



## CITY NOTES

May 14, 2015

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**CITY LAUNCHES FACEBOOK PAGE>>** The City of Fort Bragg launched its governmental Facebook page last week, thus making its first foray into the realm of social media. The City is using Facebook to help disseminate information about matters of public interest in the City of Fort Bragg. In the first week, nearly 700 people "liked" our page. So far, the user commentary is sparse.

**FY 2015/16 BUDGET WORKSHOP>>** On Tuesday, May 19 at 3:30 PM at Fort Bragg Town Hall, the City Council will conduct a Budget Workshop to review the draft operating budget and capital projects budget for the coming (fiscal) year. The budget process is a key opportunity for the Council to define the City's priorities and work program, and to take input from the public regarding the proposed expenditure of public funds. The Budget Workshop is typically a 4-5 hour meeting with a short break for dinner.

**FORT BRAGG'S FIRST CITY-SPONSORED CINCO DE MAYO EVENT>>** The City Council has often expressed a desire to engage more Latino community members in civic matters. Kudos to Councilmember Lindy Peters, who together with Fort Bragg High School Senior Jose Gaona, La Bamba Market owner Leopaldo Narez, and a number of others, helped organize Fort Bragg's first community-wide Cinco de Mayo festival at Bainbridge Park last Saturday. The family-friendly event was well-attended, and folks enjoyed excellent food, music, and company.

**UPDATE ON THE ORCA>>** The bones of the Orca that washed up on a beach at MacKerricher State Park last month are being cleaned by natural processes at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Eventually, the 26-foot Orca skeleton will be articulated and displayed along with the 73-foot Blue Whale skeleton at the Noyo Center for Marine Science. A cause of death has not yet been determined, but it is hoped that the 200+ samples collected during the necropsy will yield some clues. The Orca appeared healthy and had been feeding recently. The necropsy and the recovery of the Orca skeleton within 24 hours of its discovery are testimony to a great partnership that exists between the Noyo Center, State Parks, the Marine Mammal Center (TMMC), Humboldt State University, and the California Academy of Sciences (CAS). The Noyo Center now participates in the West Coast Stranding Network as a designee agency for CAS. Most animals picked up off the beach are sent to either CAS or the TMMC for analysis and to increase our knowledge base about threats to marine mammals and the health of our regional populations. Please continue to report live or dead stranded marine mammals to CAS, TMMC, or the Noyo Center. For more information about the Noyo Center, go to [www.noyocenter.org](http://www.noyocenter.org)

**MOBILE FOOD VENDING>>** In late April, the City Council's Community Development Committee discussed possible revisions to the Fort Bragg Municipal Code to allow more flexibility for the operation of mobile food trucks in Fort Bragg. Currently, the City code requires a mobile food vendor to travel along a fixed route and to move their vehicle every 30 minutes. It is estimated that five to six entrepreneurs come to the City every year seeking to operate a food cart or truck, but they have all abandoned their plans after learning of the regulations. Three food truck operators attended the

Community Development Committee meeting and expressed interest in operating food trucks at the new Coastal Trail parking lot, and at fixed locations in downtown Fort Bragg or on Main Street. The Councilmembers discussed the importance of supporting economic development in Fort Bragg, the potential for conflict and/or competition with downtown restaurants, and potential appropriate and inappropriate locations for food trucks. The Community Development Committee will discuss this matter at its next meeting on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at Fort Bragg Town Hall. All community members interested in this topic are invited to attend the meeting.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS>>** Check out the “Upcoming Agenda Items” pages on the City’s website or sign up for meeting notifications using the “Notify Me” feature on the website <https://city.fortbragg.com>. The following public meetings are coming up:

- Tuesday, May 19 @ 3:30 PM, Town Hall – City Council Budget Workshop.
- Tuesday, May 26 @ 3 PM, Town Hall - Community Development Committee Meeting regarding Mobile Food Vending regulations.
- Tuesday, May 26 @ 6 PM, Town Hall – City Council Meeting. Tentative agenda includes contract for design of Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade; an update on the south Coastal Trail project and direction to staff regarding whether to widen the paved width of the trail to 12' by eliminating the rocked shoulder; report regarding new rules for Noyo Beach during 4th of July Fireworks display.
- Monday, June 6 @ 6 PM, Town Hall- City Council Meeting. Tentative agenda includes annual report from Mendocino Coast Humane Society, report from Public Safety Committee regarding "Social Host Ordinance"; report regarding Fire Sprinkler Ordinance.

*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).*