

STAGECOACH EXPRESS



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CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

JANUARY 2004

NEW HOUSING ELEMENT ADOPTED

At the November 25th meeting, the City Council completed a major step in the City's efforts to meet the housing needs of the community with adoption of the updated Housing Element of the General Plan. The new Housing Element is the culmination of a year-long effort by City staff, the Planning Commission, City Council and the Local Housing Task Force.

The Housing Element sets forth a number of policies and incentives designed to improve the affordability and availability of

housing in Arroyo Grande. For example, inclusionary housing regulations

require new developments to restrict a minimum of 10% of the project for affordable units. Developers are also allowed to increase the density of the project through a "density bonus" in exchange for exceeding this minimum requirement. Development fees are reduced for construction of very low and low-income units. Projects of less than 10 units are allowed to pay a fee "in-lieu" of providing the affordable housing units, and the revenue is

EAST GRAND AVENUE PHASE III ELM STREET TO OAK PARK BLVD.



The City recently completed the East Grand Avenue, Phase III Project. The project rehabilitated the roadway, from Elm Street to Oak Park Boulevard, and provided decorative enhancements as well. The rehabilitation scope of work included the grinding of the existing pavement, installation of utility improvements, placement of an asphalt

concrete overlay, and pavement striping. The decorative roadway enhancements included the construction of landscaped center medians, six mid-block concrete bulb outs and a "Welcome to Arroyo Grande" monument sign. Due to cost savings on other items of work, the City was also able to provide an asphalt overlay on Courtland Street between East Grand Avenue and Newport Drive. This completes the third phase of the East Grand Avenue Reconstruction Project that began in 1998 with the completion of the segment of East Grand Avenue from Bennett Avenue to Halcyon Road.

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CITY FIRE CREWS ASSIST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE RESPONSE

Members of the Arroyo Grande Fire Department responded to several of the horrific fires in southern California. Engine 6695 and the State OES engine responded to the Piru Fire in Simi Valley. They were reassigned to the Verdale Fire, back to the Piru Fire, and then to the Old Fire in Big Bear. Chief Fibich responded as a Strike Team Leader to the Old Fire in San Bernardino. The consensus of all members involved in these sieges was that the fire conditions seen on these incidents were the worst ever experienced by the City's Fire Department. While 8 Department members were assigned to these incidents, the paid and volunteer members of the Department pulled extra duty at home to continue coverage and availability for any incidents that might occur in our home community.



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CITY PROGRAMS TARGET ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

One of the top priorities of the City Council is a strong business assistance program, particularly focused on small businesses. The program is important to maintain a vibrant business community that will enhance the economic vitality of the City, to protect and enhance employment, and to meet the retail needs of the community. Utilizing Federal grant funding, the City has partnered with the South Central Coast Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to provide free business technical assistance and workshops to business owners. The same funding is being utilized to provide a façade improvement grant program.

The City has also taken several steps to coordinate its planning efforts with the local merchants, particularly projects focused on E. Grand Avenue and the Village. The Redevelopment Agency has participated in joint public-private projects to encourage new business development along the E. Grand Avenue corridor. Plaza and landscaped areas are being encouraged in new projects to compliment the new streetscape enhancements. New on-street parking is being created on E. Grand Avenue to both increase parking for businesses, as well as to serve as a buffer between vehicle and pedestrian traffic, while a comprehensive parking improvement plan is under development for the Village. In addition, new design guidelines have been adopted for the Village and are under development for E. Grand Avenue.

For more information, contact the City's Community Development Department at 473-5420.

COOPERATION REQUESTED ON LOCATION OF PORTABLE BASKETBALL HOOPS

Basketball hoops provide an excellent opportunity for recreation and exercise. Therefore, the City supports their use and does not regulate their placement on private property. However, the City does ask that portable basketball hoops not be

permanently stored on public property. When left unattended on the street, they may result in a traffic hazard. When left on the sidewalk, they restrict access and violate Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations regarding wheelchair access. City Code Enforcement is primarily a complaint-initiated program. Therefore, the City requests and

greatly appreciates the public's assistance regarding this issue through voluntary compliance. If you have questions, please contact the City's Community Development Department at 473-5420.

FIRE STATION EXPANSION ON SCHEDULE

The Fire Station Expansion Project, funded by approval of the November 2002 bond measure, is proceeding on schedule and within budget. Bricklayers have completed the extension to the rear apparatus bay and are nearing completion of the mechanical shop and storage building. Framing for the second floor addition will begin this month. Completion of the project is expected in May 2004. Once complete, the existing temporary offices and dormitory will be removed.



25TH ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

It's time to clear your throats, practice your dance moves, and polish up your best jokes because the 25th Annual Arroyo Grande



Talent Show is just around the corner! The Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department invites people of all ages to share their talents and have a great time. We welcome all dancers, singers, comedians, musicians, and other acts to audition **Tuesday, February 3 and Thursday, February 5th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Practices for the show will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning on February 10th from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The March 5th show will begin at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. All auditions, practices, and the show will be held at the City of Arroyo Grande and Woman's Club Community Center, 211 Vernon Street. Admission to the show is \$1.50 for children under five and \$2.50 for 6 years and over. For more information, call the Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities office at 473-5476.

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The streetscape enhancements were the result of a comprehensive planning effort, which included extensive public input. The objective of the final design was to make the area more "pedestrian friendly", while not negatively impacting traffic flow. The City appreciates all public input that was received and especially the cooperation of local businesses that have been impacted during the construction period.

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In December 2003, 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

Larry Schmidt

Building and Fire Department

FIELD SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Raul Juarez

Public Works Department

OFFICE SUPPORT EXCELLENCE

Nancy Haglund

Building and Fire Department

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

30 YEARS

Joe Mejia

25 YEARS

John Ferdolage

Dave Glenn

Eddie Madrid

Jose Sahagun

John Soares

Debbie Weichinger

20 YEARS

Linda Holt

15 YEARS

Vickie Cardoza

5 YEARS

Bob Armet

Albert Beattie

Nadine Elliott

Nancy Haglund

Dan Hernandez

Vince Johnson

Jeremy Kaufman

Kelly Smith

Don Spagnolo



Chinda and her new partner, Senior Police Officer Kimberly DeBlauw

CITY WELCOMES NEW POLICE K-9

The Arroyo Grande Police Department is welcoming its newest member, an energetic three year old German Shepherd from Czechoslovakia named Cedrick Rivie, otherwise known as "Chinda". Chinda and her new partner, Senior Police Officer Kimberly DeBlauw, will begin their new assignment after attending a month long patrol and protection class in March 2004. Senior Officer DeBlauw is taking over as the new K-9 handler for Sgt. Kevin McBride, who has done an outstanding job in serving in this assignment for the past 14 years with his two dogs, Tzar and Fawni.

AWARD OF 2003 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT



The City of Arroyo Grande, Division of Fire and Emergency Services has

received a grant of \$237,867.00 from

the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The program assists rural, urban, and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. The award is part of \$750 million being distributed to over 7,000 fire

departments in 2003, from a total of 19,000 applicants.

The grant will be used by the Division of Fire and Emergency Services to address critical needs in the area of Firefighter Safety and Operations. Many of these needs have arisen from mandates that dictate the way the Fire Department must conduct its business in the fire station and at the scenes of emergencies. All the funds from this grant are pre-designated for specific equipment and programs and the expenditures are closely monitored by the federal government.

CITY LIGHTS MORE FIELDS AT SOTO SPORTS COMPLEX

As a continuing effort to improve field access to the community, the City has recently completed installation of new light standards on Pilg and Campbell fields at the Soto Sports Complex. These fields host a variety of activities including Girls Softball, Youth Football, Little League and Soccer. This \$202,000 project was funded through the Park Development Fees that are paid for new development in the City.

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED ON CITY HALL PLAN

The City is continuing with development of a long-range plan on how to best meet the City's facility needs, which is now focusing on the future of the City Hall complex. Two public workshops have been held to seek input on site alternatives and criteria and the advantages and disadvantages of alternative sites that have been identified. The City's consultant will present a preliminary analysis to the Planning Commission and City Council in February and seek direction on prioritizing the alternatives for further analysis.

The next public workshop is scheduled on **Thursday, March 25, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers, located at 215 E. Branch Street. Building concepts will be presented and discussed. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact City Hall at 473-5404.

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used to provide financial incentives for other affordable housing projects. Areas such as E. Grand Avenue have also been designated for mixed use, which enables property owners to utilize their land more efficiently by constructing a combination of commercial and residential structures. Other measures include new regulations that simplify the process of adding a secondary dwelling to an existing residence.

Affordable housing is classified into four categories—very low (households less than 50% of the County median), low (50% to 80%), and moderate (80% to 120%). Therefore, much of this effort targets income groups earning above the County median income. Also referred to as "workforce" housing, the goal is to house workers important to the community who are not necessarily low-income, but are at risk of being priced out of the current housing market, which may include teachers, nurses, public safety employees, etc. The City's program is also focused on infill development in order to meet housing needs, while at the same time preventing urban sprawl and conserving agricultural lands and open space.

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



City of Arroyo Grande

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