

*We are a welcoming, active and business-friendly rural
foothill community built on California's rich gold rush history.*



City Manager's Report

April 14, 2026 City Council Meeting

Prepared by: Denis Nishihara, Director of Community Services

Item#: 12.1

Subject: Consider approving a full Street Closure along Main Street between Bedford Avenue and Sacramento Street on Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM for the 2026 Golden History Days event featuring the Highway 50 Wagon Train Arrival and In Memoriam Tribute for Davey “Doc” Wisser.

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution approving a full closure of along Main Street between Bedford Avenue and Sacramento Street on Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the 2026 Golden History Days event, which will feature the Highway 50 Wagon Train arrival and a special In Memoriam tribute honoring Davey “Doc” Wisser.

Purpose: The Golden History Association in partnership with the Highway 50 Association and Merchants on Main presents “Placerville’s Golden History Days. This event will celebrate Placerville’s Gold Rush heritage through living history, education, and community engagement.

The 2026 event will be conducted on a direct cost recovery basis and tentatively plans to include the following:

- Approximately 50 vendor booths offering antiques, arts, crafts, leather goods, and specialty items.
- Multiple food vendors and a Kiddy Corral with children’s games hosted by local business or non-profit organizations
- Historian and living-history displays (Buffalo Soldiers, Pony Express, Gold Rush Fire Brigade, Daughters of the Golden West, etc.)
- Live entertainment, including DJ Brando (9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.) and acoustic performances
- Official opening ceremonies, including the Buffalo Soldiers Flag Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. and the Daughters of the Golden West Plaque Ceremony
- The arrival of the Highway 50 Wagon Train (approximately 3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.)

This year’s celebration will also feature a static display remembering Davey “Doc” Wisser with a special *In Memoriam* tribute for “Doc” Wisser from the Bell Tower as he was a beloved local icon known for his stagecoach rides and dedication to preserving the City’s Western heritage. During the main daytime program, the Bell Tower will host seating encouraging visitors to enjoy local

favorites from Old Town Grill and other delicatessen fundraising efforts with the Merchants on Main. Proceeds will benefit Images of Hope who support cancer treatment families in need.

Strategic Plan Strategy: Maintain/Improve Quality of Life - Provide and maintain vibrant public spaces, events and programs and ensure a well-designed and protected City infrastructure. Item 3) Strategy- Improve and refine special events. Work with co-sponsors to produce events that support the local businesses and increase community cohesion.

Background: On February 12, 2025, the Golden History Association submitted applications requesting full Downtown Main Street closures for Golden History Days in both 2025 and 2026, in accordance with the City's Special Event Guidelines. During planning for the 2025 event, organizers determined that the level of sponsorship funding necessary to support a sustainable, full-scale celebration could not be secured. As a result, the 2025 event was scaled back, and the full street closure was not pursued. Over the past year, the current event coordinators have raised money and aimed to revitalize this cherished event.

This year's Golden History Days holds special meaning for Placerville. In March 2026, the community lost a cherished local figure with the passing of Davey "Doc" Wiser. A longtime advocate for the Highway 50 Wagon Train and a true cultural icon, Doc dedicated years to preserving and sharing Placerville's Western heritage. The 2026 event will feature a special In Memoriam tribute in his honor.

This collaborative effort between the Golden History Association, the Highway 50 Association Wagon Train 77th Anniversary Run and Merchants on Main represents true community collaboration at its finest. By coming together, they have created a meaningful event that honors our City's rich Gold Rush history, pays heartfelt tribute to a beloved local icon, celebrates America's 250th anniversary, and brings the entire community together in a spirit of unity and pride.

Discussion: To address impacts of the full closure of Downtown Main Street from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., staff recommend designating parking spaces as short-term parking with temporary professional signage for merchants open during the event. Organizers will also promote alternative parking areas and provide way-finding signage to minimize impacts on nearby businesses.

A basic traffic control plan, including barricades, signage, and detours, will be required and approved by the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. Organizers must provide on-site monitors to maintain emergency access.

The event will operate on a direct cost-recovery basis, with all City costs—including staff time, signage, barricades, enforcement, and street restoration—paid by the Golden History Association and Merchants on Main partnership. No General Fund resources will be used. This

full-day closure will support a vibrant, family-friendly celebration honoring Placerville's Gold Rush heritage and thematically highlight America's 250th anniversary. Organizers will provide advance notification to affected businesses and will be responsible for complete cleanup and restoration of Main Street following the event.

Options:

1. Approve staff recommendation.
2. Direct staff to take other actions.
3. Take no action.

Environmental: Tonight's action is not applicable.

Cost: The projected total cost of the event is \$6,799.

Budget Impact: There is no budget impact associated with tonight's action. If approved, the \$6,799 projected cost of the event will be borne by the event applicant.

Attachments:

- A. Event Map
- B. Resolution



Dave Warren, City Manager



Denis Nishihara, Director of Community Services