



## City Manager's Update May, 2018

I am reminded over and over again what a wonderful, giving community this is and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of the contributors and share a few thoughts about some of the wonderful ways individuals, businesses, and groups are partnering with the City to improve our community.

This past weekend I was privileged to once again be a part of the Annual Clearlake Clean-up Day event. At 8am on a brisk April 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning, over 86 volunteers, staff members, and elected officials gathered at Austin Park to get our marching orders for the day. Public Works Director, Doug Herren, gave his pep talk and explained this year's mission. Mayor Bruno Sabatier and I gave our thank-yous to the crowd, we took a group photo, and we were off and running.

During last year's event we focused on Lakeshore Drive and the area behind the former Ray's Food Place. This year, due to increased illegal dumping in the area, we decided to focus on the area due west of Pomo Elementary School, otherwise known as the "Gobi Desert." It was almost overwhelming to behold when we first began and we wondered if we could even make a dent. It is unfortunate that so many people just don't have the common sense to understand how detrimental it is to our fair city to just dump their trash on the side of the road, or in the middle of the road for that matter.



Fortunately, Clearlake is also full of great people who want to see Clearlake shine as the diamond it is meant to be. With their help, and the help of several front loaders and skillful drivers from the Public Works Department, we were able to make a huge dent in the amount of garbage and debris in that area. It is by no means completely cleaned up, but it is a terrific start.



Additional volunteers cleaned up other areas of the city, including Austin Park, Old Hwy 53, and Highlands Harbor. According to Bruce McCracken of Clearlake Waste Solutions, over 120 tons of garbage was removed, along with 50 tires and 5 tons of scrap metal. Huge appreciation and respect goes out to the volunteers and organizations that supported this effort including: Clearlake Waste Solutions, Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Caring for Clearlake, City staff members, elected officials, South Shore Little League, and the Church of Latter Day Saints. Additional thanks to Foods Etc. and Walmart for providing the bottled water and food for all the hard workers and to Chuck and Vicki Leonard for cooking up the hot dogs.



Final thoughts on this, if you see anyone illegally dumping in our community, please get their license plate number and call the police. Help us end this environmental crime in our city.

Clearlake Clean-up Day is just one example of how this community comes together to make it better, but there are many others. One that stands out to me due to their level of commitment is Citizens Caring for Clearlake. CC4C, as they are known by many, is a group of dedicated citizens who make Clearlake Clean-up Day an everyday project. They have adopted Highway 53 through Clearlake and pick up trash in that area on a regular basis. The City has partnered with them on several projects, including cleaning a major illegal dumpsite on Koloko. Their recent award by the Lake County Chamber of Commerce as being one of the “Stars of Lake County” was well-deserved and we can’t thank them enough for the work they do!

Another example is the Clearlake Rotary Club. Due to the impact that the Sulphur Fire and the previous fires of the last few years has had on Clearlake and Lake County overall, the Clearlake Rotary Club has partnered with several other organizations, including Lower Lake Community Action Group and Lake Area Rotary Club Association, to raise money to make the Community Center a viable evacuation center. They are raising the funds to provide an emergency generator, portable shower/rest room units, and storage for emergency equipment, the costs of which are approximately \$175,000. PG&E has donated \$75,000 for the emergency generator and the Clearlake Rotary Club has raised over half the funds needed to complete the project and is working on additional donations from other fire relief organizations and possible state funding. The City is working with Rotary on getting the generator in place prior to this summer fire season. Big thank you to Rotary, PG&E, Lower Lake Community Action Group, and Lake Area Rotary Club Association for your work on making this happen to improve our community and make it a safer place for all.

In the last year, Adventist Health has really stepped up in partnering with the City on various projects and we look forward to an even stronger partnership going forward. Volunteers from Adventist, including CEO David Santos, were instrumental in helping us get the Community Center interior painted in advance of the State of the City event. David Santos was so moved by the work of the Senior Center, which is the main tenant of the Community Center, that he found a way to have Adventist Health donate \$20,000 to the Senior Center. In addition, Adventist Health is the lead partner on Project Restoration, which is a program to help those who are the most frequent users of public safety and hospital services. A excellent, informative video on this program is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ltCGJTofrM>

Local business owner and Councilmember, Phil Harris, is providing a significant donation to the City Animal Control division in the form of his specialty – heating and air. He and his company, Performance Mechanical, are donating and installing at no cost a heating and cooling system for the existing animal control facility. This is a needed upgrade for the building that will help to

keep the temperatures much more comfortable and is much appreciated by everyone. Thank you, Phil!

The City of Clearlake Police Department is fortunate to have a K-9 unit that is completely funded by the community. Fund raisers pay for the dogs, the training, and the equipment needed for this unit. The annual K-9 fund raiser dinner is on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and I'm told that tickets are sold out already but they are still accepting donations for the silent auction. Contact the Police Department directly for more information. Thank you to the community for continuing to support this crucial part of our Police Department.

What would the Fourth of July be like without fireworks? Luckily, if you live in the City of Clearlake you don't have to worry about that thanks to the Lions Club. The Lions Club sponsors the Annual Redbud Parade & Festival, as well as the Fireworks Show in Clearlake held on the Saturday before July 4<sup>th</sup>. This year marks the 61<sup>st</sup> year for this great event that will be held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Yet another wonderful organization that helps to make Clearlake a special place. Thank you, Lakeshore Lions Club!

I could go on and on about the businesses and individuals that contribute and volunteer for community projects and events but I would no doubt overlook many of them. I hope they can accept my appreciation and the appreciation of the City and our citizens as we look to them again and again as we strive to achieve the Council vision for Clearlake:

***"Clearlake Aspires to be a Beautiful, Clean, Safe, Friendly, Lakefront Community Where People Want to Live, Start a Business, Vacation, or Retire."***

Regards,

*Greg Folsom*

City Manager  
City of Clearlake

