



CITY NOTES

February 6, 2014

- 1. It's Time for a New Vision for Our Community College.** Fort Bragg and the Mendocino coast are very fortunate to have a local community college. For nearly 40 years, College of the Redwoods (CR) has performed a vital service in our community. It has provided an entry to higher education for countless coastal residents, enriching minds, improving our quality of life. It is now on the chopping block by the administration in Eureka: a death by a thousand cuts. Over the past several years, the Mendocino campus of CR has been slowly and methodically eviscerated. Classes and programs have been eliminated and instructors have been laid off as CR struggles with its finances and accreditation. Mayor Turner is headed to Eureka this week to ask the CR Trustees to help the Mendocino campus succeed and possibly secede. Perhaps an alliance with Mendocino College is the answer... Stay tuned.
- 2. Water Supply Update.** At the February 10, 2014 City Council meeting, the Council will receive a detailed report on the state of the City's water supply and steps necessary to ensure that the City will be able to effectively reduce water demands as water supplies diminish later this year. The Council will be asked to provide direction regarding possible modifications to the City's Water Conservation Ordinance. In addition, the Council will consider establishing a special charge for the voluntary sale of water to water haulers who purchase City water to truck to residents outside of the City whose wells have gone dry.
- 3. Main Street Merge Lane Relocation Project Delayed One Year.** The Main Street Merge Lane Relocation Project, which the City had hoped to construct this summer, will not be constructed until next year. The \$2.5 million project has been "on the drawing boards" for nearly a decade, but the federal environmental review process is slogging along at a pace that will not allow the project to be put out to bid in time for this year's construction season. The project will improve traffic flow through the heart of downtown and create a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape with new sidewalks, historic street lamps, benches and trash receptacles. The Fort Bragg City Council will receive an update at its February 24, 2014 meeting on design changes that were directed in December, including eliminating the raised medians and increasing the sidewalk width in front of the Company Store.
- 4. C.V. Starr Center Pool Repairs.** The C. V. Starr Center's Leisure Pool & Lazy River will be closed from Monday, February 24 through Friday, February 28, 2014 for repairs to the plaster liner. Programs scheduled to take place in the Leisure Pool & Lazy River will be relocated to the Lap Pool or suspended until the pool re-opens on Saturday, February 29. The Lap Pool and the rest of the Community Center will be unaffected and will continue to run regularly scheduled programs throughout this period. Periodic maintenance to a plaster liner, such as this repair, is normal and necessary to maximize the lifespan of the pool liner and pool shell. At the time of the repair, the entire liner will be inspected to evaluate its overall condition. The repair work requires draining of the pool and the repairs are scheduled now to ensure that sufficient water will be available to refill the pool without impacting the City's water supply system.

5. **C.V. Starr Center Dog Park Project.** Within the next few weeks, the C.V. Starr Center Dog Park Rehabilitation Project will be underway. The project will involve re-grading the dog park and adding soil amendments to improve drainage. The park will then be hydro-seeded to establish a sturdy mat of turf. The project will require closure of the C.V. Starr Center Dog Park for several months to allow the grass to grow. Dogs and their caregivers seeking an alternative place to socialize might consider Noyo Beach, Fort Bragg's other off-leash dog area.

6. **Public Scoping Meeting for New Transfer Station EIR.** The City of Fort Bragg and the County of Mendocino have commissioned an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects of a proposed solid waste transfer station at a site three miles east of Fort Bragg along Highway 20. On Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., a public “scoping meeting” for the EIR will be conducted by consultant, GHD, Inc., to receive input about what should be studied in the EIR. The meeting will be held at Fort Bragg Town Hall. The transfer station would consist of an enclosed building for consolidating solid waste generated in the central coast region of Mendocino County into long-haul trucks for transportation to a destination landfill. It would include an outdoor drop-off area for recyclables. The transfer station is intended to reduce fuel costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and the expense now incurred to move the area’s solid waste in small loads to the Willits Transfer Station, where it is dumped and reloaded before traveling to a landfill. The new transfer station would also replace the existing self-haul-only disposal site at the closed Caspar Landfill off Road 409.

City Notes is published on the first and third Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the column, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at (707) 961-2823, ext. 118 or L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com.