

Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

CITY GOVERNMENT BASICS

By City Manager Bob Perrault

I am frequently asked a number of questions about the City organization. Some of the typical questions I receive include: What are the roles of the Mayor and City Council? What does the City Manager really do, and how do I get my question answered? I thought I would take some time to answer these questions.



Let's start at the top. The Mayor and four Council Members are directly elected by the people of Grover Beach and are charged with the basic responsibility of running the local government. Council Members are elected to four-year terms and the Mayor is elected to a two-year term. Collectively, the Mayor and the Council Members constitute the "City Council". The Council serves much the same role as a Board of Directors for a private corporation. The Council is responsible for adopting a budget and for providing its staff with the direction to implement the budget. The Council is also responsible for setting the direction the City will take to achieve its goals and adopting policies to ensure that it does. Finally, the Council is responsible for legislating local rules and laws to protect the health and welfare of the City's residents and business owners.

In order to make a decision on any particular item, the Council must make the decision during a noticed public Council meeting. The item must then receive a majority vote of Council Members present at the meeting. In certain rare cases of legislation, a vote by 2/3rd or 4/5th majority of the Council may be required. Regular Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers

located at 154 South 8th Street. Meeting agendas are posted on both bulletin boards located next to entryways to City Hall, as well as at the Grover Beach Post Office, and City website. Council Members and the Mayor receive a small stipend for their work of \$300.00 per month. This amount has remained unchanged since 1986.

On November 4, 2008, the citizens of Grover Beach elected Mr. John P. Shoals as the first directly-elected Mayor for our City. As Mayor, Mr. Shoals will serve as the presiding chair at all Council meetings. Additionally, the Mayor will represent the City at several civic functions, as well as when meeting with regional, state, and federal officials.

As with most California cities, Grover Beach has a "council-manager" form of government. The City Council hires a City Manager to implement the decisions made by the City Council and to manage the

operations of the City on a day-to-day basis. In addition to the City Manager, the Council directly retains and supervises the City Attorney, who is responsible for providing legal advice to the City Council. The City Manager, on the other hand, is responsible for retaining and supervising all other Department Directors and key management personnel, including the Police Chief, Administrative Services Director, Community Development Director, City Clerk, Parks and Recreation Director, Public Works Superintendent, Economic Development Specialist, and Human Resources Coordinator. Fire management services for Grover Beach are contracted to the City of Arroyo Grande.

It is relatively easy to contact us at City Hall. We strive to be responsive and service-oriented. If you have a question regarding the operation of one of the City's

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You're Invited

CITY HALL OPEN HOUSE &
ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
Friday, December 5, 2008



We're having an Open House! Members of the public are invited to come browse through City Hall and the Police and Fire Departments on Friday, December 5th, from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. City employees will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

At 5:30 p.m., please join us for the official **Lighting of the City Tree** in the City Hall parking lot. Come enjoy free entertainment, free cookie decorating, real snow to play in, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa Claus, who will be available for pictures. This is a fun, free, family-oriented event to kick off the holiday season.

Join us in the celebration!



HOLIDAY PARADE AND SANTA'S WORKSHOP – FINE ART & CRAFT FAIRE

Fun for the whole family! The 42nd Annual South County Holiday Parade is the only daytime parade in San Luis Obispo County. Hosted by the City of Grover Beach, this fun, family-friendly parade will be held on Saturday, December 6th. This year's theme is "Holiday at the Beach". Be a part of the parade and submit an application today (the form is available at City Hall, on the City website www.grover.org or by calling the Parks and Recreation Department to have a form mailed to you). The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. and travels west on West Grand Avenue from 16th Street to 8th Street. Come see all the creative parade floats, bands, groups and, of course, Santa Claus riding in a fire engine.

After the parade, head over to Santa's Workshop – Fine Art & Craft Faire at 993 Ramona Avenue, Ramona Garden Park, to find special gifts for loved ones or a fine piece of art for your home. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., this event boasts a wide array of vendors selling hot cider, cotton candy, handmade jewelry, pottery, candles, scarves, paintings, glass work, and more! Musical entertainment will be presented as you stroll through the demonstrating artists ready to dazzle you with their crafts. The Arroyo Grande High School ceramics instructor will be bringing in two potters' wheels for all to try for free! Santa Claus will be available for pictures and there will be a bounce house for the kids. Don't miss this fun, holiday shopping event.

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departments, I encourage you to contact the individual listed in the information at the end of this article. Questions regarding City operations in general may be posed directly to me, City Manager Bob Perrault at (805) 473-4567, or send me an email to: rperrault@grover.org.

Contacting the Mayor and Council Members is also easy. The Mayor and Council Members do not keep regular office hours here at City Hall, but are readily available. Phone calls for the Mayor and Council Members are taken in the City Management Office by calling (805) 473-4567. Your message will be forwarded to the

appropriate Council Member or the Mayor. The same is true of email messages, which may be addressed to: gbadmin@grover.org. Be sure to indicate in the body of the message to whom you would like the message delivered. Letters are also appreciated at City Hall and can be addressed to: City of Grover Beach, 154 South 8th Street, Grover Beach, CA 93433.

We strive to improve communications with our citizens and appreciate your comments. Please take some time to visit with us during our Open House event, which will be held on Friday, December 5, 2008, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., just before the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:30 p.m.

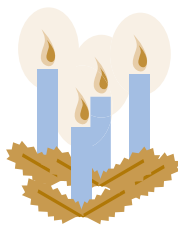
CITY HALL CONTACT INFORMATION:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mayor and Council Members | (805) 473-4567 | gbadmin@grover.org |
| City Manager Bob Perrault | (805) 473-4567 | rperrault@grover.org |
| City Clerk Donna McMahon | (805) 473-4568 | dcmahon@grover.org |
| Administrative Svs Director Gayla Chapman | (805) 473-4550 | gchapman@grover.org |
| Interim Community Dev. Dir. Pat Beck | (805) 473-4530 | pbeck@grover.org |
| Economic Dev. Specialist Bruce Buckingham | (805) 473-4520 | bbuckingham@grover.org |
| Public Works Superintendent Mike Ford | (805) 473-4520 | mford@grover.org |
| Parks and Recreation Director Kathy Petker | (805) 473-4580 | kpetker@grover.org |
| Human Resources Coordinator Marnie Barrett | (805) 473-4564 | mbarrett@grover.org |
| Police Chief Jim Copsey | (805) 473-4511 | jcopsey@gbpd.org |
| Fire Chief Michael Hubert | (805) 473-5490 | mhubert@arroyogrande.org |

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS TWELVE TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

from the GROVER BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Twelve Brown Needles ~ Always be sure to water your tree to prevent a fire hazard. A well-watered tree will shed fewer needles.



Eleven Lit Candles ~ Be sure that your candles are placed in sturdy containers and placed a safe distance away from combustibles. Always be sure they are extinguished before you go to bed.

Ten Thousand Volts ~ Remember that outside lights should have all bulbs installed (no empty sockets) and should not be located where puddles could form.

Nine Broken Ornaments ~ Be sure that breakable ornaments are placed up high, near the top of the tree, and away from pets and young children.

Eight New Batteries ~ Always be sure that your smoke alarms have new batteries. This time of year is known for fire outbreaks.

Seven Old Decorations ~ Many old decorations like tinsel and icicles contain lead. They should be discarded.

Six Foot Flash Fire ~ Never burn wrapping paper or evergreen boughs. Flash fires could result from the intense heat and sparks.

Five Inches of Smoke ~ Be sure that your chimney is clean and the flue is open. Make sure hot ashes are placed in a metal container.

Four Sick Children ~ When using natural decorations such as holly berries and mistletoe, be sure to keep them out of the reach of small children.

Three Strings of Lights ~ Use only CSA-approved lights for your holiday tree. Check for frayed wires or broken sockets. Do not overload outlets. Never use more than three strings per circuit.

Two Many Drinks ~ This time of year often includes celebratory events and alcoholic beverages being served. Please be aware of drivers who may be drinking and driving.

And One Burnt Bird ~ This can be a hectic time with everyone trying to accomplish too many things at once ... Be sure when you are preparing your meals to pay close attention to items cooking in the kitchen.



BEWARE OF BUSINESS CRIMES: THE QUICK CHANGE ARTIST

A SAFETY TIP FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

from the GROVER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

How the "Quick Change" Artist Operates...

The most common "quick change" scheme perpetrated on businesses today occurs when the quick change criminal tries to confuse the cashier. He (or she) does this by making a small purchase, paying with a large denomination bill (usually a twenty dollar bill). Then, right after the change has been given, he tries to pay for the same purchase with a smaller bill. Thus, the confused cashier gives back the original, higher denomination bill and also allows the quick change artist to keep the change from the original, higher denomination bill.

An Example of a "Quick Change" Artist Scheme...

A con artist walks into a store and purchases a candy bar for fifty cents, giving the cashier a \$20 bill. In an apologetic manner, the con artist states, "Oh, I'm sorry, all I have is a twenty." The cashier then gives \$19.50 in change for the purchase. The con artist quickly takes possession of this \$19.50 in change for his purchase. At that moment, he immediately tells the cashier, "Oh, here I have fifty cents. Now, give me back my twenty dollar bill." The cashier, now thoroughly confused (and not thinking of having already given him change for the \$20), gives him a \$20 bill, and the con artist immediately leaves the store.

Techniques to Use Against "Quick Change" Artists...

The best way to prevent being taken by a quick change artist is to never give them an opportunity to confuse you. When that person tries to pay for a small item with a large bill - do not accept it! Be cautious of large bills. Remember large bills are the "bait" for criminals to commit crimes.

If you are in the middle of a transaction and the quick change artist tries to confuse you, immediately start writing on a piece of paper each part of the transaction in chronological order. This technique will discourage any more attempts to confuse you and the quick change artist will probably leave. Also, take your time and don't allow anyone to hurry, rush or confuse you. If needed, call for a supervisor or another employee to witness the transaction. This is the last thing a quick change artist wants.

Last of all, if you are the victim of a quick change artist, call the Police Department. Theft (by false pretense) is a crime. For further information, please contact Lt. John Bewick at the Grover Beach Police Department at (805) 473-4506.

SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

from the GROVER BEACH
POLICE DEPARTMENT

The holidays are a time for giving, sharing, cheer, and fun. Unfortunately, if you let down your safety guard, you could become the victim of a crime. Here are some tips to help make the upcoming holiday shopping season safer.

While Shopping at Stores:

- Park in well-lit, well-populated areas. Keep valuables in your car and out of sight, preferably in the trunk, and lock all doors.
- Stay alert, be aware of your surroundings, and don't allow yourself to become distracted.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Bring just one credit or debit card.
- Carry your purse close to your body. Never leave your purse in a shopping cart. Never leave your purse open.
- Keep your wallet in a front or zipped pocket.
- Don't carry too many packages. Keep your packages locked in the trunk, out of sight, and possibly move your car to a new location.
- When you return to your car, have your keys in hand, get in quickly, and immediately lock your doors.
- Bring along a friend.



When Shopping Online:

- Shop only with known or reputable firms.
- Confirm phone numbers and addresses so that you can contact the company if something goes wrong.
- Provide personal information sparingly. Online vendors do not need your social security number or driver's license number.
- Only use "secure servers" - look for an unbroken key or padlock at the bottom of the browser window and a URL that begins with "https", not just "http".
- Make sure you understand all shipping charges, taxes, and delivery dates.
- Schedule deliveries when you will be home, arrange for deliveries to your business or set up a pick-up time from the delivery service.

As you scout the stores for bargains and great deals this holiday season, be aware that thieves and muggers are on the lookout for good "discounts" too! Be safety-savvy to make sure that you have an enjoyable and safe shopping experience.

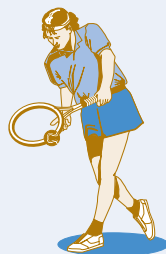
PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES



The Grover Beach Parks and Recreation Department offers a

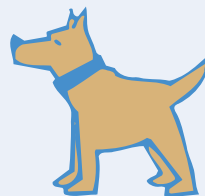
wonderful array of special events, classes, and activities for the entire family, such as pre-school enrichment activities, gymnastics, dance, theatre, tennis lessons, ping pong, dog obedience training, and more.

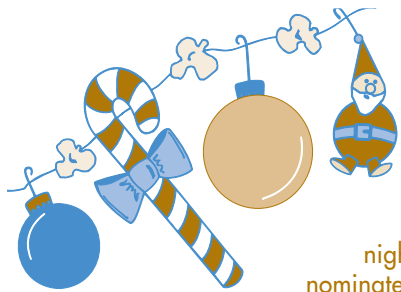
For information about the South County Skate



Park, class schedules, and facility rentals, pick up a current copy of the Activity Guide at City Hall or from the City website at www.grover.org.

For more information regarding sponsoring an event or volunteering with the Parks and Recreation Department, call (805) 473-4580 or stop by to see us at City Hall, 154 South 8th Street.





HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS DECORATING CONTEST

Do you spend a lot of time decorating the outside of your home for the holiday season? Do the neighbors worry about your electric bill and have to wear sunglasses at night when they pass by your home? If so, you may want to nominate your home to be included in the Annual Holiday of Lights Decorating Contest.

Pre-judging will be done by members of the Grover Beach Parks, Recreation and Beautification Commission on the evening of *Saturday, December 6th* and *Sunday, December 7th*. Their goal will be to find homes and businesses that have not already been nominated and create a list for final judging to be held on Wednesday, December 10th. Contact the Parks and Recreation Office at (805) 473-4580 for more information or to nominate a home (either your own or someone else's) or a local business.

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 - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
(except during the months of August and September)

Planning Commission - 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission - 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Agendas are posted at City Hall and 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 |

Other Frequently Called Numbers:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chamber of Commerce 180 Highway One - or www.groverchamber.com | 489-9091 |
| Charter Communications <i>(cable television)</i> 270 Bridge Street, San Luis Obispo - or - www.charter.com | (888) 438-2427 |
| Community Library - Grover Beach 240 North 9 th Street, Grover Beach (Mon, Tues, Thurs: 1-5 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) | 481-4131 |
| South County Sanitary <i>(trash and recycling services)</i> 866 West Grand Ave - or - www.wasteconnections.com | 489-4246 |
| The Gas Company <i>(natural gas)</i> | 1-800-427-2200 |
| Pacific Gas & Electric <i>(electricity)</i> | 1-800-743-5000 |
| SLO Superior Court - South County Branch Office 214 South 16 th Street (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) | |
| Traffic Division | 473-7070 or 781-5696 |
| Civil & Small Claims Division | 473-7077 |
| Criminal Division | 473-7072 |
| County Health Department South County Branch Office 286 South 16 th Street | 473-7050 |
| SLO Hotline - Human Services & Support Groups | 2-1-1 |

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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