

City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

April 16, 2009

- 1. Cedar Street Residents Looking for Solutions to Speeding Vehicles.** A dozen local residents addressed the Public Safety Committee last Wednesday regarding traffic-related concerns on Cedar Street. A number of potential solutions were discussed including installation of traffic calming measures such as speed tables, signs, wider sidewalks, and striping; making Cedar a one-way street to reduce through-traffic; posting lower speed limits; and increased traffic enforcement. It was agreed that improvements to Cedar Street will included in the upcoming update of the City's Residential Streets Safety Plan. In order to immediately address the concerns, the Fort Bragg Police Department will be stepping up traffic enforcement activities during the school rush hours. Speeders beware!
- 2. New Assistant to the City Manager Hired.** The City's new Assistant to the City Manager, Gary Garcia, started work last week. He will be responsible for overseeing the City's human resources functions and providing other assistance to the City Manager. Gary's expertise combines a strong background in human resources management with significant experience in compensation, benefit administration, employee/labor relations, organizational development and HR strategic planning. Prior to relocating to the Mendocino Coast last year, Gary served as the Deputy Executive Officer for the Superior Court in the County of Ventura and before that he served as Vice President of Human Resources for two high-tech firms. Gary has a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from Golden Gate University and a Master's degree in Instructional Technology from San Jose State University. We are pleased to welcome Gary to the City's management team.
- 3. Promotion Committee Allocates \$6,000 to Fireworks.** The Fort Bragg Promotion Committee stepped up to the plate again and appropriated nearly all of its remaining funds for FY 2008-09 to this year's Independence Day Fireworks display. The \$6,000 of City funds, combined with \$2,500 from parking fees for last year's event, \$3,000 from the Hurst family/Harbor Lite Lodge, \$1,000 from the Fort Bragg Rotary Club, and \$1,000 from the Mendocino Coast Lodging Association brings the total donations to within \$1,500 of what's needed for the display. If you know of any organizations or individuals who might be willing to make a donation to the fireworks, please have them contact Tom Yates at KOZT. The Chamber of Commerce has graciously agreed to sponsor this year's fireworks by obtaining the encroachment permit and providing the necessary insurance for the pyrotechnics display. Immediately following this year's event, a volunteer committee will be formed to help find a "permanent" sponsor for the fireworks and to create an ongoing and effective fund-raising strategy
- 4. Pro-Active Policing.** Over the past couple of weeks, there a spate of bank robberies have occurred in our region and the suspect(s) remain at large. Our police force has taken a very pro-active stance, increasing staffing during bank business hours and directing officers to maintain a focus on the downtown district in the vicinity of our local financial institutions. Hopefully, these precautions will prove unnecessary, but should the brazen thief attempt a bank robbery here in Fort Bragg, our officers are prepared to respond with all due haste.

- 5. Waterfall Gulch Diversion Impacted by Upstream Timber Harvest.** The City had to temporarily stop using its Waterfall Gulch water source last month due to high levels of sediment from a private property that was logged in the upper watershed. The California Division of Forestry was contacted with a request that the owner immediately be required to install more effective erosion control measures. This event is of great concern, as the Waterfall Gulch water source is the City of Fort Bragg's most valuable water source. It supplies about 25 percent of the City's water; it is our cleanest water source; and it requires no pumping since it gravity feeds to our treatment plant. While the City has taken every opportunity to oppose subdivisions and higher density development on properties in the upper watershed above the Waterfall Gulch diversion, this is the first timber harvest that has caused problems at the water source.
- 6. Downtown Streetscape Project Update.** Argonaut's subcontractor has completed all of the curbs and gutters on the south side of the east-west streets and they are beginning to pour the sidewalks. Once everything is completed on the south side, they will begin working on the north side of the streets. Depending on the weather, the sidewalk work should be completed in about a month. Regrading and paving of the streets will occur in June. We expect for all of the work to be completed before the 4th of July weekend when the summer tourist season officially gets into full swing.
- 7. Newman Reservoir Update.** Lawrence & Associates has begun work on the engineering and design of the new 45-acre foot Newman Reservoir project. The Community Development Department is working on the environmental documentation and, once the environmental review is complete, the timber management plan can be completed. The timber harvest of the reservoir site is expected to occur either this fall or in the spring. The design work for the reservoir will be completed in October. If funding is secured soon enough, we may be able to complete construction of the reservoir next summer. We are pushing to get the reservoir online, as additional water storage will help to ensure that there is adequate water supply for City water customers during periods of extended drought.
- 8. Reminders:**

 - **Biomass Workshop – Friday, April 24, 1:00 p.m. / Fort Bragg Town Hall**
 - **College of the Redwoods Advocacy Group – Thursday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. / Fort Bragg Town Hall**
 - **Mill Site Specific Plan Community Workshop – Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. / Dana Grey Elementary Multi-Purpose Room**