

STAGECOACH EXPRESS



VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2

CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

MAY 2003

FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The City is expanding its economic development efforts to include a facade improvement grant program. The program will provide assistance in the form of a matching grant as an incentive for property owners and tenants to renovate building facades in both the East Grand Avenue "Midway" Area between Elm and Halcyon and the Village Area. The funding will become available in October 2003, but applications are now available at the Community Development Department located at 215 E. Branch Street in Arroyo Grande. Funding is limited, so applications will be considered as they are received. In an effort to assist as many property owners and tenants as possible, the maximum matching grant amount is \$5,000

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FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

July 4th fireworks celebrations are fast approaching and the Arroyo Grande Fire Department would like to remind everyone to take precautionary measures to ensure a safe and accident-free holiday. Safe and sane fireworks are legally available for sale in the City of Arroyo Grande



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CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

SCENIC CREEKSIDE WALK IS COMPLETE

An official ribbon cutting ceremony on May 20th marked the completion of The Scenic Creekside Walk Phase III project, an enhanced pedestrian promenade on the north side of Arroyo Grande Creek between Bridge Street and Short Street. The project includes exposed aggregate sidewalks with brick inlays and brick paver crosswalks at the Bridge Street and Short Street entrances and exits to the Olohan Alley parking lots. The project has resulted in an improved and larger area along the creek in the Village to stroll, picnic or sit and relax. Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy this newly enhanced area in the Village.

EAST GRAND AVENUE CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

The City Council awarded a contract on April 22, 2003 to Papich Construction Company for the East Grand Avenue Enhancement Project. The project will rehabilitate the East Grand Avenue roadway between Elm Street and Oak Park Boulevard. The scope of work for the street improvements includes the installation of water main and service laterals, installation of conduits at major crossings for future underground utilities, replacement of sewer service laterals, storm drain improvements, placement of an asphalt concrete overlay, and pavement striping.

Roadway enhancements include the construction of landscaped center medians, six mid-block concrete bulb outs and a "Welcome to Arroyo Grande" monument sign.



Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-May and be completed in late November 2003. City staff is working closely with businesses to minimize impacts during the construction period. Your patience during construction will be appreciated. Access and parking will be maintained throughout the project, so please continue to support your local businesses.

RANCHO GRANDE PARK DEDICATION COMING SOON

Despite delays due to weather and corrections required by the City to the concrete installation, development of the Rancho Grande Park is proceeding. Recent construction activities include the placement of the restroom building and the installation of playground equipment and site furnishings. Once the trees are planted and

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HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE CONTINUES

The City’s process to update its Housing Element continues, which is due to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by December 31, 2003. To date, the City’s Planning Commission has held three public workshops and Planning Commission public hearings on the draft Housing Element are scheduled to begin in June. The City is mandated by state law to prepare a Housing Element that must accommodate its “regional housing needs” allocation of housing units by income category, as indicated in the following table:

HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION BY INCOME

VERY LOW	LOW	MODERATE	ABOVE MODERATE	TOTAL UNITS
310	223	259	400	1,192

Some general facts about the existing housing in City of Arroyo Grande:

CITY PROFILE

- 5.5 square miles in size with a population of about 16,294 and 6,400 households.
- Median age is 42.
- 70% of all housing in the City is owner-occupied and 30% are rental households.
- Median home price is \$474,000.
- Most of the existing housing is single-family residences on parcels averaging 13,000 square feet in size.

The City wants to ensure that the updated Housing Element reflects the diverse needs and priorities of the community. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to participate in the hearings or by contacting the Community Development Department at 473-5420, agcity@arroyogrande.org.

D.A.R.E. IN ARROYO GRANDE

This year, with the cooperation and support of the Lucia Mar Unified School District and local private schools, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program conducted by the Arroyo Grande Police Department will reach over 1,000 students of all grades in Arroyo Grande schools. Graduation ceremonies have been, or will soon be, held at Harloe Elementary School, Ocean View Elementary School, Valley View Adventist Academy, Royal Oaks Christian School, and St. Patrick’s Elementary and Junior High School, as well as additional programs at Paulding Middle School and the Arroyo Grande

High School. Awards were presented to essay winners, which were sponsored by the Arroyo Grande Police Officers’ Association, the Arroyo Grande Exchange Club, and other businesses, organizations and individuals. The graduation at Harloe in February was held at the Clark Center and dedicated to Sr. Officer Richard Berry, who was killed by a DUI Driver on December 23, 2002 on his way to work. The program is primarily the result of the efforts of Arroyo Grande Community Services Officer Cheri Hulkan and Juvenile Services Officer Erin Taylor. For more information about DARE, please call 473-5100.

STUDY PLANNED FOR FUTURE OF CITY HALL

The City Council recently approved beginning a needs assessment and feasibility study on the City Hall office complex. The study will look at options for a future new City Hall or renovations to the existing facilities. No funding is programmed or available for construction of the project at this time. Rather, the study is part of an overall effort to systematically plan for and address future needs of the City’s infrastructure and facilities. Fred Sweeney, Jr., who is a successful architect with Phillips Metsch Sweeney Moore specializing in public facilities and grew up in Arroyo Grande, has volunteered to assist the City in coordinating the effort and preparing conceptual design drawings. Steps in the process will include assessing City office space and facility needs; identifying desired site conditions and design characteristics; identifying alternative sites; assessing feasibility of alternatives; identifying preferred alternatives and preparation of conceptual drawings; and developing funding and implementation strategies. The process will include a number of public workshops to solicit input and ideas from the community. The first will be scheduled in mid-September. Please look for announcements in the next issue of Stagecoach Express and everyone is encouraged to participate. For more information, contact City Hall at 473-5404.

SUMMER SOCCER CAMPS



The Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department is offering a number of soccer camp opportunities this summer.

In coordination with Major League Soccer Camps, July 7 - 11 will feature a program for children ages 5 - 11 at the Soto Sports Complex. Participants are taught by nationally certified coaches and will receive a goodie bag and camp t-shirt. MLS Camps is the official camp of Major League Soccer and the preferred camp of AYSO. The Munchkin program teaches children ages 5 and 6 soccer basics from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at a cost of \$55.00. In the Nippers class, 7 and 8 year olds are challenged to increase their knowledge and understanding of the game through dribbling, passing, shooting, defending exercises and game tactics. The cost is \$90.00 and runs from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Designed for 9 - 11 year olds, the Intermediates will develop techniques in pressure-settings, leading to an understanding of the applications of skill and developing game-related practices. This program is from

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon at a cost of \$90.00. Volunteers to house coaches are also needed, which can be a great cultural exchange experience. If interested, please contact Nick Jones at 1-800- 680-6272.

In coordination with Ed Kalin, retired soccer coach for Allan Hancock College, the Five Cities Soccer Camp will be offered for children ages 5 - 14 from August 18th - 22nd, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Soto Sports Complex. Instruction will cover shooting, heading, passing, throw-ins, ball control, conditioning, and tactical game training for children of all skill levels. This year's camp will be divided into beginning and advanced levels. The fee is \$48.00 for one child, \$61.00 for two children, and \$81.00 for three children pre-registered by August 13th (children must be from the same family with the same permanent address). Registrations after August 13th are charged an additional \$10.00. The camp fee includes a soccer ball for each participant registered by August 13th. The program has been popular in the past so sign up early.

To register or obtain additional information on either program, contact the Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities office, 1221 Ash Street, 473-5474.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT

The City of Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department and Wells Fargo present a night for fathers and daughters. It will be an evening of dinner, dancing, contests, king and princess crowning and fun. This semi-formal event will take place on Saturday, June 14, 2003. Daughters ages 4 and up are welcome. It is \$40.00 per couple. An additional daughter is \$18.00. Tickets are on sale until Wednesday, June 11, 2003 at the Recreation Division office located at 1221 Ash Street. Space is limited. For more information, please call 473-5476



SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

PLAYGROUND Come join the fun and games with your friends at Elm Street Park Community Center, 1221 Ash Street, Arroyo Grande! This supervised program for children ages 5 - 13 includes sports, crafts, mini-trips, contests and much more. The program operates Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting June 23rd. The cost is \$14.00 per day or \$7.00 for half day (9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) For more information, please call 473-5476.

CHILDREN IN MOTION This childcare program is being offered at Harloe Elementary school cafeteria, 901 Fair Oaks Avenue, Arroyo Grande, starting Wednesday, June 18th for children ages 5 to 13. Children will participate in a variety of activities, including sports, crafts, games, music, mini-trips, contests and much more! The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.50 per hour with an \$11.00 registration fee per family for new participants. For more information, please call 473-5484

SUMMER SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

The City of Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department will accept registration for its Summer Softball League from May 12th through June 6th. League play will begin June 16th. Slow pitch leagues will be offered in men's, women's, coed, men's church, and men's 50 and over divisions. The entry fee is \$445 per team plus \$8 per each non-Arroyo Grande resident. All registrations will be taken at the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department office, 1221 Ash Street in Arroyo Grande. For more information, please call 473-5478.



“Dedication” continued from Page 1

Park is proceeding. Recent construction activities include the placement of the restroom building and the installation of playground equipment and site furnishings. Once the trees are planted and landscaped areas seeded, there will be a period in which access will be restricted to provide the grass an opportunity to become fully established. Your cooperation in waiting to enter the park will be appreciated. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled in early fall to officially open the new park for everyone’s enjoyment.

BRANCH MILL ROAD CONSTRUCTION UNDER DESIGN

The design of the Branch Mill Road rehabilitation is underway in preparation for placement of an asphalt overlay in late summer. The project, located between the stone culvert and Newsom Spring Road, will include storm drain improvements and restriping of the roadway.

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July 1st through July 4th. Please refrain from using any fireworks that are not specifically “Safe and Sane” fireworks. Only adults may use fireworks. Never alter, modify or enhance fireworks and use only as directed. Remember that fireworks are made from explosives and can be unpredictable. Have fun, but thank you for being responsible.



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

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The City Council approved a new water conservation program on May 13, 2003. The program will include retrofitting homes with low flow plumbing fixtures at no cost to the property owner. In order to be able to manage the program in an efficient manner, the City will be targeting the program to one area of the community at a time. More information will soon be distributed in your utility bills. Contact the Public Works Department at 473-5460 for more information.

“Facade” continued from Page 1

per business. Eligible improvements may consist of, but are not limited to, removal and replacement of outdated or non-conforming signs, modification of doors and windows, repair, replacement, removal or installation of awnings, marquees or other sun shade devices, exterior painting and decorative treatment, architectural lighting on the front facades, minor landscaping directly related to the front exterior of the building, and other facade improvements which will contribute to the retail/“streetscape” environment. For further details on how to apply for the Grant Program or to receive an informational brochure and application, contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

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, 7:00 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

WEED ABATEMENT SEASON

The City of Arroyo Grande will begin its annual Vegetation Management Program for weeds and other combustible debris for the 2003 wildland fire season. Weed abatement notices were mailed to Arroyo Grande property owners on May 9th, requesting removal of all fire hazards from their property by Monday, June 9th. Residents are also required to remove other combustible debris such as junk wood, dead trees, piles of tree limbs, and dead brush. The Arroyo Grande Fire Department urges everyone to cooperate and make the City fire-safe.

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