



## San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager  
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October 2, 2009

### **Town Council Candidate Forum**

The San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Town Council Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 8, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The Candidate Forum will be held at Wade Thomas Elementary School in the Multi-purpose room, at 150 Ross Avenue, San Anselmo.

This is an opportunity to meet the candidates running for the San Anselmo Town Council and hear about each candidate's vision for the Town. The moderator for the forum will be Dick Spotswood of the Marin Independent Journal.

For more information contact the San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce at [info@sananselmochamber.org](mailto:info@sananselmochamber.org) or 454-2510.

### **Street Smarts Marin**

San Anselmo is pleased to be a Street Smarts Marin partner. You no doubt have seen the Street Smarts banners and signs around our community targeting speeding, stopping at stop signs and lights, crosswalk safety and bicycling safety issues.

Also, all school families received Safe Driving brochures aimed at driving behaviors especially around schools and teaching children safe habits. We are very interested in your feedback about the Program. Please take a minute to answer the Street Smarts Marin Community Questionnaire at <https://www.tam.ca.gov/index.aspx?recordid=89&page=322>.

To learn more about the Street Smarts program go to:  
<http://www.tam.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=166>

### **Winter Preparedness Tips**

The Town has prepared a two-page flyer entitled "Winter Storm Preparedness Tips" that gives a number of safety tips to help residents and merchants get ready for the upcoming winter.

Included in the flyer is information on what to do before, during and after the storm. The County's Telephone Emergency Notification system (TENS) is discussed, and a glossary of storm watch/warning terminology is included.

The Tips are available in town offices, as well as on the Town's website at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/flood/index.htm>.

Also available in Town offices is the Home Safety Emergency Plan, prepared by the Salvation Army, which is a guide to home emergency preparedness.

## **Fall Leaves**

With fall just about here, the Public Works Department would like to remind all residents to keep curb areas free of leaves and other debris. It's easy to get rid of once it's picked up – our garbage company provides pickup of yard waste in cans or boxes for all customers.

Please don't just rake leaves into your curb area, hoping that the street sweeper will come by and pick them up. The sweeper can't cover the entire town, and leaves left in curb areas will clog drains quickly when winter rains arrive.

And, as a reminder, the Town has an ordinance that limits the use of motorized leafblowers to Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Residents who pick up their leaves, keep an eye on neighborhood drains and clear clogs during storms will help to keep winter storm water flowing where it's supposed to be.

## **Library News**

Book Babies is a program of stories and songs for children ages 0 to 3 in the Town Hall Council Chambers on Mondays at 10 a.m. Upcoming dates are October 5, 12, 19 and 26, as well as November 2 and 9. No registration is required.

The San Anselmo Library Book Discussion Group meets in the library on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 20 and the book under discussion is So Long, See You Tomorrow by William Maxwell.

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October 9, 2009

### Country Fair Day Thank You's

Last Sunday's Country Fair Day was an overwhelming success. Many, many thanks to all who participated in the parade, staffed the booths and came out to support our all local, hometown event.

Special thanks to the following people and organizations for their hard work:

- Parade Committee – Carla Overberger, Anna Frost, Peter and Ione Breen.
- Booth Committee – Judy House and Barbara Thornton
- Outreach Committee – Denise Young and Rebecca Sullivan
- Logistics – Scott Scherr, Doug Kelly, and Patrick Stallone
- Poster – Michael Feldman
- Music – Guy Meyer and Graham Auger
- Cake Walk and Scavenger Hunt - Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association – Julie McNair and Sylvia Stewart
- Bumpkin Patch – Recreation Department staff, Chris Thoennes, Greg Mihan, Dana Gibson and Andrea Torrey
- Hot Dog Sales and Clean up - San Anselmo Police Explorers – Patty Stahl and Dan McGoon, Advisors
- Safety House and Children's Activities – Ross Valley Fire Department
- Open House and low emission vehicle display – San Anselmo Police Department
- Parade and Fair Safety – Nick Valeri and Rob Schneider, SA Police Department; Dave Craig, Rick Franco and Rob Johnstone of Public Works.
- Special Advisors – Kay Coleman and Connie Rodgers

And finally, a big round of applause for David Donery, the Town's Community Services Director, for leading the effort to bring back Country Fair Day. Dave did an incredible job putting the event together. And . . . he's already looking for volunteers for next year! If you can help, please let Dave know at 258-4661 or [ddonery@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:ddonery@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us).

### In Crosswalk Lights

I have received numerous questions about the in-crosswalk lights at the Madrone and Saunders intersections with Sir Francis Drake Blvd. I recently did an article on the crosswalk lights, but am running it again because it is the subject of considerable concern.

A number of years ago the Town installed lights in the crosswalks on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. at the intersections of Saunders and Madrone Avenues. The intent of the lighted crosswalks is to draw driver's attention to the fact that a pedestrian is going to cross the street.

These in-crosswalk lights have outlived their useful lives, and most recently have been subject to frequent outages. The technology for these types of lights has improved considerably over the years, solving the problems we have experienced with broken wires and bulbs.

The Town has received a grant through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) to replace the current in-crosswalk lights with a new, more advanced lighting system. In addition, the grant includes utilizing overhead signage and lighting to improve pedestrian visibility and safety at the two intersections.

The plans for these crosswalk safety improvements are currently at Cal Trans for final approval. We anticipate that the project will begin construction later this year and be finished by January 2010.

In the meantime, the in-crosswalk lights at Madrone Avenue and Saunders Avenue have been taken out of service because of their unreliability.

## **MMWD Street Work on San Anselmo Avenue**

Marin Municipal Water District is going to be doing some work on San Anselmo Avenue between Ross and Bolinas Avenues, beginning the week of October 12.

This work will be much less invasive than the pipeline replacement work that was done in the spring on the upper portion of San Anselmo Avenue. MMWD will be working in 100 foot segments to reconfigure the lateral connections to each of the properties along this part of San Anselmo Avenue.

This work will be done during the day. The roadway will remain open to traffic and parking will be limited only in the area of actual work.

If you have questions about this work, please contact Public Works Director Steve Myrter at 258-4623 or [smyrter@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us](mailto:smyrter@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us).

## **Saunders Avenue Construction Work**

Thanks to federal stimulus funding, Saunders Avenue between Center Blvd. and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. will be repaved this month. The work, which will take two weeks, is scheduled to start next week with the sidewalk and curb ramp replacements. Actual paving work will follow the sidewalk construction. Nearby residents will receive notification when the paving portion of the work is scheduled to begin.

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October 16, 2009

### Town Council Meeting Notes

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

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by cub scouts from Pack 50 in Fairfax, with their leader Jon Marchant.
- Presented the Quality of Life Silver Award to Deborah Cichocki for her volunteer work during the Millennium Playground build. Deborah co-chaired the effort to build the playground, which utilized 1400 volunteers and was built in a week. Deborah dedicated her award to her friend and co-chair of the project, Merrie Clarke, who passed away several years ago. The playground is dedicated to Merrie Clarke.
- Proclaimed Thursday, October 15, 2009 Ross Valley Ecumenical Housing Association Day and commended the Association for its 30 years of dedicated service to the seniors of the Ross Valley.
- Approved the resolution authorizing the use of Citizens Options of Public Safety (COPS) grant funds to pay for a portion of one of the traffic officers.
- Received the report on Country Fair Day. The event attracted several thousand people to Downtown San Anselmo. There were 42 fair booths and 39 parade entries. Net cost of the event was \$1500. The return of Country Fair Day was much anticipated and plans are already underway for next year.
- Amended contract with CSW Stuber Stroeh to include construction management of the Saunders Avenue pavement rehabilitation project in an amount not to exceed \$18,730.
- Heard an oral report from Vice-Mayor House on the Marin Green BERST (Building Energy Retrofit and Solar Transformation) effort. The group is made up of representatives of all eleven cities and towns and the County of Marin. They are working to create green building standards that would be uniform across the county.
- Heard a report from the Town Manager on the efforts of the Ross Valley School District (RVSD) to address a rising elementary school population. The District is looking at three possible school site locations, Red Hill School, Deer Park School or a new location at the Marin Town and Country Club. RVSD asked both San Anselmo and Fairfax whether there is interest in having a large community room at the ultimate school site. The Council expressed interest in the concept.

### Frequently Asked Questions

I have heard a number of questions out in the community recently about the Police Department, so we've put together some "Frequently Asked Questions" that I hope will be informative.

**Q: How many police officers does San Anselmo currently have?**

A: San Anselmo has 19 sworn police officers, two more officers than the department had in 1972.

**Q: How do you determine how many police officers are needed for a town of our size?**

A: Because of law enforcement's varied service requirements and functions, as well as the distinct demographic traits and characteristics of jurisdictions (crime rates, calls for service, etc), the number of police officers per 1000 residents differs, but according to the FBI, the national average is 2.5 officers per 1000 residents. The Marin County average is 2.14 officers per 1000 residents. San Anselmo has 1.58 officers per 1000 residents.

**Q: What is the cost per resident in San Anselmo for police protection?**

A: \$351 per resident, the third lowest per resident cost in Marin County.

**Q: How many vehicles does the police department have?**

A: The department utilizes 5 front line patrol vehicles and 5 unmarked vehicles. We have 3 motorcycles for traffic enforcement, a parking buggy and 1 vehicle for our community services officer. In 1978 the department had 5 patrol vehicles, 3 unmarked cars and a motorcycle for traffic enforcement.

**Q: Why do the police need a SUV?**

A: The Ford Expedition is equipped as a command vehicle for major incident response as well as being utilized each day as the field supervisor's vehicle. An example of the equipment carried in this vehicle includes:

- Maps of the layout of each school in our jurisdiction in response to intruder on campus situations.
- Ballistic body shield, vests and helmets for use in the event of an intruder on campus situation.
- Evidence collection equipment.
- Traffic accident investigation equipment.
- Command Post including pull out white board and layouts of all banks in Town.
- Portable lap top computer and docking station enabling access to numerous data bases along with departments records information system.
- Cameras, ladder, bull horn, and less lethal weaponry.

## **Goblin Parade**

The annual Goblin Parade will be held on Wednesday, October 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet at U.S. Bank at 5 p.m. with children ages 0 to 7 in Halloween costumes! Parents must accompany children.

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with safety and handing out goodies. Volunteers will meet in front of Town Hall at 4:30 p.m. Call Dana Gibson at 258-4669 for more information or to volunteer.

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October 23, 2009

### Plastics

On September 23, 2008 the Town Council approved Resolution No. 3852, encouraging the use of recyclable paper and reuseable checkout bags by shops, stores, eating places and retail food vendors located in town. The resolution encourages San Anselmo businesses to use recyclable paper bags and reuseable bags on a voluntary basis.

Town resident and dedicated volunteer Sita Khufu has taken a copy of the resolution to many of our commercial establishments in San Anselmo to ensure that everyone is aware of the need to eliminate or reduce our use of plastics.

Sita reports that she surveyed 131 stores in San Anselmo. She found that 84 of those stores are already voluntarily not using plastic checkout bags. Another 16 businesses are using up their current supply of plastic or only using plastic when it rains. 31 businesses are still using plastic, for a variety of reasons, including water and leak proofing, food freshness, and convenience.

Many thanks to Sita for her hard work in raising awareness about reducing plastic bag use.

### Thank You's

On Sunday, October 18, the First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo went out into the community to donate their time to local improvement projects.

The Town was one of the beneficiaries of the day, with 11 volunteers spending the afternoon painting the kitchen and hallway area of the Isabel Cook Community Center kitchen. Many thanks to Jack Spears, Anne Molteni, Carl and Joan Basore, Martha Joice, Gayle Permar, Ben Kinney, Jr., Kaz Nakaoka, Lisa Cosby, Lee Taubeneck and Jeffrey Stutsman for their gift of time to the Town. The kitchen looks terrific.

### Goblin Parade

The annual Goblin Parade will be held on Wednesday, October 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet at U.S. Bank at 5 p.m. with children ages 0 to 7 in Halloween costumes! Parents must accompany children.

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with safety and handing out goodies. Volunteers will meet in front of Town Hall at 4:30 p.m. Call Dana Gibson at 258-4669 for more information or to volunteer.

## Halloween Safety Tips

The Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership offers the following Halloween tips:

- Consider fire safety when decorating. Don't overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects, and don't block exit doors.
- Always keep jack o'lanterns and hot electric lamps away from drapes, decorations, flammable materials or areas where children will be standing or walking.
- Supply flashlights for all Trick-or-Treaters and escorts.
- Accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Remind Trick-or-Treaters to stay in a group, stay in well-lit areas on sidewalks or at the farthest edge of a roadway (facing traffic), and obey all traffic rules.

## Recycling Thefts

Please note: Once recyclable materials have been placed at the curbside they become the property of Marin Sanitary Service. Theft of those recyclables is a crime. If you see someone taking recyclable materials from your home or place of business, please call the Police Department immediately at 258-4610.

## 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 (when at the Fairfax Women's Club) or board/card games. 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:

Thursday, November 5 San Anselmo Inn	Book discussion of <u>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</u> and hear about the author from her daughter, Liz Froneberger.
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Thursday, December 3 Women's Club	Holiday Party Pot Luck and gift wrapping for LITA with fun local Fairfax musical performance.
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Please be sure to RSVP to 258-4669 so they can plan for lunch.

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## San Anselmo News

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October 30, 2009

### Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, October 27, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved the project and authorized soliciting bids for the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersections of both Madrone and Saunders Avenues. The project scope includes installing new pedestrian warning systems consisting of in-pavement flashing lights with an overhead flashing beacon. The cost of the project is estimated at \$225,000 and will be funded through the federal Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP). Work will start in December and should be completed by March.
- Approved the application for the San Anselmo Baseball Association's Opening Day Parade scheduled for Sunday, March 14, 2010, from 8:30 am to 9 am. The parade begins on Red Hill Avenue in the Chapel of the Hills parking lot and makes its way to Memorial Park.
- Re-appointed Arnie Cicchetti to the Arts Commission and appointed Laurie O'Hara and Nancy Riess to the Library Advisory Board.
- Received an update from Dawn Weisz of the Marin Energy Authority on the activities of the authority. The authority recently received 12 bids for power with prices in the expected range per the business plan. Three of the bidders were selected for contract negotiations. A draft contract for power purchase has been approved by the MEA Board and feedback is being solicited from the member agencies. The staff report and agenda materials are available at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/meetings/tc102709item3.pdf>. Marin Energy Authority's website is [www.marinenergyauthority.org](http://www.marinenergyauthority.org).
- Approved the third amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement that established the Red Hill Community Park authority. The amendment outlines the maintenance responsibilities of the park. The Town will maintain the dog park and the Tamalpais High School District agrees to maintain the rest of the park.
- Approved the resolution authorizing the Town's participation in a securitization bond which would provide the Town immediately with the funds that the State is borrowing from local government. In budget year 2009-10, the State is borrowing over \$500,000 from the Town in order to balance its budget. Counties, cities, towns and special districts in California are participating in this bond issue as a way to remain whole after these drastic takeaways. All costs of interest and issuance are being paid by the state.

### Arts Commission News

The San Anselmo Arts Commission is inviting all Ross Valley artists to submit work to them for a Ross Valley Artists exhibition. The exhibition will be held at the Ross Valley Winery, 343 San Anselmo Avenue, between January 15 and April 14, 2010.

All residents of the Ross Valley are eligible to apply. Work will be selected by jurors from the commission and winery.

To apply, submit no more than 3 jpeg images of your work by November 30, 2009 and include the following information: name, address, title(s), framed dimensions (maximum of 16" x20"), medium and date of the piece(s). Only wall hanging pieces will be considered. Submissions can be emailed to [web@sananselmoarts.com](mailto:web@sananselmoarts.com)

## **Marin County Major Crimes Task Force**

The Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC) has the opportunity to appoint a citizen representative to the Major Crimes Task Force.

The Marin Major Crimes Task Force was formed in 1977 at the recommendation of the Marin County Police Chiefs Association. It is a cooperative effort linking ten out of eleven of Marin's cities and the county to provide a central investigative unit capable of crossing jurisdictional boundaries for the purposes of assisting each other in the detection of criminal activity. The unit augments the efforts of local law enforcement agencies.

For more information, please contact Pat Eklund, Novato City Councilmember at 883-9116 or [pat@pateklund.com](mailto:pat@pateklund.com). The application can be found on the Town's website at [http://www.townofsananselmo.org/police/files/mctf\\_app.pdf](http://www.townofsananselmo.org/police/files/mctf_app.pdf). Applications should be postmarked by November 20, 2009 and information on submission is included on the application.

## **House Numbers**

In order to ensure prompt emergency services when the need arises, please be sure that your house or business address numbers are **clearly legible** from the street. Police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and those that drive ambulances and rescue equipment need these numbers. They will tell you that hidden, unlighted or non-existent address numbers can be a major time waster when seconds count.

Here is a checklist to see how your home or business measures up:

- House numbers must be at least 4" tall to ensure visibility.
- Business address numbers must be at least 6" tall.
- Numbers should be set on a background of a contrasting color and clearly legible in varying degrees of daylight.
- Numbers should be plain block numerals that are easily read.
- Numbers should be illuminated or located near a light so they are clearly visible at night.
- Properties on corner lots should have address numbers that face the street named in the address.
- For a house a significant distance from the street, or if the view of the house is blocked by trees or shrubs, house numbers should be on a sign attached to a fence, mailbox or a post near the street as well as on the house.

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