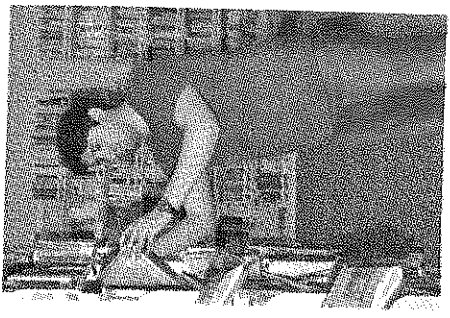


# Calistoga Tribune

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February 26, 2016



▶ **JOHNNY'S**

New sports bar coming to Mount View Hotel.

Below

◀ **LIBRARY WORK**

Anxious to return to remodeled building soon

6

▶ **DIAMONDS IN PLAY**

Baseball, softball teams open season next week

12

## Good vibe, emergency services top values

■ Groups discuss what makes Calistoga special

By **Claudia Aceves**  
Tribune Club Reporter

Despite the heavy rains and town-wide 60 minute power outage last Wednesday, the Upvalley Family Centers hosted a full house of community members hoping

to contribute to the conversation on how to make a healthier Calistoga.

Upvalley Family Center's Community Schools Manager Andy Mughannam led the discussion. Participants were instructed to divide into nine groups with one bilingual facilitator per group to initiate the conversation.

During the discussions, par-

ticipants answered two questions: what they love about Calistoga, and how they think Calistoga can improve.

"If we can build an ongoing dialogue, we can build stronger connections," said Mughannam. "Stronger connections can lead to partners making more opportunities available, and also people leveraging their assets."

Mughannam says that the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency is bringing more place-based services to Calistoga and also wanted to engage the community in a conversation to determine how to improve life in Calistoga.

"Since we coordinate with so many partners and community members, it makes sense to get everyone together, and there has

been a lot of support to make it happen, especially from Napa County," said Mughannam.

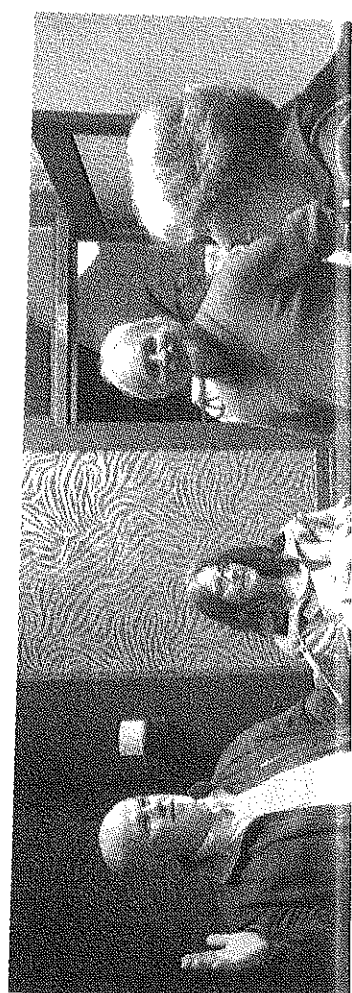
Among the responses discussed, most groups agreed that what they love about Calistoga is the small community vibe and that although you may not know

See **CONVERSATION** page 3

## Parking, privacy, noise conciterns for use permit request

■ Inn wants permission to host private events

lot that is located between Wappo and Stevenson avenues.





*It was a full house last week when the UpValley Family Centers and Napa County agencies hosted a conversation about a healthier Calistoga.*

PHOTO BY CLAUDIA ACEVES

**CONVERSATION**

*Continued from page 1*

everyone personally, you can always usually recognize one another.

Additionally, community members also like police and fire safety and their rapid responses, communication between teachers and parents at schools, easy transportation, and Calistoga's calm and peaceful nature.

Some needed improvements included more jobs for youth, more tools for teachers at schools and resources for students, affordable housing, more street lighting, activities for youth and

families, and almost all of the groups discussed the idea of a movie theater.

"This is a great place to live and work, I was happy to hear the appreciation for both the Fire Department and the Police departments for our services," said Police Chief Mitch Celaya. "These comments were particularly gratifying considering the challenges we faced this year, specific to the firestorm in Lake County and the staffing challenges we have been facing."

The Napa County Health and Human Services Agency will run a full report on the collected feedback from Wednesday's discussion. Mughannam says the family center will then coordinate another event to review the results with the community and begin an action planning process. The Family Centers will determine what is within their control and how it can prioritize and mobilize. "We will definitely have conversations about the report and see how our current practices fit into the communicated needs," Mughannam said.

*"If we can build an ongoing dialogue, we can build stronger connections," said Mughannam.*

**PLANNING**

*Continued from page 1*

low such events are Indian Springs and Solage," Erik Lundquist, senior planner, wrote in an email.

According to the Brannan Cottage Inn website, weddings and group events of 12 people or less are currently advertised and available at the site.

Lundquist said that Calistoga Hills and Silver Rose have approved to conduct events when they are developed and there are a few wineries that are allowed special events on a very limited basis.

Domaine Somm downtown is allowed private events.

On Nov. 6, the Planning and Building Department received the applicants' written narrative that states that the events would be primarily marketed to the 12 guests of the Brannan Cottage Inn but with the option to include 23 additional guests of the Comfort Inn, which is under the same ownership.

For an event over 12 guests, the applicants indicates that the client would be required to reserve a block of 10-12 rooms at the Comfort Inn with transportation to and from the site via shuttle.

A use permit for Brannan Cottage Inn was granted by the city of Calistoga in 1981. Use permit extensions were granted in 1982 and 1983.

The inn began operations in 1984 and in 2014 the structures and grounds were rehabilitated again and received recognition from Sunset Magazine as the "Best

**Hotel Renovation."**

According to the request, the proposed event space would be primarily outdoors on the lawn and patio as well as inside the lobby and parlor area.

Food would be provided by off-site caterers using mobile kitchens with extra event staff to be provided as needed. Acoustic or limited amplified music is also proposed.

According to staff, the proposed special events and expansion of use would not meet the parking requirements and the special events may be incompatible with the adjoining residential uses.

The zoning code requires one space for every five seats or one space for every 35 sq. ft. of assembly area. The proposal does not include any on-site parking except for the six existing parking spaces, which are required for the guest accommodations.

Staff noted that off-site parking or remote parking may be allowed if it is located less than 500 ft. from the use. The applicants suggested remote parking but it is located more than 1,300 feet from the site.

Off-street loading spaces are not provided for the shuttle service, caterers and event staff as required per zoning requirement.

Staff also believes that this application could set a precedent allowing other small boutique inns and motels, including Luxe Calistoga, Wine Way Inn and Craftsman Inn, to seek entitlements to conduct similar events.