, redwood groves, grasslands and creeks.

Thanks to nearly \$1 million in funding from Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, this undeveloped property will soon receive a slate of improvements. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, which serves as the board of directors for Ag + Open Space, voted to fund development of trails, parking and other improvements that will allow for initial public access.

Ag + Open Space purchased the property in 2023 and immediately transferred it to the City of Cloverdale. The open space district holds a conservation easement and recreational covenant on the 209-acre property, ensuring it will be a natural and recreational resource for generations to come.

"We are happy to provide support to the City of Cloverdale and their efforts to open the preserve to the public," said District 4 Supervisor James Gore, who represents the Cloverdale area.



A Chance Encounter in Cloverdale: A Journey from Pizza to India

Kevin Kostoff

Travel has always been a defining part of my life, shaping my experiences and broadening my understanding of the world. While I have visited countless places, some of the most memorable journeys begin not at an airport or a train station, but in the most unexpected places. One such journey began at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Cloverdale, where I met a local businessman who not only served me a great pizza but also connected me with his family in India, changing the course of my travels in a way I could have never anticipated.

A Rotary Lunch

I had been at a Rotary meeting at Mountain Mikes and noticed the staff all looked Indian. Having a last-minute trip going to India and having no plans or ideas, I thought I would ask if they could give me some guidance. The owner was at the counter and we struck up a conversation.

From Pizza to India

Gibby has been in Cloverdale for over four years, running the restaurant and this was the first time I have had any interaction with him or his staff. When we met, I was 8 weeks from departure, tour book in hand, and Gibby could see the concern I had about planning this trip. I learned that he was originally from India, specifically from the state of Punjab. I shared with him that an American/Indian friend invited me to come visit and I decided to travel on my own for the first two weeks. My itinerary included the usual tourist destinations—Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Mumbai, Bangalore—but I was eager to explore beyond the typical travel routes and experience the country and culture in a more personal way.



Hearing this, Gibby began to make phone calls. Since he was speaking in Hindi, I did not understand what he was doing at the moment. He then gets up and calls to the back room. The next instance was a turning point, Gibby's father, who lives in Punjab, just happened to be visiting Cloverdale. Gurnam, who speaks no English, through translation,

listens to my questions. In an instance, he responds, "You must visit my home" and shows me pictures. He lives in Jalandhar. At the time, I had no idea where this was and it was not on the agenda. He told me about the bustling markets, the stunning temples, and the warmth of Punjaby hospitality. Before I knew it, Gibby was finishing his phone calls and said we will make some arrangements for you. As I was leaving the restaurant, I wasn't exactly sure what arrangements were going to happen. A few days had passed, Gibby called and said everything is set up and you will be good.

A New Perspective on India

A few weeks later, after a 17.5-hour plane ride, I found myself stepping off a plane in New Delhi (POP. 18 million), with the name of a guy who was going to meet me upon arrival. I had no idea who this person was, no transportation, no hotel stays, no plans, just a list of tourist places I had read about. As promised,



Gibby's friend, Balwinder, welcomed me with a hand written sign with my name on it. He spoke no English. From that moment, I was treated as if I were a long-lost relative rather than a traveler passing through.

With his guidance, I explored parts of Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Jodpur, Jasamier, and Punjab. Traveling by car, over 1000k, through every village, small town and big city on the way. In every city, they had a hotel reserved, an English-speaking tour guide to show me around, I wandered through the ancient streets of the old cities, marveling at intricately carved wooden

homes that had stood for centuries. I tasted authentic home-cooked dishes, where flavors of sweet, spicy, and tangy blended perfectly in every bite. They took me to hidden temples, we listened to Hindi music, rode camels in the desert, danced.

More than just sight-seeing, it was the warmth of Balwinder, who through google translate, facial expressions and hand gestures, made my journey unforgettable. Finally, meeting up and staying with Gibby's parents to share stories of their lives, introduce me to local traditions, and give me insights into India that no guide-book could ever provide, the first leg



of the journey was coming to a close. Balwinder drove me to the Northern India airport to continue on my adventure. Over the next two weeks I felt comfortable to integrate into Mumbai, Bangalore and Goa.

The Power of Unexpected Connections

Reflecting on my journey, I realized that some of the best travel experiences don't come from meticulously planned itineraries but from spontaneous connections. If I hadn't had a Rotary meeting at Mountain Mike's that day, I might have missed out on an entirely different side of India—one that was rich with personal connections and cultural depth.

Gibby's kindness, his willingness to bridge the gap between his American life and his Indian roots, reminded me of the beauty of human connection. In a world that often feels divided by geography, culture, and language, it's moments like these that prove how small and interconnected our world truly is.

When I returned to Cloverdale, I went directly to Mountain Mike's to hug and thank my new brother. With his help, he gave me a start to understand Indian culture and allowed me to feel at ease to finish the rest of my travels. I encourage all people of Cloverdale to look around our small community, see the faces, find the differences and explore the possibilities!

Become A Cloverdale Connect Champion

Every month, Cloverdale Connect publishes and distributes almost 7,000 copies of the paper, which equals over 16,000 readers, calculated by industry standards. The papers are delivered via USPS direct mail, and also at many "drop" locations, at no charge to our readers. Over the last four years, our printing and postage costs have gone up and up and up, and yet we still provide the paper free to our readers.

We are looking for readers who would like to become **Cloverdale Connect Champions** with a \$50 annual gift. (Please note: this is not a tax-deductible expense as we are not a non-profit organization).

Contact us at info@cloverdaleconnect.com to support local community news and information.



What is OneDrive? Will Carter

This might be the most common question my customers ask me, and it's for a good reason: Every new Windows computer comes with Microsoft's OneDrive pre-installed. In fact, if you set a new computer up the way Windows guides you to, there's a great chance that you will be signed up for this service before you know it. If, like many of my customers, you are wondering what OneDrive is, why it exists, and if you should use it, keep reading!

In August of this year, OneDrive will turn 18 years old, but it wasn't always named OneDrive. For the first seven years, Microsoft branded the product SkyDrive until a lawsuit sought to change the name. Under either name, OneDrive has a simple purpose: Storing customers' files on their servers to make them easily accessible, with a focus on integrating with other Microsoft products like Windows and Microsoft 365 (formerly Microsoft Office).

In practice, OneDrive acts as a tool to allow users to backup, synchronize, and store their files, all seamlessly within the Windows environment. If you use the default settings it will move the Desktop, Documents, and Pictures directories into the OneDrive folder on your computer and begin to synchronize them with Microsoft's servers. OneDrive is generally reliable and works well. Keep in mind, if you have any significant amount of data (more than 5GB) you will need to pay to use the service.

I do not, as a rule, recommend either using or not using OneDrive. Frequently that question "What is OneDrive?" leads to a discussion of if it makes sense for that particular client. Often my customers are already subscribed to Microsoft 365, which includes 1TB of OneDrive storage! In cases like this, it's almost a no-brainer to set up OneDrive, as an extra backup if nothing else. However, some folks (myself included) don't like the way OneDrive functions and prefer to curate different solutions for the needs OneDrive addresses. If OneDrive sounds like something you need, or if it has given you a headache, reach out to someone you trust for help with computers!



Cooking with David Maciel

Sponsored by Ray's Food Place

I really enjoy making marinades for meat. This orange maple syrup & balsamic vinegar give this a nice, sweet flavor. This calls for pork but you can substitute bone-in skinless chicken thighs or large shrimp. I use a cast iron pan to char the outside and finish in the oven. These also do great on the BBQ grill. Served with a broccoli cole slaw and or pan fried potatoes. Bon appétit

Sweet & Spicy Pork Chops

Ingredients

- 6 bone-in-pork chops

Marinade

- ¼ cup olive oil
- ½ cup pure maple syrup, not imitation
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- ¼ cup apricot preserves
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 – 1½ teaspoons chipotle chili powder
- 1 tsp EACH garlic powder, onion powder, dried basil, and salt
- ½ tsp EACH oregano, dried thyme
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Instructions

Whisk the marinade ingredients together in a large freezer bag. Remove 1/3 cup to use later to baste the pork chops ("reserved marinade"). Add pork to the freezer bag and turn to evenly coat. Marinate for 4-12 hours.

1. Let the chops sit at room temperature for 30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9×13 baking dish with cooking spray (I like to line with foil first for easy clean up).
3. Transfer pork chops to prepared baking dish and roast for 15-20 minutes, turning once half-way through, until the pork reaches an internal temperature of 145 degrees F. You may need to bake up to 25 minutes if you have extra thick pork chops.
4. Transfer pork to a plate and brush with desired amount of remaining reserved marinade. Let rest 5 minutes before serving. Season with additional salt and pepper to taste (I like more salt).

