

Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Serving on a City Board
or Commission*

Are you interested in getting involved in your local government and the community?

The City of Grover Beach is accepting applications from residents who are registered voters of our city and interested in serving in a voluntary capacity on a board or commission. No experience is necessary—only your commitment to building a better community.

The following commission vacancies are scheduled to occur in 2008:

- **Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission** - two terms are scheduled to expire on March 31, 2008. (Interviews with applicants are now being scheduled!)
- **Planning Commission** - one term is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2008.

The following commissions have no scheduled vacancies in 2008; however, applications are accepted throughout the year. As openings occur, applicants are notified and invited to participate in the commission interview process.

- Citizen Oversight Committee
- Traffic Committee

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or may be printed from the City website at www.grover.org by clicking on the words "Commissions, Committees and Boards". Meetings of these boards and commissions are open to the public and agendas are posted at City Hall and the City website. For more information or to have an application mailed to you, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (805) 473-4568.

A PROGRESS REPORT on the City

By City Manager Bob Perrault

While the calendar year of 2008 is still relatively new, I would like to take a moment to update you with progress the City is making. At the same time, I would like to review with you some of the challenges the City is facing.

Last spring, the Council took on the job of setting goals and work tasks to be used to guide the development of the budget. The Council completed the process in three sessions. The result was the approval of a Council-adopted work plan that incorporated nine major goals and a series of supporting work tasks (the complete list is available at City Hall and the City website at www.grover.org by clicking on the words "City Council"). Identified below are some of the more significant projects and tasks we have been working on. As you will see from the list, a great deal is being accomplished. This is especially true of work done on several public works projects, and in the areas of public safety and planning:

- **THE GROVER BEACH LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER** - Located at the far northwest end of West Grand Avenue, this is the most significant economic

development project undertaken by the City to date. Most recently, a Request for Proposal Process has been completed to identify a developer/concessionaire for the project. In response, Pacifica Companies of San Diego has come forward with a proposal. If selected, Pacifica will construct a hotel and conference center on the site. I hope to have the recommendation to the Council for its review by the end of March 2008.

- **STREET REHABILITATION** - Rehabilitation of City streets continues to be at the top of the Council's list of priorities. The Council has been working consistently with staff to come up with a long-term strategy to rehabilitate our streets. A final workshop on this issue has been scheduled for Monday, March 31st at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

During this fiscal year, work has been completed on a number of streets, including: **South 14th Street**, and a portion of **South 6th Street**. Work is currently underway on a portion of **South 7th Street** and **Longbranch Avenue**, and work on a portion of **Ramona Avenue** between 14th

See "Report" ... on Page 2

YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED!

Please mark your calendars to attend the following meetings:

Monday, March 17, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

*Public Hearing to discuss Community Goals
and our Work Program for the next budget cycle*

Monday, March 31, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Final workshop to discuss a long-term strategy to rehabilitate our streets

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

As you know, pedestrian safety is an issue that affects all of us. Whether it's a stroll around the corner to a friend's house or work, or simply as exercise to clear the mind after a long day indoors, people love to walk. Walking is not just an exercise, it affects our health. It's good for the environment, and it improves our quality of life. We are all pedestrians at some time of the day. Yet, this simplest of life's pleasures can come with a terrible cost.

Each year thousands of pedestrians are killed or injured. On a national basis, over 5,000 pedestrians are killed, and 85,000 pedestrians are injured in roadway accidents every year. On average, a pedestrian is killed or injured every six (6) minutes. The good news is that there are things we can do to put an end to this.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

- Allow vehicles enough time to stop. In other words, don't step into the crosswalk until it is safe to do so.
- Make eye contact with drivers. This way you can establish that the driver has seen you and intends to stop.
- Cross at intersections. At traffic lights, cross with the "walk" sign only. Cross only on a green light, never on a yellow or red light.
- Stop, look and listen before crossing the street. Look left, right, and then left again before crossing the street. Look for cars, motorcycles, and bicycles.
- Never cross the street from in-between parked cars. Drivers can't see you.
- Wear bright colors during both the day and night to help drivers see you.

FOR DRIVERS

- Come to a full stop. When a crosswalk or limit line is not marked, stop at the corner.
- Do not pass a vehicle from behind that has stopped at a crosswalk. A pedestrian hidden from your view may be crossing.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians.
- Wait for pedestrians to reach the other side before proceeding. This is required by law.
- Be especially attentive around schools and in neighborhoods where children are active.

For more information on specific laws regarding pedestrian and vehicle safety, please contact the Grover Beach Police Department at (805) 473-4511 or send an e-mail to police@gbpd.org.



FIVE CITIES RESERVE FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

The City is continuing its efforts to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of its public safety services through coordination of resources with our neighboring agencies. Sharing of Reserve Firefighters is a recent example of this effort.

On January 1, 2008, the Cities of Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande, and the Oceano Community Services District implemented a new Reserve Firefighter Program. Each agency will have a pool of Reserve Firefighters who will be able to cross staff at any of the three organizations. Reserve Firefighters augment career firefighting personnel on responding fire engines. This will ensure minimum staffing

levels are met in order to provide fire ground safety, better service to our citizens, and promote fiscal responsibility through further cooperative partnerships. At the same time, it enhances opportunities for the Reserves to increase hours of service and experience.

The rank structure of the program consists of firefighter, driver/operator, and support personnel. Candidates must meet several state requirements and standards to be eligible for the selection process.

If you would like more information on the Reserve Firefighter Program, contact the Grover Beach Fire Department at (805) 473-4590.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CITY EMPLOYEES

Council Honors Employees for Outstanding Public Service and for Years of City Service

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

The following City employees were recently honored by the City Council, City Manager, Executive Directors, and their peers for providing outstanding customer service to our community and their fellow employees, and for embodying the principles of public service:

LYNN CARR
City Hall

DEDE POLIT
Police Department

JERRY ROSS
Public Works

MARK SEARBY
Fire Department

The City also recently recognized the following individuals for their years of service:

20 YEARS

REUBEN PALAMARIS
Fire Department

JERRY ROSS
Public Works

10 YEARS

GAYLA CHAPMAN
Administrative Services

ANGELO LIMON
Police Department

CHERYL LOCARNINI
Police Department

SONNY LOPEZ
Police Department

DEDE POLIT
Police Department

YESENIA VILLARREAL
Administrative Services

5 YEARS

CYNTHIA BRUNICK
Police Department

TIM MILLER
Police Department

Nora O'Donnell
Parks & Recreation

Local Park Improvements

16th STREET PARK

Former Mayor and City Council Member David Ekbohm has generously donated

approximately \$13,000 for a new backstop, new team benches, new spectator seating, a new sign, and new infield material for

the ball field area at 16th Street Park, located at the corner of South 16th Street and Mentone Avenue. With these improvements, the field will also be named "Ekbohm Field". The City Council approved accepting the donation at its January 7th meeting.

Thousands of participants will benefit from these improvements, including Five Cities Girls Softball, boys' baseball teams, Special Olympics, and those who play pick-up games on a first-come, first-served basis.

The City appreciates the generosity and interest in public recreation represented by Mr. Ekbohm's donation. Improvements are expected to be completed in March 2008.



Parks and Recreation Department CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Winter/Spring 2008 Activity Guide is available at the Parks and Recreation Department and highlights several new and returning classes, events and activities.

Activities for youth include our ever-popular *Tiny Tots Program, Performing Arts and Shooting Stars Dance and Theatre Programs, Tennis, Etiquette, and Dog Obedience* training classes. *Ping Pong* instruction and play are offered at the



Grover Beach Community Center at 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. For the teenager needing driver's training, we have *Internet Driving School* for ages 14 to 18.

Fun activities for children include spring break *Hobby Discovery Camp* and spring break *Skateboarding Camp* for ages 6 to 12.

Returning for a seventh season is the *Co-ed Adult Volleyball League*, with play beginning on Mondays, March 3rd through May 5th.



A continuing partnership with Cuesta Community College provides adults with wonderful social and educational opportunities through the *Emeritus*

Program. The classes offered are short-term, non-credit, and free, and include: *Art: Acrylic and/or Water Based Oils, Art: Drawing, and Composing Your Life Story*.

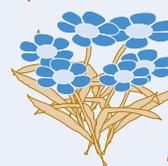
Other class offerings for adults of all ages include *Square Dancing* and workshops for seniors (ages 60 and over) through the *Senior Legal Services*.

Be sure to mark your calendars so as not to miss out on fun events offered for the entire family, including the 19th *Annual Family Egg Hunt & Festival* on Saturday, March 22nd which is co-sponsored with the City of



Arroyo Grande, our annual *Mother's Day Dance* on Friday, May 9th, and the *Spring Garden Tour and Plant Exchange* scheduled for Sunday, June 1st.

We're already working on exciting additions to our summer programming and are always on the lookout for fun, new classes and events for all ages, so if you have a talent or skill you would like to share, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss teaching opportunities!



"Report" from Page One...

Street and 16th Street will also begin soon. At the direction of the City Council, a major portion of *North 12th Street* will also be repaired this spring using State Proposition 1B funds.

• **MEADOW CREEK BRIDGE AND GRAND AVENUE STORM DRAIN PROJECT** - The design for this project has been completed and construction bids were received on February 13th. Construction should be well underway this spring. Completion of a new bridge and removal of the orange cones at the intersection of West Grand Avenue and Highway One (on the way to the beach) will be a welcome change to residents and visitors!

• **SOUTH COUNTY TRANSIT HUB PROJECT** - This project, located on Ramona Avenue between North 10th and North 11th Streets, is also currently under design and should be under construction by mid-June. Funded with a combination of State

Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds and local Park Construction dollars, this project will accommodate up to five transit buses and provide additional parking adjacent to North 10th Street.

• **ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES TAX** - Revenues generated from the Sales Tax measure approved in November 2006 are being put to good use. Using these funds, the City made the last payment on the City's Hi-Tech fire engine and purchased a new patrol vehicle for the Police Department, as well as additional safety equipment for the Fire Department. A total of \$240,000 of this revenue source is being contributed towards street repairs, and \$96,000 is being directed to assist in keeping the General Fund balanced.

All of these projects represent a city moving forward and making progress. I can tell you that each of these endeavors requires a significant amount of focus on the part of both the Council and staff.

Recently, staff provided the Council with a mid-year review that analyzed our budget forecasts for the rest of this fiscal year (through June 30, 2008). As I noted to the Council, in the coming months, I expect that we will begin to see the effect of the slowing economy. Staff is projecting that by the end of this fiscal year, General Fund revenues will be 2% less than originally estimated. On the plus side, I am also expecting that our expenditures will be less than budgeted and overall revenues and expenditures will remain balanced.

As we approach the budget season in preparation for the next fiscal year, it will be important to keep the state of the economy in mind as we develop our financial plan. I can assure you that during this period, we will, as always, do our best to deliver the services the public needs and desires, while continuing to also live within our financial means.

HAROLD HATLEY MEMORIAL AND CEREMONY

As this newsletter goes to print, a memorial is under construction in honor of Mr. Harold Hatley, who died on March 15, 2006 at a local restaurant while trying to stop a gunman who had killed one customer and injured others. The memorial is located at Grover Heights Park on Atlantic City Avenue and overlooks the park and pine trees near the playground. Mr. Hatley enjoyed regular walks in the park.



A memorial ceremony is currently being planned. Please contact the

Grover Beach Parks & Recreation Department at (805) 473-4580 or send an e-mail to parksandrecreation@grover.org for further information or to be placed on the invitation mailing list. The general public is invited to attend.

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.

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.
(please check City Hall or website for meeting schedule due to holidays)

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	(cable television) 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	(trash and recycling services) 866 West Grand Ave - or - www.wasteconnections.com	.....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 th 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	286 South 16 th Street	.....473-7050

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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