



CITY NOTES

December 11, 2014

TIS THE SEASON>> Once again, the City's Public Works crew has decked the halls and the streets with festive garlands, bows and lights. Thanks to the generosity of Campbell Global, the crew cut a beautiful tree on nearby timberland and erected it on the Guest House lawn where it is adorned with lights and ornaments. The Fort Bragg Promotion Committee purchased the illuminated candy canes that line the Guest House walking path. The City's float in this year's Holiday Lights Parade was the brainchild of Linda Hilliard, Government Accountant in the City's Finance Department. Many thanks to Linda for her creative genius, to Maintenance Worker II Tom Mitchell for building the sleigh, and to the many employees who helped decorate the float!

LET IT RAIN>>The steady stream of storms since mid-October has delivered enough rainfall to replenish the City's three surface water sources for the winter months. At this time, our Water Treatment Operators are experiencing no difficulty maintaining sufficient water supply to meet demands. Consequently, the Stage 1 Water Emergency was lifted earlier this week. While the rain is a welcomed sight, given the saturation of the ground and the intensity of some of the cloudbursts, it is likely localized flooding will continue to occur. Property owners needing sandbags can pick them up at the Fort Bragg Fire Station on Main Street.

COASTAL TRAIL STORMWATER SYSTEM WITHSTANDS THE DELUGE>> The recent rains, especially the deluge on Thanksgiving weekend, put the Coastal Trail's stormwater system to the test. For the most part, it has passed with flying colors. The stormwater system was designed by Cathy McKeon of Rau & Associates, Inc. It includes a series of berms to redirect surface runoff from the adjoining mill site into fortified bioswales that carry tremendous volumes of stormwater across the coastal trail property to discharge into the ocean. There are a few erosional problems with the trail that will be remedied. The Coastal Trail is NOT yet open for public access and the City asks that people please refrain from trespassing on the site.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE PLANNING PIPELINE>> The Community Development Department is completing its review of an application for the proposed 29,000 square foot (sf) Hare Creek Village project on a site just west of Highway 1 and south of the Emerald Dolphin Mini Golf. The proposed shopping center would be anchored by a 15,000 sf discount grocery store, with another 10,000 sf retail space and four 1,000 sf space. City staff recently had a pre-application meeting with a developer who is proposing a 66-room hotel on the former Hi Seas Motel property just north of the Ocean View Lodge. The project would be three stories in height and would have a restaurant/bar and a 2,500 sf meeting room for special events. Applications have not yet been submitted for the project. Both of these projects will require environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act and public hearings before the Fort Bragg Planning Commission.

LOCAL WOODWORKERS INVOLVED IN CIVIC PROJECTS>> Seven local artists have agreed to manufacture unique benches for the Coastal Trail project. Each artist is creating two benches. The benches will be functional art pieces inspired by their spectacular setting. This week, the City issued

another Request for Quotes (RFQ) to solicit proposals from local woodworkers who are interested in manufacturing a new dais and podium for Town Hall. Interested parties may obtain the RFQ on the City's website or at City Hall.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE>> Fort Bragg's Police Department is humming along under the guidance of Interim Chief Willis, Acting Lieutenant Chuck Gilchrist, and Sergeants Brandon Lee, Drew Kendl and Oscar Lopez. Our officers and non-sworn staff work diligently to respond to calls for service, to pro-actively patrol our streets, and to keep the inner workings of the Department functioning smoothly. Last week, our newest Police Recruit, Brandon McGregor, graduated from the Santa Rosa Police Academy and on Monday he was sworn in and began his field training as a Police Officer. Another young man from our community has been offered a position as Community Service Officer. He is completing the hiring process and is expected to begin work later this month. We're hopeful that Lieutenant John Naulty, who has been on extended medical leave, will return to duty next month. The recruitment of a new Police Chief is underway with the application period ending in early January. Oral boards and interviews will be conducted in February, followed by a thorough background check. We expect to have a new Chief on board in April. We are very thankful for the stability that Interim Chief Stephen Willis has brought to the Department over the past few months and for the consistent good work of the entire Police Department team. While Chief Willis is taking some time off over the holidays, retired Sausalito Police Captain Don MacQuarrie will be stepping in to provide administrative support to the Department. Don served as an interim Police Captain here in Fort Bragg four years ago and we're grateful that he too is willing to fill in during this transitional period.

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.