

Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

City Hall Parking Lot Improvements

By City Manager Bob Perrault

If you have visited your City Hall lately, you will have noticed improvements either under construction or that have been completed. The improvements consist of a new south parking lot and surrounding sidewalks along South Eighth Street and Rockaway Avenue. These improvements will provide visitors with safe and easy access to City facilities.

The old parking lot was poorly designed, had limited parking, and was difficult to enter and exit. Over the years the parking area surface and surrounding sidewalks had badly deteriorated, making access difficult. Contributing to the problem were hard surface areas uplifted by tree roots. The work underway will rectify these issues, providing additional public parking spaces for visitors and improving access to City Hall and the Police Department.

The total project cost is \$194,926. Funding comes from a combination of a federal grant to improve public access in the amount of \$55,016; the City's General Fund in the amount of \$94,100; and the remaining \$45,810 from other City sources. This project is expected to be completed by mid-April.

We regret any inconvenience the construction work may have caused, but believe you'll agree the improved entry plaza and visitor parking area to your City Hall are more user-friendly and efficient.

STREETS – REHABILITATION & REPAIR *Why Isn't the City Doing More?*

By City Manager Robert Perrault

As City Manager, the most frequently asked question I receive is about street repair and why the City isn't doing more of it. The answer to the question really comes down to three main challenges: 1) the street system—its size and characteristics, 2) the cost to maintain streets, and 3) the ongoing budget constraints our City continues to face.

In order to understand the **street system**, one has to go back to the beginning. In the late 1800s D.W. Grover, the City's original land subdivider, laid out the initial street system in a grid pattern with very wide streets and avenues. As the town developed, a few additional streets were added. Since the construction of our basic street system occurred over a number of years, streets were not uniformly constructed and were often

constructed with little or no base material. As a net result, today we have 44 lineal miles of streets and an almost unbelievable 9.6 million sq. ft. of asphalt. Such a vast area of pavement is difficult to maintain for a City of our size and resources.

The **cost to maintain streets** is high. According to our Public Works Director, if all of the City's streets were in "good condition" the cost to adequately maintain streets would be approximately \$1.6 million or 22% of the City's General Fund budget (which is \$7.3 million in the current fiscal year). However, the truth of the matter is the City does not have sufficient funds to provide both basic services of police, fire, public works, parks

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GROVER BEACH Butterfly Daze

It's no secret that most of us love the Monarch butterflies that visit each year. Although the season has ended, our love of butterflies is year-round. We even picture this colorful insect on our City logo and website. We'd like to spread the word about our connection to butterflies and promote Grover Beach as "a great place to spread your wings", as well as a great place to shop and dine! We're joining the Arroyo Grande & Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce in asking all businesses to display butterflies in front of their storefronts, restaurants, and offices to help support and promote Grover Beach during the month of April, and we encourage residents to do the same.

Show your pride in Grover Beach and give people another reason to visit and spend their dollars locally. It's easy to do your part—reinvest in our community, support local businesses, and improve the quality of life for everyone in Grover Beach. If our businesses do well, our community will reap the rewards!

"Butterfly Daze" is sponsored by the Arroyo Grande & Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce. For additional details, call the Chamber of Commerce at (805) 489-1488 or email office@aggbchamber.com.





When in Drought – SAVE WATER

After three consecutive years of below-normal rainfall, California faces its most severe drought emergency in decades. It is essential to learn how you can start conserving water and preserving the environment. Here are 10 simple conservation measures that you can implement today:

1. Install a water-efficient clothes washer. The City's **"Washing Machine Rebate Program"** offers monetary incentive for the purchase of a new energy/water efficient washing machine.
2. Wash dark clothes in cold water. This saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.
3. Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
4. Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead, compost vegetable food waste.
5. Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year by putting food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak.
6. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.
7. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds.
8. Check your irrigation regularly for leaks and overspray. Turn off irrigation when it rains and for several days after. Consider installing a Smart Irrigation Controller and Rain Sensor. The City offers a **rebate program** that offers a monetary incentive for this type of installation of controllers and sensors.
9. Consider removing turf and planting drought-resistant trees and plants. The City's **"Cash for Grass" rebate program** offers a monetary incentive for turf removal.
10. Calculate your monthly household water use by visiting the Save Our Water website at www.saveourh2o.org.

If you would like additional information regarding water conservation tips or programs offered through the City, please visit our website at www.grover.org or call the Public Works Department at (805) 473-4520.

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and recreation, planning, administration and adequately maintain the streets. Consequently, despite past efforts, streets are in poor condition. Rated on a pavement condition scale of 0 to 100 (100 being perfect and 80 considered fully functional), most City streets fall below 50. Poor street conditions limit economic development and slow the rise in property values.

Funding constraints remain the City's largest barrier to getting more streets refurbished. Street reconstruction is typically funded with a combination of General Funds, Gas Tax, and grants. Grant funding is normally restricted in its use and seldom available for residential street construction.

As noted, the City's FY 14 General Fund Budget is \$7.3 million and the City has approximately 50 employees. We have the smallest General Fund budget and the fewest number of employees of any incorporated city in the County. By contrast, Morro Bay has a budget of \$10.6 million and just over 100 employees. Property tax remains the largest contributor to our budget with 49% of the total revenues. Please note that roughly 14-17 cents out of any property tax dollar paid remains with

the City. Sales tax revenue contributes only 20% to our City's budget. With these constraints, the City's expenditure for streets from all financial sources has averaged no more than \$750,000 per year, which clearly is not enough. Despite the limitations outlined above, the City has completed a number of street repairs and upgrades.

Repairing City streets continues to be a top priority for the City Council, as well as providing a balance of other City services. The Council is currently reviewing a strategy to improve the entire street system. This

COMPLETED STREET REPAIRS

Street Name	Starting at	Ending at	Year Completed
West Grand Avenue	8 th Street	11 th Street	2012
South 4 th Street	Highland Way	Farroll Road	2010
West Grand Avenue	2 nd Street	4 th Street	2009
South 4 th Street	Seabright Avenue	West Grand Avenue	2009
Ramona Avenue	North 8 th Street	North 9 th Street	2009
Atlantic City Avenue	North 12 th Street	City Limit	2009
Norma Lane	Entire Cul-de-sac	Entire Cul-de-sac	2009
South 13 th Street	Longbranch Avenue	Manhattan Avenue	2009
North 4 th Street	West Grand Avenue	City Limit	2008
North 10 th Street	Brighton Avenue	Ramona Avenue	2008
North 12 th Street	Atlantic City Avenue	El Camino Real	2008

Home Loan Programs Available Through the City

The City was recently successful in obtaining \$700,000 from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for two home loan programs—a **First Time Homebuyer Program** and an **Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Program**.

The **First Time Homebuyer Program** can assist a homebuyer who has not owned a home in the last three years. This zero-interest loan is for low-income buyers who do not have sufficient income to qualify for the loan amount to purchase a home. The no interest loan is repaid to the City when an owner sells the home or the mortgage is paid in full.

The **Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Program** is for interior and exterior residential repairs and maintenance. To be eligible for this zero-interest, 30-year loan, the household must qualify as a low-income household (80% of the county median income).

Program details are currently being finalized and must await approval by the State. If you're interested in obtaining further information, please contact the Community Development Department by email to commdev@grover.org or calling (805) 473-4520.

spring, the City Council is focusing on the option of placing a proposal for a General Obligation Bond on an upcoming ballot. If approved by two-thirds of the voters, the City could provide the funding necessary to undertake major street repair, thus addressing one of the most pressing issues facing our community.

The Council invites you to participate in this discussion and be a part of the solution. Please attend City Council meetings in the coming months to participate in this process and assist the Council in making its decision.

Emergency Preparedness Tips PLAN AHEAD—BE PREPARED!

Creating a "Disaster Plan" is an essential part of preparing your family for a disaster or emergency situation. Discussing what you will do *before, during, and after* an emergency will empower your family to take control of their own safety and survival during a disaster.

Escape Routes - If you have children, it's especially important to identify and practice your escape routes. Draw a floor plan of your home and mark the escape routes. Have the children practice escaping from their bedrooms. It's a good idea to practice this while crawling in the dark, so you and your children know how to escape during a fire.

- ☐ **Meeting Points** - Identify an area outside of your home where you will all meet up following an emergency. Also identify an area away from the home in case you become separated or are not at home during the emergency (eg, a nearby school parking lot).
- ☐ **Family Communications** - Make a plan for how you will get a hold of each other. After a disaster, phone lines will be busy. Make sure to identify an out-of-state contact person. This person may be more easily reached.



BE READY MAKE A PLAN

- ☐ **Utility Shutoff** - Following a disaster you may be instructed to turn off one or all of your utilities. Make sure household members know how to turn off utilities and have the tools necessary to complete the task. Label your utilities with tags and make sure the shutoff valves are

in working order. If you turn off your gas utility for any reason, a gas professional must turn it back on for you. Do not turn it on by yourself.

- ☐ **Caring For Animals** - Making plans in advance for your pet(s) is an essential part of disaster planning. Make sure your disaster supply kit includes ample food for your pet. Include a leash in your disaster kit and possibly a pet carrier or crate.
- ☐ **Safety Skills/First Aid** - Learn first aid and CPR. This is important for children and adults. Make sure family members know how to use fire extinguishers and where it is located. (Note: This may not be an appropriate task for children.)
- ☐ **Disaster Supply Kit** - Ensure everyone in your home knows where the disaster supply kit is, and knows to take it with them if they evacuate.

Help Prevent Pet Waste Pollution!



Did you know that dog and cat waste is the third largest contributor of bacterial pollution in urban watersheds? Pet waste left on streets, pavements, yards, driveways or lawns does not just magically go away or fertilize the grass. Left on the ground, it increases exposure to you, your neighbors, and our community to bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Those particularly at risk are other pets, children who play outdoors, and adults who garden. Pet waste can also be picked up by stormwater runoff and carried into our storm drains and basins. As pet waste decomposes in water, it can deplete the oxygen level or increase the ammonia level of the water and cause harm to fish and other water life.

Please dispose of pet waste properly:

- Keep a supply of bags with you when you walk your dog – dispose of used bags in the garbage can.
- At home double-bag dog waste or kitty litter, tie securely, and place in a garbage can.

You can make a difference by being a responsible pet owner!

PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS... Follow the City of Grover Beach on Facebook



PAY WITH CREDIT CARD – IT'S CONVENIENT, ECO-FRIENDLY, AND TIME SAVING

You can register for parks and recreation classes, events, parks, and facilities and pay by credit card with no additional processing fee. Sign up today for tennis, dance, performing arts or preschool. Reserve a community center or park for your next family event. Go to www.grover.org and select "Online Payments".



TREE CITY USA®

Arbor Day Celebration

Fri, April 25th, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The City of Grover Beach has been designated as a "Tree City" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Along with State Parks and the Five Cities Fire Authority, the City will host a celebration event with tree-related activities, seedling plantings, and more.

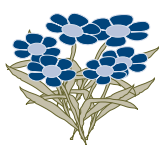
13th Annual Mother & Son Dinner Dance – "Superheroes!"

Friday, May 9th, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Grover Beach Community Center

\$48 per couple, \$20 each additional son.

Attention mothers and sons - this night is for you! Dress to the theme or wear whatever feels comfortable – dressy or casual, but don't forget your dancing shoes! There will be pictures, dinner, DJ, contests, prizes, and life long memories!



Spring Garden Tour & Plant Exchange

Nominate gardens by Wed, May 7th

Final tour on Sun, June 1st, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A free, self-guided tour of pre-selected beautiful gardens throughout the City.



11th Annual Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series & Farmers' Market

Every Sunday, June 1 - September 28

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Ramona Garden Park, 993 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach

Volunteers, Donations and Sponsors Needed Year-Round

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 monetary sponsors of local businesses and private citizens. The Grover Beach Parks and Recreation Department is working hard to continue these services. If you could volunteer for a special event or make a contribution, please call (805) 473-4580 for more information or send an e-mail to parksandrecreation@grover.org.

South County Skate Park

1750 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach

Operated by the San Luis Obispo County YMCA.

For more information on fees and hours of operation, call the YMCA at (805) 543-8235.



Spring Clean-Up Week

APRIL 21 - 25, 2014

Clean-Up Week is provided free to single-family residential customers by South County Sanitary Service. Collection of items for most areas in Grover Beach will be on Tues, April 22, 2014. Charges apply for some bulky items. For more information or to arrange for pick-up of bulky items, please contact South County Sanitary Service at (805) 489-4246.

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, Grover Beach

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 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Citizen Oversight Committee (meetings are scheduled as needed)

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.

*Except for Mandatory Employee Furlough Dates (Fri, April 18 & Fri, June 27, 2014) and Holidays

Administrative Svs./Water & Sewer Utility Billing	473-4550
Business Tax Certificates	473-4550
City Management	473-4567
City Council - City Clerk	473-4568
Human Resources	473-4564
Community Development Department	473-4520
Building Inspection Requests	473-4527
Parks & Recreation	473-4580
Facility Rentals	473-4580
Public Works Department	473-4520
Code Enforcement	473-4520
Public Works - Water Conservation Program	473-4520
Police Administration	473-4511
Emergency	9-1-1
City Website	www.grover.org
Join us on Facebook	www.facebook.com/GroverBeach

Other Frequently Called Numbers:

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 (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 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) - or - www.pge.com	1-800-743-5000
South County Sanitary (trash and recycling services) 866 West Grand Avenue - or - www.wasteconnections.com	489-4246
Southern California Gas Company (natural gas) www.socalgas.com	1-800-427-2200
SLO Superior Court - 1050 Monterey Street, SLO (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	
Traffic Division	473-7070 - or - 781-5696
Civil & Small Claims Division	473-7077 - or - 781-5677
Criminal Division	473-7072 - or - 781-5670
SLO County Public Health Services - South County Branch 286 South 16 th 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 (805) 473-4567 or send email to gbadmin@grover.org



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