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

City Manager

Non-Profit Grant Program Spotlight: One Life Counseling Center
One Life Counseling Center (One Life) received a grant of $7,000 through the City’s Non-Profit Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2018-19. The grant will contribute to the cost of care for San Carlos residents who need it most, by providing free and low-cost counseling to children, adults and families dealing with crises who would otherwise not be able to afford it. One Life services are open to anyone regardless of race, age, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, physical or mental ability, religion, or ability to pay. One Life provides the services that its partners in the community cannot provide, closing gaps in treatment programs and working collaboratively with agencies, schools and religious establishments to serve their needs. Three office locations provide mental health counseling, and all are located in San Carlos. A 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, One Life has skilled therapists who aim to inspire, educate and provide accessible counseling and wellness programs to individuals and families, schools and organizations throughout the community. When addressed appropriately and compassionately, times of crises can also be opportunities for positive growth and change. One Life’s goal is to ensure that no one who needs counseling is turned away, regardless of ability to pay.

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
- Part-time Program Coordinator (Youth Development) – Recruitment closes on October 26th
- Management Analyst (Office of the City Manager) – Recruitment closes on November 7th
- Civil Engineering Assistant – Recruitment closes on November 14th

Recruitments in Progress
- Management Analyst (Public Works) – Second interviews in progress
- Facility Attendant (Full-time) – Background check in progress
- Recreation Leader II (Part-time, Athletics) – Applications under review
- Assistant Planner – Applications under review
- Associate Planner – Applications under review

Upcoming Recruitments
- Senior Management Analyst (Community Development)

New Hire
- Maintenance Worker – New hire will start on November 5th

Community Development

City Council Balances Reduced House Sizes with the Needs of Growing and Aging Families
On Monday, October 22, 2018, the City Council introduced an Ordinance amending sections of the San Carlos Municipal Code in response to community concerns about house sizes.

Over the past two years, the City has been listening to community members who feel that some new houses and additions being built in San Carlos are too large for their lot and neighborhood. The Council tasked staff to work with two separate resident commissions to develop recommendations addressing these concerns.

Monday night’s vote by the Council comes after many hours of work by San Carlos residents and city staff resulting in numerous proposals. This included recommendations from the Single-Family House Advisory Committee (“SHAC”; a 7-member City Council-appointed advisory committee), input from over 150 residents in attendance at a community open house, four public Planning Commission meetings and two Council hearings.

As part of its deliberations, the Council invited SHAC, the Planning Commission and Good Growth San Carlos – a volunteer community group focused on reducing house sizes — to present material and respond to questions by the Council. The Council also solicited input from a local realtor and received dozens of letters and public testimony.

There is no single solution to address house size and bulk that will satisfy all residents. While everyone wants San Carlos to thrive as the City of Good Living, community members have differing housing needs that also change over time. The zoning ordinance changes below reflect the Council’s careful consideration
and balancing of numerous competing desires while not jeopardizing San Carlos’ future for all residential single family property owners in the face of unprecedented changes in the regional economy and housing market

The following changes to the San Carlos Zoning Ordinance will be presented to the Council for final adoption on November 12, 2018:

1. Maximum Floor Area (i.e., the living area, plus covered garages). For lots below 7,500 square feet, the maximum floor area is the greater of (a) 1,100 sq. ft. + 35% of lot area, or (b) 50% of lot area. For lots equal to or greater than 7,500 square feet, the maximum floor area is 50% of the lot size.

2. Up to 450 sq. ft. of garage space shall be exempt from floor area limits provided it is detached from the main house and located a minimum of 40 feet away from the front property line.

3. Basements shall be exempt from floor area limits provided they are located directly underneath the house and are no more than 3 feet above grade.

4. Up to 200 square feet of covered front porches, provided they have at least two sides open and the surface height is at or below the level of the front door, shall be exempt from floor area limits.

5. Up to 250 square feet of unenclosed and unroofed decks that are aligned with or below the lowest floor level shall be exempt from floor area limits.

6. For the RS-6 Zoning District, a one car garage will be permitted provided a two-car 20 feet wide driveway is available.

7. Projects subject to review by the City’s Residential Design Review Committee (RDRC) will require an appropriately sized sign to be placed in a visible area of the front yard to notify passersby of the public design review hearing.

These amendments to the Ordinance will become effective 30 days after adoption (expected November 12, 2018) and codified in the San Carlos Municipal Code. The Council has directed, however, that these new provisions shall not be enforced until 180 days after adoption so as not to penalize homeowners who are in the midst of obtaining approval of their project. All projects that are not deemed complete by the Planning Division after that 180 day period would be subject to the regulations as amended and outlined above.

For more information, please visit the project website at www.cityofsancarlos/singlefamilyhousesize
Police

Vehicle Burglaries
On October 16th at approximately 10:00 a.m., deputies responded to 189 El Camino Real on the report of an auto burglary. Someone shattered a rear window of the victim’s vehicle and stole miscellaneous items that were left on the rear passenger seat in plain sight. The victim estimated the total value of the stolen property to be around $2,900. No witnesses or surveillance video were found in the area. A report was taken and forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

Between approximately 10:00 p.m. on October 21st and 5:00 a.m. on October 22nd, approximately 17 vehicle burglaries occurred within a 1-mile radius of each other on Howard Avenue, Arroyo Avenue, Cedar Street, Dayton Avenue, Walnut Street and Greenwood Avenue. All of the vehicles were locked at the time of the crime, and entry was made via shattered windows. Nothing of substantial value was taken from the vehicles. A witness was able to provide a description of the suspect vehicle, the driver, and a passenger in the vehicle. Deputies are continuing to follow-up with the multiple victims involved in this case to obtain stolen property information, and they are searching for any video surveillance that possibly captured footage of the burglaries.

Public Works

PG&E Overhead Electric Improvements for the Caltrain Electrification Project
Caltrain will be electrifying tracks between San Francisco and San Jose. Prior to Caltrain beginning any electrification work, PG&E must perform work on its existing facilities adjacent to the tracks and in City and Caltrans rights-of-way. The work will include: the installation of new joint poles; the replacement or relocation of existing joint poles; replacement or relocation of anchors and supports for the joint poles; replacement and relocation of existing primary wiring; and installation of new wiring.

The work in San Carlos will begin November 1, 2018 and be completed by December 1, 2018. The following locations will be impacted:

- Oak Street and El Camino Real;
- Northwood Drive and Old County Road;
- Riverton Drive and Old County Road;
- Arroyo Avenue and El Camino Real;
- Commercial Street and Old County Road;
- Central Avenue and El Camino Real;
- Bing Street and Old County Road;
- Washington Street and Old County Road;
- White Oak Way and El Camino Real;
- Belmont Avenue and El Camino Real; and
- American Street and Old County Road.

Portions of the work within City and Caltrans rights-of-way will occur during normal working hours. The work adjacent to or near the Caltrain tracks will be
performed overnight while there is no train service to allow PG&E to safely perform work.