



CITY NOTES

January 26, 2017

Affordable Housing Project>> An affordable housing developer is negotiating to acquire a parcel of land for a mixed-income housing project in Fort Bragg. The conceptual vision for the project would include affordable senior housing units and market-rate family housing. The project is in its very early days, but if it moves forward, it could add between 25 to 50 units of new housing stock in our community. Once the developer has secured a project site, more information will be shared with the community.

Latino Coalition Forum>> A capacity crowd of nearly 70 people attended the Latino Coalition panel discussion on immigration issues at Safe Passage last Thursday evening. Fort Bragg Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga spoke about the City's long-standing practice of not participating in immigration roundups, raids or sweeps. He stressed that Fort Bragg police officers will not detain people solely to determine their legal status. The panel also included immigration attorney Grady Gauthier who provided an overview of immigration laws that can help or hurt undocumented people, and English as a Second Language/citizenship instructor Anne Thomas who spoke on the path to citizenship.

Chestnut Street Update>> Despite the recent rainy weather, progress continues to be made on the Chestnut Street Corridor project. Work is focused on the portion of the street between Dana Gray School and the Lincoln/Chestnut Street intersection. This work consists of forming and pouring concrete improvements including curbs, gutters and driveways. The multi-use path will be paved with asphalt later. When practical, drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes and to minimize travel in the construction zone. Please remember that when driving in the area of construction, the speed limit is 15 MPH. The inclement weather and heavy traffic have taken a toll on the temporary traffic control markings. The contractor works diligently to keep them up. Nevertheless, attentive driving is greatly appreciated.

New Mayors and Councilmembers Academy>> Mayor Peters, Vice Mayor Lee, Councilmember Norvell and I travelled to Sacramento last week for a three-day conference hosted by the League of California Cities for new Mayors and newly elected Councilmembers. The meeting was packed with informational sessions on topics including the legal authorities and restrictions under which city officials operate, the Council's role in land use planning, the relationship between the Council and City Manager, do's and don'ts of social media, how to conduct an effective and respectful Council meeting, financial responsibilities of elected officials, and compliance with ethics laws. It provided an excellent foundation for our newest Councilmembers and a great opportunity for networking with newly elected officials from other communities.

Pudding Creek Dam Update>> The City is still waiting to find out whether our insurance policies will cover the costs incurred in responding to the damage to our waterline as a result of the Pudding Creek Dam overtopping event in mid-December. Our insurance adjusters will be performing another site inspection next week. Governor Brown declared a state of emergency for the December winter storm during which the damage occurred and his office has indicated that California Disaster Assistance Act

funds may be available to Fort Bragg. Public Works Director Tom Varga and I met with a Caltrans representative earlier this month to get a better understanding of the process and timeframes for relocating the waterline onto the Pudding Creek bridge. I will be meeting with Georgia-Pacific representatives next week to get a better understanding of their plans for decommissioning the dam. As more information is available, the Council will be requested to provide policy direction regarding the long-term fix for the waterline.

Upcoming DTSC Meeting>> On Thursday, February 2nd at 6 PM at Fort Bragg Town Hall, the City Council will conduct a special meeting to receive an update from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regarding the Mill Site remediation process. The meeting will provide data regarding contamination levels in the Mill Pond sediments and will explain the remaining steps that GP and DTSC must take to address the remaining contamination on the Mill Site. The structural stability of the Mill Pond dam/spillway and berm will also be addressed. The presentation will address how potential future remediation activities intersect with the City's long-standing goal of creek daylighting. The meeting will be structured in the usual Council meeting format with a formal presentation by DTSC, an opportunity for questions and answers from the Council, and an opportunity for public comment. Following that, the meeting will transition to a more informal question and answer session as is typical of DTSC's community meetings. DTSC will conduct an "open house" at Town Hall from 3 PM to 5 PM where people can (1) review poster boards of mill pond contamination data, and GP's plans to stabilize the Mill Pond impoundment and spillway; and 2) ask questions of DTSC staff.

Upcoming Mill Site Reuse Discussion>> The City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint workshop on Monday, February 6th at 6 PM at Fort Bragg Town Hall to restart the planning process for rezoning the GP Mill Site to accommodate future reuse. Come to the meeting to learn about the extensive community process that occurred between 2004 and 2012 and various options for moving forward. The meeting is just the beginning of a discussion that will involve a great deal of Council policy direction and community participation. Refreshments will be provided.

Budget Schedule>> Now that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/16 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has been completed, the City's budget process for FY 2017/18 is underway. Several key dates are of note to the public. The Council will conduct its Mid-year Budget Review work session on Wednesday, March 15th. At this meeting, results of the first half of FY 2016/17 will be discussed. Additionally, Council will provide direction to guide development of the FY 2017/18 budget. The City Council will conduct a FY 2017/18 Budget Workshop on Thursday, May 25th. At this meeting, the proposed budget will be reviewed in detail and Council will provide further direction for revision. We anticipate the Council will consider adopting the finalized budget at the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on June 26th.

Bee City Update>> Fort Bragg's designation as California's first Bee City USA is making some serious headway! Several non-profit groups including the Noyo Food Forest, Fort Bragg Garden Club, Fort Bragg Rotary, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens and Bee Bold Mendocino are helping with the overarching goals of the Bee City USA program. The Bee City USA subcommittee is hoping to establish a pollinator-friendly garden on the grounds of the Guest House Museum. In addition, the subcommittee is working on ways to educate residents on minimizing use of herbicides and pesticides with the goal of pursuing an eventual ban on the use and sale of neo-nicotinoid products.

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>.

- **Finance & Administration Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics include: Water and Sewer Connection and Capacity Fees for Accessory Dwelling Units, Procedures for Placing Items on Council and Committee Agendas.
- **Special City Council Meeting** – Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Agenda topic: Update from Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Regarding Mill Site Remediation and Operable Unit E Feasibility Study.
- **Special Joint City Council/Planning Commission Meeting** – Monday, February 6, 2017 at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Agenda topic: Consider Issues and Options for Rezoning Georgia Pacific Mill Site Property.
- **Public Works & Facilities Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 3PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topic: Timed Parking in Skunk Depot Parking Lot.
- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics include: Cannabis Manufacturing Ordinance, Update from Noyo Center for Marine Science, Update from Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center, Updates to Street Names List and Addresses for Facilities in Noyo Headlands Park, Connection and Capacity Fees for Accessory Dwelling Units.
- **Public Safety Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 3PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics: Homeless Issues; Update on Implementation of Body-worn Camera Program.

City Notes is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this column or any matter of City business, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at LRuffing@fortbragg.com or (707)961-2829.