Citizens using Ask Coronado, either online or with their smart phones, are helping improve their neighborhoods by immediately reporting potholes, damaged sidewalks, litter and graffiti to City staff.

Once the City receives a citizen request for service, often with photos attached, staff begins planning a resolution and tracks the status of each request.

Launched with the debut of the new City website in late 2016, the free downloadable Ask Coronado app allows residents, businesses and visitors to quickly and easily submit service requests.

The numbers are in for 2017. Over a one-year period, 534 citizen requests were submitted. To date, 97 percent were resolved or otherwise completed.

Most of the requests for 2017 involved people reporting an issue with a tree, graffiti or a concern at a City park. Except for tree-related items, which have a longer lead time, the City has established a goal to complete most of the non-safety-related requests within one week with higher priority items such as graffiti, spills and potholes to be completed within 48 hours.

"Ask Coronado allows the community to not only report issues conveniently but to track the progress of the repair or clean-up right from their computers or smart phones," said City Manager Blair King.

With Ask Coronado, the public may request government-provided services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It can be accessed via the home page of the City’s website or downloaded as an Android or Apple smart phone app.

Users simply complete a short description of the request and as an option can attach a photo directly from their smart phone.

Once a request is submitted, an email will acknowledge that the submission has been received and provide a tracking number so the request can be easily monitored online by anyone. Download the Ask Coronado app today and help keep the City a healthy and safe place to live and play. Find it in the Apple Store or in the Google Play Store.
Sidewalk Maintenance Program Addresses Needs

The City of Coronado is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in the public right of way, including sidewalks and streets. Each year, beginning in November, the Public Services and Engineering Department performs a visual inspection of every sidewalk, curb and gutter under its purview. Trip hazards, elevation changes and breaks in the concrete, also known as spalls, are logged for severity, location, time of inspection, inspector’s name, and date of completion. Photos also are logged. The information is electronically captured on a digital map and color-coded by category. Sidewalks identified with the following deficiencies are placed on a list to be scheduled for attention:

- Vertical joint separations of more than a half inch;
- Loose or spalled concrete;
- Vertical separations of more than a half inch to adjoining private improvements.

Curbs that meet one or more of the following are placed on a list to be scheduled for repair:

- Joint displacement of more than a half inch causing a trip hazard;
- The ponding of more than a half inch of water;
- Vertical joint separations of more than three-quarters of an inch are smoothed out with concrete or asphalt within 48 hours and placed on a list to be either ground down, or removed and replaced. All areas identified as deficient are contracted for repair or placed on a list and scheduled for an in-house repair. Sidewalks or curbs damaged by privately owned trees, vehicles or non-city construction activities are the responsibility of the property owner and are generally not placed on the City’s repair list, but rather, a notification is sent to the property owner to make the necessary repairs.

Those with questions about sidewalk maintenance or requests regarding accessibility, should call (619) 522-7380.

Coronado’s Pavement Management Program

Excluding Third and Fourth streets, Orange Avenue and the Silver Strand — all of which are state highways — Coronado has approximately 40 miles of public streets. To keep our roadways in top condition in the most cost-efficient way, Public Services and Engineering uses a pavement management system.

Using engineering algorithms to analyze field data, City engineers plan maintenance and repairs to optimize pavement conditions over the entire network of roads using these four key components:

- **Inventory pavement conditions**: The City periodically visually inspects its network of streets, rating them based on their condition. In addition to scheduled inspections, staff evaluates the pavement based on feedback from residents and staff on locations found to require higher than normal maintenance. Street segments are given a Pavement Condition Index – a number between 1 and 100, with 100 representing a newly constructed road. The City strives to maintain all asphalt streets at 80 or better. The City’s most recent index average was 82. As a comparison, California non-freeway roads have an average index of 65.

- **Assignment of importance-rating to segments**: Streets that carry higher traffic volumes such as collectors and arterials have a higher importance rating than the low-volume local roads.

- **Planned scheduled maintenance**: The most important component of the program is planned scheduled, also known as preventive, maintenance. The City’s annual slurry seal program ensures that every street is sealed once every seven years, prolonging the life of the roads by repairing UV sunlight and traffic damage. Protecting the pavement’s outer cover ensures the base and subbase perform as designed through their normal life-cycles. This greatly reduces the need to make expensive repairs and overlay, causes less impacts and keeps the appearance of the City’s roadways at a standard appropriate for Coronado.

- **Scheduled repairs and overlays**: Even with a maintenance program, asphalt will deteriorate. When the index drops below 80, road segments are scheduled for the more intensive work.

The City uses a software program to track and monitor Pavement Condition Index ratings and prepare budget projections for needed maintenance and major repairs to keep Coronado’s roads in great shape.
Important Reminders for Residents, Visitors

Coronado TV Live Stream

Coronado TV on Spectrum Channel 19 and AT&T Channel 99 was offline or had no sound attached for several months due to technical difficulties resulting from the age of the system. The City reminds residents, who are interested in watching the channel for City Council or any other meeting or rebroadcast or for general viewing, that Coronado TV is broadcast live online. To watch Coronado TV live, go to the City’s website (www.coronado.ca.us), select the “I Want To” drop-down menu at the top of the page, and under “View,” select “Public Meeting Videos - Live.”

Port Installs Vice-Chair Bonelli

Retired Rear Admiral Garry Bonelli, Coronado’s representative on the San Diego Unified Port District Board, was recently sworn in as vice chairman. The Coronado resident will serve a one-year term. It is customary that the vice chair is elected to chair the board the following year. The City Council in September reappointed Bonelli to the position of Coronado’s Port representative for a second term that will expire in January 2022.

Navy-City Emergency Protocols

Curious citizens may wonder how the Navy might notify Coronado of a nuclear event. The Navy has developed an extensive protocol if there is ever an occurrence that might cause public concern due to an unlikely radiological event. This protocol was recently reinforced via letters and office calls within the past month with the responsible party, Submarine Squadron 11. Based upon the type of incident, either Coronado or San Diego will be contacted first then the other second, the County of San Diego third, and the state last. The Navy has off-duty numbers for key staff members, which they use for regular drills. The City has an “All-hazards” Emergency Response Plan that serves as a guideline to direct its response to emergency scenarios. Depending upon the type of incident, Coronado will respond in accordance with its Emergency Management Plan.

Business License Update

To streamline the business certificate, business occupation and home occupation processes, the City Council has suspended the business license tax, effective January 1, 2019, and will replace it with a new regulatory mechanism called the business certificate registration system. The business license tax requires those conducting business or owning a business in Coronado to obtain a business license and pay a business license tax, among other fees. The business certificate will cost $25 annually, which will allow the City to recoup the actual and reasonable costs of the program.

Osher Streaming Lectures

University of California San Diego’s Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning free streaming lecture series will be held at the John D. Spreckels Center & Bowling Green the first Thursday of the month through May. The events are free but pre-registration is required. To find out about all the programs in the series and to register, visit the Spreckels Center, call (619) 522-7343 or register online at www.coronado.ca.us/spreckels.

Accessory Dwelling Units Update

In the City’s ongoing efforts to implement recent changes to state law, which facilitate the development of accessory dwelling units, the City Council has held public hearings to introduce amendments to the Municipal Code. Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADUs, are known by many names: granny flats, in-law units, backyard cottages, secondary units and more. Over the past two years, the state passed legislation requiring local laws be amended to make ADUs easier to build. To date, Coronado has agreed to limit the rental of ADUs to a six-month minimum, require a recorded covenant to establish owner occupancy requirements as well as a covenant for transient rental limitations, and implement a fee, per the California Plumbing Code, to allow the connection of detached ADUs to the City’s sewer system. It’s too early to see the impacts but there has been an increase in the number of building applications.

Departments on Social Media

The City of Coronado is active on social media as a way to share information, talk to citizens, gauge public opinion and get important feedback. The following departments have social media sites: The City Fire and Police departments, Coronado Public Library, Recreation Services, Coronado Teens and Cultural Arts Commission have Facebook pages; the City and the Library also have Twitter accounts. Like and follow them to stay connected.

Community Development Director Candidate Search

The City is conducting a full recruitment for a new director of Community Development after the retirement of Rachel Hurst. Tina Christiansen, a registered architect with 27 years of experience in municipal government, has been appointed in the interim. Community Development provides administrative and technical support for Coronado’s planning and building needs.
Driving Range Tee Upgrades

Golf Services recently completed a renovation to the driving range tee, the most trafficked part of the Coronado Municipal Golf Course. Most golfers use the tee to warm up, practice or take lessons from the professional staff. Over the years, the soil structure has broken down from the traffic, making it very difficult to maintain healthy turf. The soil was tilled six inches deep and materials were added to improve its appearance and wear. The area was then graded and rolled for smoothness.

Marijuana Ordinance Adopted

The City Council adopted an ordinance in October to regulate commercial recreational marijuana activity in Coronado. It matches state law, which allows recreational use in private and personal cultivation. If not for the City Council acting on the matter and based upon City law at the time, commercial medical marijuana would have been prohibited in Coronado, and the commercial cultivation, processing and sale of recreational marijuana allowed. The ordinance amends the City’s Municipal Code, following the passage of Proposition 64 by California voters in 2016, as follows: Coronado Municipal Code Chapter 36.20 was revised to clearly state that the City’s regulations apply to all commercial marijuana activities, and Coronado Municipal Code Chapter 86.80 was added to expressly prohibit the establishment and operation of all commercial marijuana activities, including cultivation, processing, delivery and dispensary activities. The smoking of marijuana and cultivation of marijuana plants inside private residences are permitted, according to state law. However, the City’s no-smoking rules, Coronado Municipal Code 36.08, apply to the smoking of marijuana. It is not allowed on public property. The City is working to ensure information is included in applications and other paperwork provided to those applying for building permits or holding special events on City property, educating them on the City’s no-smoking policy. The ordinance allows for the delivery of medical marijuana to qualified patients.

Upgrades, Repairs for City’s Boathouse Concessionaire

The City’s Boathouse, currently home to the Bluewater Boathouse Seafood Grill, was recently closed for planned maintenance. Work included improvements to the wooden structure’s venting system and termite control. The building, which was constructed in 1887, is held in trust by the City which leases it to a concessionaire. The project was completed within a few weeks.

Undergrounding Master Plan

The City Council is moving forward with the development of a citywide utility undergrounding master plan. Coronado, like many older communities, has an abundance of overhead utility lines including electrical power, cable television and telephone service. Undergrounding eliminates the clutter, improves the aesthetics of neighborhoods, as well as the safety and reliability of utility services, and increases property values. The effort is ambitious and will be carefully developed with the help of a consultant. A Utility Undergrounding Master Plan would serve as a planning tool for decision makers to support the community’s vision of a city without overhead utilities and associated poles and equipment. The master plan could be completed within six months of beginning the project.

Sunset Park Improvements

Work on a project to improve Sunset Park has begun. The project will replace the sod across the entire park. The aging irrigation system will be replaced and relocated to the perimeter of the park for safety reasons. At the request of the public, a sidewalk along Ocean Drive was added to the project. The park will be closed until the new sod has had an opportunity to take root, possibly through April.

www.coronado.ca.us
Arts & Culture in Coronado: Alive and Thriving

2018 Coronado Community Read

“Ready Player One” by Ernest Cline is the 2018 Coronado Community Read. This year’s Community Read program runs from February 20 through March 31. A 1980s concert featuring BetaMaxx at the John D. Spreckels Center is set for February 22. The end of the program coincides with the release of the film based on the book directed by Steven Spielberg. Community Read programs run for approximately six weeks. Events include lectures, book discussions, films, workshops and other activities related to the book’s themes and ideas.

Chosen by community vote, “Ready Player One” raises topics ranging from environmental disaster to virtual reality to internet security to online privacy. The book is available at the Coronado Public Library, Coronado High School Library, free on the Navy’s Digital Library and for purchase at Coronado’s Bay Books.

The City’s Cultural Arts Commission and Library partnered in 2017 to establish the Coronado Community Read. The program’s goals are to promote literacy and a vibrant literary culture in the community, introduce and draw people to the library, and bring residents together.

Sponsors include the City’s Library and Cultural Arts Commission, Friends of the Library and Bay Books. Download the 2018 Coronado Community Read brochure at CoronadoARTS.com or pick up a copy at the Library, the Coronado Visitors Center or City Hall. (Photo left: Cultural Arts Commissioner Lei Udell.)

City, Cultural Arts Commission to Create Plan For Arts, Culture

The City’s Cultural Arts Commission has undertaken a yearlong process of strategic planning to create a bold vision for the future of arts and culture in our community. Nationally renowned consultant Louise Stevens and her firm “ArtsMarket” have been contracted to guide the City through this effort. Stevens’ work is credited with having shaped the field.

The National Endowment for the Arts commissioned her to write the field’s standard texts on Cultural Planning and Conducting a Community Cultural Needs Assessment. She has personally led more than 200 cultural, heritage, district and related agency strategic plans with broad community engagement, for municipalities, counties and states.

The City has established a Coronado Creates page on the CoronadoARTS.com website. Visit the page for more information or contact the Cultural Arts Commission at CoronadoCreates@gmail.com or (619) 522-2633.

Tips to Avoid Over-watering, Runoff, Mosquitoes

Much of Coronado’s beauty comes from well-cared-for landscaping, including the trees and grass in the parkways between the street and sidewalk.

While the City supports residents’ efforts to maintain a verdant parkway, over-irrigation can threaten public safety in many ways. It is important for all Coronado residents to keep the following in mind:

Over-watering parkways can lead to excessive runoff into the gutter. This can result in several public safety hazards, including ponded water in gutters that can help disease-carrying mosquitoes breed.

Runoff tends to collect dirt, trash, pesticides and oils, and carries it all downstream where they contaminate bay and ocean waters.

Runoff across sidewalks can make them slippery for you and your neighbors.

Residents can help by following these handy tips:

• Water landscaping for shorter but more frequent time frames to reduce the possibility of excessive watering and runoff.
• Maintain sprinkler heads in good working condition to ensure they do not spray onto the street or across the sidewalk.
• Use drip irrigation or sprinkler heads that spray adjustable streams of water as opposed to uncontrolled spray that can be blown by the wind.
• Use mulch to cover top soil and to reduce runoff, as well as the amount of water necessary to maintain landscaping.
• Clean landscape debris from gutters to help reduce the likelihood of water ponding.

For more information, contact Public Services at (619) 522-7380 or visit the Public Services and Engineering, Storm Water Operations web page on the City’s website at http://bit.ly/StormWaterOperations.

Let’s do our best to limit over-watering and keep Coronado green and beautiful.
The City takes great pride in its appearance, its beach, bay, parks and, particularly, Orange Avenue, the heart of our thriving community and one of Coronado’s most popular destinations.

To keep the thoroughfare in tiptop shape, the City contracts with Urban Corps of San Diego to offer a superior level of service, above and beyond what City crews also provide.

Urban Corps, a certified local conservation corps, has given thousands of underserved, low-income young adults ages 18-26 the opportunity to improve themselves while improving their own communities. Participants finish high school while earning a paycheck and learning new skills.

Urban Corps workers are on the street during the City’s busiest seasons, spring break and summer, providing sidewalk porter service. During May and June, workers are on the job on weekends only, then begin a seven-day-a-week schedule from July through September.

An Urban Corps supervisor and two crew members are assigned to Orange, First Street and the many business district side streets from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., picking up trash, scraping gum, cleaning dropped ice cream, sanitizing the tops of trash lids, removing dog waste and emptying trash bins.

The City has its own crews out addressing other issues in the business corridor. Two Public Services employees clean up the bike corrals, remove graffiti, pick up trash on the medians, remove weeds underneath the cedars, empty overflowing trash cans and check for damaged infrastructure on a daily and weekly basis. This occurs year-round in the early morning hours.

The City is proud to maintain a level of porter service in Coronado not often found in other communities. If there is something amiss, report it using “Ask Coronado” either online at www.coronado.ca.us or with the downloadable smart phone app, or by calling (619) 522-7380.