

# City Manager's Weekly Update

January 12, 2017

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### Arana Gulch

The 4th season of grazing has begun with 15 cows at Arana Gulch. The cattle season begins when there is enough grass to sustain the cattle onsite for the duration of the grazing season.



The cattle help control the non-native grasses which grow too tall and dense and out-compete the native wildflowers, such as the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant. The number of cattle will fluctuate throughout the season to stay on pace with the rate of grass growth. By June, the grass dries out and stops growing and the cattle are removed from the site around the same time the Santa Cruz tarplants begin to bolt. Grazing at Arana Gulch is part of a long-term restoration effort to restore the coastal prairie habitat within Arana Gulch.

### Civic

The World Cube Association is hosting its first completion in Santa Cruz at the Civic this Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am-6pm. "Santa Cube" will feature a completion in Rubik puzzles and a number of other 'twisty puzzles'. Free and open to the public. No tickets required. Full schedule: [worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/SouthEnough2018](http://worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/SouthEnough2018)



### Sports

The 2018 Winter Women's Recreational Soccer league kicked-off the season on Sunday at Scott Kennedy Fields! The weather was perfect for the first day of games thanks to the break in the

rain. Division I and Division 2 leagues are full, with six teams in each league and up to 300 players!



### **Teen Center**

The Teen Center has a brand new kitchen! The project, which began in August, passed final inspection on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The teens were excited to make homemade chili the next day for the weekly Teen Center Family Dinner. Staff and teens are looking forward to resuming food activities and events.



As the new kitchen was being completed, staff realized that the other half of the Center needed freshening-up. During the holiday closure staff, along with help from the teens, came in and repainted the space. The TC looks fresh and new! A good way to start the new year!



## Louden Nelson Community Center

***Come to Santa Cruz and explore “Mushrooms of the Old Growth Forests”!*** Learn interesting and fun facts about the hundreds of beautiful and fascinating species of mushrooms found in the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Area. Fungi will be beautifully displayed in a re-created woodland habitat. This unique Santa Cruz tradition features three days of fantastic fun, informative speakers and demonstrations, with fungal activities for the whole family!



**44th Annual Santa Cruz**

# Fungus Fair 2018

**Friday 1:00 to 5:00 pm  
JANUARY 12**

**Saturday + Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
JANUARY 13 + 14**

Louden Nelson Community Center • 301 Center Street • Santa Cruz

**ROOM 3 ENTRY PASSES** Available 30 minutes prior to scheduled presentation

**FRIDAY ROOM 3**

- 2:00 - 3:00 **PROFESSOR TERRY HENKEL** of Humboldt State University  
Does any good fungi and fungi in some of our forests?
- 3:30 - 4:30 **TODD SPANIER** of California Truffle Orchards  
Black Gold - a delicious and rare of the world's most prized mushrooms
- 5:00 - 5:30 **AFTER HOURS MUSHROOM DINNER**  
- Dinner catered by Chef Chad Ryan  
- Raising with wine and beer of Santa Cruz Mountain Vineyard  
- Live Music by George Haggerty and the band  
- Musical entertainment and games for kids, and more to come

**SATURDAY ROOM 3**

- 11:00 - 12:00 **CHRISTOPHER HOBBS** - Medicinal mushrooms  
Scent and smell of mushrooms in the forest
- 1:00 - 2:30 **PROFESSOR TERRY HENKEL, NOAH SEGEL and CHRISTIAN SCHWARTZ** - The value of old growth forests in fungi conservation
- 3:00 - 4:30 **COOKING DEMONSTRATION** - Chef John Paul Lachenberg of Holman Restaurant in Santa Cruz - Pairing with wine and watermelon fresh veggie

**SUNDAY ROOM 3**

- 11:00 - 12:00 **PROFESSOR TERRY HENKEL** of Humboldt State University  
Fungal food and drink ethnobotany of tropical regions people
- 1:00 - 2:30 **CHRISTOPHER HOBBS** - Medicinal mushrooms  
Preservation and diversity of old growth forests for health
- 3:00 - 4:30 **COOKING DEMONSTRATION** - Chef John Paul Lachenberg of Holman Restaurant in Santa Cruz

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY + SUNDAY** - Additions featured throughout the day in Room 3, check website for details

**KIDS ROOM 3** - ONLY ages Saturday + Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**ADMISSION**

- 7-day fee
- \$5 Sunday + Sunday fee General
- \$5 Students + Seniors (over 60)
- Cash or check
- \$4.50 under 12 Free

For information visit [www.ffsc.us](http://www.ffsc.us)

## LIBRARY

### Peer led Programs gaining STEAM at the Library

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries has many STEAM programs for kids (and adults too). This year we are really excited about our peer-led STEAM programs. STEAM, which stands for *Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math*, is a creative approach to learning that uses project based activities so that kids are educated to meet the needs of the 21st century economy as they become adults. Peer-led activities have the benefit of reducing the anxiety that some kids have in school as well as offering a leadership development role for the young leader.

### Santa Cruz Young Makers



After a successful pilot last year partnering with the Santa Cruz Young Makers Club to bring peer lead STEAM to the Downtown library, we are glad to continue the program 2018. Our mentor Sasha is a junior at PCS and has participated in the [Maker Ed](#) program. She has been on panels at Intel, Pearson Learning, Pixar and Bay Area Maker Faire, and Young Makers. She has won awards at Synopsys Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship and Santa Cruz County Science & Engineering Fair. She was also published in National Geographic Magazine January 2017 issue. Visit the Santa Cruz Young Makers website at [santacruzyoungmakers.wordpress.com](http://santacruzyoungmakers.wordpress.com).



Sasha says that she always thought she was a terrible student- until she discovered the MAKER movement and began doing her own learning projects based on her own interests. Her ability

to learn science and math related concepts through this process was transformational for her, and she is very passionate about reaching other kids who might feel as she did to show them they can learn and have fun too. The Santa Cruz Young Makers Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting on February 13th. Materials are provided.

### **CASE Art**

Anna, a junior at Scotts Valley High School, has a passion for art and science. She'll be sharing that passion with kids aged 6-10 at the Scotts Valley Library every 3rd Wednesday of the month starting on January 17th. Her new program, CASE Art, (Creative, Artistic, Scientific, and Expressive) involves kids in art by encouraging them to use their own creativity while learning about the relationship between art and science. Every class will involve art and the science behind the art.

Anna's volunteerism is a wonderful example of youth giving back to the community. She says that she has such fond memories of the art and craft classes at the Scotts Valley Library when she was younger that she wanted to create similar memories for other Scotts Valley kids.



### **Santa Cruz Public Libraries Year in Review**

The library took a look back at all the fun we had in 2017. Some of our staff created this short video documenting how we connect, inspire, and inform Santa Cruzans through our collections and programs. Take a look.

<https://youtu.be/VfumXufSCek>



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Economic Development Office Update:*

NATIONAL RETAIL EXPERT BOB GIBBS TO GIVE TALK THURSDAY JAN. 18



The Economic Development Department invites you to please join us for a presentation from national retail expert Bob Gibbs on the “Changing Face of Retail: Best Practices for Sustainable Urban Retail” on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-5:30pm at the Dream Inn.

Bob’s retail planning excellence lies in advising public and private sector clients on the psychology of commerce - the practical science of analyzing and adjusting all elements known to affect a shopper's mood in the marketplace. He is renowned for applying fundamental retail and merchandising principles for reviving retail in downtowns and for instilling robust commerce in new town centers.

Please RSVP for the event to let us know if you will be attending:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-changing-face-of-retail-tickets-42062993546>

DOWNTOWN FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COMPLETE



The Alexander Building, at the corner of Locust Street and Pacific Avenue, underwent a complete façade improvement this summer. Participant businesses: Pleasure Pizza, Jade,

Wallflower Boutique, and Fish Princess Farms were able to get a complete façade facelift. The improvement was especially impactful for those businesses located along Locust Street. The removal of awnings and addition of the white storefronts created greater visibility for the businesses located on the downtown side street. Built in 1900, this building has a lot of interesting historical features, and the new design and color palette highlights those elements that make the façade truly unique. As per State law, all work was completed at prevailing wage.

#### ANNOUNCING THE SECOND VIDEO OF THE SIT DOWN SERIES: NIELSEN STUDIOS

Our newest Choose Santa Cruz video series is all about local businesses that work together. For our second installment of the Sit Down series we chatted with Timerie Gordon and Christian Nielsen, the husband and wife team behind Nielsen Studios, a local architecture and design firm, in what we learned is the "maker side" of the Nielsen Studios headquarters.



If you have moved swiftly through the frequent long lines at Penny Ice Creamery, sipped a pint at Humble Sea Brewery, or reconnected at a free event in the Secret Garden at Abbott Square you have experienced the end product of Timerie and Christian's design work that helped shape the form and function of the built environment. In the video and full interview below we explore how and why their design work converges with their love of the Santa Cruz community. [Read more...](#)

#### *Graffiti Abatement Program Update:*

The month of December had a total of 298 public tags that were removed by the City. December 2016 had a total of 266 public tags. That's 32 more tags compared to last year's December.



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1108 W Cliff Dr



TG17-0016473  
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1108 W Cliff Dr



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1108 W Cliff Dr



TG17-0016473  
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1108 W Cliff Dr

The City of Santa Cruz Graffiti Abatement Program has 3 easy ways of reporting graffiti on public and private property:

- Call the Graffiti Hotline at (831) 420-5303
- Send an email to [graffiti@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:graffiti@cityofsantacruz.com)
- Report online at [www.cityofsantacruz.com/graffiti](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/graffiti)

Please provide a description of the tag on the object or surface and the location with the nearest address or cross street and if possible a photo.

Quick removal within 24 to 48 hours is proven to be the most effective way to deterrent against graffiti vandalism. The longer graffiti remains the greater the chances graffiti vandals will return. For more information about the City of Santa Cruz Graffiti Abatement Program, receiving a free removal kit, and other resources, please visit our website at [www.cityofsantacruz.com/graffiti](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/graffiti).



City Arts Update:



FREE TAX PREP CLASS FOR ARTISTS! JANUARY 24TH - 6:30PM - AT THE TANNERY

**FREE WORKSHOP**

**TAX PREP  
FOR ARTISTS**

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 24  
6:30-8:30PM  
@ ARTS COUNCIL**

Attendees will gain tangible skills and information to decipher the ins and outs of small business finance.

**Topics:**  
self-employment tax (what it is & how to calculate it)  
basic bookkeeping techniques  
in-depth discussion of tax-deductible expenses

Lots of time for Q&A, so bring all your questions!

Free - Register here:  
<http://bit.ly/TaxPrep4Artists>



**Jenna Goldin** has been a licensed tax preparer in Portland, OR since 2010. In addition to tax preparation services, Jenna offers bookkeeping and Quickbooks set-up and support. Her goal is to create an empowering experience for her clients thru education and support.

Questions? [jim@artscouncilsc.org](mailto:jim@artscouncilsc.org)



Join us Wednesday, January 24th at 6:30pm for a tax prep for artists class, offered by Jenna Goldin at the [Tannery](#)!

**The class will cover:**

- Self employment tax law
- Basic book keeping techniques
- In-depth discussion of tax-deductible expenses
- Time for Q&A!

**PLEASE REGISTER -**

<http://bit.ly/TaxPrep4Artists>

The number of [RSVPs](#) will determine the exact location at the [Tannery](#). We will email and put signs up just prior to the class!

[Jenna Goldin](#) has been a licensed tax preparer in Portland, Oregon since 2010. In addition to tax preparation services she offers bookkeeping and QuickBooks set-up support.

ARTIST SHOW AT THE R. BLITZER

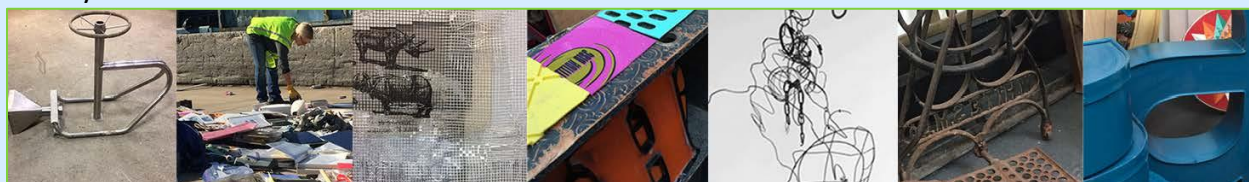
GALLERY - FEBRUARY!



Our third [SCRAP](#) exhibition will be held at the [R. Blitzer Gallery](#) through February 2018! OPENING NIGHT is **Friday Feb. 2nd from 5:00 - 9:00pm**. Learn more about our SCRAP artists and follow them on social media - by clicking [HERE](#).

This year will see the addition of spoken talent with either word or poetry presented at both opening night and our **Artist's Talk on Saturday, February 17th at Noon**.

SCRAP is a program of City of Santa Cruz and the [Santa Cruz Arts Commission](#) in coordination with Public Works and the Resource Recovery Facility.



**SCRAP Kids...** It is our goal to educate the young people in our community about the crucial issues with, not just re-cycling, but another very real problem, up-cycling—our discarded stuff; tools, household appliances & goods, furniture, clothing, wood and cabinetry.... Education through art and re-purposing is an excellent way to show people what is recovered and fully usable, whereby diminishing our landfill at the same time as saving energy and reducing our carbon footprint.



The summer of 2017 saw our pilot class with kids making art with materials wholly provided from the waste system. We're invited back to fill this tremendously successful class and hope to move into more schools as this great opportunity grows. Look for information on our upcoming classes and please contact us if you, or someone you know, would like to

have us come to your school. E-mail Tauna Coulson to see how you might get involved at [tauna@coulsondesign.com](mailto:tauna@coulsondesign.com)

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Streets

Crews recently installed a fence screen around the City parcel at 1214 River Street for the planned temporary homeless shelter. Crews patched paving areas on the 400 block of Stanford Ave. Potholes and storm maintenance was also addressed citywide.

At the Corporation Yard, crews removed the berm at the materials and spoils bunker in order to alleviate the collection of water and muddy sediment. The berm was placed prior to the installation of the canopy, and has caused water to collect within the bunker during rainfall because of where it was installed. In the background, a vacuor truck is removing water that has pooled behind the berm from the heavy rain fall early this week. SWPPP BMP's are in place to avoid tracking of materials in the yard.



Given the rainy weather, we appreciate help from residents to minimize potential street flooding. Please keep an eye on catch basins. If they are blocked with debris restricting water flow, they can be cleared easily with a broom. This can go a long way in reducing local flooding. And if a street is flooded, please call Public Works at 420-5160 Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. After hours, please call 911. Thank you!



### Engineering

Our Brookwood Drive Fire Access Road Repair Project is almost finished with only the planting for the Rock Slope Protection (RSP) pending.





Our Upper Park Road Slide Repair Project bid opened on Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.

[Measure H work](#) continued with the installation of striping on California St., Delaware Ave., Escalona Dr., Goss Ave., King St., Market St., Morrissey Blvd., and Natural Bridges Dr. This construction work is part of the 2017 Overlay Project and Fall 2016 Overlay Project. Given the rainy weather, both projects are expected to conclude a bit later than expected—by February 2.

### **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Mechanics performed routine maintenance of Cogeneration Engine 1, ensuring smooth operation to maintain electricity production for the plant from anaerobic-digester-produced methane gas. By producing electricity on-site from this renewable digester gas resource, the facility saves an average of \$1,000,000 per year in electricity costs.

Electricians and mechanics worked together on regular maintenance for the natural gas dilution blender, another integral part of the on-site electricity generating system.

Operations has been busy with the First Flush of the winter season when a large surge of accumulated debris in the sewer collection system gets pushed through to the plant during the first big rain event given higher water flows. In the past 24 hours, Operations has removed around 40,000 pounds of 'grit' as well as handled peak flow rates of 50 million gallons overnight.

Facility electricians replaced numerous burnt out LED light bulbs throughout the treatment plant, improving visibility and safety for operators.





## Traffic Engineering/Community Relations

Our new Streets Smarts [video](#) is now airing on KION and Telemundo with tips and a little humor to help pedestrians stay safe on our City streets.



Our [Street Smarts](#) campaign gave out over 300 yard signs to residents in the last quarter of 2017. We have ordered more of the following signs that can be picked up free-of-charge next week from our Public Works front counter, Room 201 at City Hall.



Details of this week's Street Smarts tip for cyclists are available in English and Spanish [here](#).



We wrote one story for our Santa Cruz Waves City Beat column:

[CALLING ALL FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO MARCH FOR THE DREAM ON JAN. 15!](#)



### **Resource Recovery Engineering**

Staff sampled the second Qualifying Storm Event (QSE) for the reporting year on 1/8/2018.

Staff submitted both the quarterly monitoring report to CalRecycle and the quarterly surface emissions monitoring report to the Monterey Bay Air Resources Board for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017.

### **Resource Recovery Facility and Processing**

Landfill staff will be coordinating and overseeing the replacement of our 25 year old truck scale next week. Staff will be coordinating with another contractor to trench and install some new cabling under the scale while it is out.

### **Other Accomplishments**

Our **Wastewater Treatment Facility** division won the Phishious Malicious IT Security Awareness Campaign “Popcorn” Award for cyber hero training!



## **WATER**

There's lots' going on with the Engineering section of the Water Department. We have several major projects either underway or getting underway.

We hosted a meeting with AECOM and DUDEK to discuss the disposal options for all of the spoils generated by the Newell Creek Dam tunnel project, and to review the project description. (While AECOM is doing the design work, we have hired DUDEK to do the environmental work.) With approximately 19,000 cubic yards of materials being generated by the project, finding a location for them is not going to be easy. Alternatives being considered include hauling to a landfill, providing to another construction project in need of this type of material, using to buttress the dam at the end of the project. AECOM is continuing to analyze the feasibility and cost of these alternatives before a selection is made.

We also hosted a meeting with Harris and Associates, who we have hired to help with some of the environmental work associated with our SRF loan application requirements for two of our

tank projects. The state requires a number of different “packages” as part of their application (general, technical, environmental, and financial) which all require a fair amount of work. But considering we’re looking at potentially \$20M of low-interest project funding, we think it’s worth it!

While the Oroville dam and the Department of Water Resources were both back in the news this week, we had another successful meeting with the Division of Dam Safety this week where they reviewed the spillway condition assessment prepared last fall by AECOM and staff. DSOD was very pleased with the assessment and with the maintenance work that has been completed as recommended by the assessment, and has approved the finalization of the report.

Some good financial news this week -- We received proposals for the new bladder at Felton Diversion and at plus or minus \$100,000, the bladder itself is proving to be much less expensive than we had initially budgeted for.

This week’s rain boosted Loch Lomond reservoir by a foot, bringing the reservoir total to 93.6%. And speaking of a wet reservoir, we had one of our most well-attended Loch Walks at Loch Lomond last weekend, with 40 people attending our Fungus Foray.

