



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
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April 3, 2009

Town Spruce Up Day Reminder

Mark your calendars for our Townwide Spruce Up Day. On Saturday, April 25, 2009, we are meeting on the Town Hall lawn at 9 a.m. to tackle the many weeds around town. Bring your weed whacker, brooms and rakes and we will work in the following areas:

- Median between SF Drake and San Anselmo Avenue, between Ross and San Anselmo Avenues.
- Parkway area surrounding Creek Park on SF Drake Blvd. and Center Blvd. and in the Creek Park parking lot.
- Street frontage of the Isabel Cook Community Center at 1000 SF Drake Blvd.

In addition, two other Town groups are going to participate in sprucing up the Town on Saturday, April 25:

- The Elders Garden volunteers will be holding a work party at the garden. They will be spreading mulch in the garden, and they encourage families with children to participate in their work party.
- The Robson Harrington House neighbors will be organizing themselves to work in the Robson gardens, along with members of the Robson Community Garden.

If you are interested in being part of the Spruce Up Day, come to the Town Hall lawn, Robson House or the Elders Garden at Memorial Park with weed whackers, brooms and rakes and plenty of energy.

Very special thanks to Michael Feldman who created the Spruce Up Day poster from his beautiful original artwork of Town Hall.

Finally, if you aren't able to participate in the organized Spruce Up Day, how about taking a look at your own parkway or front yard area? Many private properties have street frontage areas where those pesky weeds have taken root and grown with abandon! You can participate in sprucing up the Town without ever leaving home.

If you'd like more information, contact Anna Frost at anna@liveinmarin.com or 459-5901.

Tax Rebate Program

San Anselmo property owners with a financial hardship due to unemployment, a catastrophic emergency, or low income are invited to apply for a rebate of the Town's Municipal Services (also called "General Purpose") and Pension Override Taxes.

The rebate program defines low income as below \$26,532 for a one-person household, \$30,718 for a two-person household, \$34,103 for a three-person household, and \$37,889 for a four-person household. Rental property is not eligible to be considered for the rebate program.

The Town of San Anselmo's Tax Equity Board reviews the applications, which must be filed by **Friday, April 24, 2009**.

For more information and application forms, please stop by the Administration Office on the second floor of Town Hall or contact Janet Pendoley at 258-4678.

MMWD Water Line Replacement update

The work to replace the main water line down San Anselmo Avenue has just completed the second week of work. The new main line is now in place from San Rafael Avenue to Ross Avenue and the contractor will be pressure testing the line in the next week to ensure there are no leaks.

The next phase of the work is to place the lateral lines that go from the main water line to each individual business. This work will be done at night as well. Water service to individual businesses will not be affected during this phase of the project.

At this point in time MMWD estimates that the water line replacement and lateral work will be completed by mid-May. Following completion of the project, San Anselmo Avenue will be repaved and restriped.

Many thanks to downtown area residents, businesses, MMWD and the contractor, Team Ghilotti, for working together so well to make this project go smoothly.

Plastic Bottles and Bags

The Town's Quality of Life Commission is promoting using reusable water bottles instead of disposable plastic ones. At a recent meeting, the seven-member San Anselmo board unanimously voted to encourage non-use of the widely used disposable plastic water bottles that take 700 years to begin composting.

In addition, the San Anselmo Town Council recently passed a resolution encouraging San Anselmo residents and merchants to avoid using plastic bags for shopping.

Utilizing reuseable bottles and bags will help reduce the strain on the environment!

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April 10, 2009

Historical Society Film Presentation

The San Anselmo Historical Society presents **Aviation Disasters in Our Backyard** on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Marin Municipal Water District Ranger Matt Cerkel will present an illustrated talk about airplane accidents on Mt. Tamalpais, including the 1941 crash on Bald Hill. Additionally, filmmaker Ben Burt will screen his film *The Mystery on White's Hill*, about the 1946 crash in Fairfax.

Refreshments will be served following the free program. Call 258-4659 for more information.

Town Hall Flood Proofing

The Town Hall flood proofing project is progressing according to schedule and should be finished by mid-May. Work is also ongoing to flood proof the downtown fire station in conjunction with the ongoing fire station remodel.

The two flood proofing projects are being paid for by grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to protect our critical public safety facilities from water damage during a flood emergency. Not only will this save public dollars in the event of another flood, it will ensure that our public safety workers and facilities are available to provide critical services to affected residents and merchants.

This is not to say that we are not doing everything possible to reduce the risk of flooding in the Ross Valley, which is our ultimate goal. Work is ongoing in this area, and there will be more on this in next week's newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings in Council Chambers

Town Council: The Town Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. For the next three months meeting dates are: April 14 and 28, May 12 and 26 and June 9 and 23.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. For the next three months meeting dates are: April 20, May 4 and 18 and June 1 and 15.

Open Space Committee: The Open Space Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. For the next three months meeting dates are: April 15, May 20 and June 17.

Parks & Recreation Commission: The P&R Commission meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. For the next three months meeting dates are: April 21, May 19 and June 16.

All Town Board/Commission/Committee meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 11, 2009, all day – Townwide Spring Cleaning Sale, shop for all your spring holiday needs. The Bunny arrives at noon. (Sponsored by Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association)

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 9 a.m. – Town Spruce Up Day, meet at Town Hall with weedwhackers, rakes and brooms. (Sponsored by Town of San Anselmo)

Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7 p.m. – Green Business Night, Town Hall Council Chambers. (Sponsored by Town of San Anselmo, Quality of Life Commission)

Sunday, June 21, 2009, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Bridal Walk on San Anselmo Avenue, see what goods and services are available for weddings on the avenue. (Sponsored by Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association)

Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, all day – Art & Wine Festival on San Anselmo Avenue between Tamalpais and Bolinas Avenues (Sponsored by San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce)

Sunday, August 16, 2009, all day – Hot August Cool Cars, classic cars on San Anselmo Avenue. (Sponsored by Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association)

Housing Element Update

The Town's Housing Element will be updated this year, something that must be done every five years per California State law.

The Housing Element Update Subcommittee consists of two Councilmembers, two Planning Commissioners and one community member. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, April 7th and the agenda included the Housing Element update background, possible update issues, and process considerations.

The public is invited to attend all the Housing Element Update meetings. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and the agenda will be posted on the Town's website this week.

Following additional Subcommittee meetings there will be noticed workshops and public hearings at both the Planning Commission and Town Council levels.

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April 17, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, April 14, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Presented the Quality of Life Silver Award to Tom Boss for his continuing work on the Film Night in the Park series, as well as his membership on the Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force.
- Approved the ordinance amending the General Plan to rezone the Isabel Cook Community Center and Robson House with the Community Facility designation. The intent of the ordinance is to ensure that the office space in both facilities can be rented out to businesses to ensure funds to maintain the facilities.
- Approved a resolution supporting AB 622 (Swanson), the Clean Air for Children, Seniors, and Working Families Act. AB 622 would protect the most vulnerable populations by establishing a more than 3-mile aerial spray safety zone around schools, hospitals, day care centers, senior citizen centers, residential care homes and farm labor camps so that people in those areas can live, work, and go to school without fear of pesticide exposure.
- Adopted an urgency ordinance updating the Town's Flood ordinance, per requirements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Received a report on the process that FEMA utilized in updating the Flood Maps for Marin County cities and towns.
- Received a report on the actions taken to date to reduce the risk of flooding in the Ross Valley. (More on this below).
- Approved fees for vehicle transportation permits and police escorts for oversized and extra-legal loads and continued consideration of fee increases for Planning and Building Department services to 4/28.
- Authorized the filing of an application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds for the Saunders Avenue Road Resurfacing Project and approved contract with CSW Stuber/Stroeh Engineering in the amount of \$35,240 to design the Saunders Avenue project and to produce plans, specifications and engineering documents for the stimulus project, which must be submitted by April 30, 2009.

Flood Risk Reduction

Interim Public Works Director Jack Curley gave a report at the April 14th Town Council meeting on actions being taken Countywide by Flood Zone District 9 to reduce the risk of flooding in the Ross Valley. The complete report can be found at: <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/meetings/tc041409item4c.pdf>. The following actions are underway:

- **Federal Flood Control Project** – The District is partnering with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to remove the fish ladder in Ross. This will increase the flow capacity of the creek through Ross and

improve the creek bed and banks to support increased flow and to allow for fish passage through that reach of the creek.

- **Flood Damage Reduction** – Stetson Engineers has been hired to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of the use of detention basins to decrease peak runoff from large rainstorms, to increase the conveyance capacity of the creek at critical points, and to develop a strategy for manageable maintenance of the tidal area of the creek with respect to sediment removal.
- **Streamside Management Plan for Landowners** – The Urban Creeks Council has been retained to assist creekside property owners with assistance with erosion control, flood risk mitigation and habitat enhancement. There is a public information component to the program and concentrated assistance will be provided to larger scale problem areas. Urban Creeks Council is currently meeting with individual property owners who applied in San Anselmo and Fairfax.

The feasibility study and the Streamside Management Plan have attracted the interest of state and federal regulatory agencies who have granted over \$1 million for related work in the Ross Valley. The Ross Valley Watershed is also benefitting from the FEMA Hydrologic and Hydraulic study being conducted to establish Base Flood Elevations in areas of the Ross Valley. The models will be provided to the Flood Control District at no cost once they are completed in late 2009/early 2010.

Explorer Fire Academy

The 35th Annual California Fire Explorer Academy took place this week in San Anselmo. The academy was hosted by the Ross Valley and Marin County Fire Departments. Explorer Posts from all over California checked in at Sir Francis Drake High School on Sunday, April 12 to begin their week of hands-on firefighter training. There were 167 Explorers and 105 Advisors attending the Academy.

Explorers began their training with instruction on Auto Extrication at the Pick-n-Pull Auto and Truck Dismantlers in Windsor. There they were instructed on the many aspects of Auto Extrication, including how to identify a car's make, year, and construction and how to dismantle a car to extricate a victim of a vehicle accident. They also learned how to operate hydraulic tools, such as cutters, spreaders and the Jaws of Life.

Another hands-on training was the Flammable Liquids/Oil Fire School. This training was held at the Chevron Refinery in Richmond. Chevron generously donated their training resources, personnel, and also provided lunches for the students.

The other training involved Structural and Wildland Firefighting techniques. You might have seen the smoke coming from the side of Mt. Tam as they conducted structural training in an abandoned building that was donated by the Marin Municipal Water District. The wildland training occurred at St. Vincent's School in Novato.

The students returned to the Drake High School each evening for dinner and lecture training. The graduation is scheduled for Sunday morning, April 19, at Drake High School in the gym. The California Fire Exploring Association thanks the Tamalpais Union High School District for their generous support in providing the high school and its facilities to the Academy.

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April 24, 2009

Volunteers Needed

The following Town Boards, Commission and Committees have openings for volunteers:

Historical Commission – The Commission was created to preserve the history of San Anselmo by means of research and the collection and organization of information, photographs and artifacts concerning the Town's development. The Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the Historical Museum, located on the first floor of the Library. The Commission has one opening.

Measure G Monitoring Committee – The Committee is responsible to monitor the implementation of the program for improvements to San Anselmo's streets and storm drains. The Measure G Committee is composed of two Councilmembers and six members of the public, with a range of skills, knowledge, and experience in finance (preferably public finance), engineering and/or construction (preferably road or storm drainage projects), public relations and communication, and familiarity with various aspects of the San Anselmo community. The committee meets as needed, but no less than annually. There is one seat available.

Arts Commission – The Commission provides a structure to facilitate the creation of art in all disciplines in the community, promoting and exhibiting art and cultural works produced by Ross Valley artists, and promoting art education in the community and the schools. The Commission meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall conference room. There are three seats available. Persons from the Ross Valley are encouraged to apply.

Dog Licensing

In addition to its role as Marin County's animal shelter, the Marin Humane Society provides dog-licensing services for all of Marin County's cities and towns, as well as its unincorporated areas. Dog licenses are required **by law** for all dogs over the age of four months who live in Marin County.

For more information about licensing your pet, call (415) 506-6220 or visit The Marin Humane Society Animal Services web page at:

<http://www.marinhumanesociety.org/ProgramsServices/AnimalServices/Licensing.html>

Why is it important for you to get your dog licensed?

- If your dog gets lost, a license tag on your dog's collar is the fastest way to reunite you and your dog. Even if your dog is microchipped, a license tag is immediately visible and doesn't require a scanning device to read.
- A current license lets people know that your dog has received the required vaccination to protect your dog from rabies.
- The fee you pay for your dog license and license renewal helps support the animal shelter.
- Your dog's license shows that you are a responsible guardian.

Licensing your dog is required by law in Marin County.

Waste Reduction Strategies in Marin

A Zero Waste Feasibility Study is currently being conducted by the Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority, of which San Anselmo is a member.

Marin has long been a statewide leader in recycling and waste reduction. To reduce our impact on the environment, the Zero Waste Study is being conducted to identify and assess actions that may be taken to achieve zero waste into the landfill by 2025.

Waste Reduction Strategies in Marin is a public meeting that will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Marin County Civic Center from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Marin County Board of Supervisors Chambers (Room 329), 3501 Civil Center Dr., San Rafael.

Be part of the solution, come hear the latest ideas to reach the zero waste goal, and bring your ideas to contribute to the discussion.

For additional information call, 499-6647 or email wasteconsult1@co.marin.ca.us.

Red Hill Dog Park Grand Re-Opening

The grand re-opening of the Red Hill Dog Park is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dog Park, 100 Shaw Drive.

There will be snacks, prizes & raffles, games and fun for all. For more information, go to www.redhillpark.com.

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