



STAGE COACH EXPERES

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MORE UTILITIES TO GO UNDERGROUND ON EAST GRAND AVENUE

After almost 10 years of work with PG&E and other utilities, the second phase of undergrounding utility lines on East Grand Avenue is about to commence. This phase will include undergrounding all power poles and utility lines from Oak Park Boulevard to Elm Street. It is an important step in the City's economic development and enhancement efforts on the East Grand Avenue corridor.

The project will be paid for through a program known as Rule 20A credits, which are provided by a portion of PG&E revenues as required by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The credits will pay for both the undergrounding work, as well as conversions on each property. Therefore, there will be no cost impact to businesses or property owners.

The work is expected to begin in October or November and last several months. Work will cease during the holiday period to minimize the impact on business activity. Most of the undergrounding work will take place in the sidewalk area. New light poles will be

installed once the wood poles are removed.

The first phase of the project included the area from Halcyon Road to Highway 101 and was completed several years ago. The final phase will consist of Elm Street to Halcyon Road and is hoped to begin within the next two to three years.

Please contact City Hall at 473-5400 if you have questions.

CITY AND LIONS PARTNER FOR KIDS

The City of Arroyo Grande "Children In Motion" child care program and the Arroyo Grande Lions Club are sponsoring a BBQ Fundraiser in support of children's services. The event will be held on Friday, November 16th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Arroyo Grande Woman's Club and Community Center, 211 Vernon Street. The cost is \$10 per meal. The public can drive through and take meals home or may enjoy their meal at the Community Center.

The Lions Club is also sponsor of the 35th Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run on Sunday, November 18th for kids in Kindergarten through 8th grade. The races will be held at the Arroyo Grande High School track. Registration will take place from 1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m. with the first run at 2:00 p.m. There is no charge for participation. There will be awards for winners and a chance for raffle prizes for all runners.

For more information, please call the Arroyo Grande Recreation Division at 473-5474.

MARKET PROJECT APPROVED IN VILLAGE

The Planning Commission recently approved the Village Market project. The project consists of a phased mixed-use project on approximately two acres with frontage on both East Branch Street and Le Point Street. Phase I consists of a 10,000 square-foot

neighborhood market with an outdoor BBQ and eating area. The parking lot includes an internal vehicular connection to the adjacent property at 303 East Branch Street. Phase II consists of future residential development. The project also includes a phased ADA compliant decomposed granite pedestrian path connecting East Branch Street and Le Point Street adjacent to Tally Ho Creek.

The project fulfills an important economic development goal of the City, which has been a priority since the closure of the former JJ's Market several years ago. The market will provide convenient access to groceries to the eastern portion of the community, as well as better facilitate the mixed use development approach promoted in the Village core area.

SPONSORSHIP AND DONATION PROGRAM

The City has been able to continue a variety of enhancements and improvements despite severe financial constraints with the help of private donors and sponsorships. To increase promotion of these opportunities, the City has established a formal program. Brochures and applications are available at City Hall or on the City's website at www.arroyogrande.org.



Dedicating a public item can be a unique and fantastic way to memorialize a loved one, as a gift to honor someone, or to recognize your family or organization. Personalized items are located throughout the Village and community. Opportunities include placing a plaque on a street lamp, bench, tree, or bike rack, or inscribing a brick at Centennial Park.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE CITY

Are you interested in public service? Would you like to participate in decision related activities that will help make a difference for the future of our City? The Arroyo Grande City Council invites you to join the "List of Citizens to Serve".

This is a listing of those citizens who are interested, qualified and available for an appointment to serve on a City Board, Commission, or Committee. Options include the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Traffic Commission, Architectural Review Committee, Historical Resources Committee, or the Downtown Parking Advisory Board. Applications are available on the City's website at www.arroyogrande.org or at City Hall, 300 E. Branch Street.

For further information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 805-473-5404.

CITY BALANCES BUDGET FOR FY 2012-13

The City Council recently approved the Annual Budget for FY 2012-13, which involved addressing a revenue shortfall of over \$900,000 in the City's General Fund. Financial challenges have continued due to the impacts on revenues from the economic recession. Adding to the deficit were impacts from the State's elimination of the Redevelopment Agency.

The final budget involved a comprehensive plan consisting of a long list of measures. These included organizational restructuring and elimination of positions, delay of capital projects, negotiated concessions with labor groups, reductions in operational budgets, some minor fee adjustments, and use of reserves. Negotiation of some of the necessary changes to labor contracts remain under way.

While some funding allocated for capital improvements was transferred for operational purposes, no reductions were made to high priority projects, such as street and sidewalk improvements. The City will maintain an aggressive program of improving its infrastructure in order to reduce long-term costs. The majority of street improvements for this fiscal year were recently completed, which included nearly 60 streets in the City. A number of other sidewalk repairs, drainage improvements and facility upgrades are also under way.

The only fee increases proposed involved use of the Soto Sports Complex. Therefore, the City has maintained its approach of addressing budget shortfalls with existing resources to minimize any financial impact to its residents during this difficult financial time.

You may contact City Hall at 473-5400 for questions or to obtain additional information about the budget.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES SAFER GRANT

The City's fire service will be enhanced for at least the next two year period due to success in obtaining a Federal Grant of almost \$1.2 million through the 2011 Staffing For Adequate Fire Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program. The grant monies will be used to hire six full time positions, which include three Fire Engineers and three Firefighters. These positions are fully funded by the grant for a period of two years. The grant does not require any commitment by the member agencies of the Five Cities Fire Authority after that period.

This grant will bring the Five Cities Fire Authority into closer compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720, a national standard for initial response to a structure fire. The additional personnel will also allow the department to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) "2-in/2-out" requirements. Given the Fire Authority's budget constraints, this grant will have a tremendous impact on the Authority's ability to meet staffing requirements to provide fire suppression and rescue services to the community.

The SAFER Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Program Directorate (GPD), in consultation with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). The Federal Emergency Management Agency awards grants to fire departments every year. This is done to enhance their ability to protect the public and fire service personnel.

The Five Cities Fire Authority can be reached at 473-5490 if you have questions or would like additional information.

