

Pride in Public Service

As you know, there are some changes pending due to the November 6th election. The new City Council will be seated December 3rd upon ratification of the election results. Congratulations to incumbents Tom Chambers and Gary Plass, and to newcomer Shaun McCaffrey. They will join Susan Jones and Jim Wood in service as council members. Steve Babb opted not to run for re-election in favor of pursuing other interests. A big thank you to Steve for his dedication to Healdsburg and efforts as a councilman!

Other changes at City Hall: Welcome to Jone Hayes, the City's new finance director. Jone joins the management team with 26 years of private and public financial experience.

A fond farewell goes to Lieutenant Kevin Young, retiring this month after 25 years of service in the police department. With Kevin's departure comes a promotion -- congratulations to Matt Jenkins who will assume the Lieutenant position.

Measure V

The City Council and I want to thank you for your support and the passage of Measure V. This half-cent sales tax increase will provide funding for core services and capital projects. The measure will be in place for ten years and there is an annual reporting provision. Our next step is to develop a process to for determining how the funds will be spent and how we will report back to citizens on the expenditure of funds. I anticipate this discussion will be placed on a council agenda for action after the holidays.

Public Works Food Drive

The Public Works department employees are sponsoring a food drive for the Healdsburg Food Pantry. Donations of canned and boxed food staples will be accepted at the Community Development Center (435 Allen Court) through December 20th.

Holiday Lighting

Terry Crowley, Electric Utility Director, offers the following: LED holiday lighting displays can be viewed at many of the downtown businesses and at City Hall through this holiday season. LED holiday lights provide the same festive appeal but use roughly 80% less power than traditional incandescent lights. As an example, if the tree at City Hall was lit with traditional incandescent bulbs, it would require the same amount of energy as one hundred 60-watt light bulbs. By using LED lighting, the energy consumption is reduced to the equivalent of three 60-watt light bulbs.

To help encourage energy efficiency, Healdsburg's Electric Department is offering rebates for the purchase of LED holiday lighting. More information regarding this rebate and others can be found at the City's website <http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/rebates> or by calling (707)431-3122.

Healdsburg High CASA Program Participation

Healdsburg Electric line crews were able to spend a few hours with Healdsburg High CASA students explaining the skills necessary to compete for jobs within the various utilities. Nationwide utilities are making an effort to educate students about future job opportunities and the needed job training. The combination of aging infrastructure and a work force at or near retirement age is creating a need to develop and train the next generation of utility workers. The well-prepared students of CASA will be able take advantage of these future opportunities.

State Responsibility Area (SRA) Tax

From Fire Chief Steve Adams: In past month, residents and property owners in the unincorporated SRA areas of Healdsburg began receiving their Fire Prevention Fee tax bill per Assembly Bill X 129. This fee of \$150 is charged to the majority of property owners in unincorporated areas that are designated SRA. SRA does not include lands within city boundaries or in federal ownership and local fire agencies do not receive benefit from this bill.

The State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Benefit Fee was enacted following the signing of Assembly Bill X1 29 in July 2011. The law approved the new annual Fire Prevention Fee to pay for fire prevention services within the SRA. The fee is levied at the rate of \$150 per habitable structure, which is defined as a building that can be occupied for residential use. Owners of habitable structures who are also within the boundaries of a local fire protection agency will receive a reduction of \$35 per habitable structure.

The State Responsibility Area (SRA) is the area of the state where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires.

More information on the SRA fee can be found on the State Board of Forest & Fire Protection's web site.