



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
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May 1, 2009

Robson Meeting

The Town is holding a meeting with Robson neighbors and other interested people to discuss the use of the Town-owned Robson Harrington House. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Robson house, 237 Crescent Road.** Neighbors have expressed concern about traffic, parking and noise generated by the rental of the house to private groups. The public is invited to attend.

Volunteers Needed

The Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to help them in the office with greeting customers, answering phones and providing customer information. The Recreation office is a busy place with lots of activity going on all the time – it's a fun place to work.

If you have some time to give or would like more information, please call Community Services Director Dave Donery at 258-4661 or ddonery@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us.

Spruce Up Day Report

On Saturday, April 25, 55 volunteers came out to spruce up the Town. Volunteer crews worked at the Isabel Cook Community Center, Robson Harrington House, Town Hall, the median across from the Post Office and at Creek Park.

Energetic volunteers armed with week whackers, brooms, rakes, clippers and shovels did a phenomenal job of sprucing up San Anselmo. The large piles of weeds that were left behind were a testament to how much work got done.

Many, many thanks to those who gave up their Saturday morning for this effort:

Vince Genovese	Tracy Genovese	Judy House	Lincoln Richards
Penelope Starr	Judy Coy	Marilyn Girodo	Derek Mitchell
Nancy Bernot	Stephanie Fernandez	Barbara Thornton	Dale Hillard
Mark Hillard	John Barrows	Erin Bergman	Linda Loring
Wendy Murphy & family	Tom Foullmann	Ford Greene	Bruce Brodie
Ted Freeman	Martin Block	Anna Frost	Matt Eakle
Kathryn Gant Bradley	Sue Neil	Vance Frost	Jim Wooster
Brian Crawford	Amy Jones	Greg Jones	Denise Young
Holly Hopper Clifford	Morgan Houston	Valen Houston	LaRaye Houston
Peter Breen	Roz Schneider	Jo McPeak	Ione Breen
Henri B.	Carter Coleman	David Donery	Diane Obayashi
Dick Stutsman	Dana Gibson	Joyce Brown	Kay Coleman
Woody Weingarten	Sam Pinto	Beverly Pinto	Lucia Eakle
Peter McNair			

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, April 28, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved the Summer 2009 season of Film Night in the Park.
- Acknowledged the report on the cost of installing four new street lights on Greenfield between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Lincoln Park, and directed that the expenditure be considered during the 2009-10 budget process.
- Heard a report on the Fire Ops 101 event put on by firefighters and designated Judy House to participate, with Ford Greene the alternate. (More on this below)
- Approved fees increases for parking penalties and Planning and Building Department fees.
- Introduced an ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 1070 amending the Zoning Ordinance for the Community Facilities District, in order to give staff time to work with Robson neighbors on parameters for the use of the house.
- Reviewed a draft excavation ordinance and provided direction to staff.
- Approved the San Anselmo 2005 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory document.

Fire Ops 101

On Friday, October 9, 2009 the Marin Professional Firefighters Local 1775 will be conducting its first ever Fire Ops 101 event. San Rafael Fire Department will be hosting the event at Station 2, 210 Third Street, and will include the Ross Valley Fire Department's Mobile Live Fire Trainer.

The event suits up mayors, council members, board members, and media representatives in full PPE (personal protective equipment, i.e., "turnouts"), and runs them through actual evolutions such as stretching hose, putting out a fire, extricating a patient from a crumpled vehicle, or treating a patient in cardiac arrest.

San Anselmo gets to have one participant in the event. Because we had a high level of interest in participating on the Council, members drew straws to see who would get to participate. Judy House was the lucky winner, with Ford Greene being the alternate.

Reminder: 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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May 8, 2009

San Anselmo Avenue Resurfacing Project and Street Closure

The first phase of the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) project to replace the water main that runs down the middle of San Anselmo Avenue from San Rafael Avenue to Ross Avenue is complete.

It is now time for the final phase of the project to begin. This entails repaving San Anselmo Avenue between San Rafael and Ross Avenues. The repaving will take place during daytime and early evening hours.

In order to get this part of the job done as quickly as possible, San Anselmo Avenue will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, May 18 and 19, to all traffic.

The downtown area will remain open for business and will be accessible by parking on nearby side streets, in the Creek Park parking lot or the Magnolia parking lot. For the two days that the paving project is ongoing, the Magnolia lot will be accessed via Tunstead Avenue and Library Place.

In order to ensure that the work is completed in two days, hours of construction will be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on May 18 and 19.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience this closure will cause to our downtown business owners, shoppers and residents. Hopefully, the end result will be worth it!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Public Works Director Steve Myrter at 258-4623 or email him at smyrter@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us.

Welcome to Public Works Director Steve Myrter

On Monday, April 27, San Anselmo welcomed new Public Works Director Steve Myrter (pronounced My – ter) to the town staff.

Steve received his Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering from California State University at Long Beach and is a licensed Professional Engineer. He has twenty years of experience in both public and private sector organizations providing program and project management for municipal projects. Most recently he was employed by the City of Newport Beach as the Director of Utilities and the City of Paramount as Director of Infrastructure and Utilities.

Welcome to San Anselmo (and Northern California), Steve.

Wildland Fire Safety Tips – Create your Defensible Space Zone!

The Ross Valley Fire Department wants to remind you that the fire season is here. It is a good time to evaluate and get your property ready against the threat of wildfires.

Ross Valley Fire Department is asking that all homeowners create a “Defensible Space” area around their homes. This area should be a minimum of 100 feet of clearance around your home (or up to your property line). The Defensible Space area is the area where you’ve modified the landscaping to give your house the best chance to survive on its own – greatly improving the odds for firefighters who are defending your neighborhood. If your home is on a slope or subject to high winds, extend the distance of this zone to the area that is recommended for your property. You can request a “Defensible Space” inspection by calling Ross Valley Fire at 258-4686 to schedule an appointment.

You can assist the fire department and yourself and reduce your fire risk by completing the following:

- **Remove** – dead and dying grass, shrubs and trees
- **Reduce** – the density of vegetation (fuel) and ladder fuels, those fuels extending from the ground to the tree canopies.
- **Replace** – hazardous vegetation with fire resistive, irrigated landscape vegetation including lawn, or other low growing groundcovers and flowering plants.

The Home Ignition Zone: (the home plus 10 feet distance)

It’s the “little things” that will endanger your home. Just a little ember landing on a little pile of flammable material will burn it. We suggest spending a morning searching out and getting rid of those flammable little things outside and your home will be much safer. Following are a few of the items you should take a look at:

- Keep your rain gutters and roof clean of all flammable material.
- Get rid of dry grass, brush and other flammable materials around your home – and don’t forget leaves, pine needles, and bark walkways. Replace with well maintained (watered) landscape vegetation, green lawn and landscape rocks.
- Clear all flammable materials from your deck. This includes brooms, stacked wood, and easily ignitable patio furniture. Also, enclose or board up the area under your deck to keep it from becoming a fuel bed for hot embers.
- Move woodpiles and garbage cans away from your home. Keep woodpiles away from the home a distance of two times the height of the pile – more if space allows.
- Use fine mesh metal screen (1/4” or less) to cover eaves, roof and foundation vents to prevent windblown embers from entering.
- Inspect and clean your chimney every year. Trim away branches within 10 feet of the opening of the chimney. Install a spark arrester with 1/2” or smaller screen.

You can also visit the Fire Safe Marin website – www.firesafemarin.org – for more detailed information on clearing around your property.

If you have specific questions or would like to schedule an appointment for an inspection, please call 258-4686.

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May 15, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, May 12, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Presented the Quality of Life Green Award to Ted Bakkila for his years of volunteer service to the Town at Sorich Park.
- Approved the downtown event application for the Art & Wine Festival, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, closing San Anselmo Avenue from Tamalpais to Bolinas Avenues for the day.
- Approved the ordinance repealing Ordinance 1070, which would have changed the zoning for the Isabel Cook Community Center Complex and the Robson Harrington House to allow for office rentals.
- Approved the resolution regarding the application for an industrial disability retirement for Police Sergeant Erickson.
- Received an update report from Public Works Director Steve Myrter regarding a private construction project underway at 10 Foss Avenue and continued discussion of the project at 790 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to the next meeting.
- Took public comment on the possibility of a Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) ballot measure and directed staff to place a measure on the November ballot that would ask the voters to approve a 10% hotel room tax in San Anselmo, which would be borne by hotel guests.
- Received a presentation from the Marin Energy Authority JPA regarding efforts currently underway for proposals to purchase green power.
- Joined the Countywide Green Building, Energy Retrofit and Solar Transformation (BERST) collaborative and appointed Judy House to serve as the representative to the group. A Planning Commissioner will be appointed to serve as the alternate. This group will work together to develop a standardized green building ordinance.
- Received a presentation regarding the Ritter House “Art Houses of Marin” project. “Art Houses” is a fundraiser for the Ritter House, whose mission is to be a strategic leader, partnering with the community to foster self-sufficiency for low-income families and to end homelessness in Marin County. Small houses (four feet high), decorated by local artists, are proposed to be displayed on public property.

Robson Harrington House

Robson Harrington House is an elegant mansion that was donated to the Town in 1968. The house, which was built in 1906, is situated on 2.68 acres of land on Crescent Road. Care of the house and grounds has been shared over the years between the Town and a non-profit group called the Robson-Harrington House Association. In 2006, the Town took over sole responsibility for the house and grounds.

Recently, concerns have arisen regarding a number of issues regarding the house and grounds. Concerns center around the ability to maintain the property with the Town's limited financial resources, as well as neighborhood issues around the use of the house and grounds for events, with associated traffic, parking and noise issues. In addition, concern has been expressed regarding the use of the lower park for an impromptu dog park.

Town staff, led by Community Services Director Dave Donery, has been meeting with a group of concerned neighbors to address these issues. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. at the Robson House, 237 Crescent Road. The public is invited to attend and give input.

Universal Waste

As of February 9, 2006, it is illegal to dispose of Universal Waste in the garbage, down storm drains or onto the ground. Universal wastes include batteries, fluorescent tubes, electronic devices (cell phones, computers, PDA's), computer monitors, televisions, mercury containing wastes (like thermometers) and non-empty aerosol cans.

To find out where to dispose of Universal Wastes visit www.marinrecycles.org or contact the Marin County Waste Management Division at (415) 499-6647 or the Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility at (415) 485-6806.

Other hazardous wastes that are illegal to dispose of in the trash:

- Antifreeze
- Asbestos
- Compressed Gas Cylinders
- Flammables and Poisons
- Motor Oil and Filters
- Needles and Sharps
- PCB-containing Materials
- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Treated Woods

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May 22, 2009

U-Turns on San Anselmo Avenue

Town staff continues to receive numerous complaints about illegal U-turns being made on San Anselmo Avenue, particularly in the center of the downtown area. Making a U-turn in a commercial district is against the law and the associated ticket is a moving violation that comes with a hefty fine and a point on the offender's driving record.

I have a great view of this part of San Anselmo Avenue from my office. The other day I saw a southbound car swing to the right in preparation for a quick U-turn into a diagonal parking space on the opposite side of the street. Just as the driver made the turn, a bicyclist began to pass the driver on the left and was nearly hit by the driver executing the U-turn.

Please remember that U-turns are illegal in all commercial districts and executing a turn to park on the other side of the street counts as a U-turn.

Summer Camps

The San Anselmo Recreation Department is offering a variety of summer camps for children. Town camps offer a variety of wholesome outdoor activities for kids of all ages, with something for everybody.

- **Summer Shorts** - Summer shorts is a summer enrichment program that includes art, language, sports, cooking and more. Students choose classes to custom design the camp to fit personal interest. Located at Manor Elementary School in Fairfax, this program is open to all students entering 5th through 8th grade in Fall 2009. The program operates for two consecutive 2-week sessions.
- **Robson House Kids** – Robson House Kids, ages 5 to 10, spend the summer learning and playing in the world around them. Weekly themes give the camp focus for art projects, games, snacks and story time and in the selection of activities unique to a particular week. Themes include California Creatures, Marin Mammals, All About Cats & Dogs, Super Safari, Radical Reptiles, Dinosaur Discovery, Fantastic Farm Animals and Fun with Fishes.
- **Play Day Summer Camp** – This is a brand new enrichment camp for kids entering grades 1-3 that will take place at Manor Elementary School in Fairfax. Structured in a format similar to an after-school enrichment program, kids spend up to four hours a day in classes of their choice. Choices include chess, dance, science, sports, comic book drawing, ceramics, computers, music, sewing and cooking.

Our most popular camp, **Camp Kinder Kool** is already full. Camp Kinder Kool is designed to introduce incoming kindergarteners to the kindergarten environment in a stress-free way that will build friendships and chase away the butterflies on the first day of school. If you have a preschooler who will be going to kindergarten in 2010, be sure to enroll in this great program early next spring.

For more information, contact our Recreation staff at 258-4640.

Volunteers Needed

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

Quality of Life Commission – The Commission’s mission is to encourage and pursue sustainability principles and practices in community life. It meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall conference room. There is one opening.

Historical Commission – The Commission was created to preserve the history of San Anselmo and 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 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. 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.

Construction Thank You’s

The MMWD water pipeline replacement and road paving project is complete. Kudos to MMWD and Team Ghilotti for a job well done. Many, many thanks to the entire San Anselmo community, including merchants, residents, drivers, bikers, and walkers for their patient and good natured acceptance of the project.

Construction projects are almost always disruptive and this one was no exception. However, complaints were minimal, and now we have a new water line and a wonderful, smooth new street through our downtown.

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May 29, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, May 26, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved the Downtown Event Application from the Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association to hold the Hot August Cool Cars event on Sunday, August 16, 2009. San Anselmo Avenue will be closed from Tamalpais Avenue to Bolinas Avenue the whole day for the event, which will include a classic car show and a barbecue.
- Approved the downtown event application for the Music in the Park summer series sponsored by the San Anselmo Arts Commission. The event is held in Creek Park on Sundays during July and August. The series kicks off on Sunday, July 11 with the Beatles Tribute.
- Approved a resolution finding that a severe fiscal hardship will exist in San Anselmo if additional Town property tax funds are seized and additional unfunded mandates are adopted by the State of California.
- Approved a resolution approving the submission of a grant request by the Police Department for software upgrades to the current records management system. This is through the federal Justice Assistance Grant Formula Program and the Police Department will receive \$12,679 with no matching funds required.
- Approved a revision to the agreement between the Marin County Flood Control District and the members of the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP). MCSTOPPP provides collective stormwater management services to Marin's cities, towns and the County to ensure proper care for our creeks and other waterways in accordance with California law.
- Approved a resolution accepting an easement grant deed from Antone and Petite Sousa for a road and utility easement on Glen Road.
- Authorized the Town Manager to sign an agreement with the County of Marin for services provided by the County Public Works Department for the services of Jack Curley as Interim Public Works Director (after the fact).
- Announced the upcoming expiration of terms on the following Boards/Commissions/ Committees: Quality of Life – Johann Anderson; Parks & Recreation Commission – Gene Childs, Carter Coleman; Ross Valley Paramedic Authority – Janice Przybylski; Tax Equity Board – Troy Van Dongen; Planning Commission – Carla Overberger. Council directed staff to publicized the openings and solicit applications.
- Received an update report on the private construction project at 790 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., the hillside project next to the round real estate office. Work on the project has unfortunately stopped due a loss of funding during this economic crisis. The property owner has been cooperative in removing large

construction vehicles from the site during this interim period. The Council asked for more information on an upcoming agenda regarding the construction bonding process.

- Authorized the Police Department to enter into a three-year municipal lease agreement with the Ford Motor Company to lease six vehicles: two marked patrol vehicles, one marked supervisor vehicle, one unmarked administrative vehicle, one Community Services Officer/Evidence Technician vehicle and one traffic enforcement motorcycle. The leased vehicles will replace existing vehicles that have either reached or are soon to reach the end of their service life. The new vehicles will include two hybrid vehicles and two ultra-low emission marked patrol vehicles. The annual lease payment will be \$83,554 for three consecutive years.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant for four electric vehicle charging stations through the Department of Energy (via the Bay Area Air Quality Management District). The grant requires a 50% match for the four charging stations in the amount of \$22,438. The grant request also includes funding for \$4,000 toward the two hybrid vehicles included in the Police Department vehicle lease. In addition, grant requests have been submitted to the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) for assistance with the match requirement.
- Approved the Town response to the Marin County Civil Grant Jury report “entitled “Marin’s homeless: The ‘invisible’ problem that won’t disappear.”

The staff reports for all of the above items can be located on the Town’s website at www.townofsananselmo.org/meetings/index.htm.

Upcoming Meetings

Refuse & Recycling Subcommittee – Wednesday, June 3, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room, 2nd floor. Enter through Police Department.

Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force – Monday, June 8, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Arts Commission – Monday, June 8, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room, 2nd floor. Enter through Police Department.

Ross Valley Fire Board – Thursday, June 11, 6:30 p.m., Fairfax Women’s Club, Park Road, Fairfax.

Planning Commission – Monday, June 15, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Quality of Life Commission – Monday, June 15, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room, 2nd floor. Enter through Police Department.

Parks & Recreation Commission, Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers.

Historical Commission, Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

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