



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
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January 8, 2010

New Year Goodbye's

2010 has begun without two of the Town's key staff members. Finance and Administrative Services Director Janet Pendoley and Planning and Building Director Lisa Wight both retired at the end of 2009.

Janet Pendoley started working for the Town in 2001. In her nine years with the Town, she guided the Town through a period of extreme fiscal distress and her financial acumen was invaluable in keeping the Town on a stable footing. JP, as she is known at Town Hall, has the rare skill of being able to communicate complicated technical information to laypersons. You may have seen JP walking her daily late afternoon loop through downtown San Anselmo and Shady Lane! JP's husband, Bob, worked for Corte Madera, and he retired last month, too.

Lisa Wight began her career in San Anselmo in 1977. She started as a steno clerk and over the next 30 years went from Steno Clerk to Planning Secretary to Planning Assistant to Planning Technician to Planner to Associate Planner and to Senior Planner to Planning Director to Planning and Building Director. In addition, she served as the Interim Planning Director on three different occasions! Lisa has dedicated her entire working career to ensuring San Anselmo retains its small town charm through equitable and well thought out planning policies. Her husband, Ted, a Police Captain, retired from the Town several years ago.

2010 U. S. Census

April 1st is census day. Ensuring an accurate census count of residents is an urgent priority for local officials from now through April 1, Census Day. If California's population is undercounted cities and counties could lose between \$3 billion and \$5 billion in federal funding.

It is estimated that the state loses \$1,300 every year for each person who is not counted.

Types of funding that are determined using census data include community development block grants and social services. Census information also helps drive decisions about the locations of school, roads, hospitals, senior centers and other vital infrastructure.

The information collected by the census is confidential. By law, the census bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies. Census workers take an oath to protect the confidentiality of census responses.

The 2010 census has only 10 questions, unlike the 2000 census which used a long questionnaire. The 2010 form should take just a few minutes to complete.

Key Census Dates

<u>Feb. – March 2010:</u>	Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
<u>April 1, 2010:</u>	Census Day.
<u>April – July 2010:</u>	Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
<u>Dec. 2010:</u>	By law, U.S. Census Bureau delivers population counts to President Obama for apportionment.
<u>March 2011:</u>	By law, U.S. Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information regarding the U.S. Census go to www.californiacompletecount.org.

Flu Vaccination Information

Free H1N1 flu vaccinations are now available to everyone. Vaccinations are available by appointment only.

For the month of January 2010 vaccinations will be given on Tuesdays between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and Thursdays between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Marin Health & Wellness Center, 3260 Kerner Blvd. in San Rafael.

For other advice or questions about H1N1 Flu call the H1N1 flu line at (415) 473-6823 or visit the website www.marinflu.org.

In addition:

- Vaccinations (with an administration fee) are available at several pharmacies and other locations. Updates will be posted at www.marinflu.org.
- Children 9 years and younger who have received their first dose, need a second vaccination at least 21 days after the first one.
- It's not too late to get vaccinated. Flu season usually peaks in January or February.

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January 15, 2010

Weather Forecast

The weather forecast is for a significant series of storms to move into our area beginning on Sunday, January 17, and continuing through the following week. The storms have the potential to bring substantial rainfall, perhaps as much as 6 inches over the next week. Sand and sand bags are available on Sunny Hills Drive adjacent to the tennis courts for San Anselmo residents and merchants. Please stay tuned to local media for further updates.

Flood Gates

The weather has been relatively mild so far this winter, but the potential for flooding is still real. Business owners and tenants are encouraged to “flood proof” their businesses. It is a relatively simple matter to construct flood gates in preparation for high water. It can be as simple as a plywood sheet with some type of gasket around the edges that you can secure to the building to seal the entrance.

Don't forget to:

- Make sure the walkway below the panel is smooth so the gasket makes a seal.
- Make a panel for all entrances (front, back or side doors!)
- Seal all penetrations through the walls and floors below the anticipated flood level. (vents, pipes)
- Mark in big letters which door the panel fits and which side is designed to face which way.
- Make sure all hardware or tools needed to install the panels are readily available. Hang them in a bag attached to the panel.
- Make sure everyone understands how to install them.

When flood gates need to be installed, it may not be during the best of conditions. It may be in the middle of the night, it probably will be raining, and there may be no power. Those that have panels already made should pull them out ahead of time and refresh your memory on how they should be installed.

Go to the town web site (www.townofsananselmo.org/building) for a sample design. Drop in at Town Hall and talk to the Building Official, Keith Angerman, if you have any questions.

Town Council meeting notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, January 12 the Council took the following actions:

- Received a report regarding the Building and Energy Retrofit and Solar Transformation (BERST) effort. This is a countywide effort aimed at creating a model green building ordinance for the cities and counties to consider for adoption.
- Received a report from the Ross Valley Sanitary District as part of their community outreach efforts. The RVSD representative talked about the mission of the district and the work for which they are responsible.

- Conducted a public hearing and adopted a resolution determining the existence of a public nuisance and ordering that the property owner of 122 Sycamore Ave. abate the public nuisance existing at the property and reimburse the town for its costs and fees. This means that the property owner must move forward within an approved schedule to have the house demolished.
- Adopted the resolution approving the refunding of the Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA) Bonds. The authority needs the approval of its member agencies in order to refund the bonds at a lower interest rate. This will result in \$1.3 million in additional revenue for the authority, funds that are needed for system improvements. The refunding will not increase the amount of the debt nor will it extend the repayment time period.

Ross Valley Artist Show

The San Anselmo Arts Commission and the Ross Valley Winery are cosponsoring an art show exclusively featuring Ross Valley artists. The show opened this week and runs through April 14th. The seventeen Ross Valley artists selected to participate include Annie Bates-Winship, Stephanie Blythe, Nancy Cichetti, Marc Demian, Barbara Dwyer, Michael Feldman, Kathy Johnson, Barbara Lawrence, Kevin Lozaw, Jane McPherson, Nancy Nichols, Kate Pepper, Alex Sarkisian, Ruth Schafran, Noel Stubblefield, June Yokell and Marty Zwick.

The Winery is located at 343 San Anselmo Avenue, and is open from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. All of the art pieces on display are available for purchase.

Flood Mitigation League Meeting

The Flood Mitigation League of the Ross Valley will hold a public meeting on Thursday, January 21 from 7:30 to 9 PM at St. Anselm's school. The meeting will be held in the Molinari Room, 40 Belle Ave., San Anselmo.

Jack Curley, Flood Zone 9 Capital Planning and Project Manager, will give a slide presentation about the planning for flood mitigation and a timeline for the projects. He will also take questions from the audience. This is an opportunity for those who missed the last Flood Zone 9 update to hear it, as well as to catch up on flood planning news. Sandra Guldman from Friends of Corte Madera Creek will also talk about the environmental considerations and creek conditions.

Police News

The Twin Cities Police Department will be temporarily relocating its dispatchers to the San Anselmo Police Department on January 19, 2010. Twin Cities Dispatch will work out of our state of the art dispatch center while the new Twin Cities police station is built. The new Twin Cities station will be ready for occupancy in June of 2012. There will be no change in the level of service from either organization to its citizens.

Citizens of San Anselmo will continue to have access to the San Anselmo Police front counter from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week for normal business. Access to the Police Lobby will continue to be available 7pm to 7am by contacting the on-duty San Anselmo dispatcher with the phone outside the lobby door.

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January 22, 2010

Creek Level Monitoring

The San Anselmo creek water level can be monitored by going to the following link:
<http://www.rossvalleyfire.org/Home/community-education-1/creek>

It can also be accessed by going to the Town's website at www.townofsananselmo.org and scrolling down to DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION. The link to the creek water level gauge is item 1.

Upcoming Town Council Agenda

The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, beginning at 7 PM. The tentative agenda is as follows:

- Award federal grant project for the pedestrian crossing improvements at Saunders Avenue and Madrone Avenue at Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
- Consider request of the San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce to hold the annual Art and Wine Festival to Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18.
- Hear report from the Ross Valley School District regarding planning for additional classroom space.
- Receive second quarter report from staff on the 2009-10 goals and objectives.
- Consider expenditure of funds to complete accessibility requirements and needed repairs on the Town Hall doors.

Library News

The Friends of the San Anselmo Library will hold their next book sale on Saturday, February 6 from 10:00 to 4:00 on the lower level of the Library at 110 Tunstead Avenue. They hope to have lots of new stock. Donations of clean, crisp, recent paperbacks or hardbacks are enthusiastically accepted at the Library during open hours. Children's books are especially welcomed.

The San Anselmo Library Book Discussion Group will discuss *Remembering the Bones* by Frances Itani on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30 in the Library. The Book Group, which has been meeting together since 1996, is open to everyone and welcomes new members. Both men and women are regular members of the group and all adult age groups are represented. For a list of

titles read during the past two years, go to the Library's website at <http://sananselmolibrary.org> and click on [SAPL Book Discussion Group](#) under [Library Info](#) on the left side of the page.

Dog Owner Reminder

I'd like to remind dog owners about a San Anselmo ordinance about dogs.

Persons walking dogs in San Anselmo are required to clean up after their pets. This means that you should be prepared to clean up after your pet on any public property, or private property that isn't yours. You are responsible to dispose of it in a sanitary manner.

It really isn't a hard law to comply with. When walking your dog, carry along a plastic bag for cleanup, and dispose of the bag in a trash can when you get home.

The benefits of this ordinance are great for our whole community. Parks, sidewalks, front lawns, and gutters can be waste free and all residents can walk without worry.

Everybody has to do his or her part, however, to keep San Anselmo dog waste free. Avoid a fine and carry a plastic bag on walks with canine friends. Together we can make San Anselmo a model of cooperation.

Ross Valley Seniors

The Ross Valley Seniors (RVS) offers local senior citizens the chance to socialize, learn, and meet new people. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month in various locations around the Ross Valley. Meetings offer organized social activities including bocce ball, fitness activities and education, and games followed by lunch and a presentation from a guest speaker, often a local historian.

On February 4th, the group will meet at the Fairfax Women's Club (46 Park Road). Pre-lunch activities begin at 11:00 a.m. and include a walk and bocce ball. Lunch will be served at noon in the Women's Club. February's guest speaker is Branwell Fanning, Marin historian and former mayor of Tiburon. He will discuss his latest book, "Maritime Marin", the story of the shipwrecks and shipbuilding in our history, interspersed with tales of English pirates and Yankee whalers.

A RVS annual membership costs \$20. A drop-in fee for non-members is \$7.00 per month. First time guests are welcome to attend a meeting at a reduced cost of \$5.00. If you would like more information about the Ross Valley Seniors program, please contact Dana Gibson at the San Anselmo Recreation Department at 258-4669.

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January 29, 2010

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of January 26, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Presented the Quality of Life Green Award to Joyce Brown of Elan, for organizing a weed cutting patrol and taking part in other environmental projects.
- Proclaimed February 14, 2010, League of Women Voters “Making Democracy Work” Day, in honor of the organizations 90th anniversary and their important work in ensuring the right to vote.
- Approved the request of the San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce to hold the annual Art & Wine Festival on Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18.
- Received a presentation from Sharon Sagar, Ross Valley School District Trustee, on the school district’s planning for increased numbers of students (more below).
- Awarded the pedestrian crossing improvement project on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. at Saunders and Madrone Avenues to Mike Brown Electric Corporation. Work should begin on the crossing in March.
- Awarded to United Access & Security the repair project for the repair of a number of the Town Hall doors in the amount of \$22,893.
- Received staff’s report on progress toward the 2009-10 Goals, which include providing excellent customer service, utilizing technology to improve service delivery and efficiency and utilizing green technology to reduce the Town’s carbon footprint.

Ross Valley School District News

The Ross Valley School District had hoped to offer the potential purchase of a portion of the Marin Town and Country Club property to the communities of Fairfax and San Anselmo as one solution to the District's growing enrollment and need for additional classroom space. However, an offer for the property's appraised fair market value was rejected by the landowner and the District has removed the location from its list of potential sites for a K-5 school.

The District is now exploring a revised list of options, including building a new K-5 school on its Deer Park property or its Red Hill property, or adding additional classrooms to current K-5 campuses. A fourth option, to take no action, would result in higher student/teacher ratios and increased crowding on current K-5 campuses and, in a few years, the White Hill Middle School Campus as well.

The Board is planning several public forums during the next several weeks to discuss these options with the San Anselmo and Fairfax communities at large. Meeting dates are:

Tuesday, February 2	Manor	7 p.m.	Multipurpose Room
Thursday, February 4	Brookside, Lower	7 p.m.	Multipurpose Room
Monday, February 8	Wade Thomas	7 p.m.	Multipurpose Room
Tuesday, February 9	Manor	7 p.m.	Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, February 10	White Hill	7 p.m.	Library

For more information about these meetings and the District's focused efforts to meet the needs of its growing student population, please visit www.rossvalleyschools.org or call 454-2162.

Flood Committee

The next meeting of the Town's Flood Committee is scheduled for **Monday, February 8, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers**. Included on the agenda will be a report on the recent storms and how the rainfall affected creek water levels, an update on flood protection projects at Town Hall and the downtown Fire Station, and an update on the Ross Valley Watershed's work on flood mitigation.

Recreation Activity Guide

The Recreation Department is looking for design assistance in the development of the Summer 2010 Recreation Activity Guide. The guide is being designed using Adobe InDesign, and is produced in-house.

The Department will be launching an online registration system in March, and will be using the guide to announce this exciting new service. Assistance is being sought during the weeks of February 8th and February 15th.

To volunteer, please call Community Services Director David Donery at 258-4661.

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