

## **Cityscape: April 2018**

Spring is here, and the City's pace continues to quicken with more programs, activities, and events. Here's a sample of what's going on.

### **City Budget Process**

In this tax season, it's apt to discuss the City's fiscal governance. Our two-year budget process began earlier this year when we asked you to fill out the annual Measure V survey. Thank you to the 1,173 local residents who filled out the survey to tell us how funding from a half-cent sales tax should be apportioned among priorities including public safety, street maintenance and repair, economic development, general fund reserves, and deferred maintenance of City facilities.

The measure V survey is one of many tools City Council will use to determine the City's annual goals and budget this coming year. As a reminder, the City's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. Other information Council is leveraging this year include the community survey (<http://bit.ly/2HQXCpR>), the pension update, and the economic report presented by Sonoma State University Economics Professor Robert Eyler (<http://bit.ly/2ube3Lw>) on March 19.

The community survey conducted in March was one of the first times the City endeavored to gather comprehensive input from residents on City services and programs as well as key issues such as affordable housing, tourism, and transportation. Results showed that residents think Healdsburg offers a good quality of life and is a great place to raise a family. However, challenges remain, such as the need for more affordable housing.

Professor Eyler's report presented a substantive analysis of Healdsburg's economy. One big takeaway: Healdsburg's economy is relatively balanced; there's a good mix of jobs in a variety of sectors, not just those that are tourism-related. Like the community survey, his report found that affordable housing remains a top challenge and opportunity for the City and Sonoma County in general.

### **City Council Goal-Setting Session and Department Budgets**

On March 26, The City Council held a productive goal-setting workshop for FY 2018-19. The goal categories include arts and culture, community health, affordable/workforce housing, and Measure V. Staff is now compiling council feedback and creating the language for the goals, which will undergo further Council review at the April 9 City Council meeting.

The next budget step took place at the April 9 City Council meeting. In addition to reviewing Council goals, Council kicked off a "Budget 10" session. City staff gave an overview of how our budget process works along with all will train councilmembers on City budget basics, then present the proposed Capital Improvement Program plan.

City staff will present their department budgets to City Council in May for review, and the final FY 2018-19 budget is expected to be approved by the City Council in June. I welcome you to

attend City Council meetings this spring (location: City Hall, 401 Grove St.) to better inform yourself on how public monies and your tax dollars are spent.

### **City Hall Move-In**

City staff is in the process of moving into the new wing of City Hall. The City Manager's Office, Administrative Services, and Human Resources moved into the new addition at the end of March, joining Utility Billing, which opened on the wing's first floor on March 26. Other departments, including Public Works and Planning & Building, will move in later this year to make it the first time since 1978 that all of these departments have been under the same roof.

The \$6.1 million project budget is funded with set-aside capital replacement funds, service funds, and 15-year loans from the electric and wastewater utility funds. There is no fiscal impact to ratepayers and both utilities continue to exceed the Council-adopted reserve policy.