



CITY NOTES

January 28, 2016

SUPPORT THE MENDOCINO COAST'S EXTREME WEATHER SHELTER>> Food, clothing and shelter are among the most basic human needs. In the winter, the need for shelter can become a matter of life and death. For many years, our local churches and faith-based organizations have teamed up with the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center (MCHC) to provide an Extreme Weather Shelter during dangerously cold and wet weather when the risks of hypothermia and death are high.

With El Nino upon us, the 8th Annual Mendocino Coast Extreme Weather Shelter is now operating almost nightly. In November, the Extreme Weather Shelter provided 90 bed-nights of shelter to 24 people and in December there were 342 bed-nights provided to 50 different individuals. In January, the Extreme Weather Shelter has been open nearly every night and the high need and occupancy will likely carry over into February and March given the weather outlook.

The Extreme Weather Shelter operates on a shoe-string budget and is only possible because MCHC has stepped up to the task and a handful of local churches have signed up for specific weeks during the winter when they will accommodate 10-20 cots in their church halls to provide temporary shelter to the homeless. The way it works is this... Each morning, MCHC staff determines whether the Extreme Weather Shelter will operate that evening based on the National Weather Service forecast for our area. If the chance of rain is greater than 20% or temperatures are forecast to drop below a certain threshold—the word goes out that Extreme Weather Shelter will be open that evening, the location is confirmed, and staffing is secured. Then, in the late afternoon, folks seeking shelter are checked in at the Hospitality House, offered a hot shower and dinner, and transported to the Extreme Weather Shelter location. Women and children are sheltered at the Hospitality House or provided motel vouchers. A MCHC staffer stays on the premises at the Extreme Weather Shelter to provide overnight supervision and, in the morning, the guests are transported back to the Hospitality House and offered breakfast.

I would like to encourage everyone to dig deep in their hearts and their wallets to support the Extreme Weather Shelter. Here are some ways that you can help out:

- If your church or service organization has a hall that could be used on occasion for the Extreme Weather Shelter, contact MCHC Director Anna Shaw at 961-0172. There are still gaps in the schedule that need to be filled. If you cannot host, how about having a special collection or funding appeal to help cover costs for the Extreme Weather Shelter?
- Make a tax-deductible donation to the Extreme Weather Shelter by sending a check payable to "Mayor's Fund for the Homeless" to PO Box 2859, Fort Bragg CA 95437 or donating online via PayPal at www.mc1day.org
- Express your appreciation loudly and often to the organizations that give generously of their time and resources to help ensure the Extreme Weather Shelter's continued existence. These include: Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center, Love in Action, Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Mendocino Presbyterian Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Grace Community

Church, Mendocino Coast Jewish Community Center, Mendocino County. I apologize to any whom I've neglected to name.

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 at <https://city.fortbragg.com>. The following public meetings are coming up in early February:

- Monday, February 8th at 6 PM – **City Council Meeting** – Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda includes: Update on MCHC's Wellness Center Project; Adoption of CV Starr Center Phase 3 Master Plan; Selection of Fort Bragg Welcome Sign Design and Contractor.
- Wednesday, February 10th at 6 PM – **Planning Commission Meeting** – Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda includes: Coastal Permit for remediation activities on Georgia-Pacific Mill Site in Operable Units C&D; Appeal of Use Permit for Large Family Day Care Home (up to 14 children) at 211 McKinley Street.

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@fortbraqq.com.