



## CITY NOTES

February 23, 2017

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**Busy Construction Season Ahead>>** The City's Public Works Department is gearing up for a very busy summer with lots of capital projects slated for completion. The list of projects includes: a new roof for the Guest House Museum; repairs to the Old Rec Center gym roof; a fresh coat of paint for the Guest House and City Hall; installation of an influent flow meter at the Wastewater Treatment Facility; construction of the central segment of the Coastal Trail; improvements at Bainbridge Park; 2017 Street and Alley Rehabilitation project; installation of a new water tank at the Water Treatment Plant; and replacement of the Glass Beach Stairway on the Coastal Trail.

**C.V. Starr Center Floor Drain Project>>** The family changing rooms at the C.V. Starr Center have had a drainage problem since the day the center opened. Water from the zero-entry shower pools on the floor and spills into the hallway. While the Center's maintenance crews have worked valiantly to keep the water mopped up, the real fix is to install functional floor drains. The project has been put out to bid and, if a contract is awarded, the work will be completed before the busy summer season begins at the Center. City and MCRPD staff plan to jointly perform the construction management tasks for this project.

**Transparency and Community Participation>>** After attending two League of California Cities conferences in the past month and listening to much talk about the need for more transparency in government, I can attest to the fact that Fort Bragg is light years ahead of most cities. The City has embraced social media and new technologies to help community members engage in civic life. Our Facebook page has more than 3,000 friends (that is a big accomplishment for a government page). We also use Twitter and Instagram to help get the word out. Our social media outreach is overseen by a team staffed by members of each City department. In addition, City Council, Planning Commission, and Council Standing Committee meetings are all livestreamed and conveniently archived on the City's website. All agenda packets are also available on the website. Hundreds of people have signed up (using the "Notify Me" feature on the City's website) to automatically receive email notifications of meetings, press releases, and other City news. For those who prefer face-to-face conversations, Mayor Lindy Peters hosts a weekly "Monday Morning Meeting with the Mayor" on Monday mornings at 11 AM in the Downstairs Conference Room at City Hall. The one-hour meeting is an opportunity for constituents to share ideas, interests and concerns. The City also hosts quarterly City Dialogue meetings (see below). The City welcomes public participation and its public meetings typically are very well-attended.

**City Dialogue on March 1<sup>st</sup>>>** The next City Dialogue will be held at Fort Bragg Town Hall from 8:30-10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The City Dialogue meetings have an informal, roundtable format and are facilitated by the City Manager. The meetings are an opportunity for City staff members to provide updates on current and planned projects and activities in each department. Attendees can ask questions and offer suggestions, compliments and/or critiques. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments are served.

**Chestnut Street Update>>** Despite the rainy weather, Akeff Construction continues to make progress on the Chestnut Street Corridor project. The work consists of forming and pouring concrete improvements including curbs, gutters and driveways. An approximately 8' wide pedestrian and bicycle path will be located behind the curbs and it will be paved with asphalt. When completed, most of Chestnut Street will include two 10' wide travel lanes and a 7' wide parking lane on the north side of the street. The project design is responsive to the neighborhood's desire for traffic calming as expressed at workshops held by the Council's Public Works & Facilities Committee. The relatively narrow street width will require drivers to travel slowly and attentively which will further enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety on the main route to Fort Bragg's elementary and high school sites.

**Segway Tours on the Coastal Trail?>>** As you may recall, last year the City Council turned down a local entrepreneur's request to operate Segway tours on the Coastal Trail. The Council's decision was based on the Fort Bragg Municipal Code regulation that prohibits motorized vehicles on the trail (except for City maintenance and security vehicles, motorized strollers and wheelchairs). The Council's decision not to amend the Code to allow Segways on the trail was based, in part, on the State Coastal Conservancy's determination that Segway tours would not be consistent with the grant requirement that restricts activities on the Coastal Trail property to "passive recreational uses." The Conservancy recently reconsidered its determination and told the entrepreneur and the City that "the Conservancy will defer to the City of Fort Bragg in this instance on the question of Segway use." As the entrepreneur continues to be interested in operating Segway tours on the Coastal Trail, the matter will be brought forward for Council direction at a future meeting.

**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>.

- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, February 27, 2017 at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics include: Noyo Center for Marine Science Annual Report; Roundabouts; Special Events in Coastal Parks; CV Starr Center Floor Drain Project; Mill Site Planning Process.
- **City Dialogue Meeting** – Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 8:30 AM, Fort Bragg Town Hall.
- **Finance & Administration Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 11 AM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics: Storm Drainage Impact Fees; Councilmember Compensation.
- **Public Works & Facilities Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics: Adopt-a-Street Program.
- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics include: Presentation by Sonoma Clean Power, CDBG Enterprise Fund Program Guidelines; Fees for Accessory Dwelling Units; Tourism Market Research Study.

*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](mailto:LRuffing@fortbragg.com) or (707)961-2829.*