

# City Hall News

From the desk of  
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing  
August 2, 2007

- 1. Franklin Street Project Update.** A minor setback occurred last week when the operator of the large pulverizing machine ran over a substantial area of new concrete gutter in the 300 block of Franklin Street. Crews removed the damaged concrete, reformed the curb and gutter, and poured new curbs and gutters. The only other incident was a broken water line between Bush and Spruce Streets. Water spouted to the height of the power lines and caused quite a mess on the newly exposed street sections. Crews responded quickly to repair the pipe and re-work the ground to absorb the excess water. This week, the *cold foam in place process* will be completed to establish the street base and paving will occur during the first half of the following week. If you're wondering why the block of Franklin Street between Fir and Bush Streets has not been touched by the reconstruction project, the answer is that the City has separate funding to repair this street section through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and those funds will not be available until next year.
- 2. Franklin Street Ribbon-Cutting and Block Party.** The Fort Bragg Promotion Committee is starting to plan a gala event to celebrate completion of the Franklin Street portion of the Downtown Streetscape project and to promote our local businesses. The event is tentatively scheduled to coincide with the First Friday festivities in October.
- 3. Status Update on Public Works Projects.** This may well be the busiest ever construction season for the City's Public Works Department. While the Franklin Street Project is the most visible project, there are a number of other projects that are either underway or pending. The Headworks Screen project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is proceeding on schedule. The Automated Water Meter project has begun. Contracts are awarded for the Fire Sprinkler Riser project and the Downtown Alley Reconstruction Project, but those projects will not be initiated until the work on Franklin Street is completed. Design and engineering for the ADA Ramps and Sidewalks project is underway and the Municipal Treatment Lab project is out to bid. Next year's projects will include: ADA Ramps and Sidewalks Project; Safe Routes to Schools Project; Pudding Creek Force Main Replacement Project; Bainbridge Parks Restroom Project; Downtown Streetscape Project (east-west streets); and Residential Streets Rubberized Asphalt Overlay Project.
- 4. School Resource Officers.** Police Chief Mark Puthuff is delighted to announce that two of our police officers—Oscar Lopez and Drew Kendl—have been selected to serve as School Resource Officers (SROs) at the Fort Bragg schools. Officer Lopez and Officer Kendl will "job share" thus enabling them to both contribute their many complementary talents to the SRO position while remaining engaged in the broader activities of the police force. Both officers attended an SRO training program last month and are looking forward to the beginning of the school year.

- 5. Community Gang Forum.** The Community Coalition for Gang Awareness and Prevention will be holding the next Community Gang Forum on Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Cotton Auditorium. The main focus of the forum will be to provide an overview of the GRIP (Gang Resistance is Paramount) curriculum that will be presented to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Fort Bragg's elementary schools in the 2007-08 school year.
- 6. Gang Coalition to Focus on Teen Court.** The Gang Coalition has decided to work towards establishing a Teen Court here on the coast. The Teen Court provides a "restorative justice" approach to juvenile crime. With the support of volunteer attorneys, adult mentors, and our local judge, the Teen Court would involve young people in court proceedings where the youth fulfill the roles of judge, jury, prosecutor, defense, and defendant and justice is meted out to peers who have been arrested for minor offenses. All interested people are encouraged to attend a meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church Fireside Room (367 South Sanderson Way) to discuss the Teen Court program. In addition to the Teen Court, the Gang Coalition is working to re-establish a Youth Community Service program on the coast to help redress minor offenses conducted by youth in the community.
- 7. New Look for Police Patrol Vehicles.** Keep your eyes on the look-out for the cool new police cars cruising around town. Actually, the vehicles are not new, but the look is decidedly more black-and-white. The vehicles are being repainted and have an eye-catching new logo and motif. Many thanks are due to Chief Puthuff for taking the initiative to create this new look.
- 8. City Adds Two New Hybrid Vehicles to its Fleet.** In an effort to reduce the City's energy consumption and "carbon footprint," two old gas-guzzling City vehicles have been replaced with hybrid vehicles. Come by the City Hall parking lot to check out the new Ford Escape Hybrid that is being driven by Public Works Director Dave Goble, and the nearly new Toyota Prius Hybrid that is now the pool vehicle for City Hall employees.