



## CITY NOTES

February 11, 2016

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With 2016 well underway, everyone here at the City is busy working to make this year another successful one for Fort Bragg residents and guests. And we are off to a great start! Both the north and south portions of the coastal trail are teeming with people enjoying some of the most beautiful scenery to be found. Rain has been constant, with our rainfall to date just above the norm. We have had the honor and privilege of hosting guests from our sister city of Otsuchi, Japan – and it's only February. Here are some specific projects and activities coming up in the near future.

**Public Works >>** As wet as the last two months have been, water saving techniques will not go out of style. Public Works staff have been collaborating with Mendocino County and local plumbers to help make the use of grey water systems easier. Grey water is the water that leaves your washing machine, bathroom sink or bathtub/shower. It's a great way to water a garden. Staff will soon have available simple designs that people can try out.

Work is progressing nicely on the Summers Lane reservoir. Construction will be underway this spring, completed by early summer, with the reservoir being at least partially filled by this fall.

This year's construction season will be underway in a few months. The pedestrian/bicycle path along the north side of Chestnut Street from Franklin Street to the high school will be built this year. This year's street and alley rehabilitation projects include work on South Franklin Street and at least four alleys around town.

**Police Department >>** The Fort Bragg Police Department will soon welcome to their ranks its newest member, a four legged bundle of energy that will become our first K-9 dog. There have previously been K-9 dogs in the Department, but we haven't had one for a while. Thanks to funding by the Mendocino Public Safety Foundation, the Department will receive its new dog, currently named "Jerry," within the next few weeks. In preparation for this, Officer Brandon McGregor has been selected as the Department's K-9 Handler. He and the dog will undergo rigorous training together before they hit the streets as partners. We are excitedly awaiting the arrival of Jerry.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Police Station has received an upgrade in the form of individualized cabinets affixed to the walls that will house all necessary supplies and materials necessary during an EOC activation. They also convert to functional work stations to be used during an emergency. During an EOC activation, there are five main stations or posts that are staffed in order to receive information, make strategic plans and direct resources to an emergency or a problem. These cabinets will serve each one of those posts. The Department is currently adapting its Emergency Action Plan to update the contact points and persons that will be needed during an emergency. This follows the adoption of the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan by the City Council.

**Community Development >>** The Community Development Department will bring a draft Bainbridge Park Master Plan to City Council on February 22 for review and final direction. Informed by collaboration with the community and numerous City departments, the draft Master Plan includes the development of new facilities and improvements at Bainbridge Park, including a pavilion for community events, petanque courts, and an expanded basketball court. The Master Plan also includes

fencing along the park's north and west borders to increase security and safety in the park. The City will team up with the Fort Bragg Library to develop a storywalk as part of the Master Plan. At the February 22 City Council meeting, staff will seek Council direction on the design of the pavilion and clarification on other details of the Bainbridge Park Master Plan, prior to adoption.

**Administrative Services >>** The newest department at the City, Admin Services, is finalizing a number of projects – some of which will affect everyone in Fort Bragg. Downtown Wi-fi is now here! We are working with MCN to bring this free service within the downtown business district. Testing is almost complete and if the free service is utilized by the public, we will look into extending the Wi-fi signals to additional areas of downtown. We also continue to work with Mendocino TV to expand programming for the PEG station (Comcast Channel 3). In the coming weeks we will be working with Norcal communications to upgrade the City's phone system – one which is almost 15 years old and in desperate need of the upgrade.

The City's Human Resources office will be working with the Mendocino Coast Rec & Park District Board of Directors in the interviewing and hiring of its new District Administrator. Applications have been coming in with the deadline to submit Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Other open positions at the City are seasonal laborers (to begin in May) as well as a seasonal parking enforcement attendant. Please spread the word if you know of anyone interested in these positions.

Finally, we encourage all of you to stay informed on what is happening at the City and be a part of the conversation. Visit our website to sign up for any number of email lists and alerts. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Your participation in local government helps Fort Bragg succeed as a thriving community.

*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@fortbragg.com](mailto:LRuffing@fortbragg.com).*