

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

December 7, 2018



City Manager's Office

Roundabout Community-Opening Ceremony – More than 100 people attended this brief ceremony on November 29th to commemorate the completion of the roundabout. Community member Tim Pile provided music as people gathered at the roundabout, which featured holiday lighting and décor provided by Community Services. The City Manager welcomed the crowd and the Public Works Director provided the history of the roundabout's construction. The Mayor and community member and Healdsburg Poet Laureate Russ Messing recited poems before current and past City Councilmembers cut a celebratory red ribbon. Audience members were then encouraged to take advantage of the many “roundabout specials” that local merchants offered.

Coffee with the City – The final Coffee of the City event of 2018 will be held next Wednesday, December 12th, at the SHED, 25 North Street. The City Manager and Department Directors will talk about the latest City-related projects and answer any questions you have. We'll also have complimentary coffee and tea. We really appreciate the SHED for graciously hosting these events.



Community Services

Parks and Recreation Facilities Assessment – This week, a team of representatives from Kitchell CEM and Community Services started work on the assessment of our park and recreation facilities. The team held a kick-off meeting on Monday, followed by five input meetings from users. Kitchell also conducted a sample site assessment of Barbieri Park; this will be provided to staff for review before the rest of the assessments are undertaken in January and February. We will likely receive a draft report in May that will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for public feedback. The final parks and recreation facilities assessment report will be due in June of 2019.

Fire Reduction Work at Villa – In our ongoing fire fuel-reduction work on Fitch Mountain, the Community Services teamed up with Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp from Fort Bragg to reduce fire fuels at the Villa Chanticleer. Chamberlain Creek staff spent one week removing logs, dead branches, stumps, and thinning trees on the west slope of the Villa Chanticleer.

Holiday Décor Installation – Park Maintenance and Facilities Staff spent November installing holiday décor throughout downtown. The roundabout was a major focus of this work: New lighting and

hardscape provided the canvas to install 40 new streetscape lightpost banners and illuminate pole-mounted decorations and life-size interactive displays. We also transitioned from multi-colored lighting to a unified white light throughout downtown. Altogether, staff installed lighting on 145 light posts and the plaza gazebo, which equates to approximately 10,300 lights. With the roundabout now complete, we're looking ahead at additional enhancements for the 2019 holiday season.

Senior Appreciation Dinner – The 35th Annual Senior Appreciation Dinner took place on Sunday, December 2nd at the Villa Chanticleer. This year's theme was "Glitter and Glamour." The event included valet parking, red-carpet entrance, cocktail reception, three-course meal, prize raffle and a special visit from Santa Claus. Two hundred Healdsburg seniors attended the event and another 41 seniors were served via the home meal-delivery program. Many thanks to the local businesses who underwrote the event and to the City staff, their families and 90+ volunteers for making this dinner a reality. Healdsburg's generosity shone brightly and was reflected in the eyes of the seniors.



December 10th Hanukkah Celebration at the Senior Center – Join the Senior Center staff and the Friendship Circle on Monday, December 10th, for the Hanukkah tradition of the Festival of Lights. Learn about the 2,000 year-old holiday while feasting on homemade latkes and singing traditional songs. This special celebration is open to the community and all ages are welcome. The festivities will start at 2:30 p.m. For more information, go to: <http://bit.ly/seniorcenterhanukkah>

Holiday Drop N' Shops Happening Now – The Holiday Drop N' Shop events kicked off last Saturday and will run through December 15th. The events are structured so families can drop off their children in a festive and supervised environment so parents can run holiday errands or get some much-needed rest. The events run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Center and feature a theme that include games, crafts, and activities. For more information, go to: <http://bit.ly/hbgdropnshop>

Winter Break Mini-Camps – The Community Services Department is introducing these camps to accommodate working parents and give children a fun camp atmosphere during the holiday break. The program will feature two sessions; the first will run from December 26th-28th and the second will take place January 2nd – 4th. Mini-camps are perfect for children ages 5-11 and will feature arts, crafts, games, songs, and food projects. The camp will be held at the Fitch Mountain Elementary School campus from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. each day. <http://bit.ly/hbgwintercamp>

Planning & Building

December 11th Planning Commission Workshop – The focus of this 3 p.m. workshop will be a proposal of a design review and conditional-use permit for 106 Matheson. The applicant will present the revised project and community members are welcome to provide public comment.

North Entry Area Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report – On December 11th at 6 p.m., the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the draft environmental impact report (EIR) and area plan. No action by the Planning Commission will occur. The public review period to submit comments is open until January 14th, 2019.

Quimby Act Ordinance Amendment – On December 11th at 6 p.m. the Planning Commission will also hold a public hearing to consider amendments to the City of Healdsburg Property Development Code. The amendments would revise standards regulating the dedication of land and payment of in-lieu fees regarding the provision of park and recreational facilities as a condition of residential subdivision approval.

Hotel Ordinance – On December 3rd the City Council approved (4-1) an ordinance limiting hotels in the commercial downtown (CD) and plaza retail (PR) zoning districts. The ordinance will have a second reading on December 17th and then would become effective on January 16th, 2019.

Public Safety

Chase Bank Robbery – The Police Department responded to a report of a robbery at Chase Bank on Thursday, November 29th. Investigating officers believe that the suspect was the same person who had committed at least two other bank robberies in Sonoma County recently. The investigating officers worked in conjunction with other agencies to alert banks of the suspect. On Tuesday, December 4th, tellers in the Cloverdale branch of Exchange Bank recognized the suspect when he entered their branch. They immediately notified police and the suspect was arrested and booked into the Sonoma County jail on multiple counts of bank robbery.

Toys Needed for Holiday Toy Drive – The Healdsburg Fire Department is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys for infants to teens through Dec. 16. Help brighten a child's Christmas by dropping off a new, unwrapped gift at the firehouse (601 Healdsburg Ave.). We'll then deliver the presents to the Healdsburg Community Church for distribution to kids in the community. Thank you!

Alcoholic Beverage Training – On Tuesday, December 4th, the Police Department partnered with the Sonoma County Health Department to offer a responsible beverage-service class at the Community Center. The four-hour training gave up-to-date information on state ABC laws and regulations; local city and county alcohol ordinances; civil, criminal and administrative liability; strategies for preventing, refusing sales and/or service to minors and obviously intoxicated persons; and how to check legally acceptable forms of identification. About 20 people from various businesses attended the training.

Emergency-Preparedness Brochure – Staff continue to work through final text edits and have begun the design of a multi-page brochure on emergency preparedness. This public resource will be available in the early part of 2019 and be distributed at community events and meetings.

Public Works

Storm Drains for Farmstand Subdivision and 1201 Grove Street – Work continues within the Grove Street right-of-way, between Grant Street and Dry Creek Road, to complete the storm drain systems for the Farmstand subdivision and the 1201 Grove Street project. Traffic control will be in place on Grove Street while work is underway, so expect minor delays and use an alternate route if possible.

Healdsburg Avenue Sewer Replacement – Engineering staff has received and will evaluate a proposal for the design of the replacement of the sewer within Healdsburg Ave. between Powell Street and Grant Street, and along Grant Street to Foss Creek.

Utilities

City-Owned Facilities Go Green – City Council adopted a resolution on November 19th to move the City's municipal electric accounts to the Healdsburg Green Rate. Facilities such as City Hall, the Wastewater Treatment Facility, Community Center and operations like traffic lights, electric vehicle chargers and pathway lighting will be powered by 100% renewable energy from the Geysers. By moving the City's 70 electric accounts to the Healdsburg Green Rate, we'll reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by an estimated 610 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year. The resolution also requires the City to continuously improve energy efficiency to decrease operating costs and reduce GHG emissions. Healdsburg residents can also take advantage of the Green Rate; go to <http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/233/Electric-Rates> for more information.

Green Rate Outreach and Marketing – City Staff is promoting information on the City's conversion to the Green Rate and how residents can also take advantage of this rate via several ways: For instance, articles have been posted on the City website's homepage and have been emailed to "News Flash" subscribers. Staff also posted Green Rate information on the City's Utility Department webpages. The Green Rate is also being promoted in a multi-week strategy on social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, Instagram), and Staff has published a news article on HealdsburgPatch.com and reached out to the Healdsburg Tribune and the Press Democrat to garner news coverage.

Program for Free High-Efficiency Toilets Ending December 31st – Since 2015, Healdsburg has been a partner in the Russian River Drought Relief program, which provides residents with two free high-efficiency toilets, including free installation. Over the past three years, Healdsburg residents had 250 water-efficient toilets installed at no cost. Each installation is estimated to save 4,000 gallons of water per person per year, so a family of four can save 16,000 gallons of water per year. Currently, 13 applicants are taking advantage of this deal before it closes on Dec 31st. There is still time to participate and coordinate installation before the holidays. For details and registration, visit: <https://www.sonomawater.org/drought>