



## **STAFF REPORT TO COMMUNITY AND LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION (CLSC)**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the CLSC Commission

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christopher Roke, Parks and Recreation Director

**MEETING DATE:** February 9, 2026

**TOPIC:** Hercules Senior Meal Plan update

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Community and Library Services Commission receive an update on the Hercules Senior Center Lunch Program known as Café Costa. There is no action required from this item.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On November 18, 2025, the Hercules Senior Center staff attended a mandatory Café Costa Managers Meeting hosted by the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) – a division in the Employment & Human Services Department’s Aging and Adult Services Bureau, and the Senior Nutrition Program (SNP). During this meeting, city staff was informed of critical program updates that would directly impact our lunch service. Due to federal budget cuts, Café Costa will no longer be able to sustain the program at the current rate of senior participation. Rather than discontinuing services entirely, the County implemented a daily meal cap at each café site effective January 1, 2026.

On Friday, December 5, staff received notification from AAA that the Hercules Senior Center daily meals would be capped at 30 meals per day, Monday through Friday. At this time, our daily average was 48 meals M-Th and 60 on Friday. That meant 18 meals per day (x 4 days = 72), and 30 on Friday (total of 102 less meals per month).

After updating City management and receiving further operational guidance from SNP, the Senior Center staff informed the volunteers and board, followed by the Senior membership about the upcoming changes. Announcements were made during the lunch program, flyers were distributed, signage was posted throughout the facility, and ensured the updated policy and meal cap information were posted on the Senior page of the City website.

### **ANALYSIS:**

On Monday, January 5, the meal cap went into effect. The impact became more real as a few seniors were unable to receive lunch and/or were placed on a waitlist. Some seniors chose not to reserve meals and are instead bringing their own lunch so those with greater need may be served. However, the waitlist has discouraged a few individuals and they have subsequently stopped attending.

- Previously, lunch reservations were handled on a monthly basis; however,

- Under the new system, reservations are handled weekly, and staff is maintaining a weekly waitlist.
- Reservations are now required and are prioritized for vulnerable and elderly individuals in need, followed by availability on a first-come, first-served basis.

The following information is a projection as to what the meal plan would look like for the entire year, assuming the following...that the cap stays in effect for the entire 2026 calendar year, that the cap (number of meals) remains the same, and there are no other adjustments.

The cap for Hercules was set at 30 meals/day, or 630/month. Using the 630 meals/month cap number and dividing by 30 (meals), means we can serve 30 meals per day for 21 per month.

At a glance chart (below): shows the number of weekdays each month, and the corresponding number of meals we will be able to serve per day that month with our 630/month cap.

Month	Weekdays	No-Lunch Days	Service Days	Meals / Day	Notes
January	22	Jan 1,19 (2)	20	31	10 extra meals
February	20	Feb 12,16 (1)	18	35	<i>Exact 630</i>
March	22	None	22	28	14 extra meals
April	22	None	22	28	14 extra meals
May	21	May 25 (1)	20	31	10 extra meals
June	22	Jun 18 (1)	21	30	<i>Exact 630</i>
July	23	Jul 2 (1)	22	28	14 extra meals
August	21	None	21	30	<i>Exact 630</i>
September	22	Sep 7 (1)	21	30	<i>Exact 630</i>
October	22	Oct 12 (1)	21	30	<i>Exact 630</i>
November	21	Nov 11,25,26 (3)	18	35	<i>Exact 630</i>
December	22	Dec 23, 24 (2)	20	31	10 extra meals

### Monthly Meal Breakdown:

#### January

- Typical weekdays: **22**
- No lunch: **Jan 1, Jan 19** (2 days)
- **Service days: 20**
- **Meals per day: 31 meals/day**
- $(31 \times 20 = 620 \rightarrow 10 \text{ meals remain to add to waitlist days})$

#### February

- Typical weekdays: **20**
- No lunch: **Feb 16 (Presidents Day)** (1 day) + Feb 12 (Breakfast with Badge/no lunch)
- **Service days: 18**
- **Meals per day: 33 meals/day**
- $(33 \times 19 = 627 \rightarrow 3 \text{ meals remain})$

#### March

- Typical weekdays: **22**
- No holidays
- **Service days: 22**
- **Meals per day: 28 meals/day**

- $(28 \times 22 = 616 \rightarrow 14 \text{ meals remain})$

#### **April**

- Typical weekdays: **22**
- No holidays
- **Service days: 22**
- **Meals per day: 28 meals/day**
- (Same as March)

#### **May**

- Typical weekdays: **21**
- No lunch: **May 25 (Memorial Day)** (1 day)
- **Service days: 20**
- **Meals per day: 31 meals/day**
- $(31 \times 20 = 620 \rightarrow 10 \text{ meals remain})$

#### **June**

- Typical weekdays: **22**
- No lunch: **June 18 (Juneteenth)** (1 day)
- **Service days: 21**
- **Meals per day: 30 meals/day**
- $(30 \times 21 = 630 \text{ exactly})$

#### **July**

- Typical weekdays: **23**
- No lunch: **July 2** (1 day)
- **Service days: 22**
- **Meals per day: 28 meals/day**
- $(28 \times 22 = 616 \rightarrow 14 \text{ meals remain})$

#### **August**

- Typical weekdays: **21**
- No holidays
- **Service days: 21**
- **Meals per day: 30 meals/day**
- $(30 \times 21 = 630 \text{ exactly})$

#### **September**

- Typical weekdays: **22**
- No lunch: **Sept 7** (1 day)
- **Service days: 21**
- **Meals per day: 30 meals/day**

#### **October**

- Typical weekdays: **22**
- No City holidays, but County recognizes Columbus 10/12
- **Service days: 21**
- **Meals per day: 29 meals/day**

#### **November**

- Typical weekdays: **21**
- No lunch: **Nov 11, Nov 25, Nov 26** (3 days)
- **Service days: 18**
- **Meals per day: 35 meals/day**
- $(35 \times 18 = 630 \text{ exactly})$

## **December**

- Typical weekdays: **22**
- No lunch: **Dec 23, Dec 24** (2 days)
- **Service days: 20**
- **Meals per day: 31 meals/day**

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Staff is looking at alternative solutions to serve more seniors including additional funding resources, and/or partnerships that may either fund or prepare meals to provide more for the seniors.

Staff will continue to follow the cap guidelines and monitor this program closely. Staff will continue to keep City Management and City Council informed to any changes. For now, this report is meant to provide information about the current situation. There has been no fiscal impact yet.

No groups and/or additional funding have been identified at the time of this report.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Hercules Senior Meal Plan Cap Signage