

## Smoking Ordinance Updated to Include E-Cigarettes

The use of electronic cigarettes and personal vaporizers has skyrocketed over the past few years, especially among teenagers and young adults. With the influx in people using e-cigarettes and vaporizers, the Police Department is commonly asked about what they are and what the restrictions on using them are.

Electronic cigarettes are electronic inhalers meant to simulate and substitute for tobacco smoking. They generally use a heating element that vaporizes a liquid solution. Some release nicotine while some only release flavored vapor and they are generally designed to mimic traditional smoking implements, such as cigarettes or cigars. The sale of electronic cigarettes that provide an inhalable dose of nicotine to persons under age 18 is prohibited in California

Until recently, both state and local laws did not apply to the smoking of e-cigarettes and vaporizers in public places. In order to address the potential health effects of e-cigarettes and other devices emitting vapor, the **attached ordinance** prohibits inhaling or exhaling from any electronic smoking device at locations in the City, the Healdsburg City Council amended the Municipal Code to include these devices. Under the new restrictions, persons are prohibited from using them in the following locations:

- Within 20' of building entrances and open windows
- Public parks
- Outdoor seating areas for restaurants and bars
- Any private business in the City that the owner has declared as non-smoking
- Any business that employs four or more employees

Under California law, it is unlawful for minors to possess or for others to sell or furnish minors with e-cigarettes and vaporizers.

## New Marijuana Cultivation Laws in Effect

In order to address ongoing community and law enforcement complaints about marijuana cultivation occurring inside the City limits, the City Council recently approved a comprehensive **marijuana cultivation ordinance**. The ordinance is currently in effect and will be strictly enforced this growing season by the code enforcement officer for the City, working in cooperation with the Healdsburg Police Department. The ordinance was recommended to the City Council by an ad hoc committee that included members of the medical profession as well as medical marijuana patients. The goal was to strike a balance between the concerned community members who are impacted by odors and other negative impacts of marijuana cultivation, with the interests of patients in obtaining access to affordable medical marijuana.

Recreational use of marijuana continues to remain illegal, and only qualified patients with appropriate documentation can grow plants under the new ordinance, whether indoor or outdoor. Under the ordinance, marijuana cultivation is allowed within the City limits; however, it is limited to:

- No more than three plants outdoors on any one parcel or dwelling unit;
- No more than six plants indoors on any one parcel or dwelling unit.

Residents are reminded that the limitations apply to each lot or dwelling unit, no matter how many qualified patients might occupy the parcel or dwelling unit.

## Water Conservation Update from the Utility Department

As the drought lingers, reservoir levels continue to drop. In response to this the State of California has implemented mandatory conservation measures that prohibit the waste of water and include fines of up to \$500 per day. While the Healdsburg community has consistently made dramatic reductions in water

usage over the past several months, the need for conservation continues. Please remember to reduce your indoor and outdoor water usage, check for leaks and run-off, and visit the City's website for further information on water conservation. [www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/water](http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/water)