

Pride in Public Service

I am very proud of the city employees for their contributions to the community during the holiday season. David Hambly deserves recognition as the coordinator of a canned food drive to support the Healdsburg Food Pantry. Berenice Garcia, Rosa Gutierrez, Jonathan Jimenez, Barbara Nelson, Alison Hurley and Becca Hughes all volunteered to work on the Presents Project to ensure the City's adopted family's needs were met. The fire department conducted a toy drive in addition to adopting a family. Thank you everyone!

Congratulations to Mike Courts, recently promoted to the position of Foreman in the Electric Department. And a hearty welcome to new lineman Brent Sullivan.

Department Feature: Healdsburg Electric Utility

In 1899, with the construction of Healdsburg's first generation plant near Black Mountain, the City began providing electric service. Healdsburg's system started with just twenty-four arc-lamps lighting the downtown streets. Due to an exceptionally fast growing demand, the City's Electric service grew to over 2,800 incandescent lights within the first two years of existence.

Throughout the many years of providing electric service, the City of Healdsburg has invested in local generation plants such as the Geysers, consistently provided over 60% of the City's energy needs from carbon free generation, retained local rate and policy setting authority, and through low electric rates left dollars in the pockets of electric customers. As the Cities of Sonoma County discuss the benefits of customer choice, Healdsburg continues to demonstrate what public ownership and local control can accomplish.

Today, the City of Healdsburg's electric system serves over 5,700 metered services. To meet the community's energy needs, Healdsburg owns generation plants throughout California as well as maintains 59 miles of high voltage wire throughout the City. Recent projects for the Electric Department are the Lodi Energy Center and the Grove Street tie line. The additional generation from Lodi Energy Center will help provide predictable electric rates and the new tie line will increase system capacity and improve reliability.

In the future, Healdsburg's Electric department will strive to provide electric service in a manner that is safe, highly reliably, and at the lowest reasonable cost. As Healdsburg's electric needs change due to the adoption of electric vehicles, new energy efficiency programs, the need for detailed usage information or the increasing dependency for un-interrupted electric service, the Electric Department's staff will be ready to meet the community's needs.