

STAGECOACH EXPRESS



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

JANUARY 2005

CITY EXPANDS WATER EFFORTS

The City is working to increase the reliability of its long-term water services. Water use is difficult to accurately project because it fluctuates substantially based upon the climate. Over the past calendar year, water usage has reached 95% of its supply. Therefore, the City believes a greater contingency is needed in its long-term supply and the diversity of water sources should be increased in order to provide better protection to withstand drought conditions.

Strategies under way consist of a combination of water conservation and identification of additional water resources. Water conservation efforts include increased public education, free low-flow fixture retrofits to single-family residences built prior to 1985, and a proposed ordinance to require existing homes to install low-flow fixtures prior to sale. A tiered water and sewer rate

“Water Efforts” continued on Page 4



RESERVOIR NO. 1 REPLACEMENT

The City has received a number of inquiries about the large stockpile of dirt on West Branch Street near Old Ranch Road. That stockpile is the result of construction of the City’s new two million gallon water reservoir.

DYK, the concrete reservoir subcontractor, has completed concrete placement for the foundation, walls and roof of the new reservoir. They will now perform the wrapping of high-tension cables around the walls of the reservoir, which will ensure a durable, leak-proof, and maintenance free reservoir. Following the cable installation, concrete will be sprayed uniformly on the exterior of the reservoir as an added protective measure. Papich Construction, the general contractor for the project, will then backfill the hillside area surrounding the reservoir. At that time, the majority of soil stored at the West Branch property will be returned. Upon completion of the backfilling, only the upper five feet of the reservoir will be visible.

The new reservoir replaces a 780,000-gallon concrete water

“Reservoir” continued on Page 4

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON SENIOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

After three years of coordination between the City and property owner, construction has begun on a new senior affordable housing project, located on

Courtland Street at E. Grand Avenue. It will provide a total of 108 units, 107 of which will be restricted for low and very low-income seniors. The project marks a major accomplishment in the City’s affordable housing efforts.

Financing this type of project presents a significant challenge. A combination of funding assistance is being provided from the City, the City’s Redevelopment Agency, and the State tax credit program. Several applications were required before approval was obtained for the extremely competitive State subsidy program.



The City and Redevelopment Agency identified the site as ideal for the senior project due to a number of factors. It will be directly adjacent to shopping and other commercial services, transit, easily accessible pedestrian walkways, and nearby medical services.

In addition to the impact it will have on the availability of affordable senior housing, the project is also key to the Redevelopment Agency’s revitalization and improvement efforts to the area. It will provide another key step in implementation of the City’s overall Enhancement Plan for East Grand Avenue.

For more information on this and other affordable housing projects, please contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In December 2004, 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

Jeff Souza

Police Department

FIELD SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Kevin Rocha

*Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Department*

OFFICE SUPPORT EXCELLENCE

Becky Milton

Police Department

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

30 YEARS

Mary Bassett

25 YEARS

Steve Andrews

15 YEARS

Manuel Martins
Randy Robinson

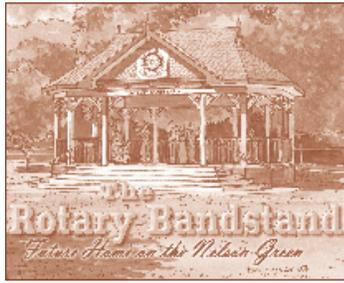
Kevin Rocha
Rick TerBorch

10 YEARS

Larry Schmidt

5 YEARS

Kelly Heffernon
Eric Jensen
Jamie Johnson
Linda Odell
Lyn Reardon-Smith
Kelly Wetmore



ROTARY PROJECT TO PROVIDE CITY WITH BANDSTAND

The Rotary Club of

Arroyo Grande is sponsoring and coordinating the construction of a Bandstand in celebration of its 100 Year Anniversary of Rotary International and the 60 Year Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Arroyo Grande. The Bandstand will be built on the Nelson Green, which is the open space at Short Street and Mason Street, south of the Swinging Bridge in the Village. The Arroyo Grande Village Improvement Association and the Arroyo Grande Parks and Recreation Commission have approved the design and building of the Bandstand. Upon completion,

the Bandstand will be donated to the City of Arroyo Grande and will be maintained by the City's Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department. The Department will approve and schedule all Bandstand events, which will greatly enhance current activities and community events held at this location.

Project construction is expected to commence in February, with an estimated completion date of May 31, 2005. Tax-deductible and/or in-kind donations are being sought for this community project and donors will receive name recognition for historical purposes. For further information regarding the project, contact the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department at 473-5474.

RECYCLING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSES

The City's Recycling Program continues to be very successful. Currently, 51% of the City's waste stream is being diverted, preserving resources and adding life to the landfill.



A key component of this program is the Commercial Recycling Program. The City of Arroyo Grande established a mandatory commercial and industrial recycling program in November 1999. Under this program, the City's recycling franchisee (South County Sanitary Service) is required to supply appropriate recycling containers, work with business customers to encourage recycling, assist the City in developing strategies and methodologies for increasing diversion and recycling, and closely monitor diversion rates of businesses. The program includes provisions for monitoring and sampling the waste stream to ensure compliance.

As part of this recycling service, each business is entitled to one blue waste wheeler for recycling the following materials:

Newspaper, Cardboard, Mixed Paper, Office Paper, Aluminum and Tin Cans, Glass and all Plastic Containers (except polystyrene).

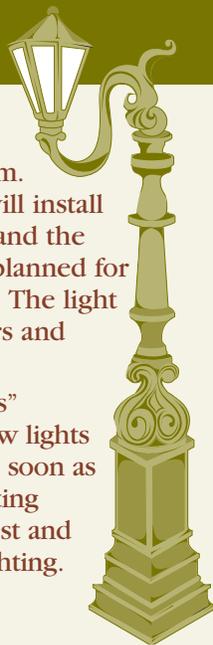
There is no additional cost for this service, and by recycling waste, businesses can reduce the size of their garbage containers, and thereby save money.

A comprehensive recycling audit is scheduled for early 2005. Recycling representatives will contact business owners to discuss the City's commercial recycling program and offer businesses an opportunity to schedule an appointment to review their specific recycling needs. In the interim, business owners may call South County Sanitary Service at 489-3534 to ask questions or to schedule an appointment.

PHASE I OF VILLAGE LIGHTING PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

The preference poll and sample heritage pedestrian street lighting fixtures in front of City Hall last year were part of the "Let There Be Lights" volunteer donation program. Phase 1 of the project will take place in February, which will install the lights along the Creekside Path between Bridge Street and the Historic Swinging Bridge. A dedication ceremony is being planned for the eve of Saint Patrick's Day, March 16, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. The light poles will include brass plaques to acknowledge the donors and commemorate their contribution.

This Spring, the second phase of the "Let There Be Lights" campaign will seek donations for nine existing and three new lights on East Branch Street between Bridge and Mason Streets. As soon as contributions are obtained, these lights will replace the existing lanterns in the heart of the Village. Retrofit of the blocks west and east will follow, completing the Village heritage character lighting. For more information, please contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER INCREASES POLICE PUBLIC OUTREACH

One of the newest additions to the Police Department's public outreach capabilities is the opening of the Arroyo Grande Police Department Community Resource Center, located at the Five Cities Shopping Center. The Department's Community Service Officers operate out of the facility, which is used for community meetings, public education, the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, the CAP (Citizens Assisting Police) program, and to increase the Police presence at the shopping center and visibility of the Department in the overall community. The retail space is provided by the owner of the shopping center for police operations at no cost to the City as a condition of the original project approval.

To reach the Center, contact Community Services Coordinator Michele Stearns at 473-5136.

TRAFFIC WAY BRIDGE RAIL

The City recently awarded a construction contract to Souza Construction Company to remove and replace the existing wooden railing on the Traffic Way Bridge, which had been damaged during an October 2000 vehicle crash. The project will remove the substandard 1932 wooden railing and replace it with a new vehicular rail that meets current Federal Highway Administration crash level standards.

It will be a reinforced concrete bridge rail with a decorative slump stone pattern veneer, complementing the stone and masonry buildings within the Village. A pedestrian fence and railing will be mounted on top of the new bridge rail that will resemble the Bridge Street Bridge truss. Decorative vintage lighting standards, recently approved by the Council for installation throughout the Village area, will also be placed on the rail on each side of the bridge. Construction is anticipated to begin this month and be completed by the end of April 2005.

REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MAKES PROGRESS

The City's Redevelopment efforts are beginning to experience positive results. The Redevelopment Agency was formed in 1997. Redevelopment Agencies are financed from tax increment funds, which is the increase in property taxes from properties within the Redevelopment Area. Funding is borrowed to make improvements and increase property values. The tax revenues from the increased property values are then used to repay the debt.

Unfortunately, the City's Agency has been slow to generate the tax increment revenue necessary to fund meaningful programs and projects. However, a plan put in place in 2001 to make the Agency financially solvent is beginning to show signs of success. As a result, the Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors (City Council) recently approved a new Implementation Plan, which sets forth strategies for encouraging a number of potential mixed-use projects over the next five-year period. The plan is designed to increase the success and viability of businesses in the community, improve the appearance and character of the City's commercial

areas, meet unmet retail needs, and address affordable housing needs.

The Agency's initial efforts have been focused on East Grand Avenue at Courtland Street, labeled the East Grand Avenue "Gateway" area. The transformation set in motion by development of the East Grand Avenue Enhancement Plan is beginning to take shape with the streetscape improvements, Longs shopping center and Santa Lucia Bank projects. The Longs project was assisted through the Agency's purchase and expansion of the adjacent ponding basin, which will provide drainage capacity to facilitate development of other adjacent commercial and mixed-use projects. The Santa Lucia Bank building is part of a mixed-use project, which includes the Agency assisted senior affordable housing project.

The Agency is now working with other property owners to complete improvements to the Gateway section of East Grand Avenue. Efforts will then begin to focus and expand east along East Grand Avenue, Brisco Road, El Camino Real and Traffic Way.

Please contact City Hall at 473-5400 with any questions regarding the Redevelopment Agency.

“Water Efforts” continued from Page 1

structure is also being studied, which would increase the per unit charge for the highest water users in order to provide increased incentives for conservation.

Residents can help by taking steps to reduce their water use. Install landscaping with low water demand, only water as necessary, repair all leaks and defective plumbing, and make sure faucets are running only when in use. These voluntary activities can help keep rates low and reduce the need for future mandatory measures during water shortages.

To increase supply, short and long-term options are being pursued. A new well will be constructed on Deer Trail Circle. The City is working with the County to study the feasibility of

utilizing reclaimed oil field water from Price Canyon to replace water released from Lopez Lake. Studies are also being prepared on groundwater management, participation in the Nacimientto water project, construction of a desalination plant, and purchase of State water. These efforts are being coordinated with neighboring jurisdictions. The purpose is to determine the most cost effective long-term water options for further consideration should they become necessary.

The City will be distributing additional educational materials on how best to conserve water in future water bills. For information on the Water Conservation Program, please contact the Public Works Department at 473-5460.

SANTA COP A SUCCESS

For the seventeenth year, the Arroyo Grande Police Department’s Santa Cop Program brought holiday cheer to children whose families could not afford to buy presents for their kids. Volunteers from the Police Department’s volunteer program, as well as from the community, wrapped over 1,800 toys and gifts. Five teams of Santa Cops then delivered the toys and brought Christmas joy to 760 youth from 180 families throughout the South County area. The Police Department extends a big “THANK YOU” to all those who donated gifts, funds and time to the Santa Cop Program this year. Your generosity made a huge positive impact to the disadvantaged youth in our region.



City of Arroyo Grande
Administrative Services Department
P.O. Box 550 • Arroyo Grande, CA 93421

STAGECOACH EXPRESS is published by the City of Arroyo Grande and is distributed to all residences and businesses in the City. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please call 473-5414 or send e-mail to agcity@arroyogrande.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

1st Wednesday, 3:00 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

1st Monday, 3:15 p.m.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

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

DOWNTOWN PARKING ADVISORY BOARD

Meets as needed

“Reservoir” continued from Page 1
reservoir built in 1929. Therefore, it is important to both replace and expand the existing outdated facility. The project also includes the construction of a new access roadway and the placement of trees and landscaping to assist in visually shielding the reservoir. Project completion is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2005.

Pre-Sort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Arroyo Grande
California
Permit #37

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93420



Visit our Web Site at
www.arroyogrande.org