

Yountville Sun

Presorted
Standard
PERMIT NO. 15
Yountville, CA
94599

Postal Patron Local
ECRWSS

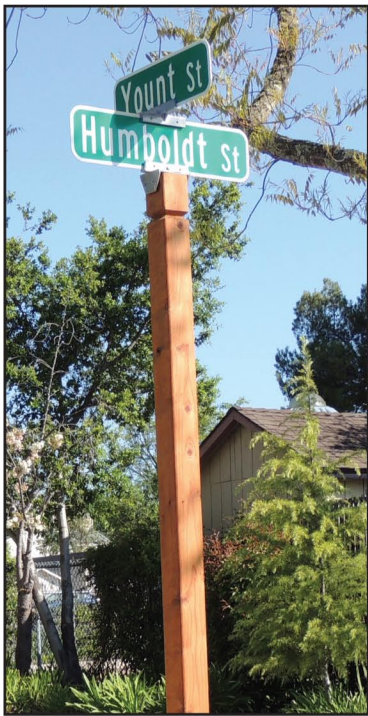
Vol. 17, No. 48

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

April 24, 2014



Sign Option A/A



Sign Option A/B



Sign Option A/C



Sign Option B/A



Sign Option B/B

Citizens Encouraged to Weigh In on Street Signage

"Demonstration" signs have been installed around Yountville for almost 30 days now, so the Town's 60-day project to create awareness and solicit public opinion regarding a possible change in street name signs is at its midpoint.

Town of Yountville Public Works crews installed the six new street name sign posts late last month at the request of Yountville's Town Council.

After a staff report seeking direction on proposed changes to the Town's approach to street name sign posts, the Council requested a demonstration project to allow the community to take a look at actual sign options, learn more about the proposed street name sign posts along with the reasons for a possible change and weigh in with their opinions and suggestions.

The Town's current standard for street name signs is a 6-inch by 6-inch redwood post with the letters carved into the wood and painted white.

This current design aesthetic developed by noted land use planner Lawrence Halprin for Yountville's 1975 General Plan also includes Yountville's unique wood framing of street

signage such as "Stop" signs.

However this design standard does not comply with current 2014 state and federal standards.

New state and federal regulations related to sign "retroreflectivity" (the ability to see the sign at night) are driving factors in the current discussion.

Per state standards, "Retroreflectivity and Color -- The Street Name sign shall be retroreflective or illuminated to show the same shape and similar color both day and night. The color of the legend (and border, if used) shall contrast with the background color of the sign. The standard colors are green background with white letters. The only acceptable alternative background colors for Street Name signs shall be blue, brown or white."

The Town's current street name sign posts are a part of the fabric of Yountville. Many citizens have expressed that they like the signs just the way they are.

Others have noted that the signs are hard to see, especially at night, and that it can be challenging to find your way around Town.

There is also the concern that CalFire, Sheriff, ambulance and mutual aid responders who are not based locally in Yountville may take longer to find their way in an emergency response because the existing signs can be hard to

see.

"Existing signs that do not comply with the new retroreflectivity provisions are expected to be upgraded by agencies over time to meet the new provisions. There is no specific compliance date for replacing any existing signs due to retroreflectivity standards," reported Public Works Director Graham Wadsworth.

The demonstration project includes sample signs in the following shapes and locations:

A Options) Eight foot tall, 4-inch by 4-inch wood posts matching current "post style" with a more traditional street name sign which is retroreflective and installed at the top of the post with sign color options including: A) white lettering on brown, B) white lettering on green and C) black lettering on white.

Three (3) of the tall wood post with each color combination of the retroreflective sign are installed around Town Hall on Yount Street.

B Options) Six foot tall, 6-inch by 6-inch wood posts with retroreflective lettering on a metal panel using A) white lettering on brown, B) white lettering on green and C) black lettering on white.

The lettering has been installed in a comparable manner to the carved lettering on the current wooden street name post style so as to try to best match the current sign design aesthetic.

Demonstration locations include:

- White lettering on brown at intersection of Washington and California Streets.

- Black lettering on white at intersection of Washington and Yount Streets.

- White lettering on green at intersection of Washington and Madison Streets.

C Option) Existing non-compliant 6-inch by 6-inch wood name sign posts with the carved lettering. Examples can be found throughout town.

Getting public feedback is the essence of this demonstration project.

Citizens who haven't yet made their street name sign preferences known are urged to visit the Town's website, www.townofyountville.com, and click on the "What's New" bar across the top of the Home page and then on "Street Name Sign Demonstration." Additional photos of the options can be found there along with an option to provide your feedback to kmassey@yville.com.

Citizens who do not have computer access can provide their feedback by mailing or bringing a photo of their preferred street name sign clipped from this news story, along with any personal remarks, to Kristine Massey at Yountville Town Hall, 6550 Yount St., 94599.

The 60-day demonstration period is set to end on May 30.



Sign Option B/C



Sign Option C/Status Quo

Opposition to Yountville Hill Winery Proposal Growing

The Napa County Planning Commission will consider plans for the proposed new winery and visitor's center on Yountville Hill at 9 a.m., June 18.

Neighborhood opposition to the plans for the 100,000-gallon CS2 Winery surfaced in February and has expanded and become more organized ever since.

A website has been created at www.yountville-hill-neighbors.org to keep interested parties informed on the proposal and state the opposing position.

"Neighbors of Yountville Hill are asking the Napa County Planning Commission to deny Yountville Hill Winery's request for variances and exceptions to established

conservation setback and viewshed ordinances for Napa Valley," the website stated. "It is our view that a 100,000-gallon winery at 7400 St. Helena Highway, welcoming up to 285 visitors a day is oversized for its 11-acre site. It will increase traffic problems on Highway 29 and mar the landscape of the Yountville Hill, an exceptional site in our valley.

Moreover, the approval of such a project would damage the very character of Napa Valley, take away from our agrarian heritage and create a dangerous precedent."

The site of the proposed new winery is that of the former Castle in the Clouds bed and breakfast inn, on the east side of Highway 29 just north of Yountville.



	High	Low
Wednesday 4/16	82	47
Thursday	77	48
Friday	79	46
Saturday	73	43
Sunday	85	45
Monday	74	44
Tuesday	67	46
Precipitation =	nil	
Season Total =	15.63	
Last Year =	26.18 (this date)	