



Spring 2022 – Q1 2022



CITY COUNCIL

Charlie Uhrig, Mayor

- Charlie.Uhrig@CityofSolvang.com
- (805) 697-6584

Mark Infanti, Mayor Pro-Tem

- Mark.Infanti@CityofSolvang.com
- (805) 697-6581

Robert Clarke

- Robert.Clarke@CityofSolvang.com
- (805) 245-1860

Claudia Orona

- Claudia.Orona@CityofSolvang.com
- (805) 697-6583

Jim Thomas

- Jim.Thomas@CityofSolvang.com
- (805) 697-6579

Spring is in the Air: A Message from Xenia Bradford, City Manager

Solvang meets the Spring with continued economic recovery. The city revenues derived primarily from tourism through hotels and sales tax, are continuing to grow, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. While this trend is seen throughout the Central Coast, Solvang has enjoyed a busy season during the winter holidays.

Many new and traditional events that have been cherished throughout the years are expected to take place in Solvang in the upcoming months. To name a few, on May 7 the City will host the Wine Country Half Marathon and Rancheros Visitadores in downtown Solvang. The 4th of July programs are expected to return in full featuring a firework show and patriotic parade. Danish Days Foundation has also announced the return of Danish Days on September 16 - 18.

The City is moving forward with a number of strategic efforts. We are

asking for your continued public input and engagement.

General Plan Update (*see page 2*). Through this effort the City is developing a vision for Solvang for the next 20 years. The General Plan Update is a long-range planning document which will set policies to guide housing, circulation, open spaces, economic trends among other key issues for our community. The unique character of Solvang architecture will also be discussed through the design element

Continued on Page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

City Manager Letter.....Page 1
 Planning Corner.....Page 2
 Recreation Roundup.....Page 3
 Utilities Updates..... Page 4
 Public Works News.....Page 5

General Plan Update Alternative Adopted by City Council

The City's comprehensive General Plan Update recently completed the third phase - alternatives analysis. On March 7, the City Council unanimously adopted an alternative including the following standards:

- Maximum allowable residential density of **20 dwelling units / acre**.
- Allow **mixed use** in the Tourist Commercial, Commercial (Retail and General), and Professional Office land use designations.
- Increase the allowable **Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to 0.65**.
- Continue to allow a maximum building height of **35 feet**.
- Redesignate the Mission Oaks property to **Low-Medium Density Residential** for consistency with underlying zone.

Based on public input and after assessing three different alternatives in the project's Alternatives Report, the standards above were recommended by the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) on February 22 with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and one absent. The Planning Commission

also unanimously approved the GPAC recommendation on March 7.

A community workshop outlining the different alternatives was held on January 13. Following the workshop, 183 community members added their input via a survey.

Next step is phase 4, drafting the individual plan elements, such as housing, circulation, open space, and others. To read the Alternatives Report, register for upcoming workshops, or to subscribe to additional General Plan updates, please visit www.PlanSolvang.com.



Copenhagen Drive Reopening

On March 14, the City Council approved the following modifications to Copenhagen Drive:

- Re-open Copenhagen Drive to vehicular traffic by **April 18**.
- Lift temporary outdoor dining encroachment permits.
- Direct staff to develop a permit for businesses to expand dining onto privately owned spaces.
- Consider creation of a European Style Plaza in a permanently closed downtown location as part of the General Plan update.

----- Planning / Building Notes and Updates: -----

Planning / Building Division

- The Planning Division (411 Second St.) is open Mon–Fri, 8am–5pm.
- The Building Division (411 Second St.) is open each week on **Tuesday's** and **Thursday's**.
- To schedule an appointment for a building permit please email buildingdept@cityofsolvang.com

Sign Regulations

The City of Solvang has specific [sign regulations](#) and [design guidelines](#). If you are opening a business in Solvang or making exterior changes, especially to properties in the Tourist Related Commercial zoning, you must follow these regulations. Please contact us to discuss your desired changes.

Musical Entertainment

The Solvang City Council approved an ordinance regarding musical entertainment audible outside of establishments in the Tourist Related Commercial zoning. If you are a business planning on playing music that is audible outside of your establishment, you must apply for a major conditional use permit.

SYV Teen Dance Returns to Solvang

For the first time since before COVID-19, the City of Solvang hosted the Santa Ynez Valley Teen Dance on Friday, February 11 at the Vet's Hall Parking Lot.

Come join us for the next teen dance at the Buellton Rec Center on **Friday, April 22 from 7:00 - 9:30 pm!**

The popular teen dances are open to SYV 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The event features a Live DJ, with refreshments available for sale. Permission slips are required and chaperones are needed.



Current Programs

Looking to participate in any programs or sports leagues? Check out our website for the newly released calendar that features our Spring and Summer Programs!

3 Ways to Register:

- 1) Visit our website at www.cityofsolvang.com
- 2) Call (805) 688-7529
- 3) Visit 411 Second St.



CITYOFSOLVANG.COM
FOR PARKS & REC
ACTIVITIES

Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 16, 10 am
River View Park in Buellton

The 31st Annual Easter Egg Hunt returns to Buellton's River View Park. This free event is the Valley's biggest hunt with activities, games, Easter crafts, and more! Get there early, the hunt begins promptly at 10am.



Community Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 23

Participate in Neighborhood Cleanup Day with your family, friends and neighbors. Help remove trash and debris and make paths clean, safe and enjoyable. Take pictures of your group in action and email them to parksandrec@cityofsolvang.com.



Mother/Son Luau

Friday, May 6, 5:30–8:30 pm, Vets Hall

A Hawaiian-style luau for moms and sons to spend a fun-filled evening together. Music, games, dancing and special memories with your son(s).

- Tickets go on sale April 1. Not sold at the door. Buy early as we'll sell out!
- Cost: \$30/mom and son, and \$10/ additional sibling



Utility Rate Study Findings Presented to City Council

Proposition 218 Public Hearing set for June 13 City Council Meeting

The City is nearing completion of a comprehensive rate study for both water and wastewater fees. The last rate study was performed in 2011 and water and sewer rates were last adjusted in 2016.



The utility rates pay for water and wastewater operations and infrastructure. It is necessary for each utility providing enterprise to keep rates current to pay for the critical infrastructure. The City must also continue to invest in infrastructure to meet State regulations.

The funds have been used, and will continue to be used, for various projects to ensure public safety, meeting ever changing stringent state requirements, upgrading any replacement of vital infrastructure, and planning for future development and customer demand.

The City Council was presented with an initial study on November 22, 2021 and provided staff and

consultant with feedback. The study was modified and presented at a public workshop on February 12, allowing public feedback and suggestions.

At the March 14 City Council meeting, City staff and the consultant gave a presentation to review and discuss the utility rate study, provide a summary of public input and set a date of June 13, 2022 for a Proposition 218 public hearing.

All utility customers will be receiving a mail notification with more information on proposed rate changes. For additional questions, please call us at 805-688-5575 or email CityHall@CityofSolvang.com.

WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest Underway

Solvang residents are invited to apply for the 2022 WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest, which celebrates and recognizes beautiful, water efficient residential gardens throughout Santa Barbara County.

To enter the contest, one must complete a form as well as send 3-6 photos before April 30, 2022.



For more information or to submit an application for the contest, please visit the program's official website at www.waterwisesb.org/gardencontest.

Have a Sewer Concern?

If you have a sewer concern, please call City Hall (805-688-5575) or the Wastewater Treatment Plant (805-688-6997) immediately! The sooner we know, the faster we can fix the issue.

Fats, Oils and Grease are a big problem in the sewer system. Please remember to do your part to prevent sewer blockages and spills by disposing of your cooking oil and grease in a container with your regular trash.



Have a Water Leak?

If you have a water connection concern, please call City Hall (805-688-5575) or the Water Division Office (805-688-5575 x229) immediately! Prompt reporting will protect health and property of the public and help save water loss.

Wasting water is a big problem during the current drought conditions. Please remember to turn back irrigation and fix leaks when you see them. Help us conserve water for our future!



update. Please visit www.PlanSolvang.com to stay engaged.

Financial Plan Development for Fiscal Years 2022-24 (*see article at right*). The City Council adopted five major City Goals, which will prioritize the work programs for the City government over the next two years.

See the goals listed at right and visit www.CityofSolvang.com to stay engaged.

Elections by District (*see page 6*). In compliance with State legal parameters, the City is also moving to Elections by District for City Council members. Formation of four districts is being discussed which will apply starting in the November 2022 election to vacant Councilmember seats. The Mayor will continue to be elected at-large.

Please visit www.DistrictSolvang.org to stay engaged.

Landscaping Work Happening at Solvang Park

Landscaping work is currently being performed at Solvang Park. In order to re-sod the grass, fencing has been installed temporarily closing portions of the grass area to public use.

Additionally, work is also being performed to repair the raised sidewalk at Mission Dr and First St, adjacent to Solvang Park.

All work is anticipated to be completed by the end of April, allowing full use of Solvang Park for events such as the Wine Country Half Marathon (May 7) as well as Music in the Park during Summer 2022.



City Council Adopts Goals for FY 22-24

The City Council hosted a goal setting session for the Fiscal Year 2022-2024 Financial Plan on February 26. The Council adopted the following five goals:

- **Goal #1: Enhance Local Water Supply & Strive for Water Independence**
 - Access to water (wells)
 - Reservoirs expansion
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade including Recycled Water
- **Goal #2: Develop Additional Parking with Focus on Underground Parking**
 - Consider Parking Lot 2 restructure to expand Solvang Park
 - Develop options for underground parking including Parking Lot 4
 - Seek out mixed-used developments (live/work in same place) through Public/Private partnerships
 - Lot 72 improvements
 - Lease private parking lots for public use
- **Goal #3: Improve Circulation and Develop Multi-modal Transportation**
 - Add sidewalks
 - Develop bike lanes
 - Improvements to Route 246 (Mission Drive) including synchronized pedestrian crossings and traffic lights
 - Wayfinding for traffic and Pedestrians
- **Goal #4: Ensure Fiscal Sustainability and Invest in Infrastructure**
 - Sales tax increase by 1% for infrastructure
 - Explore Downtown Business Improvement District
 - Consider funding significant Public Projects with Debt Issuance
- **Goal #5: Support and Diversify Tourism While Supporting and Honoring Local Organizations Serving our Community**
 - Increase mid-week visitor stay
 - Encourage private development or partnering with County of Santa Barbara for development of a small Convention Center while honoring and improving facilities for the Veterans (include Library needs)
 - Proactively seek out small conventions for Solvang
 - Solvang focused marketing

Employee of the Quarter – Q4 2021

In January 2021, the City of Solvang implemented an Employee of the Quarter program. The recipient chosen for the Quarter 4 period (October–December 2021) is **Trevor Holley**.



Trevor has worked for the City of Solvang for 10+ years and serves as the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Lead Operator. Trevor has been instrumental in keeping the plant operating nearly single-handedly during staff shortages due to COVID-19. Trevor also played a key role in the recent WWTP Phase 1 Upgrade. Congratulations, Trevor!



Solvang Moving to Elections by District

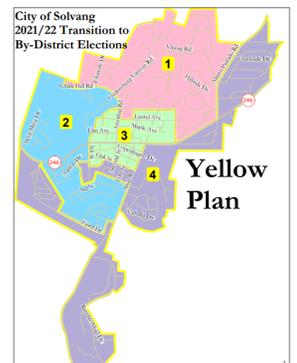
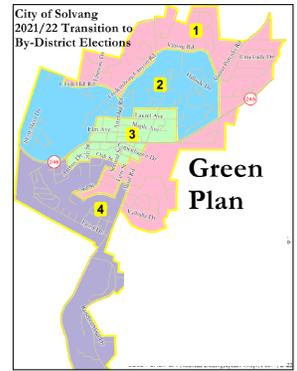
Map to be adopted April 11, taking effect in 2022 election

The City of Solvang, like many other cities and school districts across the State, is transitioning to elections by District for City Council members.

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 on an at-large basis.

Three draft plans (Green, Orange and Yellow) were presented at a special City Council meeting on March 7, 2022 to receive public input. Based on additional input, maps have been modified and are posted at www.DistrictSolvang.org for final public review.

On March 28, the City Council will be considering selection of a final map. An ordinance to move to district elections will be introduced to the City Council at that time, followed by the adoption of the ordinance and final district map at the April 11 City Council Meeting.



Calendar of Events

April 2022

- 2 - Shred Day (Vet's Hall - 9 am)
- 4 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 7 - Tourism Adv. Committee (3:30 pm)
- 11 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 16 - Easter Eggstravaganza (see pg. 3)
- 21 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 23 - Neighborhood Clean Up (see pg. 3)
- 25 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 30 - Datsun Roadsters Car Show

May 2022

- 2 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 5 - Tourism Adv. Committee (3:30 pm)
- 6 - Mother/Son Luau (see pg. 3)
- 7 - Wine Country Half Marathon
- 7 - Rancheros Visitadores Parade
- 9 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 19 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 21 - Waste Mgmt. Clean Up (8 am)
- 23 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 30 - Memorial Day (City Hall closed)

June 2022

- 2 - Tourism Adv. Committee (3:30 pm)
- 6 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 13 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 16 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 24 - Pierce Arrow Society Car Show
- 25 - SYV Pride Event (pending)
- 27 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)

All meetings at City Hall (1644 Oak St), unless otherwise indicated.

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