



STAGE COACH EXPERESSES

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ROAD PROJECTS MOVE AHEAD

Farroll Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation

A project to place a new asphalt overlay on Farroll Avenue between Halcyon Road and Victorian Court is under way. Work includes the installation of a new water main, sidewalk and ADA ramp improvements on the north side of Farroll Avenue between Alder Street and Walnut Street, and striping and bike lanes from South Elm Street to Oak Park Boulevard. The City is also coordinating with the Gas Company to upgrade the gas main to avoid future damage to the pavement. The completion of the water main is anticipated in late January followed by construction of the concrete elements. Paving operations are tentatively scheduled for early March.

East Grand Avenue Resurfacing and Striping

A contractor has been selected to place a "microsurfacing" application on the East Grand Avenue roadway between El Camino Real and Halcyon Road, Brighton Avenue between Elm Street and Courtland Street, and the Fire Station parking lot. The project includes restriping of East Grand Avenue to incorporate bike lanes on each side of the roadway. The recent rains and cold weather have delayed the start of the project, but it is anticipated that the work will be performed in February.

James Way Resurfacing Project

The City has initiated a project to resurface all of James Way. Due to variances in the condition of the roadway, two separate maintenance applications will be performed. The first is an asphalt overlay between Oak Park Boulevard and Equestrian Way and between Mesquite Lane and Tally Ho Road. The second is a microsurfacing application between Equestrian Way and Mesquite Lane. The project will include bike lanes, left hand turn pockets at each intersection, and a solar speed indicator for eastbound traffic mounted near Mesquite Lane. The work is anticipated to begin in May and be completed by July.

These projects were made possible by revenue from approval of Measure O-06, the Local Sales Tax Measure. If you have any questions regarding these projects, please contact the Public Works Department at 473-5440.



ARROYO GRANDE IN BLOOM LANDSCAPE COMPETITION

The City of Arroyo Grande is proud to be one of the sponsors and participants of *Arroyo Grande In Bloom*, which is part of the *America In Bloom* annual competition. *Arroyo Grande In Bloom* organizes residents, city employees, business organizations and civic groups in projects that beautify and improve the appearance of the City. Completed projects also form the entry to a contest with similar sized cities for national recognition based upon the following eight categories: tidiness, environmental effort, community involvement, heritage, urban forestry, landscaped areas, turf and groundcovers, and floral displays. Arroyo Grande finished second last year and is working hard to take the top prize this year.



As part of the program, residents are encouraged to enter their landscape or that of a neighbor in the *Arroyo Grande In Bloom* Landscapes of Distinction competition for 2008. Five home and/or apartment owners will be recognized. Judging is based on use of color and eye-appeal in their

"Bloom" continued on Page 4

CREEK RESTORATION EFFORTS BEGIN



Arroyo Grande's creek system is a valuable drainage, biological and aesthetic resource. As a result, the City is working hard to manage and protect this resource in a responsible way. In addition to regulatory efforts, funding projects aimed at protecting the creeks from erosion, sedimentation and pollution were a key goal in proposing the City's local sales tax. With approval of this new revenue source, the City is now proceeding with the first demonstration project.

The project includes the removal of ivy from approximately 800 feet of the banks of Arroyo Grande Creek between Mason and Bridge Streets. The City contracted with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) in November to manually remove the ivy from the project area riparian corridor. Steep sections of the project area will later be treated with an herbicide instead of hand pulling the roots. All areas will be revisited by hand crews to remove ivy that was missed or that reappears. Slopes were seeded, mulched and then covered with jute netting for soil stability.

The City is working in partnership with the Central Coast Salmon Enhancement and the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District on the project. In addition to local sales tax revenues, it has been partially funded through State and Federal grants. Appropriate permits were obtained

"Creek" continued on Page 3

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In December 2007, the City recognized those employees who have made a significant contribution to his/her Department, the overall organization, and/or have gained recognition for the City through positive non-work related activities. Three recipients, nominated and voted upon by their peers, were recognized with the following awards:

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Susan Lintner
Police Department

FIELD SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Raul Juarez
Public Works Department

OFFICE SUPPORT EXCELLENCE

Nadine Elliott
Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

The City also recognized the following full-time employees for their years of service:

20 YEARS

Roberto Cruz
Becky Milton
Shane Taylor
Jim Williams

5 YEARS

Shane Day
Eric Jensen
Kitty Norton
Ken Reed
Tucker Schmidt
Carrie VanBeveren

10 YEARS

Jeff Souza

FIRE DEPARTMENT BLOOD DRIVES

As a partner of the Tri-Counties Blood Bank, the Arroyo Grande Fire Department hosts quarterly blood drives at the Fire Station. Participation from the community and members of the Department has made these blood drives very successful. The drives for 2008 are scheduled for March 8th, June 9th, September 9th and December 8th, 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. You may schedule an appointment by calling the Blood Bank at 543-4290. Mark your calendars...

Save a Life – Donate Blood!

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS TARGETED

The City is accelerating its efforts to improve accessibility to City facilities and sidewalks and to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Most recently, six of the eight sidewalk ramps have been completed where Nelson Street intersects with Mason Street and Short Street. The remaining ramps will be addressed when improvements to the Village Green are constructed within the next few months.

The City is also targeting its parks facilities to address any remaining deficiencies that have been identified. Upgrades have been constructed to the Ash Street and Strother Park Restrooms to meet current ADA requirements. Work on both facilities included removal of the concrete flatwork surrounding the existing restrooms and construction of ADA compliant ramps, walkways, parking, signage and nearby drinking fountains. Inside the restrooms, entrance doors, stall doors, partition walls, and accessories were all either installed or modified.

ADA improvements were identified as a key need in the proposal of the City's local sales tax measure. Funding for these projects was also derived from Park Development funds and Federal Community Development Block Grants.

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 its neighboring agencies. Sharing of reserve firefighters is the most recent example of this effort.



On January 1, 2008 the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and

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.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

TEMPORARY SIGN REGULATIONS TARGETED

In order to improve the appearance of the City's commercial areas and enhance economic development efforts, enforcement of temporary sign and banner regulations is being targeted during the upcoming year. In order to accommodate the needs of businesses to promote special events, temporary banners are allowed up to 30 days prior to an event and up to a total of 60 days. Only one banner per property is permitted. However, the City has experienced a proliferation of temporary signs and banners over the past few months. As a result, voluntary cooperation by local businesses is requested in order to keep the City looking great and to minimize the need for enforcement activity.

Please contact the Neighborhood Services Division at 473-5437 with questions or for more information.

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 have any questions concerning the Reserve Firefighter Program, please contact the Fire Department at 473-5490.

DESALINATION PLANT UNDER STUDY

Efforts are under way to ensure the City can meet future water demand. Studies have demonstrated the ability to meet short-term demand with ongoing efforts, but additional water supply will be necessary to meet long-term needs.

One of the key opportunities under consideration is a potential desalination plant. The City has received a State grant to fund a feasibility study in partnership with the City of Grover Beach and Oceano Community Services District (OCSD). A previous study demonstrated it was the most cost effective option available.

A number of issues associated with such a project will be analyzed, including costs, environmental impacts and permit processing obstacles. Technology has been advancing rapidly, which has improved cost effectiveness. The use of offshore underground intake will be studied, which can eliminate negative impacts on small ocean wildlife, as well as serve as a filtering mechanism. In addition, the facility is proposed at the sewer treatment plant so the brine that remains after treatment of the saltwater can be diluted with the treated sewer water before being discharged. This can produce environmental enhancements by making the treated water more consistent with the surrounding ocean water.

The greatest benefit of the desalination option would be to diversify the City's water supply and provide a drought tolerant water source. Given the uncertainty of existing weather patterns, it could provide a valuable investment to our future. However, given potential obstacles involved, the City recognizes that it is only one viable option and is continuing to study a number of other alternatives.

Meanwhile, a number of other efforts are under way that could minimize or even eliminate the need for more costly additional water projects if successful. Testing on a new well is taking place. The City is continuing its water conservation efforts. A variety of public education materials have been developed and distributed to all households. The retrofit program is offered to all households built prior to 1985, which provides free low-flow toilets and showerheads. The program will soon be expanded to provide rebates for landscaping retrofits to reduce turf and increase efficiency of irrigation systems. The City's Conservation Element is in the process of being updated and new landscaping guidelines are being developed. Other alternatives, such as recycled water, are also under study and the City is pursuing a temporary water sharing agreement with OCSD.

The City's Municipal Code provides requirements for mandatory conservation measures if water usage and supply reach serious or critical levels. Therefore, participation and support of the community for voluntary conservation improvements are important to avoid the need for more drastic measures. For more information or to participate in the retrofit program, contact the Public Works Department at 473-5460.

"Creek" continued from Page 1

through California Department of Fish and Game.

The current ivy is a non-native, invasive groundcover commonly used in landscaping. Its presence often results in choking out all other plants, including trees. The resulting areas are known as ivy deserts, which is damaging to habitat for wildlife, such as birds and steelhead trout.

The effort is designed to return the creek riparian habitat to a more natural state. Volunteer work days will be organized by Central Coast Salmon Enhancement to plant native trees and shrubs found in the area and proven to compete well in similar environments. Additional

volunteer workdays will be organized on a bimonthly basis.

Other projects in the planning stages include construction of a bioswale and filtration in the parking lot behind City Hall to reduce pollutants entering Arroyo Grande Creek and two projects designed to restore and prevent sedimentation in Tally Ho Creek. The City Hall parking lot will be reconfigured within the next couple months on a trial basis to test the feasibility of the proposed bioswale design.

For more information on these projects or how to get involved, please contact the Arroyo Grande Community Development Department at 473-5420.

ARROYO GRANDE SPRING SOFTBALL

The City of Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department is accepting registration for the Spring Softball League. Slow Pitch Men's and co-ed divisions are being offered.

Registration for the Spring League will continue through March 10th.

The cost is \$485 per team plus \$8 per non-Arroyo Grande resident. Registration fee includes 10 games plus playoffs, individual and team awards for 1st Place and 2nd Place teams, SCMAF team registration, and SCMAF trained officials.

Teams may register at the Elm Street Community Center in Elm Street Park. For registration forms or more information, please call the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department at 473-5478.

DOG PARK APPROVED

At its January 22nd meeting, the City Council approved the City's first Dog Park. The project was reconsidered in order to address environmental review, neighborhood concerns and approval of an Adopt-A-Park Agreement with the 5-Cities Dog Park Association. Under the Agreement, the improvements will be constructed and maintained by the 5-Cities Dog Park Association. Other changes included limiting the hours of operation to 8:00 a.m. to dusk and planting of trees along the boundary to help buffer the neighboring property. The facility will be located at the southern end of Elm Street Park. The facility is designed to provide interaction and recreation for both dogs and their owners. Construction is expected to begin later in the year.



Please contact the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department at 473-5474 with questions or requests for additional information.

PARK-AND-RIDE LOT LEASE APPROVED

Many residents have probably wondered why all the vehicles are parked at the City-owned lot at W. Branch Street and Old Ranch Road. This is now a park-and-ride lot leased to PG&E on a temporary basis. The lot serves employees working on improvements to the Diablo Power Plant. Use of the lot will be limited from December through April for a two-year period. All improvements were paid for by PG&E, along with lease payments. The property has been identified for a future recreation center site. Community fundraising efforts are under way. In the meantime, the project provides a good opportunity to utilize vacant property to reduce traffic and generate much needed revenue to help fund City services.

TRAFFIC WAY STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

During 2006, the Traffic Commission recommended, and the City Council approved, a Traffic Way Streetscape Enhancement Plan. The primary objectives are to beautify this important southern gateway to the Village and improve traffic safety by providing a two-way left turn median, travel lane and bike lane in each direction rather than the existing four-lane configuration. Restriping segments of Station Way, Nelson Street and widening E. Cherry Avenue to accommodate left turn lanes and improve sight distance at these intersections with Traffic Way are also included. New sidewalks and street trees are proposed where missing on Traffic Way and Fair Oaks Avenue. Four lanes are still required approaching the stop signs at Fair Oaks Avenue and Traffic Way.

The Tree Guild installed more than two dozen trees during 2007, mostly along Traffic Way, but also portions of Fair Oaks Avenue and Station Way. The City Council will review plans and specifications and consider requests for construction and restriping bids in March 2008. The project will be implemented

during Spring and early Summer 2008 when the weather is optimal and to avoid conflicts with the Strawberry Festival. The project is funded from the local sales tax and traffic circulation impact fee revenues.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 473-5460.

"BLOOM" continued from Page 1

landscapes; use of plants suitable for their purpose, including adequate spacing; balance of landscape and hardscape (walks, artwork, etc.); variety of plants, especially drought tolerant; and maintenance of yards with clutter, weeds, and dead plants removed, mulch applied to control weeds and limit water evaporation, and plants pruned to keep them healthy and looking attractive.

Arroyo Grande In Bloom will be making a special presentation on Thursday, February 28, 2008, at the South County Regional Center at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will illustrate the competition, as well as show photos, discuss, and pass out lists of attractive drought-tolerant plants. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit the *Arroyo Grande In Bloom* website at www.arroyograndeinbloom.org.

YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Your presence and participation at City meetings are contributions to good government! The following Council, commissions, committees, and boards meet at City Council Chambers, 215 East Branch Street:

CITY COUNCIL

2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meets as needed

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

1st Monday, 2:30 p.m.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Monday previous to 3rd Tuesday,
7:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN PARKING ADVISORY BOARD

Meets as needed



City of Arroyo Grande

Administrative Services Department
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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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