

# City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

July 10, 2008

- 1. Employee of the Month.** Brenda Jourdain received the April Employee of the Month award in recognition of her quiet, behind the scenes work as Office Clerk. She is helpful, never complaining, and always give 100%+. Brenda was instrumental in helping to design an update to the City Council agenda web page allowing easy access to all items received after posting of the Council agenda. Brenda accomplishes a lot of work while handling constant telephone calls, as well questions and requests for assistance from the public and fellow employees. Congratulations, Brenda!
- 2. Sales Tax Receipts Continue to Decline.** The City received its initial sales tax receipt data for the first quarter of 2008 in late June and the outlook is grim. The City's sales tax receipts declined 8.0% from the amount collected in first quarter 2007. This represents an approximately \$48,200 loss in revenues to the City's general fund. We'll be receiving additional information and analysis in the next month or so that will help to explain how the various market segments are faring.
- 3. Coastal Commission Staff Delays Effective Certification of LCP.** On Friday, June 27, the day after the Coastal Commission's packet for the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was mailed, the City was notified that Coastal Commission is seeking a six-month extension for the final certification of the City's LCP. Based on subsequent conversations with Coastal Commission staff, it is clear that they did not finish their review of the City's adopted LCP in time to get it on the July 11<sup>th</sup> agenda (as promised), despite their receipt of the City's documents over six weeks ago. At this time, we are hopeful that the document will be certified by the Coastal Commission at their August meeting. We are dismayed by this delay and by the lack of timely communication from Coastal Commission staff regarding their inability to complete their review of the documents.
- 4. Pomo Bluffs Trail Easement Extension.** At long last, and with an incredible amount of last minute paper-chasing by Community Development Director Marie Jones, the City has completed the acquisition and relocation of a pedestrian easement from Main Street to the previously acquired blufftop easement along the south bluff of Noyo Bay behind the Affinito's trailer park. The City obtained an option to purchase an easement from the former owner of the trailer park when the Pomo Bluffs Park property was acquired. The City exercised the option last year and worked with the property owner to relocate and reconfigure the easement. The easement was acquired with funds from a Coastal Conservancy grant and additional Conservancy grant funds will be used to extend the pedestrian walkway and fencing from the eastern edge of Pomo Bluffs Park to the Cliff House restaurant and to create a connection to the pedestrian walkway on Main Street.
- 5. Status Report on Public Works Projects.** Our Public Works Department is very busy with a long list of capital improvement projects taking place this summer:

- **Safe Routes to Schools Project** construction is underway. Concrete has been removed in front of Fort Bragg High School and at the intersection of Dana Street and Taubold Court. New ramps have been formed and poured. The digital speed signs are on order and are expected to be installed near the end of the project schedule. The contractor is on schedule to have the project completed prior to the first day of school on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **2008 Street Resurfacing Project** was awarded to Valley Slurry Seal and they have until the second week in July to complete the required bonding and insurance paperwork. The contractor has been requested to provide a schedule, after which notification to the residents will occur along with press releases to the news media. Work on this project is expected to take a couple months, and the contractor will be directed to begin on Oak Street so that portion of the work can be completed prior to school starting. This project will be funded with \$1,500,000 from the City's half-cent sales tax for street repairs and a \$136,400 grant from California Integrated Waste Management Board's Tire Recycling Management Fund.
- **Pudding Creek Force Main Replacement Project** is scheduled to be out to bid this week. Staff is working with responsible agencies to verify that all technical issues are addressed and that the permits will be approved and in place so construction can begin later this summer. It is not certain whether this project will be completed this year.
- **Guest House Sidewalk Replacement** is scheduled to take place the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>. Public Works personnel will assist with removal or trimming of shrubbery that is within the walkway limits. The contractor has been asked to provide a quote to install a concrete curb along the front of the Guest House to keep dirt and rock from sloughing onto the walkway.
- **Valley Gutter at Redwood and Franklin Streets.** Argonaut Constructors removed and replaced the valley gutter crossing Franklin Street at the south side of Redwood Avenue. This was originally installed as part of the Franklin Street Reconstruction Project, Phase II, but the contractor did not use the correct grades during installation, and the City would not release their 10% retention until the valley gutter was fixed. Now that the valley gutter has a flatter grade, Public Works personnel will remove the "DIP" signs from both sides of the intersection.