



## San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager  
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January 9, 2009

### Watch the Inauguration

Tuesday, January 20 is the official inauguration of the President of the United States. In acknowledgement of this historic event, and as a service to our residents, the Town of San Anselmo will have the inauguration events playing on the big screen in the Town Hall Council Chambers all day.

The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. our time and will be followed by the 2009 Inaugural Parade and coverage of the many Inaugural Balls. These events will be on the big screen all day and the public is invited to stop by and share the moment with friends and neighbors. Refreshments will be provided.

### Military Honor 21-Gun Salute

On Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:15 pm, the United States Army will be holding a funeral service at the First Presbyterian Church on Kensington Road. The service is being held in honor of a longtime Kentfield resident, retired Army Major General Stuart D. Menist.

As a way of paying tribute to Major General Menist's many years of dedicated service to his country, a military honor guard will perform a twenty one gun salute immediately following the service. The service is expected to last approximately one hour with roughly three hundred people in attendance paying their respects.

If you reside in the immediate area, traffic delays should be expected.

### Upcoming Library Events

- **Book Babies:** Stories and songs for children 0-3 years will be performed by our Town Librarian Sara Loyster in the Town Council Chambers at 10 a.m. on Mondays, January 12 and 26 and February 2, 9 and 23. No program on January 19 or February 21 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and the President's Day holiday.
- **Book Discussion Group:** Join the group for a lively discussion of Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates on Tuesday, January 27. On Tuesday, February 17 the group will discuss How to Read Like a Writer by Francine Prose. The book discussion group meets in the Library at 7:30 p.m.
- **Friends of the Library Book Sale:** The Friends will hold their monthly book sale on Saturday, February 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Town Hall lawn and on the first floor of the Library. In case of rain, the sale will be held in the Council Chambers.
- **Valentine's Day Romance:** Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, this event features a talk by Katie Hafner, author of the book "A Romance on Three Legs," a history of Glenn Gould's

- obsessive search for the perfect piano. The program will include music by classical musicians Charmian Stewart and Robin Ravazzini. It will be held on Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Refreshments will be served after the event.
- **Valentine's Day Duct Tape Roses:** On Saturday, February 14, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., join us at the Library to make duct tape roses. All ages welcome.
- **Art in Action:** The Friends of the Library are sponsoring an Art in Action program: Making Colorful Sudanese Masks. In honor of the One Book, One Marin selection for 2009, What is the What by Dave Eggers, St Anselms' 1st and 2nd grade classes will learn about Sudanese culture and mask making. Tuesday, February 24 at 1:30pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers. For more information, please call the library.

## **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**

Town Hall offices and the Library will be closed on Monday, January 19, in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. As always, the Police Department and Fire Department personnel will be on duty.

## **MMWD Pipeline Replacement Project**

The Marin Municipal Water District will be replacing the pipeline on San Anselmo Avenue between San Rafael and Ross Avenues this spring.

An informational meeting on this project will take place on **Thursday, January 22, 2009, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Student Center at Sir Francis Drake High School, 1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.** MMWD will talk about the construction schedule and the conditions that will be in place during construction. While public inconvenience is always a factor when pipelines are being replaced, the District and the Town have worked together to address the impacts anticipated, as follows:

- Construction will start in March 2009 and finish in May 2009.
- Due to the heavy traffic levels in downtown San Anselmo during the day, the work will occur primarily at night, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. The night work will be mostly in March and April.
- San Anselmo Avenue will be closed in the work area during work hours.
- Some paving and other work will occur during the day.
- During non-work hours, all streets will be open and accessible with a temporary pavement.

Both the contractor and MMWD will make every effort to minimize traffic disruptions and noise during construction and to ensure public health and safety. More details will be provided about the construction schedule, work staging, traffic, noise and parking impacts as we approach the start date.

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January 16, 2009

### Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, January 13, 2009 the Town Council took the following actions:

- Set a public hearing for Tuesday, February 10, 2009 regarding a property exchange at the easterly end of Creek Road.
- Directed staff to gather more information regarding the possibility of putting a Transient Occupancy Tax (a tax on hotel rooms) on an upcoming ballot.
- Discussed zoning ordinance changes that would facilitate the planning application process for minor deviations from the Town's development standards. These include relaxing current rules around accessory structures backing up to Red Hill Avenue or Center Blvd., as well as built in outdoor barbecues and counters, one car carports and garages, covered porches and dwelling extensions, all of which frequently encroach into the setbacks. Also discussed were fence heights and vegetative screening.
- Appointed Barbara Thornton to serve as the Town's representative to the Marin Energy Authority Joint Powers Authority. Ford Greene was appointed as the alternate.

### Ross Valley Seniors

The Ross Valley Seniors group, sponsored by the Recreation Department, meets once a month to socialize, learn new things and enjoy meals together. All are welcome to attend a meeting for \$5 or join the RVS for only \$20 per year.

Come at 11 a.m. for social time, a walk, bocce ball or board/card games. For February and March the group will meet in the Fairfax Women's Club Building, beginning at 11 a.m. The schedule is as follows:

11:00 a.m. to 12 noon	Social, walk, bocce ball or board/card games.
12 noon – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Program

The program schedule for the next two months is:

February 5  
March 5

Writing Your Own Oral History with Arnie Scher.  
Historical Lecture with John Martini on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Please be sure to RSVP to 258-4669 so they can plan for lunch.

## **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are needed for the Town's Art Commission and the Measure G Monitoring Committee.

The Arts Commission provides a structure to facilitate the creation of art in all disciplines in the community, promoting and exhibiting art and cultural works produced by Ross Valley artists, and promoting art education in the community and schools. The Commission consists of nine members and meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall conference room. There are three seats available. Persons from the Ross Valley are encouraged to apply.

The Measure G Monitoring Committee is responsible to monitor the implementation of the program for improvements to San Anselmo's streets and storm drains. The Measure G Committee is composed of two Council members and six members of the public, with a range of skills, knowledge, and experience in finance (preferably public finance), engineering and/or construction (preferably storm drainage projects), public relations and communication, and familiarity with various aspects of the San Anselmo community. The Committee consists of six members and meets as needed, but no less than annually. There is one seat available.

If you would like more information on these opportunities or an application, go to <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/committees/index.htm> or call Jeannie Courteau at 258-4691.

## **Tunstead Walk and Rail Replacement Project**

Work is nearly complete on the Tunstead Walk and Rail Replacement Project. The work included replacing the concrete barrier between the walkway and Sir Francis Drake Blvd., which was badly deteriorated. The walkway structure, which was rusted and the surface was slippery in winter, was replaced as well. The project was funded by a grant from the federal government and will cost just over \$500,000.

The sidewalk leading to the bridge at Tunstead and on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., on the east side of the roadway, was closed during the project. We apologize for any inconvenience this sidewalk closure caused. Hopefully, the results will be worth it!

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January 23, 2009

### **Inauguration Day**

More than 75 people filled the Town Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 20, to share in the inauguration ceremony and festivities. It was an opportunity to share the historic moment with fellow San Anselmo residents. Many participants commented on how meaningful it was to share the event with the community. Thank you to all who came!

### **Bridge Dedication**

On Saturday, January 31, at 11 a.m., the Town will be dedicating the new Tunstead walkway and bridge to a prominent San Anselmo resident. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

### **Police Press Log**

The Police Department Press Log is available on the Town's website. The log lists all the calls received by the San Anselmo Police Department each day. The press log can be viewed at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/policerpt/index.htm>.

### **Overnight Parking**

The San Anselmo Municipal Code prohibits overnight parking on the Town's streets and roadways. The rule is that no person may park a vehicle on any street for a period of time longer than 30 minutes between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day.

The overnight parking ordinance was enacted with considerable resident input to protect our citizens, as well as to maintain the aesthetics of the community. Many of our streets are very narrow and winding, and were not intended for current levels of traffic. The ordinance allows traffic to flow smoothly and helps to ensure clearance for emergency vehicles.

Another benefit of the overnight parking ordinance is crime prevention. Cars that do not belong in a particular area become more visible to our officers on patrol. This has netted the Police Department numerous arrests of criminals who otherwise might have gone unnoticed parked amongst other vehicles.

Lastly, the overnight parking ordinance enhances the aesthetics of our community by keeping the streets uncluttered, helping to maintain home values and enhancing the quality of life for all those who live and traverse our Town.

There are exceptions to the rule. An overnight street parking permit may be issued by the Police Department with an application and fee payment under the following conditions:

- A guest parking permit purchased for \$1 per day may be issued for up to seven days.
- A permit for one night only may be purchased for \$1 if a vehicle becomes disabled and cannot be moved until the following morning.
- A hardship permit purchased for \$50 may be issued for not more than twelve months, provided that the vehicle is regularly needed, no off-street parking space is available, the garage or other parking space has not been converted without Town permission, and another vehicle on the premises cannot be displaced without similar hardship.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call the Police Department at 258-4665.

## **Newsletter List – Your Help is Needed**

One of the greatest challenges in local government is communicating with our constituency. The Town newsletter is proving to be a valuable way to keep the residents and merchants of San Anselmo apprised of what is going on in Town.

In order to broaden the base of the newsletter listing, a reader has suggested that I ask each of you to mention the newsletter to San Anselmo friends and suggest that they sign up to receive the newsletter electronically. Signing up is easy. Just send an email to [townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us).

Thanks for your help.

## **San Anselmo History Museum**

The San Anselmo Historical Museum features a Town Timeline, great historical photos, videos, special exhibits and archives available for research. Children are encouraged to come to the museum and will receive a free coloring book on San Anselmo history.

The Museum is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon, on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on other Saturdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, contact the Museum docents at the these times or leave a message at 258-4659.

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January 30, 2009

### **Coyotes in the neighborhood**

Coyotes have been seen in the Indian Rock neighborhood of San Anselmo and residents have expressed concerns about these coyote sightings. The Marin Humane Society offers the following information about coyotes.

Coyotes are part of the natural landscape of Marin County. Throughout the year, coyotes take advantage of the opportunities within residential neighborhoods. In addition, coyotes may be more defensive this time of year if they are rearing pups.

It is not uncommon for coyotes to be seen in urban areas, especially those that adjoin open space. There are a number of things that you and your neighbors can do to ensure that these animals stay wild and neighborly.

- Never intentionally or unintentionally leave a food or water source on your property (do not store or leave pet food outside).
- Admire coyotes as wild creatures; do not attempt to approach them or make friends with them.
- Make coyotes visiting your property feel unwelcome: Shout at them, make loud unusual noises, spray them with a garden hose, and throw small objects toward them. These are all “vexing” techniques.
- Keep companion animals safe with proper supervision and confinement especially at dawn and after dusk.
- Walk your dog on a leash in areas where coyotes have been sighted.
- Make your yard “coyote proof.” Remove attractants (such as bushes next to home walls), enclose decks and staircases, reduce rodent populations, contain all waste and compost, and remove ripe and fallen tree fruit.
- Report all coyote sightings to the Marin Humane Society at 883-4621.

Coyotes play an important role in our local ecosystem and it is vital that we learn to live with them. Please don't hesitate to call the Marin Humane Society with any questions.

### **Newsletter List – Your help is much appreciated!**

Many thanks to all who sent my last newsletter to San Anselmo friends, urging them to become a member of the newsletter's email distribution list. I've received many new signups!

Signing up is easy. Just send an email to [townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us).

## Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of January 27, 2009, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Authorized the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Baird + Driscoll Community Planning for preparation of the Housing Element Update due to the State in 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$38,000. The Housing Element is the blueprint for future housing development in the town. It includes goals, policies and programs that direct residential decision making. State law requires that local governments update their Housing Element every five years.
- Received an update report from Public Works Director Rabi Elias regarding ongoing projects, including the Fire Station, Town Hall floodproofing, Safe Routes to Schools and Safe Paths to schools projects in the Wade Thomas and Brookside neighborhoods, and the Greenfield utility undergrounding project.
- Approved the expenditure of \$150,000 to share the cost of paving San Anselmo Avenue from Tamalpais Avenue to Ross Avenue with the Marin Municipal Water District in the amount of \$150,000. The project will be undertaken after MMWD replaces the water main down San Anselmo Avenue this spring.
- Directed staff to hold a public hearing in the next several months to assess public opinion regarding placing a measure on the November ballot to institute a Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) on hotel rooms in San Anselmo.
- Approved the mid-year budget review, allocating funds for a replacement emergency generator, a replacement compressor for the emergency warning horn and an allocation to the Insurance Fund to cover higher than expected workers compensation costs. More on this topic next week.
- Reviewed minor changes to the Zoning Ordinance suggested by the Planning Commission and Planning & Building Director.
- Received a presentation from PG&E regarding their proposal to provide clean energy to Marin and responding to questions raised by the Marin Clean Energy authority.
- Approved the recommendation of the Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee to join the Franchiser's Group, request Hilton Farnkopf do a rate review of our current garbage rates, and increase refuse and recycling rates as of 1/1/09 the contract rate increase of 3.48%. In addition, the Council directed staff to work with Marin Sanitary to implement the dual-sort cart program as soon as possible in San Anselmo for an additional 7% added to the rates. (More next week.)

## Suggestion Box

If you have suggestions, questions or comments for Town staff, please don't hesitate to ask us. We're here to answer your questions and concerns. Most often, others are wondering the same thing and the response can be shared with the community. Please feel free to email me at the above address.

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