

STAGECOACH EXPRESS



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

SEPTEMBER 2006

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Construction is about to begin on the long awaited traffic signal at the Camino Mercado and West Branch Street intersection, which should relieve congestion at that location. The project includes the installation of signal poles, mast arms and a computerized signal controller for a new traffic signal at the intersection. A right-turn lane will also be constructed for vehicles traveling on southbound West Branch who want to enter US 101 North.

Telephone company facilities will soon be relocated to enable construction to begin on the new right-turn lane shortly after Labor Day. The project is anticipated to be complete by the end of November. For more information regarding this project, contact the Public Works Department at 473-5440.



POLICE WORKING TO EXPAND “CRITICAL REACH” A COMMUNITY ALERT SYSTEM

What is Critical Reach? Critical Reach is an email and fax network in which the police can send out time sensitive community alerts. This can include incidents such as missing children and crime alerts, as well as advisories in situations of major emergency, such as earthquake, hazardous materials spills or floods. Critical Reach alerts are delivered quickly and directly to community members.

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CITY ROADS TO BECOME MORE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY IN THE FUTURE

After several years of research and work, the 2006 Bikeway and Pedestrian Enhancement Plan is nearing completion. Over the last several months, the Traffic Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Planning Commission have reviewed and made recommendations to these circulation/transportation and recreation element changes for bikes and pedestrians.

The bikeway plans provide for a complete future network of paths, lanes and routes serving all areas of the City and linking with County and other adjacent jurisdictions. It

also outlines the top priority areas for initial implementation. These include East Grand Avenue, James Way, Tally Ho/Le Point, West Branch Street, Traffic Way, Rancho Parkway, Camino Mercado, Oak Park Boulevard, Farroll Avenue, Courtland Street, Ash, and Brisco Road.

The pedestrian enhancement plan identifies 20 areas in need of sidewalks to improve the safety of routes to schools and parks. Additional focus areas are streets serving public activity areas, commercial or mixed-use districts and connecting routes from

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REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PLANNED FOR FAEH STREET

One of the key components of the City's long-range financial plan is projected revenue from economic development efforts. These efforts have begun to demonstrate meaningful results over the past few months. In 1997, the City formed a Redevelopment Agency and Project Area, which includes many of the City's commercial areas and is an important economic development tool. The City Council serves as the Board of Directors of the Agency. Money is borrowed to help attract and/or accommodate new businesses that would not be feasible without such assistance. Property tax growth is then allocated to the Redevelopment Agency so when new businesses are developed, the increase in property tax revenues is used to repay the debt. Therefore, the City is able to stimulate economic development without spending any General Fund monies and the new businesses generate sales tax and other revenue that help pay for City services.

Over the past several years, the City has worked hard to make the Redevelopment Agency financially solvent.

As a result of those efforts, the Redevelopment Agency is now able to issue debt in order to move forward with targeted projects.

Progress recently got under way on one of the first projects with acquisition of the vacant lot at Faeh Street and El Camino Real in an effort to pursue a visitor serving or mixed-use project. The development will likely reimburse the Agency for most or all of the property costs and will help generate needed City revenue. Acquisition will enable the Agency to attract a project that benefits the community and takes advantage of the freeway exposure of this site. The property was otherwise at risk of being sold as individual lots, which would have resulted in uncoordinated development.

It is important to note that any acquisitions by the Agency are accomplished with no use of eminent domain. These efforts are important to help maintain and improve a healthy economic environment for the City's business community and to attract businesses that meet the needs of our community.

RECREATION FALL ACTIVITY GUIDE AVAILABLE

The Fall Activity Guide is now available, which provides information on a variety of activities, programs and special events for all ages in the cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach and in Oceano. You may also register online for a variety of programs offered by Arroyo Grande by visiting www.arroyogrande.org. Activities include dance, art, swim lessons, youth and adult basketball leagues, woman's soccer league, Halloween activities and a wide range of other youth, adult and senior programs and classes. Guides are available at City Hall, the Parks, Recreation and Facilities office at 1221 Ash Street and other locations throughout the City. For more information, please call the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department at 473-5474.

PROGRESS ON MEETING FUTURE PARKING NEEDS

After several years of negotiations, the City's Redevelopment Agency has been successful in acquiring vacant property adjacent to the existing public parking lot on Le Point Street behind the City Council Chambers. This property has long been identified as an extremely important opportunity to meet future parking needs in the Village since it is one of the only remaining undeveloped parcels available for parking expansion.

The Agency intends to pursue a mixed-use development on the street frontage portion of the property and maintain the remainder of the property for public parking. The development will make the site more attractive from the street and help pay for a portion of the site acquisition costs. The remainder of the costs will be paid from fees assessed to new construction in the Village and Redevelopment Agency revenues. Therefore, the purchase was made without expenditure of any General Fund revenues. The acquisition is part of a comprehensive planning effort designed to meet existing and future parking demands in the Village.

CITY PAVES THE WAY FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The City will be making progress on resurfacing of streets most in need of improvements during 2006 and 2007. Projects for 2006 will concentrate on a number of arterial streets in the City based on the City's Pavement Management Program. Initial improvements are scheduled to be under way in October 2006. Oak Park Boulevard will receive an asphalt concrete overlay between West Branch Street and James Way. Corrective maintenance to remove and replace isolated pavement failures will be performed on James Way and West Branch Street. This is a procedure necessary to prepare for resurfacing of the roadway, which is scheduled for Spring 2007. On schedule for design and construction for 2007 is Farroll Avenue from Halcyon Road to Oak Park Boulevard, and similar work will soon begin on portions of Brisco Road. For more information on these projects, call the Public Works Department at 473-5440.



PLANS UNDER WAY FOR TRAFFIC WAY IMPROVEMENTS

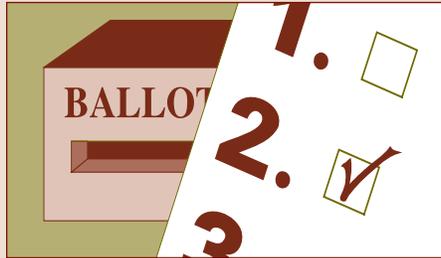
The City is working in coordination with both businesses and community volunteers to plan improvements for Traffic Way. The plan is designed to improve the appearance, safety and traffic circulation for Traffic Way.

The Tree Guild, which is a group of community volunteers, recently donated and planted eleven new street trees along Traffic Way and Station Way and is now preparing to install twenty-two more this fall. City staff is working with the group to coordinate the trees with an overall streetscape enhancement plan, which will include restriping, the addition of concrete benches and trash receptacles, landscaping, and sidewalk improvements.

Plans are being discussed with individual business and property owners prior to presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council for consideration during the upcoming couple months. For questions or more information, contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

MEASURES PLACED ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

As a result of the City's long-range financial plan, the City has placed a measure and four advisory measures on the November 7th ballot for consideration by the voters in order to help fund community needs identified in the plan. If approved, Measure O-06



would enact a one-half cent sales tax to fund community needs. The measure includes a requirement to publish and distribute an annual report to each household on the revenues and expenditures from the sales tax proceeds. In addition, the City Council would be required to conduct a public hearing every five years to determine whether it is necessary for the sales tax to remain in effect, at which time the City Council could reduce or eliminate the tax if other funding becomes available.

The one-half cent sales tax equates to 50 cents for a purchase of \$100 of taxable merchandise. Of the current 7.25% sales tax, the City receives 1%. If approved, the sales

tax would be increased to 7.75% and the City's share would be 1.5%.

Measures K-06, L-06, M-06 and N-06 are advisory measures that will ask voters if a portion of the revenue from the sales tax should be used to fund specific needs identified in the long-range financial plan. They are not legally binding, but provide information to the City to help establish priorities.

Advisory Measure K-06 will ask voters if a portion of the revenue should be used to fund transportation improvements, including upgrade of the Brisco/Halcyon Road - Highway 101 interchange. Advisory Measure L-06 will ask voters if a portion of the revenue should be used to fund improvements to the City's infrastructure, which includes annual maintenance of the road system, street improvement projects, upgrade of the drainage system, and projects to protect the creek system. Advisory Measure M-06 will ask voters if a portion of the revenue should be used for public safety equipment, staffing and facilities. Finally, Advisory Measure N-06 will ask voters if a portion of the revenue should be used to fund improvements to City facilities necessary to comply with Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.

POLICE CITIZEN VOLUNTEER RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to Citizen's Assisting Police (CAP) Volunteer Alice Brown! Alice received a Mayor's Commendation at a recent City Council meeting in recognition of her volunteer service, enthusiasm, dedication and work ethic to the Arroyo Grande Police Department and community. During the past year, she volunteered over 600 hours to the Police Department.

Alice joined the Arroyo Grande Police Department's Citizens Assisting Police (CAP) program on November 15, 2004. Her volunteer work with the AGPD has included administrative duties at the Community Resources Center, coordinating the "Meet

and Greet" program wherein all new businesses are visited and introduced to the Police Department, assisting with the coordination of the Teen, Business and Citizen Academies, and helping staff a number of community events.

From June 2005 to June 2006, CAP members donated a total of over 2,300 hours. This program is a key component of the Police Department's ability to provide a high level of public safety services with available resources. For questions about the program or how to volunteer, please contact Michele Stearns at the Police Department at 473-5114.

ARROYO GRANDE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Your vote is your voice in the decisions that shape our daily lives. On November 7, 2006, Arroyo Grande registered voters will be electing the Mayor and two City Council Members. To cast a ballot on November



7th, you must be registered to vote by no later than October 23, 2006. Registration is easy. You can either pick up a registration form at City Hall in the Administrative Services Department, the San Luis Obispo County Registrar of Voters Office, or you can download a form at www.ss.ca.gov. U.S. citizens who will be at least 18 years old by election day and who are not currently in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony are eligible and encouraged to register and vote. Additionally, if you have recently moved, you need to reregister with your new address. To have a form mailed to you, please call 473-5412. Your vote makes a difference!

VOTE

"Roads" continued from Page 1

residential neighborhoods to these activity centers or transit.

The Bikeway and Pedestrian Enhancement Plan will be presented to the City Council for public hearing and consideration at its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2006. For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

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The City is in the process of developing and expanding the Critical Reach email and fax list. You can participate as individual community members, business owners, school officials and government employees. It is easy to participate. Simply send your fax and/or email address to agpd@arroyogrande.org and you will be included in Critical Outreach. This is a community-based effort which needs your participation in order to be successful. For more information, please feel free to call Detective Jim Williams at 473-5125.

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

Meets Quarterly (*Call for schedule.*)

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

1st Monday, 2:30 p.m.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

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

DOWNTOWN PARKING ADVISORY BOARD

Meets as needed



City of Arroyo Grande

Administrative Services Department
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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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