City Launches New Website to Better Serve Community

After nearly a year of research, planning, and community surveying, the City of San Carlos will launch a newly redesigned website this month at www.cityofsancarlos.org. The new site functions as a “virtual city hall,” designed to enable residents and visitors to complete tasks and find information as quickly and as easily as possible.

The new site prioritizes online payments and on-screen fillable forms, which save residents and businesses the hassle of making in-person trips to City Hall. Residents can also access a variety of popular “quick links,” and easily browse meeting agendas, news, and events on-the-go, as the new site is optimized for both mobile and tablet use. The City is excited to share the new website with the San Carlos community and encourages everyone to explore all it has to offer!
San Carlos Welcomes New Sheriff’s Deputy and Canine Partner

The City of San Carlos would like to welcome Deputy Christopher Wallace and his K-9 unit “Trakr,” who have joined the San Carlos branch of the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office. Deputy Wallace comes to the City of Good Living from the Pacifica Police Department, where he began his career in 2007. He joined the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office in 2014, and has worked within the Sheriff’s jail and court facilities, as well as patrol.

Both Deputy Wallace and his new canine partner Trakr can be seen on nighttime patrol throughout the city of San Carlos. Trakr, a year and a half old, is trained in both suspect apprehension and handler protection. In the near future, Trakr will also be trained in narcotics detection and tracking. Deputy Wallace and Trakr are very excited be a part of the San Carlos Police Bureau and to serve the wonderful community of San Carlos.

San Carlos Wins Commute.org Top-City Award

Commute.org challenged local governments in San Mateo County to use alternative transportation during the month of November (2017) during the first ever City Challenge. City of San Carlos Staff stepped-up to the task, walking, biking, and taking public transit to and from City Hall. San Carlos is proud to earn the first Top-City Award and looks to continue with more “green” efforts, including prioritizing the use of alternative transportation.

SamTrans

Route 295 will be resuming service to Sequoia Station on El Camino Real beginning January 21. Get more info at www.samtrans.com.
If you are anything like me, you find yourself increasingly dependent on your cell phone to conduct your work and coordinate your personal life. It’s truly amazing to think back just a few years ago and remember how we used to handle so many aspects of our lives and just how much time and energy these little devices save us each day.

Like so many good things in life, there is often a down side. I’m sure we could list pages and pages of pros and cons for the smartphone.

One thing I am sure we can all agree on is SMARTPHONES SHOULD NEVER BE USED WHILE DRIVING!

I mean this with all sincerity: We need to do a much better job as a community keeping our eyes on the road and not on our phones. Almost always following this rule just isn’t good enough. This is a great family town. I love seeing all the kids out walking to and from school, out playing or riding their bikes. It makes this town special in today’s world. We need to respond by being especially good drivers. Glancing at your phone at a stop sign or light or just a quick peek now and then can and will have tragic consequences for the community. We all need to make a pledge to not be a part of such a tragedy.

To that end, and with fair warning to us all, our police officers will write a ticket to anyone they see using their phone while driving. No warning will be given to anyone pulled over for this offense. Resisting the temptation to use our phones while driving is ALL our responsibility. Please, I urge you all to drive safely.

Community Satisfaction Survey

The City conducts a survey every two years to find out what you think about City services, facilities and issues we are facing. True North Research will be conducting the survey in January by contacting randomly selected adult residents. Results from the survey will show changes in performance and levels of satisfaction over time, will assist the City Council in making strategic decisions and provide information needed for our upcoming two-year budget process. Thank you in advance to those who participate.
Highlands Park Playground Reopens for the New Year

The City of San Carlos Parks and Recreation Department celebrated the New Year by reopening Highlands Park Playground on Saturday, January 6. The playground features a larger play area, and all-new playground equipment, perfect for climbing, hanging, sliding, and more! The renovation also included the installation of brand new bathrooms for park-goers to enjoy. Come out and see the improvements for yourself at 2600 Melendy Drive (at Aberdeen Drive).

Public Works Director Jay Walter Retires – City Begins Recruitment

San Carlos Director of Public Works Jay Walter is retiring from the City after five years of service. During his time at the City of Good Living, Walter oversaw numerous Capital Improvement Program projects, including the renovation of Crestview Park, the remodeling of the Adult Community Center, and a number of measures to help reduce flooding. His expertise and good nature were an asset to the City and he will be missed.

The City has begun the difficult process of recruiting for a new Public Works Director. Anyone interested in the position can find out more and apply online at www.bobmurrayassoc.com. The application deadline is Friday, January 26, 2018.
New Cannabis (Marijuana) Laws

In November 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, to regulate personal and commercial recreational marijuana activity. In 2017, the San Carlos City Council held three Study Sessions, conducted a Shape San Carlos poll, and received input from both a Planning Commission Study Session and a Public Hearing. After conducting these public outreach efforts, the City Council adopted an ordinance to regulate commercial cannabis activities.

The adopted regulations restrict cannabis-related businesses to appropriately zoned locations within the city. They may not locate within 600 feet of: any residential zone, school, day care facility, recreational or youth center, library or public park. Additionally, the regulations restrict cannabis-related business activity to the following types:

1. cultivation
2. manufacturing
3. distribution
4. testing

The regulations do not permit retail businesses to locate in the city. Businesses seeking to operate in the city will need to procure a “Commercial Cannabis Business Permit,” which requires an extensive background check of proposed operators, a highly-detailed security plan, and several other operational standards to ensure business activity is safe and not a nuisance to other businesses and residents of the city.

For additional information please visit the City’s Cannabis webpage, which provides further details, at: http://www.cityofsancarlos.org/depts/ed/cannabis.asp

Trash Rate

Reminder: A new trash rate is in effect for 2018. Find more information about rate changes on the City’s website at www.cityofsancarlos.org.
City Council Mission Statement
The City of San Carlos provides high quality services and facilities in a fiscally sustainable, responsive and friendly manner to foster a safe and healthy community.

Elected Officials
(650) Area Code
Mayor Bob Grassilli 802-4160 bgrassilli@cityofsancarlos.org
Vice Mayor Cameron Johnson 802-4162 cjohnson@cityofsancarlos.org
Councilmember Ron Collins 802-4161 rcollins@cityofsancarlos.org
Councilmember Matt Grocott 802-4163 mgrocott@cityofsancarlos.org
Councilmember Mark Olbert 483-3001 molbert@cityofsancarlos.org
City Treasurer Michael Galvin 483-3001 mgalvin@cityofsancarlos.org

City Hall Contacts
City Manager Jeff Maltbie 802-4228 jmalbie@cityofsancarlos.org
Administrative Services Director 802-4128 rmendenhall@cityofsancarlos.org
Assistant City Manager 802-4230 tpeterson@cityofsancarlos.org
Building Department – General line 802-4261
City Attorney Greg Rubens 593-3117 grubens@cityofsancarlos.org
Community Relations Director/ 802-4219 cmu@cityofsancarlos.org
City Clerk Crystal Mui
Community Development Director 802-4263
Al Savay asavay@cityofsancarlos.org
San Carlos/ Redwood City 780-7400
dpucci@cityofsancarlos.org
Deputy Fire Chief Dave Pucci
Parks & Recreation Director 802-4131
Amy Newby anewby@cityofsancarlos.org
Planning Department – General line 802-4263
Police Captain Gregory Rothaus 802-4227 grothaus@smcgov.org
Police Business/Non-Emergency line 802-4277
Public Works Director 802-4203
tpeterson@cityofsancarlos.org
Public Works Department – General line 802-4200
Communications Coordinator 802-4218
b Cary@cityofsancarlos.org

City Government Meetings
CITY COUNCIL
Meets the second and fourth Monday* of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall and is televised live on Comcast Channel 27 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. The meeting is also streamed through www.cityofsancarlos.org and replayed on Comcast Channel 27 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.
January 8 and 22
February 12 and 26
March 12 and 26

PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets the first and third Monday* of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall and is televised live on Comcast Channel 27 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. The meeting is also streamed through www.cityofsancarlos.org and replayed on Comcast Channel 27 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.
January 1 and 15
February 5 and 19
March 5 and 19
* Unless otherwise noted

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION
Meets the first Wednesday of every even numbered month at 7 p.m., City Hall.

TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION COMMISSION
Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., City Hall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, 4 p.m., City Hall.

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meets the first and third Monday of the month, 5:30 p.m., City Hall.

City Hall Closures
Martin Luther King Day: January 15
President’s Day: February 19

Hotlines
Reporting Abandoned Vehicles 802-4236
Reporting Graffiti 802-4235
Sports Field Condition 594-2626
Updates from the City on PG&E’s Natural Gas Pipeline 147 802-4455

SOCIAL MEDIA
Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/cityofsancarlos
Follow us on Twitter: @CityofSanCarlos
Follow us on Instagram: @CityofSanCarlos

Engage us on Shape San Carlos:
www.cityofsancarlos.org/shapesancarlos.asp

INFORM San Carlos:
www.cityofsancarlos.org/inform