



CITY NOTES

September 22, 2016

Are You Prepared For An Emergency?>> September is National Preparedness Month in Fort Bragg and we are encouraging all households and businesses to prepare and plan for emergencies. The City has been sharing tools, links and tips through its website, Facebook page and Twitter feed and will continue to do so throughout the month. You can also go to <https://www.ready.gov/september> for useful links to resources to become more prepared for an emergency.

Chestnut Street Corridor Project Update>> The Chestnut Street Corridor Project will consist of a new multi-use walking and cycling path along the north side of Chestnut Street. The project recently stalled out when the bid process yielded only one unacceptably high bid. After conferring with several contractors who did not bid during the first round, City staff is optimistic that a second round of bids will yield more competitive proposals. The new bid opening is scheduled for October 27 and, assuming a successful low bidder is found, the contract can be awarded on November 14. While construction during the winter months is not optimal, funding deadlines and the prior relocation of utility poles necessitate the project moving forward as soon as possible. The construction timeline will be adjusted to account for weather. The City appreciates the public's patience and the extra care taken to travel safely along Chestnut Street while the project is underway.

Water Supply Update>> The prolonged drought has eased but not ended. Compared to last year at this time, the City's water supplies are much better off. Nevertheless, stream flows at the City's three water sources are well below normal. The Noyo River is flowing at less than 2.5 cubic feet per second which is sluggish enough that when tides reach six feet or more, the brackish water that backs up at our intake pump is slow to clear out. Our water treatment operators compensate by pumping less from the river during such periods and blending the saltier water with stored water. The Summers Lane Reservoir is now holding more than 4 million gallons (about 25% of capacity) which greatly expands the City's ability to address the low flow/high tide issues. Long range forecasts predict an "average chance of normal precipitation" this fall, however a delayed start to the rainy season is possible. A Stage 1 Water Emergency is currently in effect, requiring basic conservation efforts. At the September 26th City Council meeting, the Council will receive a report on the City's water supply and consider declaration of a Stage 2 Water Emergency to reinforce the importance of water conservation.

Economic Development Activities>> Last week, Fort Bragg submitted three project descriptions for inclusion in the Sonoma-Mendocino Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is a federally-required regional economic development plan that is necessary in order to become eligible for various Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding programs. To date, Fort Bragg has not competed for EDA funds, but identifying projects in the CEDS is the first step to getting federal funds to assist local manufacturing businesses and to recruit new manufacturing and high tech businesses to the coast. The three project descriptions submitted are to: 1) install broadband internet connectivity throughout the commercial areas of town; 2) complete the mill site rezoning process and install infrastructure to support manufacturing and high-tech business expansion on the mill site; and 3) fund some portion of the off-site infrastructure improvements necessary for the potential expansion of the Brewery onto the Mill Site. In addition, the Noyo Center for Marine Science submitted a project description for its facility to include in the CEDS. Once the CEDS process is

complete, the City and the Noyo Center will be eligible to submit applications to the very competitive EDA funding programs.

Programs to HELP Fort Bragg Homeowners and Renters>> The HELP Plus Program offers information and assistance for energy improvements and water conservation to Fort Bragg residents including assessments, weatherization, appliance upgrades, renewable energy installations (solar hot water, solar electric, solar retrofits) as well as assistance in completing HEAP applications (for utility bill financial assistance). The HELP H2O Program offers financial assistance for City water bills for folks who are in delinquent status. The program offers a one-time-only payment of up to 1/2 of a water bill, along with water conservation audits & information. The HELP Program office is located at 119 N. Franklin Street #A in Fort Bragg, (962-3070; email HELP@redinet.org).

No Littering!!>> Recently, a local organization performing a litter pick-up in downtown Fort Bragg collected a remarkable number of cigarette butts. Their findings illustrate the importance of litter prevention. Litter is unsightly and can contribute to storm water pollution. The City dedicates significant resources to litter pick up, including removal of cigarette butts and other trash as our street sweepers work their way through downtown and local neighborhoods. This is reinforced by special storm drain cleaning efforts in the fall before the start of the rainy season. The Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center also organizes regular volunteer crews to pick up litter downtown. While litter removal efforts help to address the problem, preventing litter in the first place is the real solution. It is illegal to litter in Fort Bragg and it is also illegal to smoke within 20 feet of the entrance of a building in the downtown. The City appreciates the efforts of downtown businesses to discourage smoking and to remove litter from the sidewalks in front of their properties. Next spring, the City will be rolling out an adopt-a-street program throughout the town (as suggested by litter removal champion Mike Beck). The City invites all interested people and groups to help keep our town clean and attractive. This can range from formal, larger scale clean-ups all the way down to the simple act of picking up a piece of litter and disposing of it in a proper receptacle.

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 meetings are planned in the near future:

- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, September 26th at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Topics include: General Plan and Housing Element Annual Report; Consideration of a resolution and ordinance for Fort Bragg to join Sonoma Clean Power Joint Powers Authority; Progress report from the HELP Plus and HELP H2O Programs; Water supply update and consideration of declaration of Stage 2 Water Emergency.
- **Public Works & Facilities Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, September 28th at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Topics include: Update on EV Charging Stations; Report Regarding Skunk Train Parking Lot Lease Agreement.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, September 28th at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Topics include: Use permit to construct an 8’ fence (1030 Cedar St.); Variance to front setback requirement for covered entryway on existing home (250 E. Chestnut St).
- **Finance & Administration Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, October 5th at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics include: Annual report and budget reconciliation for FY 2015-16 asset forfeiture fund expenditures; Repayment of prior year over-allocations of non-personnel overhead costs.

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.