

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE

by Bob Lund

"VILLAGE TIDBITS"

By Toni Pelletier

Antique - Belonging to the distant past in the style of past time. I believe that describes a lot of us - Oh, sorry, my thoughts came through my fingers.

Back to the subject, I want to introduce our Antique Shops in the Village. First, we have a just opened store at 405 E. Branch St. next to Arroyo Grande Realty. Gretchen's Antiques was immediately a fun place to be. John and Gretchen, owners, are friendly, excited, and willing to share their knowledge of Antiques. So, on your way to Chameleon Fabrics & Furniture, stop in, say hi and browse. I told them you would.

Just a hop, skip, and jump across the street is A Glance Into The Past. Wow, this store is Huge! Mike, owner, has an incredible inventory. I got caught up in the rare and old labels, the beautiful glass wear, and a back yard full of wrought iron. Don't miss it.

Heading west, we come to the Village Antique Mart. Established in 1989, I remember Celia, owner, with long, long hair. (Funny I would notice that.) Now with short, short hair, Celia is still bubbly and busy. I wish I had days to look at all the Antiques, but, I managed to find a bowl to a set that was missing one, a poodle to add to my collection and I drooled over a beautiful Waterford bowl for truffles or cavier. A section of all red and white items caught my eye and I can't wait to go back.

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"OTHER HAPPENINGS"

We will be having our annual election for members of the AGVIA Board of Directors at our general meeting this month. Please see the attached materials concerning the election. We are fortunate that most of the existing Board members have all agreed to run for the position for the coming year. The exception is that Eddie El Helou will not be available since he has volunteering conflicts. The rest are doing an excellent job and also do a lot of volunteering throughout the year. Greg Steinberger has been acting as a Board member guest for many of the meetings this year as he is very interested in being back on the Board. Kari Ziegler has expressed an interest in serving. Kari is new to the Village and does desire to become more involved. Do not forget, there are seven members to be elected with eight persons running for the Board.

If you have not heard about the new proposed oil drilling in the Huasna Valley area, you need to become informed. Exceleron, the Australian oil firm that is interested in doing the drilling, is back with an ambitious proposal to drill 12 new wells. Visit www.huasnavalley.org for more information. It is important that we all become informed so that we may stay aware as to how this may impact our community.

The bioswale project behind City Hall (in Olohan Alley) is supposed to be completed by the end of August. This will include the placement of boulders and the planting of trees and plants.

(continued)
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Next door is a double fun shop. Part Old Fashioned Candies & part Antiques, Desire is definitely a must see kind of place. I would love to do my salon over with the beautiful vanity tucked in the back room. Darn, there is only one. I also enjoyed going through the old Simplicity, Mc Calls, and Butterick patterns. I believe I recognized a couple that my mom made. Unfortunately, Stevie, owner, is liquidating the Antiques to make room for a new project and surprise. 30% off most items is in progress. I'm there!

Down the street, near Doc Burnstein's, is a store that keeps your head spinning. Posies has a large selection of Antique furniture, vintage inspired jewelry, heritage lace and dolls to name a few of the many treasures you'll see. Laura, owner, will be very helpful if you're trying to mix or match.

If you're crossing the Swinging Bridge to see the Historical Society's museums, which is always worth the walk, go across the park to The Green Vase. Connie, owner, has done a great job restoring her 1886 Cottage and filling it with unusual pieces and International Antiques. Open Wed. - Sat. Stop in and see what will make you smile.

So, for that trip down memory lane, just check out the Antique Stores in our own Village.

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Other Happenings

The City will be redoing the Car Corral with a new single entrance/exit off Branch Street. The project will include resurfacing all of the parking areas, restriping all of the car spaces and the creation of a walkway by the cleaners with additional planting areas in the Corral. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

The Harvest Festival is scheduled to occur on Friday evening, September 24th and Saturday, September 25th, with the parade occurring on Saturday starting at 10:00 am. Be aware that there will be street and alley closures and we will give you further information as soon as we get the details of the closures.

The City has formed a Centennial committee to start planning for our 2011 centennial. There are four committees; events and activities, marketing, publicity and fund raising. We anticipate having many events and fund raisers. One of the most significant happenings will be the advent of the closure of Short St. from Branch to Olohan Alley to create a "Centennial Park Plaza". If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please give me a call at 710-4049.

The Arroyo Grande tourism committee is working on a logo and tag line for the City. Barnett & Cox is working with the tourism committee in an effort to promote tourism for the City of Arroyo Grande. The committee is comprised of representatives from the City, the food industry, the Historical Society, the hotel industry and businesses in the Village. The Village is the most important draw to tourists due to its charm and the historical resources that reside here.

History of Arroyo Grande Revealed Images of America; Arroyo Grande

Available August 29th!

New from Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series is Arroyo Grande. In over 200 vintage photographs, local authors Jean Hubbard and Gary Hoving along with the South County Historical Society share the history of Arroyo Grande.

Located midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, the Arroyo Grande Valley was founded during the period of the Mexican land grants. In 1837, the San Manuela Rancho was granted to Francis and Manuela Branch. The rich soils and mild coastal climate created a wonderful location to build a home, grow crops and raise livestock.

While livestock production has diminished, it has been replaced by a growing wine industry and field crops continue to flourish. Arroyo Grande remains one of the most pleasant and safest environments to live and work and maintains much of its historic village commercial area with little change over the past 100 years.

All proceeds from the book are being donated by the authors to the South County Historical Society.

Highlights of Arroyo Grande:

Contains many images that have never been published before from the South County Historical Society archives.

Includes a tribute to a local community hero; a fallen police officer.

Delivers the first book of its kind that is dedicated solely to the community of Arroyo Grande.

Gary and Jean will be available to sign copies of Arroyo Grande; Images of America on August 29th from 2 pm to 5 pm at the South County Historical Society IOOF Hall on Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande.

For more information visit,
www.SouthCountyHistory.org

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, August 27th 2009

Branch Street Deli 8:00 am

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Introduction of attendees**
- 3. Election of Board Members**
- 4. Office and Financial report**
- 5. Old Business**
 - Car Show**
 - Summer Concert Series**
- 6. New Business**
 - Tourism Committee**
 - Car Corral**
 - Centennial Committee**
- 7. City of Arroyo Grande report**
- 8. Guest Speaker: Joe Cortez, retired Police Chief of Pismo Beach and candidate for SLO County Sheriff.**
 - Topic: "Surviving the Great Recession: Tips, Tricks, and Tactics to Avoid Getting Ripped Off."**