We Thought You Should Know…

While there are many projects going on within the City of Goleta, these four projects are worth highlighting as the work may impact the routes you take on a daily basis.

Los Carneros Overhead Bridge

The Los Carneros Overhead Bridge, the bridge that goes over Union Pacific Railroad, will be replaced. It will take approximately 18 months to complete and the project is expected to start this spring. Construction will be staged so that at least one lane is open in each direction.

This project will replace the existing bridge which is structurally deficient. The new bridge will be widened to accommodate an additional right turn lane, with modifications designed for experienced and inexperienced cyclists. This new right turn lane is needed to accommodate future increases in vehicles taking the southbound on-ramp onto Highway 101.

Community Input Leads Old Town Park Process

Plans for a park in Old Town Goleta are moving forward, and the community is excited to see what will fill the four-acre parcel near the corner of Hollister Avenue and South Kellogg Avenue. Over the last 18 months, the City held three well-attended community meetings as well as several smaller stakeholder meetings with youth, seniors and other residents of the neighboring park areas. At the most recent meeting, three conceptual park designs were unveiled. The public had the opportunity to weigh-in on their preferred plan as well as individual design components, site layout issues and a range of amenities and activities.

The design team then took all of the feedback and created a single concept plan. This latest plan envisions a multi-use sports field, basketball court, handball court, bocce ball court, skateboard plaza, playground, picnic areas, walking paths, fitness nodes, restrooms and a small parking lot. It also includes enhancement of the existing habitat and protection of the Sister Witness Tree.

With the park project comes the opportunity to create a creekside multi-use path along the west side of San Jose Creek from Armitos Avenue to Hollister Avenue. This effort is part of a larger bike path plan that would connect Cathedral Oaks to Goleta Beach. (For more information, look up San Jose Creek Bike Path—Southern Extent at www.ProjectGoleta.com.)

Sworn In

Councilmembers Jim Farr and Ed Easton (pictured above) took their Oath of Office at the December 4 council meeting. The newly-elected Farr and reelected Easton will serve four-year terms. Roger Aceves was appointed Mayor and Michael T. Bennett was named Mayor Pro Tempore.

Margaret Connell was also recognized for her eight years of service to the City. She was elected in 2002 and 2008 and served as the City’s first mayor. Thank you Margaret!
Apply Today!
$20,000 in Community Grants Available

Goleta’s Community Project Grant Program offers a unique opportunity for local organizations and groups to receive funds for programs that serve City residents. The goal of the program is to benefit as many people as possible while supporting a range of community activities.

This year the City has $20,000 budgeted for this program, and the Council looks forward to granting this money to be used in our community. Awards are limited to $2,500 per grant with the average grant being $1,000. Last year’s recipients included Pathpoint, Friendship Adult Day Care Center, Food from the Heart, SB Channelkeeper, Goleta Valley Community Center, Goleta Valley Senior Center, Friends of the Goleta Library, City at Peace, Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center, Goleta Valley Historical Society and Partners in Education.

The application period ends on January 11. The Mayor and two appointed community members evaluate the applications and make a recommendation to the City Council. The Council then awards the grants at a meeting in the spring. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to help your non-profit or community group.

For more information, download an application from the City’s website or contact Karen Dorfman at 805-961-7523 or kdorfman@cityofgoleta.org.

Your Vote Made a Difference

Goleta voters overwhelmingly passed Measure H which increased the local transient occupancy tax (TOT) from 10% to 12%, effective January 2013. It was one of 15 of 18 TOT increases passed statewide including three local measures in Buettton, Carpinteria and Solvang. This increase, which is generated through hotel stays, is expected to provide the city with an additional $1 million annually. The City Council will be looking at how to best allocate these funds. Additionally, the Council will begin working on its two-year budget which begins in July 2013. A number of Council workshops will be held during the first six months of 2013 to review priorities and funding requests by the City’s various departments.

Look for more information on how your tax dollars are being used in upcoming issues of the Monarch Press.

The Monarch Press is produced by the City Manager’s office. Contact Valerie Kushnerov, Editor, at 805.961.7507, or themonarchpress@CityofGoleta.org with questions or comments. The newsletter is printed on (50%) recycled paper stock (15% post-consumer waste), using soy-based ink and distributed to all City of Goleta residents and businesses as bulk rate U.S. Mail. Additional copies are available at City Hall, the Goleta Library, and the Goleta Valley Community Center. The Monarch Press can also be downloaded from the City’s website.
Each fall, monarch butterflies in the western United States migrate to the coast of California, and the City of Goleta is one of their favorite locations to roost during winter. The City is preparing a Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan for the over-wintering sites located on the Ellwood Mesa. This plan is intended to document existing habitat conditions, identify low impact habitat improvement strategies to promote the long-term stability of the butterfly population, implement related policies in the City’s General Plan and the Ellwood Mesa Open Space Plan and support community awareness of butterflies and their habitat.

The City hosted a public workshop in February 2011 to garner input on the development of the plan. A second public workshop was hosted by the City in November 2012 to present the draft plan and proposed habitat management concepts. Community members were able to learn about the plan and dialogue with City staff and the butterfly consultants who helped create the plan. The draft plan is now in its final stages of revision. The Goleta City Council will receive a status report on the development of the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan in early 2013. Environmental review and permitting will follow in 2013.

For more information, visit our website www.cityofgoleta.org or contact Anne Wells, Advance Planning Manager, at 951-7557 or awells@cityofgoleta.org.

Goleta Welcomes New Director of Planning and Environmental Services

After an extensive search, the City of Goleta hired Jennifer Carman, AICP, as the new Director of Planning and Environmental Review. Ms. Carman started this position on December 10. She replaces Steve Chase who left the City in June to take a position as Community Development Director for the City of Stockton.

“We are fortunate to find a candidate with Ms. Carman’s strengths and experience to manage our Planning and Environmental Review Department,” said City Manager Dan Singer. “As Goleta moves into its next 10 years, we have a number of opportunities and challenges, and Ms. Carman will be an instrumental part of our management team as we seek to address them. We are glad to have her working in the City of Goleta.”

Ms. Carman comes to the City of Goleta from the City of El Cerrito where she was the Development Services Manager, overseeing building, planning and code enforcement. She has experience in developing zoning policy, implementing a permit tracking system and achieving certification of a housing element—all items which are on Goleta’s project list.

Ms. Carman received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz and her Master of City Planning at Georgia Institute of Technology. She began her career in Ketchikan Gateway Borough in Ketchikan, Alaska. From there she moved to the City of Seattle and later to the City of Mercer Island.

Trails Project Design Underway: Community Input Needed

Ellwood Mesa provides one of the largest contiguous open space areas along the South Coast and provides a range of opportunities for outdoor activities. In the spring of 2012, the Santa Barbara County Trails Council approached the City of Goleta with a proposal for a trail and habitat restoration design project on Ellwood Mesa, focusing on the Coastal Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail. The City and the Trails Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that enabled the Trails Council to utilize Coastal Conservancy and Goleta Valley Land Trust funding for the project.

Two public workshops were held last fall to garner input from the public regarding possible trail design concepts and restoration ideas. The City and the Trails Council are in the process of refining the design based on this input. Next steps include a presentation to the City Council and the development of project alternatives so that environmental review can begin.

For more information, visit the project page at www.ProjectGoleta.com or contact Sara Iza, Advance Planning Division Associate Planner, at 961-7544 or siza@cityofgoleta.org.
Green Building Encouraged

The Goleta City Council demonstrated its commitment to sustainability when it adopted a largely voluntary Green Building Program last October. The new program, which took effect on January 1, will include access to free resources such as information about green building best practices, utility rebates and financing options.

To promote the use of green building practices, a variety of incentives are available. These include rebates of 50% of the land use permit fees for residential additions and other small projects, priority processing through the city’s planning and building process and expedited building plan checks. These incentives are for projects that voluntarily meet certain standards or complete the Energy Upgrade CA and/or emPowerSBC programs.

The Green Building Program was developed over the last two years through a community stakeholder process that included the City’s advisory group, the Green Ribbon Committee. The Green Ribbon Committee included representatives from the design, construction and development communities.

Leading by example, the Council committed to a higher standard for its own government facilities when it adopted a policy requiring LEED Silver certification for most new City buildings.

Information on Goleta’s Green Building Program can be found on our website at www.CityofGoleta.org or by contacting Cindy Moore, Senior Planner, at cmoore@cityofgoleta.org or 961-7547.

Sister Witness Tree

The Sister Witness Tree is the largest known California sycamore in the United States. It’s referred to as the “Sister Witness Tree” because of its proximity to the “Witness Tree” located across Hollister Avenue. The Sister Witness Tree measures 52.2’ in circumference, has a 95.5’ canopy and a height of 94’.

Goleta Valley Beautiful (GVB) nominated the Sister Witness Tree for the designation of largest California sycamore after rescuing the tree from overgrowth. GVB is a non-profit organization that works in Goleta to insure the beauty of the Goleta Valley.
Understanding Goleta’s General Plan

The General Plan is an often referred to, yet frequently misunderstood document. It is a hierarchy of land use planning regulations. Every city, regardless of its size or location, has a General Plan which guides future physical changes and public decision making within a community. It serves as a set of rules for a community to make decisions and balance competing interests. City departments use the Plan as a guide in setting work programs and when applying for grants to fund specific projects.

Eighteen distinguishing qualities and characteristics about Goleta are identified in our General Plan. These include statements on the value of open space and ecological resources, scenic vistas, small-town atmosphere, healthy business climate, active recreation and many more!

Goleta’s Plan strives to create a coherent vision for the City’s future and builds upon the individual and sometimes conflicting visions of a diverse population. This overall community vision forms the foundation for the plan’s goals, objectives and policies. The City’s first General Plan was adopted in 2006 after years of research and public input. It guides all future growth, including the supporting public facilities, and governs the regulation of land use and development through various codes or ordinances such as the zoning code, building code and design review ordinances. The General Plan is a living document and is periodically amended to respond to changing conditions or community values. Accordingly, our General Plan has been amended through the public review process.

How does the General Plan impact me?

A General Plan can be described as a “road map” for decision making in a city. The Goleta General Plan designs our future and how to address growth, housing, environmental protection, neighborhood compatibility and preservation and transportation. It effects you! The General Plan identifies transportation improvements, new park locations, future housing sites and more. For example, a future overcrossing between Calle Real and Hollister is required by our General Plan to improve the quality of our street system. General Plan policy impacts our every day life.

How do I learn more?

The City’s Advance Planning Division provides annual General Plan updates to the Planning Commission and the City Council. The presentations are hosted during regularly scheduled public meetings. The annual report assesses the level of implementation and effectiveness of the General Plan as a guide for orderly growth and development, preservation, conservation of open space land and resources, and the efficient expenditure of public funds.

The General Plan is provided on the City’s website under Advance Planning.

Be Prepared for Winter Storms

In preparation for the start of the rainy season, the City of Goleta is taking steps to prepare for the wet weather. All year long, the City’s regular bi-monthly street sweeping program ensures that debris does not enter the storm drain system and surface pollutants are prevented from reaching the ocean.

The City’s public works crew has been hard at work inspecting and clearing culverts and storm drain inlets to ensure they can handle the flow of rainwater.

**Winter Weather Tips:**

- Inspect your roof for leaks.
- Clean out gutters, downspouts and roof drains.
- Check public storm drains in your neighborhood and report obstructed drains to the City at 961-7570 or through the City Alert system. (Go to the City’s website to report a problem.)
- Keep private yard drains clear of debris.
- Reset automatic irrigation systems for wetter months.
- If you have experienced flooding in the past or are in an area that floods, keep a supply of filled sandbags on-hand to protect your property (available at Fire Stations 11 & 14).

Better to be safe than sorry! Plan ahead.

Call City of Goleta at 961.7500 or visit our website at www.CityofGoleta.org.
We’re Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

The Council recently established a Parks & Recreation Commission and a Tree Advisory Commission. The City is looking for Goleta residents willing to serve the community on one of these boards.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be comprised of seven members serving four-year terms. One of the seven members will be a student member (15 years or older) who will serve a one-year term. Six meetings will be held annually and members will receive compensation of $50/meeting. Since Goleta does not currently have any recreational programming, the primary charge of the new Commission will be to develop a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan and help the Council set goals, policies and priorities for future actions.

The Tree Advisory Commission will be comprised of five volunteers who are appointed by individual council members. Members of the Public Tree Advisory Commission should have an interest in and/or experience in urban forestry or landscaping. Each Commissioner’s term will be equal to that of the Councilmember that nominated the Commissioner. This Commission will advise the Council, City staff and the City Arborist in developing plans and goals for the Goleta Urban Forest, represent the interests of the community, work to resolve conflicts between community members and urban forestry policy and inform the community of the Urban Forestry program. Meetings will be held on an as-needed basis.

For more information on these opportunities to serve, contact Deborah Constantino, City Clerk, at dconstantino@cityofgoleta.org or 961-7505.

PROJECTS TO KNOW CONT. FROM P. 1

Creek. The existing culverts do not adequately handle the volume of water running through these creeks during winter storms—thus the flooding in the Carlo Drive/Calle Real area. These culverts will be replaced with larger volume bridge structures that will increase the capacity to handle a 25-year storm event. (They are currently designed to handle a 10-year storm event.) While the project is underway, the Fairview northbound on-ramp is expected to be closed for 12-18 months, and the Fairview southbound on-ramp is expected to be closed for six months. While the northbound on-ramp is closed, traffic will be rerouted to use the Los Carneros on-ramp. Having the new roundabout at Los Carneros and Calle Real will help handle the increased volume.

Caltrans is leading the project and will be doing the work under Calle Real and Highway 101. As part of the project, Santa Barbara County Flood Control will be replacing the bridges that carry the railroad tracks over these creeks as well. The project is tentatively scheduled for 2014. However, because of the impacts, it is important to notify the community that it is upcoming.

Ekwill Fowler Roads Extension Project

This project will extend Ekwill Street and Fowler Road across Old Town Goleta from Kellogg Avenue to Fairview Avenue. The new streets will make it easier to get across Old Town without having to use Hollister Avenue and will improve access to the airport. In addition, the project will create roundabouts at the Hollister Avenue and Route 217 ramp intersections as well as at Fairview and Fowler Roads and Ekwill Road and Pine Avenue. The project is in final design now, and work is expected to begin in early 2014.

Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement

The Hollister Avenue Bridge which crosses over San Jose Creek has been found to be structurally deficient and needs to be replaced. Once the Creek Project is completed, work will begin on replacing this bridge. When the project is underway, lane closures on Hollister Avenue will be in effect. However, at least one lane will stay open in each direction. This project is expected to begin in early 2014 and last for 12-18 months.

The City is working with the other involved agencies to stagger these projects to minimize the impacts.

Check www.ProjectGoleta.com for more information.
Los planes para un parque en el Centro Antiguo (Old Town) de Goleta están avanzando, y la comunidad está emocionada de ver lo que va a llenar el terreno de cuatro acres cerca de la esquina de Hollister Avenue y Kellogg Avenue. En la reunión más reciente, tres diseños conceptuales del parque se dieron a conocer. El público tuvo la oportunidad de comentar en su plan preferido, así como componentes individuales de diseño, problemas del sitio de disposición y una serie de servicios y actividades.

El equipo de diseño tomó todos los comentarios y creó un plan de concepto único. Este nuevo plan contempla un campo de deportes de usos múltiples, cancha de baloncesto, cancha de balonmano, petanca balonvolea, plaza para patinetas, juegos infantiles, áreas de picnic, rutas de senderismo, nodos de acondicionamiento físico, aseos y un pequeño estacionamiento.

¿QUÉ ES EL ESTADO ACTUAL DEL PROYECTO?
El personal de la Ciudad está llevando a cabo la revisión ambiental, y la Ciudad está procesando una modificación del Plan General y cambio de zonificación de la parcela de residencial y comercial a la designación más apropiada de parques y recreación. El diseño del parque será revisado por el Comité de Diseño, la Comisión de Planificación y el Concejo Municipal dentro de los próximos meses.

¿CUÁNDO SE ABRIRÁ EL PARQUE?
La Ciudad le gustaría comenzar la construcción en 2013 y abrir el parque en el verano de 2014. El calendario depende de si las comisiones gubernamentales hacen cambios significativos y las condiciones meteorológicas durante la construcción.


Ekwill Fowler Carreteras Proyecto de Extensión
Este proyecto extenderá la calle Ekwill y el camino Fowler a través del Centro Antiguo de Goleta (Old Town) de Kellogg Avenue hasta Fairview Avenue. Las nuevas calles harán más fácil el viaje a través del Centro Antiguo sin tener que utilizar Hollister Avenue y mejorará el acceso al aeropuerto. Además, el proyecto creará glorietas en las intersecciones de Hollister Avenue y Ruta 217 y en los caminos Fairview y Fowler y los caminos de Ekwill y Pine Avenue. El proyecto se encuentra en el diseño final ahora, y el trabajo se espera que comience a principios de 2014.

Reemplazo del Puente Hollister Avenue
El puente de Hollister Avenue, que cruza sobre el Arroyo San José se ha encontrado para ser estructuralmente deficiente y debe ser reemplazado. Una vez que el Proyecto San José se ha completado, se comenzará a trabajar en el reemplazo de este puente. Cuando el proyecto está en marcha, el cierre de carriles en Hollister Avenue estará en efecto. Sin embargo, al menos un carril permanecerá abierto en cada dirección. Este proyecto se espera que comience a principios de 2014 con una duración de 12-18 meses.

La Ciudad está trabajando con otras agencias gubernamentales para escalonar estos proyectos para minimizar los impactos.

Goleta Library

The Goleta Library has more than just books!

Check out these fun activities for people of all ages:

**January 12 • 2:30 – 4:30 pm**

Adults can make beautiful Valentine wreaths using roses made from recycled book pages.

**Jan. 13, Feb. 2 and March 10 • 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Family Game Time. All ages are welcome to play a wide assortment of board games we’ll provide.

**January 23, 24, 25 and March 7, 8, 9 6:00 – 10:00 pm**

SAT Study Hall at the Library for teens. We’ll provide study space and a pizza break so you can study for the SAT held on Jan. 26. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Goleta Library.

**January 26 • 2:00 – 3:00 pm**

Adults can make beautiful heart bookmarks.

**February 6, 7, 8 • 6:00 – 10:00 pm**

ACT Study Hall at the Library for teens. We’ll provide study space and pizza while you study for the ACT to be held on Feb. 9th. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Goleta Library.

**February 16 • 2:00 – 3:30 pm**

Teens can make dog biscuits for shelter dogs.

**March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 10:30 am – 12:15 pm**

Family Place Workshops. Available for children ages 0-3 (accompanied by an adult) will enjoy playing with educational toys, meeting other children and parents, talking with community experts, and learning lots of new things.

**For more information on any of these events, please call the Goleta Library at 805-964-7878.**