



## CITY NOTES

August 14, 2014

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**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT >>** The City of Fort Bragg participated in “National Night Out” last Tuesday evening. Block parties and gatherings of neighbors were held at a dozen locations throughout town, each offering good food, games, and lots of neighborly chatting. The point of National Night Out is for neighbors to get to know one another, establishing a foundation for neighborhood safety and emergency response efforts. A number of our staff at the Fort Bragg Police Department played a key role in helping to coordinate the citywide National Night Out event and an event at the Police Department. Special thanks to Interim Police Chief Stephen Willis, Administrative Coordinator Debbie Desmond, Officers Jonathan McLaughlin and Tae Song, Community Service Officers Lesley Bryant and Ryan Bushnell, Police Service Technicians Sally Provencher and Gretchen Leinen, and Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office Administrator Julie Whipple. A special thanks to Gunner McLaughlin- Jonathan and Gretchen’s seven-month old son- who was the hit of the party! Two of the City’s most dedicated Neighborhood Watch volunteers, Elaine Ball and Judy Valadao, deserve very special thanks for their work to promote National Night Out and to help spearhead new locations for events throughout the town. And lastly, a hearty thanks to all of the neighbors who organized and attended events throughout the City of Fort Bragg, making this year’s National Night Out a great success.

**CITY OF FORT BRAGG’S 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PICNIC >>** Last Saturday, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the City of Fort Bragg was celebrated at a Community Picnic at Bainbridge Park. More than 500 hotdogs were served, along with chips, watermelon and birthday cake. Many thanks to the Fort Bragg Promotion Committee for organizing the event, to Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debra DeGraw for coordinating the picnic, to the Fort Bragg Rotary Club for tending the grill and serving food, and to our new Public Works Maintenance Worker, Allen Palacios, who came early to set up, served watermelon for hours, and stayed late to clean up after the event. The Rusticators provided live music and the park and playground were filled with local residents enjoying the beautiful summer day. Councilmember Doug Hammerstrom’s research yielded detailed information about the actions taken to form the City of Fort Bragg back in 1889 and he prepared a script for a reenactment of the first Fort Bragg City Council meeting. Our current City Councilmembers played the roles of their forebears, bedecked in period costumes. It was an event that will go down in the annals of history.

**WATER SUPPLY UPDATE >>** The City continues to closely monitor its water supply as the summer progresses and our water sources diminish. The City’s primary water source is the Noyo River and its flows dropped from 8.6 cubic feet per second (CFS) on July 1 to 2.5 CFS on July 31. As of August 11, Noyo River flows were measured at 2.3 CFS which is above the minimum level on record for that date of 1.1 CFS in 1977. In addition to the Noyo River, the City also draws water from Newman Gulch and Waterfall Gulch. During the month of July, the City’s Water Treatment Plan produced 24.5 million gallons of treated water which is a 6% decrease from July 2013 and the lowest level of production on record for July in the last 35 years. Thank you to everyone who is already conserving water. As of July 31, the City’s total raw water source capacity was nearly double the daily demand. At this rate, the City expects to declare a “Stage 1 water emergency” within the next week which will result in mandatory water conservation measures with the goal of decreasing daily water use by 10%.

**COASTAL TRAIL PROJECT >>** The long-awaited Fort Bragg Coastal Trail project is underway! The City Council held a Ground-Breaking Ceremony on Monday, and the contractors are mobilizing equipment and beginning work on the project. Construction of the Coastal Trail is a \$5M grant-funded project that will enable public access to a 3.5 mile stretch of Fort Bragg's coastline that has been privately owned and operated as a timber mill for more than a century. It is a complicated project due to many resource constraints, stormwater management issues, and the need for revegetation and restoration of areas that were impacted by past industrial activities. The project consists of a multi-use trail that eventually will extend, uninterrupted, from the north side of Noyo Bay to the Pudding Creek Trestle. In the short-run, the trail will consist of two unconnected segments. The connector, which will go around the "mill pond area" in the center of the Mill Site, will be constructed after the environmental remediation of that area is complete. Construction of this first phase of the Coastal Trail project will be suspended at the start of the rainy season and completed during the 2015 construction season.

**CITY AWARDED GRANT FOR CHESTNUT STREET MULTI-USE TRAIL PROJECT >>** The City received word this week that it will receive \$259k in grant funding from the State's Active Transportation Program (ATP) to help implement the Chestnut Street Multi-Use Trail Project. The project consists of construction of a pedestrian/bike path on the north side of Chestnut Street to improve access to the three school sites that are located along the eastern half of the corridor. Conceptual planning for the project was completed in 2013 with a planning grant from the Mendocino Council of Governments. The new ATP funds will be combined with a \$750k federal appropriation, providing over \$1M in funding for design and construction of the project. Congratulations to staff from the City's Public Works Department and Community Development Department who collaborated on preparation of the successful grant application.

*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).*