



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
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November 6, 2009

Election Results

Congratulations to our newly elected Town Councilmembers: Kay Coleman, Jeff Kroot and Tom McInerney. The new members will be sworn into office at the Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, beginning at 7 p.m.

Measure E, the referendum on the Floor Area Ratio ordinance, passed. Measure F, the hotel users tax, did not pass.

Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee

At the meeting of Tuesday, November 10, the Town Council will receive the report from the Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee regarding its work over the last year and a half. The Town's franchise agreement with Marin Sanitary for refuse and recycling services ended on January 31, 2009 but was extended through December 31, 2009.

In mid-2008, the Town Council appointed Councilmembers Barbara Thornton and Ford Greene and residents Carey Lando and Richard Taylor to the Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee, charged with reviewing the terms of the Town's current refuse and recycling contract, making requests for additional information from Marin Sanitary Service, reviewing the information received and making recommendations regarding a new contract with Marin Sanitary. The subcommittee met six times in 2008 and nine times in 2009.

Marin Sanitary advised that the contract signed in 2004 had a number of financial disadvantages to the company. In addition, the method of increasing rates outlined in the contract has resulted in rates that have not kept up with the cost of providing the service. San Anselmo's rates are currently among the lowest in Marin County. In short, Marin Sanitary is losing money on the San Anselmo contract. According to the rate review, over the contract period of 2004 - 2009, Marin Sanitary has lost approximately \$2.8 million on the San Anselmo contract.

The work of the subcommittee included engaging the accounting firm of Hilton Farnkopf to do a complete rate review of San Anselmo's rates. The rate review helped the subcommittee better understand the cost of the various services enjoyed by San Anselmo customers and provide a basis for negotiating a new contract and new rates with Marin Sanitary.

The subcommittee, based on the rate review, is recommending the following changes to the refuse and recycling rate and service structure:

- Rate increase of 27.4% on all refuse rates. This would increase the charge for a 32-gallon residential cart from \$19.60 to \$24.97, an increase of \$5.37/month.

- New dual sort carts divided into two sections, one for paper products and the other for all other recyclable items.
- Distance charges of \$6.75 per month (for each segment of 50 feet or less) for customers who do not bring their carts/cans to the curb, with a maximum of 300 feet.
- Small truck charges of 10% of the 32 gallon can rate (\$2.50/month) for streets that can only be serviced by small trucks.
- Green waste pickup every other week, rather than every week, with an option to have a second green can for \$1.29 per month.

The subcommittee's findings and recommendations will be presented to the Town Council on Tuesday, November 10, beginning at 7 p.m. The new contract and the rate increase are planned to be agendized as action items at the meeting of Tuesday, November 24, also beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information on the new refuse and recycling contract and comparisons to other rates in the County, go to <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/administration/index.htm> and scroll down to Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee Information.

Bike Thefts

Recently, the San Anselmo Police Department has learned of several reports of bicycle thefts from residences throughout the Ross Valley area. The thefts usually occur during the daylight hours while the residents are away. Although the thieves usually take bicycles that are in plain sight, there have been occasions of bicycles being taken from locked storage sheds. To help the San Anselmo Police Department in preventing these types of burglaries and to apprehend the suspects, the following tips should be taken into consideration:

- Secure bicycles with a lock and out of plain sight
- When leaving town for an extended period of time, notify a neighbor and tell them who is allowed on the property and when you will be returning
- Report any unusual noises
- Be aware of unfamiliar vehicles parked in front of the property
- Be alert to incessantly barking dogs
- In the evenings, maintain proper lighting on and around your property

By implementing these simple safety tips, you can help reduce "crimes of opportunity" and assist law enforcement in apprehending these thieves.

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November 13, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, November 10, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Appointed Ervin Grinberg to the Arts Commission and Robert Borinstein to the Capital Program Monitoring Committee.
- Received the report on the refuse and recycling rate increase and new contract with Marin Sanitary Service. Public comment was received, and several people spoke of the need to have every week green waste pickup, particularly in the fall. Staff was directed to obtain rate estimates from Marin Sanitary to have weekly green waste pickup between October 1 and December 15. If San Anselmo institutes the full complement of possible changes to the contract (distance charges, small truck charges, every other week yard waste and the addition of dual sort carts to the recycling program), the increase to the rates can be limited to 17.7% (a \$3.47 increase to the monthly charge for a 32-gallon cart). The increase could be as much as 27.4% (a \$5.37 increase to the monthly charge for a 32-gallon cart) if no service reductions are instituted and dual sort carts are employed. The Town Council will consider approval of the contract on Tuesday, November 24, beginning at 7 p.m.
- Received a report on the Rolling Winter Shelter program being considered at the First Presbyterian Church on Kensington Road. The church intends to participate along with other Marin faith communities in providing shelter for the homeless this coming winter. The church would host 30 men who have been screened by caseworkers at Ritter Center and can arrive only by transportation provided for them. As this type of use is not currently allowed in the Town's zoning code, staff asked Council for direction on this issue. The Council directed staff to return with a proposed ordinance for consideration that would require a conditional use permit for this type of use, and would trigger neighborhood noticing and approval by the Planning Commission. The Council also directed staff to send out a notice to neighbors within 300 feet of the First Presbyterian Church to ensure they are aware of this proposal and have the opportunity to comment.
- Received an update report on the 790 Sir Francis Drake Project. Public Works Director Steve Myrter updated the Council on plans for ensuring that the grading portion of this project is completed and the site completely winterized. He will be working with the property owner to ensure that the remaining work on the grading permit is done immediately and that there are no adverse effects to the neighborhood.
- Received a report on the San Rafael to Fairfax bike corridor study. The study presents conceptual bike improvements to Center Blvd, Red Hill Avenue, Greenfield Avenue and the hub intersection. The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Task Force reviewed the report and will submit comments from San Anselmo's perspective.

- Approved the Lansdale Fish Passage Improvement Project that is sponsored by the Marin County Water Conservation and Flood Control District and submitted by the Friends of the Corte Madera Creek, with funds to be provided by grant funding.

Saunders Avenue paving work

The Town's federal stimulus paving and sidewalk project on Saunders Avenue is well underway. The sidewalk and drainage improvement work is now done. The next step is grinding the asphalt and doing the resurfacing. Because Saunders is a primary access point to S.F. Drake High School and serves as the single ingress/egress point for a number of small neighborhoods, the paving is going to be tricky.

The grinding is scheduled to be done on Saturday, November 14, all day. Saunders will be open for neighborhood traffic only. The resurfacing work is tentatively scheduled to be completed on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 17 and 18 (depending on the weather). The work will be done in segments to ensure that neighborhood traffic is accommodated, but there may be some delays. Town staff is working closely with the high school staff to ensure that students, teachers, and parents are aware of the closure of Saunders to all but neighborhood traffic on those days.

Thanksgiving Tea at the Library

The San Anselmo Library staff and friends invite you to attend their Thanksgiving Tea at the Library as a way to say "Thanks." The tea will be held on Wednesday, November 18, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Library, 110 Tunstead Avenue.

Marin Energy Authority Community Meetings

The Marin Energy Authority (MEA) is holding two informational community meetings about the energy authority. The meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Monday, November 23, 2009, 6 to 9 p.m., San Rafael City Council Chambers, 1400 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael.
- Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 6-9 p.m., Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley

The public is invited and encouraged to attend either of these sessions. For more information, visit www.marinerenergyauthority.org.

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November 20, 2009

Community Outreach from the Police Department

On Friday, November 13, 2009, the San Anselmo Police Department launched a new community information service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology.

This service, created by Nixle, LLC delivers trustworthy neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by cell phone, e-mail and the Web. Nixle is a completely free, simple, and trusted information service provider built exclusively to provide secure and reliable communications. Its authenticated service connects municipal agencies and community organizations to residents in real time by delivering information to geographically targeted consumers over their cell phones (via text messages), through e-mails, and through Web access.

Residents of San Anselmo can now take advantage of Nixle by signing up at www.nixle.com. After you register, alerts will automatically be sent to your email address, mobile phone or both. Subscribers can then go to Settings and choose between Advisories, Traffic and Community notifications. You will also be provided with the ability to choose different notification options that will be sent to your mobile phone and/or email.

To register:

- Go to www.nixle.com
- Click "Register Now"
- Create an account by choosing a User Name and password
- Enter an email address and/or cell phone number where you would like to receive messages
- Enter your address (or a nearby intersection)
- Click "Sign Me Up"

For additional information, please contact the San Anselmo Police Department at 258-4610.

Holiday Parking

The San Anselmo Police Department is pleased to announce that the Town will be suspending enforcement of the downtown parking regulations again this holiday season. From November 26, 2009 through January 1, 2010, the parking meters in downtown parking lots **will not** be operating and the two & four-hour time limit restriction areas **will not** be enforced.

As always the disabled, red zone and other safety related parking violations will be enforced as usual.

Upcoming Holiday Events

Mark your calendars for holiday fun:

Saturday, December 5, 5-7 p.m. Holiday Lighting event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Town Hall lawn (note change in location). Music, free pictures with Santa, crafts and refreshments.

Friday, December 18, 5-8 p.m. Holiday Open House in downtown San Anselmo, sponsored by the Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association. Browse through local shops and taste savory treats.

Holiday Food Drive

You can help us make this holiday season and 2010 better for less-fortunate families and individuals in Marin County by participating in the Marin Food Bank Holiday Food Drive.

The food we collect will be distributed in holiday boxes and throughout the coming year to individuals in need. The highly desired non-perishable food items include:

- Canned Proteins (tuna, salmon, chicken, peanut butter)
- Canned Fruits in juice or light syrup (fruit cocktail)
- Macaroni & Cheese
- 100% Fruit Juices (All sizes including juice boxes)
- Grains (pasta, whole wheat pasta, rice, brown rice, macaroni and cheese)
- Condiments (tomato based sauces, light soy sauce, ketchup, mustard, light salad dressings)
- Low sodium/ no salt added canned vegetables (mixed, green beans, corn)
- Soups (beef stew, chili, chicken noodle, turkey rice)
- Multigrain Cereal (cheerios, cornflakes, grapenuts, raisin bran)
- Ensure and other nutritional drinks
- Alternative Food: wheat-free, dairy-free, nut-free, vegan

Our food drive barrel is located in the lobby of the Council Chambers, 525 San Anselmo Avenue. Please help us help others.

Volunteers Needed

The Friends of the San Anselmo Library need volunteers who can help staff the first Saturday of the month book sales. Please contact Dorothy Walters at 455-9110 for more information.

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November 25, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, November 24, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Reappointed Jonathan Braun, Stanley Radtke and Brian Crawford to the Open Space Committee.
- Directed staff to begin work on a general plan and zoning ordinance amendment to conditionally permit temporary homeless shelters. First Presbyterian Church will participate in the interfaith rolling winter shelter program beginning Thursday, December 3.
- Approved a 10-year contract with Marin Sanitary Service with an 18% increase in rates, instituting distance and small truck charges. Green waste pickup will be every other week, with four extra pickups scheduled in the fall and spring. The 32-gallon can rate will increase from \$19.60 to \$23.13 per month.

Town Council Swearing In Ceremony

At the Town Council meeting of Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the Town will honor outgoing members Peter Breen, Judy House and Ted Freeman.

In addition, newly elected Councilmembers Kay Coleman, Jeff Kroot and Tom McInerney will be sworn into office on December 8th.

Bulb Planting

Join San Anselmo volunteers in a bulb planting morning on Saturday, December 5, starting at 10 a.m. Meet in front of Town Hall with gloves, shovels and trowels and you can help to plant bulbs around town.

Special thanks to Sunnyside Nursery for the donation of bulbs.

Upcoming Holiday Events

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Friday, December 18, 5-8 p.m. Holiday Open House in downtown San Anselmo, sponsored by the Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association. Browse through local shops and taste savory treats.

Ross Valley Fire CPR Class

The next Ross Valley Fire Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Class is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. (depending on the size of the class). The class is held at Ross Valley Fire Station 21, at the corner of Bolinas and Park, Fairfax. The cost is \$25 per person and you must sign up in person (sorry, no phone sign ups) at the Headquarters Fire Station, 777 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo. You can sign up Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Leaf Blower Ordinance

San Anselmo has an ordinance that restricts the operation of motorized leafblowers in the town to the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for periods not to exceed thirty minutes at a time per property.

The ordinance applies to anyone who operates a motorized leaf blower in town. This includes property owners, their employees, tenants, and landscape contractors.

The leaf blower ordinance was enacted to prevent continuous and unreasonable disruption of households caused by the operation of motorized leaf blowers. In adopting the ordinance, the Town Council sought to balance environmental and life quality issues with the need for property owners to maintain their properties.

The leafblower ordinance was the result of six months of public discussion and a six month trial period before it was finally adopted in April of 1994.

Winter Fire Safety

The change of season, local fires, and the recent time change has us all thinking about fire safety. Here are a few fire safe tips from the Ross Valley Fire Department:

- Change the smoke alarm batteries, this is your first line of defense, especially while sleeping.
- Test the smoke alarm and review your emergency plan, including exit strategies, family meeting places, etc.
- Have your fire extinguisher checked to ensure that it is in working order. Ensure that everyone knows how to use it.
- Check your emergency supplies, including stored water and food and batteries for flashlights and radios.

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