

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
January 25, 2007

- 1. Police Department Staff—December’s Employees of the Month!** The entire staff of the Fort Bragg Police Department has been acknowledged as December’s “Employee of the Month.” They were nominated by Police Chief Mark Puthuff for “going the extra mile to proactively safeguard our community.” Specific examples include: (1) Increasing the interactive presence at our school campuses to work with community members and school officials to protect our youth; (2) responding to increased theft-related incidents with proactive approaches that have resulted in recoveries of large amounts of stolen property; (3) several top notch investigations which have resulted in numerous arrests; (4) apprehension of a violent robbery suspect from the Roseville area; (5) several arrests of documented gang members who assaulted local patrons with weapons at our local coffeehouse; (6) coordination of security for the Tree Lighting and Holiday Lights Parade events. Many thanks are due to the entire Police Department staff for their service to our community and their commitment to excellence.
- 2. Another Crime Solved.** Our police officers investigated the burglary of \$8,000 from a residence earlier this month and were able to locate and arrest three juvenile suspects and to recover the majority of the money.
- 3. Sewer Infrastructure Repairs.** The Public Works Department is discovering more and more problems with the City’s sewer infrastructure. Many of the lines are failing and in need of either replacement or slip-lining. Public Works Director Dave Goble and Finance Director Mark Johnson have been working to find funds for the most urgent repairs. Upcoming projects include replacement of 100’ of sewer main on the Frontage Road south of the Noyo Bridge; slip lining 160’ of sewer main that crosses a private property on North Harrison; slip lining the 18” corrugated metal sewer main on the west end of Alder Street. Recent inspections of the City’s sewer system in Sanderson Way between Oak Street and Cedar Street indicate the need for replacement of a 675’ long section that serves approximately 270 connections. Additionally, a 230’ long section of sewer line on Sough Sanderson is also failing and in need of replacement. The Wastewater Enterprise fund does not have sufficient capital reserves to fund these projects and, it is evident that the costs of maintaining and replacing our aging sewer infrastructure will continue to escalate.
- 4. Costly Infrastructure.** Public Works Supervisor Mike Cimolino has been taking an infrastructure class at Sacramento State has developed some staggering estimates of the replacement cost of the City’s underground infrastructure:

Sewer Main Lines	25.6 miles	14,868,480
Sewer Service Laterals	2,730 connections	6,483,750
Manholes	260 manholes	1,690,000
Water Main Lines	26.5 miles	18,889,200
Water Service Lines	2,730 connections	8,190,000
Storm Drain Main Lines	11.5 miles	6,982,800
Storm Drain Inlets	260 inlets	1,560,000
Total replacement cost		\$58,664,230

5. **Skate Park.** We're one step closer to having a Skate Park in Fort Bragg. Last week, the Fort Bragg Unified School District Board received a report regarding the proposed Skate Park and directed their staff to place the matter on the Board's February 8th agenda for action. Thanks to Planner Sean O'Rourke, Police Chief Mark Puthuff, Rec District Executive Director Beth Pine, and School Superintendent Steve Lund for attending the meeting and encouraging the School Board to get on board with a joint agency effort to establish a Skate Park for local youth.
6. **Noyo River Flows.** If it doesn't start raining soon, we could be in for a very dry year here on the coast. Water Project Manager Dick LaVen reports that flows in the Noyo River are down to 39 cubic feet per second (cfs) this week. Normal flows for mid-January are about 200 cfs. In anticipation of a dry year, we will be preparing an update of the City's emergency water conservation ordinance to ensure that water use can be curtailed, as needed, should our water supplies ebb later this year.
7. **Highway 20 Water Main Relocation.** Public Works staff has been notified by Caltrans that the City will need to lower our 12" water main which is within the Caltrans right-of-way to accommodate the improvements that are being installed as part of Caltrans' Highway 20 Safety Project. Unfortunately, this item has not been budgeted and we will need to identify funding and amend the budget, in order to get the item bid and constructed by the end of March deadline established by Caltrans.