City Hall Notes

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
September 10, 2009

1. **Finance Manager Appointment.** Rosana Cimolino has been appointed to serve as the City's new Finance Manager. Rosana has a wealth of experience as an accountant and, having served as a mid-manager in the City's Finance Department for three years during a period of considerable transition, she has clearly demonstrated her ability to handle the complex financial responsibilities of the Finance Department. Rosana will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Finance Department, including utility billing, accounts receivable/payable, and payroll, as well as coordination of the annual budget process, preparation of the countless financial reports required by the State, and various other finance-related tasks including serving as the City Treasurer. Congratulations, Rosana!

2. **Community College Advocacy Group Report.** The Community College Advocacy Group (CCAG) has completed its summary report to deliver to the College of the Redwoods Board of Trustees at their September 14th meeting which will be held at CR's Fort Bragg campus. The report includes a ten item list that sums up the primary recommendations of the CCAG as well as a much more detailed report of the CCAG's process and conclusions. The CCAG's summary report is posted on CR's website along with the September 14th Board of Trustee's agenda.

3. **Emergency Dispatch Switch-Over a Success.** On September 1, 2009, the Fort Bragg Police Department switched their Emergency Dispatch Services provider. For the past ten years, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Officer had provided Emergency Dispatch Services. Over the course of the last year, Chief Puthuff has examined a number of options for dispatch services, culminating with a contract with the Ukiah Police Department. The Emergency Dispatch conversion is the beginning of a new partnership with the Ukiah Police Department. There were a few minor technical issues that came up during the conversion, but the overall transition went very well. This is a collaborative partnership built on professionalism, trust and mutual respect. The Fort Bragg and Ukiah police departments share similar municipal policing philosophies and the new partnership is expected to provide the Fort Bragg Police Department with advanced technology, cost savings and excellent service delivery.

4. **City Awarded Bicycle Transportation Account Grant.** The City has been awarded a $105,750 2009/2010 Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) grant from Caltrans. The grant will fund thermoplastic bike lane striping and signage for Class II bikeways on Franklin Street (from Pine to Manzanita Street) and on Oak Street (from Harrison to Dana Street). The grant will also fund purchase and installation of a dozen new bike racks in locations around the Central Business District. Each rack will accommodate two bikes.

5. **Second Unit Design Program.** The City of Fort Bragg is pleased to announce the "Free Second Unit Design Program" to make it easier and more affordable for residents to build new second units (also known as granny or in-law units) within City limits. The free designs eliminate one major expense of building a new house, namely having the plans drawn and engineered. The Fort Bragg Redevelopment Agency provided funds to secure the services of architects, design professionals, and engineers to prepare four second unit designs with a variety of sizes and features. The four designs vary in size from 522 to 767 square feet and include amenities that range from one to two bedrooms, dormers, storage lofts, cathedral

ceilings, decks, sliding glass or French doors, and open floor plans. The quality designs are bungalow, craftsman and folk Victorian in style and meet the requirements of the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Second units are allowed in all residential zoning districts in Fort Bragg, on lots of more than 6,000 square feet, subject to some limitations. Please stop by the Community Development Department at City Hall to review the plans or log onto http://city.fortbragg.com/pages/viewpage.lasso?pagename=4|2nd%20units for more information

6. **Coalition for Gang Awareness & Prevention Update.** Gang Coalition meetings are regularly scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at the Fort Bragg Police Department. The Celebrate Safe Communities event is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Bainbridge Park. Booths and Activities include pumpkin decorating, face decorating, narcotics van, bean bag toss, soccer drills, artistic expression and raffle. A variety of food will be available. New attendees at the August Gang Coalition meeting included several local artists who had attended the recent Luis Rodriguez presentation organized by the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference. Representatives from Big Brothers Big Sisters shared information regarding a variety of art programs currently underway through various grants. BBBS and the local schools welcome artists' participation in these ongoing programs, especially with current financial hits and losses. Upcoming events:

    - Saturday, September 12 – Police Activities League Dive Gear Sale
    - Saturday, September 19 – Police Activities League Bicycle Rodeo 9:00 a.m. @ Fort Bragg High School
    - Saturday, September 26 – Safe Passage Drought Tolerant Yards Tour
    - Saturday, October 3 – Coalition for Gang Awareness & Prevention's "Celebrate Safe Communities" event

7. **Public Works Projects Update.** The Public Works Department has a number of projects underway, including the following:

    - **Railroad Crossing Project.** Akeff Construction Services Inc. is constructing sidewalk, drainage and street improvements on Fir Street between Main and Franklin Streets and at the rail crossing on Franklin Street at the rail crossing just south of Bush Street. Mendocino Railroad personnel will complete improvements to the rails and rail crossings in November after the regularly scheduled train runs are over the season.

    - **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funded Street Projects.** The Pudding Creek Road Reconstruction, Harold Street Rehabilitation and Dana Street Rehabilitation projects have all been designed and submitted to Caltrans Local Assistance for review and approval. Until Caltrans issues the required "authorization to construct" paperwork, no work can be done on any of the projects. City staff has been pestering Caltrans staff for updates on a regular basis, but due to the large project back log, State budget constraints, and furloughs, there is no definite timeframe as to when the projects might be approved. While the ARRA funding was for "shovel ready" projects that could be constructed by this fall, it has been come apparent that these projects will not be able to be constructed until next spring due to the State's delays in processing the paperwork.

    - **ARRA Funded Sidewalk Infill Project.** This project consists of completing sidewalk infill and installation of curb ramps along Pine Street between Whipple and Corry Streets, and on Laurel Street from Harold Street to Alger Street, depending on bids and

available funding. Funding for the project has been approved, but there is still some question as to the construction timeline through the State and federal process.

- **North Harrison Street Pavement Repair Project.** The project to repair the section of North Harrison Street just north of Fir Street that was uplifted and damaged as a result of a broken redwood water line earlier this year is currently out to bid. Upon award of contract and submittal of required documentation, the contractor will have 15 working days to complete the project. Residents in the vicinity will be notified and press releases sent out prior to beginning any work on North Harrison Street.