

Pride in Public Service:

After 34 years with the City we bid a fond farewell to Patty Lozinto who retired on April 18th. The staff wish Patty and her husband Joe, also a former employee, much success in their retirement endeavors.

Animal Care and Control Services Available

We are delighted to share with you that effective April 1, 2014 Sonoma Humane Society along with Petaluma Animal Services Foundation are our providers of animal control and sheltering services for citizens within Healdsburg. As part of the animal control service a day use facility, entitled Healdsburg Center, has been established on the site of the new animal shelter building (14242 Bacchus Landing Way, across from the Corp Yard).

Shelter services include: sheltering abandoned, unwanted or stray animals; adoptions, pre-adoption spays and neuters, animal licensing, and euthanasia. Sonoma Humane operates and maintains a day-use facility from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, excluding City recognized holidays.

Animal Control provides in-field response to animal medical emergencies and other emergencies involving danger to humans within (30) minutes or less during regular service hours. Animal Control Officer will respond to non-emergency animal control issues within (24) hours of being notified during regular service hours. Animal Control hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., excluding City recognized holidays. Animal related complaints received by the City or the police department outside of regular animal control service hours are forwarded to animal control for follow-up.

The Shelter and Animal Control Number is: 707-280-9632; for after-hours emergency service contact the Healdsburg Police Department at: 707-431-3377.

Update by Utility Director Terry Crowley

Contained within Healdsburg's 4.5 square miles are 45 miles of streets, 60 miles of water mains, 53 miles of sewer mains, and 60 miles of electric lines. To keep all of these facilities serving the City's residents and businesses requires planning, preventative maintenance, and sometimes-quick action to prevent small problems from turning into larger ones.

During the drought, the City has had to act quickly to implement conservation programs to preserve the limited resource of water. The largest portion of the City's water comes from the Russian River. As Lake Mendocino's levels are low and affecting the entire region, our City Council and community have stepped forward as a leader in water conservation. In the month of March, the City reduced water consumption by 18% and in April reduced water consumption by 35%. This is a tremendous achievement and is testimony to the community's willingness to prepare for the dry summer months

ahead.

During this summer it will be difficult to maintain such significant reductions in water consumption. To further help, the City is now providing water conservation incentives for the installation of low-flow toilets, high efficiency clothes washers and lawn conversions. City staff is also staffing community events to supply free low-flow showerheads and aerators for Healdsburg residents. Our hope is that these additional tools, along with the responsible use of water, will help us all emerge from the drought in a much better position.

While the drought may be at the top of everyone's list, the City's Utilities Department is working on several other projects throughout town. In the next few months construction will begin on Memorial Bridge and will require some lane closures. The City's contractor will work to minimize the duration of the closures in an effort to lessen the negative impacts. While the bridge construction project will continue through 2014 and into 2015, the finished product will be safer, aesthetically pleasing, and help preserve this historical piece of Healdsburg.

The department is also in the process of powder coating the nostalgic streetlights in the downtown area. The existing paint was fading, peeling, and detracted from the positive light of Healdsburg's downtown. Additionally, the streetlights are being retrofitted with high-efficiency LEDs. The LED lights reduce the City's energy costs and reduce light pollution, improving stargazing and night sky watching. Over the life of the LED lights the City's maintenance and operating costs will go down.

As forward planning is a necessity for all utilities, the City is developing strategies for future reconstruction projects, improved and expanded utility services, and financial stability. These plans include the repair and reconstruction of city streets and sidewalks, water, electric, and sewer systems as well as improved conservation programs and better customer presentation of utility usage. Each of these areas will continue to improve the safe and efficient operation of the City's utilities.

Seeking Citizen Assistance...

A significant investment has been made in downtown Healdsburg for the benefit of business operators, residents and (yes) visitors. Unfortunately, some of this work has been marred by thoughtless actions. City workers frequently find graffiti on poles, directories, benches and trash receptacles. Signs and stickers affixed to streetlights further detract from the aesthetics, but also cause damage to the paint on the poles. Please consider this as a plea to refrain from using city infrastructure to advertise, editorialize, find pets, etc.

Amendment to the Healdsburg Municipal Code: Vacation Rentals

The City Council took action to amend the municipal code, streamlining the enforcement process and strengthening penalties for noncompliance. The amendment allows the City's enforcement officer to impose fines or penalties for code violations following notice and a reasonable time for the violator to achieve compliance. The maximum penalty for violation was increased to \$1,000 per day, with a cap of

\$20,000. Violators may contest the penalty through a hearing process. Complaints regarding illegal vacation rentals should be directed to the Planning & Building Department.