

City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

March 19, 2009

- 1. Community Prevention Connection Weblink on Police Department Website.** The Police Department is proud to share its new and informative webpage link titled "Community Prevention Connection." This monthly publication offers tips for the community such as personal safety, home security, fraudulent activity awareness, telephone and computer scam information, local current events and national observances. This month's topics of interest include vehicle burglaries, responding to graffiti, and protecting valuable documents. Each month, a new publication will be posted to the PD website which can be viewed, printed and distributed. Publications dating back to August 2008 are archived and available for viewing, as well. The site can be found by clicking on the menu option "Community Prevention Connection" from the Police Department's main menu. Take a few minutes to check it out!
- 2. Update on Development Impact Fees.** The Finance & Administration Committee (FAC) and the Economic Development Action Committee (EDAC) held a joint meeting in late February to continue their discussion of the City's draft development impact fee study. The FAC/EDAC have received a considerable amount of public comment which has led to significant refinements to the study. In particular, the list of capital projects to be partially funded by development impact fees has been scaled back substantially, resulting in a concomitant reduction in fees. At this point, further review will wait until after more detailed assumptions about future development on the Mill Site are factored in to the model following the Specific Plan workshop later this spring. Once that is done, Community Development Director Marie Jones will complete the nexus study and the impact fee study will be run past the FAC/EDAC one more time prior to consideration by the City Council.
- 3. Air Quality Grant Approved for New Hybrid Pool Car.** The City received notification from Chris Brown, Director of the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District, that the our request for grant funds to purchase a Ford Escape hybrid vehicle as a pool car for the Police Department was approved for full funding.
- 4. Caspar Transfer Station Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting.** The Joint Coordinating Committee for the Caspar Transfer Station met last Thursday to discuss operations at the Caspar Transfer Station and to review the invoice for the City's share of the FY 07/08 Caspar Transfer Station costs. The invoice requests approximately \$37,800 for the transfer station and \$33,600 for Caspar landfill closure costs. Solid Waste Division Director Scott Miller informed the committee that, despite a substantial increase in user fees at the transfer station, an operating subsidy will be needed for the current fiscal year due to decreased revenues from recycling and increased costs relating to fuel costs. The committee discussed the possibility of instituting mandatory garbage collection in the City of Fort Bragg, as is currently required in both Willits and Ukiah. The two County supervisors on the committee agreed that they will support an amendment to the City/County Joint Powers Authority agreement for the Caspar Transfer Station that stipulates that the City will not be responsible for payment of an operating subsidy for the transfer

station if mandatory garbage collection is implemented. Staff will be preparing a full report for the Council and will request policy direction before proceeding with contract amendments and implementation of mandatory garbage collection.

5. **Wednesday, March 25th Tsunami Live Code Test.** On Wednesday, March 25th at approximately 10:15 a.m., the State Office of Emergency Services will be conducting a Tsunami Warning System Test in Mendocino County. The difference between this test and the tests that are typically seen on television or heard on the radio is that the message will not indicate that it is a test. This is necessary to test the codes that deliver tsunami warning messages to the public. This is only a test and people do not need to take any action. They should not call 911.
6. **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Thursday, March 19th Skate Plaza Workshop.** The Mendocino Coast Recreation & Parks District and the City of Fort Bragg Community Development Department are hosting a community workshop for the public to review and comment on the final conceptual design for a new skate plaza which is planned for the C.V. Starr Community Center site in Fort Bragg. The workshop will be held at Fort Bragg Town Hall on Thursday, March 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 - **Tuesday, March 24th Energizing Entrepreneurship Workshop.** On Tuesday, March 24th from 9:00 a.m. until noon, the West Company and the City of Fort Bragg are co-sponsoring a workshop for local business owners and community members with an interest in economic development issues. Karen Dabson of the e² Institute will present information regarding entrepreneurship development.