



CITY NOTES

January 4, 2018

2017 - A Year of Accomplishments

The start of a new year provides an opportune time to reflect on some of the City's top accomplishments in the prior year.

- **Coastal Trail Project.** In 2017, the connecting central link of the Coastal Trail project was constructed. Fencing is underway and the trail is expected to open in January. At long last, Fort Bragg will have a continuous blufftop trail along its oceanfront. The Coastal Trail project has involved extensive collaboration among all City departments. This central link of the Coastal Trail was funded by grants from Caltrans and State Parks.
- **Bainbridge Park Upgrades.** The City implemented the first phase of the Bainbridge Park Master Plan, improving the tennis and basketball courts, replanting trees and installing a decorative perimeter fence along the North Harrison Street and Laurel Street frontages of the park. This project was paid for with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.
- **Guest House Upgrades.** The City installed a new roof and repainted the Guest House - a 125 year old mansion in the heart of Fort Bragg. The Guest House was built by the former owners of Fort Bragg's lumber mill and it now houses a museum operated by the Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society.
- **Streets & Alleys Rehabilitation Project.** The City completed an extensive street and alley repair project which installed drainage improvements and resurfaced many, many blocks of City streets and alleys including: South Franklin Street from Oak to North Harbor Drive; Boatyard/Oceanview Drive; North Sanderson Way north of Cedar Street; Sears Alley; Starbucks Alley; Portuguese Hall Alley; and a residential alley off of Chestnut Street.
- **Mill Site Reuse.** In 2017, the City Council restarted the Mill Site Reuse planning process. The City is preparing an amendment to its Local Coastal Program to rezone the former Georgia-Pacific Mill Site for future development. After closure of the mill in 2002, the City worked for many years on the Mill Site Reuse process. The work was set aside in 2011 when the City was dragged into litigation over cost-recovery for environmental remediation of the 425-acre lumber mill property. The litigation concluded in late 2014. This past year, the Mill Site Reuse process was re-initiated with a well-attended set of community workshops and a community survey. Staff is drafting a new plan based on Council direction and work will continue with City Council, the Planning Commission and the community over the coming year to fine tune the Mill Site Reuse Plan for submittal to the California Coastal Commission.
- **Tourism Marketing & Promotion.** The City Council approved the Visit Fort Bragg Marketing & Promotions Plan to guide the City's expanded tourism marketing and promotion efforts. A market research study was completed and a "branding" effort is underway. This will be followed by a revamp of the FortBragg.com website and many other activities to help bolster Fort Bragg's tourism economy. This activity is funded by Measure AA, a voter-approved increase in the hotel bed tax rate paid by visitors staying in Fort Bragg motels.

- **Mural Competition.** The Community Development Department organized a Mural Competition which resulted in three lovely new murals in downtown Fort Bragg. The murals are located on the south-facing wall of the North Coast Brewery Taproom on North Main Street, on the west-facing wall of Interior on Redwood Avenue, and on the Laurel Street façade of the woodworking studio across from the Veterans Hall. The mural competition was funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County and contributions from the participating property owners.
- **Grants, Grants, Grants.** The City was awarded a \$500,000 HOME grant to fund housing rehabilitation loans for owner-occupied housing. The City also initiated activities funded by a \$2 million CDBG grant including construction of a 1.5 million gallon water tank and implementation of a business loan program and a microenterprise assistance program.
- **Police Cadet Program.** The Police Department graduated its first class of Police Cadets. These young volunteers have been deployed to assist with numerous special events and parades. Cadet Leader Maria Ramirez received the Jere Melo Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.
- **Body-Worn Camera Program.** The Police Department obtained a grant from the Department of Justice to implement a body-worn camera program. Ten cameras and other necessary IT equipment have been purchased and the Department is finalizing its policy for use of the cameras and for handling the video footage.
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).** The Police Department successfully launched a CERT program to help our community prepare for and respond local disasters and emergencies. Several local residents have taken the requisite CERT training and attend regular CERT meetings.
- **Awards for Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Budget Presentation.** The City received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Financial Officer's Association (GFOA) for the City's Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The City also received a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget.
- **Labor Agreements.** In 2017, the City successfully negotiated two-year contracts with the Fort Bragg Employee Organization/SEIU #1021 and the Fort Bragg Police Association. The City also entered into two year agreements with mid-management, management, and non-bargaining and confidential employees.

Congratulations to the City Council and City staff for completing another year of hard work with lots of tangible progress being made on a variety of projects and activities!

City Notes is usually 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.