



Fall 2021 – Q3 2021



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Continuing the Forward Progress on the Path to Stability

A Message from Xenia Bradford, City Manager

This Fall we will continue to work with the community on the General Plan Update. The General Plan represents the community’s aspiration for its future and intentions for community development. The general plan update will address important issues such as traffic circulation, housing, and sustainable economic development. The next public workshop will be held on November 4th to discuss alternative choices. Please visit www.PlanSolvang.com for more information.

The city is also moving forward with several projects such as the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and water and wastewater fee studies.

Throughout the summer, we continued to see revenues from hotel tax (transient occupancy tax) and sales tax exceed pre COVID-19 pandemic levels. This fall, we remain cautious of

rising COVID-19 cases while continuing to return operations to offering a full array of services. The City will be holding the Haunted House and Turkey Trot community events again. The Julefest program will open-up after Thanksgiving and will be kicked-off by the Tree Lighting Ceremony and a Parade, similar to years past. The Julefest program will also include a version of a Christmas

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General Plan Guiding Principles Adopted

On August 23, 2021, the City Council and Planning Commission adopted a set of General Plan Guiding Principles for the Solvang General Plan Update.

The Guiding Principles express the key values and aspirations for Solvang's future and serve as guideposts for the goals, policies, and implementation programs contained in the General Plan.

Continuing through the process, all General Plan goals, policies, and implementation programs will need to be consistent with the Guiding Principles.

The Guiding Principles cover the following areas:

- Heritage and Identity
- The Village
- Economic Vitality
- Neighborhoods
- Cultural Resources
- Natural Environment
- Mobility and Access
- Regional Cooperation
- Infrastructure and Amenities
- Resident Services
- Jobs and Housing
- Good Governance

www.PlanSolvang.com

To read the full list of General Plan Guiding Principles, register for upcoming workshops, or to subscribe to additional General Plan updates, visit www.PlanSolvang.com.



General Plan Alternative Analysis Underway

The General Plan Update has now entered the alternative analysis phase. The deliverable of this phase, the Growth and Policy Alternatives Report, will include issue and opportunity area maps that will form a framework for community discussions regarding land use alternatives. The report will also include key policy alternatives for discussion.

Join us for a community forum on **November 4** at the Veterans Memorial Building. Visit www.PlanSolvang.com for more information prior to the event.

Copenhagen Drive Closure

The Copenhagen Drive Closure has been extended through **January 31, 2022** as City officials continue to evaluate various options.

Current Development Projects Update:

Old Lumberyard Project – 1783 Mission Drive

Application for the 59-unit apartment project at 1783 Mission Drive has been withdrawn. The City has received a conceptual proposal for a hotel project for this site with up to 42 residential units in the back portion of the project site. Conceptual plans for the new project were presented to the Planning Commission on August 2, 2021 for their initial review and comments. The applicant is working on the new application package for this concept. Once submitted, there will be various public meetings in which community members can express their opinions on this project.



539 Alisal Road

- 11 residential units
- Plans approved, construction beginning soon

Fall Recreation Calendar Posted

Recreation is happy to bring back some of the favorite programs of the year this fall, such as the **Haunted House** and **Turkey Trot**. For the full Fall program calendar please visit www.CityofSolvang.com. Below are a few Fall program highlights:

Kung Fu - Vets Hall every Tues/Thurs
 Little Dragons- Ages 4-6, 4-4:30pm, \$43/8x
 Kung Fu- Ages 7+, 4-5pm, \$63/8x

Outdoor Valleywide Teen Dance
 Friday, Oct 8, 7-9pm, Grades 6-8, \$10.
 Crossroads Church parking lot, Buellton

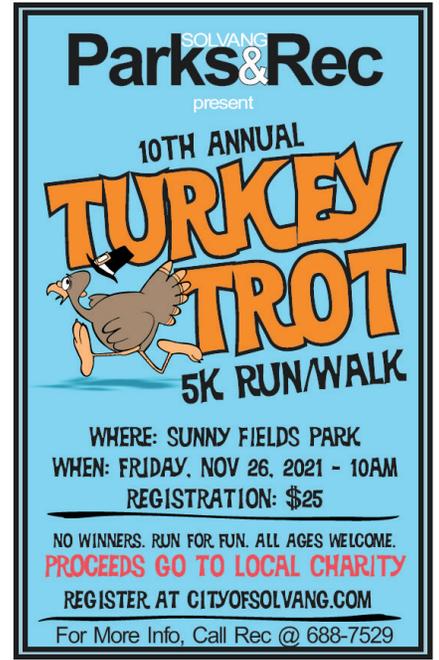
Immersive Van Gogh Experience Day Trip
 Tuesday, Nov 16, 8:30am- 6:30pm, \$80, Meet at Solvang Vets Hall.

Kind Kids - Perform acts of kindness.
 Thursdays, Nov 18-Dec 9 (no class Nov 25),
 3:30-4:30pm, Ages 6+, \$20, Vets Hall

IB1on1 Thanksgiving Soccer Clinic
 Mon-Wed, Nov 22, 23, 24, 8:30am-12pm,
 Ages 5-13, \$165, Sunny Fields Park.
 Register at www.ib1on1.com.

Christmas Lights and Sights Tour
 Thurs, Dec 16, 6-7:15 or 7:30-8:45pm
 \$15/pp, Meet at Vets Hall.

Cookie Day - Wednesday, Dec 22, 1-3pm,
 Ages 6+ \$50, Vets Hall
 Bake and decorate various Christmas cookies.



* * * * *

Julefest will be held from
 November 27 – January 1.
 Activities will include a Tree
 Lighting Ceremony, Parade,
 Candlelight Tours, Festive Light
 shows, Nisse Scavenger Hunts
 and more. For the full schedule
 and more information, visit
www.SolvangUSA.com.

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Park Improvements Survey

The City is applying for grant funding to add and update features at Hans Christian Andersen Park. Please share your input by completing a survey found at the link / QR Code.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/MRW5PZM

Congratulations to the 2021 Summer Softball Recreation League Champions!



Men's Softball League: Advanced Pool Management



Coed Softball League: Erickson Electric

City Manager message, continued from Page 1

Market on Copenhagen and a seasonally appropriate light show for all to enjoy.

The temporary Copenhagen Drive closure has been extended through January 31, 2022. The City has received input from community surveys and will continue to work with the community through the General Plan update to consider permanent improvements.

The State of California is experiencing extreme drought conditions. The City Council has raised the drought restrictions to stage 2 for the City of Solvang. See page 5

for details. As the State allocation of water is extremely low, it is important to conserve water to sustain our water reserves and avoid necessity for further water restrictions.

Considering California's legal framework, the City is transitioning to elections by district along with many other cities throughout the State. The City held three public hearings recently to receive input from the community and is currently working to develop draft election district maps. Please visit www.DistrictSolvang.org to learn about the process and provide your input. Draft maps will be posted for public review in early February and additional public hearings will be held to receive input on the maps.

South Alisal Road Pavement Construction in Process, November Completion Expected

Construction began in July on a \$1.4 million project for the complete reconstruction of South Alisal Road. The contractor, CalPortland Construction, is pulverizing the existing deteriorated asphalt pavement, cement treating it, and recycling it in-place as the new road base. Then, a new asphalt surface is being constructed on top of that base. This innovative reconstruction technique saves money, prevents over 7,500 tons of waste from going to local landfills, and dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The project is on schedule for a November 2021 completion.



Road grading is being performed on South Alisal Road.



The photo above shows the existing asphalt being pulverized.

Aeration Project Continues at Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction continues on the \$3 million aeration system replacement project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The 16-month project initially kicked off in May 2021. Operations of the new aeration system will be fine tuned over the next year to achieve optimal treatment efficiency as well as energy efficiency.



Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin requests the public preview and comment on its Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Public comment is open through **October 24**, and the plan can be accessed at www.SantaYnezWater.org.

Solvang Declares Stage Two Drought

Mandatory 20% Water Reduction Now in Effect

The Solvang City Council declared a Stage 2 Drought Condition on August 23. For as long as the Stage 2 Drought condition exists, the following water regulations shall apply to all use of water that is provided by the city water supply system:

Mandatory Stage Two Regulations (subject to penalties) – Subsection B

1) Mandatory reduction in water use from the specified prior benchmark year's average monthly water usage by all city customers of 20% based on customer class as follows (Benchmark year is Fiscal Year 2019-20):

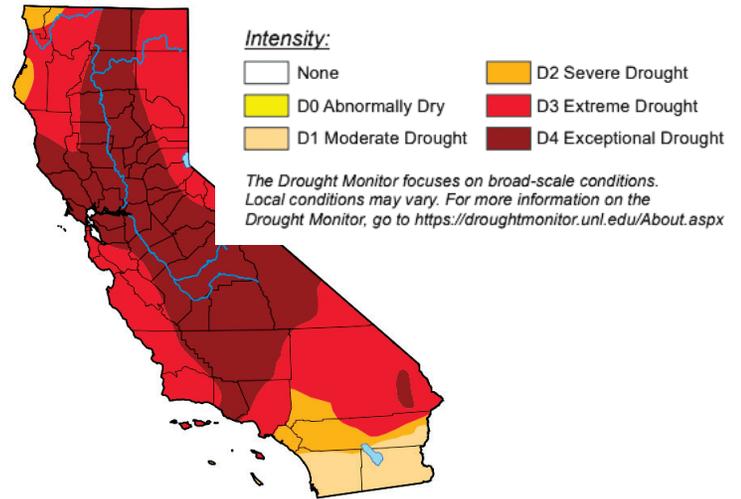
- a. Single family residential customers water usage penalties shall be tiered with no penalty for the allowed residential usage as determined by City Council resolution and increasing to 1.5 times the current water rate as the second tier and 2.0 times the current rate for that amount over the second tier.
- b. Commercial/industrial/institutional customer water usage penalties shall be tiered with no penalty for allowed benchmark year percentage usage as determined by City Council resolution and increasing to 1.5 times the current water rate as the second tier and 2.0 times the current rate for that amount over the second tier.
- c. Irrigation only customer water usage penalties shall be as follows.
 - i. 0-50% of usage compared to the same month in the benchmark year = No penalty: Current water rate.
 - ii. >50% of usage compared to the same month in the benchmark year = Penalty = 2.0x current water rate, and one-time warning. Second month and each additional month over = \$500 penalty.
- d. Multi-family residential/mobile home customer water usage penalties shall be as follows:
 - i. 0-90% of usage compared to the same month in the benchmark year = No penalty: Current water rate.
 - ii. >90% of usage compared to the same month in the benchmark year = Penalty = 1.5x current water rate.

2) Outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf shall be limited to no more than two days per week. Watering shall be restricted to Mondays and Thursdays for addresses ending in even numbers, and to Tuesday and Fridays for addresses ending in odd numbers.

3) The use of water for flushing of water mains, and fire department training exercises shall be allowed only upon written approval of the City Manager.

4) The use of water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system, is prohibited.

5) The penalty for a second violation of any Stage One or Stage Two Drought Regulation shall be set by City Council resolution (currently \$100 per occurrence), after a written warning upon the first violation.



6) Each of the Stage One Drought Regulations set forth in subsections A1 through A8 (and listed below) of this section shall remain in force where not in conflict with the provisions of this Subsection B.

Mandatory Stage One Regulations (subject to penalties) – Subsection A

1) (Superseded by B1 above.)

2) Irrigation of turf such as school yards, parks, ball fields, golf courses, green spaces, etc., shall be allowed only between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM.

3) All restaurants that provide table service shall post, in a conspicuous place, a notice of drought condition and shall refrain from serving water except upon specific request by a customer.

4) Operators of hotels, motels, and other commercial establishments offering lodging shall post in each room a notice of drought condition containing water conservation information. Linens and towels shall be washed no more than every second day for guests staying more than one night. (A separate notice of these restrictions shall be provided by the operator to all new guests upon arrival.)

5) Exterior sprinkler watering of plants, lawns, shrubbery, ground cover, etc., shall be permitted only between the hours of 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM during the months of March through October, and only between the hours of 4:00 PM to 10:00 AM during the months of November through February.

6) Vehicles shall be washed only at commercial car washing facilities (no hand car washing allowed).

7) The washing of hard surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks shall be prohibited except where necessary to protect the public health and safety.

8) The loss of water through breaks or leaks in any water user's plumbing must be corrected within twenty-four (24) hours of the user's knowledge of that condition.

**** The application of water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures is also prohibited.**

Employee of the Quarter – Q2 2021

In January, the City of Solvang implemented an Employee of the Quarter program. The recipient chosen for the Quarter 2 period (April–June 2021) is **Raymond Cano**.



Raymond has worked for the City of Solvang for five years and currently serves as the Acting Maintenance Supervisor. Raymond was nominated for the leadership and positive attitude he has exhibited while taking on additional responsibilities recently. Congratulations, Raymond!

Employee of the Quarter - Nominations

All City of Solvang employees (minus the City Manager) may be nominated for Employee of the Quarter by a fellow employee, Solvang resident, elected official, or other community member. Employees should be nominated for exemplary contributions in *Overall Work Performance, Leadership/Interpersonal Skills, Public Relations, Cost Savings, Teamwork, and/or Emergency Response*. For more information, or to make an Employee of the Quarter nomination, please visit www.CityofSolvang.com/EmployeeAwards.

Tourism Advisory Committee Created

The Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) was established by the City Council by ordinance on August 9. City Council appointed the following members of the TAC:

- Alexander Grenier
- Barry Prescott
- Cheryl Shallanberger
- John Martino
- Kim Jensen
- Max Hanberg
- Tracy Beard



The new TAC committee members will serve a term through December 31, 2022.

Solvang Election Districts

The City of Solvang, like other cities and school districts across the State, is transitioning to elections by District. Beginning in 2022, voters would vote for one City Council Member who lives in their district. This system would replace the current at-large elected system, though the Mayor will continue to be elected at-large. A separate website has been developed, www.DistrictSolvang.org that provides information on the process, outlines public participation opportunities, and provides a mapping tool to help form the districts.

Calendar of Events

October 2021

- 4 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 11 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 14 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 23 - Santa Barbara Wine Country Half Marathon (7 am)
- 25 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 29-30 - Haunted House (6 pm)

November 2021

- 1 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 4 - General Plan Workshop
- 8 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 11 - Veteran's Day (City Hall closed)
- 18 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 20 - Community Clean Up Day (9 am)
- 22 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 25-26 - Thanksgiving (City Hall closed)
- 26 - Turkey Trot (10 am)

December 2021

- 6 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 13 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 16 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 23-24 - Christmas (City Hall closed)
- 27 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- Julefest info (TBD). Check www.SolvangUSA.com for the most recent updates.

For more information on upcoming events, see the Calendar on the front page of the City's website (www.CityofSolvang.com).