

Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

GROVER BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS NEW NAME

On July 9, 2010 the Cities of Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande and the Oceano Community Services District consolidated their fire departments to form the "FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY". The fire agencies have been incrementally implementing services towards this goal since 2004.

How did the name "FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY" come about? Preliminary research found that, in the 1950s, there were five local communities promoting the area with the brand name of "Five Cities": Arroyo Grande, Grover City, Oceano, Halcyon, and Fair Oaks. Many residents may not recognize the Fair Oaks community, which was later incorporated into Arroyo Grande, but may be familiar with local businesses that included it in their business name (e.g., Fair Oaks Theatre). The firefighter reserve program serving the three agencies was already named the "Five Cities Reserve Firefighter Program". As fire service consolidation efforts continued, the reserve program name transitioned to the combined fire service agency.

The Fire Authority's annual budget will be approximately \$3.3 million divided between the three agencies. The consolidated organization will reduce redundancies in operations and costs, with savings realized through bulk purchasing and sharing large capital purchases, such as fire apparatus. The Fire Authority Board is comprised of representatives from the Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande City Councils and the Oceano Community Service District Board. The Fire Chief will serve as the Executive Officer of the Authority.

For information regarding fire department services or programs, please contact the Five Cities Fire Authority's administration office at its headquarters, also referred to as "Station 66", by calling (805) 473-5490.

State of the City A Status Report

by City Manager Bob Perrault

As the City begins the new two-year budget cycle (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012), it's important to review the last two years of City operations, and look to the future, evaluating opportunities, threats, and trends on the horizon.

On the whole, the City of Grover Beach has managed to come through the first two years of a severe economic downturn on relatively sound footing. With only modest reductions in staffing and services, the City has continued to deliver consistent levels of service to our community. Significant accomplishments have included:

HIGHLIGHTS OF COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Consolidation of fire services with the City of Arroyo Grande and the Oceano Community Services District to form the **Five Cities Fire Authority**. This newly-created Authority will deliver services more efficiently and effectively and should provide significant future savings;
- The **Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center** made solid progress with completion of the project's initial design and commencement of the environmental review process;
- With more than \$1 million in federal funds, construction on the **West Grand**

Avenue Enhancement Project will be completed in the coming weeks. This project represents implementation of the City's Visioning Project;

- Implementation of our own local **Economic Stimulus Programs**, including "Shop & Dine Grover Beach" (extended for another year due to its popularity and success) and the **Home Rehabilitation** programs;
- **Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series & Farmers Market** at Ramona Garden Park;
- Construction of the **South Industrial Sewer Main**;

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WEST GRAND AVENUE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (HIGHWAY 1 to 4TH STREET)

This exciting infrastructure project will provide a focal point entry into our community and create a strong visual and pedestrian connection between the future Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center and the east side of Highway 1. It distinctly defines Grover Beach as a coastal community to visitors accessing the State beach and dunes at West Grand Avenue, as well as those traveling on Amtrak passenger rail service.

Construction began earlier this year and generated many comments and questions. Here are a few of the facts...

- Total budgeted project costs = \$1,555,550. The majority of these dollars (or \$1,114,390) came from federal grants, including \$856,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Program and \$258,390 received through the efforts of Congresswoman Capps. The remainder (approximately \$441,000) will come from the City's redevelopment agency and funds

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SOUTH COUNTY CITIZEN ACADEMY



Pictured from left to right: Pismo Beach Police Chief Jeff Norton, Citizen Volunteer Eddie El-Helou, Grover Beach Police Chief Jim Copsey & Arroyo Grande Police Commander John Hough

In early spring, 32 community members graduated after eight weeks of intense training from the first South County Citizen Academy. This first graduating class was the first citizen academy involving all three Police Departments from Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, and Arroyo Grande. The citizen academy class is designed to provide an overview of local law enforcement functions and to build partnerships between the community and

the Police Department. During the eight-week academy, police officers provide instruction on code of ethics, crime prevention, patrol procedures, communications, investigations, crime scenes, courtroom procedures, traffic, use of force, personal safety, records, driver's training, and firearms.

After graduating from the academy, community members are encouraged to volunteer with their local police department. Duties of a police volunteer may include patrolling the neighborhoods, vacation checks, security inspections, crime prevention, general office work, computer data entry, neighborhood watch programs, and special event coordination and support.

Many thanks to Grover Beach Lieutenant John Bewick, Pismo Beach Commander Mark Miller, and Arroyo Grande Commander John Hough for making this academy such a tremendous success.

Police Departments from the three cities have combined their volunteer teams to become the "**South County Police Volunteers**". This provides each agency with a much larger volunteer team and provides the volunteers with opportunities to serve in one or more cities. Anyone interested in becoming a Police Department volunteer should contact his or her local Police Department.

"WEST GRAND" from Page One...

set aside for improvements. There are no General Fund dollars dedicated to this project.

- The City competed on a County-wide basis for the ARRA funding and the project had to meet very specific criteria in order to qualify for consideration. It would not have been constructed *without* the financial assistance of ARRA funds.

- The project accomplishes a number of City objectives:

- It is in keeping with guidelines established by the 2004 Visioning document, adopted by the Council (a copy is available at City Hall and from the City website at www.grover.org/pdf/VisioningWorkshop-FinalRpt-June2004.pdf);
- Improvements will create a unique entryway to the downtown commercial core for visitors and are being constructed specifically to encourage local shopping; and
- The contract was awarded to a local-in-county contractor, which resulted in local jobs and local purchases.

We recognize this construction has been challenging for local merchants, and the City has assisted merchants in the construction area when possible. We encourage all residents to continue patronizing businesses both during and after the construction as we continue revitalizing the west end of the Grand Avenue corridor.

"Status" from Page One...

- Completion of Phase I & II of the **South County Transit Hub** at Ramona Garden Park;
- Paving of **Atlantic City Avenue, North 12th Street, and North 4th Street**;
- Council approval of a **Technology Master Plan** to bring high-speed broadband to the area; and
- Joint **Citizens' Volunteer Program** with the Cities of Pismo Beach and Arroyo Grande, developed and implemented by our Police Department.

While there have been some very visible highlights and accomplishments, the City has withstood its share of challenges. Most notably was the raid of local funds by the State. Last year, the State actually "hit" the City twice, initially "borrowing" approximately \$300,000 of the City's General Fund Property Tax revenues early in the fiscal year. The City was able to backfill this amount to minimize the impact. In May, the State then took an additional \$379,000 in locally generated Property Tax from the City's Improvement Agency. These "takings" restrict the City's ability to use revenues for programs and services for which they were intended.

OUTLOOK AHEAD

The new two-year budget was adopted by the City Council on July 6, 2010. Given the condition of the local economy, development of the General Fund portion of the budget was very difficult. The General Fund provides the revenues for all basic services, including police, fire, public works, planning, parks and recreation, and administration. During this first year, revenues are expected to

decline by approximately 5% (down from \$7,405,418 budgeted last year to an estimated \$7,066,584). Property tax, the General Fund's single largest contributor, is also expected to be down approximately 3%, and sales tax revenue has fallen approximately 20% since July 2007. In order to deal with the shortfall, the City implemented an Employee Furlough and City Hall Closure program, with City Hall and Public Works field service shut down for one Friday per month. We hope that this program and other personnel cost reductions will save the City approximately \$185,000 to pledge against the budget shortfall.

Despite these financial challenges, the City will continue to make progress on several infrastructure projects. Later this summer, the Sewer Trunk Line will be extended down South 4th Street and the

FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS...

- **Sewer Trunk Line Extension** – South 4th Street
- **Street Rehabilitation** – South 4th Street
- **Sidewalk & Pedestrian Improvements** – Grover Heights Elementary School
- **Sidewalk & Pedestrian Improvements** – Grover Beach Elementary School

street will be repaved from Farroll Road to Highland Way. Several sidewalk and pedestrian improvements will be completed with grant funds in the vicinity of Grover Heights Elementary School to assist students traveling to and from school. Similar improvements are also slated for the area around Grover Beach Elementary School and Longbranch Avenue.

We are cognizant of the hardships many of our citizens are enduring in these difficult financial times. Despite our own set of challenges, the City remains committed to providing our community with the very best level of services possible.

EMPLOYEE FURLOUGHS AND CITY HALL

OFFICE CLOSURES BEGIN JULY 2010

The City began an Employee Furlough and City Hall Closure Program that will result in the closure of City offices and furlough of all non-safety employees one day per month. The program was authorized as part of the effort to close a budget gap of \$278,849 in the City's General Fund. According to City Manager Perrault, "The need to achieve approximately \$185,000 in staffing cost reductions to balance the budget was discussed with the Council during the recent budget adoption process. Implementation of the furlough program, coupled with the closure, will provide a big assist in reaching the goal." In addition to savings in staff costs, the City expects to use approximately \$94,000 in General Fund Reserves to cover the remaining gap.

City Hall closures and employee furlough days began Friday, July 30th and will average one day per month through June 2011. The planned City Hall closure dates are as follows:

2010	2011
Friday, July 30, 2010	Friday, January 14, 2011
Friday, August 20, 2010	Friday, February 4, 2011
Friday, September 3, 2010	Friday, March 4, 2011
Friday, October 1, 2010	Friday, April 1, 2011
Friday, November 12, 2010	Friday, May 13, 2011
Tuesday, December 21, 2010	Friday, June 3, 2011
Wednesday, December 22, 2010	

While City Hall offices will be closed and Public Works field operations will cease during the furlough and closure program, emergency services will remain available. The City will make every effort to minimize impacts to the public.

It's Never too Late to Enjoy The Sizzlin' Sounds of Summer!



Summer is almost over according to the calendar, but locals know that the best weather is from late August through October. What better way to enjoy a lazy Sunday afternoon than enjoying it at the **Sizzlin' Summer**

Concert Series and Farmers' Market at Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue. Concerts will continue through the end of September from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. So, bring your blanket or lawn chair and get ready to listen to the sounds of our great musical line-up:

- Sunday, August 22nd
Funk 30
- Sunday, September 5th
House Red Band
- Sunday, September 12th
JD Project
- Sunday, September 19th
Usual Suspects
- Sunday, September 26th
Hear The Darlins' Roar

We have a great line-up of classes as the instructors gear up for the fall! For class times and fees, pick up a Fall Activity Guide at the Grover Beach Parks and Recreation office at 154 S. 8th Street. Offerings include: Surf Camp, Skate Camp, Tennis Classes, Daily Energy Renewal, Grief Recovery Outreach Program, Dog Obedience, Dance &

Gymnastics, Creative Dance, Musical Theatre, Kid Hop - Hip Hop for grades 3rd through 8th, Puppet Making & Performance, Beginning Sewing, Creativity Awareness Art Class, Drawing 101 for Adults, and Etiquette Classes.

The **22nd Annual Dune Run Run, 5k Walk/Run & 10k Run**, will be held on Saturday, August 28th in conjunction with the **Stone Soup Music Faire**. The race begins at 9:00 a.m. on-site registration open at 8:00 a.m. The race takes participants through the streets of Grover Beach to the scenic Grover Beach Boardwalk and along the beach's soft- and hard-packed sand. The race ends at Ramona Garden Park where the entire family can enjoy the many diversions of the Stone Soup Music Faire held through Sunday, August 29th. Call (805) 473-4580 for registration information.

Beginning August 20th, the **South County Skate Park** will be open on Fridays from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Located at 1750



Ramona Avenue, the Skate Park welcomes skate-boarders and in-line skaters of all ages and skill levels. Elbow pads, knee pads, and helmets are required. Call for entrance fee information, camp, special events, and details regarding how to reserve the Skate Park for special celebrations, including birthday parties.

Many activities and special events offered to the community throughout the year are made available through the generous donations of local businesses and private citizens. If you would like to make a contribution or discuss sponsorship opportunities, please call (805) 473-4580 for more information.

Community Partnership Program



GROVER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Grover Beach Police Department is proud to announce the debut of the "Community Partnership Program" added to the list of services that further our commitment to Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving ("COPPS"). The program divides the city into four geographical areas, each of which is overseen by one of our four Senior Police Officers.

The program's goal is to promote a cooperative approach to addressing and resolving long-term, non-urgent matters, such as on-going noise disturbances, parking and traffic problems, vandalism, and some drug-related issues. Assigning a Senior Police Officer to each area allows for better communication between citizens and your Police Department.

There are three easy ways to determine the geographical area for your neighborhood, learn more about this program, or contact the Senior Police Officer assigned to your area: **1)** go to the City website at www.grover.org and click on "News", then "Community Partnership Program", or type the following address into your web browser: www.grover.org/PD-CommunityPartnershipProgram.html; **2)** call the Grover Beach Police Department and leave a voicemail message at (805) 473-4511; or **3)** visit the Grover Beach Police Department to complete a Community Partnership Program Report Form.

We hope you will find this program responsive and beneficial in addressing certain community concerns.

SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL CLEANING? GARAGE AND YARD SALE REGULATIONS

Just a reminder when planning for your next garage or yard sale:

- Each residence is limited to holding garage or yard sales no more than four (4) days in any calendar year;

- Signs and flyers advertizing your sale may *not* be attached or placed adjacent to any public property, on any utility pole, traffic sign post, or any other official traffic control device.

- Any signs found within these locations will be removed and discarded by City staff. (GBMC Section 10218)

- If you have questions regarding garage or yard sale regulations, please contact the Public Works Department (805) 473-4520.



Street Sweeping Reminder

The City of Grover Beach provides street sweeping services several times each month. In order for sweepers to access the areas in front of your property, all vehicles must be removed from the street prior to the starting date and time indicated on the schedule below. Please check the schedule for your street and be sure to move all vehicles prior to the scheduled starting time.



Monday Midnight - 7:00 a.m.	West Grand Avenue <i>Including one block north and south of West Grand Avenue</i>
<i>1st & 3rd</i> Thursdays Beginning at 8:00 a.m.	All Streets North of West Grand Avenue <i>Unless otherwise listed on schedule</i>
<i>2nd & 4th</i> Thursdays Beginning at 8:00 a.m.	All Streets South of West Grand Avenue <i>Unless otherwise listed on schedule</i>
Friday Midnight - 7:00 a.m.	West Grand Avenue <i>Including one block north and south of West Grand Avenue</i>
Friday Beginning at 7:00 a.m.	4 th Street: Farroll Road to northern City limit 13 th Street: The Pike to Atlantic City Avenue Oak Park Boulevard: The Pike to northern City limit Atlantic City Avenue: Front Street to Oak Park Boulevard Longbranch Avenue: 3 rd Street to Oak Park Boulevard Mentone Avenue: 4 th Street to eastern City limit

If you have questions or comments regarding street sweeping, please contact the Public Works Department at (805) 473-4520.

QUICK REFERENCE

Grover Beach City Hall
154 South Eighth Street; *Mon - Fri; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
**Except for Employee Furlough Dates & Holidays*

Administrative Svcs./Utility Billing473-4550
Business Tax Certificates473-4550
Community Development473-4520
Building Inspection Requests473-4527
City Manager473-4567
City Clerk473-4568
Human Resources473-4564
Emergency9-1-1
Police Administration473-4511
Neighborhood Watch473-4511
Code Enforcement473-4520
Public Works Department473-4520
Parks and Recreation473-4580
City websitewww.grover.org

Other Frequently Called Numbers:
Chamber of Commerce 180 Highway One - or
www.groverchamber.com489-9091
Charter Communications (cable television)
270 Bridge Street, San Luis Obispo - or -
www.charter.com(888) 438-2427
Community Library - Grover Beach
240 North 9th Street, Grover Beach
(Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.: 1-5 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) . . .481-4131
Five Cities Fire Authority
140 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande473-5490
South County Sanitary (trash and recycling services)
866 West Grand Ave - or -
www.wasteconnections.com489-4246
The Gas Company (natural gas) . . .1-800-427-2200
Pacific Gas & Electric (electricity) . . .1-800-743-5000
SLO Superior Court - South County Branch Office
214 South 16th Street (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
Traffic Division473-7070 or 781-5696
Civil & Small Claims Division473-7077
Criminal Division473-7072
County Health Department South County Branch Office
286 South 16th Street473-7050
San Luis Obispo County Human Services & Support
Groups Hotline2-1-1

Sea Breeze is published by the City of Grover Beach. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Call us at 473-4567 or send email to gbadmin@grover.org



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