



CITY MANAGER UPDATE

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Community Services

Swim Center now open - The Swim Center opened for business on February 12 and has been host to the high school swim team and evening public lap swim. Starting March 1, the Center will be expanding its program offerings, including the start of our in-house Pre-Team swim program, weekend lap swim hours, and the addition of Windsor High School's use the pool for practices and meets. For the full schedule, visit <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/254/Aquatics-Programs>

2018 Community Special-Event Plan - Community Services is developing a comprehensive community special event plan for 2018. This plan lays a framework for City events, co-sponsored events with local organizations, and events coordinated by outside organizations. This plan will guide our staffing, planning, and budget. Many of the successful 2017 events will return, such as Dia de Los Muertos, and you'll see new initiatives, including an arts festival in July and a special holiday event in December. The complete lineup will be released in March.

Tee Ball Tune Up - Thursday marked the beginning of our Tee Ball Tune Up Program. This program gets Healdsburg's youngest sluggers out and ready for the tee ball season that begins at the end of March. This program runs until March 15 from 4-5:15 p.m. on Thursdays at the Healdsburg Community Center. Limited space is still available; register online at <https://apm.activecommunities.com/healdsburgparksandrecreation>.



Planning

Citywide Design Guidelines - The City Council unanimously approved the Citywide Design Guidelines and the associated Land Use Code Amendments on February 20. The Planning Department is developing new handouts to assist the public in implementing the new guidelines.

15119 Grove Street - A tentative map application to subdivide a property into four lots with one remainder was received for processing.

Sorrento Square - The last dwelling unit is about a week away from completion.

Public Communication & Outreach

Strong response on community survey – The just-released community survey, which gauges Healdsburg-resident opinion on City services and programs and a variety of key topics, has garnered strong response so far. The project experienced a minor hiccup at the start, when a handful of residents with “Healdsburg, CA” in their mailing address but who don’t technically live within the City boundary, received the online survey. That issue has since been rectified: Consultant FM3 weeded out those responses and fine-tuned its mailing/telephone lists to ensure all respondents are City of Healdsburg residents. The next step is to conduct telephone surveys, which will start in the next couple of days. FM3 will gather feedback from both English- and Spanish-speaking Healdsburg residents. As a reminder, the intent of the survey is to be statistically valid, meaning that FM3 will continue to gather feedback until they have a demographic sample that matches the adult Healdsburg population of about two-thirds of English-speaking residents and one-third Spanish-speaking residents. Results will be presented to City Council in late March.

New “Here in Healdsburg” story features Charles Bell, the Wurst – Our latest post in our “Here in Healdsburg” narrative series about the people behind some of our fantastic local businesses is now up. We feature Charles Bell, a man of many lives: He’s worked as a musician, as a catering-crew member for British Royal Family events, and he successfully battled throat cancer – all before opening the Wurst in 2011. The short version of his story is on Instagram (@CityofHealdsburg) and the full story is here: <http://bit.ly/2oxVR90>.



Public Safety

PD attends Healdsburg High meeting – On Thursday, police department staff attended the Healdsburg High School English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meeting. The committee invited the department to speak on DACA and immigration and to address the Police Department’s role on immigration issues.

Fire Department receives First Place at Bucket Brigade Blood Challenge – Chief Boaz, on behalf of the Fire Department, received the 12th annual Bucket Brigade Blood Challenge Cup on Wednesday at an award ceremony held by the Blood Centers of the Pacific. Our Fire Department won first place, beating fire departments in Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma counties. The Fire Department's January 27 blood drive garnered 100 participants. All told, this year's challenge brought 750 units of blood. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Public Works

Railroad installation and new traffic pattern at roundabout – With the many days of dry weather recently, there has been a good amount of progress on the roundabout. Starting next week, contractor H&H will begin the process of installing railroad cross-ties, tracks and other rail work inside the roundabout – this is a huge milestone. This railroad work is estimated to take six to eight weeks and will be done in stages.

As such, the traffic pattern at the roundabout will change starting at 7 a.m. on Monday, February 26, from “yield to traffic within the circle” to a 4-way stop. This traffic plan will be in place for several weeks to work from south of the roundabout to within the roundabout. Stop signs and temporary signage will be put in place on Monday. In late March, the traffic plan will again change to allow workers to lay track from within the circle to north of the roundabout. For more information, read the news release: <http://bit.ly/2FmhH7I>

Utilities

Utility underground project continues -- The underground-utility work continues on Healdsburg Ave and Mill Street. City contractor Staggs Construction is completing foundations for new street lighting. The new streetlights will be decorative, matching the existing downtown streetlights.

Montage Healdsburg utility installation -- Electric staff met with the Montage Healdsburg (formerly Saggio Hills) development team this week and discussed the planned schedule to install utilities required of the development. The rest of the City's development staff will be meeting with the Montage project staff work evaluate construction schedules.

Solar-project development -- The NCPA approved an agreement to develop large-scale solar projects within NCPA member cities, including Healdsburg. The program provides members the economy of scale and access to low-interest bond financing. This agreement will be discussed further at an upcoming City Council meeting.