



CITY NOTES

August 28, 2014

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE CONSIDERS PROPOSAL FOR REUSE OF CITY HALL EAST SPACE >> Two local artists, Janet Self and Jonathan Palmer, have approached the City with a request to lease a portion of "City Hall East" to establish a working center for industrial and fine arts. The intent is to provide an incubator space that can serve as an umbrella for initiatives that help support and build the creative community in Fort Bragg. Their proposal focuses on opportunities presented by the recent gift to their non-profit organization of a letterpress and associated bookbinding equipment. The letterpress and an etching press would be used to teach printmaking and bookmaking classes to children and adults; expand a partnership with the Writers Conference and others focused on book arts; host demonstrations on First Fridays; and provide opportunities for visitors to learn about typesetting, bookmaking, printmaking, and other related arts. The City Hall East space was formerly the men's dressing room/shower for the pool. The Committee was supportive of the proposed lease, but requested that staff do additional investigation into potential issues and costs associated with the reuse of the space before bringing the proposal to the full Council in October.

YEAR-ROUND FARMER'S MARKET >> The Mendocino County Certified Farmers' Market is considering starting a winter market in Fort Bragg that will run from November through April making Fort Bragg's bustling market a year-round event. The winter market would be held on Wednesday afternoons in the old Rec Center Gym behind City Hall. According to McFarm President and Fort Bragg Farmer's Market Manager Julie Apostolu, our Farmers' Market vendors are excited by the opportunity to sell their products year-round.

A GENEROUS GIFT FROM CAROLYN JOHNSON & RICK THEIS >> Last week, the City was contacted by Carolyn Johnson, a descendent of C.R. Johnson, the founder of the Union Lumber Company and one of Fort Bragg's founding fathers. She explained that upon reading about the upcoming dedication of a "Founders Grove" in Otis Johnson Wilderness Park, she reflected on the fact that her family donated the park to the City of Fort Bragg in a day and age when endowments and other provisions for upkeep were not considered. She offered a \$10,000 donation from her foundation to help the City fund park maintenance activities. This comes at an opportune time, as the City has recently completed a multi-year rehabilitation project at Otis Johnson Park that was funded by two State grants. The park is in better shape than it has been in for years, and the \$10,000 from the Johnson family can be set aside for future park improvements.

WESLEY CHESBRO PUDDING CREEK TRESTLE >> Assemblyman Wes Chesbro has represented the North Coast in Sacramento since 1998. Chesbro was a member of the State Senate until he was term-limited out in 2006, and then in 2008 he was sworn in to the State Assembly. Assemblyman Chesbro will step down at the end of his current term in December 2014. According to Chesbro's aide, Ruth Valenzuela, of all the varied accomplishments made over his lengthy career- the one of which Chesbro is most proud is the Pudding Creek Trestle Rehabilitation Project. State Parks acquired the Trestle and the Haul Road in Mackerricher State Park in 1995 but the Trestle was not safe for public access at that time. From 2001 through 2006, then Senator Chesbro worked tirelessly to assemble funds and promote the rehabilitation of the Trestle to allow for pedestrian and bicycle access. This key link in the California Coastal Trail was opened to the public in 2007. In honor of Assemblyman Chesbro's many years of service to the North Coast, Senator Noreen Evans introduced a measure earlier this month that designates the Pudding Creek Trestle as the Wesley Chesbro Pudding Creek Trestle.

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE >> Earlier this week, the City of Fort Bragg called upon residents and businesses to implement additional water conservation measures. A reduction in demand will help the City ensure that it is able to produce treated water in quantities sufficient to keep up with consumption. So far this summer, residents and businesses have voluntarily reduced water consumption to the lowest level in decades. If everyone can pitch in and conserve a little more for a little longer, we expect to get through the late summer period without imposition of more draconian conservation measures.

CITY MANAGER'S BLOG >> The City is gradually rolling out new features on its governmental website. In September, we will launch a blog to highlight City projects, activities, and to provide information about current issues. It will not be an interactive blog until we are able to monitor the online discourse to ensure that appropriate standards of decorum are maintained.

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.