Updates and information on programs and projects at the City of San Carlos.

Administrative Services

Here are some quick updates from the Human Resources Division of the Administrative Services Department on recruitments to fill vacant positions at the City.

Open Recruitments

- Recreation Leader I – Recruitment open until filled

Recruitments in Progress

- Senior Management Analyst – Second interviews were held on August 16th
- Maintenance Worker – Interviews are being held August 15th – 17th
- Program Coordinator (Part-time) – Interviews will be held on August 23rd

City Clerk

Election Updates

On Tuesday, November 6, 2018, the City of San Carlos will hold a General Municipal Election for the election of three seats on the City Council (each for a four-year term). The candidate filing period ended at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15th. Below are the names of the five qualified candidates who will be on the ballot:
The City of San Carlos has also placed two measures on the November 6, 2018 ballot – a Transient Occupancy Tax (Measure QQ) and a Cannabis Business Tax (Measure NN). As of the time of release of this newsletter, no primary arguments have been submitted against either of the measures. If there are no primary arguments filed against the measures by 5:00 p.m. on August 17th, no rebuttal arguments will be filed.

To stay up-to-date on elections, visit: https://www.cityofsancarlos.org/government/departments/city-clerk/elections or contact City Clerk Crystal Mui at cmui@cityofsancarlos.org or (650) 802-4219.

Community Development

**Single Family House Size Standards**

On July 24, 2018, the Planning Commission directed staff to prepare for a 3rd study session and to explore more options for controlling single-family house size, mass and bulk. In response to concerns from members of the public and representatives of Good Growth San Carlos, the Planning Commission asked for more information with regard to establishing a Floor Area Ratio and a Daylight Plane standard to further reduce house size beyond what the Single Family House Size Committee (SHAC) recommended. Staff will also be providing explanations on what standards will apply to properties in hillside areas. The areas in excess of 20% slope have historically been regulated by a Hillside Overlay zone.

On September 4th, staff will present a number of new options for Commission consideration.

Staff anticipates bringing a package of recommendations to the Council from the Commission in October and November.

**On-Street Dining Pilot Program**

At its August 27·2018 meeting the City Council will reconsider the City’s On-Street Dining Pilot Program. The program began in response to a Strategic Plan Objective adopted by the Council on March 11, 2015, which requested that staff bring forward a proposal for temporary restaurant “parklets” on Laurel Street. The Pilot Program initially envisioned selecting two on-street dining sites, the first of which was Town, but before a second site was chosen, the decision was made to postpone adding a second site to address community concerns related to limited parking downtown. On July 16th, a new parking garage was opened at Wheeler Plaza, adding 252 new parking spaces to downtown and a net gain of 64 spaces over the previous Wheeler Plaza Parking Lot. For this reason, City Council will be considering whether or not to reopen the Pilot Program to a second on-street dining location. Trattoria da Vittorio and Piacere are the two restaurants currently under consideration as the second on-street dining site. A selection committee made up of City staff and City Commissioners is
Council is currently reviewing designs submitted by both restaurants. Council will also be asked to decide whether or not to extend the Pilot Program for the Town location an additional 18 months.

Fire

Community Emergency Response Team Update
The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program provides training and education to community members about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their area, providing basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using both classroom training and hands-on exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following a large event when professional responders may not be immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

An Emergency Preparedness Outreach Coordinator is responsible for multiple emergency preparedness activities, including supporting the CERT program and developing emergency operations plans for City staff, hazard mitigation plans, and coordinating City staff emergency training. However, in an effort to increase efficiency and potentially share costs of the program with other agencies, management of the CERT program is proposed to be shifted to a new position in the County’s Office of Emergency Services. This approach would provide dedicated CERT program leadership for Redwood City, San Carlos and other communities in the County.

The County expressed interest in dedicating staff to strengthen the CERT program Countywide. The new position would focus solely on the CERT program, not the other job duties currently provided by the Emergency Preparedness Outreach Coordinator (EPOC) in Redwood City/San Carlos. City and County staff are finalizing the details of this approach with the intention of the new County position being created this fall before the elimination of the EPOC position becomes effective January 1. As CERT programs typically use the same curriculum from community to community, this approach creates opportunities for other City agencies to join the partnership in the future, further reducing each participating agency’s individual cost.

In an effort to engage CERT volunteers and community members around this transition, the Cities of Redwood City and San Carlos are hosting a series of meetings to gain input on the Redwood City Fire Department on the CERT program and the proposed County CERT position transition.

In addition, the cities of Redwood City and San Carlos are seeking input through an online survey which should be available next week. Both communities will use the input and information gained will help further develop the new County CERT program.

The next community meetings will take place on September 25th and 27th in the evening. The time and location are still being confirmed. Once finalized, the
information will be published via email, social media and a variety of other methods to ensure community participation.

**Mutual Aid**
San Carlos/Redwood City Firefighters were sent to the Mendocino Complex fire on July 26th as part of a County Strike Team. After two long weeks of work crew members were rotated, but the Strike Team remained in Mendocino. The fire behavior they experienced was unlike anything they have seen before, and this fire is now the largest in state history. The containment has improved and our Strike Team was released to return home on Tuesday. Everyone is uninjured, except for several cases of poison oak.

Battalion Chief Chuck Lax was a Strike Team Leader of a CalOES Strike Team. He was initially sent to Riverside where he was assigned to the Cranston fire. After five days they were sent north to the Carr fire near Redding. He was released after two weeks and is back at work.

**Grant Update**
The City of San Carlos was recently awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant for a comprehensive fuels management program. The total grant award is over $400,000. The first phase includes submitting the proposed program for environmental review, which is in progress now. More information will be shared on this important program as the process continues.

**Police**

**Stolen Vehicle**
On July 25th at approximately 8:45 a.m., deputies responded to the 1400 block of Greenwood Avenue on the report of a vehicle theft. The victim’s personal vehicle was stolen from the street while parked in front of her residence. The victim estimated the vehicle to be worth $20,000. A report was taken and forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

**Vehicle Burglary**
On July 27th at approximately 6:45 a.m., deputies responded to the 800 block of Bauer Drive on the report of a vehicle burglary. Sometime overnight an unknown suspect entered the victim’s locked pickup truck, which was parked on the street in front of his residence. The suspect stole personal items, a laptop computer and credit cards. The suspect gained entry into the truck by sliding open its rear window. A report was taken and forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

**Computer Data Theft**
On July 27th at approximately 11:45 p.m., deputies responded to the Home Chef Cooking School at 1403 Industrial Road on the report of a theft. The owner of the business believed an employee who had just resigned stole a valuable company thumb drive before she left. Deputies located the suspect at her residence and the thumb drive was recovered. The suspect was arrested and booked into the Maguire Correctional Facility.
Grand Theft
On the morning of August 6th, deputies responded to Casa De Flores at 737 Walnut Street on the report of a theft. Between August 2nd and August 5th, unknown suspects removed an air conditioning unit from the building. The unit was valued at approximately $6,600. There were no witnesses to the theft and no surveillance video in the area. A report was taken and forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

Public Works

Pedestrian Beacon at the Intersection of Woodland and Brittan Avenues
At the June 25, 2018 City Council meeting, San Carlos resident Natasha Melley requested crosswalk enhancements, including a flashing beacon, at the intersection of Woodland and Brittan Avenues. The City Council referred this item to the Transportation and Circulation (T&C) Commission.

The T&C considered this item at its July 17, 2018 meeting. Staff informed the Commission and Ms. Melley, who attended the meeting, that a study is planned for the intersection to evaluate pedestrian volume, traffic volume and speed and collision data. The study will be performed once school resumes to collect a more representative sample of pedestrian volumes. The City also restriped the crosswalk as a part of our on-going street striping program. The Commission and Ms. Melley supported staff’s decision to conduct a pedestrian traffic study at the intersection and await the outcome of the study.

Traffic at Caltrain Undercrossing
At its July 17, 2018 meeting, the Transportation and Circulation (T&C) Commission addressed an issue with the right turn lane on north bound El Camino Real to east bound Holly Street at the Caltrain undercrossing. The concern is that many drivers on northbound El Camino that are turning right onto Holly Street are continuing to block the intersection, especially during the red signal phase. The T&C suggested that the signal timing of Holly Street be included in the Holly Street Corridor Assessment and the solution outcomes be implemented. Staff has been working with the Traffic Consultant, Caltrans and Traffic Enforcement to identify solutions, of which evaluating the signal timing of the Holly Street Corridor is included. In the meantime, minor timing adjustments and adding additional traffic signage are being considered to help improve the intersection operation while the corridor is evaluated.