

# Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

## CITY DECLARES A STAGE I WATER SHORTAGE

### CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE CONSERVING WATER

Due to abundant rainfall last season, the Grover Beach City Council downgraded the existing water shortage declaration from a Stage II to a Stage I Water Shortage condition. The City Council continues to encourage citizens and businesses to conserve and limit water use.



The City Council originally declared a Stage I Water Shortage in June 2007 and then increased the alert level to Stage II for the 2010 rainfall year (July 1 to June 30). Due to above-average rainfall last year, the City's water supplies have partially recovered from a five-year drought which began in 2006. However, a minor water shortage still exists.

In accordance with the City's adopted Water Shortage Contingency Plan, residents and businesses are strongly encouraged to *refrain* from the following water uses during a Stage I Water Shortage:

- Use of potable water for street cleaning;
- Unauthorized use of water from any fire hydrant;
- Use of potable water to wash sidewalks or roadways where air blowers or sweeping provides a reasonable alternative;
- Use of potable water for construction purposes, such as consolidation of backfill, unless no other source of water or method can be used;
- Restaurant water service to patrons unless requested;
- Hydrant flushing, except where required

See "Water" ... on Page 3

## Redevelopment Agency Update

By City Manager Robert Perrault

Redevelopment has been an important tool for the City of Grover Beach. Funds derived from the stream of tax increment revenue for the Grover Beach Improvement Agency ("Agency") have been used to complete a number of important projects over the last few years. Projects assisted or funded by Agency funds have crossed a broad spectrum that focused on investing in the future of Grover Beach.

All told, the City receives between \$800,000 and \$1.1 million in locally-generated property tax increment revenue to fund various projects and programs. Recent decisions by the State have posed a very real threat to the continued existence of the Agency.

As a part of its budget package, the State enacted two laws affecting redevelopment. The first will eliminate

redevelopment agencies throughout California, effective November 1, 2011, including the Grover Beach Improvement Agency. Once eliminated, all of the revenue the Agency would normally have received each year will be reallocated to schools and special districts. The second law enables the City to elect to re-establish the Agency, if it desires, by participating "voluntarily" in an Alternative Redevelopment Program. This law enables the City to re-establish the Improvement Agency, provided that the City commits to making certain payments to the State. The payment will amount to \$378,000 in the first year and approximately \$80,000 every year thereafter, with the funds allocated to schools and special districts. These actions by the State are based on the State's need to balance its budget, despite voter

See "Redevelopment" ... on Page 2

## POLICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

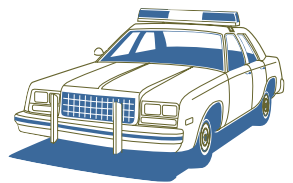
Come join our team! The South County Police Volunteers Program was developed to assist the Grover Beach Police Department in providing superior services to our community.

Typical police volunteer duties include:

- Patrolling streets to report and deter crime;
- Assisting patrol officers with traffic control at accident scenes;
- Conducting vacation and security checks of homes and City parks;
- Assisting staff with fingerprinting, clerical, and logistical duties; or
- Other special projects or assignments.

Currently the Grover Beach Police Department is seeking volunteers to assist with patrol duties approximately four (4) hours a week during the early evening hours. Community involvement is vital to crime prevention, and you can help!

To learn more about how you can become a police volunteer, visit the City website [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org) and click on "Police Department", stop by the Grover Beach Police Department during regular business hours or contact Sgt. Chris Sweeton at (805) 473-4501.



# Beautification Awards Interview

by Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commissioner Arnie Dowdy

Wayne and Susan Embrey and their home at 1624 Trouville Avenue were chosen to receive a Beautification Award at a recent Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission meeting.

This honor comes with recognition from the Grover Beach City Council with a special proclamation, presentation photo in the local newspaper, and a sign posted for thirty days on the property to let neighbors know the property owners' hard work and beautification efforts have been recognized.

The house has been in the Embrey family since 1983 and was previously owned by Marilyn and Bob Anderson. The Embreys, living at the time in the state of Washington, inherited the property from Susan's aunt. Wayne was working as a Director of Grounds and Maintenance, while Susan was working as a biology high school teacher. They acquired the property in August 1997, moved to Grover Beach, and intended to fix the house up and sell it. However, living here seems to have changed their minds about the "selling" part!



Wayne gives Susan all the credit. He commented, "Show me a picture and I can copy it." While the house and front yard definitely look award-worthy, Wayne insists they're not yet finished. The inside of their home is also undergoing a transformation with upgrades being done one room at a time, to be followed by work on their small back yard. They began their home project as part of the Grover Beach "Cash for Grass" program by taking out part of their lawn.

The Embreys live with their three-year-old English bulldog Spencer and a six-year-old Pomeranian named Teddy. According to Susan, "Spencer is the official greeter, but it's Teddy who rules the house." The Embreys enjoy traveling in their motor home. Wayne remarked that every time they travel and return home they come to the same conclusion, "Grover Beach is as good as it gets!"

For more information on the Beautification Awards Program, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (805) 473-4580 or send an email to [parksandrecreation@grover.org](mailto:parksandrecreation@grover.org).

*This is the first in a series of articles that will focus on efforts to beautify Grover Beach. The interviews, completed by staff or volunteers, will highlight local residents and businesses who are contributing to the improvement of Grover Beach.*



"Redevelopment" from Page One...

approval of Proposition 22 in November 2010, which forbade the State from raiding local government resources.

The City Council took the required step to keep our Agency in place because redevelopment has been a successful tool in Grover Beach. However, that action was placed on hold as a result of a lawsuit filed by the California Redevelopment Association and the League of California Cities to test the constitutionality of the two laws enacted by the State. The California Supreme Court is expected to make a decision on the lawsuit in January 2012. In the meantime, most of the budgeted Agency projects are not moving forward. The City is anxiously awaiting what we hope will be a positive outcome of the Supreme Court's decision so the Agency can continue to carry out projects and programs that directly invest in the future of our local community.

The following is a partial list of projects that have been completed or were assisted with Agency funds during the last several years:

- **Meadow Creek Bridge** (near the intersection of Highway 1 and West Grand Avenue) and the West Grand Avenue Storm Drain Project
- **Street Rehabilitation and Repair Program** – annual contributions
- **Façade Improvement Program** at several locations along West Grand Avenue
- **West Grand Avenue Enhancement Project**
- **Land Use Element Update**
- **Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Project** (4 units)
- **Ramona Avenue Transit Hub, Phases I & II** (located at Ramona Garden Park, between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets)
- **Shop & Dine Local Economic Stimulus Program**
- **Business Assistance Program**

## PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOUR PROPERTY

When you use your toilet, shower, washing machine, or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes that connect to the city sewer system. Many materials discarded down the drain or flushed down the toilet can harm the pipes that connect to city sewers, as well as the city sewer system. Every property connected to the city sewer system can be a potential contributor to sewer problems and a potential victim of those problems. Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in your home, or cause untreated sewage to be released in the environment.

### What Not to Flush

Basically, the only things you should ever flush down a toilet are human waste and toilet paper.

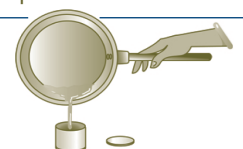
### Fats, Oils, and Grease

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the City. Never pour grease into your sink drain!

### TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

DO	DON'T
Scrape food scraps into the trash or compost bin.	Don't pour grease down sink drains or toilets.
Catch food scraps and other solids with a strainer in the sink drain, and empty the strainer into the trash or compost bin.	Don't use cloth towels or rags to scrape oil or grease off plates and utensils because grease will drain to the sewer when you wash the towels.
Pour grease into steel cans, let it harden and throw it into the trash.	Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers or griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.
Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them, and then throw away the paper towels. Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.	Don't flush foreign objects of any kind down home drains or toilets, including hazardous materials, unused medications, cleaning agents, and household or personal hygiene products.

Stop using your garbage disposal, if possible, or try to minimize its use.





# FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN THE FUN!

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH CAL POLY MUSTANGS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Boys and girls will receive pointers and drills to improve their skills and be inspired by the interaction with the teammates. All equipment will be provided.

**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 16, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Mentone Basketball Court, 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Mentone Avenue

**Ages:** Eighth grade and below

## CARVED PUMPKIN CONTEST & HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Bring your already carved or decorated pumpkin to enter the contest to win great prizes! All age categories will be represented. Please note: Only decorated pumpkins will be accepted for children six years and under (no carving) by the child. Enjoy the spooky maze, free hot dogs, carnival games, and be sure to bring blankets and chairs for the outdoor movie in the amphitheater.

**Date/Time:** Friday, October 28, 5:00 – 9:30 p.m.

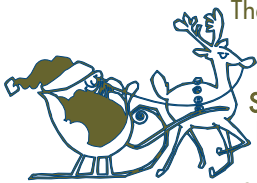
**Location:** Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue



## 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE

The Holiday Parade will march along West Grand Avenue from 16<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street with this year's theme "Magical Holiday Memories".

**Date/Time:** Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.



## SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Immediately following the Holiday Parade, join Santa Claus and local artisans and crafters at Santa's Workshop, and enjoy local performers for free entertainment in the park.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue

## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Join your neighbors and friends as Santa Claus lights the tree!

**Date/Time:** Saturday, December 3, 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue

## VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS NEEDED YEAR-ROUND

The many activities and special events offered to our 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. The Grover Beach Parks & Recreation Department is working hard to continue offering these services. If you're interested in volunteering for a special event or would like to make a donation, please call the Parks & Recreation Department (805) 473-4580 for more information or send an e-mail to [parksandrecreation@grover.org](mailto:parksandrecreation@grover.org).



Follow the City of Grover Beach on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groverbeach](http://www.facebook.com/groverbeach)

## What You Need to Know Before You Build It FENCES AND WALLS

Before you build a fence or wall on your property, be sure to research the following:

- Where is your property line located?
- Where are the street right-of-way lines located?
- What are the City's requirements for fence height and setbacks?

City regulations regarding fence height differ, depending on whether your property is located within a residential, commercial or industrial zone.

- Fences located adjacent to a public street may not exceed three feet above grade within the front yard setback. Under some circumstances, corner lots may have two yard setbacks.
- Fences in rear yards may not exceed six feet in height in residential or commercial zones, or eight feet in height in industrial zones.
- Fences may not exceed three feet in height where they might block the view of vehicles at intersections.
- All fences must provide emergency access to the side and rear yards.
- Swimming pool enclosures have additional fence and gate requirements.

To verify the locations of street right-of-way lines for your property, please contact the Public Works Department. For further details regarding fence requirements, contact the Community Development Department. Both departments may be reached at City Hall by calling (805) 473-4520.



## Online Registration Coming Soon

### PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT CLASSES, EVENTS AND FACILITIES

The Grover Beach Parks & Recreation Department offers wonderful classes all year long and soon it will be even more convenient for you and your family to participate in tennis lessons, dance lessons, performing arts, gymnastics, skateboarding, art classes, preschool classes, dog obedience, volleyball league-bump-set-spike, and more! In the coming weeks, you'll be able to register anytime for classes or reserve a park facility online from the convenience of your home or office by visiting the City website [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org).

Please note: Office hours for the Parks & Recreation Department for telephone inquiries are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; walk-in inquiries are from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. only.

### CITY WEBSITE RECEIVES AWARD

In November 2010, the City launched a redesigned website to enhance services to our citizens and promote the community for business and tourism. Earlier this year, the City website was recognized with a silver award from Horizon Interactive Awards at an international competition showcasing the industry's best interactive media solutions. The new website design provides easier access to City information through the Internet and better reflects the great things happening in Grover Beach. We invite you to visit City Hall online at [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org).



### "Water" from Page One...

for public health and safety;

- Refilling existing private pools, except to maintain water levels;
- Use of potable water for planting of turf and other new landscaping, unless it consists of low water-using, drought tolerant plants;
- Use of water for washing cars, boats, sidewalks, driveways, or other exterior surfaces without a quick-acting shut-off nozzle on the hose; and
- Operation of any ornamental fountain or car wash, unless the water is re-circulated.

The City receives its water from two sources: the Lopez Lake Water Reservoir and a number of groundwater wells. Currently, the City's water supply sources are nearing full recovery from the recent five-year drought. Drought conditions in the future could compromise the City's ability to deliver water and more stringent actions could then become necessary. Consequently, citizens and businesses are encouraged to conserve water where and when possible.

If you would like more information, a list of water conservation programs and resources is available on the City website [www.grover.org](http://www.grover.org) > Public Works > Utility Operations, or contact the Public Works

# City Hall Office Hours

## EMPLOYEE FURLOUGH PROGRAM

Due to budget constraints, in July 2010 the City implemented a program of mandatory unpaid time-off (employee furloughs) in conjunction with closing City Hall. In July 2011, the program was extended and increased from 13 days to 18 days. A complete list of office closure dates is posted at City Hall and on the City website. For your reference, employees will be furloughed with City Hall offices closed and Public Works field operations ceased on the following dates for the remainder of the current fiscal year (through June 30, 2012):

2011:	2012:
Friday, October 14	Friday, January 13
Friday, October 28	Friday, February 3
Friday, November 4	Friday, March 2
Wednesday, December 21 &	Friday, March 30
Thursday, December 22	Friday, April 13
(Followed by holiday closures on Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26)	Friday, May 4
	Friday, June 1

**Please note: emergency and safety services will continue to remain available.**

## 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.

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.  
\*Except for Employee Furlough Dates & Holidays

Administrative Svcs./Utility Billing	473-4550
Business Tax Certificates	473-4550
City Management	473-4567
City Clerk	473-4568
Human Resources	473-4564
Community Development Department	473-4520
Building Inspection Requests	473-4527
Parks and Recreation	473-4580
<i>(Parks &amp; Recreation Office Hours for Walk-ins: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., except furloughs &amp; holidays)</i>	
Facility Rentals	473-4580
Public Works Department	473-4520
Code Enforcement	473-4520
Police Department	473-4511
Emergency	9-1-1
City website	<a href="http://www.grover.org">www.grover.org</a>
Join Us on Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/GroverBeach">www.facebook.com/GroverBeach</a>
<b>Other Frequently Called Numbers:</b>	
Chamber of Commerce 180 Highway One - or <a href="http://www.groverbeachchamber.com">www.groverbeachchamber.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 (Community Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)	481-4131
Five Cities Fire Authority 140 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande	473-5490
Pacific Gas & Electric (electricity)	1-800-743-5000
South County Sanitary (trash, recycling, and greenwaste 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
SLO Superior Court - South County Branch Office 214 South 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	
Traffic Division	473-7070 or 781-5696
Civil & Small Claims Division	473-7077
Criminal Division	473-7072
SLO County Health Department - South County Branch 286 South 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	473-7050
SLO 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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