City Manager

City Receives Beacon Awards For Sustainability

The City of San Carlos has been selected as a 2019 Beacon Award Winner by the Institute for Local Government (ILG). The City is being recognized for Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions for 2019 at the Platinum Level (the highest level achievable) by reducing emissions from municipal operations by 45% in 2018 compared to 2005 levels. This achievement is largely made possible through Peninsula Clean Energy’s ECO 100 program that allows the City to procure renewable electricity for all City operations, from electricity use in City buildings to street lights. Along with this award, the City of San Carlos has won the following Platinum Level Beacon Awards:

- Platinum Level Award for 21% Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions
- Platinum Level Award for 45% Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions
- Platinum Level Award for 32% Agency Energy Savings
- Platinum Level Award in Sustainability Best Practices

We are thrilled to accept this recognition from ILG for our commitment to sustainability as we continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from both municipal operations and our community.
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
- Administrative Assistants (2 positions – Administrative Services Department and City Clerk Department) – Recruitment closes on September 20th
- Recreation Leader I (Youth Development) – Recruitment open until filled

Recruitments in Process
- Senior Administrative Clerk (Community Development) – Interviews to be held on September 20th
- Public Works Inspector – Interviews to be held on September 26th

New Hires
- Maintenance Workers – New hires start on September 16th and September 23rd

Community Development

Priority Development Area Expansion
In 2011, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), along with its partner agencies the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), initiated the FOCUS Program. The Program provides funds for Priority Development Areas (PDA) that leverage existing infrastructure to minimize development impacts on communities. PDAs must be within an existing community, within a half-mile of frequent transit and in an area planned for future housing and job growth. PDAs play an important role in the Plan Bay Area 2030, which is ABAG’s and MTC’s long-range land-use and transportation plan for our region.

San Carlos’s Railroad Corridor, including El Camino Real and Downtown, was designated as a PDA in 2011, reflecting Caltrain access, the downtown retail district and housing within walking distance of the station. In June 2019, ABAG and MTC opened a call for Letters of Interest (LOI) for new or modified PDAs following ABAG’s and MTC’s adoption of revised criteria for priority areas. The City submitted an LOI to modify the existing PDA boundary to adequately capture the growth near San Carlos Avenue and include the multi-family zoning areas. The boundaries of the existing and proposed PDA are shown in the map attached to this newsletter. The LOI was submitted on September 5, 2019 and staff was informed that the expanded PDA boundary looks reasonable and should meet the Transit-Rich PDA designation criteria. Staff is anticipating a formal response to the LOI within a month.

To date, the MTC has invested more than $800 million in PDAs, including approximately $3.5 million for the San Carlos East Side Connect Infrastructure/Streetscape Improvement Plan along Old County Road. Expanding the PDA boundary in San Carlos will continue the eligibility for additional planning grants and technical assistance from these agencies.
Accessory Dwelling Units

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), also known as granny flats or in-law units, provide independent living quarters for one household with full facilities for sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation on the same lot as a single-family home. ADUs may be attached, detached or located within the living area of the primary dwelling. There are numerous benefits to ADUs, including: extra rental income for homeowners; extra living space for family members, including aging parents or adult children; efficient use of existing infrastructure; and additional housing opportunities within existing neighborhoods.

In response to the Bay Area’s regional housing shortage, Governor Brown signed new laws (SB 1069 and AB 2299) from 2016 to 2018 to encourage the construction of more ADUs by reducing the regulatory barriers commonly found in local zoning ordinances. To comply with the updated state policies, the City of San Carlos is undergoing a process of updating its ADU Ordinance (currently entitled “Second Dwelling Unit” in the City’s Municipal Code).

The City is inviting residents and community stakeholders to participate in the first ADU Planning Commission Study Session on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Some of the topics to be discussed include maximum floor area for attached and detached ADUs, height requirements and parking. The study session will function as an open dialogue between staff, Planning Commissioners and residents to share detailed information about ADUs, compare best practices, discuss policy considerations and ask questions. There will be additional Planning Commission meetings in November. Please visit the City website for more information at www.cityofsancarlos.org/ADU or contact the Planning Division at (650) 802-4263. Once the Planning Commission develops recommendations for an ADU Ordinance, it will be brought to the City Council for review.

Parks & Recreation

Bingo Palooza Night at the ACC September 20th

The Friends of the Adult Community, in partnership with Rotary Club of Peninsula Starlight, will be hosting a Bingo Palooza Fundraiser to support the programs at the Adult Community Center (ACC). Happy Hour will kick off the festivities at 6:00 p.m. with drinks and appetizers followed by a pasta dinner. Raffle tickets will be sold and a silent auction will also take place. Tickets are $35 each and a few are still available for purchase at the Adult Community Center or online at https://bingopalooza.brownpapertickets.com/.

Summer Adventure Camp Wraps Up

Parks & Recreation entertained 905 campers this summer in our in-house recreation Adventure Camp, an increase of more than 115 from last summer. Adventure camp is divided into 3 age groups: 3.5-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, and 9-12 year olds. Campers enjoyed daily adventures of songs, crafts, field games, outdoor activities and of course, field trips! Parent feedback from surveys emphasized how welcoming the staff were throughout summer and the bonds they created with the campers.
Traffic Enforcement Operation
September is the California Office of Traffic Safety’s (OTS) Pedestrian Safety Month, and the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office is committed to educating drivers and pedestrians about safe roadway habits. The theme of this year’s OTS public awareness campaign is “Pedestrians Don’t Have Armor.”

On Wednesday, September 11th, the Sheriff’s Office performed a traffic enforcement detail focused primarily on pedestrian safety. Special attention was directed toward drivers speeding, making illegal turns, failing to stop for signs and signals, and failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Enforcement included observed violations of pedestrians crossing the street illegally or failing to yield to drivers who had the right-of-way. 70 traffic citations were issued by deputies in San Carlos during this one-day traffic enforcement operation.

Residential Burglary
On September 6th at approximately 9:00 p.m., deputies responded to Hillcrest Road on the report of a residential burglary. The suspect entered the residence by shattering a window in the basement. Approximately $300,000 worth of jewelry, cash and other items were stolen from the home. The investigation is ongoing.
Subject: Congratulations 2019 Beacon Award Winner

Dear Mayor Mark Olbert:

On behalf of the Institute for Local Government (ILG), we are pleased to announce that the City of San Carlos has been selected as one of our 2019 Beacon Award Winners. For more than ten years, the Beacon Program has encouraged, supported and recognized voluntary action by local governments throughout California to address climate change, promote energy innovation and create more sustainable communities. Dedication from local governments such as yours are truly making a difference.

Based on the information provided, the City of San Carlos will be receiving a Platinum Level Beacon Award for the following achievements:

- Platinum Level Award for 21% Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions
- Platinum Level Award for 45% Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions
- Platinum Level Award for 32% Agency Energy Savings
- Platinum Level Award in Sustainability Best Practices

The Institute for Local Government is excited to celebrate this achievement during two events on October 17th, coinciding with the League of California Cities’ Annual Conference in Long Beach.

- **10:30-11:15 am:** The League of California Cities will show a short video detailing the accomplishments of all of the 2019 Beacon Award winning cities during the General Session, attended by thousands of your peers.

- **5:30-7:30 pm:** ILG will be hosting a special awards reception in collaboration with the League of California Cities and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach located at 200 S Pine Ave. in Long Beach. The cocktail reception will begin at 5:30pm, with the awards presentation starting at 6:00pm sharp. We invite your city council and any key staff that contributed to your achievements to attend the event, but ask that you designate one elected official or staff member to accept the award on behalf of your agency. ILG will have a professional photographer on site to take pictures with your entire group.

We will be sending a formal invitation via email in the upcoming weeks with information to RSVP. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Kim Danko at kdanko@ca-ilg.org or (916) 658-8205.

We appreciate your commitment to sustainability and your efforts to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. We look forward to supporting and celebrating your ongoing success.

Sincerely,

Erica Manuel
Executive Director & CEO
Institute for Local Government