

City Manager's Weekly Update

April 28, 2017

PARKS AND RECREATION

Civic

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium will host the annual Gem and Mineral Show this weekend with terrific rock, mineral, gem, lapidary, and jewelry show. Since 1953, the show features exhibitor displaying and selling their wares. Doors are open from 10am to 5pm, and admission is just \$5, pay at the door. Children under 12 and Scouts in uniform get in for free. Look for \$1 off cards in local stores, in advertisements in local newspapers.

Lower DeLaveaga Park



Staff installed six new concrete picnic tables at the Maple Grove picnic area and provided surface improvements with decomposed granite (DG). The picnic area can now host a greater number of park guests.

UCONN Trail Improvements

Parks staff, Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz and Earth Stewards coordinated a volunteer project (two days) on the University Connector (UCONN) Trail. The project goal was to improve an area of the trail that had suffered significant erosion from this winter's storms. The group wheelbarrowed in a significant amount of rock material to perform the repairs. The final product was a nicely manicured safe multi-use trail.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

My House My Home

Highlighted recently in the Sentinel, the My House My Home pilot program has broken ground on its first ADU. This program is a partnership between the homeowners, Habitat for Humanity, the City of Santa Cruz and Senior Network Services. While no City funding was necessary for this first project, the City Council has approved matching funding assistance for up to three projects under a 2 year pilot program.

The program allows senior homeowners on fixed incomes that may be at risk of losing their homes an opportunity to build an ADU and age in place on their property. This program also affords senior homeowners the ability to gain additional income while providing housing for low-income households. A second property has been located for this program, and additional homeowner applicants can still apply.

This program provides potential for senior homeowners located in the City of Santa Cruz the means to stay in their community while downsizing to a unit that will be ADA compliant and is customizable during the building process to fit their needs. Each project will be unique, and has the potential to release affordable housing rentals into the market.

To read the Sentinel article, follow this link:

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/social-affairs/20170424/santa-cruz-habitat-for-humanity-build-granny-flats-for-seniors-to-age-in-place>

To learn more about My House My Home, follow this link:

<https://www.habitatmontereybay.com/own-a-home>

Westside Trail Mixer



Facebook invite is here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/420791134956829/>

This event is FREE and FAMILY FRIENDLY!

Enjoy ART, MUSIC, FOOD and more!

The first phase of the Rail Trail in Santa Cruz, proposed for construction in 2018 by the City of Santa Cruz Public Works Dept., will span from Natural Bridges through the Circles neighborhood to the Wharf Roundabout. Planning for public art along the trail is a project of Santa Cruz City Arts. This "Westside Trail Mixer" invites neighbors to share their ideas for public art along the Rail Trail; come record or write down what makes the neighborhood special to you (submit art images, etc.); contribute poems that could be incorporated in paved areas of the trail. We invite you to get involved in how art can enhance your trail experience.

We will be set up next to Humble Sea Brewery along the Railroad tracks. Walk or bike to the event!

Downtown Merchant and Shopper Survey DRAFT Results

As part of the Economic Development Department's Study of the Economics of Parking in Downtown Santa Cruz, BAE Urban Economics recently completed a draft of two surveys. A Shopper Survey analyzed shopping patterns, parking preferences, and consumer behavior. A Merchant Survey tested retailer sentiments about downtown parking, and explored the extent to which adequate parking was available to ensure continued downtown retail vitality.

Over 320 people responded to the Shopper Survey, representing 17% of households who received a postcard invitation to do the on-line survey. Over half of those responding visited the Downtown at least once a week. Their most common activities were eating and/or drinking (78%) and shopping (68%). The Merchant Survey had 40 respondents who owned or operated a business in the Downtown. Restaurants and café operators represented the largest share (29%) followed by apparel and accessories businesses (21%). Almost 45% had been in the Downtown for at least 15 years.

Overall, merchant responses to questions about their customers' parking preferences were corroborated by the Shopper Survey. Although the Survey indicated parking availability and convenience were significant in terms of their decisions to go downtown more often, the most prominent concerns centered on personal safety and cleanliness as the most recurrent issues noted in answers to both surveys. Overall, 30% of shopper respondents reported not visiting Downtown more often due to a lack of convenient parking; however, a far greater share reported not visiting downtown more often due to a perceived lack of safety (52%) or lack of cleanliness (49%). Safer and cleaner streets along with more parking availability (41%) were the top three changes that respondents most often said would encourage them to go downtown more often. 90% of respondents to the shopper survey arrived in the downtown by car.

Overall, both the Merchant and Shopper Survey indicated that merchants and shoppers would like to keep the downtown as a unique, eclectic business district, primarily populated by locally-owned stores. The results of the full survey will be released with the existing conditions report within the next two months.

POLICE

SCPD's Amazing Administrative Professionals!



This week Chief Vogel hosted a fantastic lunch for the amazing administrative staff at SCPD. Wednesday, April 26th was Administrative Professionals Day. Chief Vogel took the opportunity to celebrate, honor, and thank his incredible administrative team for all they do every day.

"I want to personally recognize you all for your great contribution, all your work, and all the efforts you do to support the department," said Chief Vogel. "Thank you all, your hard work and dedication are much appreciated."

SCPD, Community, Conversation, and Coffee



This week's second Coffee with a Cop event was another success. Our get together was hosted at The Abbey Coffee Lounge. SCPD Officers met with a different cross-section of community members.

The Coffee with a Cop program brings community members and police together in informal, venues to discuss community issues, build relationships and drink coffee.

"The program has given people a chance to see police as more than officers responding to emergencies. They can see there's a real human behind the badge. We're part of your community."

SCPD's community outreach with Coffee with a Cop is a surprisingly simple approach to build trust, to connect and talk to people, building relationships one cup at a time. More dates to come at various locations and times.

SCPD Monthly Activity Report

The March monthly activity reports are available here:

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/police/crime-statistics/monthly-activity-report>

The new reporting format includes additional statistics like nuisance crimes, resisting arrest, and injuring use of force totals. The report also highlights officers' workload volumes, including call volume, arrests, citations, and reports were written. The community policing section captures proactive activities and events in our community and with our partners.

Santa Cruz Police Department

Monthly Activity Report: March 2017

Monthly Work Volume

	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Year to Date 2016	Year to Date 2017
Calls for Service	8,575	8,830	24,661	24,075
Arrests	359	346	1,063	932
Citations	425	260	1,344	813
Traffic Citations	361	184	763	369
Reports Written	2,677	2,460	5,380	4,789

Part 1 Crimes

Crime Type	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Year to Date 2016	Year to Date 2017
Homicide	0	0	1	0
Rape	2	11	6	18
Robbery	6	15	30	33
Aggravated Assault	31	16	109	43
Burglary	22	39	106	113
Larceny	306	241	733	661
Auto Theft	23	31	80	96
Arson	0	0	0	1
Total	390	353	1065	965

Nuisance Crimes

Type	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Year to Date 2016	Year to Date 2017
Drug Abuse Violations	143	137	402	357
Intoxication	89	93	254	242
Vandalism	54	44	171	110
Aggressive Solicitation	16	10	54	24
Bike Theft (Reflected in Larceny Numbers)	49	24	88	61
Illegal Camping Citations	93	34	256	130
Trespassing Citations	127	70	286	284
Conduct on Public Property Citations	72	26	217	97
Park After Hour Violations	14	31	58	57

PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Treatment: Operations

Operators have completed draining and cleaning out Clarifier #3 for its annual inspection and sluice gate replacement (shown in the photo below left). Primary Sedimentation Basin #1 is also being emptied and cleaned for an annual inspection (photo right). The annual tank inspections are essential to ensuring optimal performance of the treatment processes. The primary sedimentation process provides for gravity separation of solids which are too light to settle in the aerated grit removal tanks, yet too dense to remain in suspension. The clarifiers are used to settle out accumulated microorganisms that have completed their task of breaking down organic molecules present in the water.



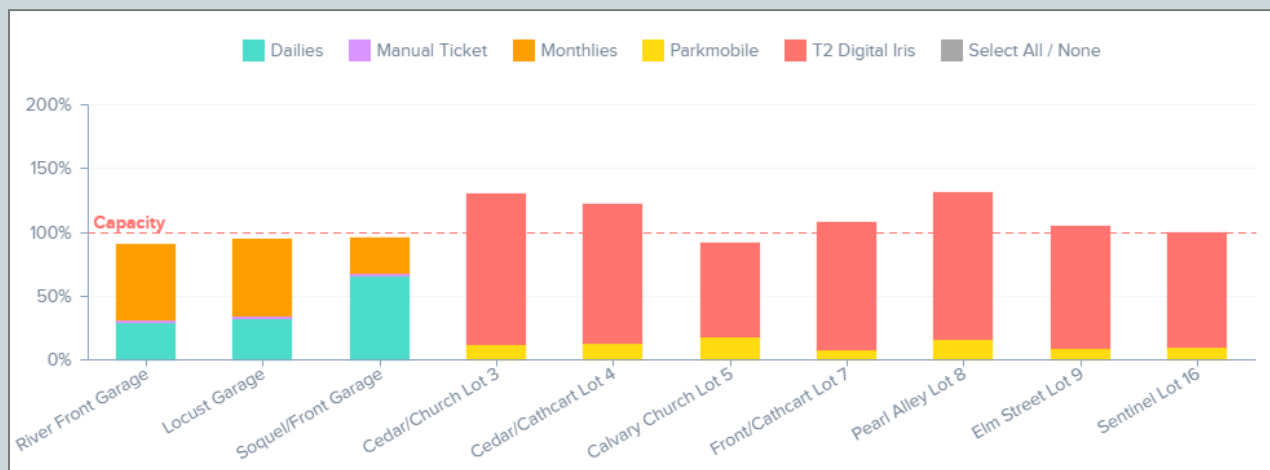
Wastewater Treatment: Maintenance & Electrical

Maintenance staff IS working on replacing the drain sluice gate on Clarifier #3. This particular drain gate is twenty-five feet long and remains submersed underwater for nintey percent of the year, only exposed during annual tank cleaning and inspections.

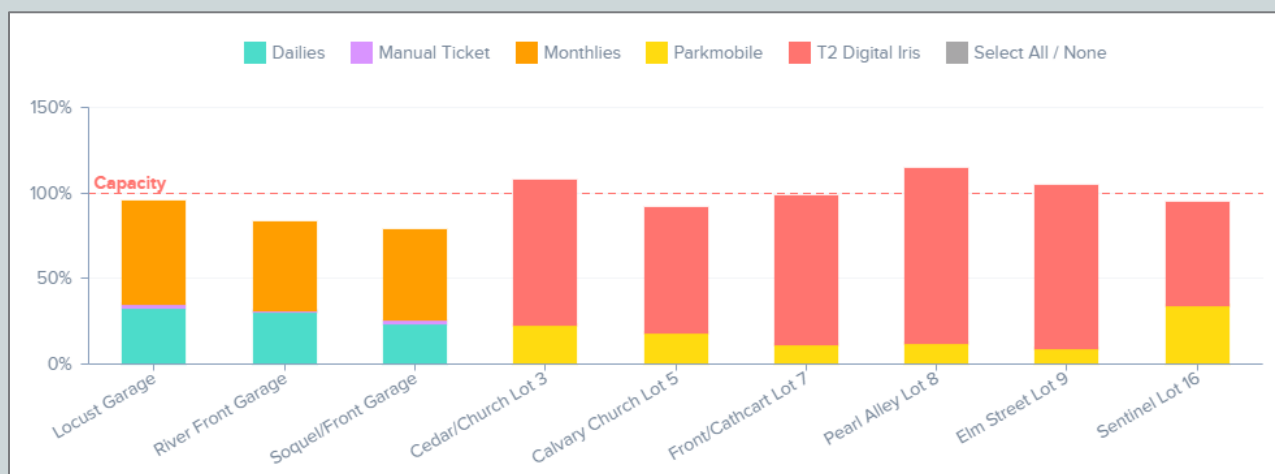


Mechanics and electricians are working on one final overhaul of our Cogenerator #1, the main electricity producing engine for our facility. We run Cogen 1 year-round to offset electricity costs; having this engine on during PG&E peak power rates from May 1st to October 31st is crucial to keeping our electricity costs down. With May 1 just around the corner, staff is working hard to ensure both of the Cogeneration engines are in top shape for the long peak-rate season. The energy savings we achieve by running Cogen #1 year round and Cogen #2 during peak summer rates equates to around \$1,200,000 each year.

Parking Services – Downtown Parking information from Smarking



Downtown Garages and Surface Lots Peak Occupancies for April 20 – 27



Peak Parking Occupancies on Wednesday 4/26/17, a Farmers Market Day (Lot 4 does not have any permit parking. It is only open until 11 a.m. on Wednesdays due to Farmers Market.)

Resource Recovery Engineering

Staff recently submitted the Quarterly Report, for 1st Quarter 2017, to CalRecycle (CA Waste Board) for the Resource Recovery Facility. The report includes waste intake data and field monitoring data of landfill gas probes and buildings for methane.

Staff performed the annual Finance Assurance and Inflation Factor Calculations for the Closure Fund and submitted this year's Closure Fund Adequacy letter to CalRecycle. The Closure Fund is underfunded by \$61,338 this year; staff has asked the Finance Department to deposit this amount to meet the minimum closure fund balance.

Facility and Recycling Processing

Green waste operations are processing approximately 2,500 tons of wood and green waste this week. It should take about two weeks of processing.

Final tonnage came in for the sale of the scrap metal pile. Over 500 tons of scrap metal were shipped out in April.

Landfill operations are still waiting for the permit approval to start discharging waste into Cell 3.

Community Outreach

One Santa Cruz Waves story was posted: [Housing Is Focus at City Hall to YOU on May 4.](#)



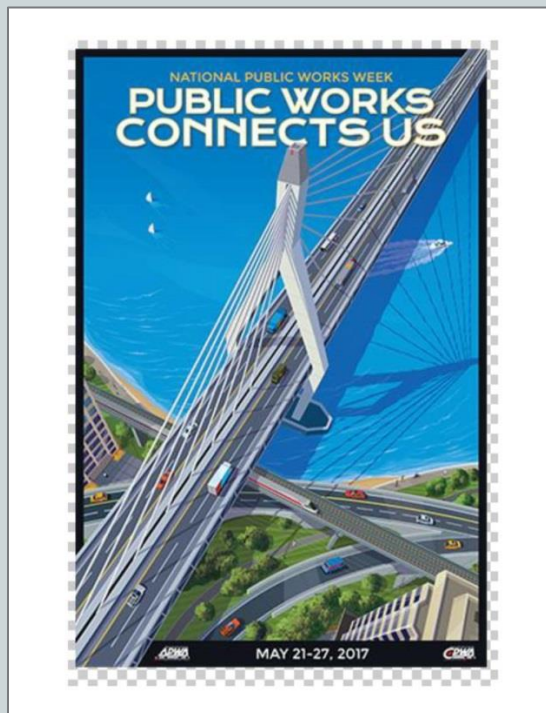
Our next [City Hall to YOU](#) neighborhood forum on May 4 will focus on the local housing crisis and neighborhoods west of the river. The event is designed for for even more community dialogue than last year's City Hall to YOU series. We look forward to hearing from all residents and business owners living and working west of the river at Peace United Church, 6:30 p.m. Please join us! More details: [press release](#); [Santa Cruz Waves](#).



Plans are in the works to celebrate National Public Works Week at the end of May with onsite lunch hour public tours of several construction projects. Mark your calendar to get a first person explanation from our project engineers of the following:

- Monday May 22 - East Cliff Sewer/Sidewalk project
- Tuesday May 23 - Branciforte Creek Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge Project
- Wednesday May 24 - Measure H Overlay Paving
- Thursday, May 25 - Curtis St. Storm Drain

More details coming soon.



Plans for the Streets Smarts campaign are progressing. Both Good Times and Santa Cruz Metro have agreed to offer some sponsorship (details to be determined). KSBW news director is considering our proposal for the same; we should know in several weeks. Details for our SCCS assemblies were developed working with Assistant Superintendent Frank Wells and SCCHSA Friday Night Live staff.

We concluded new contracts with National Cinema to run our recycling and WWTF PSAs before movies at the Riverfront and Regal cinemas.

WATER

Another busy week at the Water Department...

On Monday afternoon, staff met with engineers from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water to update them on water quality compliance data and reporting, treatment improvements we've made to the Graham Hill Water Treatment Facility, our enhanced coagulation study, and current and upcoming construction projects. The DDW engineers were quite impressed with our department's response to this winter's emergencies, particularly given our system's challenges and complications (e.g. lack of redundancy).

We've had a lot of interaction with the public during the past week, including participation in the Earth Day festival at San Lorenzo Park last weekend, as well as a "Broom Bash" at Loch Lomond in honor of Earth Day. What's a Broom Bash, you ask? It's a gathering of volunteers who tackle eradicating the invasive French broom plants in the Loch Lomond Recreation Area. You may have read the story in the Sentinel last week about the challenges facing the San Lorenzo Valley Water District in trying to address the French broom invasion into the Sandhills/Olympia watershed. French broom is a serious problem because it grows into dense thickets that block sunlight and out-competes native plant species – many of which are listed as endangered. We're having another Broom Bash this weekend and you are welcome to join us! Bring your gloves!



Broom Bashers

Also happening this weekend at Loch Lomond, is our first ranger-led "Loch Walk" of the season. Tomorrow between 11:00 and 1:00 our staff botanists will lead a walk in the park to view native plant species as well as do tree identification. This is always a popular topic and we've had a lot of interest from the public.

Last, we had our third round of bidding for the River Street main replacement project this week and though we received three bids, all three were way over the budget. I guess this is the "downside" of a strong economy.