

# City Hall News

From the desk of  
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing  
December 6, 2007

- 1. Employee of the Month.** Treatment Operator Merle Larson has received the City's Employee of the Month award in recognition of the expertise and assistance that he provided during construction of the Headworks Screen project at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Before construction began, Merle suggested that electrical conduit for the new Municipal Lab project (that is currently under construction) be laid along with the Headworks conduit—a suggestion that reduced project costs for the lab and eliminated the need for additional trenching in the new pavement. Numerous times during construction, water and electrical lines were compromised, an electrical vault box and various electrical wires were dug up, and an electrical conduit was drilled into. Each time, Merle was contacted and he was able to immediately and safely handle the situation. Thanks, Merle!
- 2. Mill Site Specific Plan Update.** The Mill Site Coordinating Committee met last week to map out the next steps in getting the Mill Site Specific Plan process moving forward. We're drafting a consultant solicitation package that will be distributed next week. We plan to have a mandatory pre-bid meeting and site tour for prospective consultants in early January with consultant statements of qualifications due later in the month and interviews to be conducted in early February.
- 3. Utility Rate Study Kick-Off Meeting.** Three representatives from MuniFinancial attended a special Finance & Administration Committee meeting last week to discuss the utility rate studies that are underway. The consultants are tasked with preparing a 10-year financial plan for the wastewater and water utilities and providing rate recommendations. The initial task is to define the revenue requirements for the utilities and then to develop cost allocation scenarios and a rate model. The City expects to implement new water and sewer rates with the July 2008 billing cycle.
- 4. C.V. Starr Community Center Update.** At the request of the C.V. Starr Foundation, Mendocino Coast District Hospital Chief Executive Officer Ray Hino, Chief Financial Officer Wayne Allen, and I worked with Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Administrator Beth Pine and the District's Finance Committee to trouble-shoot the operating budget for the proposed C.V. Starr Community Center project and respond to the Foundation's concerns about the long-term sustainability of the facility. This exercise was an eye-opener for the District, as they had not updated their operating costs and revenue projections for several years. The good news is that, based on conservative assumptions and projections, it appears that the District will be able to cover the full costs of operating the facility from revenues generated by the facility and the District's property tax revenues. The District received encouraging news from the C.V. Starr Foundation last week regarding their request for additional funds. The projections regarding long-term operating costs and revenues were well-received

and are being reviewed by the Foundation. The Rec District expects to have a definitive response early next year.

5. **Homeless Services.** As the cold weather sets in and winter storms approach, local homeless service providers are working hard to take care of the most needy residents of our community. The Coast Emergency Winter Shelter and Resources Planning group meets monthly to review the issues facing homeless individuals and families on the coast. Planner Sean O'Rourke and Police Lieutenant Robert Watson generally attend those meetings. Shelter for the homeless is available at the Hospitality House (24 beds) and inland at the Buddy Eller Center in Ukiah (64 beds). In addition, there are two campsites available at MacKerricher State Park and motel vouchers for women, children and families. The 2007 Point in Time Census identified 1,422 homeless people in Mendocino County, of whom 1,138 were unsheltered. On the coast, the count tallied 414 unsheltered homeless people.
6. **On-going Planning for 2008 Streetscape Construction.** Community Development Department and Public Works staff is involved in pre-planning for the next phase of construction of the downtown streetscape project. Next year the City will complete the east-west streetscape improvements in the downtown. This phase will include street and sidewalk improvements along Alder, Redwood, and Laurel (from Main to McPherson Streets). The City has received a number of ideas from merchants about how to minimize the impact of construction activities on downtown businesses and we hope to implement many of these suggestions. We have begun to compile an email list to facilitate frequent and timely communications with businesses regarding street closure and sidewalk work. Please email [CDD@fortbragg.com](mailto:CDD@fortbragg.com) if you would like to be added to the list.
7. **Question of the Week. *What is the City doing to deal with cars speeding down my street?*** The speed limit in residential neighborhoods is 25 miles per hour and in school zones it is reduced to 15 mph. The Fort Bragg Police Department provides ongoing traffic enforcement and appreciates feedback that allows for targeted enforcement in problem areas. If you have problems with vehicles speeding on your street, please give the Police Department a call at 961-2800. If there are particular times of day or specific vehicles that can be identified, please provide this information. Additionally, the City is planning to update its Residential Street Safety Plan in 2008 to identify traffic calming measures that will help to address these issues and ensure safety and tranquility in our neighborhoods.