

## **Cityscape: December 2018**

It's the holiday season and the shops, restaurants and streets are busy with shoppers, diners, and of course, vehicles. We've long understood that parking is a challenge downtown, and we've been working to alleviate the space crunch.

First, we recently added 110 free public parking spaces within walking distance to the plaza. These spaces are in the Western Plaza parking lot (37 spaces) and the expanded City Hall parking lot on Grove Street (73 spaces), which includes 12 electric-vehicle (EV) charging stations. Parking in the Grove Street lot is free all day; some of the spaces in the Western Plaza lot are also available for free all-day parking.

Second, the City Council is set to approve changes to the Healdsburg Municipal Code that will change time limits for street parking by:

- Adding a three-hour parking limit for 25 parking spaces in the southern section of Western Plaza parking lot, the City's biggest public lot. Currently, this area is occupied by longer-term parkers.
- Shortening the time limit from three hours to two hours on both sides of the streets that surround the plaza. These streets are Healdsburg, Matheson, Center and Plaza streets.
- Extending the three-hour parking restriction zone on both sides of Center Street northerly to Piper Street, and on both sides of North Street westerly to Grove Street. This change will help end confusion for drivers and even out the demand for parking on these streets.

There will be a six-week transitional period before the police department will issue parking tickets so drivers can learn and become aware of the new time restrictions.

Third, the Healdsburg Police Department has begun implementation of a new Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system on one police vehicle. ALPRs are high-speed, computer-controlled camera systems that attach to police cars or other places -- such as street poles or highway overpasses -- and automatically capture license plate numbers, location, date and time.

We have taken a holistic approach to managing our parking resources and these coming changes will improve the availability to parking in the downtown area.

**Fire Department Toy Drive:** Help brighten a child's Christmas – the Healdsburg Fire Department is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys for infants to 18-year-olds until Dec. 16. Please drop off the toys at the fire department: 601 Healdsburg Ave. For businesses or large collections, please call for pick-up: 431-3360.

**Holiday Drop 'N Shops:** For the fifth year in a row, the Community Services Department is offering the Drop 'N Shop program, which gives parents time to shop for the holidays by engaging their children in games and activities at the community center. On the final weekend, Santa will visit to read a story and listen to children's Christmas wishes before he returns to the North Pole to prepare for Christmas day. There are two Drop 'N Shop events remaining: December 8 and 15. Space is limited, so please register by calling 431-3301 or by going to: <http://bit.ly/holdshop>.

**Coffee with the City:** We invite you to attend the final Coffee with the City event of 2018. This kaffeklatsch will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at the SHED. Our city manager and department directors will give updates and answer questions on City projects related to public works, development, community services and more. We'll have free coffee and tea to help you start your morning – please stop by!

**Senior Appreciation Dinner:** This year marked the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Senior Appreciation Dinner, which was held on Dec. 2. Started in 1983 by an Irish Catholic nun named Sister Fenton, the dinner has grown to be a communitywide event. More than 75 City Staff members and Councilmembers volunteered to prep, cook, set up, serve and clean up this celebratory dinner for more than 200 local senior citizens at the Villa Chanticleer and 50 homebound seniors. Many thanks to the local businesses for their generous donations to make this event a success.

I wish you a healthy, happy and safe holiday season. See you in 2019!