



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Administrator
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March 3, 2006

New Location for Police Department

The Police Department has officially moved its entire operation to 400 Red Hill Avenue, next door to the Essex Center. For at least the next six months, all police services will be conducted from this location while the facility at Town Hall is undergoing reconstruction. To reach the Police Department general information line, call 258-4610. And, of course, if you have an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

Disaster Recovery Center

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), previously located at 241 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., has moved to a new location at Wells Fargo Bank. The bank, located at 3 Tunstead Avenue, is hosting representatives from FEMA and the Small Business Administration for another week to three weeks, depending on need. The hours of the DRC are Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parking spaces are still available at the 241 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. location for visitors to the DRC, a short walk from Wells Fargo.

The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is April 4, 2006.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

CERT is a program being offered for residents to learn the basics of life safety and emergency response. The program is designed to train citizens to care for themselves and their neighbors in the event of a disaster such as an earthquake or a wildland fire. Central Marin CERT training is being coordinated jointly through Ross Valley, Ross, Kentfield and Corte Madera Fire departments, and is a course taught in two modules. All participants will receive a student manual, flashlight, helmet, vest, and work gloves. The program is presented in a two-day format, which includes two six-hour sessions, with a one hour break for lunch.

Class 1	Saturday, April 1, 2006	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Class 2	Saturday, April 8, 2006	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Class 1 includes an introduction to emergency preparedness, disaster first aid and information on weapons of mass destruction. Class 2 includes light search and rescue, fire prevention/suppression and disaster simulation.

All classes will be taught at the Corte Madera Fire Department, 342 Tamalpais Drive, or at the Corte Madera Town Hall Council Chambers, 300 Tamalpais Drive.

Sign up by calling the Corte Madera Fire Department at 927-5077. The cost of the training is \$30 per person, to be paid at the time of registration. The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

Police Consolidation Talks

Members of the Fairfax Town Council and the San Anselmo Town Council are preparing to sit down to discuss possible consolidation of police services. San Anselmo and Fairfax already enjoy a successful merger in the form of the Ross Valley Fire Department and hopes are that the Fire Department model can be helpful in exploring the consolidation of some or all police services. The ultimate goal in consolidation would be to provide excellent public safety services at a lowered cost to the entire community.

Flood Committee

The San Anselmo Flood Committee held its second meeting on Monday, February 27. The Committee heard a presentation from Marin County engineer Jack Curley, who has been assigned to work full-time on Ross Valley flooding issues. The committee members will be working closely with the County on developing short, medium and long-range solutions to the flooding problem.

In addition, the Committee members decided to research various topics and report back to the full Committee at the next meeting. Topics to be researched include updating the base map with all the flooded San Anselmo properties, collecting all the existing rain data that is available, gathering information about the various flood barrier methods and collecting anecdotal information from people affected by flooding.

Persons with information that may be useful to the committee may send an email to townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us or call 258-4619.

The next meeting of the Flood Committee will be Monday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Fireside Room at the First Presbyterian Church, 72 Kensington Road. The meetings are open to the public.

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March 10, 2006

Opening Day Parade

The San Anselmo Baseball Association (SABA) will hold its opening day on Sunday, March 19th. To celebrate the day, a parade will be held, starting at the corner of Buena Vista Avenue and Red Hill, making its way to Memorial Park along Red Hill Avenue and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The parade will begin at 9 a.m. and will close down one lane of traffic while the parade is underway.

Joint Recreation Offerings

At the Town Council meeting of February 28, the Council approved an agreement with the Town of Fairfax to jointly offer recreation programs. Fairfax doesn't have a formal recreation department, but has facilities that could be used for recreation programming. San Anselmo, on the other hand, has a successful recreation program, but faces a lack of facilities. Working together, the two towns can offer additional recreation programs to both communities, utilizing Fairfax's facilities and San Anselmo's recreation staff. Look for new offerings in the Recreation brochure coming out soon.

Town Manager

The Town Council recently approved an ordinance making a change to the job title and duties of the Town Administrator. Ordinance number 1049, which goes into effect March 9, 2006, changes the job title and duties of the Town Administrator to Town Manager.

The basic difference between a Town Administrator and a Town Manager has to do with responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Town. In the Town Administrator form of government, the Town Council is more involved in the administrative work of the Town and has the responsibility to hire the department managers. In the Manager form of government, the Town Council places its focus on policy issues, leaving the day to day responsibility to the Town Manager.

Of the eleven Marin towns and cities, Novato, San Rafael, Corte Madera, Larkspur, Tiburon, Belvedere, Mill Valley and Sausalito have long had the manager form of government. Ross and Fairfax have recently made the change as well.

Sign Committee

The first meeting of the Sign Committee will be Monday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in the Ross Valley School District Board Room, 110 Shaw Drive.

The charge of the Sign Committee is to identify key issues with respect to signs and make recommendations to the Town Council for inclusion in a revised sign ordinance. The Committee is made up of 20 community members with varied backgrounds. Members were appointed by the Town Council after submitting applications.

The meeting is open to the public.

Police Explorer Post News

San Anselmo has an active Police Explorer program. Police Explorers are a group of young people, ages 14-21, who have an interest in learning about law enforcement as a possible career. Explorers learn about the law, court procedures, police patrol techniques and organizational skills. Upon meeting requirements, Explorers are allowed to ride along in the field with a patrol officer and respond to police calls.

Police Explorers serve the community in many capacities. Explorers assist with community events, doing things like traffic or crowd control and providing information for residents and visitors.

The San Anselmo Police Explorer Post #306 held their annual Awards Ceremony on February 23rd at the American Legion Log Cabin.

The following promotions were made by Police Chief Maynard: Lakhvir Gill, Captain; Ari Riordan, Lieutenant; Karina Rowan, Sr. Sergeant and Mike Providenza, J. Sergeant. Other members receiving awards and certificates were Chris Snowden, Cody Metzger and Justin Behn.

Karina Rowan earned the Highest Ride-Along/Dispatch trophy and Lakhvir Gill received the Highest Participation Hours trophy and was also named Explorer of the Year. She has also been selected as Marin County Explorer of the Year by the Boy Scouts of America, Marin Council. She was honored at a banquet on Weds, March 8th. The Post's volunteer advisor, Dan McGoon was honored as Volunteer of the Year.

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March 17, 2006

Recreation Programs for Seniors

The San Anselmo Recreation Department, in partnership with the Town of Fairfax, has developed a special program for Ross Valley Seniors. Each month a special event is held specifically designed for people age 55 and over. Activities include organized walks, board games, cards, special presentations, guest speakers, bocce ball, luncheons and much more. Seniors are invited to become members of the seniors' club and enjoy meeting new people and participating in many exciting events.

The Ross Valley Seniors recently enjoyed tea and entertainment at the San Anselmo Inn, hosted by Julie McNair. More than fifty seniors were treated to an outstanding lunch and live music and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon socializing and meeting new friends. The next event is scheduled for Thursday, April 13 at the Bennett House, 53 Taylor Dr., Fairfax. For more information about the Ross Valley Seniors, please call 258-4669.

Municipal Services and Pension Override Taxes Rebate Program

San Anselmo property owners with a financial hardship due to unemployment, a catastrophic emergency, or low income are invited to apply for a rebate of the Town's Municipal Services (also called "General Purpose") and Pension Override Taxes.

The rebate program defines low income as below \$26,532 for a one-person household, \$30,318 for a two-person household, \$34,103 for a three-person household, and \$37,889 for a four-person household. Rental property is not eligible to be considered for the rebate program.

The Town of San Anselmo's Tax Equity Board reviews the applications, which must be filed by **Friday, April 21, 2006**.

For more information and application forms, please stop by the Administration Office on the second floor of Town Hall or contact Janet Pendoley at 258-4678.

Disaster Recovery Center Closure

The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center located at the Wells Fargo Bank at 3 Tunstead is scheduled to close on Saturday, March 18. Representatives of the Small Business Administration Workshop will remain at Wells Fargo for approximately two more weeks.

Poetry Night: A National Library Week Event

Join the Friends of the Library for the Third Annual Poetry Night, a rousing evening of poetry read by local celebrities, poets and other select readers. Poetry Night will be held on Thursday, April 6 at the San Anselmo Inn, 339 San Anselmo Avenue, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

More Library News

A special series of Toddler Times for children ages 1 ½ to 2 ½ with a parent or caregiver will take place on Thursdays, March 23 and 30 at 10:30 am in the library. Space is limited and sign ups are required. Please note that the library is closed to the public on Thursdays and only registered participants will be allowed access. Contact the library for more information.

The Summer Reading Program starts in June with the theme “Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales!” with artwork by David Shannon. Flyers of programs will be available in May. There will also be a Teen Summer Reading Program with the theme “Creature Features” for children entering Middle School and older.

For more information on children’s programs, contact the library (415) 258-4656.

Memorial Park Snack Shack

At the Town Council meeting of Tuesday, March 14, the Council approved renaming the snack shack at Memorial Park to honor of Thomas F. Dillon IV.

Tom Dillon was active in youth sports in San Anselmo for over 50 years. He played little league at the park in the 1950’s and continued his involvement with baseball by becoming a coach and umpire. He was active in the San Anselmo Baseball Association (SABA) and the San Anselmo Recreation Department’s Girls’ Softball program. Additionally, Tom was a pitcher in the Recreation Department’s rookie baseball program for seven and eight year old players, and he operated the snack shack for both programs. Tom passed away on February 7, 2006 at the age of 63.

In honor of Tom and his many, many years of community involvement in San Anselmo, the Snack Shack is now officially named “Tom Dillon’s Home Plate.”

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March 24, 2006

Sandbag Pickup

On the rainy night of December 30, 2005, volunteer firefighters placed sandbags at the doors of San Anselmo Avenue businesses. The sandbags currently remain in place as the rainy season just doesn't seem to want to end this year.

The Public Works Department has a plan for picking up the sandbags the first week of April. Small dumpsters will be placed around the downtown and merchants can place their sandbags in the dumpsters. The sand will be reused.

We will have the assistance of Drake students with this effort, so look for more information in next weeks' newsletter.

Crime Alert

The San Anselmo Police Department has issued the following crime alert. San Anselmo merchants should be on the alert for two adult male suspects who have stolen money from local stores. The men, described by witnesses as African American males, distract the clerk by requesting something from the back of the store, then open up the cash register and remove cash before leaving the store.

The first suspect is in his mid-30's, 6'0 – 6'2, with a thin build and short hair. The second suspect is in his mid-30's, 5'10, with a stocky build and shoulder length hair. Merchants are advised to keep cash registers and storefronts attended and to notify the San Anselmo police department immediately if contact is made with these individuals.

The Police Department advises that the most important thing to do is to be safe and to be a good witness! Don't take any law enforcement action on your own. Rather, write down the license plate numbers associated with any suspicious vehicles and make a note of the suspects' appearance and their statements.

The Police Department is temporarily located at 400 Red Hill Avenue and can be contacted by phone at 258-4610. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

Memoir Writing Workshop

In celebration of National Library Week, the Friends of the San Anselmo Library are hosting a Memoir Writing Workshop in the Library. The Workshop will be led by Jan Harper-Haines, a lecturer, teacher and author of *Cold River Spirits, The Legacy of an Athabaskan-Irish Family from Alaska's Yukon River*. Participants will learn techniques to access personal stories, shape

the material and approach it from different angles. Participants will read a little, write a lot and receive in-class feedback.

The Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 12, at the San Anselmo Library, 110 Tunstead Avenue, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Participation is limited to twenty individuals. Sign up forms are available at the San Anselmo Library reference Desk. There is no charge, but registration is required. Call 258-4656 with any questions.

Recreation Signups

The Recreation Department recently mailed the Spring/Summer Activity guide to San Anselmo and Fairfax residents. The newly re-designed Guide has information on over 300 classes for children and adults. It's time to start planning your recreation activities now as the warm weather is (hopefully) just around the corner. Registration is currently underway for all recreation classes and registration for spring and summer camps begins on Monday, April 17.

Flood Committee

The next meeting of the San Anselmo Flood Committee will be Monday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in the Ross Valley School District Board Room at 110 Shaw Drive. The Flood Committee was appointed by the Town Council to gather, review and study the facts surrounding the San Anselmo flood of December 31, 2005; collect and review reports and studies from previous floods that have affected San Anselmo; determine the specific technical causes of the 2005 flood; develop and propose practical and realistic mitigations for near term, medium term and long term. All meetings of the Flood Committee are open to the public.

Sign Committee

The next meeting of the Sign Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in the Ross Valley School District Board Room at 110 Shaw Drive. The Committee is responsible for identifying key issues with respect to signs and making recommendations to the Town Council for inclusion in a revised sign ordinance.

The Committee has had two meetings already, and anticipates having three more before making final recommendations to the Town Council. Upcoming topics include signs in commercial districts, such as non-commercial signs, temporary and permanent signs, changeable copy and time restrictions; and signs in residential districts, such as home occupation signage, non-commercial, address, directional and garage sale signs.

The Sign Committee is made up of twenty community members from a variety of professional backgrounds. The meetings are open to the public and residents and merchants are encouraged to attend.

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March 31, 2006

Sandbag Pickup

The Town's Street Crew had planned a sandbag pickup time for the end of next week. However, due to the continuing forecast for heavy rain, we have delayed the effort for two weeks until the middle of April. Hopefully, by then the heavy rains will really be done!

The plan will be to have five dumpsters placed strategically down San Anselmo Avenue between Tamalpais Avenue and Ross Avenue for disposal of sand and bags. Merchants and residents are encouraged to use the dumpsters to dispose of used sandbags. The sand will be reused at the Town's Corporation Yard. The Drake High School Leadership Class has volunteered to help us with the pickup effort.

Look for more details in the next newsletter

Creek Park Events

Good news! Events in Creek Park will go on as planned this spring and summer.

Organizers of annual Creek Park events, such as Film Night in the Park, Music in the Park, Town Players productions, BubbaQ and the Beatles event will pay a fee to cover the associated costs of park maintenance, which include lawn repair, trash and recycling facilities and any set up costs. This will allow our favorite park events to continue throughout the spring and summer.

In Memorium

Mozart Kaufman, long-time San Anselmo resident and merchant, died on Sunday, March 26, 2006 at the age of 88. Mr. Kaufman was the owner of Kaufman's Retail Specialty Shop from 1952 to 1986 and a Director of First Federal Savings and Loan from 1963 to 2006. He served five years in the U.S. Army during WW II, four as a fighter pilot. Mr. Kaufman had been a Rotary Club member since 1952 and was also active in the San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce.

Mozart Kaufman was a well-known presence in downtown San Anselmo for the last fifty years and will be sorely missed. Most recently he donated the use of his building at 241 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for the Local Assistance Center, aimed at getting government assistance to those affected by the recent flooding.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at Smith Ranch Homes on April 15th from 4 to 6 p.m.

Save the Date

On **Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon**, San Anselmo will celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week and show its appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers who gave their time to the Town during the past year. This year the event will be held at the Drake High School Student Center in order to acknowledge the many, many people who came forward to help San Anselmo merchants, residents and Town staff during the flood.

This will be a community wide event and a chance to thank everybody who gave of their time and talents to help San Anselmo during the past year. Attendees will be treated to a film chronicling the flood and its aftermath, produced by local filmmaker Ben Burtt.

Red Hill Community Park

At the Town Council meeting of Tuesday, March 28, 2006, the Red Hill Community Park project received the Town's planning approval. The park, which consists of a Soccer/Lacrosse/Baseball field, dog park, walking track, sport court, restrooms and a concession stand, has been in the planning stage for over three years.

The park, a joint effort of the Tamalpais Union High School District, the Ross Valley School District, and the Town of San Anselmo, will be funded by community donations, various grants, State Park bond funds and Tamalpais High School District facilities bond funds. The field will be used primarily for Drake High School sports teams and the San Anselmo Baseball Association baseball programs.

Flood Recovery Efforts

People are often surprised to learn that we have not yet begun the reconstruction process in the Fire Department, Police Department, Council Chambers and in the Library. I always take the time to explain why this is so.

I'm proud to say that since the December 31, 2005 flood the Town has continued to provide excellent 24-hour public safety services. It hasn't been easy, however, as both firefighters and police officers were literally washed out of their stations. Our energy went into setting up adequate temporary quarters for our employees displaced by the flood. For the Police Department, in particular, this was a complicated effort of transferring networks, dispatch systems, records management setups, evidence lockers, and required surveillance equipment to a new location.

While temporary quarters were being attended to, we also began the recovery process, which involved removing flood damaged contents, including flooring and sheet rock. That process is nearly complete now, with final cleaning and air testing underway. We expect to begin the reconstruction process within the next month.

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