City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
April 2, 2009

1. **Employees of the Months.** The Public Works Maintenance Crew, including Ian Sanderson, Art Roberts, Dave Pavioni, Bob Oates, Darrell Orsi, Tom Mitchell, Adam Dondanville, Mike Cimolino, Jason Balassi and Darrell Bailey, along with Jim Goekler and Heath Daniels of the Treatment Team, received the Employee of the Month recognition for November and December 2008 for the outstanding work performed in response to a major water main break on Oak Street. Thanks to their rapid response and team efforts, service was fully restored to the City the same afternoon, and the street was open the following day after the cleanup of the street, storm drains and the surrounding area to remove silt and debris.

2. **Status Report for Capital Projects**. Our Public Works Department is busier than ever managing the various street projects that are underway and preparing for additional projects that are scheduled for this summer. The status of several of these projects is outlined below:

   - Downtown Streetscape. All of the demolition of the south side sidewalks on the east/west streets has been completed and the contractor has been installing new curbs and gutters, beginning with Alder Street and working north. Most of the underground work, including storm drainage, valve relocation and trenching for conduit and light foundations has been completed. Work is proceeding on schedule and is still expected to be completed by the first of July.

   - Rail Crossings – Fir Street and Franklin Street. We are nearing completion of the contract with Mendocino Railway which will allow this project to move forward within the next month or so. Staff has met with the contractor for the street/sidewalk portion of the work, to discuss details of what work can be completed while the train is in service. The track work, which will be completed by Mendocino Railway personnel, will not take place until the railroad shuts down for winter in November. Under the State Transportation Improvement Program approval, the City has 2½ years remaining to expend the funds for this project.

   - Street Overlay Phase III. W.R. Forde, contractor for the street overlay project, completed all concrete sidewalk and ramp work and overlay work last week. There are a couple areas that may require some additional paving work, and a final walk-through of the paving areas has not been completed. The contractor is currently working on raising valve boxes and manholes to grade, and will be following up with pavement markings. Final work on this project is expected to be completed within the next couple weeks.

   - Oak Street Repair. Final paving for the Oak Street Repair Project was completed last week by Big River Rock Construction. The repair of Oak Street at its intersections with Livingston and McKinley Streets was required due to a ruptured 14" water main in Oak Street that lifted large sections of the asphalt. The contractor removed all asphalt affected by the leak; re-compacted the sub-grade, added base rock and repaved the affected area. This project was delayed due to weather

conditions and wet soil, but the surface is now restored and the only remaining work is to adjust valves and manholes to grade and restripe the streets.

3. **Planning Project Status Updates.** The Community Development Department is busy with all kinds of interesting activities, a few of which are noted below:

   - Economic Development. Over the past year, the City has worked with 33 businesses in our efforts to both retain existing businesses and attract new businesses to Fort Bragg. The Community Development Department has assisted 11 existing businesses in Fort Bragg and 16 new businesses that have located in Fort Bragg. City staff also assisted six businesses that did not move to Fort Bragg. Cumulatively, this work has attracted and/or retained a total of 73 jobs. To learn more about the City's economic development activities check out the City's economic development website on the Community Development page at http://city.fortbragg.com.

   - Climate Action Plan. City staff is putting the finishing touches on the City's draft Climate Action Plan, which lays out strategies for how the City can meet its greenhouse gas reduction target of 30 percent for 2015. The planning effort has identified some surprising opportunities to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save the City money – two very laudable goals.

   - Geographic Information System. The Community Development Department is in the process of implementing a Geographic Information System (GIS). Once the GIS is up and running (late summer) staff will be able to pull up any parcel in the City and determine zoning requirements, access to sewer and water, and permit history. The GIS will also allow staff to pull up a very accurate aerial photo of the property. It will be a useful tool for completing demographic and economic analyses and will enable staff to prepare interesting and accurate maps that illustrate key issues.

4. **Demolition of Truck Shed on the Georgia Pacific Mill Site.** Georgia Pacific has requested an emergency Coastal Development Permit and demolition permit for removal of the 36,000 square foot Truck Loading Shed. This is the very large warehouse located just north of Soldier's Bay near the bluff. The shed experienced very significant structural damage in the last big wind storm. A number of the large supporting timbers have shattered, creating a health and safety issue. The demolition will take place as soon as possible.

5. **Mark Your Calendars:** There are a number of upcoming community events of interest, including:

   - **City Hall Ribbon Cutting and Open House** – "First Friday," April 3, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
   - **Rural Broadband Conference** – Wednesday, April 8, 9:00 a.m., Portuguese Hall
   - **Neighborhood/Community Meeting** (hosted by Mayor Doug Hammerstrom and Councilmember Meg Courtney), Wednesday, April 15th 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Fort Bragg Town Hall
   - **Biomass Workshop** – Friday, April 24, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m., Town Hall
   - **Mill Site Specific Plan Community Workshop** – Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m., Dana Grey Elementary Multi-Purpose Room