



## CITY NOTES

February 25, 2016

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**State Water Board Issues Crucial Permit for City's New Reservoir>>** Last Friday, the Water Board's Division of Water Rights signed off on a requested amendment to the City's licensed right to divert water from a tributary to Hare Creek. The amendment does not change the amount of water from the City's Waterfall Gulch source that can be diverted and used, but it allows the City to store the water in the new Summers Lane Reservoir. The Summers Lane reservoir will hold up to 45 acre-feet of water in an off-stream pond which covers about 6.5 acres. It will be constructed on a City-owned property at the north end of Summers Lane (near the Mendocino Coast Humane Society shelter). The project will be put out to bid within the next couple of weeks, so the Water Board's approval was issued in the nick of time. Construction will begin this spring and be completed by early summer allowing the reservoir to be at least partially filled by this fall.

**A Friend to Everyone Joins our Police Force>>** This week, the Fort Bragg Police Department's youngest member, a one-year old German Shepherd, joined the force. The Department's K-9 handler, Officer Brandon McGregor, has chosen a new name for the dog which had been named "Jerry" (not a suitable name for a police dog). Jerry has been renamed "Takoda" - which is a Native American word meaning "friend to everyone." Officer McGregor and Takoda are heading off to a five-week long, intensive training camp for K-9s and their handlers. We are very excited to have Takoda in the Department and expect that he will be making the rounds with Officer McGregor real soon.

**Police Department Acquires a Drone>>** The Fort Bragg Police Department recently acquired a drone (i.e., unmanned aircraft). Drones can be a useful tool to assist law enforcement agencies with investigations. The drone also will be helpful in deterring and identifying abalone poachers and in responding to emergencies along the coastal bluffs.

**Free Public Wifi in Downtown Fort Bragg! >>** The Fort Bragg Wireless Internet Project was the brainchild of John Naulty, Jr., a bright young man who graduated from Fort Bragg High School in 2008. John spearheaded the conversation with the City Council's Technology ad hoc committee (Dave Turner and Scott Deitz) and helped get other key players to the table. In response, the City Council agreed to use \$10,000 from the Waste Management Community Benefit Fund to get free public wifi up and running in the heart of downtown Fort Bragg. The City of Fort Bragg and Mendocino Community Network (MCN) are partners in the endeavor. For more on the project's background, check out its website at <http://fortbraggwifi.com>. The free public wifi service went live this week. Technicians from the City and MCN are continuing efforts to optimize the service.

**Public, Education, Government (PEG) Television>>** Over the past year, Mendocino TV has worked under contract with the City of Fort Bragg to "light up" the public access television channels provided by Comcast in accordance with the City's franchise agreement. At this time, programming is available on Channel 3 and includes live and replayed broadcasts of Fort Bragg City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Adding more programming is the next priority for the PEG start-up. A volunteer PEG Advisory Committee has been meeting intermittently to share creative thoughts regarding programming. In the March Comcast CATV bills, customers will receive a survey regarding the PEG. We urge Comcast customers to please complete and return the survey and tell us about your viewing habits and preferences- as this will help guide the programming.

**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 March:

- Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3 PM – **Finance & Administration Meeting** – City Hall Conference Room. Agenda will include an update on the Facilities and Equipment Internal Service Fund Reserve Analysis.
- Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM – **Special City Council Work Session** – Fort Bragg Town Hall. The City Council and staff will conduct a “Mid-Year Budget Review” for FY 2015/16.
- Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM – **City Council Meeting** – Fort Bragg Town Hall. Agenda will include an update on various topics related to the City’s water supply.
- Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM – **Public Works & Facilities Committee Meeting** – City Hall Conference Room. Agenda will include a status report on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project.
- Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 10 AM – **City Dialogue Meeting**- Fort Bragg Town Hall. The City Dialogue meetings are held quarterly and provide an opportunity for members of the public to have an informal discussion with the City Manager and the City’s management team about City projects and activities and other community matters.
- Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM – **City Council Meeting** – Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda has not been set.

*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](mailto:L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com).*