



Summer 2021 – Q2 2021



## CITY COUNCIL

Charlie Uhrig, Mayor

- [Charlie.Uhrig@CityofSolvang.com](mailto:Charlie.Uhrig@CityofSolvang.com)
- (805) 697-6584

Claudia Orona, Mayor Pro-Tem

- [Claudia.Orona@CityofSolvang.com](mailto:Claudia.Orona@CityofSolvang.com)
- (805) 697-6583

Robert Clarke

- [Robert.Clarke@CityofSolvang.com](mailto:Robert.Clarke@CityofSolvang.com)
- (805) 245-1860

Mark Infanti

- [Mark.Infanti@CityofSolvang.com](mailto:Mark.Infanti@CityofSolvang.com)
- (805) 697-6581

Jim Thomas

- [Jim.Thomas@CityofSolvang.com](mailto:Jim.Thomas@CityofSolvang.com)
- (805) 697-6579

To reach the collective City Council:  
[Council@CityofSolvang.com](mailto:Council@CityofSolvang.com)

## Celebrating Re-Opening, Economic Recovery this Summer

A Message from Xenia Bradford, City Manager

This summer we celebrate a full re-opening of the economy. With State COVID-19 regulations lifted as of June 15, we kick-off this summer with the Independence Day parade on July 4th at 11 am, sponsored by Solvang Rotary. Our community will also be once again able to enjoy movies at Solvang Park on Friday nights and music in the park on Wednesdays.

Our city's economic engine is tourism, which pays for more than 50% of all discretionary governmental spending. This revenue sustains the quality of life for our community making it a desirable place to live and play. Tourism revenue funds maintenance of parks, roads, recreation programs, and police services. I am pleased to say that Solvang's economic recovery was strong in the spring, with tourism revenues bouncing to pre-Covid and exceeding pre-Covid levels in some months. During the economic shut-

down our city lost over \$2 million in tourism revenues. The City will receive \$1.3 million from American Rescue Plan Federal funding to help bridge this gap.

The next year's budget, starting on July 1, includes several capital improvement program projects including the South Alisal Road pavement project. The road will be paved from the bridge to the southernmost end of the road and will

**Continued on Page 4**

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- City Manager Letter.....Page 1
- Planning Corner.....Page 2
- Recreation Roundup.....Page 3
- Public Works Projects.....Page 4
- Utility Updates .....Page 5
- City Administration / Calendar.....Page 6

## Initial General Plan Documents Available

The second phase of the General Plan Update, Existing Conditions and Trends, is nearing completion. Many documents have been posted recently on the General Plan website ([www.PlanSolvang.com](http://www.PlanSolvang.com)), including:

- *Existing Conditions and Trends Workbook* – This workbook tells a story of the City of Solvang – where it has been, where it is today, and the trends that will shape its future.
- *Community Outreach Summary* – This document summarizes all community input received during Spring 2021, including stakeholder interviews, workshop feedback, and online engagement.
- *Newsletter #2* – This newsletter gives a briefing of the Existing Conditions and Trends Workbook and an overview of the General Plan Update process.

The third phase, Alternative Choices, will begin soon. In this phase, the general plan update team will continue to work with the community to prepare, evaluate, and ultimately define a preferred policy and land use alternative that will be the basis of the updated General Plan.

[www.PlanSolvang.com](http://www.PlanSolvang.com)

To register for upcoming workshops, or to receive additional information visit [www.PlanSolvang.com](http://www.PlanSolvang.com).

The next community meeting (Meeting #3–Alternative Choices) will take place in the October 2021 timeframe. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.



## General Plan Advisory Committee selected

The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) was recently formed to help guide the General Plan Update effort. The GPAC consists of 15 members, including:

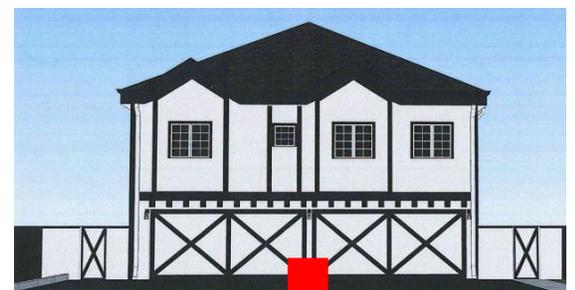
- **Esther Jacobsen Bates**, Design Review Committee
- **Dennis Beebe**, Community Member
- **Elizabeth Breen**, Community Member
- **Constance Cody**, Community Member
- **Lansing Duncan**, Community Member
- **Max Hanberg**, Community Member
- **Jennifer Dryden Hess**, Design Review Committee
- **Mark Infanti**, City Council
- **Joannie Jamieson**, Planning Commission
- **Kim Jensen**, Community Member
- **Linda Johansen**, Community Member
- **Richard Longoria**, Community Member
- **Claudia Orona**, City Council
- **Aaron Petersen**, Planning Commission
- **Jennifer Soni**, Community Member



## Current Development Projects Update:

### Solvang Festival Theater

- In last phase of \$4.7 million *Imagine* capital campaign. Major upgrades will include new light poles, ticket booth, sound walls and lighting to greatly enhance visitor experience.
- Summer 2021 series begins June 20. **Construction begins September 13.**
- To donate or arrange a theater tour, call (805) 686-1789 or visit [www.solvangtheaterfest.org](http://www.solvangtheaterfest.org)



### 1546 Copenhagen Drive

- 3-unit vacation rental
- PC Approval 12/7/20, DRC Approval 5/20/21

## Recreation Summer Camps Underway

Camps are in full throttle, but spaces are limited

The 2021 Summer is off to a good start! The recreation department has been busy planning and coordinating a summer to remember with programs like skate camp, babysitter's course, woodworking camp, cooking camp, slime camp, cookie camp, soccer camps, sand volleyball camps, Lego engineering camps, kung fu camps and more! There is something for everyone to enjoy but hurry, space is filling up fast and many programs have waiting lists. Visit [www.cityofsolvang.com](http://www.cityofsolvang.com) for more information on youth summer activities.



Youth participate in a soccer camp held at Sunny Fields Park in Solvang.



Youth participate in a babysitter's course at the Veteran's Memorial Building, hosted by the Red Cross.

## Ribbon Cutting Event Held for New Solvang Pickleball Courts

A ribbon cutting was held on Thursday, May 27 to commemorate the two new pickleball courts that were recently completed at Solvang's Hans Christian Andersen Park. Mayor Uhrig spoke at the event, thanking the many community members and city staff that contributed to the effort, and then cut the ribbon. Play ball!



## Parks Reopening

The City of Solvang has opened park reservations to align with the June 15 State and County guidelines. Beginning June 15, community members can now make park reservations at both City parks (Sunny Fields and Hans Christian Andersen Park) for any available date after June 15.

Currently, Area D at Hans Christian Andersen Park is not available to rent due to safety hazards but all other picnic areas are available for reservation. Prices vary per facility and space, see [www.cityofsolvang.com/facilities](http://www.cityofsolvang.com/facilities) for more information.

If interested in reserving a space, please call 805-688-5575 or stop into City Hall at 1644 Oak Street.

## City Manager message, continued from Page 1

include “sharrows,” indicating a shared road for vehicles and bicycles. Hans Christian Andersen Park will receive a make-over including new benches, playground equipment, and trail improvements. The City will also model a drought tolerant landscape by replacing the grass lawn at City Hall.

I would like to ask everyone to conserve water this summer. The City is currently in Drought Stage 1, which calls for 15% voluntary water conservation compared to last year. City staff will monitor each consumer’s water usage monthly. See page 5 for the list of restrictions currently in place. The State

of California’s drought is worsening and may further impact local drought conditions.

I would also encourage you to get involved in the first ever comprehensive General Plan Update process (see page 2). This long-range strategic planning tool will set the vision and guiding principles for our community over the next 20 years.

Finally, City Council welcomes the community on August 28 at the Veteran’s Hall for the State of the City event, where the community will take a moment to reflect on the past year at the City, celebrate the economic re-opening and look forward to the year to come.

## City Awards \$1.4 Million Contract for South Alisal Road Pavement Reconstruction

In May the City Council awarded a \$1.4 million construction contract for complete reconstruction of South Alisal Road. The project will break ground in mid-July. The project will utilize an innovative method of pulverizing the existing deteriorated asphalt pavement, cement treating it, and recycling it in-place as the new road base. Then a new asphalt surface will be constructed on top of that base. This reconstruction technique will save money, prevent over 7,500 tons of waste from going to local landfills, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project will be completed in Nov. 2021.



*Alisal Road reconstruction is estimated to be completed in November.*

## Memorial Plaques Dedicated at Vets Hall

Nearly 200 attendees gathered at Veteran’s Memorial Building on Memorial Day to honor the fallen. As part of the program, 19 Santa Ynez Valley residents who gave their lives in service to the nation were honored individually. Plaques honoring the 19 servicemen located in the Large Hall were dedicated during the ceremony.



*Alvin Salge demonstrates some of the newly dedicated plaques.*

## Bus Stop Improvements

Upgrades to Santa Ynez Valley Transit (SYVT) Bus Stop 8 along Mission Drive in front of the Union Bank are underway. Construction will be completed in August.



## Sewer Master Plan Update in Process

Last updated in 1988, The City is currently updating its Sewer Master Plan. The updated Master Plan, which will be completed in September 2021, will identify deficiencies within our sewer system and provide recommendations for future upgrades, rehabilitation and replacement projects to keep the City’s sewer infrastructure in good working condition.



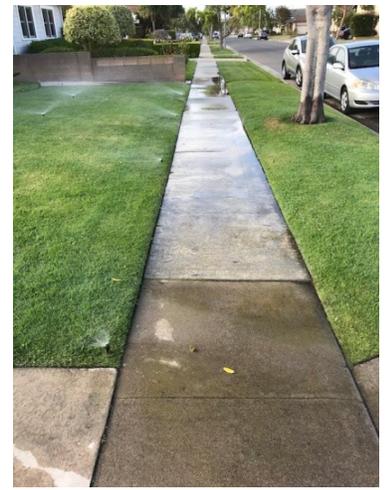
## Solvang Declares Stage One Drought

On April 12, the Solvang City Council issued a Stage One Drought declaration. The following water regulations exist under the Stage One Drought Condition:

- 1) Voluntary water conservation by all city customers aimed at a fifteen percent (15%) reduction in water use from the prior year's average monthly water usage.
- 2) Irrigation of turf shall be allowed only between the hours of 10:00 pm to 6:00 am.
- 3) All restaurants shall post a notice of drought condition and shall refrain from serving water except upon request.
- 4) Hotels shall post water conservation information. Linens and towels shall be washed no more than every second day for guests staying more than one night.
- 5) Exterior sprinkler watering of plants, lawns, shrubbery, ground cover, etc., shall be permitted only between 8:00 pm to 8:00 am during March - October, and between 4:00 pm to 10:00 am during November - February.
- 6) Vehicles shall be washed only at commercial car washes.
- 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.



**Tip: Check your sprinklers for overspray to prevent water waste**



## Construction Underway for Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration System Replacement

In May, the City broke ground on a \$3 million project to replace the antiquated aeration system at its Wastewater Treatment Plant. This major project will take approximately 16 months to complete. The project will significantly improve the treatment process, allow easier nitrate removal, and save money by dramatically reducing power consumption. This in turn will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



## Employee of the Quarter – Q1 2021

In January, the City of Solvang implemented an Employee of the Quarter program. The recipient chosen for the Quarter 1 period (Jan–March 2021) is **Debbie Curtis**.



Debbie serves as Accounting Assistant and was nominated for her positive attitude and team player contributions during the pandemic, among many other things. She has worked for the City for 13 years, including 10 years in the Parks and Recreation Department. Congratulations, Debbie!

## 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](http://www.cityofsolvang.com/employeeawards).

## Rundown of Summer Event Status

Summer is a busy time in Solvang, filled with numerous activities and events. As we continue to move past COVID, here is a quick rundown of summer event plans at the current time:

### *Independence Day* –

The parade will be held on **Sunday, July 4 at 11:00 am**, with a modified parade route. The parade will start at Alisal Road at Oak,



move north to Copenhagen, east to Second, south to Oak, and finish traveling west. The fireworks display will not be taking place this year.

*State of the City* – Typically held each winter, the 2021 State of the City was postponed and will be taking place on **Saturday, August 28**. The event will be open to the public and held at the Veteran’s Memorial Building.

*Wheels ‘n’ Windmills* – This event typically happens in September but has been moved to 2022. However, a new, similar event is being planned for **Saturday, October 9**. Stay tuned for more details.

### *Danish Days* –

Typically held the third weekend of **September (17-19)**, this fan favorite is making plans for a 2021 return. More details to come.



## Calendar of Events

### July 2021

- 4 - Fourth of July Parade (11 am)
- 5 - Independence Day (observed) – (City offices closed)
- 12 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 15 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 26 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- Farmer’s Market / Music in the Park (Wednesdays at Solvang Park)

### August 2021

- 2 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 9 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 13 - Movie at Solvang Park (7:30 pm)
- 19 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 23 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 28 - State of the City Event (9:00 am)
- Farmer’s Market / Music in the Park (Wednesdays at Solvang Park)

### September 2021

- 7 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 13 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 16 - Design Review Committee (5 pm)
- 17-19 (tentative) - Danish Days
- 27 - City Council Meeting (6:30 pm)

For more information on upcoming events, see the Calendar on the front page of the City’s website ([www.cityofsolvang.com](http://www.cityofsolvang.com)).