Community Newsletter July – September 2023

Upcoming Events

San Carlos

Music in the Park Friday, July 7 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/music

Music in the Park Friday, July 14 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/music

San Carlos Block Party Sunday, July 16 • 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/events

Music in the Park Friday, July 21 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/music

Summer Movie Night Saturday, July 22 • Sunset approximately 8:30 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/events

Music in the Park Wednesday, July 28 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/music

Music in the Park Friday, August 4 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/music

Summer Movie Night Saturday, August 5 • Sunset approximately 8:30 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/events

Family Camp Out Friday - Saturday, August 11-12 • Burton Park cityofsancarlos.org/events

Summer Movie Night Saturday, August 19 • Sunset approximately 8:30 p.m. Burton Park / cityofsancarlos.org/events

Block Party Sunday, August 27 • 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Burton Park / ccityofsancarlos.org/events

YAC Blood Drive Saturday, September 23 • 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Youth Center (1001 Chestnut Street) cityofsancarlos.org/blooddrive



NEW CITY WEBSITE

Virtual City Hall Puts San Carlos at Your Fingertips

You may have noticed something different about our City website recently — it's brand new!

We've completely redesigned *cityofsancarlos.org* with our community in mind. Created to function as a "virtual City Hall," we've prioritized intuitive organization, robust online services, and easy to access information.





From our new predictive search to interactive development maps, dynamic online forms, and streamlined news, it has never been easier to keep your finger on the pulse of everything happening in the City of Good Living. Our new site is also optimized for viewing on smart phones and tablets, ensuring you have access to the information and services you need on the go or on the couch!

If you haven't already, head over to *cityofsancarlos.org* to check out the brand-new website for yourself. Drop us a comment on social media or email us at *communications@cityofsancarlos.org* and let us know what new features you're loving and any suggestions you have to improve our virtual City Hall services.

Sign Up for E-News

E-News (formerly e-Notify) is the new email notification system for the City of San Carlos!

Important: If you were previously subscribed to e-Notify categories, you must re-subscribe on the new E-News system.

Visit *cityofsancarlos.org/enews* to opt into the categories of your choice and stay up-to-date on the latest events, programs, and projects in the City of Good Living.

Questions? E-mail us at communications@cityofsancarlos.org.



Protecting Trees and Community Values

Why Protect Trees?

In 2021, the San Carlos community and the City Council made it a priority to improve and update our Protected Tree Ordinance to maintain the city's heritage and significant trees. After a year of study and discussion, the City Council adopted a new Protected Tree Ordinance in the summer of 2022. As a part of this effort, the City also engaged a new arborist team, Bartlett Consulting, to

partner with the Planning Division. Together, the Planning Division and Bartlett Consulting will process and evaluate all protected tree pruning and removal applications, and provide guidance to the community on tree-related issues.

> Protecting trees is an important community value in the City of Good Living. San Carlos is known for its mature and native tree species, which contribute to the city's charm and climate-friendliness. Preserving existing trees and promoting new tree plantings helps maintain and expand our urban canopy. Trees provide us with shade, cooling, reduced carbon emissions, and natural beauty.

A protected tree is defined as a heritage tree, significant tree, City Council-designated tree, a tree planted as part of a development project, or a tree planted to replace a removed protected tree.

Understanding Protected Trees

Understanding whether a tree is protected is important if you own property in San Carlos, or if you have concerns about a tree's health or structural integrity. If you plan to perform any construction work on your lot, including landscaping and grading, it is essential to know if any protected trees are on or near your property. The City often requires tree protection measures and arborist reports for such projects, along with approval from the City Arborist prior to beginning any work.

For more information, please visit *cityofsancarlos.org/trees*.



City Manager's Corner

In the last few months, our San Carlos community has come together to celebrate and support one another for Mental Health Awareness Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Pride Month, Juneteenth, and more. Recognizing these causes and honoring these identities is a key piece of upholding our community values of inclusion, diversity, and personal empathy.

As summer fun comes to the City of Good Living, it's important to remember that many of our neighbors, friends, and family will continue to fight battles related to mental health or personal identity, long after Mental Health Month or Pride Month is over. I want to thank everyone in San Carlos who continues to offer their love and support year-round for those in need of it, whether through structured events and programming or informal assistance. Sometimes, just being a friend or providing an ear to listen is all it takes to make a world of difference.

Please use the resource links below to find information and help whenever you or a loved one may need it.

Thank you again for taking care of one another and have a wonderful summer.

Jeff Maltbie

Community Resources: • cityofsancarlos.org/mentalhealth • onelifecounselingcenter.com • star-vista.org • sanmateopride.org •

City of San Carlos Protected Trees

A protected tree is defined as a heritage tree, significant tree, City Council-designated tree, a tree planted as part of a development project, or a tree planted to replace a removed protected tree.

Heritage Tree Species

These heritage species are considered protected once they reach a specific size in diameter, measured at 54" above the ground:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Min. Protected Diameter
Aesculus california	Buckeye	9" or greater
Arbutus menziesii	Madrone	9" or greater
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	9" or greater
Quercus lobata	Valley oak	9" or greater
Quercus douglassii	Blue oak	9" or greater
Quercus wislizneii	Interior live oak	9" or greater
Sequoia sempervirens	Redwood	15" or greater
Umbellulariacalifornica	California bay laurel	11" or greater

Single Trunk



Multiple Trunks (Below Ground)

Measure the diameter of each trunk, 54" from natural grade (ground); use largest diameter.



Significant Tree Size

Any tree that is eleven inches (11") in diameter, outside of bark, measured at 54" above the ground, is considered protected as a significant tree. However, unprotected species are not protected regardless of size.

Unprotected Tree Species

These species are considered *unprotected* regardless of their size or location:

Scientific Name	Common Name
A. baileyana, A. decurrens, or A. melanoxylon	Bailey, Green or Black Acacia
Ailianthus altissima	Tree of Heaven
-	Fruit trees of any kind
Pinus radiata	Monterey Pine
Eucalyptus genera	Eucalyptus
Monocot trees	Palms and palm relatives







Do you need a permit to prune or remove a protected tree?

If your tree is considered protected, a permit from the City must be approved before you can prune or remove the tree. Pruning means trimming greater than 25% of the tree's canopy or root system. You can prune or remove unprotected trees without contacting the City. Removing a tree, even if unprotected, reduces the urban canopy's coverage, alters wind patterns, and may affect privacy. It is encouraged to replant trees and consult the City's Preferred Tree List for species selection.

In case of an emergency, where a protected tree poses imminent life-threatening hazards, contact the Planning Division immediately and take and provide photos (if safe to do so). Emergency requests do not require a permit application.

The Planning Division can be reached at *planning@cityofsancarlos.org*, or at (650) 802-4263.

For more information on protected trees, please visit *cityofsancarlos.org/trees*.



New Design Standards for Houses and Residential Development

Since late 2022, the City has been diligently working to create Objective Design Standards for future residential developments – both big and small. "Objective Design Standards" are quantifiable standards that remove personal judgment (i.e., subjectivity) from the application review process.

The City is creating Objective Design Standards for:

- Single-Family Residences which include homes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and infill (SB-9) units. SB-9 allows property owners to split their single-family residential lots into two separate lots, each of which can be developed with a residential unit.
- Mixed-Use & Multi-Family Buildings which include larger residential buildings, like apartment complexes or condos.

The City is creating these standards to make the process for adding new residences easier, faster, and more streamlined. A recently enacted State law requires that two or more residential units be reviewed based on objective (rather than subjective) criteria only. The goal is to facilitate the construction of muchneeded housing in San Carlos in a shorter timeframe. We want to hear from you!

Your input is highly valued and will contribute to the success of this important initiative.

- Draft Objective Standards for single-family residences: On June 19, 2023, the Planning & Transportation Commission reviewed the final draft standards and provided a recommendation to the City Council on adoption of the standards.
- Draft Standards for mixed-use and multi-family buildings: The intent is to seek your input to create attractive, engaging designs for new mixed-use and multifamily developments. Visit the project website to share your thoughts using an input form.

The Objective Design Standards for Single-Family Residences will be effective by fall 2023, and the Objective Design Standards for Mixed-Use & Multi-Family Residences will be effective by early 2024.

For more information, please visit *cityofsancarlos.org/designstandards*.

DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION

New Water-Wall Barriers Combine Form with Function

When the City Council decided to move forward with the transformation of the 700 block of Laurel Street into a pedestrianonly plaza, the public asked whether the orange waterwall barriers would become a permanent fixture. While effective at directing traffic and keeping the community safe, the bright orange color and reflective strips detracted from the esthetics of our beloved downtown.



To transform the orange barriers (and maintain their safety functionality), City staff designed and constructed white wood planter covers to fit perfectly over the water-wall. To add further charm, flowerpots were suspended on the top portion of the planters using a secure cabling system.



Stay Wildfire Safe

Now is the perfect time to update your wildfire safety plan. Make sure your home is protected from the threat of wildfire by creating defensible space around your home. Trim overgrown grass, weeds, and shrubs, and pull any dead plants from your yard.





Get additional wildfire safety information at cityofsancarlos.org/wildfire.

Staff also engineered a custom water-wicking system to pull small amounts of water stored in the barriers up into the pots for continuous watering of the plants, reducing the need for daily manual watering by the maintenance team. Finally, wheels were added to a small number of planters for easy reconfiguration without the need to first drain the barrier.

During this process, the idea to repurpose old cement garbage receptacles into planters was also formulated. The receptacles had been in storage for some time, and a team of staff, led by Public Works Superintendent Lou Duran, recognized their potential. With a new coat of bright paint and the same water-wicking system as the planters, the garbage receptacles were brought back to life and distributed downtown along with the water-wall planters.

See them for yourself as you stroll Laurel Street at one of our upcoming Farmers' Markets this summer!



CITY OF SAN CARLOS 600 Elm Street, San Carlos, CA 94070 cityofsancarlos.org 650-802-4100



******ECRWSSEDDM******* POSTAL CUSTOMER

City Council Mission Statement

The City of San Carlos provides high-quality services and facilities to its residents in an equitable, sustainable, transparent, responsive, and friendly manner to foster an inclusive, safe, and healthy community now and in the future.

Council, Commission, and Committee Meetings

Elected Officials	(650) Area Code
Adam Rak, Mayor arak@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4163
John Dugan, Vice Mayor jdugan@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4164
Ron Collins, Council Member rcollins@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4161
Sara McDowell, Council Member smcdowell@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4162
Pranita Venkatesh, Council Member pvenkatesh@cityogsancarlos.org	802-4160
Inge Tiegel, City Treasurer itiegel@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4165
City Hall Contacts	
City Manager Jeff Maltbie jmaltbie@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4228
Assistant City Manager Nil Blackburn nblackburn@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4230
Administrative Services Director Rebecca Mendenhall rmendenhall@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4128
Building Department – General line	802-4261
City Attorney Greg Rubens grubens@cityofsancarlos.org	(408) 606-6300
Community Relations Director/ City Clerk Crystal Mui cmui@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4219
Community Development Director Al Savay asavay@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4263
San Carlos/ Redwood City Deputy Fire Chief Dave Pucci dpucci@cityofsancarlos.org	780-7400
Parks & Recreation Director Amy Newby anewby@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4131
Planning Department – General line	802-4263
Police Chief Mark Myers mtmyers@smcgov.org	802-4227
Police Business/Non-Emergency line	802-4321
Public Works Director Steven Machida smachida@cityofsancarlos.org	802-4203
Public Works Department – General line	802-4200
Communications Manager Brian Cary (Editor, Good Living)	802-4218

bcary@cityofsancarlos.org



Most City Council and Planning & Transportation Commission Meetings can be accessed remotely via Zoom. Please visit *cityofsancarlos.org/agenda* for the most current meeting information.

Council, Commission and Committee Meetings

CITY COUNCIL

Meets the second and fourth Monday* of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall and is televised live on Comcast Channel 27 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. The meeting is also streamed through *cityofsancarlos.org* and replayed on Comcast Channel 27 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. August 14 & 28 September 11 & 25

*Unless otherwise noted

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Meets the first and third Monday* of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall and is televised live on Comcast Channel 27 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. The meeting is also streamed through *cityofsancarlos.org* and replayed on Comcast Channel 27 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. August 7 & 21 September 4 & 18

*Unless otherwise noted

Social Media

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/cityofsancarlos

Follow us on Twitter: @CityofSanCarlos

Follow us on Instagram: @CityofSanCarlos



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

Meets the first Wednesday of every even numbered month at 7 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meets the first and third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

City Hall Closures

July 4 Labor Day: September 4

Contact Information and Hot Lines

Reporting Abandoned Vehicles	802-4236
Reporting Graffiti	802-4235
Sports Field Condition	802-4333