

# Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

## CITY GENERAL PLAN UPDATES WE NEED YOUR INPUT

The City is working on updates to the City's General Plan, including:

- The **LAND USE ELEMENT** that provides a guide to where and how development can occur within the City and sets Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions for residential, commercial, industrial, open space, and public uses. The Public Review Draft of the Land Use Element and the Master Environmental Impact Report are currently available for review. A public hearing will be



scheduled in November at the Planning Commission to receive further community input. This draft plan incorporates the Consensus Vision from the community workshops held several years ago and community workshops held in 2008 and 2009 and several individual requests to change the Land Use Plan. This document is available at the South County and Grover Beach Library, City Hall, and on the City's website.

- The **HOUSING ELEMENT** sets out Goals, Policies, and Programs that the City will undertake to ensure an adequate supply of sound housing affordable to all residents of the City. This plan must be updated every five years. The Public Review Draft was submitted to the State for comments and these have been incorporated into a Revised Public Hearing Draft (August) that is available for public comment and has been submitted for a second review by the State for compliance with new state requirements. The draft plan includes new requirements set by state legislation,

See "Plan" ... on Page 2

## Economic Stimulus Opportunities in Grover Beach

### Help Support Grover Beach Businesses by Participating in the *Shop & Dine in Grover Beach* Program

The City is offering residents and businesses opportunities to take advantage of special programs designed to save you money and increase revenues for local businesses.

#### SHOP & DINE FOR FREE IN GROVER BEACH

##### Earn Chances to Win Valuable Gift Certificates

The City recently launched the *Shop & Dine in Grover Beach* program, where people can earn chances to win \$50 to \$100 gift certificates redeemable at participating businesses for retail, restaurants, and professional services. The intent of this program is to assist our businesses during these difficult economic times. Please remember that healthy local businesses equate to a healthy community.

Pick up your "Shop & Dine Thank You Card" today at participating businesses or at the cashier's window at Grover Beach City Hall. Winners will be announced at the first City Council meeting of each month. Meetings are broadcast live on the City's Government Cable Access Channel 20 and over the Internet at [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org). The *Shop & Dine in Grover Beach* campaign will run from September 1, 2009 to May 29, 2010.



#### Visit Participating Businesses and Earn Your Chances to Win Today!

The following local economic stimulus programs are currently being developed. More information on each program will be announced in the coming months...

**BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE AMNESTY PROGRAM** – A month-long grace period, beginning October 1, 2009, in which businesses can apply for or renew their 2009 Business Tax Certificate (BTC) with the assessed penalties waived. The City mandates that businesses in Grover Beach operate with a current BTC, renewed January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Businesses operating without a current BTC are normally subject to penalties.

**LOCAL BUSINESS PREFERENCE FOR CITY PURCHASES** – A local purchasing preference policy for goods and services in excess of \$1,000. The new policy provides for a five percent (5%) advantage (not exceeding \$5,000) on all bids, quotes, and estimates submitted by a responding individual, company or other entity that is located in Grover Beach. The City encourages all of its citizens to "buy local" whenever possible.

**20% REDUCTION IN BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR A SINGLE MONTH** – Homeowners or Contractors will be able to receive a 20% discount on a portion of the Building Permit fees during the month of November 2009 for the following types of permits: 1) New Residential Units, 2) Residential Additions, 3) Re-Roof Permits, 4) Water Heater Permits, and 5) Commercial Remodels. The discount will only be given to those who submit applications in the month of

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including provisions for emergency shelters, supportive and transitional housing, and how the City will meet its fair share of the County's regional housing demand for very-low, low- and moderate-income housing. A Negative Declaration has been prepared for this project and comments can be submitted through October 7<sup>th</sup>. This matter is scheduled to be heard at the Planning Commission in



October. This document is available at the South County Library, City Hall, and on the City's website.

For more information, please see the Community Development Department page of the City website at [www.grover.org/commdev.htm](http://www.grover.org/commdev.htm). You may also request an electronic copy of these documents on CD. The City encourages you to **participate** in the update process. To this end, the City maintains a mailing list to keep interested citizens and businesses informed of progress, public workshops, and hearings related to each of the General Plan updates. To be included on this mailing list, please contact the Community Development Department at (805) 473-4530 or send an e-mail to [commdev@grover.org](mailto:commdev@grover.org). We hope to see you involved in your City as we plan for the future.

**Your input is important! Please join us.**

## Being an Unlicensed Driver Can Be a Costly Mistake

A PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDER FROM THE GROVER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Please remember, it is illegal to drive a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license!**

- No person shall drive a motor vehicle on the roadways, unless that person holds a valid driver's license issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- No person shall drive a motor vehicle on the roadways with a suspended or revoked driver's license.

**What happens if you're caught without a valid driver's license?**

- You will be arrested and possibly taken to jail.
- Your vehicle may be towed and possibly stored up to 30 days.
- The owner of the vehicle is responsible for all towing fees, regardless of who was driving.
- Towing and storage costs could be as high as \$1,200.

Please be sure you drive with a valid driver's license and make sure that anyone else who drives your car has a valid driver's license.

# Citizens & Businesses Are Encouraged to Continue Conserving Water

## CITY COUNCIL DECLARES A STAGE II WATER SHORTAGE

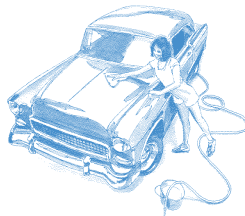
It's important to be aware that the water supply for our residents, businesses, and new developments is in limited supply. The City receives its water from two sources: the Lopez Lake Water Reservoir and groundwater wells. The City is using an approximate average of 92% of its groundwater allocation every year. The City's annual rainfall over the last two years (June 2007 – July 2009) has averaged *less than 65%* of normal, and the storage of water at Lopez Lake is at 55.8% of normal. Continued drought conditions in the future could compromise the City's ability to deliver water and more stringent actions would then become necessary.

The City Council therefore declared a Stage II Water Shortage (moderate voluntary) on July 20, 2009. A Stage I Water Shortage had been declared in June of 2007. Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water.

Residents and businesses are therefore strongly encouraged to **refrain** from the following activities during a Stage II Water Shortage...

### USE OF POTABLE WATER FOR:

- cleaning streets or roadways (where air blowers or sweeping are reasonable alternatives);
- washing cars, boats, sidewalks, driveways or other exterior surfaces (without a quick acting shut-off nozzle on the hose);
- construction purposes (such as consolidation of backfill, unless no other source of water or method can be used);
- planting turf and other new landscaping (unless it consists of low water using, drought-tolerant plants);
- operating any ornamental fountain or car wash (unless the water is recirculated);
- refilling existing private pools (except to maintain water levels); and



### RESTAURANT WATER SERVICE TO PATRONS (UNLESS UPON REQUEST).

Depending on the continued severity and duration of the water shortage, the City Council could declare a Stage III Water Shortage. With a Stage III Water Shortage, all of the voluntary conservation actions outlined above would become mandatory. The City Council reviews rainfall and other information annually and, based on that information, determines whether conservation efforts are necessary.

Information regarding additional water conservation tips is available from the Administrative Services Department and the Community Development Department at City Hall, as well as from the City website and Government Cable Access Channel 20.

## City of Grover Beach Water Conservation DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

993 Ramona Avenue, Ramona Garden Park

Our City water resources are finite, and we all need to do our part to use less water. The City of Grover Beach has been implementing water conservation programs for many years. One method of conserving water is to replace existing lawns and water-thirsty plants with "drought-tolerant" plants that thrive with less water.

The purpose of our demonstration garden is to educate and encourage residents to use water-efficient landscaping as one method of reducing water usage. The low-water use plants in the garden include: Santa Barbara Daisy, Australian Fuchsia, Spanish Lavender, Cape Rush, Berkeley Sedge, Blue Hibiscus, Yarrow, Penstemon, Tea Tree, New Zealand Flax, Autumn Moor Grass, Lambs Ears, Howard McMinn Manzanita, Tiny Tim Euphorbia, and Peppermint Tree.

For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department, (805) 473-4580.

Funding for the project was provided by the City's Water Conservation Fund.



Please see our demonstration garden for some gardening inspiration to create in your own yard!  
993 Ramona Avenue, Ramona Garden Park

Summer's over, but there's still plenty of time to enjoy a lazy Sunday afternoon at the **Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series and Farmers' Market** at Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue. Bring your lawn chair and favorite people, shop at the Farmers' Market, and listen to the sounds of a wonderful musical line-up:



Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – *Up In The Air*

Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> - *The JD Project*

The fun begins at 3:00 p.m. and continues until 6:00 p.m. The Farmers' Market boasts fresh vegetables and flowers, hand-crafted items, and gourmet olives, as well as a variety of prepared food items like tamales, barbecued tri-tip sandwiches, and fruit parfaits.

Skateboarders and those who like to watch this challenging sport are invited to participate in the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Skate Classic Skateboarding** contest at the South County Skate Park, 1750 Ramona Avenue. The fun begins on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, with pre-registration at 9:00 a.m. and the first division contest beginning at 10:00 a.m.



The **Carved Pumpkin Contest and Halloween Activities** will be held on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. There will be a costume parade, carnival games, a spooky maze sponsored by the Foresters non-profit group, games and activities, and much more for all the ghosties and goblins to enjoy! Free goodie bags for children and free hot



dogs for all who attend. Get dressed in your best costume and come join the fun!

Celebrate the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City's Incorporation** by taking a Historic Self-Guided Tour of local landmarks, submit a design for a new city flag or attend the incorporation re-enactment ceremony on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

In keeping with the City's 50th Anniversary Celebration, the **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Parade** will march down West Grand Avenue with the theme "A Look Back: 1950s Revisited". So get out the poodle skirts or roll up those blue jeans, comb your "duck-tail", and get ready for a rockin' holiday celebration on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Then join local artisans and crafters at **Santa's Workshop**, being held at the Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Delos Dance Troupe of Grover Beach and Central Coast Celebration, a women's barbershop harmony chorus.



The many activities and special events offered to the community throughout the year are made possible through the assistance of hard-working volunteers and the generous donations and sponsorships of local businesses and private citizens. If you would like to volunteer for a special event, make a contribution or would like more information on any of the events described in this article, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (805) 473-4580 or send an e-mail to [parksandrecreation@grover.org](mailto:parksandrecreation@grover.org).

## Fire Safety Tips Around the Home

FROM THE GROVER BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fall is a good time to check around your home for potential fire hazards. Homes can catch fire and burn because "fuels," which can take many forms, may be located too close to a building or other structure.

**What should you do?** Prevention is the best solution. Take a look at your yard and the outdoor areas around your house to identify potential hazards or combustible materials that could be ignited easily.

**OUTDOORS** - A few items to check for include:

- *Leaves, pine needles, or other debris more than one or two inches deep* - Areas to watch closely are the roof, rain gutters, and side yards.



- *Dead or dying vegetation* - This includes vines and similar woody plants that have been allowed to grow without trimming during the summer.

- *Overgrown and untrimmed trees and bushes* - One type of tree frequently overlooked as a severe fire hazard is the palm tree. Unless trimmed periodically to remove the dry fronds, burning palm trees produce a tremendous amount of heat and airborne burning material. Such burning embers, called "brands", have been known to ignite houses hundreds of feet from the original tree fire.

- *Lumber, oil, paint, and similar material stored next to the house* - These items should be taken to the landfill or recycled. For information

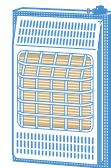
on recycling household materials, visit the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority website at [www.ivma.com](http://www.ivma.com) or call South County Sanitary Service at (805) 489-4246.



Once you have assessed the fire potential around your home, it's time to remedy the situation. Rake up and remove organic material such as leaves, pine needles, grass, and weeds. Prune trees and bushes to keep them away from your house. Keeping combustible materials at a minimum around the house will help ensure the safety of one of your most valuable possessions: your home.

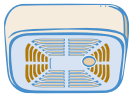
### INDOORS -

**Space Heaters** - If you use space heaters to heat your home, use extreme caution. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), supplemental electrical and kerosene heaters are the leading cause of home fires during colder months.



- Use space heaters only as intended and not for any other purpose.
- Always use with adequate ventilation.
- Keep a three-foot safety zone between the heater and flammable materials.
- Turn off heaters when you aren't in the room or when you go to bed.
- Keep children and pets away from heaters to prevent serious burns.

**Smoke detectors** - Perhaps the most important single device you can buy for your home is a smoke detector. However, without proper maintenance, the smoke detector cannot do its job of waking you and your family during a fire. Guidelines for keeping the smoke detector in good working condition include:



- Test smoke detectors once a month.
- When you change the clock for daylight savings (in the fall and again in spring), change the batteries in all smoke detectors.
- Clean the detectors by vacuuming them at the same time you test them.
- Never remove the batteries from a smoke detector to use in other appliances.

**Plan your escape** - The time to practice escaping from the house is before an emergency occurs. Following are some guidelines:

- Plan and practice fire escape routes, and make sure everyone knows two ways out of every room.
- Have a designated place planned ahead of time to meet, once you are out of the house.
- Never go back into the house for anything when there is a fire.
- Teach your children not to hide from the firefighters, but instead to yell out loud to let firefighters know where they are.

For more information on fire prevention tips, contact the Grover Beach Fire Department at (805) 473-4590 or by email to [gbfire@grover.org](mailto:gbfire@grover.org).

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November 2009 and whose application is approved and permit is issued within ninety (90) days of the submittal date. The month of November was chosen to allow time for applicants to prepare plans for submittal. Also, building permit activity is slower on average in the months of November and December. The 20% discount will only be taken off of the Building, Planning, and Public Works Plan Check fees, as well as the Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical Permit fees, and will not be taken off of other fees such as Administrative or Development Impact fees.

**Home Repair Program** – This program will provide loans to income-qualified homeowners or property owners who are renting to income-qualified residents. Financial assistance will be made available to correct structural and framing defects, roofs, leaking water fixtures, drains, window and door repairs, smoke detectors, water heater strapping, etc. The total amount of financial assistance per property will be capped at \$20,000.

**Water Conservation** – This program consists of two components:

1. A rebate program to individuals who purchase water- and energy-efficient appliances; and
2. A rebate program to encourage homeowners to use local landscapers and

materials to convert lawn grass areas to drought-tolerant landscaping. The rebate will be on a sliding scale basis according to the amount of square footage of lawn grass replaced.

These programs are designed to provide support to both local businesses and residents to assist with stimulating our local economy. We believe these creative ideas will make effective use of our limited resources. Please join us in...

**Re-investing in Our Community & Supporting Local Businesses!**

**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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

**Citizen Oversight Committee:** (meetings are scheduled as needed)

*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 and may be viewed over the Internet by going to the City website at [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org), click on the word "News", and click on "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	<a href="http://www.grover.org">www.grover.org</a>

**Other Frequently Called Numbers:**

Chamber of Commerce 180 Highway One - or <a href="http://www.groverchamber.com">www.groverchamber.com</a>	489-9091
Charter Communications (cable television) 270 Bridge Street, San Luis Obispo - or - <a href="http://www.charter.com">www.charter.com</a>	(888) 438-2427
Community Library – Grover Beach 240 North 9 <sup>th</sup> Street, Grover Beach (Mon, Tues, Thurs: 1-5 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)	481-4131
South County Sanitary (trash and recycling services) 866 West Grand Ave - or - <a href="http://www.wasteconnections.com">www.wasteconnections.com</a>	489-4246
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 16 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Street	473-7050
San Luis Obispo County Human Services & Support Groups Hotline	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](mailto:gbadmin@grover.org)



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