10.16.2020

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

Administrative Services

Here is a quick update from the Human Resources Division of the Administrative Services Department on a recruitment to fill a vacant position at the City.

Open Recruitments

- Sr. Maintenance Worker (Internal) – Recruitment closes on October 19th

Recruitment in Progress

- Associate Planner – Interviews to be held during the week of October 19th

City Clerk

New Legislation - AB571 Campaign Contribution Limit

Last year, the California legislature enacted Assembly Bill 571 ("AB 571"), which will take effect on January 1, 2021, and will impose campaign contribution limits on local elections in those cities that do not currently have a limit in place. AB 571 amended Government Code Section 85301(a) to do the following: Make State campaign contribution limits applicable to cities that do not currently have them; allow cities to set different campaign contribution limits based on their local circumstances; and empower cities to enforce these limits.
through standard enforcement methods, such as criminal, civil, or administrative citations.

There are three options City Council may take:

1. By January 1, 2021, adopt an Ordinance establishing campaign contribution limits lower or higher than the current State contribution and set standard enforcement regulations; or
2. By January 1, 2021, adopt an Ordinance that imposes no limits; or
3. No Action - Maintain the status quo of no local ordinance and default to the requirements of AB 571 setting a limit of $4,700, which may be amended by the State annually.

For questions regarding this, please contact City Clerk Crystal Mui at cmui@cityofsancarlos.org.

Where to Vote!
Ballots were mailed out to registered voters the week of October 5th. Voters may drop off their ballots, in its prepaid postage return envelope, in the USPS mail or in the secure drop-box at 1401 San Carlos Ave (next to the City Hall Dog Park).

If you’re interested in voting in person, you may visit any vote center in San Mateo County. There are some that are currently open, however, the majority will open beginning Saturday October 31st, including these three vote centers located in San Carlos:

- Mahany Hall at 1336 Arroyo Avenue
- Peninsula Masonic Lodge at 1150 Arroyo Avenue
- San Carlos Library Community Room at 610 Elm St., 2nd Floor

San Carlos will also have the drive-by drop-off ballot service in front of City Hall on Election Day.

If you are not yet registered to vote, there’s still time! The deadline to register is Monday, October 19th. More information is available online: https://www.smcacre.org/register-vote.

For additional details, including more vote centers and ballot drop-boxes in the County, use the County’s look-up tool: www.smcacre.org/vote/all or contact the City Clerk’s Office at cityclerk@cityofsancarlos.org or (650) 802-4222.

Community Development

Focused General Plan Update Launches SanCarlos2040.org
The Community Development Department is pleased to announce the launch of our project website for the City of San Carlos Focused General Plan Update: www.sancarlos2040.org

This project focuses on how to ensure the City’s development regulations will allow for roughly 2,400 new homes through the year 2031. The City’s role is not to build the homes per se, but to make sure its policies and regulations do
not prohibit or constrain the production of new homes. To achieve this, staff and consultants will be working with the San Carlos community and the project website will serve as a community hub to stay up to date, get involved, and obtain information about the project and its progress.

The website provides the following information:
- About the Plan
- Get Involved
- Latest News
- Schedule
- Documents
- FAQs
- Share Your Comments
- Spotlight, November 2020 Edition
- Surveys (the first survey is now available)
- Save the Date: First Virtual Workshop, Monday, November 30, 2020, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Staff will also announce the website launch through:
1) Social media postings
2) Spotlight issue to be mailed out in November
3) At the meetings of the Economic Development Advisory Commission, Residential Design Review Committee and Planning Commission

Please feel free to share this with friends, neighbors, business partners, and anyone else who is interested in participating in this project.

Questions about this project can be addressed to Lisa Porras, Planning Manager, lporras@cityofsancarlos.org.

Update on Financial Assistance to San Carlos Renters and Small Businesses

In response to hardships that have arisen from COVID-19, the City Council allocated $224,000 to assist renters and small businesses in San Carlos. $112,000 was allocated to the San Mateo County Strong Fund to further leverage Measure K funding in support of small businesses that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19. These funds have since been exhausted but combined were able to distribute grants of $10,000 each to 16 different small businesses located in San Carlos.

The remaining $112,000 went towards creating the San Carlos Tenant Assistance Program. The Program is being administered by Samaritan House and renters that make less than 120% of the area median income may receive up to $5,000 to help them with rental payments. So far, 14 households made up of 30 individuals have received $55,930 to help them stay in their homes. Samaritan House has also leveraged $18,056 in additional funding to assist 3 more San Carlos households made up of 11 individuals. $44,070 in funding is still available and San Carlos residents in need of assistance should call (650) 347-3648 or email info@samaritanhousesanmateo.org to request an application for the Tenant Assistance Program.
Fire

Training Update
The fire department has been taking advantage of training opportunities at a structure located at 655 Skyway Road. This building is scheduled to be demolished and the property owner agreed to allow the fire department to conduct training onsite in the interim. Fire personnel have been simulating fire ground evaluation on securing a water supply, hose-line management, and hose-line water flow.

Parks & Recreation

Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest
Join us for our First Annual Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest! Here's how it works:

- Dress your pet in costume and snap a photo.
- Send your photo to us by email: recreation@cityofsancarlos.org by Sunday, October 18th.

Prizes will be awarded to the Best Little Pet in costume, Best Big Pet in costume, Best Couple (human and dog) in costume, and Best Overall costume. A special thank you to our sponsors, the Parks and Recreation Foundation of San Carlos and Bow Wow Meow, who will award a $25 Gift Certificate to the winner in each category.

Halloween Decorating Contest
New for 2020, out-BOO your neighbors by entering the Halloween Decorating Contest! We want to see you get spectacularly spooky with your décor since so many other traditional Halloween activities will not be possible this year!

In partnership with Bob Bredel, San Carlos Parks & Recreation is encouraging San Carlos residents and businesses to participate in the contest by decorating front yards and exteriors of homes or businesses for Halloween. By signing up, participants agree to have their addresses be part of an interactive map so that residents can visit decorated homes around San Carlos. Entry applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 18th. Prizes will be awarded for the following categories: Scariest, Best Decorated Door, Best Business, and Best Overall. Signup online!

Playgrounds Open
We are excited to announce that our playgrounds and park restrooms are now OPEN! We have been working hard since the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released its playground reopening guidelines. We've prepared and disinfected our sites, added signs and determined new maximum occupancies. When you visit our parks and playgrounds, you will notice new signs stating the rules for use issued by the CDPH and new maximum occupancies for play areas and certain amenities.

Before you head out to your nearest playground, please plan ahead and review the new guidelines issued by the CDPH so you are familiar with the following rules:
1. **WEAR A MASK.** Everyone 2 years and older should wear a mask covering their face.

2. **MAINTAIN DISTANCE.** Maintain physical distance of 6 feet between individuals from different households and prevent crowding of children.

3. **NO FOOD OR DRINK.** Do not eat or drink in playground to ensure face masks are worn at all times.

4. **WASH HANDS.** Wash or sanitize your hands before and after you visit.

5. **PLAN AHEAD.** Visit the park at different times or days to avoid crowds and wait times. Elderly individuals and people with underlying medical conditions should avoid playgrounds when others are present.

6. **KNOW WHEN TO STAY HOME.** Elderly individuals and people with underlying medical conditions should avoid playgrounds when others are present.

7. **SHARE OUR SPACE.** To avoid crowding and allow everyone to use this space, please limit your visit to 30 minutes when others are waiting.

To ensure the safety of our community members, we will post the rules for the public, disinfect playgrounds once a week, and open restrooms for public use – but keeping these playgrounds and facilities open is ultimately up to you. For more information, visit the CDPH website. Welcome back, have fun, and be SAFE!

**Corn Hole Boards – New at Burton Park**

We are excited to announce that permanent Corn Hole Boards have been installed at Burton Park, in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Foundation of San Carlos!

Located right next to the tennis courts (in the old horseshoe pit area), you will find the new set of boards. So, if you're looking for something new to do with your family this weekend, grab your own set of corn hole bags (and your mask) and get your game on!

**Field Use and Availability**

As our community is spending more time at home and distance learning, we want to provide residents with information on what fields are open for children and adults to get out and be able to have a safe space to exercise and play.

You may have noticed some permitted youth sports organizations in our parks and fields this fall, during after school hours. To ensure the safety of all, please be mindful of permitted programs and utilize open portions of the field. All scheduling was done to leave sections of each sports field open for community use and to align with the current San Mateo County Health Order.

Please remember the following when visiting our parks and fields:

- Wear a proper face mask or covering
- Observe the San Mateo County Health Order minimum recommended social distancing of 6 feet at all times
- Do not visit parks if you are experiencing fever or flu like symptoms
- Follow San Mateo County Heath Guidelines on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks
• When sharing paths and walkways, warn users of your presence as you pass
• If a park seems full, find a different park to enjoy

View Open Field Space Availability

Public Works

Modification of Pedestrian Paddles on Cherry Street
In June 2020, staff placed 48 pedestrian paddles along the Bike Loop routes on Cedar, Cherry, Elm streets and St. Francis Way. The paddles brought awareness to bicyclists and pedestrians at the various intersections. Staff has been monitoring the intersections and making improvements.

The pedestrian paddle on Cherry Street at Cedar was removed due to the narrowness of the street. Vehicles entering or exiting Cherry Street had a difficult time maneuvering around the paddle. Staff will continue to monitor this intersection.

Extension of Red Curbing at Cherry Street at Elm
The four pedestrian paddles at Cherry and Elm provide ample space in and through the intersection. If cars are parked too close to the intersection however, the clear sight distance is affected. Staff refreshed and extended the red curb markings to create better sight visibility.

Modification of Street Parking on Walnut Street
During the construction of the Wheeler Plaza project, the on-street parking was removed on the westerly side of Walnut Street between San Carlos Avenue and Cherry Street. This was done to accommodate the materials staging and construction of the project while still maintaining two lanes of travel. With the project and the restoration of the street complete, staff restored the 2-hour parking limits on Walnut Street.

New Water Wall Parklets
On October 1st, water walls were constructed on Washington Street to accommodate a wine tasting area for the Flying Suitcase and Russian Ridge Wineries.

On October 14th, water walls were constructed at 621 Laurel Street to accommodate outdoor dining for the new restaurant Pylos.
San Carlos Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Safety Project

Construction at the intersections of San Carlos Avenue at Alameda De Las Pulgas and San Carlos at Phelps Avenue continues as PG&E schedules their construction date to energize both intersections.

Over the last few weeks, contractors have installed new traffic striping along the project limits and placed new traffic signals and poles at both Alameda de las Pulgas and Phelps Avenue. The contractors will continue to complete the remainder of the project outside of the intersections until the new signals are operational.

In the meantime, please continue to be mindful of the existing traffic signals and poles at Alameda de las Pulgas while the City transitions to the new improvements.

Short Term and Accessible Parking

To accommodate outdoor shopping and dining in the downtown, staff added additional short term (20-minute) and accessible parking spaces at various locations. Maps are being prepared that show the locations of these spaces. Once finalized, the maps will be posted on the City’s website.

Included in the short term parking map are the recently converted public parking spaces behind Harrington Park. The four 2-hour spaces were changed to 20-minute spaces. These spaces are now available for the public to use.

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October 16, 2020