5.29.2020

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

City Manager

San Carlos Commuter Shuttle Ending June 30th
The City received notice that the San Carlos Commuter Shuttle was not selected to receive grant funding from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) for the Fiscal Years 2020-22 grant cycle.

Staff was disappointed, but not surprised, to learn that the San Carlos Shuttle was not selected for funding since unfortunately, our shuttle has always underperformed and rarely met the basic requirements of the program. Despite our efforts to advertise the shuttle and look for ways to improve the route, the ongoing low demand and inconsistent service due to labor issues with the shuttle provider has led the San Carlos Shuttle to be one of the lowest performing shuttle routes funded under the TA program for some time.

The application submitted to the TA reflected the hope that upcoming development on the east side of town would have a positive impact on our shuttle ridership numbers with the increase in employees and business partners in the coming years. However, with the demand for grant funding outpacing the funds available, the TA had to make some difficult choices, and we were one of several programs not chosen for funding. We elected not to reapply, as we could not propose a viable alternative at this time and we cannot predict when demand will be enough to meet funding requirements. Additionally, interest from our participating business partners has declined in the last year or more, as labor issues with the shuttle provider has resulted in inconsistent service for their employees.
The shuttle will operate as is until June 30, 2020, when funding runs out. Ridership is currently extremely low, with only eight rides per day on average. We will keep an eye on TA grant funding and business partnership opportunities going forward to see if starting up the service once again with Commute.org as a partner is viable.

**Villages of SMC**

Villages of San Mateo County received a grant of $4,000 through the City’s Fiscal Year 2019-20 Non-Profit Grant Program. Villages of San Mateo County, including Sequoia Village, provides services to older adults that promote social connection, independence, community engagement, and safety.

Sequoia Village was founded as a non-profit membership organization serving older adults in San Carlos, Belmont, and Redwood City. Its mission is to enable members to continue living in their homes and communities as they age by providing access to support services. Sequoia Village and its volunteers provide transportation, minor home repairs, errands, technology assistance, friendly visits, and general information about local services. The grant funded the purchase of materials for safety improvements in members’ homes, which are implemented by volunteers. It also supplemented the transportation program and funded occasional Lyft rides for the infrequent cases where volunteers are not available to provide transportation. The grant also funded excursions to educational and cultural events for members, including a monthly Coffee Connection event with speakers and performers and neighborhood group meetings. These excursions prevent isolation and help to combat loneliness and its devastating effects on our seniors. For more information, visit the [Villages of SMC website](#).

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**Community Development**

**San Carlos COVID-19 Business Impact Survey**

On April 29th, the City published a Business Impact Survey in an effort to gauge how the local business community has been impacted by COVID-19 and operating restrictions put in place by the County’s Health Order. A total of 116 local businesses completed the survey. The attached Business Impact Survey Summary includes graphics highlighting the survey results. The City will be reviewing this data as it develops programming in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Donations Needed to Support San Carlos Small Businesses**

The City of San Carlos joined the San Mateo County Strong Fund to create a unique San Carlos Contribution Fund set aside specifically for businesses in San Carlos. The program offers grants of up to $10,000 to small businesses that can demonstrate financial hardship associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

When the program initially launched, 110 applications were received from San Carlos businesses seeking funding, but only 16 were able to receive grants before funds were exhausted. The City and the County both allocated seed funding for this effort but given the high demand are asking for the community’s assistance. Businesses and individuals that may have been less impacted by COVID-19 are asked to please consider making a donation to the program. The
goal is to increase the number of grants available for our small businesses, helping to ensure that these vital members of our community can make it through these challenging times.

For more information, including how to donate, please review the attached San Carlos Contribution Fund Donation Guide.

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**Fire**

**“Bread & Butter” Evaluations**

Bread and Butters are the basic firefighter hose evolutions for fire ground operations and the Fire Department has just completed its annual Bread & Butter Evaluations for 2020. All firefighters and fire captains performed individual evolutions and company evolutions within a minimum time standard. All personnel demonstrated the ability to deploy ground ladders that are carried on our fire engines and to don the self-contained breathing apparatus within 60 seconds. The crews performed three different evolutions as a company, which demonstrated their ability to work together as a team and resulted in enhancing skills while providing for some fun inter-departmental competition.

**Wildfire Preparedness**

With the 2020 wildfire season approaching, the Fire Department will be preparing by training on wildland firefighting during the month of June, with Arguello Park scheduled for next week. Training with individual companies will be conducted to remain in alignment with physical distancing. These guidelines require the department to add more training sessions to decrease the amount of attendees at each session. Individuals will also perform some on-line training and company training at their respective fire stations.

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**Parks & Recreation**

**Youth Summer Camp Program Updates**

Parks and Recreation will offer in-house Adventure Camp beginning Monday, June 15th. Camp will be scheduled in two 4-week sessions, as defined by the County Health Order. Camp sites include the Youth Center, Burton Park, Arguello Park, and Laureola Park. Each camp group will consist of a stable group of 12 campers maximum, with a minimum of two staff. Families enrolled in the new camps must commit solely to the program and “shall not attend more than one childcare establishment, summer camp, other educational or recreational instruction or program simultaneously” as defined by the Health Order. Staff will also be implementing additional health and safety protocols for each camp and location. Additional camp information, including how to register, can be found at www.CityofSanCarlos.org/camps.

Unfortunately, due to facility limitations and current Health Order restrictions, we will not be able to hold any of our Club Ed or Sports Camps. However, we are working with some instructors to coordinate a handful of virtual camps for kids who are opting to stay home but still want social interaction and new
projects this summer. More information on our virtual camp offerings can also be found on our Summer Camp website.

**Support from the Friends of the Adult Community Center**
The Friends of the San Carlos Adult Community Center (ACC) generously offered to sponsor the ACC Zoom Fitness classes. With this sponsorship, we have been able to offer these classes free of charge to the ACC participants during COVID-19. Participants have been so appreciative of this offer from the Friends of the ACC that they have in return donated back to the Friends. In just two weeks, the Friends have received over $1,000 in donations!

**Summer Community Events Cancelled**
Each summer, we look forward to bringing the community together at these events; however, they draw in large crowds and under the County Health Order, large groups are prohibited from gathering. As a result, we regretfully announce the cancellation of the following summer community events:

- Summer Concerts
- Movie Nights
- San Carlos Unites Pride Event at Burton Park
- 4th Annual Family Campout
- Fitness in the Park Saturdays
- San Carlos Block Party on Laurel Street

Decisions to reschedule cancelled events or cancellation of any future event will be based on the County Health Order restrictions at that time.

**Pilot Tennis Program Begins June 1st**
Beginning Monday, June 1st, the tennis courts at Burton Park will open under a Pilot Program to operate under the current County Health Order. Courts are available by reservation for San Carlos residents. Reservations can be made online at [www.cityofsancarlos.org/parks](http://www.cityofsancarlos.org/parks) or by contacting Parks and Recreation at recreation@cityofsancarlos.org or by calling (650) 802-4382. Hourly tennis court fees outlined in the City Council approved fee schedule will be applied to all reservations and users must agree to follow guidelines set forth by the County. Staff will evaluate the program after two weeks and update use guidelines as necessary. In addition, if any updates to public tennis courts are made by the County Health Order, staff will adjust program rules.

**Police**

**Sonitrol Donation to Code 30 Foundation**
On May 8th, deputies from the Sheriff’s Office San Carlos Bureau responded to a Commercial Burglary in-progress at Imbert & Smithers gun shop. Two suspects were located on a nearby rooftop and placed under arrest. Sonitrol, the security provider for Imbert & Smithers, has donated $100 to the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff’s Association’s Code 30 Foundation in recognition of the apprehension of these intruders. Code 30 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 2013 to help the families of fallen peace officers of the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office. More information on the organization can be found at [https://www.code30.org/](https://www.code30.org/).
New Sheriff's Office Mobile Application
The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has launched a free mobile application for iOS and Android devices. The mobile app allows the public to interact with the Sheriff's Office by filing online crime reports, submitting tips, checking to see if a person is in custody, putting money on an inmate’s books, receiving social media notifications and SMC Alerts, and many other features. To download the application, search for “San Mateo County Sheriff” in your app store, or scan the QR code below.

This app is not intended to be used to report emergency situations. Please call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Unit
Five Deputies were selected to be the first Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aerial System ("drone") pilots. They will begin training for their FAA certifications soon. The Sheriff's Office has purchased six drones that will be used for search and rescue, traffic collision reconstruction, active shooter incidents, suspect searches, and crime scene analysis and reconstruction. The drones will be deployed throughout San Mateo County on all shifts to give 24-hour coverage and to always be available. One of the six drones will be assigned to San Carlos.

COVID-19 Health Order Enforcement
The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office continues to seek voluntary compliance with 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, in San Carlos the number is (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 understand and 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: https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus.
San Carlos Business Impact Survey Summary

The following graphics highlight a few of the questions that were asked of businesses in the recent San Carlos COVID-19 Business Impact Survey.

1. What funding programs have you applied to?

2. What programs have you received funding from?
3. How much would you estimate your monthly revenues have decreased since COVID-19 restrictions were enacted?

4. Have you eliminated any positions since the COVID-19 restrictions were enacted?
5. If yes, what percentage of employees have you had to eliminate

**Percentage of Employees Eliminated**
- 0-20%
- 20-40%
- 40-60%
- 60-80%
- 80-100%
- Other (reduced hours, hiring freeze, etc.)

- 23.0%
- 23.0%
- 6.6%
- 6.6%
- 4.9%
San Carlos Contribution Fund Donation Guide

The City of San Carlos joined the SMC Strong Fund to create a unique San Carlos Contribution Fund that will specifically assist San Carlos businesses. This program offers grants of up to $10,000 to small businesses that can demonstrate financial hardship associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

When the SMC Strong Fund program initially launched, 110 applications were received from San Carlos businesses seeking funding, but only 16 were able to receive grants before funds were exhausted. The City allocated seed funding for this effort but needs your help in donating to the program so that we can increase the number of grants available for our small businesses.

The San Mateo Credit Union is administering the grants for this program. If you would like to make a donation, please do so by writing a check made payable to “SMCU Community Fund” and mailing it to:

SMCU Community Fund
Attn: Wade Painter
350 Convention Way
Redwood City, CA 94063

Alternatively, you may wire funds to the following account:
San Mateo Credit Union Routing Number: 321174851
Checking Account Number: 15000065085

Before contributing, email the information below to Wade Painter at wpainter@smcu.org and copy Don Cecil at donalcecil@gmail.com and Adam Aronson at aaronson@cityofsancarlos.org:

Name of your company
Name of the accounting contact in your company, if applicable
Amount of your contribution
Indicate if you will be donating by check or wire transfer

To ensure that your contribution goes directly to businesses in San Carlos, mention that your donation is intended for the San Carlos Contribution Fund. Any amount will help and 100% of your contribution will be donated to San Carlos businesses. Thank you for your support!

Please contact Don Cecil at (415) 999-3262 with any questions.