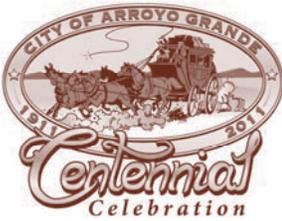




IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL

The City's Centennial year is underway. Everyone is encouraged to be part of this once in a lifetime event.

The City of Arroyo Grande was first incorporated on July 10, 1911, which is a fascinating story in itself. The incorporation effort was fueled by an effort to rid the downtown of a perceived overabundance of drinking establishments, which led to a lively debate. The incorporation measure ultimately passed by only two votes.



The year of celebration was kicked off in January with the hanging of commemorative banners throughout the Village, which are planned to expand to other areas of the City. A special sponsor appreciation reception was also held.

Throughout the year, the City Council will be recognizing anyone that has a 100th birthday this year and a special activity is planned for anyone 90 and over. Please contact City Hall if you qualify or know of someone who does.

At noon on April 30th, there will be a dedication ceremony of the Centennial Park located at the Gazebo next to the Swinging Bridge. This will be followed by a special Farmers' Market and other activities on East Branch Street in the Village.

Events planned for the summer include the Centennial Summer Concert Series in May and June, weekly Saturday historical programs beginning in June, Century bike ride on June 25th, Centennial Ball on July 8th, and 5k run and western dance on July 9th. These activities will lead up to a Celebration Festival on July 10th, which will include food, games, a parade, entertainment, time capsule ceremony, and fireworks finale, all taking place in the Village.

Events and activities are being organized and funded primarily through private sponsors and volunteers. Sponsors and volunteers are still needed. Opportunities for recognition of businesses, organizations and individuals are available on street banners, plaques, Centennial Park bricks, Centennial web site, and a number of promotional materials. A variety of Centennial merchandise and collectors items are also now for sale, including shirts, aprons, wine glasses, banners, coins and more.

Please contact City Hall at 473-5400 for more information or visit the Centennial Celebration web site at www.arroyograndecentennial.org.



NEW FIRE TRUCK ARRIVES

The new Five Cities Fire Authority aerial apparatus arrived on January 7th and begins service in February. It replaces the existing 23 year old Arroyo Grande outdated ladder truck with a state-of-the-art model with expanded aerial capability.

Acquisition of the truck was made possible by a Federal grant of over \$800,000, which the City has served as the lead agency to obtain approval of. This is the largest award for apparatus in the nation this past year.

The apparatus is an Arrow XT 100' platform aerial, manufactured by Pierce and delivered from Wisconsin. It was built specifically for our agency. It serves a critical function by providing emergency rescue and fire response to structures otherwise not easily accessible.

FISCAL SOLVENCY CONTINUES DESPITE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Based on results of the City's FY 2009-10 financial audit, the City has continued to remain fiscally solvent despite major economic challenges. Like most jurisdictions, the City has experienced serious reductions in most revenue sources due to the severe economic downturn. It forced the City to address a shortfall in FY 2008-09 of over \$1 million and another nearly \$2 million in FY 2009-10. This was accomplished through a comprehensive restructuring of City operations to increase efficiency by combining departments and functions, as well as some use of one-time revenue sources that were generated.

Actual revenues received in FY 2009-10 dropped even more than originally projected. Despite this fact, final revenues for FY 2009-10 exceeded expenditures due to savings created through the hard work of a number of City staff and departments. Therefore, the City's General Fund reserve is now projected to end this fiscal year with an increase of almost \$500,000 when compared to the beginning of last fiscal year, a significant accomplishment during the worst economic period since the Great Depression.

Unfortunately, these accomplishments do not mean that the City's financial challenges are over. Due to continued declining revenues and past use of one-time revenues, an additional shortfall is projected for the upcoming year. The City is planning a series of public workshops to obtain public input to assist in the tough decisions that are necessary. The first will take place on February 17th, with additional workshops tentatively scheduled on March 24th and May 26th.

Please contact City Hall at 473-5400 or at www.arroyogrande.org for more information on these or other efforts.

EL CAMINO REAL PAVING SCHEDULED

Design is complete and construction of improvements to El Camino Real are scheduled to begin in May 2011. This will complete reconstruction of the streets in the worst condition and identified as the highest priority in the City since the Local Sales Tax Measure was approved in 2006.

The street will be repaved from East Grand Avenue to Oak Park Boulevard. The two-million dollar project will also include utility improvements, installation of missing sidewalk, and expansion of the park-and-ride lot. Funding will come from a combination of local and Federal sources. Construction is expected to take approximately four months.

23rd Annual Family Egg Hunt & Festival

The 23rd Annual Family Egg Hunt and Festival, presented by the City of Arroyo Grande Recreation and



Maintenance Services Department, is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. at Elm Street Park in Arroyo Grande. Free activities include egg hunts for all ages, contests, and public

safety exhibits. Other activities include carnival games, hot dogs, face painting, a bounce castle, petting zoo, and pony rides. Kids and parents, remember to bring a basket for your prizes!

Volunteers are needed to help throughout the egg hunt and festival. For more information, please contact the Recreation Division at 473-5474.

LET'S PLAY BALL!

The Recreation Division is offering two separate adult softball seasons this year. Spring Adult Softball Leagues begin March 14, 2011 and will include men's and coed divisions. Summer leagues will begin June 5, 2011 and will include men's, women's and coed divisions. The spring season managers meeting will be held February 16, 2011 and team registration will begin February 22, 2011.

For more information, contact the Recreation Division at 473-5478.

NEW BRISCO INTERCHANGE PLAN PROPOSED

After efforts spanning almost 15 years, the City appears to finally be making significant progress on a plan to address deficiencies at the Brisco Road interchange. The difficulty has been identifying a solution that meets strict Caltrans standards given that highway design through the corridor is severely outdated.



The first stage of study, referred to as the "Project Study Report" was completed several years ago. Since then, the City has been stalled in the "Project Approval and Environmental Document" phase. A plan developed last year was determined to have system flaws that deemed it infeasible.

The latest plan involves closing the northbound on and off ramps and moving them to Rodeo Drive. This would reduce conflicting turning movements at

the underpass, but maintain the interchange to avoid increased congestion at other off ramps. The proposal was recently included as a new alternative in the study.

While approval by Caltrans of exceptions from their standards will still likely be required, no fatal flaws have yet been identified. If approved, the City has budgeted to fund approximately 60% of the costs, but obtaining the remaining funding from the State is estimated to take a minimum of four years.

LE POINT STREET PARKING LOT TO EXPAND

A plan in the works for several years to expand parking in the Village on Le Point Street is about to begin construction. Completion is projected to occur in July.

Commencement of the project is made possible by additional right-of-way acquisition of two properties recently approved through lease agreements with future options for purchase. When added to property acquired by the City's Redevelopment Agency in 2006, it now enables the project to add over 60 spaces. It is also being designed to accommodate a parking structure if needed in the future.

The project is being funded with a combination of Redevelopment Agency and parking funds. It will replace parking lost due to new development, expand overall parking availability to assist Village businesses, and enhance pedestrian access and parking spaces for those with disabilities.

CITY OPERATIONS MOVE TO NEW CITY HALL

A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house is scheduled for Saturday, March 26th from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. to commemorate the new City Hall at 300 East Branch Street. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The open house will provide an opportunity for everyone to tour the new facility.

Improvements to the building have included installation of an elevator, development of a new computer room, construction of a public counter area, and minor modifications to office areas necessary to accommodate the City's staff. The elevator will enable use of an upstairs conference room for Architectural Review Committee, Historic Resource Committee, and other public meetings.

Acquisition of the building was made possible through a trade for buildings at 200 and 208 East Branch Street and the parking area in between, as well as a Federal low-interest loan. It has enabled the City to address serious structural, access and space issues. Most importantly, it has provided for consolidation of all City Hall staff into one building, which has made it possible for the City to substantially reduce the cost of its operations.

Meanwhile, it will also enable staff to improve customer service. Public counter hours for those applying for permits have already been expanded. The public counter area has been designed to enable joint meetings with staff involved in reviewing building plans in order to simultaneously coordinate the resolution of issues previously requiring visits to multiple office buildings.

For more information, contact City Hall at 473-5400.

