

# City of Grass Valley



## Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operating Budget

**--THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK --**

# **CITY OF GRASS VALLEY**

**Jan Arbuckle – Mayor**

**Hilary Hodge – Vice-Mayor**

**Bob Branstrom – Council Member**

**Tom Ivy – Council Member**

**Haven Caravelli – Council Member**

**Tim Kiser – City Manager**

**Taylor Day – City Clerk**

**Andy Heath – Finance / Administrative Services Director**

**Alex Gammelgard – Police Chief**

**Mark Buttron – Fire Chief**

**Bjorn Jones –City Engineer**

## **COMMUNITY PROFILE**

The City of Grass Valley dates from the California Gold Rush and was incorporated in 1860. Grass Valley is the largest city in the western region of Nevada County and is situated in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range at roughly 2,500 feet elevation. It comprises of 4.7 square miles with a population of 13,488.

Grass Valley is the location of the Empire Mine and North Star Mine, two of the richest mines in California. Many of those who came to settle in Grass Valley were tin miners from Cornwall, England. They were attracted to the California gold fields because the same skills needed for deep tin mining were needed for hard rock (deep) gold mining. Many of them specialized in pumping the water out of very deep mining shafts. The mines produced well during the Depression of the 1930's, but closed temporarily during World War II. Not long after the war, production costs went off the scale, and almost one hundred years after it started, it was over. One by one the great mines closed down leaving behind colorful history, miles of subterranean tunnels and shafts - and gold.

Mill Street and its intersection with Main Street, the heart of Grass Valley, still retain much of the historic flavor of the Gold Rush. The spirit that established commercially successful quartz mining helps Grass Valley remain the commercial center of Western Nevada County. The Grass Valley/Nevada County Chamber of Commerce has worked to attract more visitors to appreciate the City's colorful history and structures. An active Downtown Business Association helps maintain a vital business climate. The City of Grass Valley remains committed to providing an attractive and quality environment in which to live, work, play and thrive.

Grass Valley still holds on to its Cornish heritage, with events such as its annual Cornish Christmas and St Piran's Day celebrations. Pasties are a local favorite dish with a few restaurants in town specializing in recipes handed down from the original immigrant generation. Grass Valley is also twinned with the Cornish town of Bodmin, United Kingdom.

