



## CITY NOTES

August 27, 2015

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**WATER EMERGENCY REMAINS IN PLACE>>** Water flows on the Noyo River continue to approximate the historic lows experienced during the 1977 drought and the City is working hard to ensure that its water system remains fully charged and capable of meeting demands. In July, water consumption inexplicably jumped well beyond last July's water use—so our Public Works crews began searching for leaks. In short order, they found and repaired two major water leaks on the former Georgia-Pacific mill site. Public Works Director Tom Varga estimates that nearly 250,000 gallons per day was being lost. The resultant water savings has helped ease the pressure of the drought, however water conservation efforts are still very necessary. Hopefully, the north coast will have a wet, wet winter that will help to recharge the aquifers and surface waters that we all rely on.

**TOWN HALL RESTROOMS ARE OPEN>>** The restrooms at Fort Bragg Town Hall are open to the public from approximately 9 AM to 6 PM every day of the week. Our Public Works and Police employees are responsible for opening and closing them and, occasionally, if an emergency comes up the restrooms may be opened late or left unlocked into the evening. The restrooms have been open for general public use since mid-summer. The restrooms are not open in the evenings unless there is an event at Town Hall. At times, the Town Hall restrooms have been subjected to repeated acts of vandalism—requiring their temporary closure. Vandalism has not been an issue this summer (knock on wood) and our plan is to keep the restrooms open year-round.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT ALTERS GROOMING STANDARDS (TEMPORARILY)>>** In the spirit of Paul Bunyan Days and to avoid possible run-ins with the Kangaroo Kort, Fort Bragg Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga has temporarily suspended the Police Department's ban on beards for its officers. You may notice a number of our officers, and the Chief, looking a little scruffy. By Labor Day, they may even be mistaken for loggers.

**GOOD NEWS FROM THE CITY'S AUDITORS>>** This year, the City entered into a contract with a new auditing firm—JJACPA, Inc. out of Dublin, CA. The auditors just completed their first round of field work. They spent a week camped out in a conference room at City Hall testing the City's financial procedures and internal controls. At the end of the week, the auditors informed us that there were no reportable conditions or material weaknesses observed. This is good news and a real testament to our Finance Department staff and Acting Finance Director Victor Damiani all of whom are working very hard to keep the Department on solid footing while our Finance Director is on leave.

**TWO NEW GREEN ALLEY PROJECTS SET TO BEGIN>>** The alley behind Purity Market has received a "low impact development" (LID) treatment with permeable pavers that will help to infiltrate stormwater back into the ground. On Monday night, the Council approved a contract with Granite Construction to upgrade two more alleys with LID improvements—the alley behind the Colombi Motel will be retrofitted with an infiltration trench for storm drainage, and the alley behind the C.V. Starr Center will be retrofitted with a rain garden and bioswale. These LID alleys are experimental and time will tell how effective the LID improvements are in conveying stormwater and improving water quality. The alley work is funded by a Prop 84 stormwater grant from the State Water Resource Control Board.

**COME VISIT OUR SEA LIONS>>** Two beautiful sea lion skeletons were assembled during the Noyo Center for Marine Science's Sea Lion Articulation Workshops held in late July. They are on display for all to view. The California sea lion skeleton greets visitors in the lobby of City Hall. The Steller sea lion skeleton can be seen taking a graceful dive behind the left window of Town Hall facing Main Street. Eventually the skeletons will be placed in the Noyo Center visitor center adjacent to the Coastal Trail. Georgia Pacific is donating their former visitor center to the City and plans are underway to move the building (also known as the "chalet") to the Noyo Center property. For more information about the Noyo Center for Marine Science go to <http://noyocenter.org>.

**COASTAL TRAIL UPDATE>>** Work on the southern portion of Noyo Headland Park is nearly complete. We ran into a snafu with the fencing when all of the suppliers in the western U.S. ran out of the fencing material. This coincided with the Parlin Forks crews who were installing the fencing being called off to fight wildfires. We expect the fencing materials to arrive in mid-September and will use City employees to install it, if necessary. The City and Georgia-Pacific are working out the details of a property transaction for the southern parkland which will establish public access via a paved extension of Cypress Street rather than the previously planned entry at Noyo Point Road. The property transaction is taking longer than expected, and we now expect the park will be opened to the public in late October or early November. Consequently, the Grand Opening event has been postponed until next spring when there is ample time for advanced planning and good weather can be assured.

**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:

- Wednesday, September 9 @ 9 AM, Fort Bragg City Hall Conference Room – Finance & Administration Committee Meeting. Tentative agenda includes: Report from Rural Fort Bragg Ad Hoc Committee; Review Fixed Asset Inventory Spreadsheets.
- Wednesday, September 9 @ 3 PM, Fort Bragg Police Department Conference Room – Public Safety Committee Meeting. Tentative agenda not yet available.
- Monday, September 14 @ 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – City Council Meeting. Tentative agenda includes: Report on ballot initiative to prohibit social service organizations in the Central Business District; Introduction of Mobile Vending ordinance; Fort Bragg Police Department Biannual Report.
- Thursday, September 17 @ 3 PM, Fort Bragg City Hall Conference Room – Public Works & Facilities Committee Meeting. Tentative agenda includes: Adopt-a-Street Program; Update on WWTF Upgrade Project; Town Hall Rental Policy; Downtown Restrooms Discussion.

*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).*