



CITY NOTES

August 25, 2016

City Council Election>> The County Elections Office has certified to the sufficiency of nomination papers for five candidates to fill two vacant seats on the Fort Bragg City Council this November. The candidates are Curtis Bruchler, Rex Gressett, Will Lee, Scott Menzies and Bernie Norvell. Incumbents Doug Hammerstrom and Scott Deitz are not seeking reelection. Information on the five candidates is available on the City's website on this page: <http://city.fortbragg.com/140/City-Council-Elections>.

Fort Bragg Police Department Annual Report>> Highlights of the 2015 FBPD Annual Report, as presented to the City Council by Chief Lizarraga on Monday night, include:

- The FBPD responded to 721 fewer calls for service than in the prior year, which resulted in the taking of 38 fewer crime reports. Despite this decline, one more arrest was made than in the prior year.
- The number of traffic collisions reported declined slightly and there was a corresponding decrease in number of traffic citations issued.
- There was a slight decrease in gang-related cases. These are cases related to actions by known gang members taken for the benefit of gangs. Gang affiliated cases, which involve known gang members but are actions taken to benefit the gang, increased slightly over 2014.
- Burglaries and vandalisms were down, auto thefts stayed the same, but thefts of property had a slight increase.
- There were no homicides in 2015. There was one more rape in 2015 than in 2014 and the same number of robberies (five). Assaults were up slightly compared to 2014, but still showed a big decrease from 2013.
- DUI arrests are trending down.
- Overall, crime is trending down and staffing levels have remained constant over the past year, both of which are contributing factors in the City's crime statistics.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations>> The City is preparing to install EV charging stations in its downtown parking lots. One two-headed station is proposed in the City Hall parking lot, and another is proposed in the City's Laurel Street parking lot. Funding for the stations will be provided through a grant that is being administered by the Mendocino Land Trust. The Public Works and Facilities Committee, at its September meeting, will receive a report and make a recommendation to the Council to help finalize the location and features of the devices.

Wayfinding Signage>> The City submitted a final wayfinding signage plan encroachment permit to Caltrans and is awaiting approval of the permit before ordering and installing the new signage. The new wayfinding plan includes legible blue highway signage to direct visitors to major destinations in Fort Bragg including: Glass Beach, Noyo Headlands Park, Noyo Harbor, Downtown, C.V. Starr Center, Skunk Train, Fort Bragg Library, Pudding Creek Trestle, Old Haul Road, and many other destinations.

Fort Bragg Welcome Sign>> The City will soon relocate and replace the "Welcome to Fort Bragg" sign. The sign is presently located on private property and the owner has requested that the City move it. The City's new "Welcome to Fort Bragg" sign is currently being hand-carved out of redwood by local sign artist Rick Sacks. It will be installed later this year in a location just south of the Noyo Bridge. The design of the new welcome sign can be viewed on the City's Facebook page.

Coastal Trail Weed Eradication>> The City is undertaking an ambitious bull thistle eradication effort on the Coastal Trail using a combination of Community Development Department staff, volunteers and outside contractors to eliminate the invasive weed before it takes over. The southern part of Noyo Headlands Park has a widespread invasive plant problem which will take several years of concerted effort to control. The City is preparing an invasive plant management program, and with a little luck and a lot of hard work, we should be able establish more native habitat on our beautiful oceanfront property. Plants slated for removal include: bull thistle, poison hemlock, licorice, Himalayan blackberry, and more.

Diesel Fuel Spill>> Earlier this month, a moderate amount of diesel fuel was spilled when a tanker truck was transferring fuel to a large storage tank at the Eel River Fuels facility on North Franklin Street. The driver misjudged the amount of product to transfer and overfilled the tank. The excess diesel came out vents at the top of tank and landed on Spruce Street. The City's Public Works crew responded very quickly and intercepted the spill in the storm drain system within a block of the facility. Fuel on the surface was also quickly stabilized. Since then, the site has been temporarily covered in plastic to protect it from further disturbance. Eel River has hired a contractor, Paulson Excavating, which specializes in spill remediation work. The City's stormwater protection staff is working with Eel River to establish a refilling procedure that directly confirms how much space is in a tank before filling begins so that similar spills can be avoided in the future.

Chestnut Street Project>> The City is soliciting bids for the Chestnut Street Multi-Use Trail project. At this time, seven potential bidders have picked up bid documents. Bids will be opened September 1st. Assuming a smooth bid award process, construction is expected to start around the end of September. The project will likely be finished in January 2017 depending on weather. The project is funded by a federal appropriation that was not able to be used for the Coastal Trail and was then successfully repurposed to this project. In addition, an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant was received for the project.

Mark Your Calendars>> Information on upcoming public meetings can be found on the "Upcoming Agenda Items" pages on the City's website or by signing up for meeting notifications using the "Notify Me" feature at <https://city.fortbragg.com>. The following public meetings are planned in the near future:

- **Opioid Use and Abuse Forum** – Friday, August 26th at 12 PM, Mendocino Coast Clinics Conference Room, 205 South Street. Understanding the crisis of opioid use and abuse and solutions in the community will be the focus of a panel discussion and community forum.
- **Finance & Administration Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, September 7th at 3 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda topics include: Possible modifications to the order of City Council agenda items; possible modifications to Fort Bragg Municipal Code requirements for tobacco retailers.
- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, September 12th at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative topics include direction to staff on a cannabis manufacturing ordinance, and a presentation regarding Community Choice Aggregation and the possibility of Fort Bragg joining the Sonoma Clean Power Joint Powers Authority.

City Notes is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the column, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at (707) 961-2823, ext. 118 or L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com.