

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
April 5, 2007

- 1. March Employee of the Month.** Police Department Administrative Secretary Kira Magness has been selected as the March Employee of the Month. Chief Puthuff nominated Kira because of her commitment to excellence and genuine dedication to their organization. Due to personnel shortages over the last several months, Kira has inherited many duties that were at one time handled by up to five other people. She addresses the many diverse and demanding tasks and her “can do” attitude is welcomed and contagious.
- 2. Officer of the Year.** Police Officer Wesley Rafanan has been selected as Fort Bragg Police Department’s “Officer of the Year.” He will be honored at a reception at the Ukiah Elks Lodge on Saturday, April 28th. Wes handles a large volume of reports and led the department in the number of cases handled and arrests made in 2006. Wes is also a member of our multi-agency SWAT team.
- 3. Green Building Workshop.** Community Development Director Marie Jones led a Green Building Workshop on Wednesday evening. The event was very successful and more than 60 people attended. The presentation included information about the environmental and health impacts of conventional construction, the costs and benefits of building “green”, green-building standards for commercial and residential construction, and an overview of green building practices and materials. The City fortunate to have a Community Development Director with Marie’s breadth of expertise!
- 4. Volunteer Appreciation Reception on April 9.** The volunteers who serve on City Boards, Committees and Commissions will be the guests of honor at the City-hosted reception at Town Hall immediately prior to the City Council meeting on April 9th. The reception will start at 6:30 p.m. The volunteers will also be honored during the Mayor’s Recognitions and Announcements.
- 5. Pudding Creek Force Main Relocation Project.** The State Water Board is scheduled to consider approving the Recommended Project List for the Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program on April 18th. The Recommended Project List includes a \$1,500,000 grant to the City of Fort Bragg for relocation of the Pudding Creek Force Main.
- 6. Housing Rehabilitation.** The City has undertaken a broad advertising campaign for its Housing Rehabilitation loan and grant program for low income residents. English and Spanish brochures have been distributed to several large employers and service organizations in town. Brochure packages were sent to each area church or assembly, and the Coastal Mendocino Association of Realtors recently distributed program brochures at its monthly meeting. A flyer was included in the March utility billing which reached over 2,700 residences and businesses. Prior to the utility bill distribution, three viable applications in process. Based on the number of calls received since the utility billing, we anticipate more applications in the near future.

7. Tsunami Workshop. The Tsunami Workshop and Tabletop Exercise, hosted by the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, were well-attended and very informative. In historic times, 24 tsunamis have occurred on the northern California coast, with the 1964 tsunami resulting in 11 deaths. Fort Bragg is located just south of the Cascadia subduction zone which extends from Point Mendocino to Vancouver. The last major earthquake (magnitude 9.3!) was in 1700 and the estimated frequency of such quakes is 300 years. This means such an event could occur anytime and it is imperative that our community is prepared. Fortunately, a locally-generated tsunami resulting from a Cascadia quake would not be likely to result in a tsunami here in Fort Bragg as the waves are generated perpendicular to the source and we are south of the subduction zone. Nevertheless, there is work to be done to prepare for emergency response to both earthquakes and tsunamis. City staff will continue working on updating the City's Emergency Plan, training staff, and educating the community.