

City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

April 10, 2008

- 1. City Welcomes New Police Lieutenant.** Police Chief Mark Puthuff conducted the swearing in ceremony for our new Police Lieutenant, Michael Richards, last Saturday. Lieutenant Richards has more than 26 years of law enforcement experience with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office. He has extensive experience with the narcotics unit, detectives, juvenile services and as a patrol watch commander. He has received numerous awards, including the Medal of Valor. Lieutenant Richards has a Bachelors of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Management and has served as a law enforcement academy instructor and Recruit Training Officer. He is also a veteran of the United States Army where he was assigned to the Military Police. We are really pleased to welcome Lieutenant Richards to the Fort Bragg Police Department.
- 2. Wave Energy Update.** The City Attorney's office filed a request for rehearing last week with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on PG&E's Mendocino WaveConnect preliminary permit. Mendocino County and the FISH stakeholders group filed similar requests. PG&E will be attending the City Council meeting on April 14th and conducting a public meeting in Fort Bragg on Tuesday, April 15th to present and receive comments on the 45-day schedule that they have prepared for submission to FERC.
- 3. Site Visit for Otis Johnson Park Grant.** The City has been notified of an upcoming site visit by representatives of the California Rivers and Trails grant program as part of the evaluation process of our grant application for improvements to Otis Johnson Park. This site visit is an important milestone and indicates that Fort Bragg is a viable contender for the grant program. Only 25 projects throughout the State were selected to progress to the site visit stage of the grant evaluation process. The California Rivers and Trails grant program received \$30.5 million in funding requests this year and has \$20.5 million in available funds. We hope to receive a favorable response to our application this summer.
- 4. Speed Trailer Back in Service.** The City's speed trailer is being repaired and will be put back into to service in coming weeks. The City receives periodic complaints from local residents about speeding vehicles on residential streets. In response, the Police Department has stepped up traffic enforcement efforts and a number of habitual speeders have been cited. The speed trailer will not supplant enforcement, but rather it will help educate drivers about the 25 mph speed limit on our local streets and increase awareness about speeding.
- 5. Utility Rate Study.** After receiving concurrence from the Council/MID on the Revenue Requirements for the Utility Rate Study, our consultants provided an updated schedule for completion of the study and implementation of the new rates. The proposed schedule allows time for the Finance & Administration Committee to weigh in on the utility rate model design in early May, with a revised model and Draft Report brought forward for Council/MID review on May 27th. Following that, a 45-day public hearing notice will be

issued and the public hearing will be held at either the first or second meeting in July, with the rates to be implemented on August 1st.

6. **Street Trees on Franklin Street.** All of the ornamental plum trees and Catalina Ironwood trees have been acquired and we are expecting the tree guards to arrive any day now. Landscape contractor Terry Knaus will begin planting the street trees to complete the North Franklin Street streetscape improvements within the next week or so.
7. **Safe Passage “Padres to Padres” Meeting.** The City was well-represented at a community meeting at the Safe Passage Family Resource Center last Monday evening. Chief Puthuff, Lieutenant Richards, Sergeant Gilchrist, and Officer Lopez attended on behalf of the Police Department. Councilmembers Courtney and Gjerde attended as City officials. The meeting was attended by about 40 Latino parents and community members and a lot of information was exchanged in an effort to build stronger bridges between the City, the schools, service agencies, and our growing Latino community.
8. **City Awarded CDBG Microenterprise Grant.** Our talented grant writer, Jennifer Owen, has written another successful grant—this time pulling in \$350,000 from the State Community Development Block Grant Economic Enterprise Fund to fund business assistance services to microenterprises (small businesses with less than five employees) in Fort Bragg. The grant will allow West Company to continue providing microenterprise services to benefit low income residents in our community. Fort Bragg was the only jurisdiction in Mendocino County that applied for and received a CDBG Economic Enterprise Fund grant in the 2007-08 cycle.
9. **Community Pride Day.** The Fort Bragg Rotary and Timberwolf Stadium Foundation are organizing a “Community Pride Day” event with a poker run and BBQ to showcase our local non-profit organizations and raise funds. The event will be held on June 28th at Timberwolf Stadium. I would like to encourage local non-profits to contact Rich Pyorre at 964-6631 to find out how to participate in this fun-filled event.