



## CITY NOTES

July 10, 2014

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- 1. OPEN INVITATION TO CITY DIALOGUE FORUM ON THURSDAY, JULY 10.** On Thursday, July 10 at 8:00 AM, City of Fort Bragg staff will host a “City Dialogue” forum at Fort Bragg Town Hall (corner of Main and Laurel Streets). The quarterly City Dialogue meetings are informal, roundtable discussions where City staff and members of the public share information about matters of community interest. The City Manager, Department heads and other staff will be on hand to talk about City projects and activities, respond to questions, and receive input from local business owners, residents and property owners. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome to attend.
- 2. FORT BRAGG AWARDED GRANT FOR PLAYING FIELD REHAB & CV STARR CENTER GYM.** The City was notified last week that it has been awarded a grant under the State’s “Housing-Related Parks Program.” Fort Bragg will receive approximately \$98k as an incentive for 28 affordable housing units that were developed or rehabilitated in recent years. The City’s application for the funds designated that approximately \$39k will be utilized for planning and design of the CV Starr Center Gymnasium Project and \$59k will be utilized for the Fort Bragg Unified School District/Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Dana Gray Playing Fields Rehabilitation Project. In January, when the City Council authorized the grant application, it required that the playing field rehab funds be used first to develop a long-term, sustainable rehabilitation, maintenance and financing plan for the fields with any remaining funds to be used to leverage matching funds and contributions from the community for rehabilitation of the fields.
- 3. CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT IMPACTS OF UKIAH HOMELESS SHELTER CLOSURE.** For the past month, the Buddy Ellers Center (BEC) emergency shelter in Ukiah has turned away new clients and on June 30<sup>th</sup>, it closed its doors—eliminating 64 beds that sheltered homeless residents. The non-profit that runs the BEC lost a federal grant that provided operating funds for the shelter and the County has not stepped in to address the funding gap. The closure of Mendocino County’s only inland emergency shelter has placed increased demands on homeless services in Fort Bragg, as well as police, emergency room and other services. City officials and staff and Board members from the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center (MCHC) met with Mendocino County Supervisor Dan Gjerde last week to discuss the impacts of the BEC closure on the coast. MCHC and Police Department representatives indicated that the coast has received a significant influx of homeless persons in recent weeks, more than the typical seasonal migration. Efforts are underway to organize affected agencies, businesses and community members to apply pressure on the County to reopen the BEC and ensure that emergency shelters, which are the foundation of the “Continuum of Care” which helps our most needy citizens, are appropriately funded.
- 4. FORT BRAGG TOWN HALL WILL RECEIVE A FACELIFT.** Schlosser-Newberger Architects are putting the finishing touches on a plan to spruce up the interior of Fort Bragg Town Hall. It’s been nearly 30 years since the facility was renovated and its beginning to look a little worn. The project will be implemented this fall and will include new flooring, new window coverings, fresh paint, upgraded sound and video technology, improved lighting, and new cabinetry.

5. **RESOURCE AGENCIES EXPRESS INTEREST IN CREATING ABALONE PRESERVE.** The City has been contacted by marine researchers regarding the potential establishment of an offshore preserve for red abalone in the vicinity of Johnson Point (also known as Soldier's Point) on the City's coastal parkland. The rocky intertidal area off of the point has a high abundance of abalone and folks are concerned that when Noyo Headlands Park and the coastal trail are opened for public use in late 2015, the area will be picked clean. When Stornetta Public Lands near Point Arena was opened to the public a few years ago, a similarly pristine area was picked clean of abalone in one weekend. According to the scientists, since abalone are broadcast spawners, dense aggregations such as at Johnson Point are extremely important for producing offspring and seeding surrounding areas. The Johnson Point site has extraordinary value as a reference site and its proximity to the Noyo Center for Marine Science property makes it ideal for scientific research and public interpretation. The public will be invited to weigh in on this matter when the City Council considers the abalone preserve proposal later this summer.
  
6. **CITY PLANS CELEBRATION FOR 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY.** On August 5, 1889, Fort Bragg incorporated as a city. C.R. Johnson, president of the Fort Bragg Redwood Company, was the City's first mayor and his company laid out the town much as it exists today with a uniform street grid and mid-block alleys. In celebration of Fort Bragg's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the City is planning a number of events and activities, including: a Community Picnic at Bainbridge Park; Historical Exhibits and activities at Town Hall; historical photo displays in downtown storefronts; creation of a time capsule to be opened at the City's bicentennial; and dedication of a "Founders Grove" at Otis Johnson Wilderness Park. More information regarding these activities will be released in coming weeks.

*City Notes is published on the second and fourth 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](mailto:L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com).*