

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

February 15, 2019



City Manager's Office

Healdsburg Glen Ribbon-Cutting – Community members celebrated with the City at Monday's ribbon-cutting ceremony for Healdsburg Glen, the City's newest affordable-housing development. Mayor David Hagele and City Manager David Mickaelian spoke, as did Caleb Roope, CEO of the Pacific Companies, which built the 25-unit apartment complex. Vice Mayor Leah Gold and Councilmember Evelyn Mitchell attended, as did residents of Healdsburg Glen.



Student Tour of City Hall – The City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk this week led 4th-graders from The Healdsburg School on a tour of City Hall and the Community Development Center (CDC). The tour culminated in a mock City Council meeting led by Mayor David Hagele. The topics of discussion: serving ice cream at school on Fridays and eliminating recess.



Community Services

Healdsburg is the First Age-Friendly City in Sonoma County – On February 11th, Senior Center Staff received news from AARP and the World Health Organization that the City of Healdsburg has officially been designated the first "age-friendly" city in Sonoma County. This designation reflects the community's commitment to creating a livable community for everyone - from age 8 to 80 and beyond. A special thank-you goes out to the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission and the City Council for their ongoing support throughout the application process. To learn more about AARP's

livable communities and what the “age-friendly” designation means for Healdsburg, please visit: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/>

Swim Center Open – The Swim Center is open once again. In October, we received news that the pool's circulation pump had failed and would require major repairs. We are happy to announce that Healdsburg Unified School District staff fully repaired the pump and the Swim Center is open for public lap-swim five days a week. In addition, the center hosts swim-practice for three high-school swim teams. Please visit <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/254/Aquatics-Programs> for the schedule.

Healdsburg Community Center Improvements – Programming at the Community Center has increased over the past year due to the expansion of Santa Rosa Junior College courses, an increase in facility use by local non-profits and planning committees, and the addition of community programming in arts, special needs, and emergency preparedness. Consequently, Staff has worked on various facility improvements. They include enhancing landscaping, providing directional signage, repairing the public address system, purchasing new tables and chairs, and painting interior walls and replacing carpets in several of our classrooms. We're excited about these new improvements, and we're not done yet. Stay tuned for the addition of a new message center and a “little free library.” We encourage you to stop by the Community Center and see what's taking place.

SNAP Winter Session – The winter session for the Special Needs Activity Program (SNAP) is underway. SNAP is implemented by Community Services Staff in partnership with Rotary Cares, a collaboration of four North Sonoma County rotary clubs. SNAP is designed for individuals ages 5-25 years old with special needs. This free program at the Community Center allows participants to socialize and take part in structured activities such as arts and crafts, dance, gymnastics, music, and yoga. SNAP is offered every Saturday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and will run through March 23rd.



Planning & Building

106 Matheson Design Review and Conditional-Use Permit – The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 12th and approved (4-2) a building addition to allow a mixed-use proposal, which includes a restaurant with 231 seats, first-floor retail and two owner-occupied residential units.

North Entry Area Plan Public Hearing – On February 26th, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. to gather community input on the public-review draft North Entry Area Plan (NEAP). The Commission will provide direction to Staff regarding further revisions to the NEAP prior to the Commission hearing that will give a formal recommendation to the City Council regarding NEAP adoption.

Public Hearing on Mill District Mixed-Use Proposal – On March 11th at 5 p.m., the City Council will hold a special meeting and public hearing on a tentative-map application and development agreement

for the Mill District. The proposal would allow land subdivision for future development of a hotel, retail and housing at 146 Healdsburg Avenue.

Hotels Discussion – On March 4th, the City Council will have a discussion regarding hotel development in the City. Topics include where hotels are currently allowed, and the development potential for future hotels in the City based on available land and zoning. The City Council will evaluate whether additional mechanisms are needed to limit future hotel growth.

Public Safety

Fire Department Places 1st in Bucket Brigade Blood Drive – The Healdsburg Fire Department placed first for the second year in a row in the annual Bucket Brigade Blood Drive Challenge, a friendly competition amongst 22 North Bay fire departments to see who can garner the most community participation. At its January 26th blood drive, Healdsburg had 99 registered donors. In total for the 22 fire departments, 705 donors rolled up their sleeves and 847 units of blood were collected by Vitalant, the partner for this blood-drive challenge. Thank you very much to everyone who participated!

Vegetation Management and Fuel Reduction – We are happy to report that fuel-reduction work is occurring around the City. After the 2017 wildfires, we determined that larger housing communities needed more time to evacuate, so reducing fire fuels around these facilities allows that additional evacuation time. A great example is the Fitch Mountain Terrace apartment complex, managed by Burbank Housing. The apartment management walked with Fire Marshal Linda Collister and determined areas where fuel reduction would make a difference.

Reduction of Fire Fuels at Fitch Mountain Preserve – Fire Marshal Linda Collister and Firefighter Lance Macdonald are working with the Chamberlain CalFire to reduce fire fuels on the Fitch Mountain Preserve. A couple of very large trees fell along the trail; crews have removed portions of them, but larger trees and segments remain. These areas near the summit have been identified with hazard tape and will remain off-limits until CalFire crews certified to perform more technical tree removals can take away this material. In addition, work on the Riverview Trail is complete and is now open, but the Butterfly Trail remains closed from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. while work continues. This fuel-reduction project has brought together the community, the City, CalFire, LandPaths and the Sonoma County Agricultural & Open Space District.



Utilities

Heavy Winter Rains – Staff from Utilities, Public Works, Public Safety and the City Manager's Office prepared for the latest round of heavy rains and winds this week, including overnight monitoring of water levels in the detention basins and local tributaries. Since the City's Water and Wastewater Staff

has many facilities near rivers and creeks, they closely watch the levels of Dry Creek and the Russian River during winter rain events.

Floating-Solar Site Visit – City Staff visited Kelseyville this week to tour a recently completed floating solar installation. The installation was completed in late fall 2018 and has a total capacity of roughly 250 kilowatts. Kelseyville's floating solar array is very similar to concept designs for the City's recycled water ponds, so visiting the site helped Staff confirm certain design elements and requirements ahead of construction of the City's floating-solar project.

