

## **Cityscape – November 2018**

This fall marks the completion of the last of three major public works projects the City has undergone in recent years. The roundabout, also known as the Healdsburg Avenue Improvements Project, is now fully functional and the contractor is currently planting trees to provide a welcoming entry into town. Another project, the expansion of City Hall, had its finishing touches completed last month, and the rehabilitation of the 438-ft. long, steel-truss Memorial Bridge was completed in the fall of 2015.

We know that the construction on these projects was noisy and disruptive. We appreciate your patience during the many months of work it took to get them done. As we celebrate the completion of these projects, let's take a look back to appreciate their scope and complexity.

### **City Hall Addition & Alteration Project**

**Construction Period:** February 2017 – March 2018

This project capitalized on a surplus of underutilized space in the old 9,200-square ft. City Hall building and renovated the structure to create a two-story, 4,300-square ft. addition as well as install HVAC and other associated site improvements and exterior repairs. The expansion allowed all 24 members of Community Development, engineering, and utility staff to move from a rented warehouse behind City Hall to expanded and rehabilitated new City Hall.

City Staff began moving into the newly renovated building in March and move-in was completed by August. For the first time since 1978, the Community Development Center (CDC) -- which includes departments such as Planning & Building, Public Works and Utility -- and other departments are under the same roof. Prior to the City Hall renovation, the City was paying more than \$75,000 every year in rent to house the CDC. What is important to note the expansion was funded in a way to ensure there is no fiscal impact to ratepayers and both utilities continue to exceed the Council-adopted reserve policy.

**City Hall Open House:** To celebrate this project, the City will hold an open house on Thursday, Nov. 8, from 4-6 p.m. at City Hall. City Staff will provide tours of the renovated building and light refreshments will be available. Everyone is welcome!

### **Healdsburg Avenue Improvement Project (Roundabout)**

**Construction Period:** June 2016 – November 2018

The roundabout is an integral component of the Central Healdsburg Avenue Plan (CHAP), a public vision and policy document that establishes guiding principles and design frameworks to develop public infrastructure on Healdsburg Avenue from the U.S. 101/Central Healdsburg Avenue exit to the five-way intersection. Through community input, improving the five-way intersection — its safety, capacity and image — rose to the top of the list.

The City Council unanimously approved the Healdsburg Avenue Improvement Project in April 2016 and the contractor broke ground in June 2016. This project also included major infrastructure improvements such as installing new water and sewer lines; rebuilding an old, deteriorated culvert that funnels Foss Creek under the road, and upgrading the railroad tracks and ties for eventual SMART train service.

While the project ran into issues early on, work has progressed at a good pace over the past year. Workers are now planting close to 2,800 trees, shrubs and other vegetation to provide a welcoming entry into town. Once they finish toward the end of November, the roundabout will be complete.

To help celebrate the completion of this project, the City will host a ribbon-cutting and holiday-lighting ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 29, at the roundabout. We hope you will join us to thank everyone involved in this project. We'll provide more information on the event soon on the City website and social media.

### **Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation and Restoration**

**Construction Period:** September 2014 – October 2015

**Awards:** 2017 Public Works Project of the Year from the American Public Works Association (APWA) and an Engineering Excellence Award in 2016 from the American Council of Engineering Companies of California (ACEC California)

This historic, two-lane bridge was built in 1921 and is part of the 230-mile Redwood Highway, a route that extends from San Francisco to Oregon. In 2010, the City Council decided to rehabilitate the aging bridge to withstand 21<sup>st</sup>-century traffic (almost 10,000 vehicles daily) as well as disasters such as earthquakes and floods.

The renovation project included:

- replacing the bridge's original wooden piles with steel-reinforced concrete piles and installing them 80 feet into the Russian River for a stronger foundation;
- installing isolation bearings, which act as shock absorbers in an earthquake;
- strengthening two large bridge abutments; and
- building a new, lightweight concrete deck

In addition, workers installed 10 decorative LED-powered streetlights along the length of the bridge. The Healdsburg Memorial Bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding as the City undertook and completed these projects. We hope that these changes will help add value and improve the quality of life for our community.