

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

August 17, 2018



City Manager's Office

Healdsburg SDAT Town Halls Update – More than 500 people attended the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) Town Hall at Healdsburg High School on Monday, August 13th, to give their feedback on the future of Healdsburg to a multi-disciplinary team of experts from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Residents also turned out in force on Wednesday, August 15th, to hear initial recommendations from the team. Their presentation can be found here: <https://www.slideshare.net/CommunitiesbyDesign/healdsburg-sdat-presentation-110204557>. The AIA SDAT team will provide a more substantive report in 90 days.



Emergency Operations Center Training – Members of City staff will undergo a two-day Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training next week to better prepare for crises such as wildfires and floods. The training is both online and in-person and is sanctioned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Downtown Hotel Development – The City Council at its meeting on Monday, August 20th, will consider several options regarding future hotel development. The options include limiting the number of hotel rooms and requiring new hotels to off-set the housing demand they create by constructing onsite affordable housing units.

City Clerk Retirement – After 38 years of dedicated service, City Clerk Maria Curiel will retire at the end of the month. Please stop by City Hall by August 31st to wish her well.

Public Hearing on Firearms Sales – A public hearing on a Land Use Code Amendment on firearms sales and dealer permits is tentatively scheduled for the September 4th City Council meeting.

Community Services

Laughing Yoga in the News – The Senior Center's Laughter Yoga Class was featured in last Sunday's Press Democrat. The free class has had a steady increase in attendance since the fires last October

and is a proven therapeutic option for stress management. The class is held every Monday at 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. Read the story: <http://bit.ly/2nFGKtR>



Play Ball! – The Healdsburg Prune Pits softball club kicked off its sophomore season on August 8th with more than 30 senior adults. Practice on Opening Day featured a warm-up led by Jerry North, three youth “pinch runners” and Parks Superintendent Jaime Licea, who served as catcher. Registration is still open: Call the Senior Center at 707-431-3324 to join. The season runs through October 10th. For more information, go to: www.prunepitsblog.wordpress.com.



Celebration of Latino Art & Music – The 2nd annual Celebration of Latino Art & Music took place on August 14th as part of the Tuesdays in the Plaza Concert series. The evening included music and dance performances from Los Cenzontles Cultural Arts Academy, interactive art displays from artist Martin Zuniga, and concluded with the showing of the film Coco. The event was well-attended and will continue to be a part of the series. Two Tuesday concerts remain this summer: Royal Jelly Jive on August 21st and Petty Theft (Tom Petty Tribute) on August 28th.

Art After Dark – The third installment of Art After Dark will take place on Friday, August 24th in Plaza Park. The free event will feature artist booths, children’s activities, puppetry, telescopes and chalk art, as well as music, dance and fire-dancing! The event will be headlined by Tony Award-winning opera singer, Eugene Brancoveanu. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/893527204105339/>

Soccer Numbers Increase – Through a partnership with the newly formed Healdsburg Youth Soccer Association (HYSA), we are now able to offer soccer for kids from 4-15 years of age. With this partnership, we will continue to see the soccer program grow in our community. Registration is still

open and practice will begin the week of August 20th, with the first day of games coming on September 8th. As of August 15th, we have 386+ soccer participants.

Recreation Park Sound System Upgrades – In September of 2017, staff met with neighbors and the Bulldogs youth football organization to address the excessive volume from the public address (PA) system during football games at Recreation Park. Staff found that the existing PA system was inadequate for the entire park since it has only one functioning speaker. As such, the attendants had to raise the volume to project the sound to the visiting side of the field. Staff then reached out to a sound engineer to assess the park and provide recommendations. From the assessment, staff was able to identify a new PA system for the park and enlist the services of an audio/visual installation vendor to complete the project. The sound system should be in place prior to the Bulldogs' return to Recreation Park for the 2018 season.

Planning

Mill District Mixed-Use Project – On August 28th at 4 p.m., the Planning Commission will hold a follow-up workshop to discuss the future development of the site, which includes connection to a future SMART station, new local street design and housing proposal.

August 29th Planning Commission Special Meeting – In addition to the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting on August 28th, there will be a public hearing on August 29th at 6 p.m. to consider a tentative map application for six new lots on Old Rossi Place as well as to consider a design-review application for a 2,100 square-foot office and duplex located at the Farmstand subdivision on Grove Street.

Public Safety

Vegetation Fire Near Madrone Manor – The Healdsburg Fire Department, along with Cal Fire and the fire departments of Santa Rosa, Windsor, Forestville and Geyserville, extinguished an approximately 13.5-acre vegetation fire that ignited on Thursday afternoon near Madrona Manor, west of the City, near Westside Road. There was a mandatory evacuation of Madrone Knolls Road for several hours. Fire crews (both on-ground and air support) dumped 90,000+ gallons of water on the fire. By 7 p.m. Thursday evening, the fire was 75 percent contained and the fire is expected to be 100 percent contained by this evening. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Community Fun Run – On Thursday evening, members of the Healdsburg Police Department participated in a 5K community fun run organized by the Alliance Medical Center and the

Healdsburg Running Company. The run celebrates National Health Center Awareness Week. Runners ran by Alliance Medical Center and finished the run at Bear Republic Brewery. This free event was open to staff, patients and community members of all ages.



Public Works

Healdsburg Avenue Road Closure – One lane (southbound) of Healdsburg Avenue will be closed to vehicles from 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21st, and for about one hour on Wednesday morning, August 22nd. During these times, southbound Healdsburg Avenue, between Matheson Street and the roundabout, will be closed so the roundabout contractor can raise the manhole lids on Healdsburg Avenue and make them flush with the road surface. Vehicles can still travel north on Healdsburg Avenue. If heading southbound, please take alternate routes.

Parking Lots Now Open – The 37 new spaces at the West Plaza parking lot expansion are open, as are the 72 spaces at the new Grove Street parking lot (“Christmas Tree Lot”) next to City Hall. Some minor work at the Grove Street lot is being completed on the electric-vehicle charging stations and for an additional access route.

Utilities

Groundwater Basin Prioritization – This week, the City’s Utility Director met with the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) to discuss the data and criteria used in elevating the priority of the Healdsburg groundwater basin. DWR is reviewing basins to assure that the groundwater is not being removed faster than it can be replaced. The Healdsburg groundwater basin includes much of the Dry Creek and Russian River Valleys as well as large portions of Healdsburg. Groundwater management is new legislation that requires the DWR to develop a ranking system for each of the groundwater basins in the state. Staff is planning to file comments on August 20th that request corrections to the amount of water drawn from the groundwater basin and will provide information that better reflects the actual irrigation patterns of local vineyards.

Magnolia Force Mains Update – The Magnolia force main replacement project continues to move forward but staff and the contractor are concerned that the construction of the boring pits (deep shafts necessary to tunnel under Dry Creek) will not be constructed soon enough to allow the work to be completed this season. Staff and the contractor are working to define an acceptable solution and timeline for the City.

Water and Electric Utility Legislation – Staff continues to monitor the ongoing legislative session. Several proposed bills at the state level, if adopted, will affect the City's water and electric utilities. The proposed bills include a water tax to fund the water systems of disadvantaged communities, increased regulations on water-service disconnects for non-payment, and increased regulations for electric utilities related to wildfire risk. If these bills are adopted, staff will work to update and implement policies consistent with the regulations.