

# Good Living San Carlos



City of San Carlos Community Newsletter | Oct-Dec 2011

## City Utilizes New Strategy - Shared Services to Maintain and Enhance City Service

Many San Carlos residents are familiar with the City's decade long struggle to maintain a balanced budget. During this time, the City has been forced to cut back on all municipal services including: police, fire, parks and recreation and maintenance of its infrastructure. This continued erosion of services led the City Council in 2010 to initiate significant changes in the manner by which several important services are provided in an effort to protect, maintain and in certain cases, enhance service levels.

In the last 18 months, the City contracted with outside providers for its payroll, code enforcement and landscape maintenance services. Further, San Carlos has entered into a shared services agreement with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office for police services and with the City of Redwood City to share fire management services, allowing the restoration of the San Carlos Fire Department (see article on the new Fire Department). Finally, San Carlos also has partnered with the City of Half Moon Bay to provide that community with high quality recreation services.

To date, the City has saved San Carlos taxpayers approximately \$3.7 million annually in the cost to provide city services and has restored balance to its finances. More importantly, the City has stopped the annual cycle of reducing the amount of public safety and other important services delivered to residents. Shared services have not resulted in any decrease in



public safety response times. The San Carlos Police Bureau is still headquartered at the San Carlos Police station at City Hall. Both San Carlos fire stations remain open and fully staffed. All of our parks and medians receive weekly maintenance. In fact, the real significance of sharing and contracting services is that it has allowed the City to increase the levels of public safety, recreation and maintenance services provided in San Carlos while protecting the city's bottom line.

Change is a difficult thing. Many folks believe making meaningful change in government is all but impossible. In San Carlos, change through shared services has meant a balanced budget and higher service levels to the community at a more affordable and sustainable cost.

### Upcoming Events

**December 2, 5-8 p.m.**

#### **600-800 blocks of Laurel Street**

Back by popular demand is the Night of Holiday lights. This event, sponsored by the City of San Carlos and Chamber of Commerce, is located on the 600, 700 and 800 blocks of Laurel Street and features "snow", train rides and the initial lighting of Laurel Street by the mayor to kick off the holiday season. This event is free.

#### **Santa Arrives by Helicopter**

**December 3, 10 a.m.**

#### **Hiller Aviation Museum**

Children meet with Santa from 10-noon, then Santa is escorted to his "house" at 760 Laurel St.

#### **Pancake Breakfast with**

#### **Santa & Meet Your Firefighters**

**December 17, 10-noon**

Adult Community Center

\$10 Adults, \$8 Children 12 and under

### Successful Past Events



**Goblin Walk** – Children were delighted to have "trick or treated" on Laurel St. for the third year on October 28. Special thanks to sponsors Chamber of Commerce and Miller & Associates, along with numerous service club volunteers.

**Art & Wine Faire** – Perfect weather was in order for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual event, which was the most successful event ever according to the event's sponsor, San Carlos Chamber of Commerce.

**Hot Harvest Nights Farmer's Market** – September brought the close to the 8<sup>th</sup> season of the market. Hopefully, May will come around quickly to mark the 9<sup>th</sup> season.

*Welcome to the inaugural edition of Good Living, San Carlos' new community newsletter. The City Council recently authorized the printing and distribution of a newsletter to better inform residents of current issues and upcoming events. It is also available on the City's website at [www.cityofsan-carlos.org](http://www.cityofsan-carlos.org). During the course of each year, the City holds hundreds of public meetings, special events and workshops in our continuing efforts to engage our residents in open and transparent government. We welcome your comments and suggestions on future editions.*

Please write or email:  
Christine Boland, Editor, Good Living  
c/o City Hall  
600 Elm Street, San Carlos, CA 94070  
telephone: (650) 802-4219 or  
email: [cboland@cityofsan-carlos.org](mailto:cboland@cityofsan-carlos.org).

# Good Notes

*What's New in San Carlos*

## Retail Happenings - Grand Openings & Coming Soon

**Peet's Coffee** has opened at 677 Laurel at the corner of Cherry St. in the former Blockbuster location.

**Harvest Furniture** will be moving in next door to Peet's.

**Holly Hill** women's clothing has opened in place of Alta at 701 Laurel.

**Bair Island Tap & Eatery** replaces the former Laurel Kabob at 635 Laurel.

**Nothing Bundt Cakes** will open soon at 864 Laurel St. next to Vanilla Moon.

**Cakewalk Creations** will be opening at 1336 El Camino Real.

**Applewood Pizza** is coming to 560 El Camino Real, replacing the former Tava Indian Bistro.

The 1100 block of San Carlos Ave. between El Camino and Laurel has three new restaurants all in a row: **Red Hot Chili Pepper** is now serving Asian Fusion food at 1125 SC Ave., the former site of Vic's; **Monarcas Mexican Cuisine** opened recently at 1107 SC Ave.; and **Cuisinett**, a French restaurant, will be opening soon at 1105 SC Ave.

## New Development Updates

**Zoom In On Zoning** Following adoption of a new General Plan and Climate Action Plan in 2009, the City has been developing a comprehensive Zoning Code update to implement its goals, policies and actions. During this time the city has had numerous workshops and commission meetings to discuss potential changes in zoning. The City Council will hold a public hearing on November 14, 2011 to consider adopting these changes.

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**East Side Connect** is a project that will soon be underway to improve major portions of Old County Road and East San Carlos Ave. It will include undergrounding utility poles, adding new landscaping, street lights, sidewalks and bike paths. Grant funds in the amount of \$2.2 million have been secured for this project.

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**Palo Alto Medical Foundation** at 301 Industrial Road in San Carlos will be built in two phases. The first phase, now anticipated to start in late 2011/early 2012, will be a state-of-the-art full service outpatient medical center and the second phase will add a hospital.

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**Transit Village** Proposed development along El Camino Real and the Caltrain tracks has been on hold pending more information on High Speed Rail. It would include 280 new housing units, 14,000 square feet of retail space and 16,000 square feet of new office space. Reconsideration will begin in 2012.

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**Wheeler Plaza** redevelopment plans should be ready for community review in early 2012. This public parking lot located on Walnut behind San Carlos Ave. and Laurel, plus four adjacent parcels, is the proposed site for a new mixed-use transit-oriented development. It will include a public parking structure that increases downtown parking, 108 new housing units and 18,000 square feet of new retail space. A new public gathering space would also be created at the former Foodville site.

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## Council Hires New City Manager

Jeff Maltbie, San Carlos' new City Manager, has replaced Mark Weiss, who retired last fall. Jeff was selected by the City Council after an extensive recruitment and selection process and began work on March 14, 2011.

Jeff brings 19 years of local government experience, having worked for the City of Daly City and interning at three government agencies. At San Carlos City Hall, he held the positions of Senior Management Analyst, Deputy City Manager and most recently, Administrative Services Director. Jeff believes in fostering a strong relationship between City Hall and the community to ensure San Carlos has an open, transparent and ethical government capable of reaching out and engaging the residents and businesses of San Carlos on important civic issues.

"I am extremely proud to have worked for this community for the past 11 years and to have been given the opportunity to lead the talented and dedicated men and women who serve San Carlos," said Jeff. "Our role at the City is to reach out to and listen to the community as we provide potential solutions to issues facing San Carlos' community to ensure we provide high quality municipal services."

The City Manager can be reached at (650) 802-4228 or [jmaltbie@cityofsancarlos.org](mailto:jmaltbie@cityofsancarlos.org)

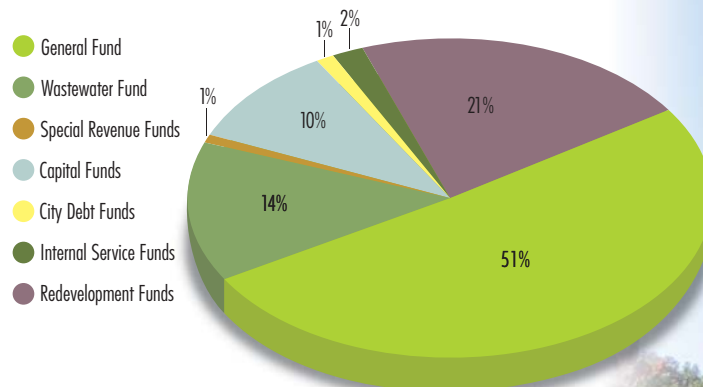
## New Brand – Same Slogan

Coined to promote the new town by Frederick Drake, the "Father of San Carlos", who arrived in 1917 and improved the water supply, installed gas and electricity and paved streets, "The City of Good Living" now evokes pride for San Carlos. It represents a close-knit community complemented by commercial and economic vitality, striking the ideal balance between world class access and hometown atmosphere, with the environment for achieving and the comfort of belonging. Look for the new branding around town soon and merchandise that will be available for purchase.

**CITY**<sub>of</sub>  
**GOOD**  
**LIVING**  
SAN CARLOS

## Back in Black

The City is pleased to report that after more than a decade of budget cuts, layoffs and restructuring of municipal services, it has adopted a balanced budget in the amount of \$55.6 million for Fiscal Year 2012 and is expecting a surplus of \$400,000. The City budget is comprised of 20 different funds grouped into six components: the General or Operating Fund, Sewer Fund, Other Revenue Funds, Other Programs (including debt service and internal service funds) Capital Improvement Program, and Redevelopment Agency Operating Fund. The chart below identifies the total expenditures by component. Residents are welcome to view the City's budget at [www.cityofsancarlos.org](http://www.cityofsancarlos.org), at City Hall-Finance Department, or the San Carlos Library.



# The New San Carlos Fire Department

October 1, 2011 marked another milestone in the history of the City of San Carlos. At 8:00 a.m. the San Carlos Fire Department was reinstated after more than 32 years. In 1979, the cities of San Carlos and Belmont combined their fire departments under a Joint Powers Authority called the South County Fire Authority. This was a very unique arrangement at the time that provided fire protection to both communities under one fire agency. Over the years, the South County Fire Authority transformed into the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department; still the same fire service but with a different name.

The recent economic times have brought many challenges to cities across the country. The desire for more local control over their budgets caused cities to look at unconventional service delivery models. After thorough and exhaustive research, the San Carlos City Council decided to re-establish the San Carlos Fire Department and contract the management oversight to the Redwood City Fire Department. This arrangement will save the city over \$1 million in the cost of its fire department.

While this practice of combining management oversight is not entirely new, starting a new fire department while providing the new management model is a unique endeavor. The challenges brought about by building a new fire department under an aggressive timeline were many. The tight partnership that quickly developed between the San Carlos city staff and the Redwood City Fire command staff made the potentially daunting task much more manageable. As the start date approached, preparations were finalized and the launching of the new department on October 1 was seamless.



## Laureola Park Receives Playground Renovation

Nestled between Holly Street and Bayport Avenue, lies the recently renovated Laureola Park. On September 24, Mayor Andy Klein welcomed a joyful crowd of children, parents and neighbors to the official ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the grand opening of the new playground. In consultation with the neighborhood, the new park's features include a complete renovation of both the tot play area and area dedicated to children aged 2-12, plus the addition of a "splash pad" water feature.



## Parks and Recreation Foundation News

The Parks & Recreation Foundation, a private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, is currently fundraising for the development of Burton Park Phase II which will add bocce ball courts, a permanent outdoor stage for concerts and theater performances as well as improved basketball courts to the park. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at [www.prfsancarlos.org](http://www.prfsancarlos.org)



What can the citizens of San Carlos expect from their new fire department? The most important and primary aspect is emergency service delivery. Both fire stations are each equipped with a fire engine staffed by three to four personnel with one of them being a paramedic 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The way that the crews or companies respond to emergencies remains the same high quality performance that the citizens have come to expect. The department still participates in the San Mateo County fire service response plan. This plan has been in place in the county since 1998. It has had a consistent on time arrival average of 98% since its inception.

Today's fire department mission is much more than just responding to emergencies. Fire prevention is actually one of the most critical parts of a fire department. The Fire Prevention Bureau handles inspections of existing buildings, ensures that new or remodeled buildings meet the most appropriate fire and life safety codes and provides fire investigation services. These are all important to the safety of a community.

Another very important service is public education and community involvement. Public education involves various ways of contacting and interacting with the community. Whether through a school visit, fire station tour, or an appearance at a community event, the fire department and its men and women greatly value the people they work for. The more the fire department knows the citizens, the better we can provide the services that directly help the community.

The new fire department will be led by Redwood City Fire Chief, Jim Skinner and Deputy Fire Chief, Stan Maupin. They can be reached by calling (650)802-4300, or [jkskinner@cityofsancarlos.org](mailto:jkskinner@cityofsancarlos.org) and [smaupin@cityofsancarlos.org](mailto:smaupin@cityofsancarlos.org).

## Police Tips — Crime Prevention

Historically, theft from homes and vehicles has been a concern to residents of San Carlos. Despite the properly related crime statistics, San Carlos continues to be one of the safest places to work and live on the Peninsula. However, at times residents can become complacent or unaware of what can increase the likelihood of becoming a victim. The following tips can help prevent crime and make it less likely you will become a victim.

- Lock your doors and windows in your home and your car. An open door or window is an invitation for criminals to easily access your home or vehicle.
- Remove valuables from view. Remove valuables such as electronic devices, purses, shopping bags or other items of value in plain view from the outside of your home or vehicle. Criminals look for valuables then break windows to get to them.
- Avoid answering the door to solicitors or unknown visitors. Criminals posing as solicitors will offer an explanation as to why they are visiting, when in fact, they are trying to determine if anyone is home and if you have valuables to steal. Report aggressive solicitors to the San Carlos Police Bureau: 802-4277.
- Alarm your household and vehicle. An audible alarm in your household set to monitor entry, forced entry and window entry, will significantly decrease break-in. Make sure once your alarm is installed that you display signs indicating that your house is alarmed.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch Program. A neighborhood watch program is an easy and effective way to get to know your neighbors and neighborhood, and has been shown to significantly decrease crime. If you are interested in starting a neighborhood watch program, call Community Service Officer, Heidi DeRespini at 802-4448.

## Vote on November 8

### Municipal Election Information

Residents of San Carlos will vote for two City Council members and a City Treasurer in the November 8, 2011 Municipal Election. City Council members are elected at-large to four-year staggered terms, meaning that either two or three seats are open for election every two years. The City Treasurer is elected every four years.

This year the seats held by Randy Royce and Brad Lewis (City Council) and Michael Galvin (Treasurer) are up for election. Candidate information can be found on the County of San Mateo's Election website at [www.shapethefuture.org](http://www.shapethefuture.org) and the City's website at [www.cityofsancarlos.org](http://www.cityofsancarlos.org). To find out where to vote, go to [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) or call Christine Boland, City Clerk, 802-4219.

## San Mateo County "Alert"

Register cellular phones at [www.smcalert.info](http://www.smcalert.info) to receive important warnings and information from the Police Bureau.

**Postal Customer**  
**San Carlos, CA 94070**

**City Council Mission Statement**

The City of San Carlos provides high quality services and facilities in a fiscally sustainable, responsive and friendly manner to foster a safe and healthy community.

**City Council Contacts**

(650) Area Code

- Mayor Andy Klein** 802-4162  
aklein@cityofsancarlos.org
- Vice Mayor Matt Grocott** 802-4163  
mgrocott@cityofsancarlos.org
- Bob Grassilli** 802-4160  
bgrassilli@cityofsancarlos.org
- Brad Lewis** 802-4165  
blewis@cityofsancarlos.org
- Randy Royce** 802-4161  
rroyce@cityofsancarlos.org

**City Hall Contacts**

- City Manager Jeff Maltbie** 802-4228  
jmaltbie@cityofsancarlos.org
- Assistant City Manager Brian Moura** 802-4210  
bmoura@cityofsancarlos.org
- Administrative Services Director  
Rebecca Mendenhall** 802-4128  
rmendenhall@cityofsancarlos.org
- Building Department** 802-4261
- City Attorney Greg Rubens** 593-3117  
grubens@cityofsancarlos.org
- City Clerk Christine Boland** 802-4219  
cboland@cityofsancarlos.org
- Community Development Director &  
Acting Public Works Director, Al Savay** 802-4263  
asavay@cityofsancarlos.org
- Emergency:** Dial 911
- San Carlos Fire Chief Jim Skinner** 802-4300  
jskinner@cityofsancarlos.org
- Parks & Recreation Director Doug Long** 802-4421  
dlong@cityofsancarlos.org
- Planning Department** 802-4263
- San Carlos Police Bureau  
Captain Gregory Rothaus** 802-4277  
grothaus@co.sanmateo.ca.us
- Police Business/Non-Emergency line** 802-4277
- Public Works – General Line** 802-4204

**City Government Meetings**

**City Council**

Meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. City Hall, televised live on Comcast Channel 27 and streamed at www.cityofsancarlos.org; replayed on Comcast Ch. 27 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.

November 14 & 21  
December 12

**Planning Commission**

Meets the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m., City Hall, televised live on Comcast Channel 27 and streamed at www.cityofsancarlos.org; replayed on Comcast Ch. 27 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

November 7 & 21  
December 5 & 19

**City Hall Closures**

City Hall will be closed on the following days:

- November 11 – observance of Veteran’s Day
- November 24 & 25 – Thanksgiving holiday
- December 26 through December 30, 2011 – annual mandatory employee furlough/closure for all non-emergency city services.



**City of San Carlos Department Directors**

Left to Right: Greg Rubens, Christine Boland, Gregory Rothaus, Al Savay, Jeff Maltbie, Rebecca Mendenhall, Brian Moura, Doug Long, Jim Skinner