

STREETS - Our Accomplishments and the Road Ahead

By City Manager Bob Perrault

"The development of a City street rehabilitation program which provides for smooth traffic and safe pedestrian flow by addressing and developing funding sources for necessary rehabilitation projects and continued maintenance." This statement was established by the Council as one of our top priority goals. During the first months of the fiscal year, several accomplishments have been realized.

In the City's original budget, adopted in June 2007, slightly more than \$800,000 dollars was set aside for the Street Rehabilitation Program. This allocation was increased from the budgeted amount of \$541,000 that was set aside last year. This appropriation increase was a direct result of the half-cent sales tax adjustment approved by the voters in 2006. Recently we have also been notified that, thanks to the passage of Proposition 1B by voters in the statewide election last November, we will receive an additional \$400,000 in one-time funding. These dollars will be allocated to the Street Rehabilitation Program. Consequently, the City of Grover Beach will be spending better than \$1,000,000 on street repair in this year alone.

The use of these funds is already underway. In the coming months, you can expect to see portions of the following streets rehabilitated: Longbranch Avenue, South 7th Street, and Ramona Avenue between 14th Street and 16th Street. Next month, the City will be selecting the remaining streets to be repaved during the final work cycle for this fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2008.

The local bidding climate within the construction industry has also been helpful of late. Recently the City was able to extend the pavement work on South 14th Street all the way to Mentone Avenue based on the favorable bid we received on this project. Staff is positive that the bidding climate will continue to benefit the City through the spring, and we're hopeful that we'll be able to actually place more pavement down on our streets than originally estimated.

All the work undertaken thus far bodes well for the present, but the next challenge
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Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

SALES TAX PROGRESS REPORT

By City Manager Bob Perrault

It has been a year since Measure X was passed by Grover Beach voters in November 2006. This measure, which adjusted the City's sales tax rate by half of a percent, was expected to generate \$480,000 in revenue to the City's General Fund. It is appropriate to provide the community with a progress report on how we are doing.

Although the adjustment in the tax rate was implemented April 1, 2007, the resulting revenues were not received by the City of Grover Beach from the State until just before the beginning of our new fiscal year, July 1, 2007. The City has now received revenue for two consecutive fiscal quarters. Based on these initial receipts, it appears that our estimates were solid and we should be very close to realizing the full \$480,000 we anticipated.

In April of this year, a plan was adopted by the City Council for the expenditure of these funds. In developing the plan, the Council was very mindful of the commitments made to the voters during the Measure X campaign. As a result, the Council decided to dedicate:

- 50% of the revenue (estimated at \$240,000) for *Street Repairs*;
- 24% of the revenue (or an estimated

\$116,000) for *Emergency Vehicles and Equipment*;

- 20% of the revenue (or \$96,000) to *Eliminate the Use of Reserve Funds for operational expenditures*; and
- 6% of the revenue (or \$28,000) to *Purchase a Public Works Utility Vehicle*.

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made in meeting this expenditure plan:

Street Repairs or "Street Rehabilitation"

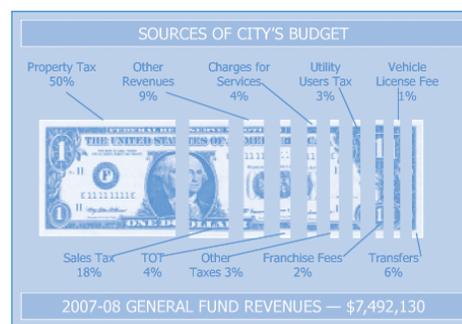
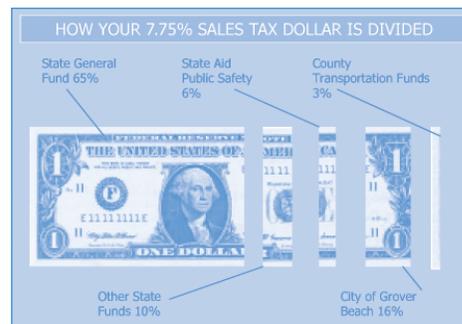
The addition of the \$240,000 from sales tax revenue has enabled the City to increase the allocation to street rehabilitation from approximately \$541,000 in FY 07 to \$800,000 in the current fiscal year. Street work will be done in three phases:

1. South 7th Street (from Rockaway Avenue to Longbranch Avenue) and Longbranch Avenue (from South 10th Street to South

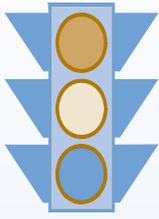
11th Street) is scheduled for completion in mid-March 2008, with an estimated cost of \$233,200;

2. Ramona Avenue (from North 14th to North 16th Street) is scheduled for completion in mid-April 2008, with an estimated cost of \$220,500; and

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Frequently Asked Questions



When you notice a street light that's not working or observe an obscured traffic sign, who should you call? Please contact City staff in the Community Development Department.

Types of items to report:

- Street light outage
- Broken street signs
- Potholes
- Trees obscuring street or traffic signs
- Non-functioning traffic lights

How to report:

Please call (805) 473-4520, send an e-mail to commdev@grover.org, or stop by the Community Development Department located at 154 South 8th Street to report any of the items listed above. Staff will complete an "Incident Report", and route it to our Public Works Division so that reported item(s) can be added to the work schedule. Reported items are typically taken care of within a couple of weeks, depending on the nature of the incident and the work load at that time. Issues regarding street lights, however, are forwarded on to PG&E for service.

Information needed on the report:

- Date and time of reporting
- Reporting Party Name and Phone Number (if you would like to know the status of the case, or if additional information is needed to help resolve the case)
- Location of Incident
- Nature of Incident

We appreciate your help!

IS YOUR PROPERTY UP TO CODE?

The mission of the Code Enforcement Program is to ensure safe living conditions within the City through education, information, and appropriate enforcement actions when necessary. In order to more efficiently resolve violations of the Grover Beach Municipal Code and be more responsive in addressing certain problem areas, the Grover Beach City Council adopted an administrative citation and penalty process. The Council then authorized reorganizing the Code Enforcement Program to be coordinated under the Fire Department, working with department representatives from Police, Public Works, Building, Planning, and Administrative Services. Investigation and enforcement usually are triggered by a complaint from a neighbor or other Grover Beach resident.

While there are many types of possible code violations, the most common violations in the city are those in public view.

Below is a list of the most common code violations in our community:

- Unsightliness of property that poses a health and/or safety hazard; this includes accumulation of rubbish and indoor furniture or appliances in public view
- Dry grass and weeds that present a fire hazard
- Construction activity without the required approvals or building permits
- Inoperative vehicles parked on private property and in public view
- Travel trailers or recreation vehicles, over 22 feet in length, on private property and in public view
- Animal problems - too many on one property, excessive noise, or farm animals in residential zones
- Loud noise from parties



How the program works . . .

1. The City receives a complaint.
2. An inspection is conducted and a Courtesy Notice, which outlines the violation and a specific time that the violation must be corrected, is mailed to the property owner.
3. A re-inspection is conducted. If the violation is not corrected, personal contact with the property owner is attempted and a Notice of Violation letter is mailed to the property owner. If the re-inspection reveals that the violation has been removed, a Thank You Letter is mailed to the property owner thanking them for complying with the Courtesy Notice.
4. A third site visit is conducted after a Notice of Violation is sent. If this inspection confirms that the violation has not been remedied, the City will issue an Administrative Citation. The first citation includes a \$100 fine for each violation noted. Re-inspections will be made and additional citations issued if the violation is not corrected (fines can range from \$200 to \$500 per violation.) A fourth or subsequent violation of the same issue may be charged as a misdemeanor.

The goal is to gain compliance at the Courtesy Letter phase. Every attempt is made to work in partnership with the property owner to gain voluntary compliance.

If you would like more information regarding the Code Enforcement Program, please contact the Grover Beach Fire Department at (805) 473-4590 or send an e-mail to CodeEnforcement@grover.org.

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3. A third phase, of selecting additional streets for rehabilitation, is scheduled to occur in December 2007, with completion scheduled in July 2008 at an estimated cost of \$346,300.

Emergency Vehicles and Equipment

The City has been actively completing its emergency equipment commitments. The lease on the City's Hi Tech Fire Engine has been retired at a cost of \$70,527. This action will mean the engine is ready and available to participate as a part of the equipment-sharing program between the City of Grover Beach and the City of Arroyo Grande. The Police Department replacement vehicle has been ordered at a

cost of slightly less than the budgeted \$35,000, and should arrive within the next month. The Fire Department's purchase of confined space rescue equipment is expected to be completed within the next two weeks at an estimated cost of \$9,000. The total cost for emergency equipment purchases is expected to be \$114,527 by January 2, 2008.

General Fund Shortfall Elimination

As noted, \$96,000 of anticipated sales tax revenue is to be pledged to the General Fund to eliminate the use of Reserve Funds for General Fund Operational Expenditures. These funds are being allocated to the General Fund quarterly. In part due to this allocation and proper budget management, the use of Reserve Funds is being avoided.

Purchase of Utility Truck for Public Works

The purchase of a Utility Truck for the Public Works Division is planned for completion after the first of the year, and will probably cost less than the budgeted amount of \$28,000.

As you can see, the resulting revenues from the sales tax adjustment are being put to the beneficial uses originally intended by the Grover Beach voters. As an additional double check mechanism, the Council will also appoint citizen members to a Sales Tax Oversight Committee during the next month. This Committee will review these purchases and expenditures to ensure they remain in line with the intent of Measure X.

Offerings and Special Events Happening This Fall

The Grover Beach Parks and Recreation Department offers a wonderful array of special events, classes and activities for the entire family, such as our pre-school enrichment activities, gymnastics, dance, theatre, tennis lessons, ping pong, dog obedience, and more. Pick up a copy of the Activity Guide at City Hall, 154 South 8th Street, or call (805) 473-4580 for more information about class schedules, the South County Skate Park, and facility rental availability.

CITY HALL OPEN HOUSE AND TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

We're having an Open House and you're all invited! Members of the public will have an opportunity to browse through City Hall offices and the Police and Fire Departments on **Friday, November 30th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** City employees will be on hand to answer questions and provide information.

At 5:30 p.m., join us in the City Hall parking lot for the official lighting of the City Tree. Enjoy free cookie decorating, real snow to play in, hot chocolate, entertainment, and Santa Claus who will be available for pictures. There will also be a special appearance by "Alvin and the Chipmunks"! This is a fun, family-oriented event to kick off the holiday season.



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

Fun for the whole family! The 41st 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 1st with the theme: "Holiday Through Time: Past, Present & Future". Be a part of the parade by completing an application, available on the City website at www.grover.org or by calling the Parks and Recreation Office at (805) 473-4580. 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 floats, bands, groups, and, of course, Santa Claus riding on a fire engine.

After the parade, head over to Santa's Workshop – **Art & Craft Faire** at Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue, 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 fun, fine art and craft faire 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 shopping opportunity for the holidays.

HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS DECORATING CONTEST

Do you spend a lot of time decorating the outside of your home for the holiday season? Do neighbors worry about your electric bill and have to wear sunglasses at night when they pass by your house? 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 evenings of **Saturday, December 8th** and **Sunday, December 9th**. Their goal will be to find homes and businesses not already nominated and create a list for the final judging to be held on **Wednesday, December 12th**. Call (805) 473-4580 for more information or to nominate your home or business, or to nominate someone else's decorated home or business!

"CLEAVER PROPERTY" PARK MASTER PLANNING WORKSHOP

The City held its first public workshop on Thursday, October 25th to receive ideas regarding future park plans for land located at 164 South 13th Street. Twenty-nine (29) people participated in work groups to share ideas for a future park, which included: a passive park with exercise stations; individual barbecue areas; a dog park



with areas for small and large dogs, along with a public seating and viewing area; a quasi-passive park with multi-generational amenities, including a playground for children and a senior center; an interim dog park while funds are being raised for a community facility for seniors, childcare or a partnership with another agency; and lastly, research whether the property could be sold

with proceeds used towards improving existing City parks. Stay tuned for the next public workshop to be held in January.

For more information on sponsoring an event, or volunteering with the Parks and Recreation Department, call (805) 473-4580, send an e-mail to parksandcreation@grover.org, or stop by to see us at City Hall.



Use Care with Space Heaters A SAFETY TIP

from the
Grover Beach Fire Department

If you plan to use space heaters to help heat your home this winter, 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, which can cause serious burns.

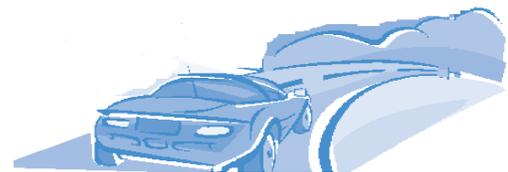
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for the Council and staff will be the development of a long-term solution to an estimated \$40,000,000 cost to repair all of our streets. The costs to rehabilitate a street serving a standard City block have been estimated at \$80,000. Even with the current positive bidding climate and a \$1,000,000 allocation, we will only be able to pave between 12 and 13 City blocks this year.

The next step is to review options, and we are looking for community input to help determine a long-term solution. The Council and staff have been conducting a series of public workshops on a variety of alternatives. These options include the development of assessment districts and the passage of a special or general obligation tax measure that would be used to generate the revenue necessary to undertake a major capital improvement program. Additionally, the City is looking at the possibility of narrowing some of our very wide streets, such as Newport Avenue and Longbranch Avenue, to save on

future maintenance costs. Other financing sources are being investigated, including an increased use of our Redevelopment Funds to help share in the burden.

In the next couple of months, we will be scheduling a final community workshop to review and evaluate these options, and this is where you come in. We need your input and assistance in making these important decisions. Press releases will be issued giving the date and time for this very important meeting, and your participation would be welcome!



These remain challenging times for the City of Grover Beach and the task ahead of us will be to identify and implement a long-term solution to the street issue, while continuing to deliver the level of service expected of a modern municipality.



GROVER BEACH POLICE SUPPORT TOYS FOR TOTS

December 2007 will start the kick-off for the annual United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys-For-Tots toy drive. When the program was started in 1947 by Marine Corps Colonel Bill Hendricks and his wife, toys were made by hand and distributed to needy children in their area. Soon the Marine Corps took over active participation in this peace-time event and it has been going strong ever since. The Toys-For-Tots program has been accumulating and distributing new, unused toys to over 335 million needy children over the past holiday seasons. In sponsorship with this event, the Grover Beach Police Department will again be assisting in the collecting and storing of toys at the Police Station.

Already this year, Grover Beach Police Officers Bio, Leon, and Lopez attended a U.S. Marine Corps-sponsored Volkslauf-10k Mud Run event, with proceeds befitting the

Toys-For-Tots toy drive. Consisting of obstacles, towers, repelling, and, above all else, mud, these officers helped raise funds to purchase additional toys this holiday season.

If you would like to participate in this year's Toys-For-Tots program by displaying posters, having your place of business as an official collection site or making toy donations, please contact Senior Officer Sonny Lopez, a former U.S. Marine, at the Grover Beach Police Department, (805) 473-4511.

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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