City Hall Notes

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
October 8, 2009

1. **Celebrate Safe Communities.** The Coalition for Gang Prevention & Awareness hosted another successful Celebrate Safe Communities event at Bainbridge Park on Saturday. Despite the chilly weather, the event was very well-attended and it appeared that a good time was had by all! The event included music, a BBQ, pumpkin decorating, face painting, kids games, soccer drills, poetry, and a free raffle. The K-9 demonstration featuring our new police dog, McKeba, and Officer Nick Shipilov in a "bite suit" was a big hit. Participating agencies include the Fort Bragg Police Department, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Project Sanctuary, Mendocino County Youth Project, Safe Passage, Mendocino County Alcohol & Other Drugs Program, Atlas Soccer Academy, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Presbyterian Church, Mendocino Coast Writers Conference and Safe Routes to Schools. Many thanks to all of our staff at the Police Department who were involved in planning and assisting at the event!

2. **H1N1 Preparedness.** In preparation for a possible H1N1 influenza resurgence this fall, Assistant to the City Manager Gary Garcia and Police Captain Brian Ballard attended the first in a number of coming meetings for the County of Mendocino H1N1 preparedness planning effort. The staff of the Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency's Community Health Services (CHS) hosted the discussion at the Mendocino Coast District Hospital. CHS will hold an H1N1 Community Meeting in Fort Bragg on Thursday, October 15th at Town Hall from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meeting will provide information to the public on how CHS is dealing with the H1N1 health issue, and Public Health Officer Dr. Marvin Trotter will discuss topics including symptoms, high risk categories, and vaccination.

3. **City Awarded COPS "Secure Our Schools" Grant.** Earlier this year, the City applied for a $77,000 grant on behalf of the Fort Bragg Unified School District to improve school security at the Fort Bragg Middle School campus through the installation of video monitors. We received notification this week that the grant was awarded. Kudos to Housing & Economic Development Director Jennifer Owen for authoring another successful grant application!

4. **City Water Supply Update.** The Noyo River flows at the USGS gauging station are at 1.1 cfs, down from 1.2 cfs early last week. As of October 1st, the tidal bypass limit is 10 cfs which will remain in effect until May 31, 2010. Even with the tidal bypass limit, we are not experiencing any difficulty keeping the City's water storage ponds full. The average daily demand for water over the past week was 0.766 mgd which is an 8% decrease from the first week of September. While we are not prepared to suspend the Stage 1 Water Conservation Order at this time, we are pleased with the reduction in water use.

5. **Scum Rake Skimmer Mechanism in Need of Repairs.** Both the primary and secondary clarifiers at the Wastewater Treatment Facility are equipped with skimmer mechanisms that rotate on the surface pulling solid debris and scum into a pit for disposal. For some time, the primary clarifier's scum rake skimmer mechanism has not been properly dropping back down to the surface of the water after it passes over the riser to the scum pit, and the only solution is to manually force the rake back down to the water surface. Repairs have been initiated numerous times, but staff has concluded that the mechanism is beyond repair and must be replaced in order for the primary clarifier to function properly. The repairs have been initiated and the unbudgeted expense will be addressed through the mid-year budget review process.

6. **Bainbridge Park Restrooms.** The Bainbridge Park Restroom project is on schedule and the contractor, Whitney-Stone, is making good progress. The foundation has been poured, the preliminary plumbing installed and the entire structure is nearly framed. A minor change to the framing detail was made by the architects, but the contractor initiated the change with no delay. Staff has been working with the architect and contractor to secure and review the required submittals for the various components that will be installed in the new restrooms. The Requests for Proposals were sent out to local woodworkers for construction of the redwood doors, and proposals were received last Friday. Mendocino Redwood Company will provide the redwood lumber as soon as a materials list is provided by the contractor.

7. **Town Hall Parapet Project.** Larkin Construction has completed all structural work, and concrete and masonry work for the Town Hall Parapet project and a new roof have been installed. They are currently securing the redwood balustrade railing and finishing the sheet metal work on the roof. Once the parapet is reinstalled, the entire building will be repainted. The contractor is ahead of schedule and, barring any unforeseen delays, the project is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

8. **State Drops Appeal for 2008 Raid on Redevelopment Agency Funds.** The California Attorney General's office has notified the court and the California Redevelopment Associations that the State has abandoned its appeal of the Sacramento Superior Court ruling that found AB 1389 (2008) unconstitutional. AB 1389 was last year's budget bill that would have forced a $350 million shift of redevelopment funds statewide (including $110,000 from the Fort Bragg Redevelopment Agency) to the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). The formal abandonment of the appeal by the State means that the Superior Court ruling that found the State's redevelopment raids unconstitutional is final and binding. As a result, redevelopment agencies will <u>not</u> be required to make the $350 million payment to ERAF set forth in the 2008 budget. While this news is a significant and positive development, the State authorized an additional $2.05 billion raid of redevelopment funds this fiscal year, and the resulting legal wrangling will take some time to work their way through the courts.

9. **Reminder:** City Offices will be closed for the Columbus Day holiday on Monday, October 5, 2009.