

# Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

## ADOPTED GOALS PROVIDES A GUIDELINE FOR ACHIEVEMENT

by City Manager Bob Perrault

In April 2007, the City Council completed the important task of setting City goals for the next fiscal year. Once goals are adopted, they become a guide for development of the City budget and the City's work effort. For this next year, the Council approved and prioritized a set of 10 goals. The goals are doable, achievable, and cover a broad range of municipal activity. Included in that list are goals dealing with **economic development** and **streets**, as well as goals that address **public safety, parks facilities, and planning.**

Ultimately, the adopted list of goals and the City's progress in achieving its goals will provide a means of performance evaluation for the City. Soon, visitors to the City Hall Council Chambers will be able to view a prominent display of these goals. I will also make periodic reports at City Council meetings to keep the Council and the public informed as to our progress.

I would like to review with you what are perhaps the most noteworthy goals and share some thoughts on how those goals will be accomplished:

Tied for first place in the Council's priority listing were: **Economic Development** and the **Street Rehabilitation Program.**

The Council recognizes that the implementation of a sound economic development strategy is the key to a healthy local economy. In the near term, this will mean a continued emphasis on completion of the **Beachfront Lodge and Conference Center** facility at the beach and adjacent to West Grand Avenue. In the coming months, the City will be working with our partner the State of California to identify a developer / concessionaire who will actually construct this important project. The City is also taking steps to initiate a program that will focus on retention and expansion of existing businesses, and the attraction of new businesses.

As noted, the Street Rehabilitation Program continues to be at the top of the  
See "Goals" ... on Page 3

## Grover Beach Asks Residents TO CONSERVE

Grover Beach is short on rainfall. So far we're not in dire straits, but there are actions the City and its residents can take to alleviate the problem.

The City Council has declared that we are at Stage I of five water shortage levels, which means rainfall conditions have been 65 percent of normal or less, says Jim Garing, Grover Beach City Engineer. "I monitor actual rainfall at two locations - at Lopez Lake and at the City's maintenance yard. This year's rainfall was 44 percent of normal."

Upon review of this low rainfall amount, the City Council has decided that such a shortage triggers the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Because this is the first year of the shortage, a Stage I Water Alert is in place. However, Garing explains, he will continue to track rainfall and if we have a second year of shortage, a Stage II Water Alert, with further action, may be declared by the City Council. By Stage III, mandatory actions on the part of residents could be required.

See "Conserve" ... on Page 2

## Meadow Creek Update

The reconstruction of the West Grand Avenue bridge at Meadow Creek is one of the City's active projects in its Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Located just west of the intersection of Highway One and West Grand Avenue, the bridge crossing is the primary access point to the beach from West Grand Avenue. Significant progress is being made to replace the aging and damaged bridge, which will cost about \$2.2 million when it is complete. Project funding is provided through the City's Improvement Agency and a grant from the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG).

In April, the City Council directed staff to provide cost and maintenance estimates for two conceptual designs, and has subsequently selected an arched, pre-cast concrete headwall bridge with a painted railing. Two



lampposts on each side that match the lampposts installed on 9th and 10th Streets along West Grand Avenue will provide continuity as well as much needed lighting.

"Final environmental review is done and the engineering design is 95 percent complete. Plans should be complete by mid-July and construction bids out by August," says City Engineer Jim Garing, who is designing the project for the City.

An added plus? The bridge will be raised approximately one foot, which will take it out of the 100-year flood plain.

# Half-Cent Sales Tax Increase: Working For YOU!

Fortunately for Grover Beach, last November voters approved a half-cent sales tax increase and entrusted the City Council with allocating the resulting funds wisely. The approval of Measure X included the creation of a Citizen Committee to audit the actual use of the revenue. The Council is expected to initiate recruitment for this committee in the coming month. Since November, the City Council has directed staff how to budget for the projected \$480,000 increase, which the City should begin receiving this fall. The Council's decision reflects its priorities. Here's how the Council decisions pencil out:

## STREET REPAIR:

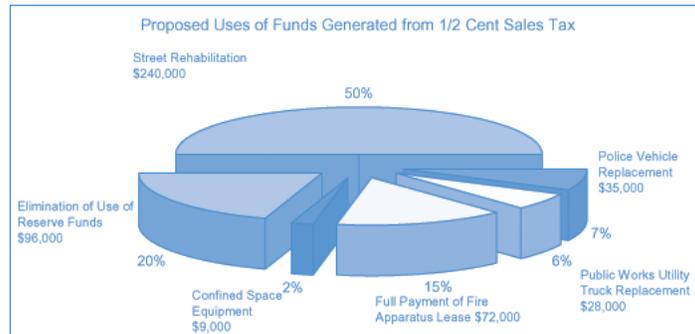
Fully 50 percent of the projected revenue, or \$240,000, will be allocated to City street needs. Last year, the amount budgeted for street repairs was \$541,136. In this new fiscal year, the City expects to spend \$800,000 for street repair. The sales tax contribution is responsible for the majority of this increase.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES:

- To ensure essential services, the Grover Beach Police Department will replace a department vehicle at a cost of \$35,000.
- The lease on the Fire Department's Hi Tech Engine will be retired. The fire engine is currently being considered as part of a Public Safety Equipment Sharing Agreement with the

City of Arroyo Grande. Payment of the lease relieves the General Fund of this obligation. This expenditure is \$72,000.

- The Fire Department is the rescue response agency for confined spaces within Grover Beach, and has trained personnel but lacks the equipment. The needed equipment will be procured in three phases. This year's obligation is \$9,000.



- Public Works has limped along with an 11-year-old, 3/4-ton pickup truck that was scheduled to be replaced two years ago. The vehicle is used for street repair and park maintenance. Replacement cost of the truck is \$28,000.

## ELIMINATION OF BUDGET DEFICITS:

- And finally, in placing Measure X on the ballot, the Council indicated that resulting resources should be allocated to eliminate the use of Reserve Funds to address budget

shortfalls. This year, City staff anticipates that \$96,000 will be needed for this purpose.

Measure X also required the creation of a Citizen Committee. Section 1504 of the Municipal Code requires that, "The City Council shall appoint a citizen committee to review the annual report, and who will provide a report on expenditures of the revenues generated from the Transaction and Use Tax to the City Council."

The Council agreed on committee parameters and composition in April 2007 and recruitment is expected to begin in July.

The committee will have five members who serve four-year terms. The current application process used to fill other commission and committee vacancies will be used. Committee members must be Grover Beach residents and registered voters. The committee should meet at least once annually and all

meetings are subject to the Brown Act. And, of course, the committee should review the annual report relative to activities funded with the additional revenues generated from the sales tax increase and report to the City Council no later than six months following the end of the fiscal year.

If you have any questions about the committee formation and sales tax expenditures, please contact City Manager Bob Perrault at (805) 473-4567.

## A LITTLE PLASTIC CONTAINER COULD BE A LIFESAVER

When your Grover Beach Fire Department personnel respond to a medical emergency, knowing a resident's medical history, current medications, and other pertinent information is a huge advantage. But the person in distress is often confused and unable to provide that information accurately, if at all, so emergency personnel have to chase the information - or go without it.

That's where an important, yet little-known program known as "Vial of Life" comes in. A cooperative effort between the Area Agency on Aging and the Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande Fire Departments, the program advises emergency personnel of this critical information easily.

Here's how it works: The Vial of Life is a plastic container that affixes by magnet to the front of the refrigerator. The Fire Department provides a card for listing medications, doctor's names, medical history, and other important and pertinent information. The card is kept in the vial, where it is clearly visible to responding emergency personnel. Each year, a reminder registration form is mailed to those who register for the program to remind them to update the information on the card.

"It is critical that program participants keep the card accurate and up-to-date," says Grover Beach Fire Chief Mike Hubert. "After all, emergency personnel will be making decisions based on information on that medical information card."

Vial of Life containers are available from the Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande Fire Departments. For more information, contact the Grover Beach Fire Department at (805) 473-4590, the Arroyo Grande Fire Department at (805) 473-5490, or the Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-510-2020.

And remember to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.

## "Conserve" from Page One...

So what is the City doing now — and just what can you do? The 2005 Update of the City's Urban Water Management Plan requires the following prohibitions against specific water use practices during water shortages, although at this point compliance is voluntary:

- Unauthorized use of water from any fire hydrant
- Use of water for washing cars, boats, driveways, streets, etc., without a quick acting, shutoff nozzle
- Use of potable water to wash sidewalks or roadways where sweeping or air blowers will suffice
- Drinking water service to restaurant patrons unless requested
- Refilling of existing private pools except to maintain water levels
- Use of potable water for new landscaping and turf planting unless it consists of low water-using, drought-tolerant plants
- Operation of any ornamental fountain or car wash unless the water is re-circulated
- Use of potable water for street cleaning
- Hydrant flushing except where required for public health and safety

All water from City sources is "potable" water, which means that it meets state health regulations.

"The City is reaching out to its citizens for help in meeting the shortage," Garing says. "Additional information is being sent out with City water bills and is currently posted on government access cable channel Channel 20 and the City website by clicking on the word 'News'. Additional flyers are also available at City Hall. The City appreciates everyone's assistance."



## THERE'S STILL TIME TO ENJOY THE SIZZLIN' SOUNDS OF SUMMER!

The end of summer may be sneaking up on us, but there is still time to enjoy some wonderful music on a lazy Sunday afternoon. The Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series presents three more opportunities to "kick back" on the grass, let your mind wander with the breeze, and enjoy the company of other like-minded area residents.

Mark your calendar for the following free concerts at Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue:

- **Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> - Soulamente** - Dance hits from the 70s through the 90s, rhythm & blues, classic soul & jazz, Motown, and Latin.
- **Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> - JD Project** - Rock, blues, soul, and country.
- **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> - Cadillac Angels** - Rock n' roll, rockabilly, and surf-hybrid.

All concerts are held from 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. Bring a picnic or purchase refreshments at the concert. All proceeds are used to support the concert series.

The **19th Annual Dune Run Run, 5k Walk/Run & 10k Run**, will be held on *Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>* in conjunction with the **Stone Soup Music Faire**. The race begins at 9:00 a.m. and takes participants through the streets of Grover Beach to the beautiful boardwalk and along the beach's soft and hard-packed sand. The race ends back at Ramona Garden Park where the entire family can enjoy the many diversions offered at the Stone Soup Music Faire, which will be held through *Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>*. For more information on the Dune Run Run, call the Parks & Recreation Office at (805) 473-4580 or download and complete a registration form from the City website at [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org). For more information on the Stone Soup Music Faire, contact the Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce at (805) 489-9091 or the Chamber website at [www.groverbeachchamber.com](http://www.groverbeachchamber.com).

The **South County Skate Park** has expanded summer hours that offer skaters the opportunity to skate from 12 noon until 7 p.m., Monday - Friday, and weekends from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. The Skate park is located at 1750 Ramona Avenue, where skate-boarders and in-line skaters of all ages and skill levels are welcome to come have fun. Call the Skate Park Hotline at (805) 597-4725 for information on entrance fees, **skate camps**, **special events**, and details on how to reserve the park for your next special celebration.

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

## SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME When You Are On The Road

Your Grover Beach Police Department works to keep you and your home safe year-round. Different seasons present different challenges. Since this is the time when traditionally more burglaries take place than any other time of year, according to FBI reports, our Police Department encourages you to heed its advice and safeguard your home when you are away.

"An empty house is a temptation for a burglar," says Grover Beach Chief Police Jim Copsey. "Residents can reduce their risk by taking some precautions. And the No. 1 action should be to let the Police Department know when you will be gone."

According to Copsey, the following simple steps will reduce the possibility that your home will be broken into while you are traveling. More information can be found at [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org) under "Police Department" and "Safety Tips".

- Repair any broken windows, doors, and window locks
  - Leave contact information with a neighbor and ask them to watch your house
  - Stop mail and newspaper delivery or ask your neighbor to pick them up for you
  - Use timers to turn lights on
  - Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages
  - Don't close blinds and shades unless that is what you do when you are at home
  - Never leave your house key hidden outside your home
  - Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves, and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look
  - Trim shrubs near doors to eliminate convenient hiding places for potential burglars
  - Contact the Police Department about its volunteer vacation house watch program
- Enjoy your trip!

"Goals" from Page One...

priority list. Thanks primarily to passage of the sales tax measure, the total allocated amount for street repair will increase from \$500,000 in last year's budget to \$800,000 in this year's budget. Residents can expect to see street repair projects underway this fall and again in the spring. This increased allocation, while significant, will not provide a long-term answer to our street repair problem. The Council has set a **special workshop meeting for Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** to take up the question of long-term financing for street repair. As with most City meetings and workshops, this is open to the public and will also be broadcast on government cable access Channel 20.

Also ranking high on the list of goals is a continued focus on **Utilities and Infrastructure**. The following is a brief list of capital projects that are either currently underway or will be started during this year:

- W. Grand Avenue/Meadow Creek Bridge Replacement and Storm Drain Project
- Ramona Hub Transit Project /Ramona Park Parking Improvements
- Review of Train Station Improvements
- North Oak Park Sidewalk Project

In addition to these projects, the City Council and staff will work to develop a long-term reliable water source to accommodate current and projected needs.

**Public Safety** also continues to be a top priority for the Council. The City will build on recent successes with the City of Arroyo Grande, as evidenced by the shared Administrative Services Agreement and the Equipment Sharing Agreement, as we continue to find ways to improve service delivery while eliminating the duplication of costs for the two agencies. Also important is work on the development of a full Public Safety Services Delivery System to be achieved over a five-year period.

**Planning and Land/Use** - The City Council has directed staff to complete a Land Use Element update to the General Plan that will take the policy direction provided in the Visioning Process and convert that direction into standards that will guide the development of our downtown and adjoining areas.

As you can see, bringing this partial listing of goals to fruition represents a significant dedication of time, personnel, and funds. Copies of this fiscal year's goals are available at City Hall in the FY 08 Budget, in the City Management Office, as well as posted on the City website at [www.grover.org/pdf/CommunityGoals-FY08.pdf](http://www.grover.org/pdf/CommunityGoals-FY08.pdf). The process of setting goals and evaluating this organization's progress towards goal performance provides a ready means for measuring achievement.

I am always interested in hearing your thoughts and comments. You may contact me at City Hall by calling (805) 473-4567.

# KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ATTRACTIVE

*"Can It" but Please Remember to also Put It Away!*

As residents of Grover Beach, we take pride in our fair city. We want it to be all that it can be, because we live here. Recently the City has received comments about trash receptacles and the need to remind residents of existing regulations to avoid having unsightly green and blue waste wheelers littering the landscape unnecessarily.

So here are the regulations. Please comply on behalf of the neighborhood, and thanks!

- Refuse/garbage containers are to be placed adjacent to the street for pickup not more than 24 hours prior to pickup time. If you are going on vacation, perhaps a neighbor can help?
- Refuse/garbage containers shall be removed from the curb within 12 hours following pickup.
- And - containers should be stored in an area that is not visible from the street and not within any front yard setback or side yard abutting a street.

Now you know ...

## MONTHLY CITY MEETING DATES

*All Regular Meetings are Open to the Public and Held in the City Council Chambers unless noted otherwise - 154 South Eighth Street*

*City Council - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 6:30 p.m.*

*Planning Commission - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.*

*Traffic Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 a.m. (as needed)*

*Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:30 p.m.*

*Agendas are posted at City Hall and [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org).*

*City Council Meetings are televised on the City's Government Cable Access Channel 20.*

*Your presence and participation at City meetings are contributions to good government. Please attend as often as you can!*

## QUICK REFERENCE

\* \* \* Grover Beach City Hall \* \* \*

154 South Eighth Street Mon - Fri; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Administrative Svcs./Utility Billing . . . . .473-4550

Business Tax Certificates . . . . .473-4550

Community Development . . . . .473-4520

Building Inspection Requests . . . . .473-4527

City Manager . . . . .473-4567

City Clerk . . . . .473-4568

Human Resources . . . . .473-4564

Emergency . . . . .9-1-1

Police Administration . . . . .473-4511

Fire Administration . . . . .473-4590

Neighborhood Watch . . . . .473-4511

Code Enforcement . . . . .473-4590

Parks and Recreation . . . . .473-4580

City Website . . . . .[www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org)

### Other Frequently Called Numbers:

**Chamber of Commerce** . . . . .489-9091  
180 Highway One -or- [www.groverbeachchamber.com](http://www.groverbeachchamber.com)

**Charter Communications** (cable television) . .489-2653  
129 Bridge Street, Suite A, Arroyo Grande -or-  
[www.chartercable.com](http://www.chartercable.com)

**Community Library - Grover Beach** . . .481-4131  
230 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Grover Beach

**South County Sanitary** (trash and recycling services) .489-4246  
866 West Grand Ave -or- [www.wasteconnections.com](http://www.wasteconnections.com)

**Southern California Gas** (natural gas) 1-800-427-2200

**Pacific Gas & Electric** (electricity) . .1-800-743-5000

**SLO Superior Court - South County Branch Office**  
214 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Traffic Division . . . . .473-7070

Civil - Small Claims Division . . . . .473-7077

Criminal Division . . . . .473-7072

**County Health Department-  
South County Branch Office** . . . . .473-7050  
286 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street

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](mailto:gbadmin@grover.org)



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