

City Manager's Weekly Update

January 19, 2017

PARKS AND RECREATION

DeLaveaga Park



With materials supplied by the City, Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz County volunteers repaired a creek crossing on the Parkway Trail.

Ocean View Park



The metal slide at Ocean View Park has reopened. It was temporarily closed for repair due to safety concerns. Extended use of the slide had worn the metal thin. Metal patches were welded to the slide in order to strengthen and pro-long its lifetime.

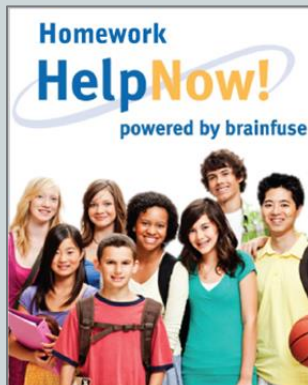
LIBRARY

Santa Cruz Public Libraries Support Students of all Ages

Now that the holiday season is well behind us, many of us are struggling as school gears up. Whether you're a kid, a parent, a homeschooler, or a college student, the library has something to ease the stress and help you achieve your goals.

For students under 18, in-person homework help may be the difference between making the grade and falling behind. The Garfield Park Library offers free in-person homework help every Wednesday from 3:00-5:00pm through May 25th. Homework Help is also offered at the La Selva Beach Library on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00pm.

Young students in 2nd through 12th grade can also get specialized reading comprehension instruction at the library's R.E.A.D (Reach Every Amazing Detail) program. The program offers 25 minute appointments with a California Credentialed teacher at the Downtown Library Tuesdays 3:00-5:00pm and at the La Selva Beach Library Wednesdays 3:00-5:00pm. Students can register by calling 831-427-7717 or emailing pro@santacruzpl.org. This program also runs through May 25th.



When you can't wait to get the help you need, students of all ages have access to online tutoring with a live tutor, a writing lab where you can submit your paper (or resume) and get real, personalized help, skills building exercises, flashcards, and more - in one fantastic resource. [Brainfuse](#) is for learners at all levels, and has certified teachers and subject experts waiting on the other end to help you make the grade.

For adult learners, Brainfuse offers career and resume resources, including the ability to submit your resume for personalized help and online live interview practice. You'll also find help preparing for the GED and US Citizenship, and an online question and answer tool.

Sometimes, you just need to do some research or create some curricula. The Library's got you covered there too. Just visit [Homework Help](#) on the library's [Research Page](#) to find high quality, authoritative subscription information tools online for every and any subject for all age groups. We've got helpful tools for teachers and homeschoolers too. Let's make it to May with an A.

PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Operations continued to run smoothly. A weekly average of 560,000 gallons of sludge were removed and then treated into 178 tons (356,000 pounds) of bio-solids that are reused as landfill topsoil or fertilizer supplement on non-food crops. Separately, electricians partnered to troubleshoot program logic in one of the dewatering centrifuges and mechanics performed on-location welding for a new copper line from a cogeneration unit.



Streets

Crews continue to be busy with storm maintenance. They have cleaned ditches on Meder Street. Last week, the berm was removed from the materials and spoils bunker at the Corp Yard and in preparation for the upcoming rain event, the crew swept the area to ensure SWPPP compliance.



Engineering

We completed four storm drain improvement projects in response to localized flooding that were funded by SB 1. These “gas tax” projects on Taylor and Owen streets and Vista Bella Drive have strengthened the City’s existing storm drain system, allowing rainwater to better drain from the street making the roadways safer. Read all the details in the press release [here](#).



Traffic Engineering/Community Relations

At 55 miles an hour, one text is like driving the length of a football field with closed eyes. No wonder cell phone use causes 1.6 million car crashes each year. Read more about this week's Street Smarts tip in English and Spanish [here](#).



Our Recycle Right video on plastic bags was viewed over 1500 times the past week on Facebook. It underscores the importance of the stretch test for determining which plastic bag and wrap material can and cannot be recycled. You can check it out [here](#).



We wrote one story for our Santa Cruz Waves City Beat column: [Diversion of Waste through SCRAP: Santa Cruz Recycled Art Program](#).



Resource Recovery Facility and Processing

Pictured below is the pit for our future new truck scale. Staff spent the morning grading and cleaning twenty five years of accumulated sediment and litter. The scale is scheduled to be installed Thursday morning and in operation by Friday.



Fortistar Methane Group is re-drilling several new wells this week to help increase methane collection at the landfill. Approximately five new wells will be added to older sections of the landfill.

Waste Reduction

The Master Recycler program is off to a good start. The public has shown tremendous interest. Thirty people have applied to participate in the first program which is scheduled to begin on February 6.

Waste Reduction staff attended the Santa Cruz Neighbors meeting this week to promote the Master Recycler program and answer questions.



Waste Reduction staff has been working with a group of UCSC Students from the IDEASS Program (a service-learning program designed to empower students as change agents to face challenges of the 21st century). 6 students from this program recently toured the recycling center to gain a better understanding of the cycle of materials collection, sorting, baling and selling, as well as to see firsthand the contamination that comes along with the process and why this is such a problem for the facility and City.

WATER

First, we would like to congratulate the Police Department and the City on a wonderful celebration Monday recognizing the inspiring work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was a proud day for our city!

We've received several proposals for putting together a business case for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI.) While AMI provides many benefits to both our customers as well as our system, it's a resource-heavy proposition. We want to be sure we've done a thorough cost-benefit analysis for our customers.

We thought you might be interested to know that in 2017 a total of 28 new accounts were added to the water system. Yep, just 28. Most of these (21) were single family accounts, with a smattering of other types. This low level of new connections follows the trend from 2016, when we only added 25 new accounts.

Our engineering staff has been updating CapPlan, which is a type of asset-management tool that focuses on helping to develop rehabilitation and replacement programs for pipes. This tool incorporate operation and maintenance data, pipe characteristics (such as age, material, diameter,) and spatial information to better understand the likelihood of pipe failure and the consequences of such failure. Armed with this information, together with available budget, we can develop a much more targeted and effective main replacement program for the future.

And finally, speaking of mains, you may have noticed the work going on at the corner of Center and Church Street:



Tuesday afternoon a contractor boring on Center Street hit a hydrant lateral pipe causing quite a mess. (Fortunately it was a 6" pipe so the water loss wasn't significant.) The valve that controlled flow to the hydrant was in poor condition, forcing us to do a repair that night. After repairing about 4 feet of pipe and returning the main to service, another leak presented itself on the valve for the hydrant. Repairs and cleanup continued through the night.