

City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

March 27, 2008

- 1. Employees of the Months.** We're doing a little bit of catch-up with our monthly recognition of outstanding employee performance-- The November employee of the month award went to our fabulous Employee Appreciation Committee (Brenda Jourdain, Chris Carterette, Crystal Prairie, Mary Miller, Darrell Bailey, Lisa Whitten and Mary Tobak). The Committee is a dedicated group of employees from all City departments who plan the annual employee appreciation dinner, the annual employee barbeque, the Winter Wing-Ding holiday celebration, and monthly birthday celebrations. The Committee is commended for their team spirit and their willingness to give generously of their time and talents to plan special events for the entire City of Fort Bragg team.

The December employee of the month award was given to Administrative Secretary Mary Tobak. Over the past several months, Mary has really gone above and beyond the call of duty. Mary performs a myriad of complex and sensitive tasks, and she's often the first point of contact for people who have a bone to pick with City Hall. More often than not, Mary's active listening skills, empathy, and on-the-spot problem solving succeed in addressing citizen concerns. Mary also devotes a great deal of time and energy to various "special tasks." One such task that is particularly noteworthy is the Wave Energy Forum that was held earlier this year. Mary played a key role in coordinating this hugely successful event. She took on much of the pre-planning; fielded countless phone calls and inquiries with participants; orchestrated all of the site work with the school district, Public Works, and MCTV; arranged for the perfect amount of food; solicited donations from local businesses; prepared gorgeous display ads; ensured press coverage; coordinated the panelists; kept endless lists and rosters up-to-date; and attended to hundreds of other details. On top of it all, she worked from dawn to dusk on the day of the event, with a smile on her face throughout!

- 3. Mill Site Specific Plan Meeting.** Community Development Director Marie Jones and I other members of the Mill Site Coordinating Committee met with key staff from RRM Design and Community Design + Architecture last Friday to provide an initial briefing and discuss the scope of consultant services necessary for the Mill Site Specific Plan. The consulting team will introduce themselves to the Council on the April 14th agenda. We anticipate a follow-up presentation to the Council on May 27th to discuss the scope of the specific plan process, followed by an initial community workshop in early July.
- 4. Caspar Transfer Station Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting.** The City-County Committee met earlier this month and continued its discussion of a number of issues pertaining to the Joint Powers Agreement between the County and the City for operation of the Caspar Transfer Station and closure of the Caspar landfill. The discussion focused on the fees charged at the transfer station. County staff is proposing a \$1 increase, from the current \$20/cubic yard fee to \$21/cubic yard effective July 1st. County staff has calculated that the actual operation cost per cubic yard at Caspar is approximately \$34/cubic yard. The City's position is that the County needs to increase revenues or reduce costs of the transfer station, rather than asking the City to subsidize an on-going

operating deficit with General Fund revenues. The City's representatives on the Joint Coordinating Committee (Mayor Hammerstrom, Councilmember Gjerde, and me) will attend the Board of Supervisors hearing on the fee increases next week to request a more substantial fee increase.

- 5. Meeting with Representatives of Potter Valley Tribe.** Last week, Mayor Hammerstrom and I met with representatives of the Potter Valley Tribe to discuss their interest in participating in the Mill Site reuse planning process. The tribe is part of the Northern Pomo people who are native to this region and the tribal representatives indicated that the Potter Valley people made (and continue to make) yearly extended collection trips to the Fort Bragg coast to harvest seaweed, kelp and shellfish. The tribe is federally recognized and is interested in ensuring that cultural artifacts are repatriated in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection Act and State law (SB 18). The tribe is also very supportive of the concept of developing a Pomo Cultural Center on the Mill Site and would like to participate in the planning and development of a center focusing on Pomo heritage. When asked, the tribal representatives indicated that they are not interested in pursuing tribal gaming, but that they are interested in economic development opportunities for the Potter Valley Tribe.
- 6. Hare Creek Project.** A joint City Council/Planning Commission workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 28th to receive a presentation from the applicants for the Hare Creek Development Project and to discuss overall goals and objectives for future development on the project site. This is particularly timely, as it appears that a redesign of the project may be needed. According to recent information provided by Caltrans, the State owns the access rights along the entire frontage of the property. Caltrans staff has indicated that, while they might consider allowing an access road to the site off of Main Street, they would only do so if the Hare Creek Bridge is expanded to four lanes at the property owner's expense.