A MESSAGE FROM THE SAN CARLOS & REDWOOD CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Importance of Defensible Space

The San Carlos hillsides, while beautiful, are an ideal environment for a devastating wildland fire. As summer nears, temperatures peak, humidity drops, and summer winds blow, increasing the potential for wildland fires. It is imperative that you prepare now to protect your home from being one of the many lost to wildfires each year.

Defensible space is the buffer you create between your home and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it, and is essential to improving your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and protects your home from catching fire from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space also helps protect the firefighters defending your home.

It’s not necessary to remove all vegetation around your home, but creating defensible space will give firefighters a better chance of keeping wildfire from spreading to your home. Mowing, weeding, pruning, thinning, spacing, and careful plant selection can make the difference between survival and losing your home during a wildfire.

Get more information about protecting your home at cityofsancarlos.org/fire.

Guidelines for Vegetation Management within 100 feet of your home:

- Remove all dead and dying plants
- Remove vegetation and replant using drought-tolerant, fire-resistant plants
- Trim or remove plants to create the recommended vertical and horizontal separation between them
- Remove dry leaves, twigs, pine needles, etc. from the yard, roof, and rain gutters
Adventure Camp 2019

Parks & Recreation is excited to offer weekly Day Camps throughout the summer for kids ages 4-12 years old. Join friends — and make new friends — in these summer camps filled with fun adventures! Trained and experienced staff will lead campers through daily age appropriate games and activities.

New this year: early drop-off between 8 a.m. - 9 a.m., with camp activities for the day beginning at 9 a.m. and finishing at 4 p.m. Adventure Camp also offers extended care until 6 p.m. for an additional fee.

For more information and to register, please visit www.cityofsancarlos.org/register.

INFO

Looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your community?

The City of San Carlos is currently recruiting for seats on the below advisory bodies:

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission
- Planning Commission
- Residential Design Review Committee
- Transportation and Circulation Commission

For more information, please visit cityofsancarlos.org/currentopenings or contact the City Clerk’s Department at cityclerk@cityofsancarlos.org or (650) 802-4219.

INFO

BLOCK PARTY ANYONE?

A block party is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors in a fun, relaxed atmosphere! Hosting a gathering is now easier than ever, as permit and insurance fees have been waived by the City Council.

Block party permits are given through the Parks & Recreation Department and staff will work with residents in advance of the event date to discuss potential challenges to help ensure a successful event. Applications should be submitted at least 30 days before the scheduled event to allow sufficient time to process the permit.

For more information, call (650) 802-4421. Applications and Block Party policy can be obtained by visiting www.cityofsancarlos.org/depts/pr/events.
With summer approaching, we start to think about the fire danger our community faces. We have had a very wet winter, which will help keep fuels moist longer into the summer, but we can’t be complacent.

The beauty of our hillsides brings a risk with it as well. Many areas of our town are in a designated “high fire danger” area. It is important for our community to manage trees and brush around homes, and to have a plan so you are ready to evacuate if needed. Our website contains a great deal of information about how you can protect your home and as planning tools to help your family during an emergency. INFO: www.cityofsancarlos.org/fire

California is seeing our “fire season” become year round. With the changing climate comes increasing fire behavior and much faster rates of spread. San Carlos is working very hard on several projects to reduce the risk of wildfire. We are currently engaged in an aggressive fuels management program in our city parks, an evacuation drill and code enforcement throughout the city.

The City will also be holding two community meetings to discuss the threat of wildfires, and how to keep your home and your family safe and prepared.

Join us for either meeting on April 13 or 16, and RSVP: www.cityofsancarlos.org/wildfireRSVP.

Please spend the time to develop your family emergency plan and practice it. The “Ready, Set, Go” planning tools are available on our website to assist you. INFO: www.cityofsancarlos.org/fire

Want to make a difference this Earth Day? Roll up your sleeves and join the City of San Carlos on Saturday, April 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. to clean up downtown Laurel St.

This fourth annual Earth Day event is a great way for community members to be a part of on-going efforts to increase sustainability while keeping our city clean and beautiful.

Sign-up by April 10 at www.cityofsancarlos.org/earthdaysignup.
BORROW AN ENERGY-SAVING TOOLKIT FROM THE SAN CARLOS LIBRARY

Looking for simple ways to save energy and water around your house and lower your utility bills?

Then head to the San Carlos Library, where, with a valid library card, you can borrow a “Check It Out!” Energy & Water Saving Toolkit for up to three weeks, just like you would a book or DVD.

The toolkit contains several supplies that you can keep: an LED light bulb; faucet aerators; one low-flow showerhead; outlet gaskets; weather stripping; and water leak detection tablets.

The kit also features a variety of tools to help identify electricity overuse and heat. The toolkit’s illustrated user guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to use these supplies and how to reduce energy and water use.

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY PROGRAM

The Household Battery Program allows residents in single-family homes (including residents living in apartments with four units or less) to properly dispose of household batteries and cell phones by placing them in zip-top bags and leaving them on top of their black garbage carts.

In September 2018, RethinkWaste mailed all single-family home residents a notice explaining the program change, along with two orange-tinted battery and cell phone collection bags. Residents can pick up additional orange bags at City Hall (600 Elm Street) at the Public Works counter, or at RethinkWaste (610 Elm Street, Suite 202—located on the second floor of the San Carlos Library). Any clear zip-top bag can also be used to properly dispose of batteries and cell phones.

Residents in multi-family dwellings (apartments/condos) with five or more units can place bagged batteries into an orange battery bucket, often found in common areas such as lobbies or mail rooms. If you do not see one at your location, ask your property manager or owner to contact Recology San Mateo County for a free bucket. Please note that only property managers/owners can request a bucket and coordinate pickups.

NATIONAL MAYOR’S CHALLENGE FOR WATER CONSERVATION

The City of San Carlos will again be participating in the National Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation during the month of April. Help San Carlos compete with other California cities and show off your water-wise habits by signing up at www.mywaterpledge.com.
NEWLY ADOPTED WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES ORDINANCE

City Council held a public hearing on February 11, 2019 to consider updates to the Municipal Code on wireless telecommunication facilities. On February 25, 2019, the Council adopted Ordinance 1539, which includes a comprehensive set of standards for telecommunications facilities, including criteria for their placement and design, and a new section on small cell wireless facilities.

Small cell wireless facilities are typically installed on light poles, traffic lights, and utility poles in residential, commercial and industrial neighborhoods. Their installation is being driven by the widespread use of 5G wireless technology and a growth in internet connected devices and appliances such as NEST, ALEXA, keyless entry systems, and of course, smart phones. While state and federal mandates prohibit the City from outright denying the installation of these wireless facilities, the City can adopt standards to help achieve the best possible design and minimal intrusion.

The City is expecting to receive applications for small cell wireless facilities in the near future. Questions relating to this Ordinance should be directed to Lisa Porras, Planning Manager, at lporras@cityofsancarlos.org or at (650) 802-4264.

TO TURN IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, OR EXPLOSIVES FOR DESTRUCTION

Please call (650) 363-4911 to have a deputy retrieve:
• Unwanted firearms, ammunition, or explosives (ex. fireworks) from you. Items submitted for disposal cannot be retrieved later.

TO TURN IN FIREARMS FOR SAFEKEEPING

Please call (650) 363-4911 to have a deputy retrieve:
• Firearms or ammunition that you wish to surrender for safekeeping to be in compliance with a protective order or restraining order.
  o These firearms will be held for safekeeping for 180 days. If they remain unclaimed after 180 days they will be disposed of pursuant to Penal Code § 33875.
• Firearms or ammunition that you wish to surrender to be in compliance with a General Notice of Firearm Prohibition.
  o These firearms will be held for safekeeping for 30 days. If they remain unclaimed after 30 days they will be disposed of pursuant to Penal Code § 29810(i).

Turn in Unwanted Firearms Year-Round

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office holds a Gun Buyback event each year, but community members can safely turn in unwanted firearms, ammunition and other explosives year-round.
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
Chair Mark Olbert
molbert@cityofsancarlos.org
Vice Mayor Ron Collins
rcollins@cityofsancarlos.org
Councilmember Sara McDowell
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Councilmember Laura Parmer-Lohan
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Councilmember Adam Rak
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Community Development Director
Al Savay
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Police Business/Non-Emergency line
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Public Works Director
Steven Machida
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Public Works Department – General line
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Communications Coordinator
Brian Cary (Editor, Good Living)
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.
April 8 and 22
May 13 and 27
June 10 and 24

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.
April 1 and 15
May 6 and 20
June 3 and 17

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

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

TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION COMMISSION
Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Library Community Room.

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
Memorial Day: Monday, May 27

Hotlines
Reporting Abandoned Vehicles 802-4236
Reporting Graffiti 802-4235
Sports Field Condition 594-2626