

City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

November 6, 2008

1. **Mark Your Calendars: Wednesday, November 12th Mill Site Specific Plan Workshop.** The first in a series of community workshops for the Mill Site Specific Plan will be held on Wednesday, November 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the Dana Grey Elementary School multi-purpose room. Please come and let the planning team hear your ideas about the future of Fort Bragg and the Mill Site. The workshop will include a series of “stations” on various topics where participants can speak with consultants and provide direct input regarding the Specific Plan.

2. **Status Report on Summer 2008 Public Works Projects.**

Safe Routes To Schools: The project is 95% complete. The contractor has been requested to install two additional ramps in front of Fort Bragg High School, and the work will be scheduled once engineering details are finalized. The contractor still has a lengthy punch list of items to address, including numerous items that require additional work or removal and replacement. The punch list items will be completed when the contractor installs the two additional ramps.

Street Resurfacing Project (Rubberized Chip Seal). Valley Slurry Seal has completed all of the street resurfacing work, including raising valve boxes and manholes and replacing pavement markings. They currently have personnel working on cleaning curbs and driveways where the slurry seal coating was slopped onto the concrete surfaces. Staff has met with the contract engineers from Coastland Engineering who provided construction management and inspection services for the job to review and discuss the final product. At this point, there is concurrence that the resurfacing project does not meet the anticipated standards. A meeting will be scheduled with Valley Slurry and their sub-contractors to develop a plan to resolve the workmanship issues.

Pudding Creek Force Main Project. New piping has been installed from the lift station to the north side of Pudding Creek Bridge and from the south side of the bridge to Elm Street. The remaining portion of the work is on the Pudding Creek Bridge, and the contractor is awaiting delivery of specialized material before work can be completed. They will be back in town next week to resume work. There have been no major issues with the construction of this project and it is on time and on budget.

Upcoming Projects. There are three projects currently out to bid – Downtown Streetscape Project Phase III; Street Overlay Project Phase III, Railroad Crossings Phase II; one project ready to bid – Corporation Yard Pavement; one project in design – Town Hall Parapet Replacement which is expected to bid early next year; a Request for Proposals will be distributed soon for design of the 45 Acre Foot Reservoir at Newman Gulch; and staff is working on putting together project documents for construction of Phase II of the Pomo Bluffs Park Pedestrian Trail.

3. **Next Steps for Skate Park.** The community workshop for the skate park was well-attended by skaters, interested community members, veterans, and neighbors. One sentiment was made perfectly clear: attendees had a strong preference for a skate

park located at the C.V. Starr Community Center site rather than Bainbridge Park. The Rec District Board tentatively plans to meet on December 4th to review their master plan for the C.V. Starr Community Center site and to consider the implications of a smaller gymnasium in order to free up space for a skate plaza. The meeting will allow the Rec District Board to receive public input about the community's vision for the C.V. Starr Community Center site.

- 4. Industrial & Fine Arts Center Workshop.** The City of Fort Bragg is working in partnership with the local arts community to complete a feasibility study for an Industrial & Fine Arts Center in Fort Bragg. The vision for the facility includes a variety of individual and shared artist studios and workshops, an art gallery, and an event space. Such a facility could bring new life to the industrial and fine arts community on the North Coast by providing an affordable venue for artists to create and sell fine woodworking pieces, textiles, tools, instruments, ceramics, and fine art. As a signature destination, the Industrial & Fine Arts Center could attract more art tourists to the area and specifically showcase the woodworking heritage of Fort Bragg. More than 50 people including woodworkers, glassblowers, sculptors, weavers, musicians and performing artists, literary artists, fine artists, City Council members, Planning Commissioners and interested community members attended a City-sponsored community workshop last week. After a brief presentation from Community Development Director Marie Jones highlighting case studies of successful industrial art centers throughout the U.S., folks divided into small groups and worked together to answer questions and provide insight into what the community envisions for an Industrial & Fine Arts Center. As part of the feasibility study, the City is asking artists and interested community members to complete a survey that was provided at the workshop and is available on the City's website – http://city.fortbragg.com/pdf/artist_survey.pdf. The survey should be submitted electronically, or returned by mail or fax by November 17, 2008. Next steps include the formation of an Industrial & Fine Arts Center Task Force as well as completion of the draft feasibility study by City staff.
- 5. Public Parking at Skunk Train Parking Lot.** The lease between the City and Sierra Railroad to allow public parking on part of the Skunk Train parking lot has been fully executed. Public Works and Community Development will be working to develop a signage plan and we intend to have the signage and parking enforcement program in place by next spring.