

The CEO Report

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December 17, 2024

Government

Departments

Residents

Business

December is Impaired Driving Prevention Awareness Month

December is **Impaired Driving Prevention Awareness Month**. The end of the year comes with holidays and gatherings, all of which can increase the opportunities and inclination for drinking and/or using other substances. For those without loved ones to gather with, substance misuse can be a way to cope with isolation or loneliness, and relapse risk is higher during this time of year.

The National Highway Safety Traffic Administration reports that an increased number of lives are lost due to impaired driving crashes during the last week of the year. BHRS & PH Prevention and Wellness are raising awareness during this time of year for safe and sober holidays, use of mocktail alternatives, and service programs are supporting clients in healthy and safe peer gatherings for those without connection to families.

There are lots of options for celebrating without substances. Check out [Community Wellness Rethink Your Drink](#) and other non-impairing options. There are no shortcuts to sobering up, if you chose to imbibe this holiday season, be responsible: plan ahead, designate a driver or utilize a ride service. We all have the power to prevent a tragedy and ensure future celebrations during the holiday season!

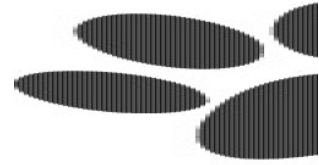
Mendocino County Strategic Plan

In May 2022, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved the first five-year strategic plan that will help guide the critical decisions the Board of Supervisors will face over the next five years with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for County residents. Departmental reporting will align with the strategic plan.

Departments and Divisions

Animal Care Services

The Animal Care Services program areas include: Shelter, Clinic & Animal Protection Services; these programs provide animal education outreach, adoption, volunteer opportunities, fostering, lost & found services, feral cat trap-neuter-return programs, dog licensing, low cost spay & neuter, veterinary care, animal health education, rabies vaccinations, micro-chipping, impounding lost & stray animals, responding to injured-ill and suspected cruelty complaints and promoting responsible pet ownership.



Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

December is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) awareness month. SAD is a condition in which some people experience a significant mood change when the seasons change. SAD is a type of depression.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is triggered by changes in seasons. This form of depression usually occurs during the fall and winter months when there is less sunlight, and the days get shorter.

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) also recognizes December as Seasonal Depression Awareness Month. Like Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), Seasonal Depression is a form of depression that occurs in winter months and December when there is less sunlight, and the days get shorter. The symptoms are not always the same for everyone, but are similar to symptoms of SAD.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat <https://988lifeline.org/>.

If you or you know someone in need of support, call the Mendocino County Warm Line Call [707-472-2311](tel:707-472-2311) or toll free at [833-955-2510](tel:833-955-2510)

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Child Support Services

The Mendocino County Department of Child Support Services strives to “Help Parents Invest in their Children”.



Our mission is to serve children and their families by establishing parentage and enforcing support orders in a fair and equitable manner.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Employee Wellness

Mendocino County remains committed to fostering a workplace culture that prioritizes health, wellness, and work-life balance for our valued employees. This commitment is demonstrated not only through our wellness challenges like Walktober, but also by offering comprehensive resources to support employees' physical and mental health.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the 2024 "Walktober" fitness challenge, as well as about the expanded resources offered through our EAP plan.

Environmental Health

Our administrative team served 29 customers at our front counter, in addition to responding to them by phone and email.



Our Land Use inspectors approved 54 building permits, 10 Site Evaluation Reports, and 4 Water Well Applications, in addition to field inspections.

Our Consumer Protection inspectors completed 26 facility inspections, in addition to signing off on dozens of temporary event permits, temporary food booth applications, cottage food applications, and new facility plan checks.

Our Hazmat inspectors completed 24 inspections this month.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Executive Office - Economic Development

The Economic Development Division is working on several projects addressing economic priorities in the County:

- CA Jobs First Catalyst Funding – Project Proposal
- EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Application - Status Updates
- Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD) - CEDS Updates
- Business Recruitment and Retention Efforts – Updates

Click [HERE](#) to read more...



Executive Office - Grants Division

In October and November, the Grants Unit addressed considerable demands related to grant management and administration. The unit completed five monthly progress reports for active projects under the CDBG MIT-PPS program and eleven quarterly reports for the CDBG, CDBG MIT-RIP, and HMGP programs. Furthermore, the unit finalized the comprehensive annual risk assessment related to ongoing CDBG MIT-PPS and CDBG MIT-RIP grant projects. In addition, the unit concluded the grant closeout process for Mendocino County's CDBG COVID-19 Business Assistance and Recovery Business Loan Fund Program (20-CDBG-PI-12010). They also focused on grant amendments and modification requests, including those necessary for the Hazard Abatement project. The unit is currently progressing several grant applications, requests for proposals (RFPs), and ongoing grant projects.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Facilities and Fleet

Facilities and Fleet Mission: To provide an accessible, efficient, safe, clean and comfortable working environment for all employees and general public who use our buildings and properties.

Facilities and Fleet maintains vital infrastructure and related services that enable County employees to serve the citizens of Mendocino County.

Click [HERE](#) for updates on telematics, County fleet and fuel consumption, County wide utility consumption, County wide printing, capital improvement projects, surplus sales, disaster/emergency preparedness activities, and facilities statistics.

Leadership

A positive workplace culture thrives on collaboration and connection. The Leadership is a fun way to build relationships, sense of belonging among employees.



Click [HERE](#) to learn more...

Library

December is the month of giving, and the Library is participating in the act of giving in a few ways. The Ukiah Branch is currently running a Cold Weather

Clothing Drive. Coast Community Library partnered with the Point Arena Merchants Association on the annual Hometown Holidays event. Fort Bragg Library is teaching patrons how to grow more resilient and adaptive plants. Finally, the Ukiah Branch recently celebrated the unveiling of its new mural that can be admired at the main entrance.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...



Museum

The Museum is pleased to share new programs, exhibits, and partnerships. We are excited to see our Museum Gift Shop re-open under new management in partnership with the Friends of the Mendocino County Museum later this month. Our new exhibit, Telling Our Story:

Timber Industry in Early Mendocino County has opened. The Museum has many new programs including our Community Fairy Scavenger Hunt and Wednesday History Makers. Find out more about the Museum by clicking [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Office of Emergency Services

Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the primary local coordination agency for emergencies and disasters affecting residents, public infrastructure, and government operations in the Mendocino County Operational Area (OA). The Mendocino County OA includes the county and its cities, towns, and special districts, in coordination with tribes.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Planning and Building

This month Planning and Building Services celebrates our Senior Building Inspector Ryan Rose who has achieved the designation of Master Code Professional. A designation held by less than one percent of certified professionals in the industry.



The Planning and Building Services Department continues to work on the County's Strategic Plan objectives while focusing on four primary internal goals: establishing tools to measure success, documenting and improving Department procedures, enhancing the customer experience, and cultivating a structured and productive workplace culture.

The Department's tool for measuring basic performance criteria, and thereby measuring success, is monthly metric reports, which are posted monthly to the Planning and Building Services Department webpage. These reports quantify revenue vs. expense, applications received, workload inventory, and lead time

for completion. The metrics are separated by division.

Please visit: <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/planning-building-services/metrics-and-permits> for the latest metrics.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, & Mitigation

The Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation Division was created to work directly with state, federal, and local partners in the physical and financial recovery of the County. The Division works across public and private sectors to ensure unmet needs are being addressed within the community.

For more information on Emergency Preparedness, Recovery and Resources visit us online at:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/community/fire-recovery>

Click [HERE](#) to read more...



Public Health

Public Health also recognizes December 2-6, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. This month and week is a great time to talk to a doctor about a flu shot if you have not received it yet. Its not too late! Its also a good reminder to

stay home when you're sick and cover coughs.

For more information about vaccines provided by Mendocino County Public Health go to:

<http://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/public-health/nursing/vaccines>

Learn more about the flu vaccine at <https://bit.ly/4f87TOe>

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Social Services

Mendocino County Department of Social Services is pleased to welcome DeNeese (DeDe) Parker as the new Social Services Director. Click [HERE](#) for the full press release.

The Employment & Family Assistance Services (EFAS) division of Social Services is happy to announce that Harvest Market in Fort Bragg and Harvest at Mendosa's in Mendocino are participating retailers for the CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Project. This pilot program increases CalFresh recipients' access to fruit and vegetables and is a valuable support for our coastal communities. Additionally, the EFAS division would like to remind community members of the

BenefitsCal.com site which allows for easy access to account information including Medi-Cal renewals.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...



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