

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
November 15, 2007

- 1. Tobacco Ordinance Forwarded to Council.** About 20 people attended a special meeting of the Public Safety Committee earlier this month to discuss proposed modifications to the City's ordinance that regulates tobacco sales. The ordinance amendments were proposed by representatives of the American Cancer Society and the Mendocino Coast District Hospital. The Committee received a broad array of comments, including concerns from tobacco retailers about proposed penalties which place the full burden on the employer, with no accountability for employees. The Committee also heard concerns about the lack of standardized procedures for enforcement by youth decoys, and due process concerns with the proposed grievance procedure. Staff will draft modified language to address these issues before bringing the ordinance back for full Council consideration in January.
- 2. City Receives Applications for Two New Development Projects.** The Community Development Department has received applications for two new development projects. The Hare Creek Village project (located on the Patton/Carlson property west of Highway 20 on Todd Point) includes a major subdivision; rezoning a portion of the site from residential to commercial use, and vice-versa; development of 70 condo units and a gas station/mini-mart. The developer also has plans for two office buildings; a restaurant, and a 33-lot residential subdivision on the parcel. The City has also received an application for demolition of the historic building on the northeast corner of Redwood Avenue and Franklin Street, and construction of a 6,000 square foot two-story retail and office mixed use building, as well as the renovation of the two adjacent buildings on Redwood Avenue.
- 3. Municipal Laboratory Project Ahead of Schedule.** Construction of a laboratory at the Wastewater Treatment Facility is well underway. Matson Construction began work on this project in late October and the building is already framed in, with the roof likely to be installed prior to the onset of winter rains. Work is progressing at a rate that should have the lab completed well in advance of the 70-day timeframe specified by the contract.
- 4. LAFCO Review of Citywide Municipal Services Review Document.** The Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) met last week to review the City's Municipal Services Review document and proposed Sphere of Influence amendment. Executive Director Frank McMichael provided numerous suggestions for some minor and some substantive modifications to the document. Staff will be making modifications to the document, and we hope to have the LAFCO move forward with adoption of the Municipal Services Review early next year.

5. **Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Plans to Meet with the Council in December.** Mayor Hammerstrom has invited Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi to meet with the Council regarding wave energy next month. The final date has not been established, but it appears likely to be either Wednesday, December 12th or Friday, December 14th and it will be an afternoon (~3:30 p.m.) meeting at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive information from the Lieutenant Governor regarding the role of the State Lands Commission (which he heads) in regulating offshore wave energy facilities, their process for considering input from local stakeholders, and how that process fits in with other regulatory agencies
6. **Good News on Economic Development Grant Application.** The Community Development Department received word that the City's application for a \$70,000 Planning & Technical Assistance grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has been funded. These funds will be used for conceptual planning and design for the Mendocino Coast District Hospital Seismic Upgrade Project and for preparation of an Industrial/Fine Arts Facility feasibility study. We should be hearing on the our other Planning & Technical Assistance grant application which would provide funding for skate park conceptual planning, an updated household income survey, and conceptual planning for Fort Bragg Fire Protection District facilities, within the next few weeks.
7. **Question of the Week: *Why haven't street trees been planted on Franklin Street?*** The City will be planting flowering plum trees in the tree wells on Franklin Street in the central business district. The trees will be planted during the "rainy season" to give them a head start in developing strong root systems. We expect to plant the street trees early next year, in time to appreciate their lovely blossoms.