



## CITY NOTES

November 13, 2014

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**CITY COUNCIL ELECTION>>** The five candidates for City Council are left hanging in a very close election with two-thirds of the ballots still uncounted. City Clerk Cindy VanWormer had advised that the final tally may not be known until December 2, but we're hoping the County Elections Office will finish counting ballots before Thanksgiving. The new City Council (with between one and three new members) will be sworn into office on December 8th, and a mayor and vice-mayor will be elected. The December 8th Council meeting will be held at the John Diederich Center and a reception for new and outgoing Councilmembers will be held before the meeting starting at 5:30 PM.

**SOCIAL MEDIA>>** More and more people are using Facebook forums to comment on issues affecting our community. To date, the City of Fort Bragg has not had an active presence on Facebook except on FortBragg.com-- our promotional website. In this past year, our focus has been on updating the City's governmental website to make it more user-friendly and accessible. The website upgrade is complete (though now, the challenge is to keep it fresh and up-to-date). We are now beginning to examine whether and how to engage with social media as a tool to get factual information out to our citizens and to receive comments and suggestions.

**MAIN STREET MERGE PROJECT-- COUNCIL WORKSHOP>>** The City Council will hold a workshop next Wednesday, November 19 at 6 PM at the John Diederich Center to discuss the Main Street Merge Lane Relocation Project. The project is the final phase of the Downtown Streetscape Project, and is slated for construction next spring and summer. The Council is particularly interested in hearing from business and property owners along the affected stretch of Main Street (Oak Street to Laurel Street). Everyone is welcome to attend!

**COASTAL TRAIL UPDATE>>** The Fort Bragg Coastal Trail project is well-underway with much of the concrete and pavement work on the north end completed. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done this season, and the park is NOT yet open for public access. We ask that people please refrain from accessing the site, as it is still a construction site and dangers abound.

**WATER SUPPLY>>** The City has not yet lifted the Stage 1 Water Emergency, but we are closely monitoring water flows at our three municipal water sources and the recent rains have certainly helped. Regardless of whether or not the "emergency" declaration is lifted, our Public Works crews are scheduled to flush the City's water lines in early December. The City is required by the State Department of Health Services to periodically flush the water lines to maintain a safe water system, even during a drought.

**UPCOMING AGENDAS>>** The November 24 City Council agenda is not yet finalized, but so far the following items are scheduled for Council action: Presentation of a FY 2013/14 Year-End Financial Report and the 1st Quarter 2014/15 Financial Report; Extension of the Willits Transfer Station Agreement; Authorization to Submit a National Endowment for the Arts Grant Application for Public

Art. The Planning Commission will not hold a meeting on November 26 as it is the night before Thanksgiving.

*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 [LRuffing@fortbragg.com](mailto:LRuffing@fortbragg.com).*