

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
December 20, 2007

- 1. Employee of the Month.** Community Services Officer Jonathan McLaughlin was named Employee of the Month in recognition of the quality service that he has consistently provided to ensure that the Police Department's needs are met during a time of increased service demands with staffing shortages. Jonathan's support has included transportation of prisoners to Ukiah at all hours of the night, assistance to peers and new officer recruits, and help with the redesign of the Police Department badge artwork. Jonathan handles a wide array of duties without seeking accolades and his dedication to the organization is clearly evident. Thank you, Jonathan!
- 2. City Welcomes Four New Police Officers.** On Thursday, December 20th, Fort Bragg Police Chief Mark Puthuff will swear in four new police officers. We congratulate Officer Elsa Pimentel and Officer Jeanine Gregory, our police recruits who graduated from the Police Academy last Friday and will be joining the ranks of the Fort Bragg Police Department. We also welcome Officer Rick Miele and Officer Nicholas Shipilov to the Police Department team.
- 3. Holiday Decorations.** Our City facilities are decked out with garlands and ribbons, a beautiful Christmas tree adorns the Guest House lawn, and the lamp posts in downtown are decorated as well. Many thanks are due to our awesome Public Works crew who make time to put the decorations up each year, bringing a little more holiday cheer to our community.
- 4. Coastal Commission Continues Action of Local Coastal Program Amendment Application.** Mayor Hammerstrom and I traveled to San Francisco last Friday to attend the California Coastal Commission's long-awaited hearing on the City's comprehensive Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendment. Commission staff recommended that the Commission continue action on the matter until January due to the fact that the City was not given adequate time to review the staff report (which was over 1,000 pages long) and the addendum (which was distributed the day before the hearing). The Commission agreed to continue the matter to their January 11th meeting in Los Angeles.
- 5. City of Fort Bragg is Awarded Air Quality Management District Grant.** The City was awarded a \$12,000 grant from the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the purchase of an electric vehicle (a GEM) for staff use around the City. Unfortunately the AQMD did not provide funds for a planning grant for the City to prepare a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan to follow up on the Emissions Inventory that was completed earlier this year. Staff will continue to evaluate other potential funding opportunities for that project.

- 6. Board of Supervisors Adopts New Caspar Gate Fees.** The Board of Supervisors recently approved a very nominal fee increase for the Caspar Transfer Station. Currently, the gate fee for disposal of household refuse at Caspar is \$19/cubic yard. On January 1, 2008, the fee will be increased to \$20/cubic yard. The Caspar Transfer Station Joint Coordinating Committee (comprised of two Supervisors and two Councilmembers) had requested that the Supervisors consider a gate fee that would result in a zero “net County cost” thereby eliminating the operating subsidy that the City of Fort Bragg and the County contribute each year to offset the cost of operating the transfer station. That option would have increased the gate fees to \$31.50/cubic yard. In the end, the Supervisors were unwilling to approve a substantial fee increase.
- 7. Wave Energy Forum Update.** If you haven’t already marked your calendars for the Saturday, January 19th Wave Energy Forum, I encourage you to do so. An organizing committee comprised of Mayor Doug Hammerstrom, Councilmember Meg Courtney, Supervisor Kendall Smith, Heidi Dickerson, Christine Anderson, George Reinhardt and me have been working to assemble a fabulous group of speakers and a very interesting, informative, and engaging agenda for the day.
- 8. City Request Grant Funds for Transportation Planner.** The City submitted a request for funds from the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) Overall Work Program in early December seeking a three-year commitment from MCOG to provide \$75,000/year to hire a transportation planner/engineering technician to assist with the completion of the very large number of City projects that require the assistance of transportation consultants. The request enumerates the many benefits of training and using in-house staff rather than consultants. Alternatively, if MCOG is not willing to make a multi-year commitment, we requested \$75,000 to hire consultants to assist City staff.
- 9. Question of the Week. *Who’s Paying for All of the Sidewalks Going In Around Town?*** The City submitted a request for \$649,000 from the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for installation of sidewalks and curb ramps throughout the town. In 2006, the City received a STIP augmentation that increased the total amount of funds to \$998,000. Over the next couple of months, ADA compliant ramps will be installed at 34 intersections and more than 42,000 square feet of sidewalks will be installed.