

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
August 28, 2008

- 1. Employees of the Month.** Maintenance Worker I Art Roberts was named the May Employee of the Month in acknowledgement of his thoroughness and his positive attitude. According to Public Works Director Dave Goble, "Art checks and double checks everything to make sure that he's doing it right. We can ask him to do pretty much anything and he always does it with a smile! Art's natural tendency towards thoroughness has been a particular asset during implementation of the new water meter reading project. Art has been a shining part of the team effort during our transition to the new meter system and is deserves recognition for his exceptional work." Good job, Art!

Police Officer Nick Shipilov received the June Employee of the Month recognition with Chief Puthuff pointing to one action-filled evening that clearly demonstrates Officer Shipilov's dedication and abilities. On June 10th, Officer Shipilov stopped a vehicle for speeding, having previously received information from the Drug Task Force regarding narcotics trafficking activity. After confirming that there was a search warrant for the driver and vehicle, he located 1.5 pounds of crystal methamphetamine with a street value of \$70,000 in the car. Later that evening, Officer Shipilov received a report of an adult male subject who had broken a window and gained entry to the Fort Bragg Food Bank. The suspect was arrested. Thanks, Nick!

- 2. State Budget Update.** There is seemingly no end in sight for the State Budget crisis, but the politicians in Sacramento are considering not only "borrowing" property tax and Prop 42 transportation funds (with no plan for repayment), but also stealing local redevelopment tax increment revenues. For Fort Bragg, the estimated maximum exposure in FY 2008-09 includes:

Property Tax "Borrowing"	-\$173,885
Proposition 42 "Borrowing"	-\$ 65,307
Redevelopment Tax Increment Shift/Take	<u>-\$ 70,223</u>
TOTAL	-\$309,415

Not only does the City have no excess revenues to "loan" the State, but the Council has worked diligently over the past few years to establish modest reserve funds to help us through lean times. The fact that the State's finances have been grossly mismanaged is no excuse for balancing the State's checkbook on the backs of local government agencies. The Council is continuing to apply pressure on our elected representatives in Sacramento to find a fiscally responsible budget solution.

- 3. Countywide Efforts to Encourage Green Building.** Community Development Director Marie Jones and the planning directors from the City of Willits, City of Ukiah, and the County of Mendocino are working to develop a green building strategy for all four jurisdictions. The group has defined the following action plan: (1) review proposed State green standard; (2) provide green building workshop for local planners, and elected officials; (3) encourage each jurisdiction to adopt the US Green Building Council's LEED certification as the preferred standard for commercial

and institutional developments and Build It Green as the standard for residential construction; (4) explore steps to develop a voluntary green building program that would encourage developers to build to these standards by providing development incentives; and (5) review planning incentives that other communities have adopted to encourage green building.

4. **Residential Streets Resurfacing Project Update.** The Residential Street Resurfacing Project ran into a delay a mere two days after the project started. The issue concerned the use of paving fabric under areas on Oak Street that were being ground out and repaved. There was a disagreement between the contractor and the City’s construction inspector (from Coastland Engineers) and City staff about the interpretation of the specifications and, as a result, the work was halted. When the issue remained unresolved, the contractor pulled all personnel and equipment off of the job and started the next job on their schedule. The Director of Public Works met with the contractor and the inspector and the issue has been resolved, but it will be a couple of weeks before the project starts up again. A revised schedule is being developed and staff fully expects the project to be completed prior to the onset of the rainy season.

5. **City Water Supplies.** Flows in the Noyo River have been fluctuating around 3 cubic feet per second for a couple of weeks and the City has implemented a modified pumping schedule where water is pumped only when the tide is at 2 feet or higher. Based upon available water from both Newman Reservoir and Waterfall Gulch, there is adequate pumping time and water in the Noyo to meet current water. Residents are still urged to conserve water as much as possible, and if conditions continue to decline, additional conservation measures may be required.

6. **Caltrans Presents Simpson Lane Round-About Plans.** Last week, Caltrans presented the latest version of their plans for a “round-about” at the intersection of Simpson Lane and Highway 1 to the Mendocino Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Caltrans has identified the round-about as the preferred alternative as it is more cost-effective than a traffic signal and it results in significantly shorter delays. The following table presents Caltrans’ estimates of the average delay per vehicle at the intersection at present and in 20 years with a signal and with a round-about:

	SIGNAL		ROUND-ABOUT	
	2008	2028	2008	2028
Southbound delay (seconds)	19.7	29.4	9.6	9.9
Northbound delay (seconds)	18.8	39.2	11.7	25.3

The TAC was enthusiastic about the round-about, noting its benefits in moving traffic through the intersection, as well as its potential as a gateway feature to Fort Bragg. Caltrans has budgeted funds for low-maintenance landscaping in the center of the round-about, and they are also open to consideration of more ornamental planting and/or installation of a beautiful piece of public art.