

# Yountville Sun

Presorted  
Standard  
PERMIT NO. 15  
Yountville, CA  
94599

Postal Patron Local  
ECRWSS

Vol. 21, No. 19

a 21st century newspaper serving the heart of the Napa Valley

October 11, 2018

## Bouchon Observes 20th Anniversary

Saturday will mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of Bouchon. It will also be Thomas Keller's 56th birthday.

Yes, Bouchon and Keller share the same birthday -- interesting trivia for local history buffs.

The classy French bistro born here in 1998 is still packing them in seven days and nights a week with its paper menu neatly wrapped around the napkin, a mammoth vase of red gladioli's at the door, the stylish zinc bar and the chummy seating arrangements which breed a convivial group intimacy.

The food is memorable, mouth-watering and consistent. Well, yes, and it's French too. The escargot is sourced from Burgundy.

It's a place to go for special occasions or to stop in for a drink on a whim.

Bouchon has maintained its Michelin star rating since 2007.

Bouchon's popular Bastille Day celebration has become an event to which locals go early and visitors frequent late into the evening.

Through Saturday the restaurant is serving a \$75 prix fixe anniversary menu which features two choices for each of three courses and a trio of tasty starters. Diners may also order off of the regular menu.

Two associates have been there since the joint opened -- bartender Chris Kennedy and night cleaner Ishmael Juarez.

Keller's brother Joseph, also a chef, was part of the opening team and someone Thomas Keller considers one of his mentors.

There have been seven chefs de cuisine. Currently David Hodson commands the kitchen. Before him were Jeff Cerciello, Josh Schwartz, Josh Crain, Phil Tessier, Michael Sandoval and Ross Melling.

Carlos Margoza, the chef de partie at the oyster bar, has been shucking oysters for all to see there for 16 years.

On an average day Bouchon will plate 40 orders of steak frites, which means since its opening the kitchen has sent that guest favorite out to the dining room almost 300,000 times.

Salmon rillettes, the laitue salad, poulet roti and lemon tart have never left the menu. Maybe that has something to do with the fact that the roasted chicken and lemon tart are Keller's favorites.

The most requested table is Table No. 7, the corner banquet table with views of the dining room.

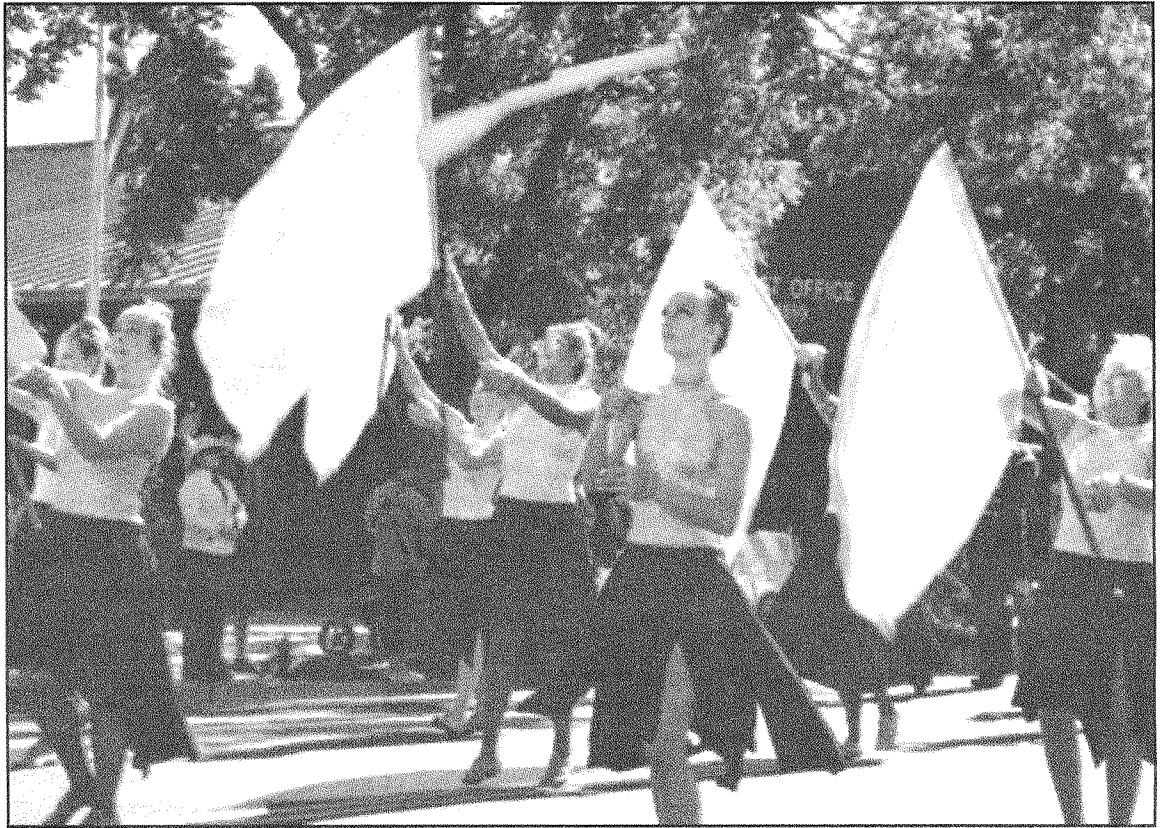
Before opening as Bouchon the building housed a seafood restaurant owned and operated by San Franciscans.

Some skeptics said at the time of the Bouchon opening that the location was a poor one.

The French Laundry opened four years before Bouchon.

In its October 15, 1998 edition the *Yountville Sun* reported the new bistro would operate until 2 a.m. Now it closes at midnight. Yountville has never grown into a late night haunt.

There is a second Bouchon Bistro in Las Vegas on the 10th floor of The Venetian. It closes at 10 p.m.



### Crushers' Color Guard on Parade

Demonstrating their flag and rifle twirling skills in Sunday's Yountville Days Parade, the Color Guard of the Crusher Marching Band from Vintage High School add grace and excitement to the 41st annual event which entertained spectators from one end of Washington Street to the other. See more photos and news of this event on Page 4. (Photo by Sharon Stensaas.)

## Comment on General Plan Draft Invited at Saturday Open House

Public participation is invited Saturday (October 13) from 1 to 4 p.m. at a Community Open House designed to elicit comments and reactions to the first draft of an update to the Town's General Plan.

The format of this event at Community Center does not require attendees to invest three full hours of their time in a sit-down meeting, explained Sandra Liston, Yountville's director of Planning and Building.

The first hour will be devoted to a formal informational overview by Town staff related to the 212-page draft and the process, known as Envision Yountville, which preceded its publication.

From 2 to 4 p.m. participants are free to drop in at any or all of five stations throughout the large room representing different elements of the draft to ask questions, offer comments and express concerns.

Opinions will be gathered in a number of ways -- by affixing red (stop) and green (go) dots to selected statements in the plan, by attaching sticky notes with comments to various proposals, by filling out comment cards and later by participating in an electronic survey, Liston said.

This is the first opportunity for the public to comment and shape what has been drafted by the Town Advisory Group over the last year.

The last time the General

Plan was updated was in 1992, so a chance like this one happens only every 25 years, Liston quipped.

"We want to hear from as many Yountville community members as possible in order to develop a General Plan that accurately reflects the needs and desires of the community," said Town Manager Steve Rogers.

A General Plan is a town's road map for the future. It describes a community's long-term vision and sets forth goals, policies and programs to manage growth, direct land use decisions and preserve the environment and character of the community.

Yountville residents, property owners, business owners and Chamber members are encouraged to attend.

Yountville's Town Council is expected to discuss the General Plan draft at its first meeting in December.

Prior to that discussion the draft will go the Arts Commission at 5 p.m. on November 5, to the Zoning and Design Review Board at 6 p.m. on November 13 and to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission at 6 p.m. on November 15. Public comment will be invited at all of those sessions.

The draft plan can be downloaded from the Town's website at [www.townofyountville.com](http://www.townofyountville.com) or the Envision Yountville website at [www.envisionyountville.com](http://www.envisionyountville.com).

The draft document is both philosophical and specific in

addressing the future of the town.

It is a substantial read, but one which reveals a wealth of information about the town.

Town staff has identified four major areas of proposed change within the draft to be considered for new development or redevelopment.

Those include:

- ❖ West side of Washington Street, pedestrian-oriented development with offices and housing up to three stories replacing existing surface parking lots.

- ❖ Humboldt Street, residential-scaled commercial building with two housing units on a second story and parking behind and the exclusion of restaurant and alcohol-related uses.

- ❖ North Washington Street, allowing commercial uses to mix with existing residential uses.

- ❖ Vista Condos, allowing existing condos to add a second story.

It is the entire document, however, that is under consideration as a future road map for Yountville, and it is important that this draft is understood in its entirety.

For those who cannot or do not intend to read the entire draft, the upcoming public forums, Town staff, Council members, former members of the Town Advisory Group (TAG) which developed the draft and the local media are obvious resources for answers to questions about this important document.

## Town to Celebrate New Vineyard Park Projects

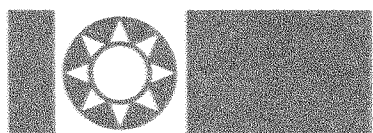
The Town of Yountville will host a grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly-renovated Vineyard

Park on Oak Circle at 5:30 p.m., October 18. The public is encouraged to attend.

The completion of the court renovation project and the outdoor fitness equipment project will be celebrated.

With sweeping views of Stag's Leap, Vineyard Park is truly a gem. This neighborhood park is now home to part of the Town's walking path system, an outdoor fitness equipment area with five pieces of equipment to choose from, four permanent pickleball courts, one tennis court, a public restroom, basketball court, picnic area and fitness mat.

Prone to flooding and drainage issues, the prior configuration of the park's two tennis courts was proving inadequate to withstand winter rains and intermittent (Continued on Page 2)



sundial

	High	Low
Wednesday 10/3	76	59
Thursday	70	50
Friday	78	46
Saturday	80	50
Sunday	82	56
Monday	86	54
Tuesday	81	52
Precipitation =	0.15	
Season Total =	0.47	
Last Year =	0	