July 2023

THE CITY OF SONORA'S

Quarterly Insights

A Message from Mayor Mark Plummer

This first Mayor's message will focus on City plans, ensuring our local government is clear and transparent, and utilizing this space to share our progress. Having broad support for City projects is critical, and the reason our City Council has involved as many community members as possible in the planning.

The Measure "Y" sales tax is the investment our community is making in the future of Sonora. We are improving Police and adding essential staffing (including an engineer to rebuild our roads and infrastructure), while directing our greatest efforts toward Economic Development to sustain us and return our investment in the form of safety and prosperity for all residents. We'll share more of our vision in our next issue!

Upcoming Events

City Council Meeting
7/17, 8/7, 8/21, 9/5, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16
1st and 3rd Mondays, 5pm

Sonora Certified Farmers Market • thru 10/14
Saturdays, 7:30-11:30am, FREE
Theall and Stewart Streets, Sonora

Coffill Park Summer Concert Series • thru 10/14
8/12, 9/9, 10/14. 8-10pm, FREE
Coffill Park, Washington St, Sonora

Second Saturday Art Night • thru 12/9
Second Saturday of every month, 5-8pm
FREE along Washington St, Sonora

City Updates

Construction is underway for the Washington-Stockton Corridor/ Downtown Transit & Accessibility Improvement Project located along Stockton Street (State Highway 49) from S. Washington Street to west of Green Street. The project concept was identified in the City's Vision Sonora Plan to better serve downtown Sonora. It includes pedestrian improvements, ADA compliance and new transit facilities. The transit facilities will also be used by the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) bus and other tour buses visiting the City. The City is responsible for project oversight in coordination with the Tuolumne County Transportation Council and Caltrans. The City awarded the $2,615,556 construction contract to Dirt Dynasty, Inc., based in Valley Springs. The project is being funded with local, State, and Federal highway/transit funds. Construction is scheduled to be completed in October.

Sonora in the News

Visit Tuolumne County (VTC) hosted two influencer groups who spent time exploring Sonora's historic culture, dining, and wellness experiences. First, Oksana and Max with Drink Tea and Travel, featured Sonora as the base for their explorations through Tuolumne County. Next, Scott and Megan with Bobo and Chichi, highlighted it as a historical town with modern amenities. Sonora also made international news. The Daily News (UK) and Notable Life (Canada) ran articles featuring the Red Church, Hotel Lumberjack, Armory, Tuolumne County History Museum, and Revive Coffee.

Read about Sonora in the News here:
visittuolumne.com/in-the-news

Scan to sign-up for our e-newsletter!

Business and Community Information

The Sonora Police Department joined other jurisdictions nationwide to offer an Autism Safety Alert Form to assist with interactions between police and individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and others with special needs.

The program gathers information about affected individuals in advance, helping officers in the field communicate with them. When an Autism Safety Alert Form is provided to SPD, it is entered into a database to help guide our staff during interactions with those experiencing ASD or other special needs.

The Department partnered with local mom Brittaney Sutton on this project. We also received an endorsement from Autism Safety 101, a nationwide provider of safety training for people living with ASD, first responders, and community service providers.

City Works Project and Updates

Public Works takes pride in serving our residents, striving to make our community a safe place to live and visit.

The Lions Street Vegetation Management Project will be completed by the end of July. The Project prioritizes fire safety by clearing and protecting evacuation routes. Please do your part, clear your property of excess vegetation, and reduce risk for all Sonora residents.

Measure Y is providing funds for essential equipment purchases to update operations: a mobile pressure washer, a street sweeper and sand spreader. Upcoming projects include pressure washing downtown sidewalks, painting street markings, asphalt patching, pruning, and storm preparation.

City Spotlights

On March 6, Council voted to accept canine Ridge as a donation from Friends of the Sonora Police Department, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. At the time, Ridge had received obedience training and basic police canine training. Since then, Ridge and handler Antonio Shouse have undergone 320 hours of extensive training to become certified for patrol and narcotics detection work. They completed that training on May 25, 2023, and the team is currently working patrol for our City. K-9 Ridge was officially sworn in by the Sonora City Council on June 20th, 2023.

Public Safety Information

Sonora Firefighters have begun defensible space inspections in the Northwest areas of the City. If your property is not in the area to be inspected this year, please do your part and complete the defensible space requirements for your safety as well as that of the community. The work you do now could stop a wildfire from starting!

Fire Season Preparedness

Before a wildfire, place critical documents in a safe and readily available spot. Safeguard documents before a wildfire. Learn more at community.fema.gov/action/safeguard-documents Store supplies now so you can grab them quickly if you need to evacuate. See ready.gov/build-a-kit. Learn what to do before, during, and after a wildfire by visiting ready.gov/wildfires

Wildfires give very little warning and spread rapidly! Use this guide to get prepared. ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/how-to-prepare-for-a-wildfire.pdf

It is never too early to start preparing your home and family for a wildfire: ready.gov/wildfires Wildfires in your area may cause power outages and contaminate your drinking water, even if the fire does not actually reach your home. Have emergency provisions in place before a wildfire strikes! Sign-up now for emergency alerts: tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1170/Emergency-Alerts

VTC Wildfire Toolkit: visittuolumne.com/wildfire-toolkit Pick up this infographic at City Hall, 94 N Washington St, Sonora

Vision

With leadership and integrity, the City of Sonora commits to excellent service through collaboration and innovation.

Mission

Our mission is to foster a safe, vibrant and prosperous community that enhances the quality of life for all.

Core Priorities

Economic Development (General Plan) | Fiscal Stability | Homelessness | Infrastructure
Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness | City Staffing