

Pride in Public Service

The installation of the new city-wide Wi-Fi system has begun. This will allow residents and visitors to access WiFi throughout Healdsburg. If the weather cooperates, the project will go live by mid-April.

Staff proposed improvements for a Safe Routes to School Grant. As proposed a pedestrian activated traffic signal (HAWK) would be installed on Powell Street at the entrance to the High School and at Rose Lane. A pedestrian safety crossing device is also proposed on University Street at Grant Street. Depending on funding availability this device would also be a ped activated signal. The HAWK signal has been approved by Caltrans as an acceptable pedestrian safety device when limited impact to vehicular traffic is desired. The HAWK signal provides a higher degree of safety for pedestrians as compared to the in-pavement cross walk lights, which are advisory in nature, when compared to regulatory stop provided by the HAWK signal. The proposed project would also eliminate several cross-walks on Powell and consolidate them at the HAWK signal crossings.

Vacation Rentals

With summer approaching, are you tempted to offer your home for rent on one of the short-term rental web sites, such as VRBO or airbnb.com? As we all know, Healdsburg is a popular destination for visitors worldwide, and renting your home for a week or weekend sounds like a great way to supplement your income. However, please resist the temptation to do so because vacation home rentals are not allowed within the Healdsburg city limits. This means that homeowners may not rent out their homes for fewer than 30 days at a time.

There are many reasons for prohibiting short-term rentals. One is to protect Healdsburg's neighborhoods from the noise and traffic that often accompany visitors who are intent on enjoying themselves. Another reason is that allowing commercial operations in residential areas can lead to a loss of neighborliness, as homes can be occupied by a constant flow of strangers who are not vested in our community.

The City of Healdsburg does allow bed-and-breakfasts in residential neighborhoods if certain conditions are met, such as the provision of adequate on-site parking and a resident manager, the securing of a business license and the payment of transient occupancy tax, which primarily funds the City's public safety services. Allowing B&Bs can sometimes be the only way to save some of our fine historic homes, as well.

Unless you have received approval from the City for a B&B operation, please resist the temptation of renting out your home on a short-term basis – it is a violation of the Healdsburg Municipal Code. Please contact the Planning & Building Department at 707/431-3346 or planning@ci.healdsburg.ca.us for more information.

Related Information:

- [Residential Visitor Lodging \(B&B\)](#)

Weed Abatement Begins in April

The Healdsburg Fire Department is beginning this year's weed abatement inspections the second week in April. Residents will be asked to start abate high weeds, trim tree limbs to at least 6 feet above the ground, remove ladder fuels and clean up dead plant and tree debris. Thanks to the generosity of Fire Free Fitch, a chipper program is available for Fitch Mountain residents that includes three hours of free chipping. The purpose of the free chipper program is to encourage residents to create defensible space by making it easier to dispose of trimmings safely. The application for the chipper program is available at www.firefreefitch.org.

Recreation Programming

The [Spring/Summer 2012 Recreation Guide](#) is now available. Numerous new specialty camps are being offered by contracted instructors this summer in addition to the department's annual Sizzling Summer & Preschool Day Camps. The department is also operating a wide variety of sports and enrichment programs for youth and our comprehensive swim lesson program in the summer.

Senior Center

The Senior Writing Project has finalized the book they have been working on for the past year. "Tuesday Morning Memories: An Anthology," features 17 senior authors, 120 stories and poems as well as 50 family photographs. The group has tentatively set the date in June for a reading, meet and greet with the authors and book signing. Books are available to purchase on a pre-order basis at a discounted price of \$12.00 until April 18th. Order forms are available at the [senior center](#).