



# City Manager's Update

## April, 2018

As a city, we are involved in a number of issues, big and small, on a monthly basis. This month, I'd like to update you on projects and/or issues we are actively working on regularly or that I feel the citizens may be interested in learning more about.

### **City Council Update**

Russ Cremer was appointed to City Council to fill the vacancy left by former Councilmember Russ Perdock when he resigned in February. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Councilmember Cremer was sworn in to complete the remainder of Perdock's term, which expires in November. Councilmember Cremer has indicated that he will run for Council in November.

### **Planning Commission Update**

With the appointment of Russ Cremer to the City Council, there is now a vacancy on the Planning Commission. Russ Cremer was the Vice Chair of the Planning Commission so we are currently accepting applications for his vacant position with a deadline of Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Applicants must be a resident of the city. Planning Commission typically meets the first and third Tuesdays at 6pm. Applicants will be interviewed by the City Council on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Police Department Update**

With the retirement of former Chief Clausen, we are currently recruiting for the Chief of Police position. The City held a public forum on February 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the types of qualifications that residents would like to see in the next Chief. Those qualifications are reflected in the recruitment brochure and include being a strong leader and communicator; integrity; ability to work well with employees and the public; active in the community; and a professional demeanor. The recruitment closes on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Applications are available through our executive recruiter, Ralph Andersen & Associates: [www.ralphandersen.com](http://www.ralphandersen.com)

### **Code Enforcement Update**

A significant change to Code Enforcement is in process. Code Enforcement is being moved both physically and in the organizational chart to report to the Police Department. Modifications are being made on the Police Department side of City Hall to move Code Enforcement to that side of the building. Having Code Enforcement report to the Police Department will enable a more efficient coordination of resources, closer supervision, and greater authority of Code

Enforcement Officers to perform their duties. These changes should result in increased performance of the Code Enforcement unit and help us to more effectively pursue our Strategic Plan goal of making Clearlake a cleaner city.

**AVA** -One of the great successes of this last year is our implementation of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) program that we were able to start up again last year. Since July 1<sup>st</sup> (current fiscal year) Code Enforcement has tagged 777 vehicles with ten-day notices as potentially abandoned vehicles. At the end of the ten-day period, 467 of those vehicles had been removed and 369 vehicles were towed and sent to a scrap dealer. Removing these vehicles has led to a huge improvement toward cleaning up the city.

**Silks Building** – After attempting to work with the property owner for some time to abate this red-tagged property on our main commercial corridor, we took the property owner to court and had a receiver appointed by the court to take charge of the property and do what was necessary to abate the problems. The receiver is currently in the process of obtaining demolition bids and plans to demo the building and the property will be listed for sale to pay the cost of attorney fees and demolition costs.

#### **Animal Control Update**

We have been making significant strides to improving our Animal Control services. We have hired additional personnel and now have two full-time Animal Control Officers. They both have citation and arrest powers and we will be taking a harder line with animal cruelty cases. They have staggered schedules to allow for seven day per week coverage with Animal Control Officers for the first time.

We are also meeting on a regular basis with the Animal Control ad hoc committee discussing various issues, including euthanasia policies, fees, veterinary services, volunteers, and much more. These meetings will be ongoing. Animal Control is an area that we as a city are striving to increase our capacity and make improvements to our policies and procedures, as well as our facilities. We are currently working on purchasing the building next to City Hall for a future animal control facility and we are excited to move that project forward in the coming months.

#### **Public Works Update**

**Measure V** -Since my March Measure V Update we have made some important and significant progress. The City Council recently approved several road project pavement rehabilitation design contracts including Pine Street, Country Club, and Highlands Harbor/Harbor Lane. We also continue to work on the Dam Road Extension preliminary design that will connect 18<sup>th</sup> and Phillips to Dam Road, and we have begun purchasing equipment in order to be more efficient in grading roads, clearing trees in the public right of way, and making sure that drains and culverts are cleared to prevent water damage and street erosion. Thanks to the warmer weather, grading

is also underway again and crews will be grading the dirt roads throughout the spring/summer/fall season, weather permitting.

**SB 1-**In addition, the City received \$200,000 from SB 1 (gas tax) funds that will be utilized for frontage improvements along Olympic Drive and Lakeshore Drive in the Civic Center area. This will improve access for both bicyclists and pedestrians and make for safer driving in that area as well.

### **Parks Updates**

We have several important updates this month regarding our parks. Numerous design contracts were awarded this month, including: the Highlands Park design contract; the Austin Park design contract; and the Highlands Park Frontage Improvement and Off-site Parking design contract. We hope to have the Highlands Park Frontage Improvement and Off-site Parking project and Phase I of Highlands Park under construction this year. Construction of Phase I of Austin Park will likely occur next year. We have two applications for state park grants pending for Austin Park.

### **City Hall/Community Center Energy Efficiency Project Update**

This project commenced early this year and will convert all lighting at City Hall and the Community Center to energy efficient lighting, install new energy efficient HVAC, and install solar panels. The best part of these projects is that they are expected to be cash flow positive from the beginning, meaning the energy cost savings will exceed the financing cost of the project. The lighting change out is already complete and you can see the difference in front of City Hall. The HVAC and solar panel work will go on throughout the summer.

### **Economic Development Update**

**Big 5/Tractor Supply** – The projects are coming along and the building owner will be turning the interior tenant improvements over to Big 5 and Tractor Supply the first week of April. As they get a bit further along in the construction process, I will be working with the retailers and the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce on a grand opening event. Stay tuned for more information to come.

**Jules Resort/Twin Oaks Resort** – Jules Resort on Lakeshore and Twin Oaks Resort on Old Highway 53 have been purchased by an investor who is spending big in Clearlake. Look for significant improvements to both of those properties in the next few months. The new owner has already removed the old trailers from Twin Oaks, repaved the road into the property, and plans to have new modular homes brought in over the next few weeks. Jules Resort received a good weed whacking this last week and you can look for more improvements there as progress is made along the Lakeshore Drive corridor.

**Opportunity Zones** - The federal tax bill that was passed at the end of 2017 allows the Governor to designate certain census tracts as “Opportunity Zones” where investments made by

individuals within those zones may be allowed to defer or eliminate federal taxes on capital gains. The Governor has nominated a limited number of low-income census tracts to be designated by the US Department of the Treasury as Opportunity Zones. We worked with the Department of Finance in recommending parts of Clearlake be included within those nominated census tracts. We are hopeful that the Opportunity Zone designation will stimulate additional private investment in Clearlake. Once we receive official designation we will begin promoting this incentive.

**Tourism Improvement District (TID)** – The County of Lake has contracted with Civitas, the leading TID consultant in the country, to help in the creation of a Tourism Improvement District that incorporates the entire county. I am participating on the steering committee representing the City of Clearlake. The purpose of the TID will be to promote Lake County as a tourist, meeting, and event destination. The TID will be an independent 501(c)6 non-profit organization with a majority of the board of directors represented by the lodging industry. The TID is in the early stages of formulation right now and it is anticipated that the petition drive will begin in April.

**Lake County Economic Development Corporation** – I am working with the Lake County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) to help market Clearlake and Lake County for new business. As a member of the LCEDC Board, we have contracted to create a site selection portal that will identify commercial properties available in Clearlake/Lakeport/Lake County to businesses and site selectors seeking space for retail, office, or manufacturing uses. This portal will be available on our website in late May and we will be using it to help market available sites and buildings to new business. LCEDC has also joined Team California and the City Manager of Lakeport and I will be representing Lake County at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) annual Real Estate Convention which is attended by thousands of retail developers and national retailer representatives who are interested in expanding.

**Visitor Information Center/Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce** – The Visitor Information Center is up and running at Highlands Park. If you haven't had the opportunity to see it, it looks great! The Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce offices are located there as well. Patrick Prather is the new Office Manager and he looks forward to bringing on new Chamber members or just showing off the facility.

**Film Project** – We are working with a film production company to film a movie in Clearlake. The movie, tentatively named "ZTV", will be a zombie movie featuring a lakeside location in Clearlake. Filming is planned for May/June. More information on this to come.

**Commercial Cannabis** - The Planning Commission and the City Council recently approved three commercial cannabis business permits. The project will initially involve a delivery only cannabis dispensary but will soon expand into manufacturing and distribution. We continue to work on

our cannabis ordinances to refine them and make them compatible to the ever-changing matrix of rules and regulations at the state.

### **Universal Waste Service Update**

The City Council approved Universal Waste Collection Service last year and we have been working very closely with our franchise waste hauler, Clearlake Waste Solutions, to begin universal service on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Approximately 800 new customer accounts have been added and we are hopeful this will greatly reduce the amount of illegal dumping that occurs regularly throughout the city.

### **Sulphur Fire Update**

The Sulphur Fire significantly impacted our community last year. Many people lost their homes and it was a traumatic experience for many others as we have dealt with a third year of devastating fires in our community. From a city perspective, staff has spent a tremendous amount of time involved in the clean-up process and in working with FEMA, CalOES, US Army Corps of Engineers, and many others. I am also working with Senator McGuire on potential state funding for roads and lost revenues. In addition, we are working very closely with many property owners who are planning to rebuild. In fact, we have approved temporary trailers on many properties for those property owners who have submitted plans to rebuild. We look forward to helping property owners rebuild as quickly as possible over the coming months.

### **Upcoming City Events**

There are many events coming up over the summer so there will be no reason to stay home bored. A complete listing of events can be found at <https://lakecounty.com/event/list/>

Here is a short list of upcoming events related to the City of Clearlake:

- Clearlake Clean-up Day –Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>
- Clearlake Police Officer Association K-9 Fundraising Dinner – June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Independence Day Parade and Fireworks – June 30<sup>th</sup>

As you can see, there is a lot going on in the City of Clearlake. It's exciting to be a part of the changes that are happening and those changes are just the beginning. It is going to be a very exciting couple of years ahead for Clearlake as we continue to make improvements and tap into this city's true potential.

Regards,

*Greg Folsom*

City Manager  
City of Clearlake