

Pride in Public Service

From Fire Chief Steve Adams: Reserve Fire personnel play a critical role supporting the Fire Department's mission to provide the highest level of service while responding to calls. Between response activities and training requirements, the Reserve Firefighters dedicate over 15,000 hours per year. To recognize these contributions, the Fire Department selects an individual as Firefighter of the Year. The award is given to the person who demonstrates an outstanding commitment, enthusiasm, response to incidents, drill attendance and job performance. For 2011, this honor was given to Reserve Firefighter Nicholas Bertalon. Among the achievements completed by Nicholas during the year are: responding to over 300 calls, completing training for his Engineer certification, participated in over 200 training hours and dedicated over 2900 hours to the Fire Department.

New Additions

The City welcomes six new Reserve Firefighters: Mike Jacobs, Dan Dana, Blake Ratto, Blake Thompson, Eric Smith and Mike Dale.

Another new addition to the Healdsburg staff is Planning & Building Director Barbara Nelson. Ms. Nelson has over 25 years of planning experience and is a welcome addition to the management team.

The Police Department officially welcomed Ian Benner as a new Reserve Police Officer. Ian recently graduated from Fresno State University and the Santa Rosa Police Academy. He will be undertaking an 18 month training program, prior to assuming his full duties.

Citizen Police Volunteer Unit

The citizen police volunteers have been very active in patrolling the city in their distinctively marked patrol truck looking for community problems. The unit recently compiled a list of vandalized properties. The volunteers are armed with a camera and they are working on putting together a tracking system for graffiti tagging. The group also completed training in deployment of the radar trailer and traffic control.

Promoting Community Health Via iWalk

The City of Healdsburg is an iWALK Employer. That means we are committed to a culture of health and wellness in the workplace; something employees demonstrate by participating in the iWALK Challenge. This year's iWALK Challenge begins March 5th and continues until May 5th. The goal is for each employee to get at least 150 minutes of exercise each week doing whatever they enjoy. To stimulate interest there is a friendly competition between Sonoma county cities. We're on the move – please join us!

The iWALK Challenge is free, as participants are asked to track their minutes of exercise over the course of two months. This year the iWALK website will have a new online tracker so participants can log their minutes and see their progress along the way. More details are available at the iWALK website at www.iwalksonoma.org.

Parks and Facilities

Parks employees have been working on a new brick entryway at the Badger Dog Park to improve drainage and allow dog park users winter accessibility. Staff has also installed a new bench that was donated by the Healdsburg Dog Park Committee. The Parks Department has also been working closely with the Electric Department to renovate the landscape areas in front of the Substation and the Badger Dog Park that were impacted by the substation fence project.

Parks personnel have been working meticulously on yearly maintenance of ornamental bunch grass at City Hall and surrounding areas. This work consists of pruning the ornamental bunch grass during dormancy to allow light to penetrate the crown of the bunch grass, which will rejuvenate the plant.

The pool has re-opened to the public with limited weekday and Saturday hours for adult lap swimming and water exercise programs.

Science Fair

The annual Healdsburg Area Science Fair will be taking place at the Villa March 11- 15. The community is invited to come and view the inventive projects. Public viewing hours are Wednesday, March 14th, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Thursday, March 15th, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Central Healdsburg Avenue Special Study Area Plan

A public review draft of the Plan was released in January 2012, with comments due by March 9, 2012. A meeting of the [Central Healdsburg Avenue Special Study Area Committee](#) will be held on March 6th to receive public input.