



CITY NOTES

March 26, 2015

NOYO CENTER FOR MARINE SCIENCE>> I'm often asked, "When will the Noyo Center happen?" My response is—the Noyo Center for Marine Science is happening! The Noyo Center has been delivering educational curriculum in marine sciences to Fort Bragg and Mendocino students for two years. A couple weeks ago, more than 400 local school children attended field trips to visit the Blue Whale skeleton which was laid out for viewing at the City's wastewater treatment facility. The Noyo Center's 2nd Annual Marine Science and Art Fair at last weekend's Whale Festival was a resounding success. Clearly, our community has a very large number of young scholars and artists who are passionate about marine science. The Noyo Center also is developing research partnerships with many organizations including the California Academy of Sciences and the Marine Mammal Protection Center. It is involved in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, tsunami debris monitoring, and other research activities. Last week, the Noyo Center achieved a significant milestone when it was notified of the successful establishment of a legal, non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. This puts the Noyo Center one big step closer to functioning independently from the City as it can now apply for government and foundation grants. Visit the Noyo Center for Marine Science website at <http://noyocenter.org> or drop by the Noyo Center office at 213 East Laurel Street in Fort Bragg.

"CITIZEN REQUEST TRACKER" ACTIVATED ON CITY WEBSITE>> The City's recently updated website (<http://city.fortbragg.com>) offers many tools to make it easy for citizens to stay informed about City business and initiatives and it provides several different ways to contact City staff. One of these tools is the Citizen Request Tracker™. The Citizen Request Tracker is a reporting and tracking tool that allows website visitors to submit a request. Once a request is submitted, it gets routed to the appropriate department representative for follow up. The department representative can also respond to the person who submitted the request. Our website currently has 10 categories set up for requests: Facilities, Park Maintenance, Code Enforcement, Graffiti, Abandoned Shopping Carts, Potholes, Sidewalk Repair, Street Light Out, Website Problems, Site Suggestions. To access the Citizen Request Tracker click on the "Submit a Request" button in the green bar at the top of the City's home page and choose the appropriate category. You will be routed to a form that you can complete and submit. In order to use the Citizen Request Tracker, you must be logged into the City's website to enable the staff person responding to your concern to contact you for additional information, if needed, and to provide updates on the status of your request. To log in or create an account, click on the link at the bottom of the page titled "Login for Citizens." If you encounter problems with the Citizen Request Tracker, please let us know as we are continuing to fine-tune the website.

MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW>> The City Council conducted its annual "mid-year budget review" workshop on March 16. City staff presented a detailed report on the City's financial condition relative to the adopted FY 2014/15 Budget as of December 31, 2014. From a revenue standpoint, the City is in stable financial condition although there are some challenges. Sale tax revenues are coming in below budget, primarily as a result of decreased fuel prices and continued growth in online retailing. For the first time ever, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues are expected to exceed sales tax this year.

TOT revenues are projected to be about 5% above budgeted amounts at year-end. Revenues in the Water Enterprise are significantly below budget as a result of successful water conservation efforts last year. Water consumption last year was 10% below the prior year. For the most part, City expenditures are on track with budget. There are a number of Mid-Year Budget adjustments that the Council reviewed and directed be brought forward on a future Council agenda.

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE>> While the prolonged drought is extending into its fourth year, the City's water supply is looking okay at the moment. The recent rains have helped replenish our surface water sources and there appear to be a few more showers on the horizon. We expect to finish up the "water year" with close to average rainfall. Given the precipitation that has fallen in Fort Bragg this winter, this summer is expected to be very similar to last summer with regard to the need for water conservation. Staff will be providing a detailed report to the City Council in May regarding the City's water supply, water conservation efforts, and the anticipated schedule for constructing the Summers Lane Reservoir project.

COASTAL TRAIL STATUS REPORT>> Following a hiatus during the rainy season, Coastal Trail construction activities have started up again. We expect the restrooms to be installed at the Glass Beach Parking area this week. Repairs to the cable stairs on the bluff will be undertaken shortly. The South Trail construction has begun with work on a privacy wall between the trail and the residential units on Noyo Point Road. Clearing and grubbing is underway on the southern parkland area and construction of the South Trail will start next week. We anticipate that the South Trail will be opened for public use some time later this summer.

CITY JOB RECRUITMENTS UNDERWAY>> The City of Fort Bragg is currently recruiting for the following positions: Administrative Services Director, Seasonal Laborer, Temporary Parking Enforcement Attendant. Full descriptions of the jobs, necessary qualifications, and compensation are available on the City's website (<http://city.fortbragg.com/jobs>) or at City Hall. We have made two recent conditional job offers to applicants who are in the pre-employment process: Police Chief and Engineering Technician.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS>> The City recently established two pages on its website that present information regarding "Upcoming Agenda Items" for the City Council, Council Committees, and the Planning Commission. The following meetings are in the near future:

- Thursday, March 26 @ 1:30 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – Special Finance & Administration Committee Meeting to discuss modifications to the countywide Business Improvement District for lodging. All Fort Bragg lodging owners are invited to attend.
- Monday, March 30 @ 3 PM, Police Department Conference Room – Special City Council Meeting to Conduct Goal-Setting Workshop (Part 2, with Management Team). The agenda will also include an item regarding modifications to the Coastal Trail design.
- Tuesday, March 31 @ 5:30 PM, C.V. Starr Community Center – Special Joint City Council/Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District Meeting to discuss Operational Assessment and Analysis for MCRPD and C.V. Starr Community Center
- Monday, April 13 @ 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – City Council Meeting. The Council agenda will include consideration of Forgivable Loan Agreements for a number of CDBG grant-funded projects including the Old Coast Hotel acquisition/rehabilitation project.

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.