



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
dstutsman@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us

September 4, 2009

REC REACH

The San Anselmo Parks & Recreation Commission is sponsoring a community outreach effort and they'd like to hear from you.

The public is invited to participate in the REC REACH Project, a recreation program assessment designed to help our recreation department develop programs that best fit the needs of our community. The Commission asks that you complete a survey giving them your opinions.

The two best ways to access the REC REACH survey are:

- Visit the Town's website at www.townofsananselmo.org. Links to the survey are located on the Home page and on the Recreation page.
- Follow this link or type it into your browser:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qJHiltqk4NSXoHuKWmREcg_3d_3d

Your participation is very much appreciated.

Overnight Parking Ordinance

The Town Council will hold a special meeting on **Tuesday, September 15, at 7 p.m.** to hear public comment and input on the overnight parking ordinance.

Under consideration is 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.

The meeting will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend.

In Crosswalk Lights

As you undoubtedly know, 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 broke 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Town of San Anselmo has a number of volunteer boards, commissions and committees to advise the Town Council and staff on policy matters and to help implement the programs and projects of the Town. The meetings of these advisory groups are open to all. Agendas are posted on the public notice bulletin board outside Town Hall and on the Town's website three days in advance of the meeting.

Volunteers are needed on the following Town boards/committees and commissions:

Quality of Life Commission: Charged with promoting sustainability in San Anselmo and securing a high quality of life by simultaneously meeting environmental, economic and community needs. One seat is available.

Capital Programs Monitoring Committee: Charged with monitoring the construction, financing, and public communication of the Town's capital projects. One seat is available.

Historical Commission: Charged with preserving the history of San Anselmo by means of research and the collection and organization of information, photographs and artifacts concerning the town's development and to make San Anselmo's historical heritage known to the community. One seat is available.

Art Commission: Charged with adding to the cultural character of the Town through all forms of artistic expression, by providing a structure to facilitate the creation of art in all disciplines in the community. Two seats are available.

Residents are invited to apply to the Town Council for appointment to the Boards, Commissions, and Committees. For an application or for more information, please contact Jeannie Courteau at jcourteau@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us or 258-4691.

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September 11, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, September 8, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved the resolution authorizing the Town Manager and Public Works Director to execute agreements and certifications with CalTrans to receive funds for transportation purposes.
- Appointed Carla Overberger to the Planning Commission for a four year term.
- Received a status report from the Public Works Director on the project at 790 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Current work underway will ensure the property is properly winterized.
- Approved an additional Town contribution to the non-Town maintained paving project on Upper Sequoia. The additional contribution is for drainage work, making the total Town contribution to the project \$22,645. Total project cost is \$78,080, which is being paid for primarily by property owners, with additional contributions from MMWD and the County of Marin.
- Considered request to delay implementation to July 2010 of the Town Council stipend increase from \$99/month to \$300/month. The consensus of the Council was to implement in December 2009 as planned. The \$300 stipend is comparable to stipends in all other Marin cities, with the exception of Ross, Belvedere and Tiburon which have no stipend.
- Considered request to consider waiving permit fees for new and current business. The consensus of Council was to leave the fees in place, rather than waiving for one Town group and not others.

Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote for the November 3, 2009 election is Monday, October 19, 2009.

You may register to vote in California if you are a US citizen, a resident of California, at least 18 years of age, are not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction or have not been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent.

Registration may be done online at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm. You can also pick up a voter registration form at Town Hall, the library or the post office. It is important that the voter registration form be filled out completely and be postmarked or hand-delivered to the Marin County Elections Office by the deadline.

Parking Meters

Our parking meters are regularly monitored to ensure that they are working correctly, but there are times when malfunctions do occur.

The Police Department has just placed stickers on all the meters that read: "For meter malfunctions, immediately contact SAPD at (415) 258-4610." This will ensure that we know when a meter is broken and can arrange to have it fixed immediately. It will also ensure that the malfunction has been reported and citations will not be issued for that meter.

Fire Department Move

The Ross Valley Fire Department will be moving into the newly refurbished downtown fire station on Thursday and Friday, September 17 and 18. The administrative offices of the fire department, which have been located at the Fairfax station at 10 Park Road, will be closed during the move.

You will still be able to leave voice mail messages for department personnel during this time, with the exception of a two hour window while the phone system is moved.

The administrative offices will re-open for business in Station 19 at 777 San Anselmo Avenue at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 21.

If you have any questions, please call 258-4686.

Overnight Parking Ordinance

The Town Council will hold a special meeting on **Tuesday, September 15, at 7 p.m.** to hear public comment and input on the overnight parking ordinance.

Under consideration is 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.** Please note that the discussion is not about eliminating the overnight parking ordinance, but considering modification of the ordinance.

The meeting will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Save the Date

San Anselmo's Country Fair Day will take place on Sunday, October 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a parade, booths, food and music! For more information go to:

<http://www.townofsananselmo.org/centennial/index.htm>

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September 18, 2009

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town is currently working on an update to our 2005 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). In compliance with the Congressional legislation known as the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the plan focuses on mitigation **before**, rather than after, disasters.

Funding to cities after a disaster is tied to whether the jurisdiction has an approved plan in place. The Town was the beneficiary of considerable Federal and State funding assistance after the 2005 flood due to the fact that we had our LHMP in place.

The Bay Area is subject to a number of natural disasters, including flood, earthquake and fire. Bay Area local governments work together to mitigate any losses from these natural disasters through the Multi-Jurisdictional LHMP. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has been very helpful in assisting local governments with preparing plans that are tailored to the risk each community faces.

The 2009 update to San Anselmo's approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is ready to receive public input. At the meeting of Tuesday, September 22, 2009, beginning at 7 p.m. the Town Council will review the 2009 update to the plan and conduct a public hearing.

In addition, the proposed 2009 update to the Town's plan is available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/flood/index.htm>.

Overnight Parking Meeting Recap

The Town Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 15, to take comment on possible changes to the Overnight Parking ordinance.

The current ordinance was enacted on January 21, 1958, and it prohibits parking in excess of thirty minutes between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. on all Town maintained streets. In 1983 the ordinance was amended to allow for hardship parking permits as well as guest parking permits, under defined circumstances.

Public input was requested regarding a proposal to allow for overnight parking permit issuance to residents on streets which are sufficiently wide to allow for two vehicles to park and still leave ample room for unobstructed passage of emergency vehicles. It would require a street 32 feet wide to allow for two parking lanes and an unobstructed roadway.

About 60 people attended the two hour public hearing. In addition, comments were received by email from 25 residents. As you might expect, the comments received were on all sides of the issue:

- A number of the speakers were in favor of keeping the ordinance in place as is, without any change. They cited public safety access and aesthetics of the streets as the primary reasons.
- Conversely, people also spoke in favor of eliminating the ordinance altogether, allowing people to park overnight on all San Anselmo streets.
- Several comments were received about the difficulty of not being able to park on your own street, problems with guest parking, the difficulty of getting a hardship permit, the inconvenience of having to get a guest permit and the lack of enforcement.

Meeting participants were all respectful of one another's views and the meeting was an opportunity for everyone to hear the many and varied different takes on San Anselmo's overnight parking ordinance. It was truly an opportunity to see and participate in democracy in action.

The Town Council directed staff to come back at a well-publicized future meeting with a report on the Overnight Parking ordinance with definitive recommendations on measures that might address some of the concerns expressed, without changing the spirit of the ordinance.

The audio recording of the meeting is on line at www.townofsananselmo.org.

Volunteers Needed

The Library is looking for a volunteer to coordinate author events for the Library. Previous programming experience would be helpful. If you can help, please contact Librarian Sara Loyster at 258-4657 or sloyster@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us

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San Anselmo News

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September 25, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, September 22, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Presented the Quality of Life Green Award to Larry Nilsen for his long time volunteer work in cleaning up graffiti in town.
- Approved the downtown event application for the 2009 Holiday Lighting event, to be held on Saturday, December 5, on the Town Hall Plaza, closing San Anselmo Avenue from Magnolia Avenue to Tunstead Avenue and Tunstead Avenue from Library Place to San Anselmo Avenue from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Received a report on the Town's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) on the Town's priorities regarding disaster mitigation strategies. The LHMP outlines strategies for the Town with an emphasis on fixing potential problems before disaster strikes, as required by Federal law. More public comment is encouraged by going to the Town's website at www.townofsananselmo.org and following the link.
- Received a report on the California Communities Prop 1A Securitization Bond program. This program would provide the Town with the \$513,000 that the State borrowed this year through a bond sale, with principal repayment, interest and issuance costs to be paid by the state. Staff was directed to begin the initial enrollment steps.

Library Book Sale

The Friends of the San Anselmo Library will be holding their monthly book sale on Saturday, October 3 from 10 to 4. These sales are held on the first Saturday of each month and include used books, library surplus books and videos. Most are in good condition.

If you have books that you would like to donate, just drop them off at the library any time the library is open. The library will be glad to give you a receipt if you need one.

All proceeds from the sales go to our library.

Volunteers Needed for Country Fair Day Parade

Country Fair Day is scheduled for Sunday, October 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The parade is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. and volunteers are needed to help on the day of the event to assist with the logistics of the parade.

If you can help, please call Anna Frost at 459-5901.

Highway 101 Improvement Project

An informational open house and public scoping meeting for the Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project will be held Tuesday, September 29, at 5:30 p.m., at the Redwood High School Cafeteria located at 395 Doherty Drive, Larkspur.

The proposed project would improve traffic operations and relieve congestion for multiple travel modes along the 101 corridor between Corte Madera and Larkspur. The purpose of the open house is to update the community on the proposed project and studies conducted to date. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on issues to be addressed in the environmental studies as well as mitigation measures to be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Joseph at (51) 286-5097 or betsy_joseph@dot.ca.gov.

REC REACH

Thank you to the many people who have already participated in the San Anselmo Parks & Recreation Commission REC REACH Project.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the REC REACH Project, a recreation program assessment designed to help our Recreation Department develop programs that best fit the needs of our community. The Commission asks that you complete a survey giving them your opinions.

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