



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
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September 5, 2008

State of the Town/Business of the Year Dinner

The second annual State of the Town & Business of the Year Dinner will be held at Insalata's Restaurant, 120 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., on Tuesday, September 30, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Included on the program will be an update on the Town's achievements from Mayor Ted Freeman and an award ceremony honoring the outstanding Business of the Year, Marin Sanitary Service, as named by the San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber is currently selling tickets for the dinner. They are \$50 each and include a three-course dinner.

To purchase tickets, contact the Chamber at 454-2510 or email to info@sananselmochamber.org.

Marin Clean Energy

The Town of San Anselmo is sponsoring a community meeting for members of the Ross Valley to learn more about Marin Clean Energy, a plan to create a new green power agency in Marin County. Under MCE, Marin County cities and towns would form a Joint Powers Authority which would buy renewable power collectively directly, while PG&E would continue to be responsible for the transmission lines, billing and other duties.

Speakers will include:

- Dawn Weisz, Principle Planner for the County of Marin and Project Coordinator, Marin Clean Energy
- Executive Spokesperson, PG&E (invited)
- Bill Marcus, JBS Energy and author of the peer review of the Marin Clean Energy business plan.

Marin Clean Energy is currently being considered by each city and town in the county at public study sessions. Following this public education period, each city and town council will vote on whether to participate. Any resident whose city or town joins the Marin Clean Energy JPA may opt out of green power and choose to stay with PG&E, but if their city or town does not join, they will not be able to join MCE.

The Marin Clean Energy business plan includes two options: a "Light Green" option which would provide initially double the renewable power provided by PG&E at rates that are equal to PG&E's, or a "Deep Green" option which would allow customers to choose 100% renewable power at an optional 8-10 percent premium over PG&E rates.

The community meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, at the Sir Francis Drake High School Little Theater, 1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

FireSafe Marin

The first volunteer delivery of the FireSafe Marin DVD's is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 6, but more volunteers are needed to complete the project. If you would like to help us deliver the DVD's on your own schedule, we could surely use your help. Just call Joanne Kessel at 258-4626 and she'll set you up.

Tunstead Walk and Rail Replacement Project

Work has begun on the Tunstead Walk and Rail Replacement Project. The work includes replacing the concrete barrier between the walkway and Sir Francis Drake Blvd., which is deteriorated. The walkway structure, which is rusted and the surface is slippery in winter, will be replaced as well. The project is funded by a grant from the federal government and will cost just over \$500,000.

The sidewalk leading to the bridge at Tunstead and on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., on the east side of the roadway, will be closed during the project. Pedestrians should cross Drake at Tunstead Avenue or Bank Street, walk on the west side of Drake, and cross Drake again. **Please do not under any circumstances walk in the travel lanes next to the construction.**

Traffic on northbound Drake will be reduced to one lane during most work days, until 3:00 p.m., when it will be reopened for commute traffic.

Elders Garden Volunteers needed

The next Elders Garden work party is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th, between 9 and noon at Memorial Park, next to Millennium Playground. Volunteers are needed!

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September 12, 2008

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, September 9, 2008, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Authorized the Town Manager to sign Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) contract amendment No.2, from which the Town will receive \$114,325 to be used for local roads and related infrastructure.
- Approved a resolution amending the Town's Conflict of Interest Code, requiring Town Officials to disclose financial interests in business entities contracting with the Town.
- Appointed incumbents Michael Schinner and Pascal Sisich to the Planning Commission for four-year terms.
- Appointed incumbents Thomas Hendricks, Elizabeth Anderson and Richard Miner to the Historical Commission, as well as new member Wendy Sylvia.
- Appointed incumbent Jay Weill to the Tax Equity Board.
- Received a report from the Economic Competitiveness Group, Inc. on the draft Summary of Marin County Economic Sustainability report, prepared for the Marin County Board of Supervisors and gave feedback on the report to the group.
- Approved the project to flood proof the Town Hall complex. Plans include removing the stucco on Town Hall and installing a waterproof bituthane membrane, reconstructing the entrances to the Police Department to ensure accessibility and construct flood walls under the arbor entrance to Town Hall. Plans also include removable flood gates at all the entrances.
- Appointed Mayor Ted Freeman as the alternate to the Joint Powers Authority Oversight Committee.

The Council continued two important items to the meeting of Tuesday, September 23. Public comment regarding 11 acres of Town-owned undeveloped land accessed at the ends of Idlewood Drive, Carlson Avenue, Cherne Lane and Oak Springs Drive will be heard on the 23rd. Approval and second reading of the ordinance establishing a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for properties located below 150' mean sea level elevation will also be heard on the 23rd.

Quality of Life Awards

At the Town Council meeting of Tuesday, August 12, the Quality of Life Green Award was given to Denali Gillaspie. Denali spent her 18th birthday with 30 friends pulling scotch broom at Phoenix Lake. She is an environmentally conscious young woman that we're proud to have as a San Anselmo resident. Congratulations, Denali.

On Tuesday, September 9, the Quality of Life Silver Award was given to Cynn timer Barrows. Cynn timer is one of the founders of the Friends of the Library and has devoted many years of volunteerism to the Library. Congratulations, Cynn timer.

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FireSafe Marin DVD

Thank you to all the volunteers who have delivered the DVD Marin on Fire to San Anselmo residences. We have had a great response to our call for volunteers and already DVD's have been delivered to 2/3 of Marin.

We can still use your help. The following streets still need volunteers to deliver DVDS:
Alta Vista, Amberwood Lane, Ancho Vista Avenue, Ash Avenue, Aspen Court, Austin Avenue, Avenue Del Norte, Barber Avenue, Belle Avenue, Bella Vista Avenue, Beverly Way, Bolinas Avenue, Bungalow Avenue, Center Blvd., Cordone Dr., Cypress Road, Entrada Avenue, Essex Avenue, Florence Avenue, Grove Hill, Grove Lane, Hillcrest Avenue, Hooper Lane, Jordan Avenue, Knoll Road, Lansdale Avenue, upper Laurel Avenue, Lincoln Park, Longwood Drive, Luna Lane, Magnolia Avenue, Maple Lane, Mariposa Avenue, Merced Avenue, Mountain View Avenue, upper Oak Avenue, Oak Knoll Avenue, Plumas, Prospect, Raymond, lower Redwood, Rivera, Sacramento, San Anselmo Avenue, San Rafael Avenue, Savannah, Sequoia Drive, Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Skyline, South Oak Avenue, Southview Terrace, Spring Grove Avenue, Timothy Drive, Waverly Road and Woodland Avenue.

If you can help, please call Joanne Kessel at 258-4626.

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September 19, 2008

Town Hall Floodproofing

At the meeting of September 9, the Town Council approved the project to flood proof the Town Hall complex.

Several people have asked why we didn't do the flood proofing work when we did the initial flood reconstruction work.

Shortly after the flood, the Town applied for a grant to do the exterior flood mitigation work. Included in the initial notice of approval was a caveat that no work could be done on the project until final, written approval was received from FEMA that the grant was indeed approved.

It was not until early this summer that all the issues around the grant were resolved with FEMA and we received final approval to go ahead with the flood proofing work. We are working quickly to try to get the work completed before the rainy season begins in earnest.

Central Marin Ferry Connection Project

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is hosting an informational public open house for the Central Marin Ferry Connection Project.

The project will create a new multi-use pathway following the County's north-south greenway, which is generally located within the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) right-of-way.

TAM has developed preliminary project alternatives intended to promote safe, direct and convenient non-motorized commute alternatives and enhance recreational travel in the region.

The project will cross Corte Madera Creek to connect the planned Cal Park Hill Multi-Use Pathway (north) with an existing multi-use pathway on Wornum Drive (south). The project is proposed to be implemented in two stages.

Participants are invited to visit the open house to view exhibits on the project and discuss alternatives in detail with project team members. No formal presentation will be made.

The Open House will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Redwood High School Cafeteria, 395 Doherty Drive, Larkspur.

Marin on Fire DVD

Thanks to the many volunteers who have been delivering Marin on Fire DVD's to San Anselmo neighborhoods. More volunteers are needed! Please call Joanne Kessel at 258-4626 if you can help. Many thanks also to Barry Murrin of Northern Pacific Roofing for his donation that covered the cost of needed supplies for the DVD delivery project.

Fall Leaves

With fall just about upon us, the Streets and Parks Department would like to remind all residents to keep curb areas free of leaves and other debris. It's easy to get rid of once it's picked up -- our garbage company provides free pickup of yard waste in cans or boxes for all customers every week.

Please don't just rake leaves into your curb area, hoping that the street sweeper will come by and pick them up. The sweeper can't cover the entire town, and leaves left in curb areas will clog drains quickly when winter rains arrive.

And, as a reminder, the Town has an ordinance that limits the use of motorized leafblowers to Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Residents who pick up their leaves, keep an eye on neighborhood drains and clear clogs during storms will help to keep winter storm water flowing where it's supposed to be!

Winter Preparedness Tips

The Town has prepared a two-page flyer entitled "Winter Storm Preparedness Tips" that gives a number of safety tips to help residents and merchants get ready for the upcoming winter.

Included in the flyer is information on what to do before, during and after the storm. The County's Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) is discussed, and a glossary of storm watch/warning terminology is included.

The Tips are available in Town offices, as well as on the Town's website at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/flood/index.htm>.

Also available in Town offices is the Home Safety Emergency Plan, prepared by the Salvation Army, which is a guide to home emergency preparedness.

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September 26, 2008

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, September 23, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Appointed Joan Stone to the Arts Commission and Casey Logwood to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Adopted the Floor Area Ratio ordinance establishing maximum floor area and maximum lot coverage for single family residential properties located below 150' mean sea level elevation.
- Received public comment on the Lombard property, 11 acres of Town-owned undeveloped land accessed at the ends of Idlewood Drive, Carlson Avenue, Cherne Lane and Oak Springs Drive. The Town must make a repayment of \$500,000 to its insurance pool for funds loaned to the Town for a major landslide repair on the property. Council directed staff to set up a subcommittee to explore fundraising possibilities with the intent to keep the property as open space and to look into the possibility of carving out one lot for possible sale.
- Upheld the Planning Commission's denial of a setback variance to construct a one story garage within 3 feet of the property line at 114 Alder Avenue.
- Approved a resolution declaring an emergency in connection with the approval of flood walls at Town Hall and replacement of front, side and back entrances to the Police Department in order to accomplish the work before winter.
- Directed staff to schedule interviews with the Town Council for all applicants to the Planning Commission.
- Continued to October 14th a resolution establishing Town Council guidelines for responding to State and federal legislative actions and issues of public concern.
- Approved a resolution encouraging the use of recyclable paper and/or reusable checkout bags by shops, stores, eating places and retail food vendors located in the Town.

With respect to the Floor Area Ratio ordinance, this approval comes at the end of a tremendous amount of work by two separate subcommittees, the Planning Commission and the Town

Council. In all, there were more than nine subcommittee meetings, seven Planning Commission meetings and eleven Town Council meetings on this topic. There was a great deal of public participation at all of these meetings, and many strong feelings on both sides of the issue were heard and discussed. The final result is an ordinance that the Town Council was able to support unanimously.

The goal of the floor area ratio ordinance is to:

- Preserve the quality of life and small town character in neighborhoods by limiting the size of new or renovated dwellings by establishing a ratio between floor area and lot size and a ratio between lot coverage and lot size.
- Provide a tool to ensure that homes too big for the lot are neither approved nor built.
- Provide a standard that serves to protect property values through the preservation of neighborhood character.

Many thanks to those who participated in the public process, served on subcommittees and lent their expertise to the debate. The final product is truly an example of democracy at work.

Bicycle Racks

The Town has a Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee that meets regularly to address bicycle and pedestrian issues in San Anselmo.

The Committee was instrumental in completing the recent update of the Town's Bicycle Master Plan, as well as advocating for bicycle and pedestrian improvements Town wide.

At the meeting of Monday, September 22, the Committee discussed obtaining a grant for placing additional bicycle racks around San Anselmo. The Committee, most of whom are regular bike riders, has a number of ideas on where to place bike racks. These locations include the Pine Street parking lot, the Butterfield Road triangle at Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and the Post Office.

In addition, the Committee would like to hear from resident bike riders regarding bicycle parking locations. Do you know of a location in San Anselmo that needs a bike rack? Please email to townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us if you have suggested locations for new bike racks.

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