City Encourages Returning Community Members to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

The City is working in close coordination with leaders from Cal Poly, Cuesta College and the SLO County Public Health Department to remind new and returning community members they must do their part in helping slow the spread of COVID-19.

As a public university in the California State University system, Cal Poly continues to work closely with the CSU Chancellor’s Office and the SLO County Public Health Department to ensure compliance with the Governor’s guidance for higher education. Cal Poly has put in place several safety protocols to protect public health such as requiring all students living on campus present a negative test result for COVID-19 taken within 72 hours prior to arriving on campus. The university has more information available online about campus impacts and planning around COVID-19 as well as a Roadmap for Fall 2020.

Cuesta College has implemented a Safe Reopening Plan for the Fall 2020 semester with guidance from county, state, and federal public health agencies and the CA Community Colleges Chancellor’s office. Students, staff, and faculty on campus are advised to adhere to the recommended practices of physical distancing, proper hygiene, and wearing masks or other face coverings. Personal wellness screening checks are recommended daily and supported by self-serve and no contact temperature kiosks.

To help prevent gatherings, the City invoked a city-wide Safety Enhancement Zone in April 2020. Violations for noise, unruly gathering, open alcohol container and public urination will incur double fines. Violations of the public health order disallowing gatherings will be enforced and is also subject to double fines. Community members can report large or loud gatherings by calling (805) 781-7312.

In addition, the SLO Police Department will be teaming up with the Cal Poly Police Department for the next several weeks to provide proactive enforcement.

City Announces Funding to Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

On Thursday, September 17, the City announced a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to provide up to $120,000 in financial support to non-profit organizations for programming that advances diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) in the city. The program is part of the City’s efforts to help make the city an inclusive and safe community for everyone.

The purpose of the funding is to uplift and support local programs or projects that contribute to creating a San Luis Obispo that is welcoming, inclusive, equitable, and safe. The City seeks to support organizations and projects that will achieve demonstrable success and contribute to the pursuit of systemic change.

The funding is focused on narrowing equity gaps that have disproportionately impacted marginalized communities. These gaps include but are not limited to:

- Physical and mental health services
- Education
- Housing
- Criminalization
- Food security
- Community representation

Funding can be used for projects or services that improve justice, diversity, and/or inclusion for underrepresented groups in the city. Interested parties are encouraged to read more about the program, find examples of funding uses and the application at slocity.org/DEI-NOFA. The application deadline is October 22nd, 2020, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. For any questions regarding the application, please email the City at DEI@sloity.org.

The City’s recently-appointed DE&I Task Force will review the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the City Council on November 17, 2020. The City anticipates the funds to be awarded by January 2021.
SLO Fire Department Saves Dozens of Homes and Critical Infrastructure from Fast Moving Vegetation Fire, Asks Community to be Prepared

On Sunday, September 6, the SLO City Fire Department and neighboring fire agencies controlled an approximately 90-acre vegetation fire in the South Hills Open Space.

Fire crews were successful in protecting several dozen homes, a 4-million-gallon water tank and critical communication equipment that were all directly threatened by the blaze.

At 4:09 p.m. fire crews were dispatched to a possible apartment fire located on the 200 block of Bridge Street. When units arrived, they reported a vegetation fire in the grass and brush adjacent to 215 Bridge Street. Embers from that fire started several spot fires east of the area of origin, which quickly spread into the open space.

Additional resources were immediately requested and a reverse 911 was issued with evacuation orders for residents living adjacent to the South Hills Open Space. The fire quickly grew to approximately 90-acres as crews worked aggressively to protect the properties and critical infrastructure threatened by the blaze. Control lines were established around the perimeter of the fire and evacuations were lifted by 7:45 p.m. that evening.

No civilian injuries or damaged structures were reported, however a firefighter from a supporting agency suffered a shoulder injury and was evaluated at a local hospital and released. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Those with information regarding the fire can contact the San Luis Obispo City Fire Marshall at 805-781-7386.

The Fire Department encourages all residents to create a “Ready-Set-Go” plan to ensure they are prepared for wildfire. The plan will help residents improve the defensible space around their homes and help create an evacuation plan. More information on the “Ready-Set-Go” program can be found at www.slocity.org/wildfire.

The Fire Department also recommends that all residents register their cell phone numbers with the County’s reverse 911 system. Land lines are automatically added to the system, but community members need to register cell phone numbers to receive emergency notifications via mobile devices. Residents can accomplish this by going to www.slosheriff.org/reverse_911.php.
Clean Up Week Postponed Until 2021

Due to COVID-19 related staffing shortages, San Luis Garbage’s Clean Up Week scheduled for September 21-25 will be postponed until next year.

Despite the existing challenges, San Luis Garbage has been working hard to maintain consistent levels of curbside service for our community and we appreciate their efforts.

Alternative options are donation centers if the item is in good shape. Residents can still schedule pick-up with San Luis Garbage Company, or can haul directly to the landfill, which is operating normally. Please contact San Luis Garbage Company with any questions at 805-543-0875.

City Completes Renovations of Islay Park

The City recently completed major renovations at the Islay Park Playground including adding shade structures, additional picnic tables, and more age diverse and universal play equipment. In addition, the project includes an upgraded path of travel from the parking lot to the playground. The project cost of $564,000 was primarily funded by the City’s half cent local sales tax, the Local Revenue Measure, and replaced the outdated playground equipment while providing a new layout to improve access.

Signs are posted at the park notifying visitors about the importance of following preventative safety measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 including wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing and washing your hands frequently. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to offer a variety of programs and services to the community with modifications for user safety including the Laguna Lake Golf Course and the SLO Swim Center. To learn more about parks and recreation activities currently being offered, please visit the Parks and Recreation website.

City Completes Roadway Slurry Project; Transitions to Installing New Striping

As part of the City of San Luis Obispo’s 2020 Roadway Sealing Project, new striping on certain roads across the City were installed. During this final phase of the project, roads will remain open, but community members and commuters should expect intermittent delays during weekday daylight hours. The project is being funded by the Local Revenue Measure.

The City thanks community members and visitors for their patience and cooperation as we work to make these improvements across San Luis Obispo.
SLO City Youth Services Update

The Parks and Recreation SPARK Program started four weeks ago, providing full-day childcare to 110 children, broken into cohorts of 14, at three school sites in the City.

City staff are providing a safe, supportive, fun, health-focused childcare experience for the community, while supporting the kids doing distance learning, managing a myriad of school schedules and academic needs of the children, and growing a partnership with the school district. The Youth Services team is thrilled to be back in action serving the community’s children through play, care, and wellness. To learn more visit, sloyouthservices.org

Marsh Street Bridge Replacement Project Update

In mid-September, City contractor, Souza, was able to form up abutment 2 and pour abutment 2 for the Marsh Street Bridge Replacement Project. Souza is also in the process of removing the forms at abutment 2 and begin placing RSP in front of abutment 2 and that will lead into the False work. False work is the needed support system that is installed to support the bridge deck portion. It is set up underneath in the creek area and will be removed after the deck has been poured and reaches proper strength in the concrete.

For weekly project updates, visit marshstbridge.com

City Parking Update

For additional information, visit our website slocity.org, email us at parkinginfo@slocity.org, or call our office at 805-781-7230

City of San Luis Obispo
Public Works | Parking Division

Downtown Parking as of September 18, 2020

Parking Meters

Monthly 10-hour meter permits for October and Quarterly 10-hour meter permits for October, November, and December will be available for purchase beginning Thursday, September 24.

Please call the Parking Office at 805-781-7230 or email at parkinginfo@slocity.org to schedule an appointment to purchase a 10-hour meter permit.

Payment and time limits are currently enforced at ALL parking meters.

Enforcement

Loading and unloading in the bike lane on Higuera is prohibited and vehicles are subject to citation if found impeding the path of travel for cyclists.

Orange Curbside Pick-up Bags and White Zones

Perfect for customers and passengers vehicles that need to quickly pick up or drop off items in the downtown area.

Yellow Zones

Parking Services is expanding yellow loading zones on Higuera and Chorro to accommodate deliveries for businesses.
Rehabilitation Underway for Aging Clarifiers at Water Resource Recovery Facility

Built on what was once a field surrounded by sugar beets, the SLO Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) houses critical wastewater treatment infrastructure that has served the community for more than 100 years. As several pieces of equipment near the end of their life, the SLO Water Plus upgrade will modernize and repurpose the equipment with designs that save money, reduce waste and improve operational efficiency. Most notably, rehabilitation of two primary clarifiers kicked off in July.

During World War II, the SLO WRRF underwent a facility expansion to accommodate the City’s rising population. Much of the equipment that was added in the 1940s is still in use today, including the two primary clarifiers. Recognized by their wide cylindrical shape, the clarifiers are the first step of the treatment process. Here, solids settle out, are removed, and are then sent to the digesters for energy production.

Major upgrades have begun starting with the replacement of the support column, skimmers, rake arm and drive mechanisms which are at the end of their useful life. Upgrades to the clarifier will improve the efficiency of daily operations, decrease energy usage and improve safety. All of the original piping will be replaced, and new pumps and drive assemblies will be installed to improve the equipment’s ability to stay operational even in a natural disaster or other major disruption. Automated controls on new pumps will optimize their ability to remove sludge and scum. The pumps will run on timers at varying speeds, reducing their overall electricity demand. The clarifiers will pump less water to the WRRF’s digesters, which in turn will enhance biogas production and allow the city to generate more electricity. New railings, catwalks and site lighting will also improve safety and access. Finally, new covers and foul air ducting will be added as part of comprehensive design improvements to better control odor.

Despite the long life that the clarifiers have had, the tanks themselves are still in good condition and will be reused. As part of the SLO Water Plus upgrade, the tank bottoms will undergo minor concrete repairs to extend their life. By rehabilitating rather than replacing the tanks, the project team will save money and reduce unneeded waste.

Rehabilitation of the clarifiers began in July 2020 and will be completed in Spring of 2021. Careful thought has been given to ensure regulatory compliance and to minimize operational impacts during construction. View WRRF’s 365-day progress update video.