1.18.19

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

City Manager

Spring Citizens Academy Registration Now Open
Registration for the spring 2019 Citizens Academy is now open. Sessions will be held on consecutive Wednesday evenings from March 13, 2019 through May 8, 2019. The Citizens Academy is modeled after community leadership programs offered by a number of communities throughout the country. It offers participants the opportunity to meet City leaders and interact with department heads while learning about how departments operate, how City funds are allocated, how decisions are made and how to become a more involved and informed citizen.

Community members can visit www.cityofsancarlos.org/citizensacademy for additional information and to apply online. Applications will be accepted through February 22, 2019.

Non-Profit Grant Program Spotlight: StarVista
StarVista received a grant of $2,500 through the City's Non-Profit Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2018-19. StarVista offers prevention, early intervention, education and counseling services to children, youth and families in San Mateo County.

The grant will support StarVista’s Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Center (CISPC), which provides vital, life-saving services for community members who are desperate, contemplating suicide and seeking crucial help for referrals to social services.

For those who arrive at a suicide crisis, many are overwhelmed by a problem they may not feel able to solve themselves. Others in crisis may have a mental illness such as depression. No matter one's reason for reaching out for help,
crisis lines and related prevention education and support provide a vital public safety service. CISPC not only operates San Mateo County’s only 24-hour crisis hotline, it also operates a website and teen chat room, delivers educational presentations to youth and parents, and provides clinical services. StarVista contributes to the City of San Carlos’ desire to create a safe, diverse and welcoming community by providing a high quality, stable and cost effective public safety service.

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.

Recruitments in Progress

- Accounting Technician II (Payroll) – Second interviews held on January 17th
- Maintenance Worker – Background check in process

New Hires

- Assistant Planner – New hire will start on February 19th
- Associate Planner – New hire will start on February 19th
- Management Analyst (City Manager) – New hire will start February 19th

City Clerk

Board and Commission Recruitment Updates

Economic Development Advisory Commission
There are currently two vacant seats on the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC). While there’s an emphasis to appoint business owners (who need not be residents) to the Commission, all are invited to apply. Applications are due Friday, February 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Residential Design Review Committee
On December 21st, Linda Burroughs, who serves as the design professional on the Residential Design Review Committee (RDRC) submitted her resignation from the Committee effective January 31, 2019. Recruitment to fill this seat will begin in the coming weeks.

More information on open recruitments can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofsancarlos.org/CurrentOpenings, or by contacting City Clerk Crystal Mui via email at cmui@cityofsancarlos.org or by phone at (650) 802-4219.
Community Development

Update on Citywide Wayfinding Study
Staff has been working with Hunt Design to conduct a Citywide Wayfinding Study aimed at developing a program for directional signage and gateways throughout the city. The goal of the study is to develop a signage program that will help direct residents and visitors to points of interest and provide a greater sense of place for San Carlos. To guide the project, a Steering Committee was assembled, including community representatives from the Economic Development Advisory Commission, the Transportation and Circulation Commission, the Planning Commission, City staff and San Carlos School District staff. The Steering Committee worked with Hunt Design to establish key destinations, primary routes and design alternatives for directional signage and gateways. A public meeting was then held at the San Carlos Youth Center in May of 2017 to engage the broader community.

In August of 2017 and again in June of 2018, mock-up directional signage was installed in the Downtown to determine if the sizes and colors were appropriate for the city. Taking into consideration community feedback from the public meeting and the mock-up signage, a Sign Location Plan was created. The Sign Location Plan shows likely locations and design schemes for the Wayfinding Program. This Plan will be presented before the City Council on February 11th. If approved, the City could then work with Hunt Design to select a sign fabricator to create and install the new signs. A Capital Improvement Program budget would need to then be developed by staff and approved by the City Council for any costs associated with creating and installing the signs.

Black Mountain Property Project
The Community Development Department received the planning application from Dragonfly to develop the Black Mountain Water property with 68 townhouse units. The plans are currently being reviewed by our development department for completeness. We have also retained the firm Placeworks to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the proposed development in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Planning Commission will host a scoping meeting on March 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to hear public comments on the scope of the EIR. The EIR Scoping Meeting is only intended to solicit public input on potential environmental effects people think should be evaluated as part of the EIR going forward. No formal decisions by the Planning Commission will be made at this meeting.

A postcard will be mailed to all San Carlos residents announcing the Planning Commission meeting and providing information on the project web page. Staff will also use social media and enotify to announce this meeting. Updates on the project will be periodically posted on the project web page.

Potential Project at Vista del Grande Property
The City received a preliminary application to develop the Vista del Grande property (adjacent and north of the Black Mountain property) with 60 residential units. The developer is currently working on revisions to the preliminary plans. We will keep the Council updated as this project progresses.
New Method of Measuring Traffic Impacts for New Development

Planning staff is working with a consultant team to prepare new traffic impact criteria for use when preparing traffic analysis for environmental documents such as Environmental Impact Reports (EIR’s). The State of California enacted new legislation requiring jurisdictions to use Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) rather than intersection Level of Service (LOS) when preparing California Environmental Quality Act traffic impact analysis. This new metric is intended to encourage growth near transit and alternate modes of transportation. The new criteria will be reviewed with the Transportation & Circulation Commission and Planning Commission prior to consideration by the City Council in late spring or early summer 2019.

Update on Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance

On Monday, January 7, the Planning Commission adopted a Resolution recommending that the City Council adopt amendments to the City’s Wireless Telecommunications Ordinance. The City’s Wireless Telecommunications Ordinance has not been updated since 2011. Since then, the U.S. Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have passed additional laws and rulings that set forth regulatory requirements for wireless facilities.

Under these new regulations, cities cannot prohibit wireless telecommunication providers from installing wireless equipment. In addition, federal laws and orders set definitive processing timelines (referred to as “shot clocks”) for acting on wireless applications. Failure to act requires issuance of all necessary permits without further delay. The FCC has also ruled that existing facilities that undergo minor changes, such as replacement of antennas and equipment, must be approved without a public hearing.

The proposed amendments also take into consideration emerging technology. Deployment of new, small cell wireless technology is anticipated due to the rise in wireless devices such as smartphones, home systems such as NEST, ALEXA and ECHO, keyless entry systems, virtual reality and self-driving or automated cars.

Small cell wireless equipment can be installed on light poles, traffic lights, utility poles, and other similar property not only in commercial and industrial areas, but in residential neighborhoods as well. The proposed Ordinance includes a new section that addresses small cell wireless technology and includes design preferences and aesthetic controls. The proposed amendments would update the City’s Zoning Ordinance to ensure consistency with Federal and State Law and also set forth standards for design and location preferences.

Staff anticipates bringing this item forward for City Council consideration within the next few months.

The staff contact is Lisa Porras, Principal Planner, who can be reached at lporras@cityofsancarlos.org or (650) 802-4264).
Shoplifting and Warrant Arrest
On January 14th at approximately 11:00 p.m., deputies responded to CVS at 1324 San Carlos Avenue on the report of a shoplifting in progress. The store manager called to report that two people inside the store were seen putting merchandise into their bags. Deputies waited outside the store’s entrance for the suspects. The suspects left the store without paying for the items and deputies detained them without incident. One of the suspects was also found to have three outstanding warrants. Both suspects were arrested and booked into the Maguire Correctional Facility.

Felony Arrest for Narcotics Sales Resulting in Great Bodily Injury
On September 26, 2018, deputies conducted a Fentanyl overdose death investigation in the City of San Carlos. Over the next three months, Crime Suppression Unit (CSU) Detectives investigated the overdose and identified suspect Jon Oxenford as the person who provided the victim with the narcotics that caused her death. On January 9, 2019, CSU Detectives obtained a felony arrest warrant for the suspect and subsequently arrested him at his residence in East Palo Alto. A search of Oxenford’s residence led to the seizure of additional narcotics and narcotic paraphernalia. The suspect was booked into the Maguire Correctional Facility.

Gun Buyback Event
On Saturday, December 15, 2018, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, Redwood City Police Department, Belmont Police Department and the “Citizens for a San Mateo County Gun Buyback” held an anonymous Gun Buyback event. This event was established to provide individuals with a safe way to surrender their firearms with no questions asked. Individuals received up to $100 cash for a handgun, shotgun, or rifle and up to $200 cash for an assault rifle.

The event was a huge success. 441 total firearms were collected, 22 of which were surrendered by City of San Carlos residents.

Breakdown of the 441 firearms collected:
- 23 assault weapons
- 168 handguns (74 pistols, 84 revolvers, 10 derringers)
- 250 long guns (155 rifles, 2 rifle-shotgun combinations, 93 shotguns)

Moving forward, the “Citizens for a San Mateo County Gun Buyback” will be reviewing information from anonymous surveys in an effort to increase efficiency and make the next Gun Buyback event an even greater success.
Intersection Improvements at Laurel Street and Holly Street

The intersection improvements of Laurel Street and Holly Street are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of Monday, January 21st. The schedule and progress of the work will be dependent on the weather.

The work was previously scheduled to be completed by the end of December, however, there was a delay in equipment and component delivery, as well as the City holiday closure.

The signal gear and equipment will be installed first, with programming following. The signal programming will be similar to the intersection of El Camino Real and Holly Street to allow better flow of vehicles through the Holly Street corridor up to the Highway 101 interchange.

Maintenance staff will be posting static signs for advanced notifications near and at the intersection. In addition, the Sheriff’s Office will be posting Changeable Message Signs for additional notification. All advanced notifications will be posted by the end of this week and remain for approximately a week after the traffic signals and intersection are fully active. The Sheriff’s Office will also provide additional patrolling at the intersection to assist in awareness of the change.

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