

# CITY MANAGER UPDATE

September 13, 2019



## City Manager's Office



**City Employee Appreciation Lunch** – The City held its annual lunch to thank its 250+ full-time and part-time employees for their service at the Villa Chanticleer on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The wide range of city employees include fire and police personnel, parks and facilities aides and supervisors, planners, public-works inspectors, and electric linemen. This year's "Pride in Public Service Award," which recognizes a City employee for his or her exemplary work performance, was awarded to Facility Worker Sal Sanchez, from the Community Services Department.

**Sign up: City Manager Update as Email Newsletter** – This bi-weekly City Manager Update will move to an email newsletter format starting on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to receive this update via email, please go to: <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/list.aspx> and under

"Notify Me," click the letter icon for "City Manager Update – Newsletter." The City Manager Update will continue to be posted here: <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/805/City-Manager-Update> as well as promoted via the City's Facebook and Nextdoor pages.

**Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>: Community Conversations** – These casual, outdoor neighborhood meetings give an opportunity for City directors and staff to speak directly with community members on City services, programs, events, and projects. Representatives from major departments, including Fire and Police, Public Works, Utilities, Community Services, and Planning, will attend Community Conversations next Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Barbieri Park next. This family-friendly event will include goody bags and our mobile recreational unit, which will feature games for kids.

## Community Services

**Wrap-up of Summer Aquatics Programs** – The Swim Center was open seven days a week from June through August to host a full slate of aquatic programs -- daily lap swim, rec swim, swim lessons, pre-team and private pool party rentals – as well as open-swim. Participants took 574 swim lessons through the Learn to Swim program, and another 44 children ages 10-14 took part in the Pre-Swim Team program. The Swim Center will stay open through September for weekend rec swim and through October for lap swim and pre-swim team. For the full Swim Center schedule, visit <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/254/Aquatics-Programs>



**After School and Early Childhood Education Programs Underway** – Our After School (ASES) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs have started. ASES takes place at Healdsburg and Fitch Mountain elementary schools and Healdsburg Junior High. ASES is a state grant-funded program, offered in partnership with the Healdsburg Unified School District. An additional program which does

not fall under the ASES grant is offered at The Healdsburg School. Currently, 202 students are enrolled in ASES, and we expect that number to grow. The two ECE programs take place at the Community Center from September to May: Roots and Shoots (2.5-3.5 years old) and Stepping Stones (3.5-5 years old). These programs help children strengthen their social skills and self-expression as well as help build their academic foundation. The ECE curriculum includes activities centered on science, technology, engineering, art, math, and literacy. Staff have also added music, cooking, and Spanish to further expose the children to new concepts at an early age.

**Arts & Culture Creative Leadership Team Update** – The 28-member Creative Leadership Team (CLT) helps guide the arts and culture master-planning process and is composed of local artists, business owners, arts and cultural organization representatives, Healdsburg 2040 members, Parks and Recreation commissioners, and City staff. The team convened on September 5<sup>th</sup> to meet with Kristen Madsen of Creative Sonoma as well as to discuss upcoming public-engagement opportunities. The CLT will next meet on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please visit <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/934/Creative-Leadership-Team>

**Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>: Americart 2019 Canvas Creation** – The Healdsburg Center for the Arts and Community Services invite the community to help create the 40-ft. Americart 2019 canvas on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3 p.m. in Plaza Park. People from across the U.S. are creating Americart 2019, which has been traveling through Maryland, Tennessee, Kansas, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada and California. Healdsburg is the final stop. On Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8 p.m. the Healdsburg Center for the Arts will host a final unveiling of the completed canvas. This collaborative public artwork is part of a documentary project by EFDLT Studio and Legit Productions of New York City. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/494563258031823/> and <https://www.americart2019.com/>



**Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>: Foss Creek Clean-Up, Safety Fair, Film Screening** – Help maintain and protect our waterways by removing trash and debris from Foss Creek on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. After the Foss Creek Clean-Up, volunteers are encouraged to stay for the Safety Fair, which is scheduled from 9 a.m. – 2 pm. The Safety Fair, offered with the Kiwanis Club, will focus on healthy and sustainable living and offer activities for all ages. After the fair, join us for drive-in movie night, featuring Disney's *Coco*. This film screening at the Community Center is part of Corazon Healdsburg's *¡Vamos Juntos al Cine!* (Let's Go to the Movies!) series. The movie will start at about 6:30 p.m. and will air in Spanish with English subtitles. For more info, go to: <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/921/Foss-Creek-Clean-Up-Safety-Fair> and <https://www.corazonhealdsburg.org/movies>

**Recreation Park Turf Maintenance** – Celebration Bermuda grass was installed in 2015 at Recreation Park to help conserve water and provide an optimal baseball field for the community. With the increased park usage over the past few years, and because Bermuda turned out not to be the best turf choice for this region, it has become difficult to maintain the turf. In response, over the past two weeks, Staff have removed several sections of dead turf and 40 yards of hard compacted rock and soil and replaced that with planting loam. The loam should increase drainage and allow the turf to grow. In addition, the irrigation system has been modified to ensure the turf receives the proper coverage and is efficiently watered. Staff will install the new turf next week.



**Healdsburg Shuttle Reports Increased Ridership** – Healdsburg Shuttle Route 67, which has been free for riders since July 2018, reported a 37 percent increase in ridership from 2018 to 2019. Success of the Ride Free program in Healdsburg and Sebastopol inspired four other cities in Sonoma County to adopt a similar program. Route 67 offers a fast, friendly, and economical transportation option to residents and out-of-town visitors. For more information, visit: <https://sctransit.com/>

## Planning & Building

**1434 Grove Street, Design Review** – On September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission will consider a request to construct an industrial building on this site.

**320 Healdsburg Avenue, Conditional Use Permit** – On September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission will consider a request to amend a conditional-use permit (CUP) and allow wine tasting as an accessory use to the Harris Art Gallery.

## Public Works

**U.S.-101 & Dry Creek Road Intersection Improvements Project** – Construction is underway on the U.S.-101 and Dry Creek Road Intersection Improvements Project. The project will improve traffic flow during peak hours by adding east and westbound stop signs at the southbound on/off ramp intersection and widening and restriping Dry Creek Road to add left turn lanes for the northbound and southbound ramps. During construction, portions of Dry Creek Road may be impacted; please observe and adhere to construction area signage. We expect the project to continue for about four more weeks. Project work hours are 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.



**Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>: Public Open Houses on N. Healdsburg Av. Improvement Study** – The City is developing a streetscape enhancement plan that will document the community's vision for improving Healdsburg Avenue -- from Powell Avenue to the northern city limits -- for pedestrians and cyclists as well as vehicles. The community is invited to attend one of two open houses on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, to review emerging design concepts. The public open houses will be held at the Community Center (1557 Healdsburg Ave.). The first open house will be held from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The second open house will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more information on the study, please visit: <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/10389/Healdsburg-Avenue-Vision-and-Goals-Summary>

## Utility

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**Underground Cable Replacement** – Earlier this week, the City's electric crew began replacing old high-voltage, underground cable on Chablis. When pulling the old cable out of the conduit, the cable under the street became stuck and the crew was unable to completely remove it. To restore power as fast as possible, the crew built a temporary overhead powerline to serve the residents in this area. We expect to repair the damaged conduit, replace the underground cable, and remove the temporary pole line by the end of the month.

**Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>: Energy, Sustainability & Buildings Community Workshop** – The Electric Department will host a community workshop to discuss a proposed ordinance ("reach code") to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from newly constructed houses and buildings, share information on the latest energy efficiency technology, and seek feedback from the public. The workshop will be held at the Community Center (1557 Healdsburg Ave.) on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 7:30pm. Attendees will be eligible for a raffle to win a portable electric induction cooktop and cookware.

