



CITY NOTES

October 29, 2015

HAPPY HALLOWEEN>> This Saturday is Halloween and ghosts and goblins will be roaming the streets. Please drive slowly and use extra caution. The City has agreed to close Wall Street again this year to provide a safe haven for trick-or-treaters. The Police Activities League will be holding its Annual Halloween event at the Fire House starting at 5 PM on Saturday. Have fun and be safe!

OCEAN CELEBRATION OF DAY OF THE DEAD>> The Noyo Center and Flockworks are partnering to celebrate an ocean-themed Day of the Dead on Sunday, November 1st. From noon to 3:30, the ocean themed alters can be viewed at Town Hall. At 3:30 PM, a processional walk and blessing of the ocean will be held on the *not-yet-opened* south Coastal Trail. Please be at the Cypress Street entrance at 3:30 if you would like to attend.

UPDATE ON STAGE 3 WATER EMERGENCY>> Fort Bragg residents and businesses have continued to do an extraordinary job conserving water. Both commercial and residential water use has declined substantially with daily usage typically well below 500,000 gallons per day. The City's treatment operators have been working hard to keep our tanks and ponds fully charged with water while complying with regulatory requirements for the Noyo River diversion. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has been tremendously helpful in communicating at a high level with the various resource agencies which have regulatory oversight over the Noyo (Army Corps of Engineers; National Marine Fisheries Service; State Department of Fish and Wildlife). The State Water Resources Control Board has also been very helpful in providing technical support and expediting approvals for the use of supplemental groundwater from local wells. The Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance has also determined that the City is eligible for emergency drought funding that will help offset additional costs incurred in responding to the Water Emergency. At this point, we are continuing to eke by with the existing water supplies. There is some rain in sight, but the Stage 3 Water Emergency will need to remain in place until flows on the Noyo River are clearly stabilized at a level high enough to meet our community's water needs.

SUMMERS LANE RESERVOIR PROJECT MOVING AHEAD>> The 8-acre timber harvest and site clearing on the City-owned property at the end of Summers Lane is complete and the site is buttoned up for the onset of the winter rains. Early next year, the Summers Lane Reservoir Project will be put out to bid. Construction is expected to begin in the spring. The reservoir will provide 15,000,000 gallons of water storage which will help stave off future water supply emergencies.

RAINWATER CATCHMENT DEMONSTRATION>> Water collected from roofs is one way to water your garden without shrinking the City's potable water supplies. Last Friday, more than 20 citizens attended a hands-on rainwater catchment workshop at Redwood Elementary School. The school is now ready to capture about 6,000 gallons of rainwater from its rooftops near the Rainbow Garden. This all came about in a "Perfect Storm" thanks to tireless fundraising by Garden Coordinator Julie Castillo, design work by Anna Birkas of Village Ecosystems, and services from Rain Gutter Services of Mendocino and Justin Quevedo of Superior Pump and Drilling of Fort Bragg. Justin delivered the leaf screen and first-flush filters, PVC piping and the four tanks and then led the workshop. At the end of the day, the greenhouse roof was showered with well water and the attendees watched the filters remove

impurities and the piping convey roof runoff to the four new storage tanks! Stay tuned for an upcoming workshop on plumbing for graywater recycling which is another answer to irrigation during extreme drought conditions.

SOUTH COASTAL TRAIL WILL OPEN ON DECEMBER 1ST>> The final work is being completed on the South Coastal Trail at Noyo Headlands Park and we expect to open that portion of the park for public use at the beginning of December. The south parkland is much bigger than the parkland on the north. It has a network of trails, beautiful views of the ocean, Noyo Bay and Fort Bragg, and an off-leash dog park. While the Grand Opening Celebration for Phase 1 of the Coastal Trail will be held next spring when good weather is assured, the City Council will have an informal ribbon-cutting for the south parkland on Tuesday, December 1st at 12:30 PM.

CITY OF TRAILS WORKSHOP>> The “City of Trails Feasibility Study” will focus on trail alignments to meet the transportation and recreation needs of our community. Everyone is invited to participate in drop-in community workshop which will be held at Fort Bragg Town Hall on Thursday, October 29th from 12 PM to 5:30 PM. The workshop will allow you to help identify and prioritize potential bicycle, pedestrian and multi-use trail routes in and around Fort Bragg. The results of the drop-in workshop will be summarized and presented to the City Council at a special meeting at Town Hall held that same evening at 6 PM. The Fort Bragg General Plan (2004) and Coastal General Plan (2008) both include as a goal: “Provide a comprehensive trail system in Fort Bragg.” The City received funding through the Mendocino Council of Governments Overall Work Program for a trail feasibility study. Initially, the study was intended to focus on trail alignments up the Noyo and Pudding Creek drainages with a connection across the eastern edge of the City. After an initial public meeting in early 2014 where considerable feedback was offered regarding the potential trail alignments identified in the General Plan, the feasibility study has been refocused to evaluate a network or web of trails (bicycle, pedestrian and multi-use) throughout the City.

SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS REHABILITATION STUDY UPDATE>> Last Thursday’s School Fields Rehab Project Planning Meeting was well-attended by representatives of field user groups and other community members. Consultant Derek McKee of Verde Design presented results of detailed field user surveys including peak use schedules and unmet needs, followed by an interesting discussion of soil conditions and recommendations. Existing field layouts were discussed, and workshop attendees participated in breakout sessions to review and provide feedback on graphic displays of potential field layouts and improvements. Although the rehabilitation focus is on the Dana Gray playing fields, the discussion also included how to optimize field conditions and field use at Redwood Elementary, Fort Bragg Middle School and Fort Bragg High School. Workshop feedback will be incorporated into a draft master plan to be presented to the City, school district, and community in December, with a final plan to be presented in January 2016. This study is funded by a Housing Related Parks grant obtained by the City. Additional funds are needed for rehabilitation of the fields and long-term maintenance.

C.V. STARR CENTER WORKSHOP>> Earlier this month, about 35 residents attended a community meeting to start planning “Phase 3” of the C.V. Starr Center. Architect Eric Glass described the goals of the Phase 3 process as (1) design of a multi-use facility/gymnasium to serve the greatest possible number and needs of users; and (2) design of a self-sustaining facility. Clarification was provided by City Planner Scott Perkins that the dog park will not be impacted by a new gym, however the petanque courts (that are on the north side of the current facility) would need to be relocated. Meeting attendees expressed a strong desire for the largest possible gymnasium space as well as up to three additional rooms for a cardio studio, strength-training studio, and multi-purpose gymnastics/circus/cheer room. There was also lots of support for a Kids Club space. The next step will involve calculating net operating costs for a 12,000 SF gym (which results in a 19,000 SF structure) to determine whether it is sustainable or should be reduced in size. Draft conceptual drawings and cost

estimates will then be prepared for the largest, most sustainable structure. A draft plan is expected to be available for review by City Council and the public in December.

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:

- Thursday, October 29th from 12 PM to 5:30 PM – Fort Bragg Town Hall. **Drop-in workshop for City of Trails Feasibility Study.**
- Thursday, October 29th at 6 PM – Fort Bragg Town Hall. **Special City Council meeting to discuss City of Trails Feasibility Study.**
- Tuesday, November 3rd at 8 AM – Fort Bragg Town Hall. **Downtown Business Watch meeting** with Fort Bragg Police Department and other City staff representatives.
- Monday, November 9th @ 5:30 PM – Fort Bragg Town Hall. **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception.** Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments provided!
- Monday, November 9th at 6 PM – Fort Bragg Town Hall. **Regular City Council meeting.** Topics include: GP Land Transfer Agreement; Town Hall Meetings Policy; Ballot Initiative to Prohibit Social Services in Central Business District.
- Wednesday, November 18th from 4 PM to 6 PM – Veteran’s Hall. **Community Workshop for Bainbridge Park Revitalization Plan** (includes site tour).

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.