



CITY NOTES

May 4, 2017

Increase in Gas Tax – Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB 1)>> Governor Brown recently signed legislation to boost transportation funding through a increases to the gas tax and vehicle registration fees. On November 1, 2017, the tax on gasoline will increase by 12 cents per gallon. The tax for diesel will increase by 20 cents per gallon. Vehicle registration fees will increase based on the value of the vehicle. Zero emission vehicles will also start to contribute to the cost of building and maintaining our transportation system. These new revenues will be distributed to State and local agencies according to various formulas. Typical uses of the new gas tax money will be for maintenance, rehabilitation, new construction, traffic control equipment and other related transportation improvements (including those for pedestrians, bicycles, transit, etc.). Fort Bragg’s gas tax funding will roughly double. By fiscal year 2018/19 the City’s gas tax revenues will be about \$160,000 more than at present.

Chestnut Street Multi-Use Path>> Construction has reached the west end of the project area at the Franklin Street intersection. The concrete curbs and gutters are almost finished. The asphalt paving is anticipated to happen in the next week or two. The most noticeable changes to Chestnut Street are the narrowing of the traffic lanes to encourage traffic calming and the new locations of the utility poles. The relocated poles will share space with the on-street parking on the north side of the street. The poles are well away from the travel lanes. The shared space is a result of strong neighborhood sentiments that the street right-of-way should not be widened. Likewise, the neighborhood sent a strong message during the project planning phase that slowing down speeding vehicles (i.e., traffic calming) is a high priority. Despite over six weeks of rain days, the project continues on track for completion before school gets out in June.

Enforcement of Ban on Vacation Home Rentals >> The City of Fort Bragg will begin another round of enforcement on illegal vacation homes in Fort Bragg. The City Council’s policy is that vacation home rentals are not permitted in residential neighborhoods in Fort Bragg. People who operate illegal vacation home rentals will be subject to a fine and/or a misdemeanor citation for: 1) operating a business in violation of the City’s zoning ordinance; 2) operating a business without a business license; and 3) failure to pay Transient Occupancy Taxes. If you are operating an illegal vacation home rental, please be forewarned that the City enforcement efforts will cover all advertising on Airbnb, Craig’s List, VRBO and similar platforms. The City Council does not allow vacation home rentals in Fort Bragg neighborhoods because they decrease available housing, increase the cost of rental housing, and may impact neighborhoods with excess parking, noise and traffic.

Fort Bragg Mural Competition>> The City of Fort Bragg has partnered with the Mendocino Community Foundation to host a Mural Competition this fall. If you own a commercial property and would like to sponsor a beautiful mural on your building facade, please contact Sarah McCormick in the Community Development Department for more details. You can reach Sarah at 961-2817 ext. 111 or email her at smccormick@fortbragg.com.

Police Department Cracking Down on Gang Activity>> Over the past few weeks, the Fort Bragg Police Department has seen an uptick in gang-related activities. Our officers have arrested a number of adults and juveniles with ties to criminal street gangs for various offenses. The Department is

coordinating closely with the Fort Bragg Unified School District to effectively respond to incidents on school campuses.

Drug Take Back Day>> Last Saturday, the Fort Bragg Police Department participated in the national “Drug Take Back Day” event. Many citizens from Fort Bragg and other areas delivered expired medication and sharps to the station for proper disposal. Medication lock bags were handed out for free to help secure prescription medications at home. The event was co-sponsored by the Coalition for Gang Awareness & Prevention.

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, May 8, 2017 at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Agenda topics include: Introduction of Police Cadets; Mendocino County Broadband goals and strategy; 2017 Mayor’s Well Done Awards; Solicit Public Input on How to Improve the Civility of Discourse in Public Forums in Community; Award Contract for Guest House Roof Replacement Project; Safe Routes to School Outreach Program; Review Scope of Services for LCP Amendment Grant.
- **Public Safety Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 10 AM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Agenda topics include: Regulation of retail cannabis uses in Fort Bragg, including presentation by League of California Cities; Possible preparation of a Homeless Action Plan for Fort Bragg.

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.