

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

April 12, 2019



City Manager's Office

Part of "The Hammer" Public Art Found – The City of Healdsburg and the Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation announced the return today of part of "The Hammer," a redwood and metal sculpture that was stolen in early October 2018. A Santa Rosa attorney contacted the Healdsburg Police Department yesterday, April 11th, to report that the 6-ft. tall, metal hammer head -- sans 21-ft. long redwood handle -- was found on the Sonoma County property of a client. The attorney, Izaak Schwaiger, delivered the hammer head to the Corporation Yard today, April 12th, and a forklift was used to transfer the more than 250-lb. metal piece to Artist Doug Unkrey's truck. The artist will rehabilitate the art installation and return it to the Community Center. Read the full press release here: <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=325>



Community Services

Fitch Mountain and Healdsburg Ridge have reopened – The Fitch Mountain Park and Open Space Preserve and the Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve are back open after Staff made interim repairs to fix the impacts caused by the February flooding. Repairs were completed last week but Staff kept the park closed until the trail work dried up and the soil stabilized this week. Be cautious when hiking the popular Nancy's Hill Trail at Healdsburg Ridge. When it receives a good amount of water, it becomes very difficult to hike. When needed, Staff close the trail at each entry point for five days after a significant storm event to ensure its long-term sustainability.

April 20th Four Elements Festival – The Healdsburg Center for the Arts, in partnership with the Community Services Department, will present a communitywide street festival on April 20th on Plaza Street in downtown Healdsburg. In celebration of Earth Day, the Four Elements Festival will focus on climate change and ways to reduce our impact on the planet. Families can learn about preservation efforts through organizations such as Sonoma State University's Center for Environmental Inquiry, the County of Sonoma's Department of Energy and Sustainability, and Sonoma Land Trust. Children can take part in interactive art activities and live entertainment will be provided by the Stilt Walker Vines of Symmetry Arts Entertainment & Design and others. For more information, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/298622357696877/>



“Perfect Day to Play” is a Success – Community Services Staff hosted the first “Perfect Day to Play” program on April 6th. The program provides free games and activities in neighborhood parks. The program had to be relocated to the Healdsburg Community Center due to the rain, but the 25 participants still had a great time taking part in indoor fun! A “Perfect Day to Play” is scheduled to take place on the first Saturday of each month. With drier and warmer weather conditions in the forecast, we are excited to return outside in May! Follow the [Healdsburg Community Services page](#) on facebook for future locations and activity information.

Tee Ball Season is Underway - This week, our little sluggers hit the field for their first official game. Players spent the last several weeks practicing and learning to catch, hit, and most importantly, how to run the bases! The league is full with 54 participants and 12 volunteer coaches. Tee Ball meets twice a week at the Community Center and will run through May 22nd.



Volunteer Awareness Month - April is Volunteer Awareness Month and the Senior Center is celebrating the amazing people who donate their time to this community. The first celebration took place today, April 12th, with a “Lets TACO-About Awesome!” fiesta to honor 70+ volunteers who help run the daily operations of the Senior Center. On April 15th, the Marie Sparks Volunteer Award of Excellence will be awarded at the City Council meeting to Roger Dormire and Joseph “Joe” Guerella for their hours of volunteer work at the Food Pantry and the Raven Theater. A reception at the Senior Center will follow immediately after the award presentation. Additionally, Senior Center volunteers will be highlighted in a series of social media posts throughout the month. Follow the [Healdsburg Senior Center page](#) on Facebook for updates and volunteer recognition.

Planning & Building

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance Update – On April 9th, the Planning Commission recommended approval (5-0) with revisions to an amendment to the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance. Some of the key changes made by the Commission include recommending the maximum size of ADUs to be

1,000 square feet; eliminating the maximum 45 percent floor area ratio of the ADU size to the primary unit size; and increasing the maximum floor area of an efficiency size ADU from 500 sq. ft. to 700 sq. ft. For more information, the ordinance materials can be found on the City website at <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/853/Accessory-Dwelling-Units---ADUs>.

North Village Mixed-Use Project – City Staff met with the Comstock development team this week to discuss the potential of entering into a development agreement.

Planning Commission to Consider Draft North Entry Area Plan – On April 23rd at 6 p.m., the Planning Commission will consider the draft NEAP for recommendation and the adoption and certification of the final Environmental Impact Review. The documents can be viewed on the City website at <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/842/North-Entry-Area-Plan>. The plan and EIR also require consideration by the City Council, which would occur following the Planning Commission's action.

Public Safety

April 14th-20th is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – The life-saving work of public-safety dispatchers – often the first point of contact for citizens calling the police for help – often go unnoticed. April 14th – 20th is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, when we formally recognize these key public-safety personnel. In 2018, Healdsburg dispatchers answered 27,430 phone calls and 2,527 9-1-1 calls. This event was started in 1981 by a Contra Costa County Sheriff's employee to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public.

April 24th Healdsburg Mobile Blood Drive – Healdsburg Fire, along with Vitalant (previously known as Blood Centers of the Pacific), will hold a mobile blood drive at the firehouse on April 24th, from 2-6 p.m. Make an appointment by visiting Vitalant.org; use the sponsor code: HFD.

Public Works

Survey and April 30 Workshop on Improving Healdsburg Avenue – The City will hold a public workshop on April 30 to gather community feedback on how Healdsburg Avenue – from Powell Avenue to the northern city limits – can be improved for all users, not just vehicle-drivers. The workshop will be held at 6 p.m. at the Community Center and is part of the Healdsburg Avenue Improvement Study, which will explore the potential to implement “complete streets” concepts and other street enhancements. A second community workshop will be held this summer, date to be determined. In addition, people can note specific places and intersections that need improvement through an online map-based survey: <http://bit.ly/healdsburgstudy>. A Spanish-language survey is also available via the link.

Foss Creek Pathway Segments 7 & 8 Environmental Review – The Foss Creek Pathway Segments 7 and 8 “Draft Supplemental Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration” began its 30-day public review period on April 8th. The project will extend the Foss Creek Pathway from the Segment 6 pathway by the skatepark north across Dry Creek Road to the intersection of Grove Street and Healdsburg Avenue. Improvements will include about 4,500 feet of paved pathway, lighting, fencing, two pedestrian bridges, and a signalized pedestrian crossing at Dry Creek Road. Construction is anticipated to begin in late summer 2019 pending environmental permitting.

Utilities

Antelope solar project – In the spring of 2017, the City Council approved the participation in a utility-scale solar project. The project will provide Healdsburg with 2 megawatts of solar generation capacity and is expected to provide roughly 6 percent of the City's energy needs. Last week, the

Contractor developing the project provided a quarterly status report. The site is expected to be available and generating energy by July 2021, about six months ahead of schedule.

Free electric-vehicle charging April 22nd -26th – In celebration of Earth Day on April 22nd, the Utilities Department is offering free electric-vehicle charging from April 22-26th at all 12 EV-charging stations in the City Hall parking lot.

Fire mitigation and vegetation management – Earlier this week, a contractor working for the Utility Water Department finished the removal of vegetation and invasive species around water facilities located on the Callahan property. Completion of this work helps protect these facilities from the potential threat of wildfires and improves continued facility maintenance efforts.

Floating Solar Project Update – This week, City Staff met with NCPA Staff and the Consultant leading the NCPA solar project. Progress is being made on the RFP and environmental review. Staff is still hopeful that the project can be placed under contract before the end of the calendar year.