



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
dstutsman@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us

August 7, 2009

Food to Energy Pilot Program

A source of methane is commercial food waste. Marin Sanitary Service (MSS) estimates that 12% of the local solid waste stream is made up of organic waste, including commercial food waste. Approximately 50% of the solid waste, after recyclable materials are removed, transported for disposal at Redwood Landfill is food waste.

The Central Marin Sanitation Agency has been recovering methane generated in their wastewater treatment digesters and using that biogas to provide power for their facilities. Currently, 50% of CMSA's power is generated from this biogas.

The City of San Rafael accepted a \$20,000 grant from PG&E in 2008 to develop a report on methane capture feasibility in the Central Marin area. CMSA funded an additional \$25,000 for the study. The study, completed by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, investigated the feasibility of processing local commercial food waste with CMSA's existing anaerobic digesters to be used as fuel for the engine generator to produce energy to power CMSA facilities.

The study, presented in February 2009, identified that the City of San Rafael, CMSA and the Marin County community would gain the following benefits from using food waste to generate biogas:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally in Marin County.
- Divert up to 15 tons of commercial food waste from Redwood Landfill with a possibility of additional future diversion from residential food waste.
- Provide over 50,000 cubic feet per day of methane biogas and 230KW of renewable energy to the CMSA facilities.
- Enable CMSA to achieve greater energy self sufficiency and potentially export excess power, estimated to be up to 200 kilowatts.
- Maximize the use of CMSA existing infrastructure.

Since the February report, the following actions have occurred:

- CMSA Board approved a work plan for the pre-design of the project.
- CMSA received letters of interest to provide the required food waste from MSS and Mill Valley Refuse Service.
- CMSA received a legal opinion that CMSA has the statutory authority to pursue the project.

- Investigation of grant sources for the facility's design and construction.
- Project revenue sources have been identified.
- Preliminary discussions held with PG&E regarding purchasing energy that is generated in excess of CMSA plant operation requirements.

Now that the CMSA Board has approved the work plan, CMSA staff is offering presentations on the project concept to cities and towns in their service area. To date, CMSA staff has given presentations on the concept to San Rafael, Larkspur, Corte Madera, Fairfax and San Anselmo and all five have passed resolutions supporting the pilot program.

There is no fiscal impact to San Anselmo at this point. The estimated cost of the food separation facility proposed to be located at MSS is \$1.1 million, with a net annual savings of \$185,000 per year and a payback of 5.5 years. The estimated capital cost of the food waste processing facility at CMSA is \$2.7 million with a net savings of \$450,000 per year and a minimum payback of 3.8 years and a maximum payback of 6 years, depending on revenue streams.

The Town is currently negotiating a new contract to provide refuse and recycling services with MSS. Any future impact to the rates from this program would have to be approved by the Town after receiving cost estimates and rate impacts.

MMWD Program

Marin Municipal Water District is offering free high-efficiency toilets (HET's) to businesses and multi-family sites under the HET Direct Install Program.

Eligible MMWD customers can receive the American Standard Cadet© 3 FloWise© toilet supplied and installed for free by a licensed GreenPlumber. This new, high quality toilet has received excellent scores on rigorous flushing performance tests.

By taking advantage of the Direct Install program, businesses/multi-family sites can save money two ways: 1) by getting a free toilet with free installation and 2) on future water bills by using less water per flush.

For more information or to apply for the program, visit www.mmwdfreetoilet.com or call (415) 945-1437. Act now! Toilets are available on a first come, first served basis, or until funds run out.

San Anselmo News, published weekly on Fridays, available at San Anselmo Town Hall, Library, on the Public Notice Bulletin Board, and in the Ross Valley Reporter. Also available on the Town's website, www.townofsananselmo.org, and by email subscription. To subscribe to the email list, send an email to townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us.



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
dstutsman@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us

August 14, 2009

Basic Street Skills for Cyclists

The Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) is offering classes on cycling street skills in an ongoing effort to improve bicycle safety in Marin County.

In just two hours, students learn how to safely and confidently ride a bike on the road. Topics covered include how to avoid crashes and citations, improve visibility, ride between and through intersections, and learn legal rights and obligations.

Admission to the class is free. Classes are open to individuals ages 16 and up. Advance registration is required. You won't need your bicycle unless you plan to ride it to the class.

Classes are currently scheduled on the following dates. Please check www.marinbike.org for confirmation of class dates & locations.

- Thursday, July 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Mill Valley Community Center, Mill Valley
- Thursday, September 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Mill Valley Community Center, Mill Valley
- Thursday, October 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Marin General Hospital, Greenbrae
- Monday, November 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, Parks & Recreation, Sausalito

To sign up, provide your name, address, email, phone and class date in one of the following ways:

- On-line at www.marinbike.org
- Fax to (415) 456-9344
- Email to streetskills@marinbike.org
- Call MCBC at (415) 456-3469, ext. 8#

Classes are held eight times per year at various locations throughout Marin County. Check the WalkBikeMarin website at www.walkbikemarin.com or the MCBC website at www.marinbike.org for the most current information.

After attending the class, the Marin County Superior Court allows for a traffic infraction citation fee reduction to \$50, regardless of the fine received by the bicyclist.

Overnight Parking Ordinance

The Town Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 15, to hear public comment and input on the overnight parking ordinance.

Under consideration is the possibility of allowing permitted overnight parking on streets which are sufficiently wide to allow for two vehicles to park and still leave ample room for passage of emergency vehicles.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Music in the Park

The Art Commission's Music in the Park has been ongoing each Sunday since July 26. The final two events are Sunday, August 16 and Sunday, August 23.

On August 16, Rusty Evans and Ring of Fire will perform. Revolver with special guests the Liddypudlians will perform on August 23.

The concerts are free and take place at Creek Park from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Film Night

Creek Park is also home to the popular Film Night in the Park. The remainder of the 2009 summer schedule is as follows:

Friday August 14	Lost in Translation
Saturday, August 15	Ratatouille
Sunday, August 16	Duel
Friday, September 4	Klunkerz
Saturday, September 5	Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure
Sunday, September 6	Rear Window

All shows begin at 8:00 p.m. Suggested donation \$6 adults, \$3 children.

San Anselmo News, published weekly on Fridays, available at San Anselmo Town Hall, Library, on the Public Notice Bulletin Board, and in the Ross Valley Reporter. Also available on the Town's website, www.townofsananselmo.org, and by email subscription. To subscribe to the email list, send an email to townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us.



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
dstutsman@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us

August 21, 2009

Street Smarts

Street Smarts is a traffic calming program provided by San Anselmo and the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). It is designed to make our streets safer and friendlier and to reduce the number of traffic-related accidents. The program's intent is to raise public awareness about attitudes and actions on the streets, to improve safety for school children walking and biking to school, and to offer new ways of thinking about the role each of us can play as part of a Street Smarts solution.

The program begins in San Anselmo next week. Signs are going up around San Anselmo reminding everyone of their responsibility to help keep our streets safe.

Dutch Elm Disease

You may have noticed that three of the elms on the Red Hill Avenue median are looking unhealthy and their leaves are turning brown. Unfortunately, these three trees have been diagnosed with Dutch Elm Disease and will have to be removed. This work is scheduled for the end of August. They will be replaced with disease-resistant trees.

Fall Recreation Guide

The Fall 2009 Recreation Activity Guide is available now. Activity guides can be found at the Recreation office, at Town Hall and in the Library. Program information is also available online at www.townofsananselmo.org/recreation.

Library Events

Book Babies starts again on Sept. 21 and runs through Nov. 9. Book Babies is a program presented by the San Anselmo Library for children ages 0 - 4. The program includes toddler story time, and sing-alongs, as well as songs & rhymes using puppets and finger plays. Book Babies will be held in the Town Council Chambers at 10:00 a.m. on the following Mondays: September 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9. No registration is required.

The San Anselmo Library Book Group will discuss *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski on Tuesday, Sept. 15. at 7:30 p.m. in the Library at 110 Tunstead Ave. All are invited to participate.

To find out more about library programs, upcoming events or library hours please check out the library website at <http://sananselmolibrary.org>.

Back To School Safety

It's school time again! Just like teachers, books, and homework go hand in hand with the school year, so should safety.

According to local studies 27% of morning traffic is attributed to parents driving their children to school. This has caused increased traffic congestion around schools. As children of the Ross Valley gear up for back to school, please drive cautiously and keep in mind these safety tips:

TIPS FOR MOTORISTS

- When a school bus or children are present slow down and proceed with caution, obeying all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Always stop for a school bus that has stopped to load or unload passengers. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm tell you the school bus is stopped to load or unload children under certain conditions State Law require you to stop.
- Be alert and ready to stop. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops. Watch for children arriving late for the bus, which may dart in to the street without looking for traffic. When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods or school zones, watch for young people who may be in a hurry to get to school and may not be thinking about getting there safely.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Help your children learn and practice the safety rules for walking, cycling or riding in a passenger car, school bus or transit bus.
- Supervise young children as they are walking or biking to school or as they wait at the school bus stop.
- Be a good role model, especially when you are with your kids. Always buckle up in the car, always wear a helmet when biking, and always follow pedestrian safety rules.
- Children under 13 years should ride in the rear seat of vehicles.
- Make sure young children are in safety seats at all times, and that the seats have been properly installed.

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- Choose a safe route to school. Look for the most direct route with the fewest street crossings.
- Don't walk alone – travel with a buddy.
- Do not play in the street while waiting for the bus.
- Follow all traffic signals and markings.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bike.

San Anselmo News, published weekly on Fridays, available at San Anselmo Town Hall, Library, on the Public Notice Bulletin Board, and in the Ross Valley Reporter. Also available on the Town's website, www.townofsananselmo.org, and by email subscription. To subscribe to the email list, send an email to townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us.



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
dstutsman@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us

August 28, 2009

Animal Nuisance Complaints

San Anselmo has a town ordinance in place prohibiting dogs from habitually barking so as to unreasonably disturb the peace of any person.

Because we live in a community where pet ownership is not uncommon, complaints of incessantly barking dogs are routinely reported to the town. Over the summer months, the Police Department has received an increase in the number of complaints regarding such animal behavior.

In an effort to remind pet owners of their responsibilities, the Police Department has created an “Animal Nuisance Complaint” pamphlet detailing solutions to commonly reported complaints. The pamphlet outlines the Marin County Code for animal behavior along with tips on how to resolve commonly experienced pet issues, such as:

- A neighbor’s dog that continually barks and disturbs the peace
- A dog that barks only when someone passes by the residence
- Pet noise issues that can be resolved before they become a code violation

If you’re a pet owner, please be responsible and considerate of your neighbors.

The Town pamphlet entitled “Animal Nuisance Complaints” is available to the public in the lobby at the Police Department and is available on the Town’s website.

FireSafe Marin

A combination of many factors, including gusty warm winds, high temperatures, low humidity, steep hills, dry vegetation, narrow roads, and densely populated neighborhoods, contribute to fire hazards. The fire season is upon us and it is important to take action to help reduce the risk of wildfire

Last fire season the County of Marin provided the grant funding to make the FireSafe Marin DVD, “Marin on Fire: Preparing for the Next Urban Fire” available to residents of San Anselmo. These DVD’s were distributed by volunteers to residents and businesses. If you did not receive one, stop by Town Hall and pick up your FREE FireSafe Marin DVD.

Guidelines To Help Make Your Home Safer From Wildland Fire Danger

- Keep tree limbs trimmed at least 10 feet from the chimney.
- Sweep gutters and roof on a regular basis, especially during the dry, hot weather of fire season.
- Remove all dead limbs from the roof.
- Provide a safety clearance zone of 30 feet minimum and up to 100 feet depending on the slope of your parcel.
- Maintain your landscape by trimming and removing dead or dying vegetation.
- The wise gardener can create a beautiful and fire-safe garden with careful drip irrigation and sharp pruning shears.
- Be sure that your address is visible from the street. If there is an emergency, precious time could be lost if the fire department has trouble locating your address.

Please feel free to contact the Ross Valley Fire Department (258-4686) for additional information or if you have questions about your efforts to protect your property from fire.

Bay Bridge Closure

The Bay Bridge will be closed beginning on Thursday, September 3, beginning at 8 p.m. through Tuesday, September 8, at 5 a.m.

The Golden Gate Bridge will remain open during this period. However, the Golden Gate Bridge and Transportation District advises that traffic over the Golden Gate Bridge and on Highway 101 is likely to be very heavy due to the Bay Bridge closure.

The District advises that Marin residents avoid traffic delays in the Highway 101 corridor by taking public transit, staying home, or leaving town early ahead of the closure and returning after the Bay Bridge has reopened.

Motorists are advised of the very strong likelihood for lengthy delays in specific areas if people decide to drive. It is likely that access to the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco city streets will be difficult. In addition, traveling between the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and Highway 101 will be difficult.

The Bridge District has information on their website regarding alternative modes of transportation at <http://goldengate.org/news/baybridgeclosure.php>

San Anselmo News, published weekly on Fridays, available at San Anselmo Town Hall, Library, on the Public Notice Bulletin Board, and in the Ross Valley Reporter. Also available on the Town's website, www.townofsananselmo.org, and by email subscription. To subscribe to the email list, send an email to townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us.