



VILLAGE NEWS

Arroyo Grande Village Improvement Association Newsletter • January 2008

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE

by Bob Lund

2007 IN REVIEW

We had quite a year. Many new and exciting things happened and continue to happen to the Village. Your Association is very active in making the Village a more attractive and distinctive destination for locals and tourists alike.

What happened during the year:

- We purchased new banners for all of the new light poles that we now have in the Village at an additional cost of over \$6,000.00.
- We purchased and had erected a new, bold sign on the 101 freeway south of town for a cost of \$5,000.00.
- We, along with the City of Arroyo Grande, sponsored the creation of Arroyo Grande in Bloom. It now has a core management group of 13 people, coordinated by Bob Lund and Jim Bergman from the Community Development Department. It also has recruited over 50 volunteers that assist in the eight areas that the City will judged on for the America in Bloom competition. We came in second in our population size in 2007 and are endeavoring to come in first for 2008. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Bob Lund at 710-4049.
- We welcomed many new businesses in the Village during the year. These include Vintage Home, Stella Casa, Mari Robeson, Jillians, Reach Mortgage, Sophie's Soaps, Wildwood Winery plus a new owner for The Wardrobe.
- The City hired a new Fire Chief and a new Police Chief during the year and we enjoy working with both of them.
- The Strawberry Festival was the most successful and well run that we have ever had.
- The Summer Concert Series was a smashing success with crowds of more than 300 for every concert.
- State relinquishment of Highway 227 through the Village commenced during the year.
- The City received a grant from SLOCOG for the enhancement of Branch Street.
- Plans were approved for the beautification of Nelson Green with more trees and street lights and a new sidewalk.
- The Car Sho in July was a very well attended event for the Village as was the Car Cruise night on East Grand.
- The Harvest Festival enjoyed another successful year under the leadership of Doug Perrin and Vivian Krug.
- Halloween in the Village was nicer this year with increased help from the Police Department and no parking on Branch Street.
- The Christmas Parade was great thanks to Eddie El-Helou and his crew.
- The Elegant Evening for Christmas was a big success thanks to Verena Maier and the Village Board of Directors.
- And, thanks to Gene Nonella, our Christmas decorations were the best ever.

Let's do it again. Happy New Year!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 24, 2008
Branch Street Deli 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of attendees
3. Office and Financial report
4. Old Business
 - Christmas in the Village
5. New Business
 - Strawberry Festival
6. City of Arroyo Grande

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BRANCH STREET ENHANCEMENT:

Update From the Community Development Department

The long-awaited presentation of Branch Streetscape Enhancement Project by RRM Design Group is finally scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12 at their regular City Council Meeting. After a year of design refinements and revisions to include in-ground street trees, new furniture, corner and mid-block bulbouts, safety crosswalks at Bridge/ Nevada and Short Street, as well as storm drainage, lighting, electrical and irrigation systems, the Branch Streetscape project cost estimates will be included. The construction schedule will be dependent on completion of the State Highway 227 relinquishment expected by Spring 2008, but may also require supplemental grant funding from SLOCOG and increased City Capital Improvement Project funding.

A special City presentation to the Village Association meeting, in February or March 2008, will also include progress reports on the Village Green enhancements, Traffic Way Streetscape improvements and Downtown Parking Projects.

EAST BRANCH STREETScape:

Update From the City Manager

Planning continues on the E. Branch Streetscape Project. Consideration by the City Council has been delayed to the February 12, 2008 meeting due to additional work under way on cost estimates. Cost projections are currently over the existing budget, which consists primarily of State and Federal grant funding. As a result, City staff is working with the the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) on additional funding requests, as well as developing recommendations for additional local funding.

The project includes new street furniture, bulbouts, decorative and lighted crosswalks, and street trees. Also under consideration will be a future option of closing Short Street to construct a mid-Village plaza area and upgrade of the Car Corral parking lot.