



## San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager  
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June 5, 2009

### Farm Stand

The Farm Stand will open for the season on Friday, June 19, 2009, on the Town Hall lawn. Hours of operation are 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. each Friday through October. Farm Stand operator Jim Baum offers fresh, organic produce for sale. Stop by and check it out!

### Resident Input Sought

The Town of Fairfax is hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, to hear from Ross Valley residents about how the Towns of Fairfax and San Anselmo, and the City of San Rafael can provide improved bicycle connections between the three communities.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 pm at the Fairfax Women's Club (46 Park Road, Fairfax). Those not able to attend the public meeting may contact Kathy Wilkie at 415-543-0291 with comments or questions.

The **Fairfax-San Rafael Bicycle Connector Feasibility Study** will establish a consistent bicycle connection from the western town limits of Fairfax to San Rafael's Transit Center and Andersen Drive. The project includes a study of the alternatives to determine the highest priority bicycle facility improvements, including both short- and long-term improvements. The primary objective of the study is to determine how to provide safer access for a wide variety of bicyclists in the east-west corridor between Fairfax, San Anselmo, Sleepy Hollow and San Rafael.

This study is a follow-up to the Fairfax, San Anselmo and San Rafael bicycle and pedestrian plan updates in 2008, all of which include preliminary recommendations for the corridor intended to address historic obstacles to nonmotorized travel and establish a consistent bikeway between the communities.

The consultant team, led by Alta Planning+Design, will introduce design concepts for the project and request feedback from the public. Comments will be incorporated into the final design recommendations.

Funding is from the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP), a \$25 million federal grant provided to the County of Marin to help make Marin more healthy, livable, and environmentally sustainable by encouraging walking and bicycling for everyday transportation. More information about the NTPP can be found on the website: <http://www.walkbikemarin.org/>.

## Library News

The Library will host a number of summer reading events on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. The schedule is as follows:

June 24	Drummm: Interactive Percussion Music
July 1	Swazzle: River Otter Circus Puppets
July 8	Wildlife Associates: Bay Area Animals
July 15	Red Panda Chinese Acrobats
July 22	Crosspulse RhythmDuo: Music and Dance
July 29	Kalaikoil: Dances of India

The summer events are sponsored by the Ross Valley Rotary Club in memory of Surjit Singh. If you have any questions, please contact the Library at 258-4656 or [sananselmolib@gmail.com](mailto:sananselmolib@gmail.com).

## Film Night in the Park

Film Night in the Park has begun at Creek Park. The 2009 schedule is:

Friday, July 10	Help
Friday, July 17	Blade Runner
Saturday, July 18	Back to the Future
Friday, July 24	Who Killed the Electric Car?
Saturday, July 25	Lavender Hill Mob
Friday, August 7	Eternal Sunshine of a Spotless Mind
Saturday, August 8	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
Friday, August 14	Lost in Translation
Saturday, August 15	Ratatouille
Sunday, August 16	Duel
Friday, September 4	A night of bike films (check back for titles)
Saturday, September 5	Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure
Sunday, September 6	Rear Window

## Volunteer Opportunities

Openings are coming up on a number of Town Boards, Commissions and Committees. If you are interested in learning more about the Tax Equity Board, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission or the San Anselmo seat on the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority, please contact Jeannie Courteau at 258-4691 or [jourteau@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:jourteau@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us).

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June 12, 2009

### Library Advisory Board

There is currently one seat available on the Library Advisory Board. The Board is charged with considering, proposing and recommending guidelines with respect to programs and facilities to meet the library needs of the community, in conjunction with the Town Librarian. The Board consists of seven members and meets on the third Thursday of every other month at 4:30 p.m. in the Library.

For more information, contact Jeannie Courteau at 258-4616 or [jcourteau@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:jcourteau@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us).

### Book Babies

The Library's popular Book Babies program will continue throughout the summer. The program will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on the following dates:

- Monday, June 29, 10 a.m.
- Monday, July 6, 10 a.m.
- Monday, July 13, 10 a.m.
- Monday, July 20, 10 a.m.
- Monday, July 27, 10 a.m.
- Monday, August 3, 10 a.m.
- Monday, August 10, 10 a.m.

Library Director Sara Loyster puts a lot of energy and love into the Book Babies events. She tells me that the Council Chambers is filled to capacity with parents and babies enjoying stories and songs. From the amount of stroller parking outside during Book Babies, it looks like the stories are very popular!

### Art & Wine Festival

The annual Art & Wine Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28. The Friends of the Library will hold their monthly book sale on Saturday, June 27 during the Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 258-4656 more information.

There will be no Library sale on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Lower San Anselmo Avenue pothole repair

San Anselmo Avenue between Ross and Bolinas Avenues will be getting some major pothole repair work done next week. The intent is to hold the street over until MMWD can replace the old cast iron water pipeline, currently scheduled for next year. Following replacement of the pipe, this section of street will be paved.

## Tips on saving lighting energy

“*Western City*,” a magazine published by the League of California Cities, has an article this month on how community members can save energy by making changes to home lighting. The following list of improvements was provided to the League by the California Lighting Technology Center. Some of these retrofits involve electrical work and may require a qualified electrician. But many of them involve simple replacements that anyone can do.

- Use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs – often referred to as the curly bulbs) to replace regular incandescent lamps.
- Install occupancy sensors for the bathroom, laundry room and bedrooms. When there is no one in the room, the light will go off.
- Replace halogen torchieres (bulbs in floor lamps) with CFLs. Torchiere bulbs are considered dangerous **and** inefficient.
- Install dedicated CFL downlights (lights that dim). A typical downlight uses a third of the energy consumed by incandescent bulbs and will last three or four times longer.
- Optimize daylight with tubular skylights. A 12-inch diameter tubular skylight will provide adequate illumination for approximately a 100- to 150-square foot space.
- Use LED holiday lights for the interior and exterior. They come in a variety of colors and use less than 25 percent of the energy consumed by older style incandescent lamps.
- Change porch lights to CFLs. Porch lights are typically left on for long hours and use incandescent lamps. Another option is to replace the fixture with a new one that has an occupancy sensor.
- Replace T12 with T8 fluorescent lamps. This retrofit requires a new electronic ballast and involves some wiring work. The T12 lamps are inefficient have relatively poor color rendering. The T8 lamps will increase efficiency as well as color quality within the space.
- Install dimmer switches. For applications where CFLs do not work well, such as chandeliers, wall sconces and hanging pendants, consider replacing light switches with high quality electronic dimmers.
- Use occupancy sensor plug strips. A variety of plug strips that are controlled by a simple occupancy sensor are available in the marketplace. These plug strips automatically turn off any electrical appliance that is plugged into them after a preset period of time.

The entire article can be found at <http://www.cacities.org/index.jsp?zone=wcm&previewStory=27747>

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June 17, 2009

### Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, June 9, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved resolutions setting the 2009-10 tax rates for the Municipal Services Tax, Pension Override Tax, Measure G Debt Service Tax and the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority.
- Appointed Linda Henley to the Arts Commission.
- Received a presentation from the Finance and Administrative Services Director on preparations for the 2009-10 budget. More on this below.
- Continued a discussion of the overnight parking ordinance to the meeting of **Tuesday, June 23, 2009**. Under consideration is a request to review the parameters of the ordinance with the possibility of allowing permitted parking overnight on streets that are a minimum of 36 feet wide.
- Introduced an ordinance that provides for a temporary one year extension of the expiration for currently valid Planning approvals due to the difficulty in getting financing.
- Continued discussion of an ordinance providing for an affordable housing requirement for residential and non-residential development projects per State law. This ordinance will be on the Tuesday, July 14, 2009 agenda.

With respect to planning for the **2009-10 budget**, Finance and Administrative Services Director Janet Pendoley reported that the Town is in a stable position going forward into the new budget year. This is because in the last six years the Town Council took action to reduce Town staff from 63 to 52 employees, instituted two-tiered retirement plans for all employees and planned carefully to ensure sufficient revenues to cover expenditures.

When revenues (and the economy) increased briefly in 2007-08, the Town continued on its careful path of fiscal conservatism in the wake of the devastating flood of December 31, 2005. In light of the enormous budget difficulties the state is facing and the significant Town take-aways that are being proposed, the Town has developed a bare-bones, status quo budget for 2009-10, setting aside as much as possible to deal with this uncertainty.

## **Roses**

With the Town Hall flood proofing project nearly complete, the roses have been returned to their garden in front of the Police Department.

Volunteer rose tender Marilyn Girodo took the roses home last November in preparation for the project. She has cared for them in pots since the fall, and Marilyn tells us that they were impatient to get back to their garden. Many, many thanks to Marilyn for her care of the Town roses.

## **Country Fair Day**

Country Fair Day was a traditional event in San Anselmo until several years ago, when the economy and fiscal hard times intervened. Country Fair (also called Community Fair some years) is a local event that features a parade, music, games for kids and booths sponsored by local groups, all held in the downtown.

Community Services Director Dave Donery is working to gather volunteers to bring Country Fair back to San Anselmo. Many hands are needed to pull this off. Committees are forming and help is needed to organize the parade, solicit music groups, handle publicity, coordinate with local schools, and much more.

If you can help make this much-loved tradition come back to San Anselmo, please let Dave know at 258-4661.

## **Greenfield Undergrounding Project**

Much work has been completed on the Greenfield Avenue utility undergrounding project underway by PG&E. The conduit is in for the utility lines, the sidewalk and other hardscape work has been completed and the new street lights are scheduled to be installed in the next month. The street lights, which will be similar to those on San Anselmo Avenue, cannot be energized, however, until the end of the project.

The next step is to install the cables in the underground conduit. The phone and cable companies will be doing this in the summer and fall. PG&E will not begin that work until January 2010, due to funding difficulties. When that work is done, the existing poles can come down. PG&E projects that their work will be completed by April 2010. At the end of the project, the Town will pave Greenfield Avenue.

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## San Anselmo News

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June 26, 2009

### Town Council Meeting Notes

At the Town Council meeting of Tuesday, June 23, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved an ordinance that will allow Town staff to extend Planning approvals for an additional one year period beyond what is currently allowed, with the intent of assisting residents who are unable to obtain financing for projects due to the current poor economy.
- Appointed Laura Hunerberg to a one-year term as the youth representative to the Parks & Recreation Commission and reappointed Yohann Anderson to a second three year term on the Quality of Life Commission.
- Agreed to stay a rental rate increase of 5% at the Isabel Cook Community Center offices. Current contracts with the two renters, Aryiis and Spectrum, call for a 5% rent increase on July 1, 2009. These non-profit tenants requested this consideration due to the very difficult economy. The fiscal impact to the Town is \$4679.
- Town Attorney Rob Epstein and Public Works Director Steve Myrter reported on current status of the project at 790 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (next to the round real estate office) and steps necessary to address the long-time deteriorating condition of the house at 122 Sycamore.
- Received a presentation from John Marten regarding the volunteer planning effort for the area of San Anselmo Avenue between Ross and Bolinas Avenues.
- Reviewed the overnight parking ordinance and directed staff to schedule a special meeting in mid to late September to get public input on the overnight parking ordinance and 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.
- Approved resolutions for the November 3, 2009 election. In San Anselmo there will be three issues on the November ballot. There will be an election for Town Council seats as the terms of Peter Breen, Ted Freeman and Judy House are expiring. Also, voters will vote on a referendum submitted to protest Council action approving an ordinance establishing a maximum floor area and maximum lot coverage for single family residential properties located in the flatlands. Finally, voters will be asked to decide about establishing a 10% hotel users tax, to be paid by hotel guests.

## Community Calendar

Check out our community calendar on the Town's website at:

<http://www.townofsananselmo.org/calendar.htm>. If you have a San Anselmo event that you'd like to have included on the community calendar, please contact Dave Donery at [ddonery@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:ddonery@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us) or 258-4661.

## Spruce Up Day and Creek Cleanup

The Town will be hosting a second **Spruce Up Day** on Saturday, July 25, at 9 a.m. Meet on the Town Hall lawn with gardening tools and weed whackers and we'll go to work on the Town Hall plaza, Creek Park and Isabel Cook Community Center.

In addition, for the hardier souls who are able to climb down into the creek, we will also be sending crews into the creek to do a **Creek Cleanup**. We will start by cleaning the creek in the downtown area, but if there is a neighborhood group that would like to clean their own portion of the creek, we'll provide help with that as well.

If you can help with Spruce Up Day or Creek Cleanup, please contact Joanne Kessel at [jkessel@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:jkessel@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us) or 258-4626.

## Ross Valley Fire Website

The Ross Valley Fire Department is a consolidated fire agency serving the residents of Fairfax, San Anselmo and Sleepy Hollow. The department has a Fire Chief, an Administrative Assistant, twenty five full time firefighters, one fire inspector and fifteen active volunteer firefighters. Nine of the Department's active duty firefighters are paramedics and all of the fire engines are equipped with advanced life support medical supplies.

The Department has a new website at <http://www.rossvalleyfire.org/>. The website includes information about the department, community education, fire prevention, and weather. It is also the home for our creek level monitoring gauge. The Ross Valley Fire Board agendas, staff reports and minutes are also posted on the site.

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