

Pride in Public Service

In May, the City Council and staff members will begin the official budget review and approval process. While it is true that we are wrestling with some fiscal challenges, it is also true we have made huge strides to reduce our operational expenses. By working collectively we have reduced personnel costs by \$2,158,575 (audited FY 08/09 compared with audited FY 10/11). This was not accomplished without the personal sacrifices of employees. It should also be noted that the City's financial woes are not the result of poor personnel practices, but a loss of revenues. Regardless of cause, we remain committed to moving the City toward financial sustainability.

A message from Public Works Director Mike Kirn

May 20 Celebrates National Public Works Week

The City of Healdsburg Public Works Department's primary responsibility is to work for you the public, the 11,475 residents of Healdsburg. We do this by maintaining and operating a vast array of infrastructure that most of us do not think about as we go about our daily lives and activities – but are crucial to our quality of life.

There are 29 Public Works employees dedicated to serve the citizens of Healdsburg, day in and day out. Our core services include development review at the One Stop Assistance Center, treatment and delivery of drinking [water](#) from twelve wells and 59 miles of water pipes, collection and treatment of [wastewater](#) from 50 miles of sewer mains, collection of [storm-water](#) from 31 miles of storm drain, maintenance of two flood control detention basins, 45 miles of streets and sidewalks, and 12 signalized intersections. We have implemented numerous cost saving measures over the past several years including staffing reductions, furloughs, pumping during off-peak hours, surplus of vehicles and equipment, broad-banding work assignments, reduction in over-time, self-performing work versus hiring consultants, and aggressively identifying and obtaining grants.

Last year the Public Works Department: delivered 647 million gallons of drinking water – enough to fill 1,000 Olympic sized swimming pools; treated 400 million gallons of wastewater – enough to fill a 42 inch pipeline from here to Los Angeles and back again; and pruned back vegetation along over 4 miles of Foss Creek to maintain flood control capacity.

In addition to providing daily utility services, we also administer a large part of the City's [capital improvements](#). Recently we have been working on several important projects that you may have seen or heard about. We are working closely with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration to rehabilitate the Bridge over the Russian River. We are currently conducting the required environmental reviews and special studies and had hoped to be completed with this phase of the project by now. However, we ran into significant hurdles with Caltrans and their reluctance to authorize the use of federal funds for rehabilitation. The funding eligibility issue was resolved last December and we are moving full speed ahead with the mandated special studies. Barring any unforeseen obstacles we expect to have the environmental review completed by late fall of this year and construction starting in 2013, during which the Bridge will have to be closed for part of that time and traffic will need to be detoured. Our goal is to complete the rehabilitation by late 2014.

Another exciting project that will be starting in May is Phase I of the [Downtown Street Scape](#) project. Phase I will include removal and replacement of antiquated underground utilities (water, sewer and storm drain) in preparation of the sidewalk and street improvements on Center Street between Plaza and North and on North Street from Center to Healdsburg Ave. These improvements will include wider

sidewalks, new pocket parks, new ADA compliant ramps, rain gardens to improve storm water quality, and reconfigured parking spaces.

Lastly, our partnership with the Sonoma County Transit Authority will bear fruit this summer with the extension of the Foss Creek Pathway from the Railroad Depot to the Five-Way intersection. Through this partnering they will be constructing the pathway segment we completed last fall that goes from the Railroad Depot to Front Street. We also are working to complete another segment of Foss Creek Pathway from West Grant Street near the Fire Station to Grove Street near the Carson Warner Memorial Skate Park. This portion of the Pathway will continue along the railroad right of way and over the City storm water detention basin along Foss Creek. Our goal is to have this segment constructed by the Spring of 2013.

As part of Team Healdsburg we take Pride in the Public Service we provide to you. Our goal is to provide the best customer service possible, with the least amount of interruptions or inconvenience, at a reasonable cost. We are honored and privileged to work for the residents of Healdsburg. If you would like to learn more about Public Works and what we do please visit the City's web site at www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us and click on [Public Works](#). You can also contact us at 707/431-3346 or you can always stop by our office located at 435 Allen Court behind City Hall.