

CITY MESSENGER

City of Grass Valley, 125 E. Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95945 | 530-274-4310 - City Clerk



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Photo courtesy of Connie Petty

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Your New City Council

Two new City Council Members were elected on November 7, 2006. They are Dan Miller and Chauncey Poston. Dan is an Insurance Agent in Grass Valley and Chauncey is a Real Estate Agent in Grass Valley. They joined Mayor Mark Johnson, Vice Mayor Lisa Swarthout and Council Member Dean Williams when they took office at the December 12, 2006 City Council Meeting. Leaving office at this same time were Mayor and former Council Member Gerard Tassone and Council Member and former Mayor Patti Ingram. Also leaving office is Council member Dean Williams. Dean tendered his resignation on December 6th effective December 31st and the new Council will be appointing a replacement soon after. City Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month with the exception of December when there is only one meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 125 East main Street. Check out the City's Web Site for Agendas and more at: www.cityofgrassvalley.com.



Grass Valley's Vision and Guiding Principles statements are now proudly displayed in City Hall, thanks to City employees Regina Reno and Paul Johnson.

City of Grass Valley's Vision

"The City of Grass Valley strives to maintain and enhance its historic character and traditional unique neighborhoods while encouraging a diverse social community and economic vitality through public involvement, responsible leadership and quality services."

Guiding Principles

"The City of Grass Valley is committed to the following principles in its actions and decision making; to be honest, ethical, respectful and fair." Adopted by the Grass Valley City Council on January 24, 2006 (Resolution #06-02)

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Arla, a Guide Dog for the Blind

Arla, a Guide Dog for the Blind puppy in training, has been a familiar face around City Hall and the downtown area. She is the second guide dog to be raised by Debbie Watkins of the City's Engineering Department.

Since being established in 1942, Guide Dogs for the Blind (located in San Rafael, CA and Oregon) has paired more than 10,000 dogs with visually impaired partners.

Puppy raisers are responsible for housebreaking, basic obedience training, socialization and providing loving homes for the puppies until they are about 16-18 months old. Attendance at monthly meetings, outings and training sessions on a regular basis are required. All of the raisers are volunteers and responsible for related expenses. The Foothills Lions Club recently approved sponsorship of Arla and is assisting with food expenses.

Raisers expose the puppies to things they may encounter while working as a Guide, including: unusual noises, smells, surfaces, sounds and traffic. They become a big part of a raiser's life and go everywhere with them; malls, restaurants, on trains and buses, to meetings, work, etc.

Formal training takes place at the San Rafael campus and culminates with the raiser presenting the Guide Dog to their new partner at a graduation ceremony. Arla returned to her formal training on Dec. 1.



Cover Photo

This month's cover photo was supplied to us by Grass Valley Resident, Connie Petty. She entered this photograph in this year's Nevada County Fair and won not only a First Place Ribbon for it but also the Best of Show.

Connie then generously donated this photograph to the City Council at their September 12, 2006 meeting. It is on display in the City Hall Lobby. Connie, who works for Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is a talented photographer and her passion for photography shows in this wonderful photo of downtown Grass Valley. Thanks again Connie for your wonderful gift.



New employees



Bjorn Jones, Assistant Engineer with the City Engineering Office Bjorn comes to us from American Eagle Airlines and Sky West Airlines where he served as a pilot. His experience and education in the field of engineering made him an ideal fit for our Engineering Department. Having acquired his BS degree at California Polytechnic State University he is eager to use his technical training to assist the City's engineering staff in launching and coordinating projects to improve the lives of our citizens.

Kurt Rosenberg, was hired on November 6, 2006 with the Grass Valley Public Works Dept. Kurt comes to us from Waste Management where he served as a driver. He is eager to use his training and his skills to assist the City's Public Works Department. Kurt, his wife, Carrie and their son Nathan enjoy family activities including dirt bike riding, fishing and camping. Kurt is also a committee member of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 855.



Check out the City's Web Site

Please visit the City's Web Site at www.cityofgrassvalley.com. It contains information on meeting agendas, City Departments, the Municipal Code, results of surveys, frequently asked questions, who to contact, maps, zoning, building permits, business licenses and much more.



Mayor's Award

Bill Roth was this year's Mayor's Award Recipient. Bill is a former City Employee who after retiring now volunteers time to Grass Valley.

Bill has performed numerous jobs Downtown such as painting the light posts, drilling the holes in the sidewalks for the flags, directing traffic for downtown events and much more. Thank you Bill for all you do!



Bill and Judy Roth



Reminder ...

Open outdoor burning is prohibited within the City Limits. Please help us keep our air clean and healthy.

Children and Internet Safety

What is your child doing on the Internet?

A majority of the computer related calls for service that the Grass Valley Police Department receives involve issues regarding child Internet safety.

The trend of children being preyed upon by sexual predators during on-line encounters has significantly increased. There are a few simple guidelines to follow that will reduce the chance of your child being victimized during an online experience.

Do not allow unsupervised usage of the Internet.

Set up parental guidelines and filters for Internet use.

Locate your computer in a common area of your residence.

Never allow your child to input personal information into any profile (ie: address, phone number, school location, photographs).

Be aware of any online relationships your child may be involved in.

If you have a suspicion your child is being preyed upon by an online predator, contact your appropriate police or sheriff's department.

For those of you who are interested in educating

your family on internet predators and internet safety, there are a few web sites that offer interactive educational games and other educational information:

www.webwisekids.com

www.wiredsafety.org

www.safekids.com

www.netfamilynews.org

Here are a couple of other helpful sites that can make your online experience safer and more enjoyable. www.answers.com Trustworthy search engine for internet usage.

www.healthyhabitsvideos.com

Internet safety videos for parents.

<http://cyberbully.org> Addresses online social cruelty, threats, and distress.

<http://csrui.org>

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use.

It is a goal of the Grass Valley Police Department to address concerns such as child Internet safety. If there is any further information or assistance we can provide, feel free to contact the Grass Valley Police Department at 477-4600.



Tinloy / Hansen Street Naming Celebration

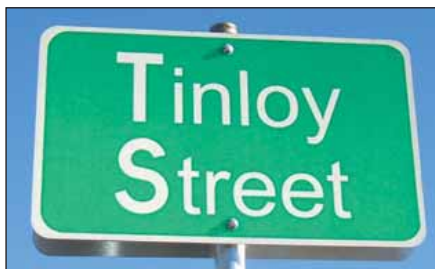
Frontage Streets Renamed in Honor of Historic Local Families

You may notice new street signs along the frontage streets on both sides of Highway 49 through Grass Valley. These streets have been renamed after two historic Grass Valley families.

This renaming is a result of two Senate Resolutions that were introduced by Senator Sam Aanestad and approved by the State Senate to designate the two streets as Hansen Way and Tinloy Street.

Since both streets are located within Caltran's right of way, State legislation was required for the street renaming. On the City's behalf, Senator Aanestad introduced the appropriate legislation.

The Hansen family is well known and respected in Grass Valley for their contributions to the community and for their building supply company that was founded in 1953. The Tinloy family, of Chinese decent, has



had a business and commerce presence in the Grass Valley area since the 19th century.

Both families have historically been very civic minded and contributed community service and philanthropic gifts to the Grass Valley community.

To commemorate the renaming of the streets, a celebration in honor of the families was held on October 21, 2006 under the Bank Street overpass, between the newly named streets. Senator Aanestad was present along with the Mayor and Council Members. Members of the Tinloy and Hansen families

were also present to share in the festivities.

In addition to the new street signs, informational signs along the two streets have also been installed.

Business License Renewal

Are you a cosmetologist, real estate agent or other independent contractor working in the City of Grass Valley?

If you work in the City of Grass Valley and are not an employee of a business, you may be required to obtain a business license. Anyone doing business in the City limits of Grass Valley and/or anyone coming into the City limits to conduct business is required to have a Business License from the City of Grass Valley.

If your business is located in the Grass Valley Downtown area, you may be in the Grass Valley Downtown Assessment District. The City of Grass Valley collects yearly assessment fees.

For more information on Business Licenses or Downtown Assessment fees contact the Finance Department at 274-4300.

Recycling and Hazardous Waste

Nevada County has opened a permanent household hazardous waste facility at the McCourtney Road Transfer Station! You can bring in used oil (uncontaminated...no water!), oil filters, quart oil containers and 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.

A new Construction and Demolition Facility is now open at the McCourtney Road Transfer station. Please take advantage of this facility when you are building or remodeling. Since construction debris accounts for 25% to 35% of the waste stream at the transfer station, you can help the City maintain its requirement to divert or recycle 50% of the waste stream.

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 at <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/iwm>

Fluorescent lights can be dropped off at the 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 burn or 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.



“Avoid the Five”

The Grass Valley Police Department was recently awarded a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety. This particular grant provides the necessary funding for a specially equipped vehicle and the personnel costs necessary to more effectively identify and remove the impaired driver from the highway.

Working in partnership with the other primary law enforcement agencies in the county (Grass Valley Police Department, Truckee Police Department, California Highway Patrol, the Nevada County Sheriff's Department and Nevada City Police Department), we now have a variety of educational and enforcement tools at our disposal.

Education is a primary component of our efforts. It involves reaching out to our teenage



drivers by bringing the message to schools, career fairs and downtown events. It also includes getting the word out through the media, the city's website, a variety of promotional materials and by word-of-mouth. Our interest is not just catching the drunk driver; we want to keep them from getting on the road in the first place.

Another component is the enhancement of our enforcement efforts. One of the most effective tools available to law enforcement is the DUI Checkpoint. In this case, drivers passing through a particular area are greeted and given educational material about driving safety. If signs of intoxication or impairment are observed, then the driver is detained for further evaluation. Another tool is the saturation patrol. In this case a team of officers are on the street, specifically looking for impaired drivers. They concentrate their efforts and are not distracted with the every-day calls for service.

The devastating impact of impaired driving cannot be over-stated. Many innocent people have died or have received life-changing injuries because of those who get behind the wheel while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. With the assistance of the Office of Traffic Safety, the five primary law enforcement agencies in this county have taken a stand and will use whatever tool at their disposal to combat this problem. It may not always be popular, but it is the right thing to do.

So remember... "Avoid the Five: Don't Drink and Drive."

It's Cold and Flu Season

Colds and the flu are both caused by viruses. Although they share many of the same symptoms, there are a few key differences.

- Colds can occur throughout the year. Flu season generally runs from late fall through early spring.

- The symptoms of a cold include a stuffy or runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, and a cough.

- Flu symptoms are usually more severe than those of a cold and tend to come on suddenly. They can include weakness, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, fever (101 to 102 degrees F), chills, a cough, and sometimes sneezing, and a stuffy or runny nose.

Some flu viruses can be prevented with an annual flu shot, but there are no vaccines for cold viruses.

Many people think that "the flu" is any illness with fever or cold-like symptoms, or any illness with stomach or intestinal problems. But what is commonly called "stomach flu" is caused by an unrelated gastro-intestinal virus.

- Symptoms of gastroenteritis may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and a low fever (less than 101 degrees F).

- Flu shots are effective only against



flu viruses, and not against colds or gastro-intestinal illnesses caused by other viruses. These simple steps can go a long way to reduce your chances of catching a cold, flu, and other viruses.

- Get a flu shot. The best protection you and your loved ones have against the flu is to get a flu shot each fall.

- Wash your hands often. Hand washing is the most important thing you can do to keep from getting and spreading colds and the flu. Carry an

alcohol-based hand gel (such as Purell) to use when you can't wash.

- Cover your cough. Cold and flu viruses are spread by airborne particles. Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue instead of your hands.

- Avoid touching your face. Cold and flu viruses are often spread by touching something or someone that is contaminated with germs.

- Clean surfaces (such as counter tops, telephones, toys, cups, bathroom sinks) that may have become contaminated.

- Don't smoke.

- Stay healthy. Eat a healthy diet and exercise.

- Get plenty of rest. Sleep helps build your body's natural defenses for fighting off infection.

- Reduce stress. Chronic stress can compromise your immune system.

Stormwater Pollution: What Can You Do?

Water pollution is everyone's problem, and it will take everyone working together to reduce the impact of stormwater pollution. Water quality is most directly affected by fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides that we put on our lawn every year. During heavy rains, excess products on your lawn are washed into nearby storm drains or washed directly into a nearby stream. Once in the stream, these products continue to do their work, killing bugs (pesticides) or making plants grow (fertilizers). This means they are altering the ecosystem of the stream, removing food sources and reducing oxygen levels, thereby killing aquatic life.

Another source of water pollution from household runoff is



Do not – Fertilize before heavy rainfall.

Do not – Sweep yard debris into the storm drain or ditch.

yard trimmings.

Yard trimmings decomposing in a stream can use up the oxygen that aquatic animals need to survive. Again, this situation can kill aquatic life.

Think about what all of the above situations had in common; excess matter or chemicals in our yards being carried off when it rains.

Therefore, the easiest way to stop this pollution is to make it as difficult as possible for rain to carry anything off of our yards. This is done by a combination of easy steps, ranging from growing native vegetation on hillsides and bare spots in the lawn, to carefully choosing plants that will not require much fertilizer and pesticides.

Code Enforcement Investigation Request Form

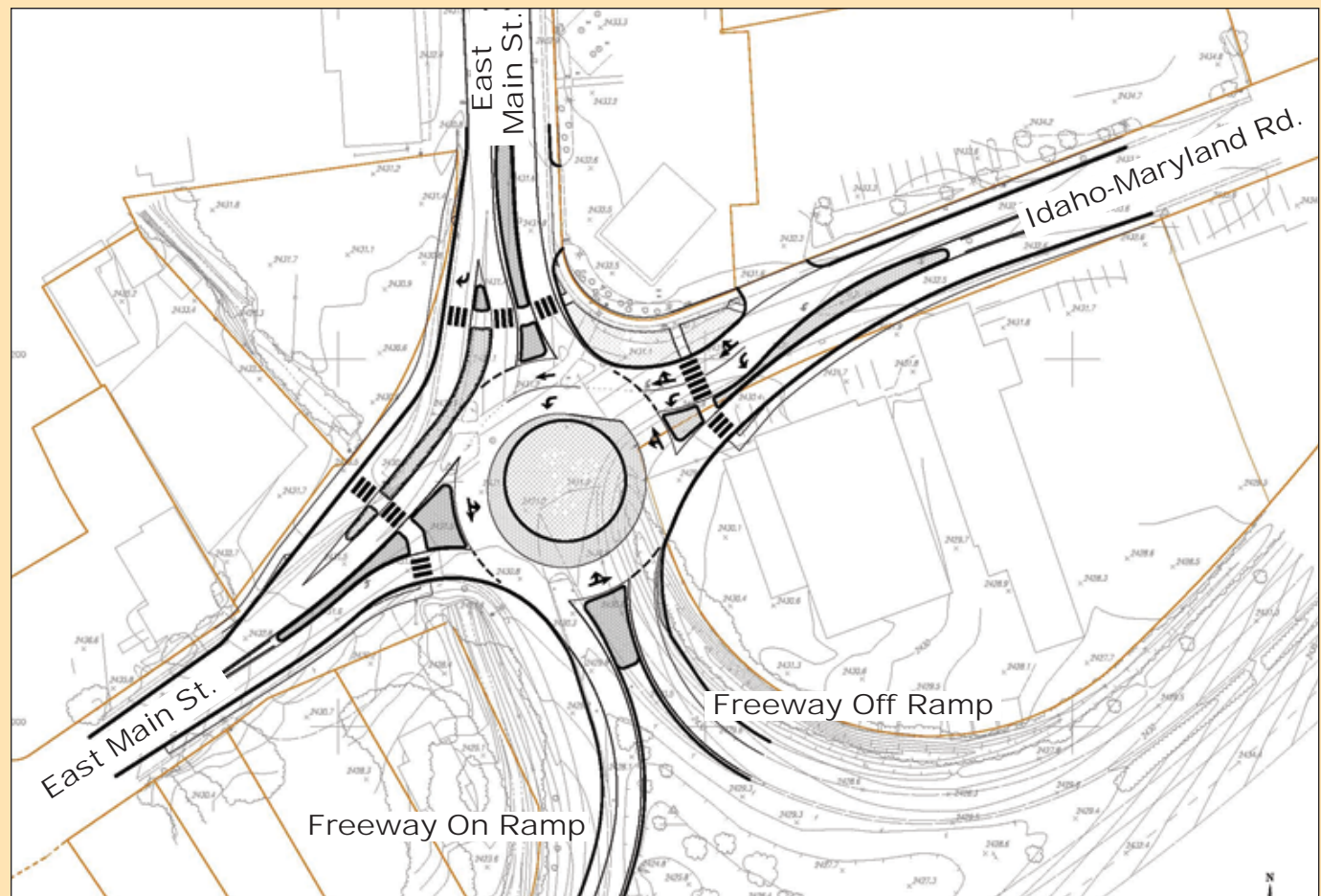
The City's Code Enforcement Division can work with property owners, residents and businesses to resolve neighborhood issues such as accumulations of debris or rubbish, hazardous building conditions or illegal uses of property. To help in reporting neighborhood issues to the City, an Investigation Request Form is now available for access on the City's website. This will enable requests to be made in person, by mail, or by way of the internet. Additional information on how to submit a request for assistance is also on the website at: http://www.cityofgrassvalley.com/services/departments/cdd/ce_overview.php

Questions can be directed to Steve Fawcett, Code Compliance Specialist, at 274-4348.



East Main/ Idaho-Maryland Intersection Improvement Project

The Engineering Department has hired Whitlock & Weinberger, Inc. (W-Trans) for civil and traffic engineering services for the evaluation and design of a modern roundabout at the intersection of East Main and Idaho-Maryland Road. Based upon W-Trans' scope of work and deliverables, it is anticipated that the process to evaluate and design the proposed project will take approximately 11 months to complete. A public meeting was held on December 12, 2006 and well attended by citizens interested in the roundabout. The City's Engineering office has a model roundabout demonstration available for citizens to view by appointment. Please call Debbie Watkins, Administrative Clerk, at 274-4373 if you would like to make an appointment to view the model or would like more information.



Dorsey Drive Interchange Project Update

On July 25th, Council approved the submittal of a letter to the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) and Caltrans providing the City's recommendations concerning the Dorsey Drive Interchange Project.

Based upon that letter, the City met with NCTC and Caltrans on September 22, 2006 to discuss the items outlined in the City's letter.

One of the many positive outcomes from this meeting was that Caltrans agreed to the City developing a conceptual alignment and typical sections for Dorsey Drive.

If the City's proposed revisions for Dorsey Drive didn't adversely affect the highway operations (main line and ramps), Caltrans agreed to proceed with the design and right of way based upon the City's concepts.

On October 24, 2006, Council approved a conceptual alignment and typical sections for Dorsey Drive based upon developing a design that reflects Grass Valley's character and allows for future expansion when needed.

Staff met with Caltrans on November 9th to submit and discuss the proposed revisions for Caltrans' evaluation. Upon completion of Caltrans' evaluation, staff will provide Council with Caltrans findings and request final approval of the Dorsey Drive concept prior to starting the final design for Dorsey Drive.



You are invited to participate in the Grass Valley Police Department Citizen Police Academy

The Academy is a 13-week program which provides instruction, discussion, and participation. Classes meet from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday nights beginning February 8, 2007.

Classes are designed to give each graduate:

- An understanding of the community policing philosophy, how it relates to the way the department functions, and how it relates to the services that the police provide.
- General knowledge of the criminal justice system and the role this Department has in it.
- An awareness of what it is like to be a police officer and an insight into the daily challenges with which officers are involved.
- Knowledge of crime prevention initiatives and how to be active in community policing.
- Information on volunteer opportunities and how to become a member of the Volunteer Patrol.

Pick up an application at the Grass Valley Police Department, 129 South Auburn Street, Grass Valley. If you would like more information, contact Detective Jason Perry at (530) 477-4600.

APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 26, 2007

Dogs in Condon Park

For a six month trial basis, beginning January 1, 2007, the City of Grass Valley will allow dogs in certain areas of Condon Park. The new ordinance, which was adopted on November 28, 2006, does not permit dogs in all City parks, only in Condon Park, and only in those areas which do not have signs



which prohibit dogs in that specific area. Dogs are not allowed in or within a park building, playground, little league baseball facility, skateboard park, or group barbeque area. In addition, all dogs and their owners must follow the rules on the signs that are posted in the park.

To help ensure the success of the trial effort, a group of community volunteers (The K-9 Commission) has stepped forward to help monitor the park, advise park visitors of the new rules, and to encourage pet responsibility. The City will also install dog sanitation stations to provide dog walkers with the means of cleaning up after their pet.

Downtown Parking Study

Wishing for more parking space in our beautiful downtown area? With the help of 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 this winter and will provide some suggestions for how parking can be expanded in the future. We'll keep you apprised! If you have questions, call Dan Chance, Associate Planner, 274-4333.



Development Code Update Moving Forward

The City is continuing to move forward with its first comprehensive update of the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances since 1965 and 1975, respectively. The goal of the update is to modernize the code, and create development standards that will help reflect, enhance, and preserve the character of Grass Valley.

To protect Grass Valley's character, the City will be considering some unique, "form-based", approaches which few agencies have undertaken. A "form-based" zoning code is a new approach being embraced by communities as a way to protect and continue the look and style of historic residential neighborhoods and commercial districts.



The code uses historic building forms and their setting to a public street or front yard as a general template for how development should occur in the future.

This fall, the City held series of workshops to review current and proposed development standards and the proposed rezoning of approximately 1,600 parcels. The first public hearing with the Planning Commission was appointed on October 17, 2006. The City Council will conduct public hearings on the code shortly.

For more information on this update, please call Tom Last at the City, 274-4711. To view the Draft Development Code on the website go to: http://www.cityofgrassvalley.com/services/departments/cdd/pub_rev_docs.php

Protection of Historic Structures within 1872 Townsite

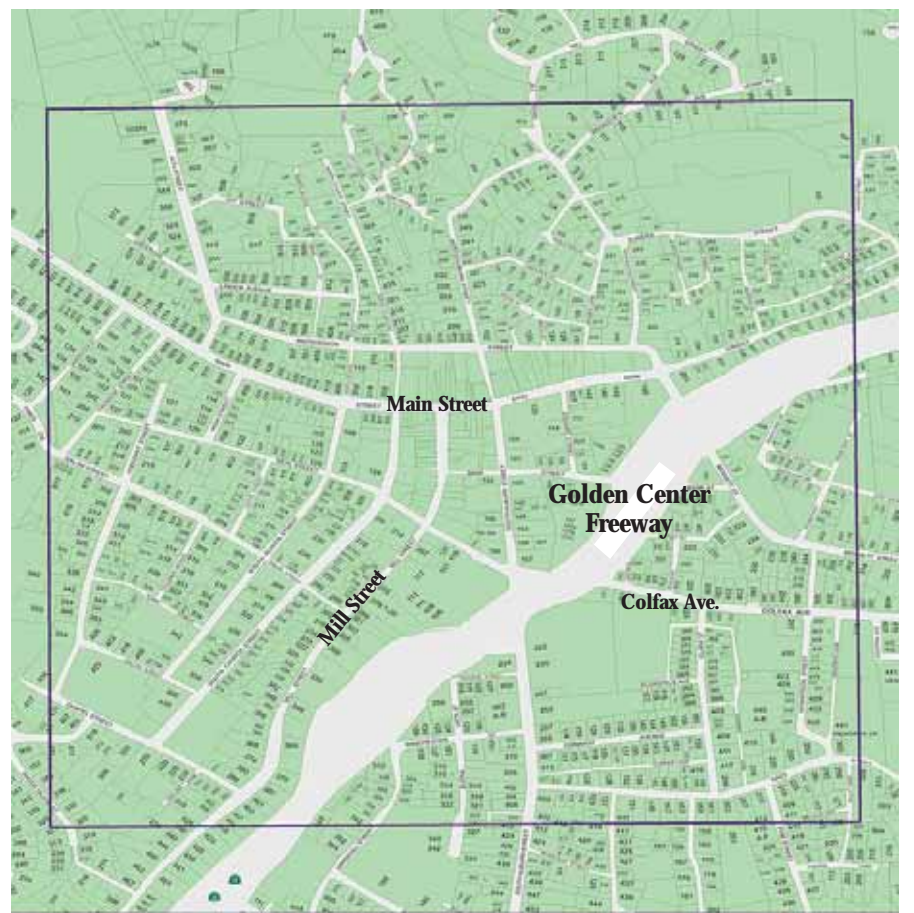
One of the goals of the 2020 General Plan is to "Place emphasis on preservation and restoration within the 1872 Townsite and 1893 and 1894 annexation areas."

The Historical Commission has been discussing the need to protect those structures and landmarks that lie within the 1872 Townsite which are truly historic and need some level of safeguards from demolition or significant alteration.

The Historical Commission will be working with the City Council on a draft historic preservation ordinance over the next year which could include an "overlay historic district" for the 1872 Townsite.

If you are interested in the protection of historic structures and a "historic preservation ordinance", please stay tuned and more information will begin to surface by Spring 2007.

Any questions about the 1872 Townsite and the proposed historic preservation ordinance can be directed to Barb Carman, Clerk to the Historical Commission at 274-4330.



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 homebuyer. 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. Come visit us to find out more. Any questions? Call Beth Owens at 274-2714.



Water and Sewer Rate Adjustments Effective January 1, 2007

Effective January 1, 2007, new rates will go into effect for both water and sewer utility accounts. The City Council adopted Resolution No. 05-81 on December 13, 2005, which authorized a series of three phased in rate adjustments on January 1, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The City kept water and sewer rates nearly the same for over a decade and the new rates will gradually bring rates back in line with the cost of providing service.

Typical Single Family Residential Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed		
		Jan. 1, '06	Jan. 1, '07	Jan. 1, '08
WATER (assumes 5/8" meter, 9,000 gallons water use)	\$24.45	\$27.71	\$31.05	\$34.77
SEWER (flat single family residential charge)	\$22.04	\$24.94	\$28.68	\$32.98

The City bills bi-monthly for water and sewer service.



GRASS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1853

A Safety Message from GVFD

Smoke Detectors Save Lives

While 95% of American homes have at least one smoke alarm, more than a third of these alarms are inoperable because of dead or missing batteries. Roughly 70% of the more than 3500 annual home fire deaths in the USA result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

As emergency responders, it is difficult to be involved in incidents in which people suffer or even lose their lives when such tragedies could so easily be avoided.

The Grass Valley Fire Department urges all residents to install smoke detectors if absent and maintain their current devices on a regular basis. We suggest replacing batteries each time you change your clocks.

Never 'borrow' batteries from your detectors or otherwise disable them, even temporarily. Test your detectors periodically to ensure they are in good working order. Our mission at the Grass Valley Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of our citizens. Please help us in this effort; you and your family's lives may depend on it.



Firefighters Contain Potential Interface Fire

On a hot summer day this past August, Grass Valley Fire Marshall Greg Burke noted a column of dark smoke coming from a known residential area and initiated a First Alarm response. Arriving engines found heavy fire showing from a residence on Leahy Road with extension into the surrounding vegetation.

In a collaborative effort between Grass Valley Fire Department, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District and CDF, the vegetation fire was contained and the fire confined to the structure of origin. Despite an aggressive interior attack the partial log home burned so intensely that extinguishment took over two hours.

The long, hot firefight took its toll with two firefighters having to be transported to the hospital for heat stress. Unfortunately the heavy flames and smoke damaged the home to a point where it could not be salvaged. Investigators later determined the fire started in the garage and had spread extensively through the basement before discovery.



A Day at the Firehouse

People often ask us about our daily routine during our shifts at the firehouse. This is a welcome question because it gives us the opportunity to dispel an old misconception that firefighters just hang around the station playing checkers waiting for calls!

Our firefighters work 48-hour shifts that start and end at 8:00 am. During the course of the shift our number one priority is to respond to emergency calls, while everything else that goes on during the day is really designed to better prepare us for those emergency situations. For example, we train and drill for two hours each day in an ongoing effort to maintain critical task proficiency and to learn new skills.

We also start each day by doing daily and weekly inspections and maintenance on all of our apparatus and equipment to ensure readiness for any situation. Additionally we are responsible for fire safety inspections, our respective collateral duties, special projects, station maintenance, physical training, and many other duties that keep the department ready for any emergency.

As a progressive fire department, it is our goal to be better than we were the day before and this commitment demands a full day's work from all of our on duty personnel.



A Major Challenge - Replacing Truck 2

Our 1980 aerial ladder truck is growing tired after 26 years of dependable service to Grass Valley. As the only ladder truck in Western Nevada County, Truck 2 has played a significant role in the control of nearly every major structure fire of the past quarter century, not only in the City of Grass Valley but in our surrounding community as well. Its 75-foot aerial can reach trapped victims quickly then attack the fire with 1500 gallons of water a minute through its elevated master stream. Time has taken a toll on this fine piece of apparatus however, and reliability is becoming an issue. Our 75-foot ladder is inadequate to fully meet the fire and rescue needs of proposed building projects such as the hospital addition or the Idaho Maryland Mine. Additionally, the All-Hazard mission of today's Fire Service requires specialized equipment and technology that is beyond the capability of the existing truck to support.

Now that Truck 2 is approaching the end of its front line service life, it is time to plan for its replacement. A new 100-foot aerial ladder truck will cost well over a half-million dollars and so presents a major budgeting challenge for our relatively small department. We are working on several approaches to manage and possibly augment funding of this expenditure, including lease-purchase arrangements; FEMA grants; donations and bequeathments such as the generous gift of the Everett Champion estate which fully funded our last fire engine purchase; and conditioning those projects whose buildings would require a longer aerial for fire/rescue.

We look forward to the day we park a shiny new 100-foot aerial ladder truck in the front line apparatus bay at Station Two and give Truck-2 some well-deserved rest as our reserve ladder; resting yes, but still ready to serve our citizens should it be called upon once again to respond.

Truck-2 on the job
All photos courtesy of
The Union



Status of Special Development Areas

The 2020 General Plan designates four Special Development Areas (SDAs) to be master planned and ultimately annexed to the City. Each SDA is to be master planned to better plan for, and address, infrastructure needs and community desires.

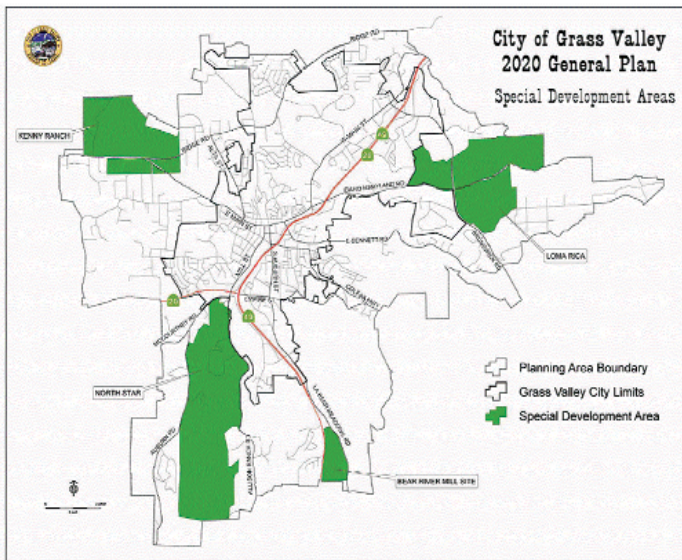
At their meeting of November 9, 2006, the Council adopted resolution #06-87 finding that the Southhill Village Master Plan generally meets or complies with the City's SDA Application Criteria. The Council directed staff to initiate the processing of the Southhill Village application and return with a scope of work for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and any applicable consultant agreements for Council consideration.

On November 13, 2006, the Council adopted resolution #06-88 finding that the Loma Rica Specific Plan did not generally meet or align with the City's newly adopted SDA Application Criteria and deferred from processing the current application. However, the Council did note that if certain modifications were made to the Specific Plan, it would be acceptable to process this application and have City staff return with a scope of work for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Once an 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 the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and several public hearings. Each SDA, if approved, would be subject to conditions to ensure that it meets the goals of the City General Plan through either the timely installation of important infrastructure, having a "Grass Valley" architecture or design theme, or that its development proceeds at a phased or incremental pace.

Expect further notice of public meetings and updates on the SDAs. Information on the SDAs is available on the City's website at www.cityofgrassvalley.com. For more information, contact the Community Development Department, at 274-4330.



Holiday Inn Express Gold Miners Inn Under Construction Spring 2007 Opening Projected

Construction is nearing completion on the Gold Miners Inn, a hotel and conference center located at 121 Bank Street with an opening date projected for Spring 2007. The project includes 80 rooms, 3,400 square feet of conference rooms and 5,000 square feet of commercial/retail space.



The lower floor of the 3-story building will 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 will have doorways opening onto Bank Street. The site includes approximately 150 parking spaces and three outdoor plazas. For more information call Dan Chance at 274-4330.

Monthly Meeting Schedules

- City Council:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street ,
- Board of Fire Delegates:** 1st Wednesday at 7:00 pm, Fire Station #2 on Sierra College Drive
- Development Review Committee:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 9:00 am, Hullender Room, 125 East Main Street
- Historical Commission:** 3rd Thursday at 3:00 pm, Bodmin Room, 125 East Main Street
- Parks & Recreation Commission:** 3rd Monday at 3:00 pm, Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street
- Personnel Commission:** 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 pm, Mayor's Conf. Room, 125 East Main Street
- Planning Commission:** 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street
- Traffic Safety Review Committee:** 1st Wednesday of even numbered months at 3:00 pm, Hullender Rm, 125 East Main Street

Thank you for commenting on this newsletter, as input that you provide assists us in improving the information and services offered to you. Mail responses to: Kristi Bashor, City Clerk & Editor, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

We're on the Web: www.cityofgrassvalley.com

2007 City Offices Holiday Schedule

- | | |
|--|---|
| New Year's Day:
Monday, January 1st | Columbus Day: Monday, October 8th |
| Martin Luther King Day:
Monday, January 15th | Veteran's Day:
Monday, November 12th |
| President's Day:
Monday, February 19th | Thanksgiving:
Thursday, November 22nd |
| Memorial Day:
Monday May 28th | Day After Thanksgiving:
Friday, November 23rd |
| Independence Day:
Wednesday, July 4th | Christmas Day:
Tuesday, December 25th |
| Labor Day: Monday, September 3rd | New Year's Day 2008:
Tuesday, January 1st |

Important City, County and National Phone Numbers

Emergency 911	Grass Valley Library 273-4117	Poison Control Emergency 1-800-222-1222
Animal Control 477-4630	Human Resources 274-4713	Public Works 274-4350
Business Licensing 274-4300	Memorial Park Swimming Pool 477-4650	Veteran's Services 273-3396
City Clerk 274-4310	National Suicide Prevention Hotline . . 1800-273- 8255	Voter Registration 265-1298
Engineering 274-4373	Nevada County Health Dept 265-1450	Water and Sewer Billing 274-4300
Fire Department Business Line 274-4370	Parks and Recreation 274-4350	Weather Information 274-4363
Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce 273-4667	Planning 274-4330	
Grass Valley Downtown Association 272-8315	Police Department Business Line 477-4600	