

March 25, 2025

Tom DuBois  
Mayor Claire Gunselman and council members

Recently we read an article in the Ledger Dispatch, dated Friday March 21, "Sutter Creek looking to spruce up downtown." We support this effort.

On October 17, 2024 we spoke with Dan Lafontaine, public works director, and expressed our concern over the location of a pet poop station installed at the entrance of our commercial building. We explained why we did not want the station outside of 34 Main Street and suggested alternatives.

In your attempt to "enhance charm and safety" with new initiatives we would like to readdress the placement of the pet poop station that is directly across from the front door at 34 Main Street.

First and foremost our concern is over the safety of residents and visitors. The intersection of Main Street, Eureka Street and Fiefield Alley is dangerous and congested. The pedestrians on Eureka Street are walking on the street without a sidewalk. The vehicle traffic on Eureka Street often need to cross over the crosswalk in order to obtain visibility on Main Street for turns. Vehicle traffic on Main Street often can't turn onto Eureka Street until the vehicles at the stop sign make their turn, especially on days where buses and delivery trucks are operating. Due to pedestrian and vehicle traffic that is concentrated in this area it would be wise to meditate unneeded pedestrian lingering. The pet poop station currently encourages pet owners to hang out on this corner because they are also using the landscape for their pet's bathroom needs and then the time it takes for them to clean it up.

Secondly, I would like to address the pet poop station does not have historical value or bring charm to Main street or to my building we spent significant money to renovate. I have always kept my commercial properties located in the historical downtown district in high standards and I was greatly disturbed to find an unwanted poop station which is an eye sore for the business operating at 34 Main Street. At this time retail operates out of 34 Main Street however in the past and perhaps in the future it can be occupied by a food/beverage business. If this happens, having a poop station would be an increasingly unwanted fixture outside of such business.

I believe there are better options where a pet poop station can be located. I already suggested to Dan the following alternative locations:

- The entrance of public parking lot on Eureka street which currently has a hand sanitizing station.

- At the Minnie Provis park where current improvements are being planned which also includes a dog drinking fountain.
- South Main Veterinary Hospital located at 6 Main Street is a natural location for locals walking their pets in the downtown vicinity and works well for her clientele.
- Parking lot on the North Side where the gold mining equipment is on display
- Parking lots near the Post Office

Please contact us regarding the relocation of the pet poop station. We look forward to addressing this issue and would like to know the resolution.

Respectfully,

*Rod & Sue Hobbs*

Rodney and Susan Hobbs  
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