

City Manager's Weekly Update

May 26, 2017

CITY MANAGER

I am pleased to report that in a collaboration between Climate Action and Parks and Recreation, the City was awarded a grant from CalFIRE in the amount of \$366,289.40 to fund a GIS based Urban Tree Inventory, the planting of 500 trees at 10 tree planting events with 6 community organizations, and a community outreach campaign on the project and the important environmental benefits of trees.

POLICE

Bicycle Traffic Safety & the Law

This week SCPD delivered a presentation on Bicycle Traffic Safety & the Law to the public in the SCPD Community Room. Discussion topic focused on laws relevant to the cyclist on the roadways. Particular attention to be given to auto, bicycle, and pedestrian right of way issues, sidewalk riding, and direction of travel. The presentation also included animations of collisions and right of way issues. The feedback from attendees was positive. This seminar will be presented again in the future.



Sign Up Now For Teen Public Safety Academy 2017



Teens 13-19 will get firsthand experience of what Santa Cruz Police and Fire do on a daily basis. Teen Academy recruits will have a total public safety experience in action packed week learning police and fire training, tactics and job duties. Limited to 20 recruits per session. Each session runs Monday through Friday 8 am - 4 pm.

Session #1 July 10-14

Session #2 July 17-21

Session #3 August 24-28

Email: lgomez@cityofsantacruz.com --More details on SCPD

Blog <https://goo.gl/TuywSZ>

Santa Cruz Police Serves Up Coffee with a Cop Again!

Join Santa Cruz Police this coming Tuesday, May 30, 2017, 8:00 am -10:00 am at The Buttery, 702 Soquel Avenue.



Ask us questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood. The Coffee with a Cop program brings community members and police together in informal, neutral venues to discuss community issues, build relationships and drink coffee.



No agendas or speeches, just a chance to say hello, discuss issues and learn more about each other.
All residents are encouraged to attend.
Community, conversation, and coffee.

SCPD Training Update

This week's training included negotiation and de-escalation scenarios with SCPD Hostage



Negotiations Team. The members are ten SCPD officers plus a Santa Cruz County Mental Health Specialist.

Crisis and hostage incidents are known for being unpredictable, anxiety-filled, and emotionally driven. SCPD officers train regularly and diligently to refine their negotiating skills.

SCPD hostage and crisis negotiators practice and refine communication skills in a strategic manner. These techniques employ empathy and respect that allows them to work with the person in crisis towards a peaceful resolution.

The team's objective is to preserve life and defuse volatile situations through negotiation; and, by doing so, ensure the safety of everyone involved.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Surfer Statue 25th Year Anniversary

The City and the Santa Cruz Surfing Club Preservation Society will honor the rich and powerful history of surfing in Santa Cruz by inviting the community to an event to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Surf Statue, Saturday, May 27 at 12:00 pm. In preparation for the Surf Statue's 25th Year Anniversary, besides helping coordinate the event, staff renovated the pathway and landscaped area.



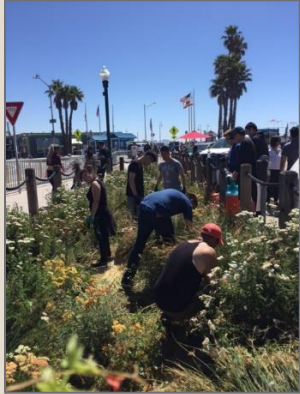
University Terrace Park saw the installation of another “Little Free Library”. This library is the third library located in Santa Cruz city parks.



Cowell Volunteers and Stewardship

On Saturday, May 20, Adrienne Frisbee biologist & Volunteer team leader of the Habitat Youth Project, with help from of 17 students from De Anza College in Cupertino worked for 2.5 hours

at the Cowell Beach bio-swale to eliminate weeds & prune back the overgrown native plants. The bio-swale was designed to infiltrate surface runoff & storm water from the paved surfaces at the roundabout & in the Cowell beach parking lot. This group helped plant the bio-swale initially & is now providing stewardship of the area to assist with native plant success.



Masters Cup at DeLaveaga Golf Course

DeLaveaga Golf Course hosted the annual Masters Cup Disc Golf Tournament. Several hundred participants and spectators took part in the event which was co-sponsored by Parks and Recreation.

Frederick Street Park Playground



The third and last phase of the Frederick Street Playground installation was recently completed. All three phases of the playground installation incorporated significant community participation and input. Frederick Street Park remains an incredibly active park by the neighborhood residents.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

111 Madrone Street

The Community Development Department received an application this week for approval of a Minor Modification Permit to a previously approved project at 111 Madrone Street. The original application, approved in 2013, consisted of an extensive remodel of an existing 17,480 square foot historic industrial building and an Administrative Use Permit to allow a general retail use. After the remodel, the building was occupied by the *Sports Authority* for approximately two years, which has since gone out of business. The building has remained vacant for the past year, and the owner has considered several new tenants, ultimately deciding on a lease with *Dignity Health*. *Dignity Health* is proposing a medical use which includes rehabilitation for seniors and pediatric patients, as well as offices for specific disciplines such as speech therapy and pediatric occupational therapy. With medical uses having a greater parking requirement than the previously approved retail, the modification request is for a reconfiguration of the existing parking lot and an intensification of parking that is less than 15% of the original approval. Ryan Bane is the planner working on the application, which can be approved administratively.

611 Soquel Avenue

Also submitted this week, was an application for an Administrative Use Permit and Design Permit for additions and a remodel to an existing nine unit apartment complex. The additions will include new garages and second stories for five of the units, as well as a new building with a five car garage, an attached three space carport, and a second story office. Although no new units will be added, this project will improve the overall habitability of the existing apartments, which were constructed in the 1940's. This project requires a hearing before the Zoning Administrator, which is expected to occur later this summer. It should be noted that a fairly similar application was previously approved in 2010 but subsequently expired. Clara Stanger is the planner working on this project.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

The Branciforte Creek Bike/Ped Bridge and Multi-Use Trail Project's Foundation pile 1, south of Branciforte Creek, has been drilled and poured. The bridge abutment on top of the pile 1 was formed and poured this week. Wing walls, sheer key, and other elements of the foundation will be constructed in the coming weeks. Grading and subgrade work under the Soquel Bridge continues and now provides a good visual of the future trail connection between the new bike/ped bridge and existing river levee path to the south. On the north side the drilling operation for pile 2 is completed and the rebar cage is to be set and poured by end of this week.



We have completed micro surfacing installation for our Measure H Surface Seal Project. Striping will be completed shortly. Our Measure H Overlay work is currently replacing concrete, curb, gutter, sidewalks and ADA compliant ramps on Ocean and Mission Street Extension and Swanton Boulevard.



Wastewater Treatment: Operations

A half hour before shift change on Friday, Operations staff discovered one of our septage receiving pits was not draining the dumped material into our influent flows as usual. These septage receiving pits are where authorized third party septage haulers dump loads of grease

collected from restaurants and loads from residential septage tanks. Upon investigation, operators found the a few rag balls, old corroded pipe parts and lots of sand. On the next fully-staffed regularly scheduled work day, operators safely entered the septage pit, adhering to confined space safety protocol and removed the obstruction, which was actually inside the transfer piping from the pit to the main influent line. Assistance was provided by the maintenance department and the sewer line maintenance crew.

Operators have completed the cleaning of Clarifier 2 and released it to Maintenance for the annual tank inspection. These annual tank inspections are essential to ensuring optimal performance of the treatment processes. The clarification process provides gravity separation of accumulated microorganisms that have completed their task of breaking down organic molecules present in the water.



Wastewater Treatment: Maintenance

Maintenance staff has completed work on Primary Sedimentation Basin 6. This basin needed to have a scum skimmer device and scum pumping pipe replaced.



Maintenance has been tackling Clarifier 2 annual inspection and repairs which includes replacing the old corroded sluice drain gate with a stainless steel one. The original cast iron gate (photo below on the Left) was in use for 20 years, we can see the corrosion rate is pretty high. The new stainless steel gate (center photo) has a life expectancy of 100+ years and has

shown to be less susceptible to water corrosion issues. The final photo shows the final installation of this sluice gate for Clarifier 2.



Wastewater Treatment: Electrical

The electricians have been working steadily to ensure communication and electrical security here at the facility. The most recent upgrades to the electrical system are UPS's, the large black box shown below. These Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) units smooth out the electrical signals entering and exiting various electrical equipment hubs we have at the facility, allowing Operations to maintain treatment processes during power surges and bumps coming down the wires from PG&E.



Community Relations

We mailed a postcard to businesses and residents regarding the Verizon Downtown Small Cell Project expected to begin construction on Monday, June 5, and continue weekdays through Tuesday, June 20, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. This project will install fiber optic cable to cellular sites in two locations:

- Pacific Avenue between Soquel Avenue and Cathcart Street
- 2,150 ft. of Soquel Avenue from Pacific Avenue

There will be sidewalk closures along with traffic control to minimize the impact to business entrances and street access. Both the City and construction contractor Crown Castle apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Our construction site tours in celebration of Public Works Week were well attended at the East Cliff Drive Sidewalk/ Sewer Relocation, Branciforte Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge Project, Measure H

Overlay Street Paving and Eastside Alley Sewer projects. Many thanks to everyone who participated—we had fun!



We helped the Coastal Watershed Council launch a public information campaign to protect the health of the San Lorenzo River. A media event at the home of Drew and Edith Meyer detailed three important steps that homeowners can take to limit human sources of bacteria in the river detailed in the [Sentinel](https://www.sentinelsentinel.com/story/news/local/2018/07/18/coastal-watershed-council-launch-public-information-campaign-protect-health-san-lorenzo-river/1086474). More information: <https://coastal-watershed.org/sewerlateral/>.



Street Smarts

KION has agreed to become a media sponsor of our Street Smarts traffic safety campaign. We will be working with them to create PSAs to launch with the campaign in late August with back to school timing.