



STAGE COACH EXPERSES

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FIRE AUTHORITY INAUGURATED

Consolidation of the City's Fire Department with Grover Beach and Oceano officially took effect on Friday, July 9th. The concept has been discussed as far back as 1984 and the action concluded a process that began in 2004 when Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach began serving under a joint Fire Chief.

The new agency, which is known as the Five Cities Fire Authority, was established through a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. Staff are technically employed through the City of Arroyo Grande under contract, but all decision making authority is assigned to the Fire Authority. The Fire Authority is governed by a Board of Directors that consists of one councilmember from Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach and one director from the Oceano Community Services District. The Fire Chief serves as the Executive Director.

The new Board of Directors held its inaugural meeting on July 9th and will meet monthly for the first year. In addition to business items, all staff and board members took an oath of office and a celebration was held to commemorate the historic event.

By consolidating forces, the new agency will result in substantial future cost savings through sharing of equipment, joint administration, and making it more feasible to maintain a successful firefighter reserve program. Meanwhile, service levels are enhanced through joint training and standards, as well as reduced response times by responding to incidents from the closest station.



NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES PROPOSED

The City has placed Measures C-10 and D-10 on the November 2nd ballot, which will ask voters whether the positions of City Clerk and City Treasurer should be converted from elective to appointive. The City Clerk and City Treasurer positions have been elected since the City was incorporated in 1911. Both positions receive a monthly stipend and health benefits.

The City Clerk serves as the elections official, legislative administrator and records manager. The position administers Federal, State and Local procedures. The City Treasurer is responsible for receiving and handling all public funds. The statutory requirements to run for either office include being at least 18 years of age and a registered voter living in the City.

The City's full-time payroll clerk is the current elected City Treasurer and has appointed the Director of Administrative Services to perform the primary investment responsibilities for the City. The majority of the City Clerk's statutory responsibilities are performed by the full-time Director of Legislative and Information Services, who holds both positions. Therefore, the measures will have no impact on who are currently performing these functions, but will modify the selection process when a vacancy occurs.

Over 72% of California cities have appointed City Clerks and over 64% have appointed City Treasurers. The San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury recently released a report that included findings regarding cities that elect city treasurers and clerks, including a recommendation for measures such as those proposed by the City to make the positions appointed.

You may contact City Hall at 473-5400 with any questions regarding the measures.

STREET AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Despite operational budget constraints, the City has maintained its commitment to utilizing funding from the 2006 Local Sales Tax measure for the purposes originally intended. As a result, the City continues to fund a fairly aggressive capital improvement program. Street improvements recently completed include Pearwood Avenue, Orchard Street and the area adjacent to the High School, and the Mason Street Bridge. Resurfacing of West Branch Street from East Grand Avenue to Oak Park Boulevard is underway. Resurfacing of El Camino Real, also from East Grand Avenue to Oak Park Boulevard, is scheduled to begin late 2010 or early 2011.

The City has also placed a high priority on sidewalk improvements. During the past two years, sidewalk has been added to a number of locations where segments were missing, particularly adjacent to schools in order to enhance safe routes for pedestrian students. Sidewalk improvements are designed and will be constructed in the near future on Elm Street and Tally Ho Road.

The priority for the upcoming year will now be shifted to repair of existing sidewalks. The City recently contracted with a firm that has developed new equipment that shaves lifted sidewalk at an economic cost. As a result, over 300 repairs were completed in June and July. The City will be continuing to combine this work with replacement of the more severely damaged sidewalk areas by in-house crews. As a result, the City has established a goal of repairing all trip and fall hazards over a three-year period.

Be A Centennial Banner Sponsor

July 10, 2011 will mark the City's 100th anniversary. Fundraising is under way to pay for the year-long celebration, which will culminate with a major event on July 10th featuring entertainment, food, booths, historical re-enactments, a parade and a fireworks finale.



A great way to support and be part of this once in a lifetime event is to sponsor one of the Centennial Banners that will hang throughout the city for the majority of

the year. The cost of a banner sponsorship is \$400 for individuals and families and \$500 for groups, organizations and businesses.

A Planning Committee has already been at work for several months and plans are in design for improvements to the gazebo open space area next to the Swinging Bridge, which will be dedicated as Centennial Park. Many other options to sponsor or become involved in the event are available.

Please contact 473-5400 for information or to volunteer.

CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Registration for the City of Arroyo Grande Recreation Children In Motion child care program is underway. The program begins August 18 and will operate Monday through Friday at Branch, Harloe, and Ocean View elementary schools. Sites are open from 7:00 a.m. to when school starts and from when school gets out until 6:00 p.m. Fees vary per site due to hours of operation. This program provides fun-filled activities, such as board games, contests, crafts, coloring, sports, guest speakers, enrichment classes, and a homework club. Parents may register their children at the Recreation Division office located at 1221 Ash Street or by calling 473-5474.



FIVE CITIES BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The sign-up period for the 2010-2011 Five Cities Youth Basketball League is approaching. This program provides instruction and competition for boys in grades 1st – 8th and girls in 1st – 9th grades. Registration will take place September 14th, 16th, 20th, 22nd and 27th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the City of Arroyo Grande and Woman's Club Community Center, 211 Vernon Street in Arroyo Grande. Late registration will be taken September 28th - October 6th at the Arroyo Grande Recreation Office, 1221 Ash Street in Arroyo Grande. The fee is \$70 per player and \$55 for any additional family member. Registrations received after October 7th will be charged an additional \$20. All fees include a team picture package, T-shirt and awards. Practices will begin after November 11th and will normally be held at local schools. Games are scheduled to start November 29th. Volunteer coaches, referees, scorekeepers, and team sponsors are needed for all divisions. For more information, please call the Arroyo Grande Recreation Division at 473-5474 or visit www.5cyb.org.

BUDGET IS BALANCED

The City Council recently approved recommended adjustments to maintain a balanced budget through Fiscal Year 2010-11. This was made possible through efficiency measures, renegotiation of labor agreements, and use of excess properties.

Projected potential revenue shortfalls may continue to occur beyond that period. As a result, proactive planning efforts are already under way in order for measures to take effect in time to address additional financial challenges. A high priority has also been placed on the importance of ongoing economic development efforts.

POLICE BUILDING OPTIONS STUDIED

The final vote for the Police Station bond measure was 65.07%, just short of the 66.7% needed. As a result, the City is now studying alternative ways in which to address current deficiencies of the existing facility. Immediate repairs needed to the building are being identified and options to meet current and future space, parking and other needs are being developed. Results and recommendations will be considered by the City Council shortly.

WATER STRATEGIES APPROVED

The development moratorium in place since November 2009 due to concerns with water supply and potential seawater intrusion expired in July 2010. The Council endorsed a number of measures to address these concerns.

The water conservation program has been extremely effective, reducing water usage by well over 10%. Water conservation incentives will continue and be expanded. While the City is no longer in a "Severely Restricted Water Supply" condition, mandatory conservation restrictions have been left in place because it is essential to maintain these reductions in order to meet future demand. Short-term supply measures also include a temporary water purchase agreement with Oceano and development of two new wells outside the restricted groundwater basin.

Long-term strategies under consideration include recycled water and purchase of State water. A number of options for recycled water systems are being studied. Meanwhile, the City is attempting to structure a limited purchase of State water so the majority of capital costs would be delayed until use of the water becomes necessary. By doing this, developer fees could be established to cover most of the costs and limit the impact on existing rate payers. Only the amount of water necessary to accommodate buildout of the City's current General Plan is being pursued. It would not include water for additional growth. Any State water purchase would first require a public vote.

More information on water conservation incentives is available by contacting the City at 473-5440.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The City is once again a co-sponsor of the 73rd Annual Arroyo Grande Valley Harvest Festival, which will feature the fish fry, parade, booths, food, activities, contests and entertainment. This year's theme is "Harvesting Our Memories." Activities take place 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24th. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 25th and activities conclude at 5:00 p.m. For information, contact 473-5474.