

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
October 11, 2007

- 1. Councilmember Jere Melo Reappointed to Board of Directors of League of California Cities.** Councilmember Melo has been reappointed to the League's Board to fill the "at-large, small city" position that was recently vacated by current 2nd Vice President Judy Mitchell. Congratulations, Jere!
- 2. Downtown Alley Project Encounters Problems.** We have encountered some problems with the Downtown Alley reconstruction project. The 100 block of the alley (between Oak and Alder) has a shallow, clay sewer main which is likely to crumble. And the 200 block (between Alder and Redwood) has a shallow water main. Public Works Director Dave Goble has been working with the design engineers and the contractor to define solutions and to estimate additional costs. It will be necessary to replace the sewer main and laterals on the 100 block with a heavier plastic pipe at a cost of about \$30,000. On both blocks, the structural section of the alley will be changed from 10" of base rock and 3" of asphalt as planned to 3" of base rock and 6" of asphalt for an additional cost of about \$10,000. This item will be brought to Council for authorization of additional funds. Staff has sought confirmation from the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) that the D-1 Allocation can be used to pay for the additional costs.
- 3. Headworks Screen Project.** The Headworks Screen project at the Wastewater Treatment Facility is up and running, and staff are finding that it is intercepting an enormous volume of rags and wipes that are being flushed into the City's sewers. The engineers who designed and inspected the installation told staff that it would be a month before "product" began to accumulate in the Headworks Screen. In fact, it was only six days after it went online, that the "product" was noted. We will be contacting some of the larger institutional facilities (Coast District Hospital, Coast Clinics, Sherwood Oaks, etc.) and providing educational inserts in our utility bills to educate folks and discourage them from flushing these materials.
- 4. Questions for DTSC.** The Department of Toxic Substances Control will be conducting a community workshop event in early November to provide an update on the Mill Site remediation project. DTSC is planning a presentation to the community on the evening of Tuesday, November 6th, followed by a less formal, open-house event on the morning of Wednesday, November 7th. The City's environmental consultants will be present at these meetings and will also attend the Monday, October 22nd City Council meeting to provide an overview of what's been going on with the Mill Site remediation process over the past year. On the evening of Wednesday, November 7th, the Council/Redevelopment Agency will conduct a special meeting to discuss the remediation project as it pertains to the Coastal Trail & Parkland acquisition.
- 5. Tobacco Ordinance.** The Public Safety Committee has scheduled a special meeting at Town Hall at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 30th to provide information and receive feedback from interested members of the public regarding the

American Cancer Society's request that the City adopt a "Tobacco Retailers Licensing Ordinance" which is intended to dissuade retailers from selling tobacco products to minors. The Committee has invited tobacco retailers and organizations serving local youth to attend the meeting.

- 6. Planning Commission's Denial of Rose Coastal Development Permit Appealed to Council.** At the September 26th Planning Commission meeting, the Commission denied a coastal development permit for an 1,100 square foot residence on a small parcel located on a steep hillside off of Casa del Noyo Drive. The applicant has filed an appeal to the City Council. The matter will be heard on the Council's November 12th agenda.
- 7. Air Quality Management District Grant Application Submitted.** The Community Development Department submitted a grant application last week requesting funds to (a) prepare a Green House Gas Emission Reduction Action Plan; and (b) purchase an electric vehicle for the City's car pool. If funded, both items will help the City gain momentum in its goal to reduce green house gas emissions by 30% by 2015.
- 8. Question of the Week: *When will my street be repaved?*** City staff and elected officials hear this question more than we'd like to admit. Thanks to the recently adopted ½-cent sales tax for local street repairs, the City will be performing some major repairs to local streets over the next several years. We are planning a "rubberized asphalt overlay" project on residential streets next summer. With more than \$1,000,000 set aside for this project, we expect to overlay many, many blocks in Fort Bragg neighborhoods in 2008.