



CITY NOTES

November 12, 2015

CITY EMPLOYEES WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY>> Many of our City employees served in the armed forces earlier in their careers. The City's veterans are: IT Technician Lynda Bengtsson-Davis (U.S. Marines); Police Lieutenant Chuck Gilchrist (U.S. Coast Guard); Police Sergeant Drew Kendl (U.S. Navy); Police Sergeant Brandon Lee (U.S. Marines); Police Sergeant Oscar Lopez (U.S. Army); Police Officer Thomas O'Neal (U.S. Army); Treatment Operator Mike Shaw (U.S. Navy) and Police Officer Angie Wilder (U.S. Army). We are grateful for their service to our country and to our community.

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE>> Fort Bragg's Stage 3 Water Emergency is still in effect. Please continue your efforts to conserve water! We are monitoring water levels in the Noyo River closely and are hoping that the weather system that is projected to hit the coast late in the weekend will bring enough precipitation to allow the City to downgrade the emergency to a lower stage. If it does not deliver significant rainfall, the City will be challenged by double high tides at the Noyo diversion during Thanksgiving week.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS WATCH>> Last week's meeting of "Downtown Business Watch" was attended by 12 business owners, Mayor Dave Turner, and representatives from City Hall and the Police Department. Discussion topics included the need for downtown façade improvements, concerns about empty store fronts in the central business district, homeless issues, police foot patrols downtown, and panhandling/loitering in the alleyways behind Purity Market and Mendo Lake Credit Union. Chief Lizarraga urged business owners to contact his department at any time regarding homeless, panhandling or loitering. He also promised more downtown foot patrols to help address and discourage nuisance behaviors. Representatives from the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center attended the meeting and listened to feedback and suggestions regarding meal times and shelter hours at their different locations. Ideas were discussed regarding empty store fronts and how the City and community can encourage property owners to properly maintain their buildings and offer affordable rents to prospective business owners. The Downtown Business Watch group plans to meet on a monthly basis with the next meeting scheduled for January.

BAINBRIDGE PARK ENHANCEMENT PLAN>> In many ways, Bainbridge Park is the heart of our community. It contains the joyful Wiggly Giggly playground, heavily used tennis courts, a half-court for basketball, a large lawn that is used for community events, picnic tables (currently being rebuilt by Parlin Forks), and the iconic Veterans Memorial Building. The City's Community Development Department is leading a focused planning process to identify and prioritize future park enhancements. If you have ideas, or concerns, or just want to be involved—please come to a Community Workshop which will be held on Tuesday, November 17th from 4-6 PM at the Veterans Memorial Building.

SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS REHAB PROJECT>> By this point, I think there is widespread agreement that the school playing fields in Fort Bragg must be improved. A Community Forum column in last week's paper presented a litany of complaints about the gopher holes and disparaged the planning effort that is underway to improve the playing fields. In fact, the City and the Fort Bragg Unified School District, in partnership with the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District, and the many user groups who rely upon the playing fields—are working diligently to come up with both a short-term plan for rehabilitating the fields and a long-term plan to make certain that the community's investment in the

rehabilitation of the playing fields is maintained. This plan will identify necessary improvements, priorities, timelines, costs, and funding sources. The dream of excellent playing fields to serve our schools, community recreation leagues, and as a venue for sports tournaments will be realized.

COASTAL TRAIL RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY>> The public is invited to attend an informal ribbon-cutting ceremony and official opening of the south parkland at Noyo Headlands Park on Tuesday, December 1st at 12:30 PM. The ceremony will be held at the south parking lot which is accessed by heading west at the Cypress and Main Street intersection.

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, November 12th at 3 PM – **Public Safety Committee** - Police Department Conference Room. Agenda includes discussion of public safety issues at Bainbridge Park and in City alleys and bicycle safety.
- Tuesday, November 17th from 4 PM to 6 PM – **Community Workshop for Bainbridge Park Revitalization Plan** - Veteran’s Hall. Meeting will include a site tour.
- Thursday, November 19th at 3 PM – **Public Works & Facilities Committee** - City Hall Conference Room. Agenda will include discussion of alternative water supply technologies, including desalination.
- Monday, November 23rd at 6 PM – **City Council Meeting** - Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda includes: Downtown Wifi Update and contract; Mendocino Coast Humane Society report and contract.

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@fortbraqq.com.