



City of Grass Valley
125 East Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

S U M M E R 2 0 0 6

Council Elections

Two Council members will be elected this November 7, 2006. Those interested in running for City Council may pick up a nomination packet at the office of the City Clerk in City Hall at 125 East Main Street, beginning July 17, 2006. Packets must be returned to the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 11, 2006. The terms of office are four years and will run from November 2006 to November of 2010. Qualifications for candidacy include the following: You must be a resident and registered voter of the City of Grass Valley on or prior to the date nomination papers are issued. For additional information regarding the office of City Council or the election process please call the City Clerk at 274-4310.



Transportation Improvement Measure on the Ballot

At its May 23, 2006 meeting, City Council unanimously approved placing the following special sales tax measure before City voters at the November 7, 2006 General Election:

"GRASS VALLEY'S TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT MEASURE. To provide funding to complete the Dorsey Drive Interchange; improve Traffic Safety and resurface City Streets; develop the Wolf Creek Parkway, a Downtown Parking Plaza, Bicycle / Pedestrian Paths, Sidewalk and Transit improvements; shall the sales tax in the City of Grass Valley be increased by one-half of a cent (0.50%) with proceeds being deposited in a special fund with annual independent audits?"

To become effective, this measure must be approved by two-thirds (2/3s) of the City's voters and would continue for twenty (20) years to allow financing of the Dorsey Drive Interchange and a Downtown Parking Plaza projects. Further information about this measure and the proposed expenditure plan is available by contacting the City Clerk at 274-4310 or on the City's website at www.cityofgrassvalley.com.

Traffic Safety, Education and Enforcement for Teens

The Grass Valley Police Department is announcing their most recent addition to the Police Department Traffic Management Team. Officer Brian Hooper and the departments 2006 Harley Davidson Road King have become the newest tools in making our roads safer.

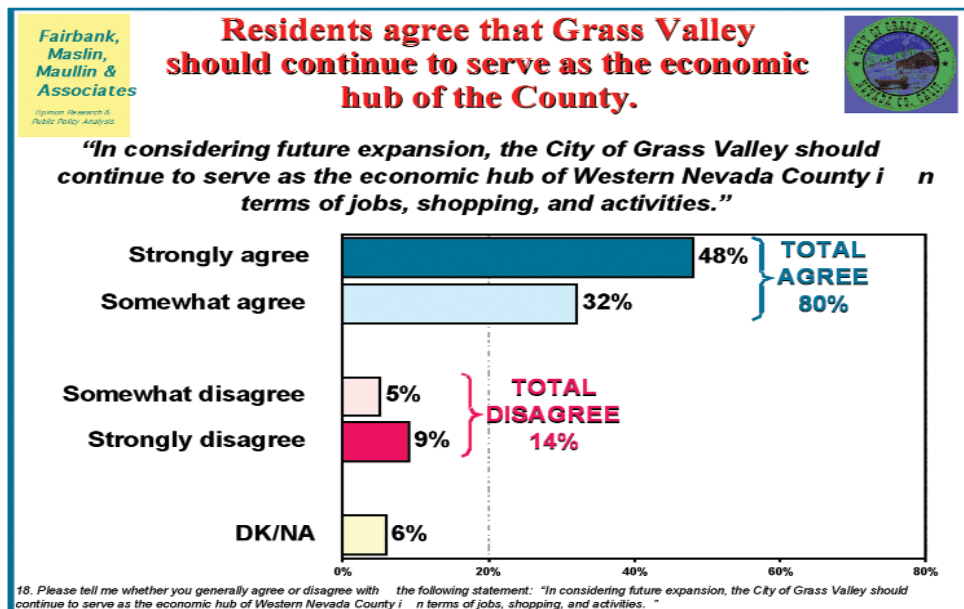
The purchase of the motorcycle and a substantial portion of the officer's salary are funded through a grant provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety. The grant focuses on Traffic Safety, Education and Enforcement for Teens. Look for upcoming events regarding traffic safety and paid for by this grant! Let's all work together at reducing accidents!



Community Survey Results

A recent community survey provides helpful insights into the views of City residents. The highly regarded survey research firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates provided the following conclusions about the results:

- Residents are overwhelmingly pleased with the quality of life in Grass Valley, attributing it mainly to friendly people and the community's small-town feel.
- Traffic, drug use, growth and development and housing costs are among the issues about which local residents are most concerned.
- A majority of residents are satisfied with the overall quality of City services, in particular public safety and parks.
- Residents are divided on the issue of whether the City should maintain its historical growth rate of 150 housing units per year.
- Four in five residents want Grass Valley to remain the economic hub of Western Nevada County.



This telephone survey of 338 City residents was conducted from February 27 to March 9, 2006. These results should be accurate within a margin of sampling error of +/-5/4%. Further information about this survey is available at www.cityofgrassvalley.com or by contacting City Hall.

Budget Briefs

A budget for fiscal year 2006-07 was adopted by the Grass Valley City Council after a Public Hearing on June 13, 2006. Combined revenues for all funds are estimated at \$22.9 million. Some of the budget highlights include; new staffing in Human Resources, Police, Fire and Planning departments, a capital projects budget of \$3.8 million for various street, traffic, park, facility and storm drain projects, upgrades to utility lift stations, replacement of Alta Hill Reservoir Floating cover with two (2)-one million gallon steel tanks, various studies and funding for an Affordable Housing Assistance Program.

The budget publication is expected to be available at Grass Valley City Hall and the downtown library by mid July. A condensed version of the budget will also be available online on the City's website <http://www.cityofgrassvalley.com/> under Finance.

Questions? Contact Carol in the Finance Department at 274-4300.

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City Employees

As the summer sunlight reveals to us all the natural beauty of our environment take a closer look around our fair city and you will find amidst the hustle and bustle of the day the faces of Grass Valley's employees. Some of them are hard at work in repairing the streets and roads we use to get to and from our appointed destinations.

Some of them are found on patrol as part of our Police Department, others are working to keep the vehicle fleet operating effectively and within the walls of City Hall there are those who keep our financial records and manage our city's governmental functions.

No matter what the department or the tasks they all belong to the City of Grass Valley and represent the efforts that make the city go. It is widely understood that the most valuable resources any employer has is its human resources. This holds true for Grass Valley as well.

— *Michael E. Lewis, Human Resources Manager*

New Faces at the City



Maryanne Hoffler
Accountant II



Nancy Sjurson
Economic Dev. Specialist



Officer Blakemore



Officer La Ferriere

Housing Rehabilitation Funds Available

The State Department of Housing and Community Development have awarded the City of Grass Valley \$1,500,000 for the City's "Housing Rehabilitation Program." This program was established to provide low interest loans to income eligible households. Work may include roofing, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, siding, windows, doors, insulation, foundation, painting, etc. In addition, grant funds are available for woodstove replacement and emergency repairs.

For more information, contact Beth Owens, Housing Technician, at 274-4344.

Finding Affordable Housing in Grass Valley

Where does one find affordable housing in California? Well, we've got some options in Grass Valley. The "First-Time Homebuyer's Loan Program" offers 30-year loans at 0% interest rates for qualifying homebuyers.

To qualify, it is necessary to have a household income that is 80% of the County's median income level or around \$51,350 for a four-person family. Also, developers of new Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) are now required to "set aside" 20% of their new units for families who are within the County's median income. Call Nancy Sjurson at 274-2714 for more information.

2006 Heritage Home Award Winners

On May 19, 2006 the Grass Valley Historical Commission held the 9th Annual Heritage Home Awards Ceremony. The Heritage Home Awards recognizes homes that have been determined by the Historical Commission to have historical and architectural significance. The City annually presents the owners of five homes, located within the original 1872 Township, with a bronze-cast historic plaque. The plaque is awarded in recognition and appreciation for their efforts to maintain or restore their historic home. The 2006 award winners are:

- Sharon Griffiths, 216 Pleasant Street
- Enrique & Katherine Guerrero, 322 South Church Street
- Harvey & Jeannine Diemer, 415 West Main Street;
- Mary Lee Good, 118 Chester Street
- Georgie Coulter, 354 South Church Street:

Questions regarding the Heritage Home Awards can be directed to Barb Carman, at 274-4330.



322 South Church St.
1895 and 2006

Pot Holes!

You or someone you know probably noticed many more pot holes this winter than in the past. Many City streets were damaged during this past winter due to the high amount of rainfall. The resulting Pot Holes were filled with a cold patch material but, much the same as the Itsy Bitsy Spider being washed out by the water spout, the continuing rain washed away the patch material. The City Streets Division has marked several areas around town that failed this winter and are in need of repair. Please slow down and drive carefully as crews make these repairs.



Storm Drain Pollution

In the City of Grass Valley, storm drains flow directly to local creeks without treatment. The City encourages local residents and businesses to fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us by using some of these described practices:

Lawn & Garden Care and Pest Control

- Make sure no leaves are blown or raked into the street or gutter. Collect yard waste for composting.
- Limit fertilizer applications to twice a year and limit application of all chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides.

Car Washing & Repair

- Wash on a lawn or unpaved surface. Dispose of leftover soapy water in a sink or toilet, not the street, driveway, or storm drain.
- If you change your own oil or antifreeze, recycle it! Never dump oil or any auto fluid onto the ground or into a storm drain or creek.
- Repair leaking vehicles promptly to help keep fluids off streets and out of storm drains.
- Use a commercial car wash where water is recycled.

Housecleaning & Window Washing

- Send dirty cleaning water down a sink or toilet, not into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Make sure trash can lids are tightly closed and recyclables are secured to prevent materials from blowing onto the ground.

What is Code Enforcement?

Code Enforcement is the City's response to a citizen's request for assistance in dealing with a concern in their neighborhood. Whether it is an issue of a neighbor's accumulation of debris or trash, hazardous building conditions or illegal uses of property the city can help. All you have to do is fill out an Investigative Request Form (available at City Hall) and return it to the Code Enforcement Office. Reporting an issue will become even easier, as the City is in the process of making the form available online this July. Additional information on how to submit a request for assistance is also on the website. Questions can be directed to Steve Fawcett, Code Compliance Specialist, at 274-4348.

Planning for the Future

The City of Grass Valley's 2020 General Plan designates four Special Development Areas (SDAs) to be master planned and ultimately annexed. Each SDA is to be master planned to address infrastructure needs and community desires. The City has been evaluating information to ensure that the SDAs will incorporate the community amenities that Grass Valley will need in the future such as roads, parks, affordable housing and job opportunities. The SDA applications have been on hold until the City Council is satisfied that they have sufficient information about the future trends and needs of Grass Valley.

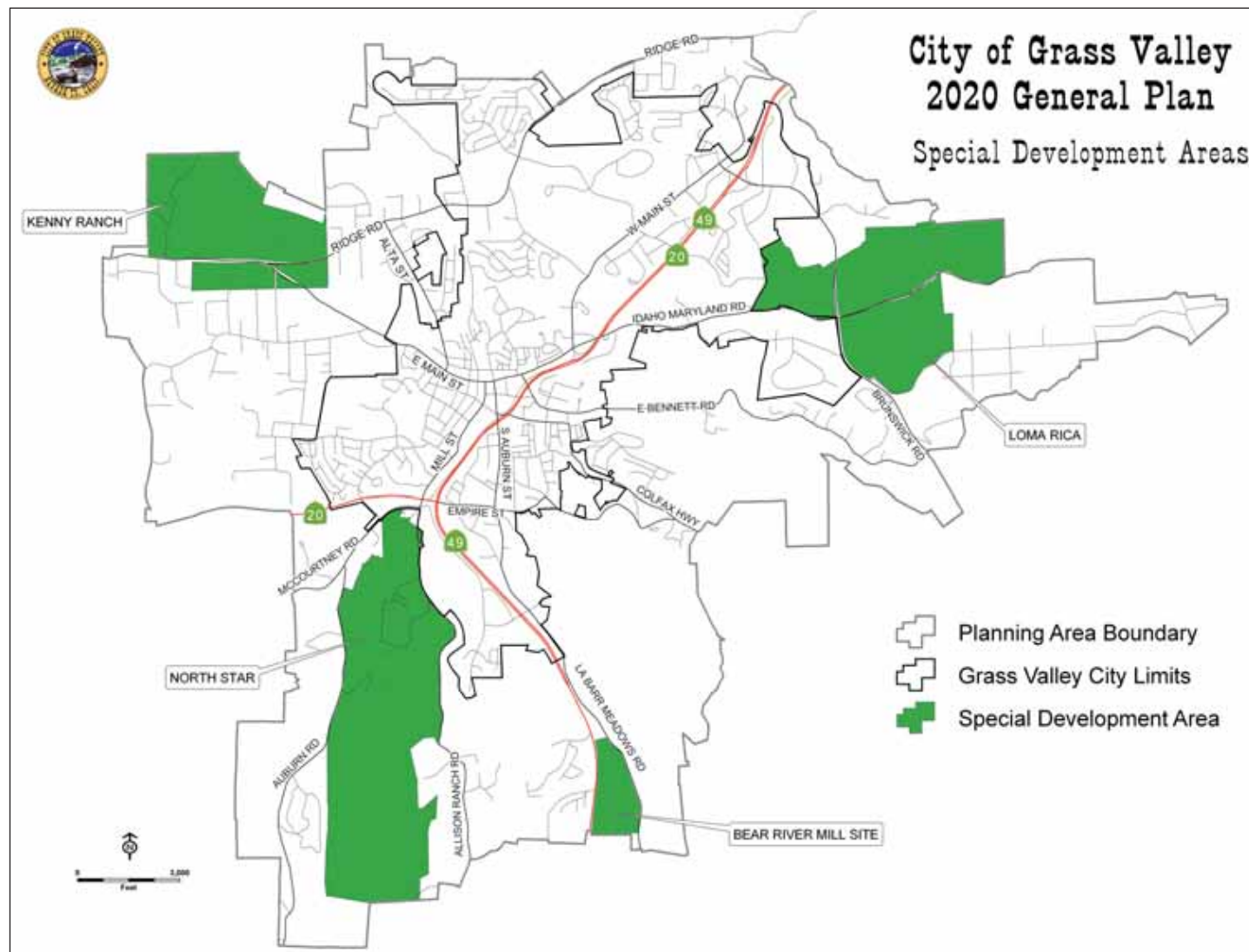
Council is expected to begin defining parameters for an acceptable land use mix in the City's Sphere of Influence at a meeting in late June. It is anticipated that during the summer of 2006 each SDA application will be reviewed by the Council to assess whether the proposed project meets the criteria set by Council.

If a SDA application is released by the Council for processing, it is far from being approved in final form. The "processing" of an SDA means that it will be subject to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and public hearings. Each SDA, if approved, would be subject to conditions to ensure that it meets the goals of the City's General Plan through either the timely installation of important infrastructure, having an appropriate architecture or design theme, and a phased time frame.

Watch for further notices of public meetings and updates on the SDAs. Information on the SDAs is available on the City's website at www.cityofgrassvalley.com or contact the Community Development Department at 274-4330.

Dorsey Drive Interchange Project Status Update

The Dorsey Drive Interchange project proposes to improve freeway access by construction of a wider overpass and the addition of on and off ramps. Nevada County Transportation commission (NCTC) and Caltrans are providing engineering and environmental services. The next major milestone is to obtain approval of the Final Environmental Documentation, which should be completed by July 2008. Upon completion of the environmental documentation, NCTC and Caltrans will be meeting with the City of Grass Valley to develop a work plan to complete the design and construction of a partial or full interchange.



Holiday Inn Express Gold Miners Inn Under Construction — Fall or Winter Opening Projected

Construction is under way with the Gold Miners Inn, a hotel and conference center located at 121 Bank Street. The project includes 80 rooms, meeting and conference rooms, and commercial/retail space. The project would have two driveways onto Bank Street, with the primary or entrance driveway located across from the Villa Venezia Restaurant and the second access located at the northwest corner of the property, closer to S. Auburn Street.

The lower floor of the building would be devoted to meeting rooms, reception area, retail and office uses, while the second and third floors are targeted for lodging. The lower floor retail space

would have doorways opening onto Bank Street.

Exterior uses include parking, driveways or aisles, landscaping and three plazas (two are open for public use). Two of the three plazas front Bank Street, one adjoining the south end of the building and described as a "sidewalk plaza" and sized at 1,000 square feet. A "historical plaza," adjoins Wolf Creek and totals 3,400 square feet in area. The third plaza or "event patio" is set in the rear of the building, encircled by a wrought fence with entry gates and approximates 3,500 square feet.

The planned completion date is in the fall or winter of 2006. For more information contact Dan at 274-4330.



City of Grass Valley – System 2910001 2005 Annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report

The City tests your drinking water for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2005.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber.
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

This report is an overview of the quality of the water provided by the City of Grass Valley last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. We are proud of our water and committed to providing you with information. For more information about your water, call Rick Beckley at 477-4626.

City Council Meetings

The Grass Valley City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm at 125 East Main Street.

Source:

The City of Grass Valley purchases surface water from Nevada Irrigation District, originating from Lower Scott's Flat Lake. This water is transmitted in channels and pipelines to the Alta Vista Treatment Plant where it is treated and distributed to the consumer.



Mike Busse, Treatment Plant Operator

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. Include the following definitions only if your report contains information on disinfectant residuals, or a detected contaminant that is regulated by an action level (e.g., lead) or a treatment technique (e.g., turbidity):
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **PPM:** Parts per million.
- **ND:** Not Detected.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a mo.) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	(In the year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or E. coli	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) (8/29/02)	41	6.1	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm) (8/29/02)	41	0.50	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Note: Sampling for Lead and Copper due in 2005 will be completed in 2006.

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	10/29/03	3.4 ppm		none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	8/18/04	12.0 ppm		none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	12/08/03 8/2/05	0.009 ND		1.0	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment process.
Barium (ppm)	2/24/04	.0139		1.0	2.0	Discharge from oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethane (ppm)	3/9/05 6/2/05 9/6/05 12/12/05	0.024 0.036 0.028 0.023	0.023-0.036	0.08	NA	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acid (ppm)	3/9/05 6/2/05 9/6/05 12/12/05	0.0072 0.0055 0.0054 0.0095	0.0054-0.0095	.06	NA	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

Vulnerability

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the state Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

Downtown Parking

Tired of searching for a parking space in our beautiful downtown area? With the help of the TJKM Transportation Consultants, the City is currently looking at solutions to this dilemma such as a parking structure.

The first public workshop held on April 27, 2006 provided some excellent brainstorming! The next workshop is anticipated to be held in

July and will provide some suggestions for how parking can be expanded in the future. We'll keep you apprised! If you have questions, call Nancy Sjrursen, 274-4714.



Water Conservation

Philosophically, conserving water makes good sense. Most of us realize that the efficient management of our natural resources is a necessity if we are to ensure an adequate supply of water for our future needs. In Grass Valley, we are fortunate to live in an area where water is relatively plentiful and clean. However, our domestic water supply is a manufactured product and there may be limitations to the availability of water at any given time. From a practical perspective, conserving water will protect and conserve our drinking water supply and save energy. Conserving water will also reduce our monthly water and sewer bills.

During the upcoming summer months, please consider these various ways that you can conserve water:

- Wash full loads of laundry only.
- Repair leaking and dripping faucets. A dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons of water a day; a leaking toilet up to 200 gallons a day.
- Turn off your faucet when brushing your teeth.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the hot water run constantly.
- Install low-flow shower heads.
- For automatic dishwashers, wash full loads only.
- Wash the family car or truck using water from a bucket.
- Water your lawn in the morning or evening to minimize evaporation.
- Shorten your showers.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway.

What is a Roundabout?

What is a Roundabout? How does it work? On May 23, 2006, City Council approved an agreement with Whitlock and Weinberger Transportation, Inc. of Santa Rose (W-Trans), engineering services for the evaluation and design of a modern roundabout at the intersection of East Main and Idaho-Maryland Road. The process to evaluate and design the proposed project will take approximately 11 months to complete. During that time, W-Trans will be conducting two public workshops, and two working sessions with City Council to educate the public on modern roundabouts and to obtain input from the public on the project. Watch for upcoming news regarding the workshops and come out and learn more about roundabouts.





GRASS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1853

A Message from the Fire Chief

This past year has been one of change, challenge and achievement for the Grass Valley Fire Department. It's been ten months since I took the reins from former Fire Chief Hank Weston, and in those months I have come to know and deeply appreciate what makes this department such a good one.

Because we're relatively small, I had the luxury of extensively interviewing each member when I first came on the job last summer. It was my goal to see the Fire Department through their eyes; to understand how each member viewed what was best about our department, as well as what we could change to be even better. There was a clear consensus among the firefighters about our two best attributes: our people, and the way our department is so well supported by this fine community.

Residents were recently asked to rate the City's performance in 10 key service areas, and we are proud to say the Fire Department's service was rated highest overall. It is just that kind of support and appreciation the firefighters were speaking of in our interviews.

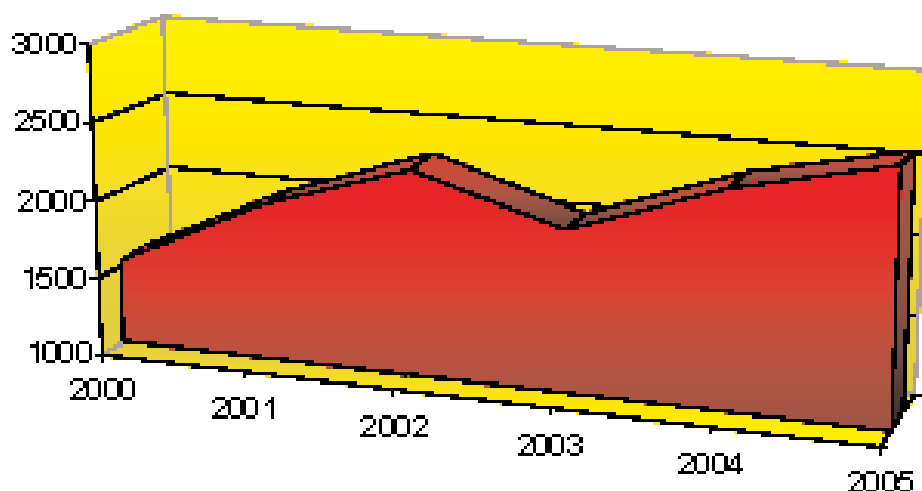
We also recognize that there will always be room for improvement as we continue making "be the best we can be" our unending goal. "To the next level" is the way we summarize it, and more tangibly it means continually expanding the professionalism of our service and our mission readiness through increased emphasis on training, development of standardized operations and procedures, and seeking out new opportunities to serve. We have made solid progress in these areas over the past year, and thanks to the dedication of our people and the support of our community, we will continue to do so.



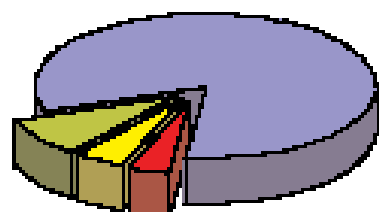
Jim Marquis
Fire Chief

From fire fighting to the flood fight of December 30, to the many hazards in between, I'm very proud of this fire department, its history, and the quality of its mission delivery. I hope we make you proud as well. I am always open to hearing from our citizens about how we are doing, and in fact encourage you to do so. The Grass Valley Fire Department is your fire department after all, and protecting and serving you is why we exist.

Fire Department Calls for Service



Call Distribution by Type



- Emergency Medical Services
- Fires
- Vehicle Accidents
- Public Assists

From the Archives

If one is a true lover of history or of rich traditions past, he or she need look no further than the Grass Valley Fire Department. There you may learn of the tails of true heroes that have left a permanent impression on the city they loved, and the effects of their devotion to duty on the generations of citizens to follow. Since 1853—eight years before the first shot was fired in anger at Fort Sumter, starting the American Civil war—the members of the Grass Valley Fire Department have taken oaths to protect the lives and property of this city we have the privilege to live in and be a part of.

That commitment was not without price. In the 153 years the Fire Department has served this community, there have been three who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. This article highlights the first, but is devoted to all three that have fallen in the line of duty, whose selfless acts were given without hesitation in order to save the lives of others.



In the dark, early morning hours of February 3, 1936, a fire was reported on South Church Street. Tragically, occupant Tim Nelson was still trapped inside. Newly elected Fire Chief Harold Whiting was first at scene and confirmed heavy fire conditions in a two-story wood frame residential structure. Firefighters were quick to the scene but hopes of a successful rescue were soon lost.

During the incident, Chief Whiting noticed several firefighters working within the potential collapse zone of a burnt-out chimney stack. Fearing for their safety, he and Firefighter James Oliver entered the collapse zone to evacuate the endangered firefighters. Ensuring they were safe, he and Firefighter Oliver turned to exit the collapse zone. Suddenly a loud noise was heard throughout the fire ground, causing Firefighter Oliver to look back over his shoulder. It was then that he observed Chief Whiting lying under the collapsed chimney.

Chief Whiting lay unconscious under the debris while firefighters worked frantically to extricate, then transport, him to the Jones Memorial Hospital just across the street. Chief Whiting never regained consciousness and soon died from a depression fracture to the skull. For the first time in Grass Valley Fire Department's long history, station bells tolled at 10:20 pm on February 3, 1936, mourning the loss of the fallen 32-year-old firefighter.



An Important Home Fire Safety Message from the Fire Marshal

Did you know?

- More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 20,000 are injured.
- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- About 70 percent of the more than 3,500 annual home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- While 95 percent of American homes have at least one smoke alarm, more than a third of these alarms are inoperable because of dead or missing batteries.

Following these simple fire safety tips can boost survival rates dramatically. Please review them, then take action where needed!

Life-Saving Tips

- ✓ Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Hint: schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clocks from daylight savings time to standard time in the fall. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery.
- ✓ Plan regular fire drills to ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.
- ✓ The majority of fire deaths occur at night when most people are sleeping.
- ✓ Studies have shown that some children may not awaken to the sound of the smoke alarm. Hold a drill at night to make sure that sleeping family members awaken at the sound of the alarm. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs.
- ✓ If someone doesn't wake up when the alarm sounds during a drill, suggest installing additional hard-wired, interconnected alarms inside every bedroom.
- ✓ At the least, the family should assign an adult who is easily awakened by the alarm to wake the heavier sleepers, perhaps by yelling "FIRE," pounding on the wall or door, or blowing a whistle.
- ✓ Practice finding your way out of the house with your eyes closed, crawling or staying low and feeling your way out of the house.
- ✓ Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- ✓ Teach your family to stop, drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- ✓ Pets often escape unnoticed. Spending precious moments searching for them can be fatal.
- ✓ Designate a meeting place outside and take attendance. Get out and stay out.
- ✓ Remember to escape first, then notify the Fire Department.
- ✓ Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two ways to escape from each room in the house.

Firefighter Will Ray Recognized as Firefighter of the Year

On April 7, Grass Valley Fire Department held its annual firefighter appreciation dinner. This yearly event is organized by the Fire Chief in recognition of the hard work firefighters put in day after day. At this year's function Firefighter Will Ray was awarded the 2005 Firefighter of the Year Award. Will Ray has been a member of the Department for five years now and has always shown a commitment to excellence, whether responding to emergencies or completing work-related duties.



Winning this award is extra special because the recipient is voted on by his or her peers. Firefighter Ray was recognized for his hard work as a firefighter and, more specifically, for his enormous contribution and excellence as the one responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Fire Department's apparatus. Firefighter Ray is certified by the State of California as a Fire Mechanic II, and his mechanical knowledge and abilities not only save the city thousands of dollars each year but also keep our equipment safe and mission ready. Congratulations Will!

Aggressive Firefighting Saves Home

At approximately 3:02 am on December 19, 2005, fire units were dispatched to a residential structure fire on Buena Vista Avenue in Grass Valley. Engine 1, from Station 1 (Brighton Street), arrived first to find a two-story "granny unit" fully involved, with fire just spreading to the adjacent main residence. Firefighters quickly advanced large diameter hose lines between the burning structures and successfully protected the main home from the engulfed granny unit, which stood only a few feet away from the main residence.

As additional fire units arrived, lines were advanced to successfully protect structures on the other three sides of the fire. The fire was brought under control with only minor damage to the main residence. Fire investigators determined the probable cause was electrical malfunction.



The Union photo/ John Hart

GVFD Firefighter advances attack line between the burning structures.

Grass Valley Fire Department Explorer Program Provides More Than Just Training

The Grass Valley Fire Department Explorer Program is designed to provide young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 the opportunity to experience the fire service and gain entry-level fire training while giving back to the community. This highly successful program is managed by Grass Valley Firefighter Chris Armstrong, and has provided many young people with an unforgettable experience they can use no matter what occupation they choose in life. The structured life within the Fire Department, combined with the strong sense of family, provide a uniquely formative experience for our young people, reinforcing within them values such as respect, hard work, responsibility and compassion.



This program not only provides students with a great fire service experience, but benefits the community as well. The Explorers participate in the vegetation drop-off program, many civic events, and other community services as needed. Recently, Firefighter Armstrong and many of the Explorers provided yard maintenance and landscaping to Joyce Schicke, mother of fallen CDF firefighter Eva Schicke. The Fire Department is very proud of the program, and especially of our Explorers themselves.

Recycling and Hazardous Waste

Nevada County has opened a permanent household hazardous waste facility at the McCourtney Road Transfer Station!

Accepted at the site are used oil (uncontaminated...no water!), oil filters, quart oil containers, other #2 plastic recycling containers used for oil recycling, anti-freeze and anti-freeze containers, auto-Batteries (undamaged), lead-acid batteries, aerosol paints, latex and oil based paints (labeled), and paint solvents.



The limitation on how much hazardous waste you can transport at a time is 15 gallons or 125 pounds per load.

Household batteries and fluorescent lights are now classified as household hazardous wastes. Batteries can be dropped off at several locations in Grass Valley. Please review the County's web site for drop off locations. Fluorescent lights can be dropped off at the McCourtney Road Transfer station.

Green waste (yard waste) pick up is available to all City residents! You can request either a 64 or 96 gallon bin for all your lawn clippings, garden, plant and tree trimmings. Waste Management picks up the containers on the opposite weeks from the recycling pick up. You no longer have to drive to the transfer station.

There is no longer a charge to recycle computer monitors or televisions at the McCourtney Road Transfer Station. Questions call Nevada County's Recycling Hotline at (530) 265-1768. The transfer station and recycling center are open 7 days a week from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. Please contact Waste Management at 274-3090, or the County Department of Transportation and Sanitation Hotline at 265-1768, to learn about other available programs.

The County will schedule another Tire Amnesty day in late September or early October, so look for the dates. The County held a very successful program last year to help reduce illegal tire dumping.



Come Join the Fun! Summer Recreational Activities!!!!

Memorial Park Pool

In an effort to keep summer recreation more affordable, the Grass Valley City Council approved a reduction in pool fees at the Memorial park Pool. This summer, the admission fees for children 6 years and older will be \$2.00; adults 18 years and older will be \$3.00. Children under 6 years of age that are accompanied by a paid adult are still free.

Memorial Park Pool Hours: Monday through Saturday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. A lap lane is available for adult swimmers during open hours. Season passes are available for purchase. Other available programs at the pool will include swim lessons and pool parties.

Tennis Lessons

Tom and Jen Isaac, USTPA Certified instructors, will be providing group tennis lessons for children and adults at Memorial park on Friday's beginning June 9th. Registration forms are available at City Hall.

Summer Recreation

Sierra Nevada Children's Services and the City of Grass Valley are teaming up to provide a drop-in recreation program at memorial Park. The program will provide activities Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for 4th to 8th grade children. The program will focus on physical activity and youth development. This program will start on Monday, June 12th and continue through Thursday, August 10th.

For more information and details about these or other recreational activities in the area, contact Sandy "Jake" Jacobson, Recreation and Facility Manager at 477-6483.

New City Clerk

The City of Grass Valley welcomes Kristi Bashor as the new City Clerk and Newsletter Editor. Kristi and her family moved here from Loveland Colorado where Kristi was the Deputy City Clerk for 6 years. Kristi is a native Californian and is very happy to be back in her home state and to be part of the City of Grass Valley.



New City Clerk, Kristi Bashor, works with Michael Lewis, Human Resources Director.

Question and Comments

What information or topics would you like to see in the next newsletter?

Please include any other comments you have on City services or this Newsletter. The next edition will be mailed in December 2006.

Important City, County and National Phone Numbers

Animal Control.....	477-4630	Parks and Recreation	274-4390
Business Licensing.....	274-4300	Poison Control Emergency	1-800-222-1222
Chamber of Commerce.....	273-4667	Suicide Prevention Hotline	1-800-273- 8255
City Clerk	274-4310	Swimming Pool	477-4650
City Election Information	274-4310	Veteran's Services.....	273-3396
Downtown Association.....	272-8315	Voter Registration	265-1298
Human Resources.....	274-4713	Water and Sewer Billing	274-4300
Library	273-4117	Weather Information	274-4363
Nevada County Health Dept.	265-1450		