

January ENewsletter

JANUARY 2ND 2014

City Manager's Column



As we enter 2015, a number of staffing and organizational changes will be implemented as a result of departmental re-structuring and retirements. The net cost savings to the city on an annual basis will be in the range of \$270,000 to \$300,000. Two of the key costs saving measures involve the elimination of management positions. The Assistant City Manager retired in September, and that position will not be re-filled and the Public Works Director is retiring in the spring of 2015, and that position is being merged with the Chief Building Official. The reorganizations involves moving Economic Development into the Community Development Department to create a stronger link between Planning and Development as well as transferring the Housing and Property management positions from Building and Public Works into the Community Development Department. This should allow for an effective utilization of those staff resources in the city efforts towards assisting the private sector in job creation and expanding the tax base.

The re-organization in Public Works, creates four divisions: Engineering and Transportation, under the direction of the City Engineer, Field Operations-which includes Vehicle Maintenance Operations, Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection, and the Utility Operations which includes the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant operations. The fourth division of Building will continue under the supervision of the expanded Public Works Director/Chief Building Official position.

A key component of these reorganizations was to effectively utilize the quality personnel already in place in the organization, and to create savings by reducing administrative/management positions rather than field staff. As a management team we are placing a daily priority on customer service and continuous improvement.

We look forward to serving the citizens of Eureka in 2015, and wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Thank you,

Greg Sparks



Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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				1 New Years Day !	2	3 <u>Arts Alive</u>
4	5	6 <u>City Council Meeting</u>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Free Conservation Lecture	15	16	17
18	19 <u>Martin Luther King Day Event</u> City Hall Closed	20 <u>City Council Meeting</u>	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



The months of summer bring sunshine and dry weather, and we see our lawns dry to a crisp brown. Now that we have experienced rain, sunshine and more rain (a typical fall/winter weather pattern for Eureka), new vegetation growth abounds and is a welcomed sight for many. However, new vegetation growth may sprout up in unwanted areas such as gutters, curbs and sidewalk cracks. It is important for property owners to know that it is their responsibility to remove these unkindly green sprouts (also known as weeds).



The Eureka Municipal Code Section 98.16 prohibits any portion of vegetation/landscaping or other obstructions to encroach into and over the street, sidewalk, or alley area where it may interfere with the movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic. When vegetation is removed from the sidewalk cracks, gutters and curbs, it provides for a safer walking surface and brings beauty to our neighborhoods.

City staff is looking into the possibility of partnering with community service organizations and/or volunteers to help individuals who have difficulty resolving the overgrown vegetation issue in front of their property. Uniting the community to resolve issues such as this, brings a greater good to all. Remember, many hands make a big project small.

As always, the City appreciates the extra time you take to remove these unsightly and overgrown green sprouts.



Humboldt Bay Fire Winter Safety Tips

Humboldt Bay Fire would like to give the public tips for preparedness for the Winter. The single most important item to consider is being prepared.



General Safety Tips

- * Have a plan. Be prepared for the storm by obtaining items such as batteries, flashlights, and a weather radio ahead of the storm's arrival.
- * Stay informed of changing weather conditions.
- * Only go out in to the weather if you must.
- * When driving in inclement weather, slow down. Allow for additional time to get to your destination.
- * Be aware of standing water on the roadways which may cause vehicles to hydroplane.
- * Use your headlights during wet weather.
- * Look out for debris on roadways such as rocks, trees, and limbs.
- * High winds may make operation of vehicles difficult.
- * Watch out for down power lines. Do not attempt to approach a down power line. Notify your local emergency services if you locate a downed line.
- * Be aware of rapidly rising streams and flooding on to roadways. Do not attempt to cross flooded roadways. There may be a current that can cause a vehicle to be swept away.
- * If you are using a generator, use only outdoors.
- * Only fuel emergency generators when they are cool to avoid fuel fires.

Winter Home Safety

With cold winter temperatures there is an increased use of fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, and other alternative heating methods. During these cold winter months, residential fires are more prevalent. This is due in part to an increased number of fires and other emergencies caused by heating appliances. The following safety tips can help you maintain a safe home this winter.

- * Install a carbon monoxide detector. Malfunctioning or improperly installed heating appliances can leak carbon monoxide gas, as can generators. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors. Always run generators outside and away from windows and doors.
- * Keep young children away from heaters and stoves— especially when they are wearing pajamas or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- * Heaters
- * Have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- * Maintain a 3 foot separation between things that can burn and heating equipment.
- * Check floor heaters to make sure they are not covered by floor coverings or other combustibles.
- * Install and use space heaters according to manufacturer's instructions. Do not use an extension cord for an electric-powered space heater.



Humboldt Bay Fire & Eureka Police Departments Cornhole Competition

On Tuesday, December 15, 2014 at 12:00 PM, the Eureka Police and Humboldt Bay Fire Departments held a friendly cornhole fundraising match between EPD/HBFD command staff. Members of the public were also invited to come and watch or participate in the game. Chief Andrew Mills welcomed all challengers. The match was held at Humboldt Bay Fire Station #1 (533 C Street, Eureka).

All proceeds went towards making the holidays a little brighter for several local homeless children during a special “Shop with a Cop” event that was held on Saturday, December 20th at 8:00 AM. EPD and HBFD officials took several children on a Christmas shopping trip to Shafer’s Ace Hardware (2760 E Street) and Target (2525 4th Street). Both businesses generously agreed to participate in this event. Shafer’s Ace Hardware matched donations spent by the children at their store dollar for dollar, and Target offered the children who go shopping 20% off.





Jonathan Eckert – Police Officer

Jonathan is 30 years old and has lived in many places throughout his life. He and his girlfriend are happy to now be in Eureka. He went to South Seattle Community College where he got his certification as a Commercial Driver. In his spare time he enjoys hiking the coast, spending time with family and watching UFC fights.



Richard Bise – Police Officer

Rick was born and raised in Yucaipa, CA. He worked for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and spent several years as active duty in the Army. He resigned from SBSB in 2008 to work as a contractor for DynCorp in Iraq and Afghanistan as a civilian Police Advisor. He and his family are very excited for the opportunity to live and work in Eureka and enjoy North Coast outdoor adventures.



Justin Hornsby - Police Officer

Justin grew up in San Diego but is no stranger to Eureka. He came up to Humboldt in 2007 where he went to HSU and majored in Tourism Management Recreation. He was honored enough to receive a scholarship playing football at HSU. He is happy to be back up in Eureka and looks forward to working with a great group of people.



Jerad Christiansen – Police Officer

Jerad grew up in Eureka, then in 2007 enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he met and married his wife Vanessa. He spent four years in the infantry and completed two deployments. He started his law enforcement career with the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department and now he and his family are happy to be back in Eureka, close to their family.



Matthew White – Police Officer

Matthew was born and raised in Washington State. He has an A.S. degree in General Studies, a B.A. in Political Science, a Master of Arts in Political Science, and a graduate level certificate in Global Justice and Security Studies. He studied abroad in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and learned firsthand the importance of integrity among the police department and the citizenry. He then became a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department



Ben Altic-Police Officer

Ben graduated from the 114th College of the Redwoods Basic Police Academy on Thursday, 12/11/14. His proud father is 12-year EPD Officer, Louis Altic. Ben is following in his father's footsteps and is currently in the hiring process to become an EPD officer. Ben won two prestigious awards at the graduation ceremony: 1) The Scholastic Award and 2) The Law Enforcement Chief's Association of Humboldt Award (LECAH).

CITY OF EUREKA HOMEBUYER AND HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FUNDING IS AVAILABLE!



The City of Eureka has been providing affordable housing rehabilitation loans since 1978 and homeownership loans since 1992. These affordable loans are available to households who would not otherwise be able to acquire sufficient funding through traditional lending sources. They improve Eureka's neighborhoods, increase property values, and provide health and safety repairs to the City's existing housing stock.

The City has provided 165 affordable homeownership loans since 1992. Funding is currently available from the State of

California Community Development Block Grant to allow additional housing program loans. These funds are limited!

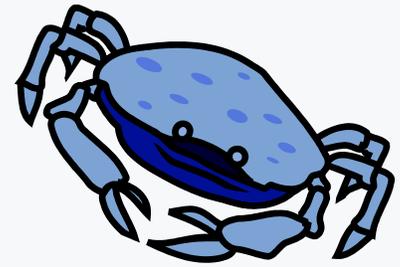
A borrower's qualification for this program is determined by their household income and the number of members in the household. For instance, a household of two must make less than \$36,800 and a household of four must make less than \$46,000 to apply. On the flip side, households must have sufficient household income and credit score to qualify for an affordable monthly payment, first mortgage loan from Umpqua Bank.

The City's Homebuyer Program is able to provide up to \$100,000 in down payment assistance to fill the gap between the purchase price and the Borrower's maximum Umpqua Bank Loan. The City's second mortgage loan has no monthly payments for 30 years at an interest rate of 1.5%, so the home remains affordable to eligible low to moderate income homebuyers. Homes must be purchased within the city limits of Eureka and homeowners are required to provide a minimum of \$3,000 "out of pocket" as down payment.

For more information on the City's Homebuyer & Housing Rehabilitation Loan Programs, please contact Melinda Petersen, Housing Projects Manager in the Housing Division, at 707-441-4214, or by email at mpetersen@ci.eureka.ca.gov, or come by our office on the third floor of City Hall.

Don't miss your opportunity for homeownership!

The 1st Annual Eureka Crab Crawl Festival



Eureka Main Street is excited to announce a new major 3 day event to be held the first weekend of February (February 6-8, 2015). The Eureka Crab Crawl Festival is designed to showcase the Dungeness Crab and the seafood industry of the North Coast. Friday night's Crab Crawl is essentially an extended happy "crabby" hour in Downtown and Old Town

Eureka with bars and restaurants offering seafood specials and crab-themed drinks. Saturday's festival has fun for the whole family to enjoy. The main focus is the delectable food choices offered by vendors in addition to a beer and wine garden, music, crab related education, activities and demonstrations. The crustacean celebration concludes with the Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum's annual crab feed held at the Adorni Center. The goal of the Eureka Crab Crawl Festival is to draw visitors to the North Coast to enjoy the bounty of Dungeness Crab during what is typically known as a slow time for tourism. This event is underwritten by the Eureka Lodging Alliance and strongly supported by the City of Eureka, Eureka Chamber of Commerce, Humboldt Maritime Museum, The Humboldt Crabs, industry leaders and local businesses. Join in the fun by becoming a sponsor, enlisting your business as part of the Crab Crawl, participating as a vendor at the festival or any combination thereof. The Eureka Crab Crawl Festival will be here before we know it. Let's get crackin'!

For more information, contact Amanda Kruschke at amanda@eurekamainstreet.org or call Eureka Main Street at (707)442-9054.

A promotional poster for the Eureka Crab Crawl Festival. The background is a light blue sky over water. In the center is a large, detailed illustration of a crab. The text is arranged around the crab. On the left, it says 'SAVE THE DATE!' and 'FEBRUARY 6TH, 7TH, 8TH 2015'. On the right, it lists activities: 'MUSIC', 'CRAB-THEMED FOOD & DRINKS', 'VENDORS', 'CRAB FEED', 'BEER & WINE GARDEN', and 'CRAB EDUCATION, ACTIVITIES & DEMOS'. At the bottom, it says 'Let's Get Crackin'' and provides contact information: 'EurekaMainStreet.org • (707) 442-9054 • Like us on Facebook!'.

Free Conservation Lecture

WHEN: January 14, 2015 @ 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

“Rat Poisons and their Impacts on Wildlife: what we know, don’t know, and alternatives” by Dr. Mourad Gabriel, Ph.D, Integral Ecology Research Center, Ecologist & Director

Pesticides are used extensively within urban and agricultural settings with the goal of reducing damage to human and domestic animal food supplies or the spread of disease. However, non-target species including sensitive wildlife have unfortunately been exposed or poisoned through legal and illegal uses of these toxicants. One type of pesticide, rodenticide, has contributed to world-wide exposure and poisonings of numerous non-target wildlife species. Locally, in Humboldt County, the misuse of rodenticides has been associated with trespass marijuana cultivation on forested public and tribal community lands. These habitats are home to several species of conservation concern, and the use of toxicants have both individual and population level effects on many of these wildlife species. In addition, due to the inherent purpose of these compounds, the affected prey populations within these sites are thus influencing the fitness of species dependent on them.

This lecture will focus on the current data that has been collected by Dr. Gabriel on wildlife exposures and deaths attributed to these toxicants in Humboldt County. It will also discuss the difficulties of collecting the effects of these toxicants, as well as alternatives that people could incorporate at home and within legal use settings that are not as toxic.



Congrats Ruby Langdon

GULCH Fresh Voices Teen Singing Competition

Congratulations Ruby, GULCH Fresh Voices Teen Singing Competition 2014 Winner! Special thanks to event sponsors Blue Lake Casino, Living the Dream Ice Cream, Humboldt Limousine, Humboldt State Jacks & Angelo's Pizza.



Ruby & friends ride in style from school courtesy of Humboldt Limousine to free ice cream.



Free ice cream at Living the Dream Ice Cream.



Eureka Underage Drinking Ordinance Now In Effect

A new ordinance designed to address underage drinking at home parties in the City of Eureka went into effect Dec. 4. In recognition of the problems associated with teen alcohol use, the Eureka City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Eureka Social Host Ordinance at its Nov. 4 meeting.

The ordinance was introduced to the City Council by Humboldt Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP), a community coalition that works in partnership with Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services as part of the department's Drug Free Communities Support Program.

The new law enhances existing state law allowing police officers to cite adults who host gatherings on private property where alcoholic beverages are served to or consumed by anyone under 21 years of age. Key points of the new law are:

A person who conducts, allows or organizes an underage drinking gathering can be charged with an infraction or misdemeanor violation.

The minimum fine for a first violation is \$250 with fines of \$500 for a second offense and \$1,000 for a third offense within any 12-month period.

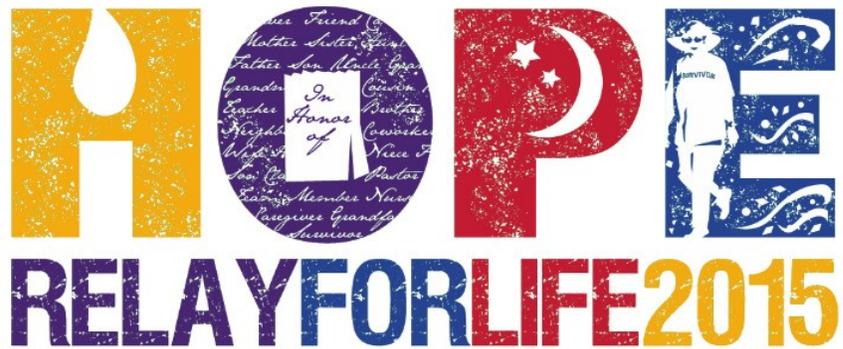
Repeat violators will be held responsible for payment of municipal costs associated with providing police and/or other public services in response to underage drinking gatherings.

Local data indicates that alcohol is the leading drug used by teens on a regular basis in Humboldt County. One in three Eureka 11th-graders reports binge drinking during the last 30 days and nearly half of Eureka teens surveyed said that most of the heaviest and highest risk drinking is happening at home parties.

Social host laws have been effective at reducing calls for police and emergency services in many California communities. Such ordinances provide a valuable enforcement option for reducing underage drinking parties and related consequences such as sexual assault, drunk driving, injury, alcohol poisoning, neighborhood disturbances and property damage.

Eureka Police Chief Andrew Mills, citing the success of similar ordinances in other municipalities, told Eureka City Council members, "We see this as a very relevant and important tool."

For more information about the ordinance and/or Humboldt Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention, visit www.humboldtasap.wordpress.com or contact Beth Wells at (707) 445-6023.



The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is the world's largest fundraising event to end cancer. Annually citizens in Eureka partake in the event and raise money to support the cause. This year's Relay for Life will take place at Halvorsen Park on July 11, 2015.

If you wish to fundraise and participate in the Relay For Life you may register individually or as a team online at www.relayforlife.org/eruekaca.



<https://www.facebook.com/EurekaRelay>



When: July 11, 2015 Where: Halvorsen Park Time: 11:00am



Over the past year there have been several controversial shootings around the United States including a very tragic one here in Eureka. The question for many in policing and the community is how can we prevent these incidents and bring more accountability to the police. Most recognize that policing is an extraordinarily difficult job, where decisions made often in seconds have a lifetime of ramification.

EPD believes that with greater responsibility comes greater accountability and transparency. Police legitimacy is vital to maintaining order and having the support of the community. This legitimacy happens when the police are open for direction and input from the community. The question is how does transparency take place? Many suggest cameras attached to each police officer and recording every move will completely solve the problem. It sounds great and EPD has already been searching for vendors and looking at issues associated with this technology, but will it? Certainly it is part of the solution.

City Council restored \$60,000 to the police budget at last year's budget hearing for in car cameras. That money has been earmarked for body cameras and we are working through the process. There are some issues that police managers must think through before taking that leap. We want this to be done correctly.

- ◆ Can or should police officers record all contacts with the public? If so, how about victims of domestic violence or sexual assault? How about citizens who wish to give information anonymously to the police. Must they be recorded?
- ◆ Is all of this video subject to the public records act? A recent case in Washington brought to a halt one program because a person filed for all of the video collected and it would have taken a fulltime staff to just download the video to produce for the PRA.
- ◆ Much of the video recorded will be exculpatory. How is this video transmitted to the DA, Defense or Court? Who pays for it?
- ◆ Is the technology available locally to realistically store this much data. We spoke with one department who paid a great deal of money to broaden the band width in order to upload that much data to the Cloud.

How long should digital information be held?

This list of questions and concerns could go on, but rest assured that EPD is committed to working with the EPOA and finding a way to move forward as quickly as possible. It is not a panacea for building better relationships, but it is a start. Better relationships happen when EPD officers and community members work shoulder to shoulder on tough problems and finding success.

EPD is also committed to having a Chief's Advisory Panel that regularly takes a look at our training, budget, policy and culture to make sure we are on the right track as a police agency. They will have unfettered access to the internal workings of EPD.

Together we can build a safer more livable Eureka.



While losing weight or vowing to exercise may be hard resolutions to follow in the New Year, the Eureka Police Department has a few ideas that might actually save you time and money. Start the New Year out right with these safety steps. No walking involved.

New Year's Safety Resolutions:

1. Never give out any personal or financial information over the phone to a stranger.
2. Never leave anything of value in your vehicle, not even in the trunk.
3. Never purchase home repairs from a door to door salesperson.
4. Consider buying a shredder for all financial documents and other important paperwork that are no longer needed.
5. Take a home inventory of all items of value including computers, power tools, and electronics. Record the brand, model, and serial number. While you're at it, take a photo of the items.
6. Never leave outgoing mail clipped to your mail box. Mail should be taken to the post office or a mail receptacle.
7. Change out your old mailbox for a new locking and secure one.
8. Never open your door to strangers. No exceptions.
9. Start a Neighborhood Watch in your area.
10. Turn your porch light on at night.

Compliments of the Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP)



MARTIN SLOUGH INTERCEPTOR PROJECT UPDATE

The City of Eureka is pleased to report that the Martin Slough Interceptor Project is in service and has been operating since November. Project construction has been underway since 2011 when installation of the gravity interceptor portion of the new wastewater facility was initiated. The new pump station located at the Municipal Golf Course was completed in late 2013, just a couple of months after work on the force main began. Completion of the force main was expected by January 2014 but the drilled boring for the force main beneath Pine Hill did not go as planned, resulting in delay and added cost.

"Completion of the force main is great news to report," says the City's Engineer, Charles Roecklein. "The new gravity sewer line, pump station and force main are intercepting wastewater from the southern portion of the greater Eureka community service area and conveying it directly to the wastewater treatment plant." Previously, wastewater from the southern portions of the community, such as Cutten, Ridgewood, Campton Heights, Lundbar Hills and other areas, was lifted and pumped in a circuitous route around the city before finally reaching the regional wastewater treatment plant on Elk River. The new facility eliminates miles of indirect travel for the southern-generated wastewater and adds significant collection system capacity to the community.

The final phase of the project is currently in construction with completion anticipated by summer 2015. This phase consists of decommissioning 5 existing lift stations that are no longer needed as a result of the new Martin Slough Interceptor facility, with associated savings in maintenance and operations costs to both the City and the Humboldt Community Services District which is the City's partner and beneficiary in the project.





Position	Emp. Type	Salary	Closing Date
<u>Communications Dispatcher</u>	Full-Time	\$2,841.00 - \$3,638.00 Monthly	01/16/15
<u>Police Officer</u>	Full-Time	\$4,027.00 - \$5,154.00 Monthly	Continuous

Interested parties may contacting the Personnel Department by email;
jschoonmaker@ci.eureka.ca.gov

Jobline: (707) 441-4134
<http://www.ci.eureka.ca.gov>
Personnel Dept: (707) 441-4124

The City of Eureka only accepts applications for full-time positions in which a recruitment is currently being conducted. If you would like to be notified when we are accepting applications for a particular full-time position, or if there are no current full-time job openings, please consider submitting an interest card.

*Oh Christmas Tree,
Oh Christmas Tree,
Whatever shall we do with thee...*

PLEASE, PLEASE RECYCLE ME...

Free Drop-off Locations In Your Community:

ARCATA

Free drop off for all Humboldt County residents at **Mad River Compost**, 6360 West End Road through Sunday, January 30th. **Arcata High students** will pick up trees curbside for \$10 through Sunday, January 11th – Call (707) 822-8325.

BLUE LAKE

Free drop off provided by Blue Lake Garbage at **Prasch Hall**, near baseball fields, through Friday, January 9th. **Arcata High students** will pick up trees curbside for \$15 through Saturday, January 10th – Call (707) 822-8325.

EUREKA

Free drop off at **Humboldt Waste Management Authority's Transfer Station**, 1059 W. Hawthorne Street through Sunday, January 12th. Commercial trees do not apply. Call (707) 268-8680. **Recology** offers tree pick up for \$5 in the Eureka and surrounding Greater Eureka area on January 2nd and 9th. Call (707) 442-5711 for appointment.

FERNDALE

Free drop off at the **City's Barn** on Francis Street through Friday, January 9th. No curbside pickup is available.

FORTUNA

Free drop off at **Eel River Disposal's Transfer Station**, 965 Riverwalk Dr. through Wednesday, January 14th.

MCKINLEYVILLE

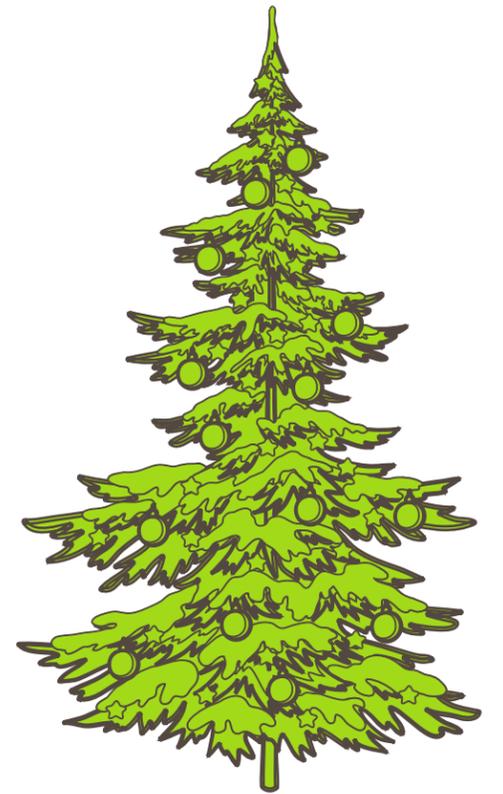
Free Drop off at **Humboldt Sanitation's Transfer Station**, 2585 Central Ave. through Sunday, January 18th. **Arcata High students** raising funds will pick up trees curbside for \$15 through Sunday, January 11th. Call (707) 822-8325.

RIO DELL

Free drop off at **Eel River Disposal's Transfer Station**, 965 Riverwalk Dr. through Wednesday, January 15th. No curbside pickup is available.

TRINIDAD

Free drop off site behind **Murphy's Market** through Friday, January 30th.



Please remove all
tinsel, decorations
and ornaments.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HUMBOLDT WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AT (707) 268-8680 OR WWW.HWMA.NET