

City Manager's Weekly Update

March 9, 2018

POLICE

SCPD Neighborhood Policing Team Community Meeting Rollout



Following the successful Town Hall series in October, Santa Cruz Police Department presents our next series introducing the Neighborhood Police Teams this week. Chief Mills restructured the department and created five Neighborhood Policing Teams assigned to areas within the City of Santa Cruz. The Neighborhood Policing Teams put more SCPD officers on the streets to increase community policing and activate crime-fighting strategies.



Santa Cruz Police Department will host a total of five community meetings, one in each Neighborhood Policing Area. The attendance so far has ranged from 100 to 200 community members per event. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive.



Meet and Greet YOUR Neighborhood Policing Team

Teams led by a dedicated Lieutenant, Sergeant, and officers charged with implementing strategies to prevent and reduce crime and improve neighborhood policing.



See and Hear The PLAN For YOUR Neighborhood Policing Area

Tackle the underlying causes of crime and safety issues and put sustainable solutions in place. This concept is a new way of doing business for SCPD in crime-fighting strategies for effective policing and a collaborative partnership. The meetings are designed to introduce officers and neighbors.

“Sometimes the public forgets—and we as police also forget—that keeping crime down and increasing public safety is everyone’s responsibility. It’s a true partnership,” says Chief Mills. “We need the community’s support, but it’s more than that. It’s the attitude that we are in this together.”



Find Your Area - Map Your Address - Connect To Your Team **Neighborhood Policing Teams** **Locate Your Neighborhood Policing Area** **Connect with Your Neighborhood Policing Team**

Meet YOUR Neighborhood Policing Team

MEET AND GREET YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING TEAM

Teams led by a dedicated Lieutenant, Sergeant, and officers charged with implementing strategies to prevent and reduce crime and improve neighborhood policing.



SEE AND HEAR THE PLAN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING AREA

To tackle the underlying causes of crime and safety issues and put sustainable solutions in place.

DOWNTOWN

Saturday March 3rd 10:00AM-11:00AM
SCPD Community Room | 155 Center Street

UPPER WESTSIDE COMMUNITIES

Tuesday March 6th 6:30PM-7:30PM
Peace United Church | 900 High Street

LOWER WESTSIDE COMMUNITIES

Wednesday March 7th 6:30PM-7:30PM
Bayview Elementary School | 1231 Bay Street

LOWER EASTSIDE COMMUNITIES

Thursday March 8th 6:30PM-7:30PM
Gault Elementary School | 1320 Seabright Ave

UPPER EASTSIDE COMMUNITIES

Monday March 12th 6:30PM-7:30PM
Santa Cruz Community Church | 411 Roxas Street



Find Your AREA

MAP Address

Connect to TEAM

A new way of doing business for SCPD in crime-fighting strategies for efficient policing, collaborative partnerships, and safe communities.

Join us to make positive changes throughout our community. Connect directly to your neighborhood policing team.
www.santacruzpolice.com



NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING TEAMS

[Click Here](#) for NOTICE: Neighborhood Policing Team March Meetings

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

800 Soquel Avenue

Last December, the Zoning Administrator approved a use permit and other entitlements for Kym DeWitt (owner of *Beer Thirty* in Soquel), to operate a sausage and beer garden on the former *DerWienerschnitzel* site at the corner of Soquel Avenue and Caledonia Street. The plan is to renovate and add onto the existing building with outdoor seating situated on the Soquel Avenue side of the property. Last week, construction drawings and an application for a building permit were submitted to our department. Work is expected to commence in the late spring/early summer timeframe.

Cannabis Update

On Wednesday, the Zoning Administrator took action to approve use permits for three cannabis-related uses:

- **533 Ocean Street.** The use permit was approved for Khalil Moutawakkil, one of the retail license holders, to move his retail operation (*Kind Peoples Collective*) from its current location at 140 Dubois Street to this property, formerly the site of a restaurant. The retail use would occupy approximately 3,600 square feet of the 5,200 square foot building, with the balance of the space devoted to office and storage. A couple neighbors expressed concern with the use. Others testified in support.
- **195 Harvey West Blvd.** The use permit was approved for *Oz Distribution* to operate a distribution facility within 4,900 square feet of a 6,800 square foot building. The facility receives raw cannabis from licensed cultivators, has it tested in licensed laboratories and processes orders by retailers. No retail activity will occur on the site. A representative of a pre-school operating out of the adjacent tenant space testified that he had been in communication with the applicant regarding the use and was encouraged by his responsiveness, as well as the security plan. He expressed concern, however, that the use had the potential to put him out of business. Because the distribution facility does not have a retail component, the 600 foot separation requirement from schools and daycare facilities is not required.
- **1210 Fair Avenue.** The use permit was approved for David King to operate a small distribution facility (656 square feet) out of a 10,700 square foot industrial building. No retail activity will occur on this site. No one from the public testified, though one letter was received in opposition to the use.

All three permits are appealable to the Planning Commission with the appeal period expiring at 5:00 pm on March 19th.

Coastal Commission Approves Downtown Plan Amendments

On March 8, 2018, the California Coastal Commission approved the City Council's recent amendments to the Downtown Plan. The amendments modify the use allowances and development standards in the Downtown, with a focus on the properties generally located between Cathcart and Laurel Streets on both sides of Pacific Avenue and Front Street. The new regulations increase maximum height limits for qualifying parcels in the affected area by between 15 and 35 feet to a maximum heights of between 70 and 85 feet.

One of the more exciting parts of the modifications is how they require new development to celebrate the San Lorenzo River. As properties on the east side of Front Street redevelop (between Front Street and the Riverwalk, from Soquel Avenue to Laurel Street), the amendments require that the area between the levee and the new buildings be filled in to expand the publicly accessible area along the Riverwalk and to offer opportunities for outdoor cafes, open space, and other amenities adjacent to the Riverwalk. The new amendments also require three pedestrian connections between Front Street and the Riverwalk. The Plan amendments will facilitate substantial improvements to the access, activity, and safety along the San Lorenzo River.

The new amendments are already stimulating interest from developers who are interested in creating new retail, restaurants, hotel rooms, and much needed housing. These amendments will spur revitalization of the southern end of our Downtown, and we are anxious to see the benefits that these new developments will bring to the community.

The Downtown Plan Amendments are the second of three requests send to the Coastal Commission in December of 2017. The Coastal Commission approved the City's new cannabis regulations in February 2018, and they are expected to consider the City's new short-term rental (e.g., AirBnB, VRBO, etc.) regulations in April 2018.



WATER

This week, an editorial appeared in the Sentinel about the City and UCSC “clashing” over UCSC’s recent announcement that it plans to add 10,000 new students to the campus. (If you didn’t already read it, you can see it [here](#).) In the third paragraph of the editorial, it refers to the community already reeling from “...massive infrastructure concerns with water and traffic.” That’s a true statement, but it rang a small alarm for me that I’d like to share with you. There’s no doubt that adding an additional 10,000 people to Santa Cruz would affect the community. But with regard to water, our water demand forecast through 2035 takes into account projected population growth, including potential increased student enrollment and is still flat. In addition, we are already in need of modernizing our infrastructure, and we’re already in need of supplementing our water supply. Those trains have both left the station and work is already well underway. So why am I concerned about a link being created between UCSC growth and water infrastructure/supply? Because the Water Department and the community went through an exhaustive process to determine our infrastructure and supply needs, and those needs exist regardless of an increase in student population. In other words, I don’t want our community to think that if more students don’t come, there isn’t a need for the investment we’re making into both back-bone infrastructure and supplemental supply. We’re investing \$300 million in our water system, which is a heavy lift for everyone. We need the community to understand how critical this investment is in maintaining a safe and reliable drinking water supply.

The California Snow Survey was done this week. Last week’s storms boosted the annual snowfall, but not enough to significantly change the course of what has unfortunately been a very dry “wet” season. While snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains doesn’t affect Santa Cruz at all, it has a huge impact public perception of local conditions, media coverage and Sacramento’s inclination to impose statewide regulatory schemes using a one size fits all approach. We’re monitoring all three carefully.

Next weekend is the fourth annual State of the San Lorenzo River Symposium. The goal for this annual event is to provide an opportunity for all of the agencies, non-profits and community groups working on the river to get on the same page with the work that’s being done as well as outstanding needs. It’s a great event sponsored by the City, CWC, the County, RCD and the San Lorenzo Valley Water District.

There are three speakers this year’s program on the topic of cannabis cultivation, as we have already seen impacts from this practice on the watershed when the practice was illegal. Thankfully, those of us working to protect watersheds are finally getting more traction on the need to carefully manage impacts from cannabis cultivation on rivers, streams and creeks. You can see the full program for the symposium [here](#).

Last, we worked with SCPD to provide an interpretive tour at Loch Lomond for PD’s PRIDE program last Sunday. The kids were very engaged and seemed to enjoy being out in nature.



PRIDE Participant

PARKS AND RECREATION

San Lorenzo Park

The homeless encampment at the benchlands was closed on March 1st through a multi-departmental effort. Parks staff has been prepping the benchlands for the upcoming event season. Among other treatments, minor rough grading removed tripping hazards and corrected drainages which had been cut into the ground by campers. The area was seeded with a tall fescue blend and a top soil amendment was applied to promote germination. A straw blower was then used to apply a layer of straw to protect the grass seedlings, prevent erosion, and maintain a walkable surface.



Harvey West Park

Harvey West Park now has a camp host! Park Host Roger Burt comes to us after a six month stay in Half Moon Bay with State Parks. He has served in the same position in other State Parks as well as with the Bureau of Land Management.

Roger will be at Harvey West Park to promote park rules and regulations, contact the Rangers or Police Department when laws are broken, respond to visitor inquiries when on duty, and help with light maintenance tasks.



Civic

The Civic Auditorium is excited to be a part of the Santa Cruz Music Festival for the first time this Saturday and Sunday, March 10 & 11! We expect 1000+ patrons each day enjoying music and fun at the Civic. SCMF takes over Pacific Avenue and the downtown area for an experience fun for the whole family. Celebrating its fifth anniversary, SCMF is the premiere Bay Area music festival featuring musicians and artists--along with societal movers and shakers--from Santa Cruz and beyond. For more information about the events and to buy tickets:

santacruzmusicfestival.com



Louden Nelson Community Center

Friday, March 9 at 7pm –SC Parks & Recreation Youth Theater: *My Fair Lady*.
 OPENING NIGHT! The story concerns Eliza Doolittle, a cockney flower girl who takes speech lessons from professor Henry Higgins, a phoneticist, so that she may pass as a true lady.



Sister Cities

The twelve Santa Cruz Daisies Troops devoted a lot of time and effort to create special gifts for our youth delegates to take with them on their trip to our friends in Shingu. I'll bet a few of these Daises will be future delegates!



Harvey West Pool

Santa Cruz Swimming took the plunge this week at the pool. They are renting the large pool for the next two months. So great to have the large pool up and operating earlier this year this year and to see possible future Olympians working out in the pool! Jim Booth Swim School also began with Lifeguarding and Water Safety Instruction classes this weekend and then lessons in the instructional pool beginning next week.

Special Events and Classes



Parks and Recreation is gearing up for a fantastic summer. The much anticipated summer activity guide is now posted on the [Parks and Recreation website](#). Parents can begin planning and be ready for [“Super Saturday” Summer Online Registration](#) on **Saturday, April 14th**. Activity Guides will be mailed out to city residents the week of March 19th.

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets

Crews work has included paving the Municipal Wharf, assisting with the backfilling of utility trenches, and removing dirt at DeLaveaga Golf Course.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Annual cogeneration Engine 1 maintenance is in progress to ensure that the engine is in top shape as we enter PG&E's peak power season. We rely heavily on this engine to offset our imported power. Our master mechanic is also fabricating stainless parts for the upgrade of Primary Sedimentation Basin 5— the last tank to have its internal mechanisms replaced with in-house fabricated stainless steel parts.



We helped arrange the installation of a transducer on the Railroad Trestle Bridge. The new device will permit measurements of river level and tidal surge needed as part of the City's flood control work by sending an ultrasonic signal that bounces off the water and back.



Waste Reduction

Waste Reduction staff conducted a recycle tour with the Santa Cruz Police Department's PRIDE program for middle school students and UCSC interns. After the tour, students were asked one thing that they could change to improve waste reduction. Their answer was that they would stop putting cartons in the recycle bin because they learned that cartons are not accepted in our recycle program.

Green Business

The green business program re-certified Synergy in their new west side location. The business has gone above and beyond in their sustainability practices including a garment recycling program. We have a new green construction company in town: Board Construction Inc. achieved Green Business certification this week.

Transportation Engineering/Community Relations

The construction schedule for the [River/Front Parking Garage Restoration Project](#) has been extended through April due to the wet weather.



Our first Street Smarts assembly titled Preventing Distractions on the Road and In the Car was presented to students at Westlake Elementary School. The kids enthusiastically joined in on traffic safety songs and chants. The assembly was crafted and performed by musician Peter Appel and students who participated in our Street Smarts Club Live after school program managed by our partner Santa Cruz County Friday Night Live. Assemblies will be delivered at all other SCCS elementary schools over the next month. [More information.](#)



This week's [Street Smarts message](#) "Put the Phone Down" was one of the traffic safety messages in the Westlake assembly. Our [English](#) and [Spanish](#) videos of this message can be viewed on YouTube.