City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
January 29, 2009

1. **Employee of the Month.** The Police Department's Administrative Secretary, Kira Magness, received the November Employee of the Month recognition for her above-and-beyond contributions to numerous special events, and particularly for her work on the Safe Community Celebration last October. In nominating Kira, Chief Mark Puthuff wrote: "Kira Magness is truly an ambassador for our department in the manner in which she serves the Fort Bragg community. On October 4th, we hosted the Safe Community Celebration at Bainbridge Park. This event was a huge success and it was well-attended by our community. Kira worked tirelessly with our other community partners to organize the many different activities. This event required a large amount of logistical planning and organization. Kira played an integral role and was specifically acknowledged by all of those involved. Kira cares deeply about our organization and our community. Her dedicated effort is constant and appreciated by all." Congratulations, Kira!

2. **Update on Skate Park at C.V. Starr Community Center.** Last week, the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Board approved modifications to the master plan for the C.V. Starr Community Center site to include a 10,800 square foot skate park at the north east corner of the site, and a 17,800 square foot dog park at the northwest corner of the site. The Community Development Department will be processing modifications to the permits for the facility to address these improvements and to modify the phasing of the parking area such that the entire west parking lot will be built as part of the current construction project and the east parking lot will be built concurrent with the future gymnasium. The Skate Park design team (SITE Design Group and RJM Design) has been instructed to complete their design for a skate park at the C.V. Starr Community Center site. Additional community outreach, environmental review and permitting will be required for the facility. A community workshop to review the final design plans for the skate park is planned for Thursday, March 19th.

3. **State Budget Impacts.** Finance Director Pat Frost has been carefully monitoring the City's cash flow since the State informed us last month that two invoices totaling $1.2 million for reimbursement of costs incurred for the Pudding Creek Force Main project (funded by Prop 50) will not be paid to the City for an indeterminate amount of time. The good news is that it appears that the State will pay two different invoices totaling $1.2 million for reimbursement of costs for the Safe Routes to School project and the ADA Curb Ramps and Sidewalk Infill project. We have three big capital projects that are scheduled to begin in the very near future and we will be making every effort to submit frequent partial payment requests to the State so that, if they start withholding payment of transportation funds in the future, the City is not burdened with millions of dollars in unpaid invoices.

4. **Independence Day Fireworks.** Tom Yates of KOZT and Debra DeGraw, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, are starting to rally the troops to raise funds and to pledge volunteer time for an Independence Day fireworks display this year. The 4th of July falls on a Saturday this year which means the World's Largest Salmon BBQ and the Mendocino Independence Day Parade will both be held on Saturday.

Since the “official” holiday is on Friday, July 3rd, they’re looking to schedule the fireworks on the 3rd which helps spread out the weekend’s events and has the added benefit of “more bang for the buck.”

5. **Address Painting on Curbs.** At a Public Safety Committee meeting a couple of months ago, Councilmember Melo recounted the story of being on a “ride-along” with a police officer and responding to a call of a prowler in a yard. The responding officers were unable to quickly locate the residence because there were no street numbers posted. With the concurrence of the Fire Chief and the Police Chief, the Committee directed staff to investigate the possibility of getting a volunteer group to undertake an address painting program. With great enthusiasm, the two student community service/leadership clubs at Fort Bragg High School (Interact Club and Key Club) have offered to undertake this ambitious project. The City will provide the paint, stencils, and instructions; the Rotary Club will provide insurance for the encroachment permit; and the students will provide many, many hours of labor to paint addresses on the curb in front of every home in Fort Bragg. The students will be soliciting nominal donations from residents to help support their local and international community service projects.