

# City Hall News

From the desk of  
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing  
August 16, 2007

1. **Question of the Week.** Fort Bragg Advocate-News Editor Kate Lee has suggested that I solicit questions from the public and provide a response to one choice question in each City Hall News column. I think it's a great idea and invite members of the public to email questions to [lruffing@fortbragg.com](mailto:lruffing@fortbragg.com). Even if your question doesn't make it into the paper, I'll try to respond in an email.
2. **Franklin Street Update.** In case you haven't noticed, it's paved! Most of the striping will be completed this week. This means that the parking lay-out on Laurel Street will be flipped, with angled parking on the south side of the street. We're going to hold off on striping the parking on the 100 block of Alder Street for a few weeks while we prepare the public and adjacent property owners for the change in direction (from westbound to eastbound). Work will begin on the stamped asphalt crosswalks on Franklin Street towards the end of the month and the pedestrian-scaled light fixtures will be installed in a couple of weeks as well. We've asked the contractors to refrain from putting in pavement markings to delineate the parallel parking spaces on Franklin Street. There is some debate as to whether or not people park more efficiently without the defined parking "spaces." Staff will conduct some surveys and listen to feedback and, if appropriate, the pavement markings can be applied next summer as an add-on to the next phase of the streetscape project.
3. **Lions Club Fireworks Show.** The City's Promotion Committee received a desperate plea from the Lions Club for monetary assistance to offset the Lions Clubs' \$2,200 deficit in funding for this year's Independence Day fireworks display. The Promotion Committee agreed to provide the funds figuring that, if averaged over the 20 years that the Lions have been coordinating the community event, it was a pretty good deal. At last week's Public Safety Committee meeting, representatives of the Police Department and the Lions Club conducted an "after-action" review of the fireworks event. The discussion identified a number of ways in which communication between the City and the volunteer event organizers could be improved to help ensure the success of future events. All parties agreed that the fact that the fireworks could not be launched from the Mill Site (as has occurred for more than 20 years) made planning for this year's event infinitely more complex and difficult. We are hopeful that the site investigation work that has been performed this summer on the Mill Site will provide sufficient data for the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to allow the fireworks to be launched from the point next summer.
4. **Georgia-Pacific Update.** On Thursday, I attended the monthly meeting of DTSC, GP, and agency staff to review progress on the site investigation for the Mill Site. The meeting focused on a review of the Site-Wide Risk Assessment Work Plan that was submitted by GP last month. Most of the discussion was highly technical and not very accessible to a layperson. DTSC is working on putting together a workshop to inform the community about the status of the Mill Site remediation project and other related items sometime this fall—probably in late September or October.

5. **Bush and Stewart Street Neighborhood Block Party.** Preparations are underway for a neighborhood block party that will be held on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm in the West Bush Street/Stewart Street neighborhood. Mayor Hammerstrom and Councilmember Courtney have been promoting the concept of neighborhood block parties as a way to engage residents in dialogue and action in their neighborhoods. The Police Department is seeing continued and growing interest in Neighborhood Watch programs, with people from several neighborhoods throughout the City expressing interest in organizing their neighbors to help keep an eye on the neighborhood.
6. **Tobacco Ordinance.** The Mendocino Coast District Hospital and the American Cancer Society have proposed that the City of Fort Bragg adopt a “tobacco ordinance” to promote compliance with State laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors. Similar ordinances have been adopted in Willits, Ukiah, and unincorporated Mendocino County. The ordinance would establish a requirement for businesses to obtain a tobacco retailers license from the City. The license could be suspended, terminated, or revoked in response to repeated violations of tobacco-related laws. The Public Safety Committee has agreed to review the proposed ordinance and make a recommendation to the Council.