



Spring 2021 – Q1 2021



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A Positive Recovery Outlook is Taking Bloom This Spring

A Message from Xenia Bradford, City Manager

We begin this Spring season with a positive outlook. With COVID-19 vaccinations underway, we are starting to see the economy re-opening. If the State stays this course, I anticipate the City's revenues to recover to nearly normal levels by this summer.

As you know, the City of Solvang's economy greatly depends on tourism and, specifically, our transient occupancy tax. The City generates 50% of its discretionary revenues from transient occupancy tax and 15% from sales tax. The City does not have a local jurisdiction sales tax and is the third most dependent city in California on transient occupancy tax.

Having said this, the City staff are busy preparing for full recovery, re-opening City Hall doors and re-building our service levels to meet the demand of a fully functioning economy. Over the next several months, the City Council

will discuss and make decisions about service levels, goals, and priorities for the City for the next fiscal year.

On another positive note, the City is expected to receive \$1.1 million from the American Rescue Plan. This direct funding from the Federal Government to local jurisdictions is much needed help to replenish the City's revenue losses due to COVID-19. Even though

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General Plan Update Continues

Community Workshop #2 taking place on April 8 - 9

The City of Solvang is in the process of a comprehensive update to its General Plan, PlanSolvang, and will be providing several opportunities for the community to participate.

The General Plan update officially began in December 2020 and was followed by the Community Workshop #1 on February 6, 2021. This study session was a successful engagement event that allowed the

www.PlanSolvang.com

To register for upcoming workshops, or to receive additional information visit www.PlanSolvang.com.

City Council and community members to learn more about the General Plan update process and express their overall hopes and visions for the project.

The second community workshop will be hosted over three identical sessions on **Thursday, April 8 (5:00–6:30 pm, 7:00–8:30 pm)** and **Friday, April 9 (10:00–11:30 am)**. The sessions offer in-person attendance at the Veteran's Hall, adhering to the County's Public Health Guidelines, and simultaneously online on Zoom. **Those wishing to attend in-person must complete a reservation at www.plansolvang.com.**



General Plan Advisory Committee forming

To help guide the General Plan update process, the City will be forming a General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). The GPAC will consist of 15 members comprising of two City Councilmembers, two Planning Commissioners, two Design Review Committee members, and nine community members.

To apply to be a GPAC member, please complete the application on the City website under the Recent News section by April 9, 2021.



Current Development Projects Update:

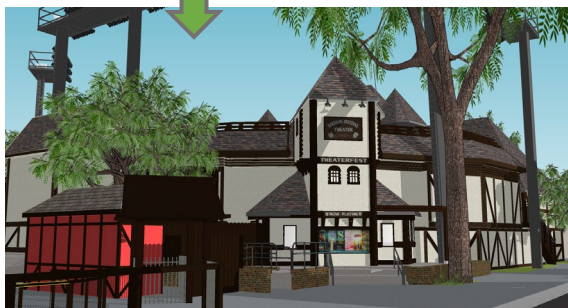
Solvang Festival Theater

- Major upgrades, including
 - new light poles, ticket booth, sound walls and lighting
- Approved by Planning Commission – 2/1/21



670 Alamo Pintado Road

- 32-unit Air Space Condominium
- Approved by Planning Commission – 12/7/20



Water Wheel

- Renovate for commercial, restaurant use
- Approved by Planning Commission – 3/1/21



Pickleball Courts coming soon!

Community donations still being accepted

Construction of two new pickleball courts at Solvang's Hans Christian Andersen Park are nearing completion. The eagerly anticipated courts—which will be the first in the Santa Ynez Valley—should be ready for use by late-April, weather permitting.

City staff completed project design and performed many construction tasks in house, such as building the retaining wall, to bring project costs down.

In addition to staff support, the City diverted \$20,000 in funding from other purposes to the project and asked the community to raise \$10,000. Since beginning to raise funds in November 2020, the community has now donated



\$8,355, leaving the effort just \$1,645 away from achieving the initial goal.

To finish the project, Sagebrush Painting, owned by Rick Bernhardt, has offered an in-kind donation of time and resources to seal the control joints in the concrete and paint the courts. City staff will then install the nets, making the courts ready for use. Additional court enhancements, such as fencing between the courts, will be added in future years.



Solvang:

- Sunny Fields Park, 900 Alamo Pintado Rd.
- Hans Christian Andersen Park, 633 Chalk Hill Dr.
- Alisal Commons, directly across from the River Grill entrance

Buellton:

- River View Park, 151 Sycamore Dr.
- Oak Park, 401 Sycamore Dr.
- Village Park, 330 Valley Vineyard

Easter Eggstravaganza is Back!

Buellton and Solvang Recreation are happy to announce the return of the 30th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza on **Saturday, April 3**. Eggs will be hidden at six local parks (listed at right) and families will be free to hunt for eggs at their own pace all day, as supplies last. Park hours are generally 8 am to sunset.

Egg Hunt pamphlets will be available at each park entrance. There will be one shiny grand prize egg at each park and many smaller prize eggs. Please limit yourself to 8 eggs per child so there will be enough eggs for all to enjoy.

Recreation Calendar:

Events

Easter Eggstravaganza

Sat., April 3 (more info below)

Outdoor Rec N Roll

Friday April 30, 6-8pm, Crossroads Church Parking Lot, FREE event, \$10 skate rental (limited sizes)

Valleywide Dance

Friday, May 14, 7-9pm, Grades 6-8, \$10, Solvang Vets Hall

Programs/Activities

Pre-Tball

Thursdays, April 15-May 6, 4:45pm, Ages 3-4, Sunny Fields, \$38 cost

Pre-Soccer

Tuesdays, May 11-June 1, 4:45pm, Ages 3-4, Sunny Fields, \$38 cost

Bakery Boot Camp for Kids

Wed-Fri, April 7-9, 2-4pm, Ages 8+, Vets Hall, \$100

Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo by train

Monday April 19, 11:30am-6:30pm, \$55, leave from the Vets Hall Parking Lot

Descanso Gardens

Thursday, May 20, 8:30am-5:30pm, \$40, Leave from the Vets Hall Parking Lot

Recreation Reopening

As Santa Barbara County Health's reopening guidelines change and we move to the red, orange or yellow tiers, please look for upcoming adult sports leagues and youth sports clinics offered at www.cityofsolvang.com.

Fifth Street Sidewalk Project Completed

The Fifth Street Sidewalk Project is now completed. The project included the minor widening of the east side of Fifth Street between Oak Street and Mission Drive, and the addition of new sidewalk along that same widened section of Fifth Street. The project was needed to improve the safety of school children and other pedestrians traveling between the multi-family residential area to the south and Solvang School to the north. Grant funding was secured by Public Works staff to cover 40% of the construction cost.



Fifth & Oak – Before (Left) and After (Right)



Fifth & Copenhagen – Before (Left) and After (Right)



Bus Stop Improvements

Bus stop improvements will be coming this spring to the Santa Ynez Valley Transit Express Route Bus Stop 8 on the south side of Mission Drive in front of the Union Bank. The entirety (100%) of the construction cost is covered by a state transit grant.



Solvang School Sidewalk Project Completed

The Solvang School Sidewalk Project is now completed. The project included the addition of new sidewalk along the east side of Fifth Street (north of Mission Drive), the south side of Elm Avenue from Fifth to Atterdag, the west side of Fourth Place from Elm to Laurel, and the north side of Laurel Avenue from Fourth to Atterdag. The project was needed to improve the safety of school children and other pedestrians traveling around Solvang School. Grant funding was secured by Public Works staff to cover 30% of the construction cost.



Elm & Fourth – Before (Left) and After (Right)



Fifth & Elm – Before (Left) and After (Right)



Solvang Chamber of Commerce Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

The Solvang Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 100th Anniversary of serving the community of Solvang on January 16, 2021. The City of Solvang presented the Chamber with a Proclamation recognizing its history and contributions at the Solvang City Council Meeting on January 11, 2021.

The Solvang Chamber began when six Solvang business owners created the Solvang Businessmen's Association (SBA), which is the direct ancestor of today's Chamber.

The SBA was founded to help solve the infrastructure problems that the rapidly growing town of Solvang was experiencing as it went from 80 adults at its founding in 1911 to well over 800 residents and a growing downtown business district in 1921.

State of the City - 2021:

The State of the City is typically held each year in February. The 2021 event has been postponed due to COVID-19. The event is currently being planned for the summer months to facilitate more community participation.

Solvang Commemorates its 110th Anniversary

The City of Solvang presented the Elverhoj Museum with a Proclamation at the City Council Meeting on January 11, 2021, recognizing Solvang's 110th anniversary.

After an extensive land search, nearly 9,000 acres of land were purchased on January 12, 1911 for a new Danish colony in the Santa Ynez Valley. Within a month, settlers began to arrive and a name was selected for the new town: Solvang, literally "sunny field" in Danish.

The celebration of Solvang's founding in 1911 and its 110th anniversary will be celebrated by the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art throughout 2021. "Skål Solvang – Celebrating 110 Years of History & Culture" will include special exhibitions and programming, an email series highlighting community milestones, and events when allowed.



Utility and Rental Assistance Available to Residents

The County of Santa Barbara is providing rental and utility assistance funds, through United Way of Santa Barbara County, to qualified County of Santa Barbara residents financially impacted by COVID-19.

Upon application approval, applicants may receive up to \$6,000 over 3 months toward rental and utility expenses. Applicants can re-apply every 3 months up to a maximum of 15 months.



To view more details about eligibility and to apply, visit www.unitedwaysb.org/rent. If you need assistance or have questions, call the United Way of Santa Barbara County at 805-965-8591 or email info@unitedwaysb.org.

Design Review Committee initiated

The Design Review Committee (DRC) was formed by the City Council by ordinance on February 8. The DRC takes the place of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) and Branding & Design Committee (BDC), as it has been previously known. City Council appointed the following members of the DRC:

- Patrick Cavanaugh, Chair
- Esther Jacobsen Bates, Vice Chair
- Joy Culley
- Brian Deputy
- Jennifer Dryden Hess

The new DRC committee members will serve a term through December 31, 2022. The DRC will meet on the third Thursday of every month at 5:00 pm.

Planning Commission appointed

The City Council appointed five members to the Planning Commission (PC) at the City Council Meeting on January 11. City Council appointed the following Planning Commissioners:

- Jack Williams, Chair
- Scott Gold
- Joannie Jamieson
- Aaron Petersen
- Justin Rodriguez

The Planning Commission will serve a term through December 31, 2022. The PC meets on the first Monday of every month at 6:00 pm.

City Manager Message, Continued from Page 1

the City's losses are almost double this amount, the funding will help bridge the gap in funding expenditures to prepare for a full economic re-opening.

The General Plan update continues. A General Plan is a long-range planning guide that sets forth the community's vision and goals for the next 20 years. I very much appreciate the level of engagement our community has shown since we kicked-off this process and encourage everyone to participate. On April 8-9, the City will hold the next series of community workshops focusing on vision, assets, issues and opportunities. There will be continuous opportunities to participate in the process. Please visit the dedicated website to the General Plan Update at www.PlanSolvang.com.

City Organization and Economic Recovery

Due to the COVID-19 declaration of National, State and Local Emergencies, the City has focused on essential services and its emergency response over the last year. City staff is preparing for recovery and a return to standard operating protocols. We are currently continuing to adhere to State guidelines for office operations and the City Hall is not fully open to the public at this time. Your patience is appreciated.

In anticipation of economic recovery and moving toward less restrictive COVID-19 State guideline tiers, staff is evaluating City operations to provide the quality services expected by our community. Through this life changing event, we have learned to adapt and have implemented many business process improvements. We look forward to serving our community post COVID-19 and taking advantage of newly learned technological advances and streamlined processes.

Calendar of Events

April 2021

- **3** - Easter Eggstravaganza (*all day*)
- **6** - Planning Commission (6:00 pm)
- **8** (5-6:30pm, 7-8:30pm) **9** (10-11:30am) - General Plan Community Forum #2
- **12** - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- **15** - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- **26** - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- **30** - Outdoor Rec N Roll (6-8 pm)

May 2021

- **3** - Planning Commission (6:00 pm)
- **10** - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- **20** - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- **24** - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- **31** - Memorial Day (*City Offices closed*)

June 2021

- **7** - Planning Commission (6:00 pm)
- **17** - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- **14** - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- **28** - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)

▪ For more information on upcoming events, see the News section on the front page of the City's website (www.cityofsolvang.com).