



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
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July 3, 2009

Flood Horn

Recently when testing the Town's emergency horn, a few people have been caught off guard and startled by the loud blast. Unfortunately, the horn needs to be tested once a week to ensure its performance during an actual emergency.

The emergency horn was placed in the downtown by design as it needs to be heard by as many people as possible who live and work in San Anselmo.

To ensure that the Town's Flood Horn will always be ready to send out a warning when needed, it is tested by blasting the horn one time each Friday at approximately 12:00 noon.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Country Fair Day

Country Fair Day is scheduled for Sunday, October 4, 2009 and volunteer committees are forming to organize this event. To volunteer, please contact Dave Donery at ddonery@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us or 258-4661.

Parade and booth applications are available on the Town's website at: <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/centennial/index.htm>. The theme of this year's parade is "Living Life Locally." Booth applications are limited to local non-profits and San Anselmo merchants and business owners, so as to make this a truly local event.

If you'd like to participate in San Anselmo's own hometown event, please let us know!

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 or call me at 258-4652.

Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote in the November 3 General Election is Monday, October 19.

Anyone may register who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age older by the day of the election, a California resident, and not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony.

In order to register, you simply obtain a registration form, available at Town Hall and the Library. It takes just a few minutes to fill out the form, sign it, and mail it back to the County Elections Office. You don't even need to add a stamp.

In addition, the voter registration form may be completed on line at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm.

Your vote is your voice in the decisions that shape our daily lives. If you're already registered, encourage your family and friends to register as well. And don't forget to vote on Election Day!

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>.

Boomers and Bloggers

This spring, the San Anselmo Library offered a workshop entitled **Boomers and Bloggers at the San Anselmo Library**. A small group of adults (Boomers), taught by teen techies (Bloggers), learned new stuff about the web: Wiki's, Blogs and Blog Readers, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and iPod/iTunes. A fun time was had by all! The library is hoping to offer this class again in the fall.

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July 10, 2009

Housing Needs Workshop

If you live or work in San Anselmo, you are invited to attend a workshop hosted by the San Anselmo Planning Commission. The workshop is intended to gather ideas for addressing housing needs in San Anselmo.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 525 San Anselmo Avenue.

Your participation in this workshop will help to shape housing policies and priorities for the next five years. Please attend and participate in the future of your community.

Historical Commission News

The San Anselmo Historical Commission, in its endeavor to preserve the Town's history, has installed two new displays in the hallway outside the Historical Museum.

The first display, "Notable Buildings of the San Francisco Theological Seminary," includes photographs and information about the buildings and homes of historical and architectural interest on the seminary campus.

The second display traces the history of San Anselmo's neighborhood drugstores from Malone's, Shapira's and Hund's in 1908 to Jack's, the only remaining independently owned drugstore.

The Historical Museum is located on the first floor of the Library at 110 Tunstead Avenue. Many thanks go to Historical Commissioners Cathy White and Judy Coy for their work on these displays.

Sidewalk Clearance

Please remember that keeping sidewalk areas clear of brush and other overgrowth is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Keeping the sidewalk areas around your home clear makes it easier for pedestrians to traverse our streets. This is especially true on busy streets, such as Sir Francis Drake Blvd., where the proximity of traffic is a concern. Your help is much appreciated.

Community Emergency Response Training

In the event of a major disaster, professional emergency services may be overwhelmed and unavailable for long periods of time. The widespread needs of the community will depend upon voluntary assistance. With this in mind, the fire departments in Marin County have adopted a citizen training program called Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).

CERT is designed to provide hands-on training to become self-sufficient for at least 72 hours following a disaster such as an earthquake, flood, or a wildland fire. The program is presented in a three-day format, which includes one three-hour session and two six-hour sessions with a one-hour break for lunch.

Class 1: Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Class 2: Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Class 3: Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Information covered includes:

Introduction/Emergency Preparedness, Light Search and Rescue, Disaster First Aid, Fire Prevention/Suppression, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and a Disaster Simulation.

The class locations are as follows:

- Thursday classes will be taught at the Corte Madera Fire Department 342 Tamalpais Drive at Pixley, Corte Madera
- Saturday classes will be taught at The College of Marin, in TB1.

Class sessions for 2009 are scheduled for:

- July 16, 18, 25
- November 5, 7, 14

The cost of the training is \$30 per person. For further information, call the Corte Madera Fire Department at 927-5077.

CERT is presented by the Corte Madera Fire Department, Kentfield Fire District, Larkspur Fire Department, Ross Fire Department, Ross Valley Fire Department, and College Of Marin

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July 17, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of July 14, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Re-appointed Troy Van Dongen to the Tax Equity Board and Janice Przybylski to the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority Board. Congratulations and many thanks to both Troy and Janice for their continuing service to our community.
- Heard a presentation from Elissa Giambastiani of the League of Women Voters regarding campaign finance reform. Ms. Giambastiani is chair of the League's Campaign Reform Committee. The Committee has been working closely with the County of Marin Board of Supervisors to adopt a campaign reform ordinance to require greater transparency of the individuals and organizations who fund independent expenditure committees, to discourage misleading and negatively campaigning. She encouraged the Town Council to adopt a similar ordinance. The Council directed staff to work on a campaign reform ordinance for the Town.
- Approved a \$5,250 contribution to the neighborhood paving project on non-Town maintained Melville Avenue. The neighbors have gotten together to pave the street, and per Town policy, the Town will contribute up to 25% of the cost of the project.
- Reviewed the results of the traffic study from W-Trans regarding traffic on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. between Butterfield Road and Sunny Hills Drive. The report was requested because of resident complaints about speeding, unsafe driving habits, pedestrian and bicycle vulnerability and general safety concerns due to the proximity of the traffic to the sidewalk and homes on Drake Blvd. Currently the travel lanes are just 10 feet wide with no buffer area between the outer travel lanes and the sidewalk. W-Trans presented four possible options for reconfiguring the lanes on Drake to three lanes, thus providing wider lanes and a buffer zone, including:

Option 1 – One lane in each direction, with a center turn lane.

Option 2 – One lane westbound and two lanes eastbound.

Option 3 – One lane eastbound and two lanes westbound.

Option 4 – Reversible flow center lane that would alternate flow direction by time of day.

These options were discussed in detail and there was general agreement that there is no obvious solution to this thorny problem. Neighbors advocated for a reduction in the

speed limit to 25 mph. The Town Council directed staff to set up a special meeting devoted to this topic, where residents, neighbors, commuters, residents of neighboring cities and town, and other interested agencies and groups can provide their creative ideas on how the problem may be solved.

- Received a presentation from the “Street Smarts” program. Street Smarts is a program sponsored by the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), utilizing traffic safety funding for a local educational program intended to increase public awareness about traffic safety. The program is scheduled to be launched in San Anselmo in August, timed to coincide with the beginning of school. There will be a number of signs and banners placed in strategic places around town, reminding drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians about the rules of the road. For more information on Street Smarts, go to: <http://www.tam.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=166>.
- Introduced an ordinance regarding excavation, grading and erosion control. The ordinance will establish controls on excavation, grading and fill activities within the Town, particularly with respect to rainy season permitting. The second reading and approval of the ordinance is scheduled for the Tuesday, July 28 meeting.
- Approved the recommendations of the Measure G Monitoring Committee regarding the capital projects to be completed in fiscal year 2009-10. The highest priority projects are grant funded projects with time deadlines that are fast approaching. These include the repaving of Saunders Avenue with federal stimulus money, the Wade Thomas area sidewalk project funded with Safe Routes to Schools money and the Madrone and Saunders crosswalk improvements funded by the federal Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Project grant. Additional projects were approved for the Spring 2010, and include additional paving in the Saunders area with State Proposition 1B funds.
- Continued to the meeting of July 28 an ordinance providing affordable housing requirements for residential and non-residential development projects and the response to the Grand Jury report on the Major Crimes Task Force.

Housing Needs Workshop Reminder

If you live or work in San Anselmo, you are invited to attend a workshop hosted by the San Anselmo Planning Commission intended to gather ideas for addressing housing needs in San Anselmo. The workshop will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 525 San Anselmo Avenue.

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July 24, 2009

AT&T U-Verse Installations

AT&T is beginning to install above ground cabinets that will allow San Anselmo customers to take advantage of the U-Verse video option. Before a cabinet is installed, AT&T will notice the neighborhood in which the cabinet is proposed to be installed, providing more details about the specific installation. A total of 10 cabinets will be installed over the next 11 months.

Under the State's Public Utilities Code §7901, surface-mounted facilities such as these must be constructed so as not to interfere with the public use of the roadway. It further allows cities and towns to impose reasonable regulations as to the time, place, and manner in which these facilities are constructed and maintained in the public right of way.

For more information, contact the AT&T Project Manager Jason Pickle at jp6578@att.net or (707)575-2105 or San Anselmo's Public Works Director Steve Myrter at smyrter@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us or (415) 258-4623.

Bicycle Corridor Planning

Early this year Fairfax, San Anselmo, and San Rafael together with the Marin County Bicycle Coalition received a grant from County of Marin to evaluate the feasibility of improving the overall bicycle corridor from the western edge of Fairfax to downtown San Rafael. This corridor is the central east-west "spine" of Marin County connecting key destinations, linking residential neighborhoods to schools and places of work. On any given day bicyclists of varied skill levels can be seen throughout the corridor. At the same time, this corridor has some of the busiest and constrained roadways in the County.

The transportation planning firm Alta Planning and Design was retained to perform the Fairfax-San Rafael Bicycle Connector Feasibility Study in February of this year. The goal of the study is to provide safer access for a wide variety of bicyclist in the east-west corridor between Fairfax, San Anselmo, and San Rafael. More specific goals include:

- Improve bicycle connectivity in the Ross Valley Corridor
- Complete the network of bicycle facilities in coordination with the other transportation modes
- Improve Bicycle safety in the corridor
- Minimize negative impacts to environment and local communities
- Develop recommended improvements consistent with adopted policies, standards, and goals

This past week concluded the public outreach phase of the study. The next phase will be to analyze the public input received and develop a draft report for additional public review and comment.

Refuse & Recycling Subcommittee Update

The Town's franchise agreement with Marin Sanitary for refuse and recycling services ended on January 31, 2009 but has been extended through December 31, 2009.

The Town Council appointed Councilmembers Barbara Thornton and Ford Greene and residents Carey Lando and Richard Taylor to the Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee, charged with reviewing the terms of the Town's current refuse and recycling contract, making requests for additional information from Marin Sanitary Service, reviewing the information received and making recommendations to the Town's negotiating team regarding a new contract with Marin Sanitary. The subcommittee met five times in 2008 and thus far five times in 2009.

The subcommittee's focus has been on the Town's rate structure. Marin Sanitary has advised that the contract signed in 2004 had a number of disadvantages to the company. In addition, they report that the method of increasing rates outlined in the contract has resulted in rates that have not kept up with the cost of providing the service. In short, Marin Sanitary is losing money on the San Anselmo contract.

San Anselmo's rates are among the lowest in Marin County. Marin Sanitary is advising that the Town is faced with the prospect of significant increases in rates or a reduction in service levels or both.

At the meeting of January 15, 2009, the subcommittee agreed that it is critical to understand all the components of the cost of providing refuse and recycling services in San Anselmo. Marin Sanitary recommended that the Town engage a CPA firm to do a rate review of San Anselmo's rates, to be paid for by Marin Sanitary. The rate review would help the subcommittee better understand the cost of the various services enjoyed by San Anselmo customers and provide a basis for negotiating a new contract with Marin Sanitary.

The final rate review study will be reviewed by the subcommittee at their next meeting. Preliminary results reflect that San Anselmo customers may be faced with a substantial rate increase of more than 25 percent, depending on the levels of service that are ultimately included in the contract, including the dual sort cart program, and the agreed upon cost allocation method.

The next meeting of the subcommittee will be held on Wednesday, July 29, at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend. Meeting materials are available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/meetings/index.htm>.

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July 31, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, July 28, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Presented the Quality of Life Green Award to Matt Eakle for pulling French broom and other non-native plants at Faude Park for more than 10 years.
- Received a plaque from the members and volunteers of American Legion Post 179 in appreciation of the Town's contribution toward the repair and reconstruction of the Sorich Creek culvert on Legion property.
- Approved an ordinance adding a chapter to the San Anselmo Municipal Code entitled Excavation, Grading and Erosion Control. This chapter establishes controls on excavation, grading and fill within the Town. The controls are established for reasons of safety, erosion control, sound soil engineering practice, aesthetics, environmental protection and water quality protection. This ordinance, like all ordinances, will go into effect 30 days after the approval.
- Received a presentation from Jason Dow of the Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA) on their food waste to energy pilot program. The program involves transport of food waste to the CMSA facility and converting that food waste into energy to be used at the CMSA plant to power their operations. (More on this topic next week).
- Approved 2 per cent salary increases for all Town staff. The Town Council recognized that while this is a very difficult economic time, the Council and staff have worked diligently through the last six years to reduce staffing levels and expenditures significantly. Thus, the Town is in a relatively stable financial position.
- Conducted a public hearing on the proposed 2009-10 Budget and Workplan and directed staff to come back with resolutions of approval at the August 25, 2009 meeting.
- Approved a resolution lowering the fee for retrieval of confiscated signs to \$25.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Fairfax that confirms our agreement to provide recreation services to Fairfax.
- Approved the Saunders Avenue Rehabilitation Project and authorized advertising for bids for the project, to be paid for through stimulus funds. The Council authorized the Town Manager to award the project to the lowest bidder, due to the time requirements placed on the project by the federal stimulus award. The project will commence by the end of September and be completed by mid November.

Town Cleanup Thank You's

On Saturday, July 25, about 15 people came out to work on removing unwanted, non-native vegetation in the creek at Creek Park and to spruce up the Town Hall plaza area.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Corte Madera Creek and their volunteers who spearheaded the effort at Creek Park to remove non-native vegetation, like blackberry bushes, and catalog the native species that have been planted on the creek bed. In addition, a group of Town volunteers weeded and spread mulch at Town Hall and the Library.

Special thanks go to Sandy Guldman, Jo McPeak, Clive Warren, Willie Rhodes, Chris Martin, Sita Khufu, Gretchen Coffman, Alicia Yballa, Judy House, and Joanne Kessel for giving their Saturday morning to the Town. Many thanks also to Sunnyside and West End Nurseries for the donation of materials. Finally, thanks to Dave Craig, Public Works Supervisor and his crew, for their assistance with the cleanup day.

While we didn't have a big turnout, some important work got done!

AT&T U-Verse Installations

As announced in my newsletter last week, AT&T is beginning to install above ground cabinets that will allow San Anselmo customers to take advantage of the U-Verse video option. More information on U-Verse can be found at <http://www.att.com/personal/advancedtv/> or from the Town's website at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/works/index.htm>.

For more information, contact the AT&T Project Manager Jason Pickle at jp6578@att.com or (707)575-2105 or San Anselmo's Public Works Director Steve Myrter at smyrter@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us or (415) 258-4623.

Farm Stand

The Quality of Life Commission sponsors a Farm Stand on the Town Hall lawn each Friday, beginning at 1 p.m. and lasting until 7:30 p.m. The Farm Stand has seasonal, organic and locally grown produce and products.

November 3 Election

The Town will have two measures on the November 3 ballot, a referendum on the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) ordinance and a Hotel Users Tax. Information packets are currently available at Town Hall for submission of arguments and rebuttals for and against the measures. The deadline for arguments for or against a measure is Monday, August 17 and the deadline for rebuttal arguments is Monday, August 24.

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