1.17.2020

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

City Manager

PARCA

Partners and Advocates for Remarkable Children and Adults (PARCA) received a grant of $5,500 through the City’s Non-Profit Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2019-20. The grant contributes to PARCA’s Cedar Street affordable housing program for individuals with developmental disabilities, which serves eight adults.

For more than 30 years, PARCA has operated four affordable housing programs for adults with developmental disabilities on the Peninsula. PARCA’s programs include independent living skills training, recreational and socialization activities, advocacy and support. These programs are designed to help residents achieve self-reliance and independence to the maximum of their capabilities by helping them achieve their goals and create opportunities for full and satisfying lives. For more information, visit PARCA’s website.

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

- Accounting Technician I – Recruitment closes on January 20th
- Recreation Leader I (Youth Development) – Recruitment open until filled
Recruitments in Progress

- Maintenance Worker (Public Works) – Interviews to be held during the week of January 27th

New Hires

- Recreation Leader I (Youth Development) – New hire started on January 10th
- Senior Facility Attendant (Parks & Recreation) – New hire started on January 14th
- Recreation Leader II (Youth Development) – New hire will start on January 18th

City Clerk

Commission Updates

On January 7, 2020, Commissioner Greg Matter submitted his letter of resignation from the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC), effective immediately. On December 9, 2019, Commissioner Rita Fusaro also resigned from her post on the Transportation and Circulation Commission (T&C). The now vacant EDAC and T&C seats are set to expire on June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2020 (respectively). Recruitment will begin in March to fill the remaining term of both seats.

Community Development

Planning Commission to Consider Two New Projects

The Planning Commission will consider two projects at its January 21, 2020 meeting:

The developer, Veev, formerly known as Dragonfly, proposes to develop the lot at 626 Walnut Street. The project includes three properties totaling 26,505 square feet (two-story commercial building at 626 Walnut, a single-story commercial building at 640 Walnut Street and a two-story residential building at 648 Walnut Street). Veev proposes to demolish the existing improvements and construct a five-story building with 35 condominium housing units and two ground floor commercial spaces. The project includes four below-market rate units: three low-income units and one moderate-income unit. With the provision of on-site affordable units, the project qualifies for a density bonus provision, waivers and concessions. The applicant requests the State density bonus for seven additional units, a waiver from the building height limit and floor area ratio and a concession to reduce on-site parking. On-site parking will be provided in a three-level mechanical stacker system accommodating 45 vehicles.

Harley Davidson proposes to locate a new dealership for motorcycle sales and repair at 835 East San Carlos Avenue. The dealership would be adjacent to Pioneer Millwork, across from the Landmark Hotel. The property owners are currently working on substantial exterior upgrades to this building and the adjacent building at 883 East San Carlos Avenue. The use requires a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Commission for vehicle sales (vehicle repairs are considered a permitted use). The facility will generally
operate from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. during the week, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. The operator plans to hold a few events during the year including: Thursday Night Live with food and live entertainment (once a month); an annual Open House; and a Christmas toy drive. Demonstration rides (test drives) will occur on routes approved by the company’s insurance provider and will not allow riders into the adjacent residential neighborhood. The applicants have reached out to Greater East San Carlos (GESC) to discuss the project.

Fire

Fire Updates
The Redwood City Fire Department, which provides staffing for San Carlos fire services, is proud to announce the hiring of five lateral entry firefighters. The new firefighters received training as part of a two-week in-house Fire Academy last month, which was led by Fire Captain Chris Auby. The Academy includes emergency medical training and fire suppression training such as search and rescue, forcible entry, vehicle extrication, fire hose management and ventilation. Look for them on your neighborhood fire apparatus.

Pictured from left to right are: Anthony Ayala, Chris Clow, Alex Moro, Josh Strahan and Paul Sobyra.

Parks & Recreation

Youth Center Zen Den
This month the Youth Center After-School Drop-In program introduced the Zen Den room to participants. The Zen Den is a safe and supportive space for anyone who needs a space to talk or unwind. The idea came about at a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meeting when the organization Safe Space presented on mental health. The conversation inspired YAC to create a space for youth to relax, de-stress, unwind and take their mind off of daily stresses. Once a month, outside guests are scheduled to come speak and lead an activity related to an aspect of mental wellness. The Zen Den is also set up to promote de-stressing, including things like yoga mats, relaxing music, chalk-art wall, essential oils and sensory items. To assist in funding the Zen Den enhancements, the Youth Center Foundation contributed $2,000.

Chinese New Year Celebration at the ACC
On Friday, January 24th the ACC will celebrate the Year of the Rat at the 3rd Annual Chinese New Year celebration. The event is from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and will include traditional Chinese music, dancing, a fashion show, a tai chi demonstration and food. Pre-registration is required and can be done by visiting www.cityofsancarlos.org/register (course number #11112).
New Facility Attendant at the ACC
Please join the ACC staff in welcoming its newest staff member, George Holland, Senior Facility Attendant. George comes to us from the City of Fremont where he worked in facilities, camps and parks. George is passionate about cooking and grilling is his specialty. George is married and lives in Redwood City.

Police

Shop With A Cop
On December 20th, members of the San Carlos Police Bureau participated in the Sheriff’s Office “Shop with a Cop” event. “Shop with a Cop” pairs law enforcement officers with deserving children for a fun filled day of activities, including a $150 shopping spree at Target. Captain Mark Duri and Sheriff’s Deputies from the San Carlos Bureau were grateful to be paired with children from the City of San Carlos – the community they serve each day.

Thanks to generous monetary donations from the community and time donated by staff and volunteers, the Sheriff’s Office was able to make holiday dreams come true for 60 deserving children throughout San Mateo County. This event was memorable for everyone that participated, and we are already looking forward to next year!

DUI Enforcement
From December 11, 2019 through January 3, 2020, the Sheriff’s Office participated in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign. During this DUI enforcement campaign, San Carlos Bureau Deputies conducted a Sobriety/Driver’s License Checkpoint on Friday, December 20, 2019. This checkpoint resulted in the screening of 448 vehicles, two citations and one arrest. The Sheriff’s Office also conducted DUI Saturation Patrols throughout the holiday season in our commitment to lower DUI related incidents on our roads. Over the course of the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign, eight arrests were made for alcohol or drug-impaired driving within the city of San Carlos.

Public Works

Silicon Valley Clean Water Power Shutdown Plan
At the Special Council Meeting of November 13, 2019, the City Council discussed PG&E’s Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) that took place the weekend of October 26-28, 2019 and how it affected San Carlos. During the discussion, the City Council inquired if the PSPS affected the Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) plant and requested that staff research the plant’s backup power shutdown plan.

Staff spoke to the General Manager of SVCW and were reassured that the plant was not affected by the PSPS during October 26-28, 2019. The Manager
further explained that the plant has redundant systems in place to power the plant should PG&E power be interrupted.

The plant’s power load is normally 1.5 megawatts and SVCW has seven megawatts of stand-by generator power available. The generators have a fuel supply that will last approximately 72 hours and SVCW has a contract with a fuel supplier to deliver diesel within 24 hours after placing the order. The plant’s power load is also segregated to maintain power to all critical treatment plant processes while other non-critical functions are powered as the generators are brought on-line.

**Streetline, Inc. to Cease Day to Day Business**

Streetline, Inc., the smart parking service hired to deploy the parking sensors on Laurel Street and in the Wheeler Plaza Parking Garage, informed the City on December 30, 2019 that it will be ceasing operations. Streetline noted that the current market and downward price pressures comprised an environment in which its operational model is no longer viable. As of December 31, 2019, Streetline’s offices are closed but staff will provide limited support and trouble-shooting through January 31, 2020. After January 31st all support will end.

Staff is investigating other smart parking programs to replace Streetline and provide real time parking availability in Wheeler Plaza Garage.

**San Carlos Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project**

Construction has started for the first phase of the project with demolition beginning between Cordilleras and Vista Avenues. This first section is anticipated to be completed within the coming week, with work on Vista Avenue and Upland Avenue following shortly thereafter. The project is expected to be completed in September 2020.

While construction is underway, please be mindful of any traffic delays, detours and lane closures that take place on San Carlos Avenue.