



## CITY NOTES

July 14, 2016

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### FORT BRAGG'S CITY GOVERNMENT IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

One of the many benefits of living in a small town like Fort Bragg is that it is incredibly easy to interact with your local government officials. If you have a question, a concern, or some information to pass on, just drop by City Hall or share your thoughts when you bump into a City employee on the street or in the grocery store. Pick up the phone, send an email, come to a City Council or Council Committee meeting— we want you to let us know what's on your mind.

There are lots of ways for you to hear about what's going on in City government. This City Notes column is one source of information. It is available in the Fort Bragg Advocate News and online by signing up on the "Notify Me" feature of the City's website- <https://city.fortbragg.com>. City staff sends out press releases and other notices several times a week and, again, you can sign up to receive these on our website. If you prefer to get your news through Facebook, just "friend" the City of Fort Bragg, CA on Facebook and you will receive all kinds of news and photos.

Every few months, the City's management team hosts a "City Dialogue" meeting at Town Hall. The meetings are informal and conversational. The format is a roundtable discussion where City department heads and staff share information about projects, activities and issues that they are working on. Attendees can ask questions and offer feedback- it's a dialogue. The next City Dialogue will be held on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7 PM at Fort Bragg Town Hall (363 North Main Street). Everyone is welcome to attend and light refreshments will be served.

In brief, here are some of the ways that our City government serves its citizens:

The Police Department responds to calls for service, proactively patrols our streets, and implements programs to keep our community safe. Our officers work, day in and day out, to combat crime, drugs, gangs, and to maintain our quality of life. The FBPD works with Fort Bragg's many social service organizations and institutions on crime prevention efforts. Our Neighborhood Watch Program is an excellent way to get involved with crime prevention and to help with household emergency preparedness. It's also an excellent way to get to know your neighbors. Please come to one of the "National Night Out" block party events on the evening of Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and learn more about how you can participate in Neighborhood Watch and help keep our community safe.

The Community Development Department (CDD) is busy helping folks get permits to open businesses and improve their properties. The economy is picking up and in the last six months, the CDD has processed 86 building permits, 17 sign permits and 21 planning permits. The CDD implements an ongoing customer satisfaction survey for building and planning permit applicants. Customers are overwhelmingly very satisfied with staff courtesy (96%) and with staff's explanation of the process and technical issues (89%). The majority of customers (78%) are also very satisfied with how long the permitting process took. The CDD is here to help residents and business owners upgrade their properties, expand their businesses and flourish in Fort Bragg.

The Public Works Department keeps the City's infrastructure functioning. Fort Bragg has beautifully maintained parks and public facilities, the best streets in Mendocino County, and a water and wastewater system that keeps our taps flowing and toilets flushing despite the challenges of aging pipes and treatment plants and huge seasonal fluctuations in flows. Our Public Works crew is out

helping Fort Bragg citizens every day—plus many of our employees are volunteers on the Fire Department and serve as first responders when calls come in for fires, medical emergencies, and vehicle accidents. The Department's engineering staff processes miles of red tape to ensure that Fort Bragg's many street, sewer, water, parks, and other capital improvement projects stay on track and to gain reimbursements from State and federal grants.

Our Finance Department and Administrative Services Department perform many internal functions to keep our City government running, and they also interact with our community in a number of ways—collecting utility payments, answering calls and responding to inquiries, maintaining our website and social media accounts, recruiting new employees, and much more.

Your City government is comprised of five elected City Council members, five appointed Planning Commissioners and 60 City employees. We all live here and are dedicated to the betterment of this community. We appreciate the feedback and support that we receive from all of you!

**Mark Your Calendars>>** Information on upcoming public meetings can be found on the “Upcoming Agenda Items” pages on the City's website or by signing up for meeting notifications using the “Notify Me” feature at <https://city.fortbragg.com>. The following public meeting is planned in the near future:

- Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall- **City Council Meeting**. Tentative agenda includes: Review of Actuarial Valuation; Direction regarding Cannabis Manufacturing ordinance; Direction regarding update to Inland Land Use & Development Code; and Consideration of contract for EIR for Hare Creek Village project.
- Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall- **Community Development Committee Meeting**. Tentative agenda includes: Discussion of possible moratorium on fire sprinkler requirements for commercial remodel projects.
- Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall- **Finance & Administration Committee Meeting**. Agenda not yet set.
- Wednesday, August 3 at 5 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall- **City Dialogue Meeting**.

*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).*