5.15.2020

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

City Manager

Star Vista Receives City Grant
StarVista received a grant of $4,000 through the City’s Fiscal Year 2019-20 Non-Profit Grant Program. StarVista offers prevention, early intervention, education, and counseling services to children, youth, and families in San Mateo County.

The grant supported 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, provides clinical services, and conducts student therapy and risk assessments.

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 to the community. For more information, visit the Star Vista website.
Finance Division Welcomes New Employee
Welcome to our new Accounting Technician, Andrew Tiña. Andrew was born and raised in the Bay Area, and currently resides in Millbrae. A fan of travel, he considers a driving distance of under an hour as close to home. Andrew also likes to experience the latest food trends. To balance this lifestyle, he also teaches group exercise classes part-time, and is an occasional long distance runner.

Commission Recruitments
The City is currently recruiting for the following Commission/Board seats:

- Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) – 2 seats
- Museum of San Carlos History – 1 seat
- Parks, Recreation and Culture (PR&C) – 1 seat
- Transportation & Circulation (T&C) – 2 seats
- Alternates for all Commissions, except the Residential Design Review Committee

Due to the current pandemic, the deadline for the receipt of applications has been extended until further notice, and the mandatory dates for applicants to meet with staff and interview with Council has been postponed.

As of May 13th, the City has received two applications for EDAC and two for PR&C.

For more information, contact the City Clerk’s office at cityclerk@cityofsancarlos.org or visit the City of San Carlos website at: www.cityofsancarlos.org/currentopenings.

Newly Adopted Ordinance – Ordinance 1560 – Construction Time Limit
After holding a public hearing on April 27, 2020, the City Council introduced Ordinance 1560 to establish construction time limits. This Ordinance was adopted on May 11th and goes into full effect after June 10, 2020.

The Ordinance is available on the City’s website at the following link: www.cityofsancarlos.org/documentsearch.

Any questions relating to this Ordinance should be directed to Building Official Chris Valley at: cvalley@cityofsancarlos.org.

Newly Adopted Ordinance – Ordinance 1561 – Minimum Wage Implementation Delayed
On May 11, 2020, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1561 to postpone the implementation of the minimum wage increase from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021 in an effort to avoid the potential adverse impacts to San Carlos
businesses, such as the inability to retain employees or permanent closure. A postcard is being sent to each business to inform them of the delay.

The Ordinance is available on the City’s website at: www.cityofsancarlos.org/documentsearch.

Any questions relating to this Ordinance should be directed to Senior Management Analyst Nicole Scott at: nscott@cityofsancarlos.org.

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Fire

Fire Updates
In February, the Fire Department held a promotional exam for the position of Fire Captain to fill three vacancies due to recent retirements. There were twelve firefighters who participated in the process, which included evaluating the candidates in the following exercises: a written test; command and control; employee counseling; and an oral interview. The top five candidates were then invited to interview with the Fire Chiefs, and three were selected. All the candidates interviewed were highly qualified and each candidate brings a different skill set that will in turn contribute to making an even better department.

We are honored to announce the promotion of Travis Jones, Sean Piveronas, and Jason Blodgett to the position of Fire Captain.

Over the next few weeks we will be working with the new Captains to transition them into their new roles. Congratulations.

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Parks & Recreation

Community Diaper Drive a Success
Thank you to everyone who donated to the San Carlos Youth Advisory Council’s Community Diaper Drive this past weekend! The Youth Advisory Council received over 170 boxes of diapers and wipes for One Life Counseling Center to help local families in need.

We will continue the Diaper Drive virtually. All diapers and wipes can still be purchased online via Amazon by visiting https://a.co/8khEMT1. Our Amazon Wish List is stocked with different diaper and wipe options. All items ship Prime directly to our donation center. Please select One Life Counseling (1033 Laurel Street, San Carlos, CA 94070) as the shipping location. If you have questions, please contact Caitlyn Matoso at: cmatoso@cityofsancarlos.org.
Adult Community Center Zoom Classes
This week kicked off the Adult Community Center (ACC) zoom fitness classes – and all were a huge success! ACC instructors led Boot Camp with 30 participants and two yoga classes with a total of 24 participants. Two classes per day will be scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays moving forward. The Friends of the ACC are sponsoring these online classes for our participants.

Caring Cupboard Updates
The Caring Cupboard Food Program is a free and confidential food support program sponsored by the San Carlos Service Clubs for Seniors in partnership with the City of San Carlos. Prior to the coronavirus emergency, it provided a free bag of groceries to approximately 25 low income seniors twice per month. Due to COVID-19, the Caring Cupboard received additional funding from the City and the Board of Directors agreed to waive the age restrictions of the program and to provide groceries on a weekly basis. The program is now open to all San Carlos residents who meet the eligibility requirements listed on the application that can be found on the City’s website at: https://www.cityofsancarlos.org/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/caring-cupboard-program

ACC staff have been packing grocery bags once a week with food from Second Harvest Food Bank and serving 57 families (111 people) with new inquiries being received every week. For more information please contact the Adult Community Center at (650) 802-4384.

Police

Commercial Burglary Arrests
On May 8th at approximately 3:50 a.m., deputies from the San Carlos Police Bureau responded to Imbert & Smithers located at 1144 El Camino Real on the report of a commercial burglary that had just occurred. Upon arrival, deputies observed broken glass in front of the business and quickly established a perimeter. While conducting an area search, deputies located two suspects hiding on a nearby building’s roof. Video surveillance from the front of the business clearly showed both suspects breaking the front glass door. They were unable to enter the store because it is equipped with security bars that were still intact. Nothing was stolen, and both suspects were arrested.

Shoplifting Arrests
On May 8th at approximately 12:30 p.m., deputies responded to Home Depot located at 1125 Old County Road on the report of shoplifting. The suspect was detained by store security for stealing a water fountain worth $200. The suspect was placed under arrest, and the stolen item was returned to Home Depot.

On May 13th at approximately 5:30 p.m., deputies responded to CVS located at 1324 San Carlos Avenue on the report of an in-progress shoplifting. The suspect was found with approximately $800 worth of stolen razor blades as well as drugs, drug paraphernalia, and burglary tools. The suspect was placed under arrest, and the stolen items were returned to CVS.
COVID-19 Health Order Enforcement
The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office continues to seek voluntary compliance with the local Health Orders. A Deputy encountering a violation will request that the persons stop the conduct, prioritizing education first. If this approach is unsuccessful, the Deputy will advise the offending persons that failure to comply with the Shelter-in-Place Order could result in a written warning or citation for the misdemeanor offense. Further, the Deputy can advise that the District Attorney’s Office has formally stated that when a person willfully fails to adhere to the directions of the Health Orders, criminal charges will be filed.

Any complaints from the public regarding Health Order violations should be directed to the non-emergency line of their local law enforcement agency – (650) 802-4321 in San Carlos. Prior to calling and reporting violations, please consider whether a report is truly necessary.

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office wants to thank everyone for doing their best to follow the County’s Health Orders. Please continue to practice social distancing, limit travel to essential activities, and wear a face covering when outside of the home. We are all in this together, and we must do our part to stay healthy and safe.

The entire text of the Health Orders and additional information can be found on the San Mateo County Health website at: https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus.

Public Works

San Carlos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Plan) will be presented to the City Council in a study session at the June 8th meeting. The goal of the Plan is to promote walking and bicycling through the creation of safe, comfortable, and connected networks, and to encourage alternatives to single-occupancy motor vehicle trips. The Plan establishes a long-term vision for improving walking and bicycling in San Carlos and provides a strategy to develop a comprehensive bicycling and walking network that provides access to transit, schools, and downtown.

Started in early 2018, staff made it a priority to engage with the San Carlos community on the Plan process. A variety of outreach opportunities were used to seek input from residents and community members. The development process also included extensive coordination with partner agencies and other City departments to ensure this Plan meets community needs, advances initiatives of local and regional partners, and includes projects and programs that can feasibly be implemented.

2019 Park Restroom Project – Update
In the beginning of May, Sposeto Engineering, Inc. resumed construction on the City’s Restroom Renovation Project at Crestview and Laureola Parks. The contractor began demolishing the existing restrooms at both parks to prepare for the delivery and installation of the pre-fabricated restrooms.

The delivery and placement of the pre-fabricated restroom at Laureola Park will begin Monday, May 18th and be completed by Friday, May 22nd. The contractor
will fence off the area required for safe restroom installation, which may include portions of the parking area. The play area and field will remain open and accessible to the public.

The delivery and installation of the pre-fabricated restroom at Crestview Park will occur on Tuesday, May 26th. During the installation, the park will temporarily be closed to the public, which includes the play area, walking track, and field. Notifications were sent to residents adjacent to the park on Tuesday, May 12th, informing them of the closure. The City website and project page will be updated notifying the public about the closure as well.

Construction hours have been updated to Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No work is currently scheduled for weekends.

**PG&E’s Tree and Vegetation Removal**

PG&E assessed existing trees along Natural Gas Line 147 and identified three trees in Eaton Park that have declined in health and pose a safety concern. These three trees are all Coast Live Oaks, ranging in size from nine inches to twenty-six inches in diameter at breast height. All trees are located within eleven feet of the gas transmission pipeline. PG&E anticipates to begin the tree removal the week of May 25th.

While the trees are not directly adjacent to any private properties, PG&E will be notifying nearby residents and community members who use the park so they are made aware of this important gas safety work. PG&E’s local outreach specialist will send letters to nearby property owners as well as post signage at the entrance to the trail.

Additionally, PG&E will continue to routinely patrol areas above and around the gas pipeline to continue to assess the existing trees and new vegetation or structures that are located in close proximity to the pipe that pose or develop into a safety concern.