

City Manager's Weekly Update

May 4, 2018

PARKS AND RECREATION

Civic

Saturday, May 5 - Santa Cruz Symphony's *Resurrection*: An expected 1,000 patrons will attend the Symphony at the Civic Auditorium this weekend. Regarded by many as the greatest of all symphonic/choral masterpieces, the season concludes with Mahler's awe-inspiring second symphony, a work that established his lifelong view of the beauty of the afterlife and resurrection. This concert continues the Santa Cruz Symphony's long-standing tradition of featuring vocal stars from the Metropolitan Opera, as well as the Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus led by Cheryl Anderson. [Tickets available at SantaCruzTickets.com](http://SantaCruzTickets.com)



Pacific Avenue

Parks staff performed trimmed trees and cut weeds along the wall to improve the appearance of the corridor for residents and beach goers.



Louden Nelson Community Center

The Teen Center held their Annual Job Fair on Wednesday, April 25 at the Louden Nelson Community Center. In addition to the 4 positions being offered by the City of Santa Cruz, there were 7 employers present and paper applications from 15 different local businesses. Teen Center staff was also available for mock interviews and to assist potential employees with creations of their resumes. This was the first year that teen advocates from local schools and agencies showed up to find jobs and resources for the youth that they work with. Overall about 125 people attended the Job Fair this year.



POLICE

SCPD April Highlights In Review

This week, Chief Mills and his wife Cathy hosted a reception for local photo artist, Allison Garcia's exhibition - Black Lives in Santa Cruz: What Matters.

"The artistic expressions reflect a deep impression of the reality of racism in our culture. Allison's photographs and interviews capture true emotions translated through her art in both expressive and realistic ways" said Chief Mills. "Both Cathy and I believe that art can help us as a society to find common ground, to create dialogue, and to understand each other in meaningful ways." The exhibition is available for viewing in the SCPD Community Room through the month of May.



Sign up Now for Teen Public Safety Academy 2018

The summer session: July 16-20 is limited to 20 participants. 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. [Click for application and additional details.](#) Contact Officer Leo Gomez (831) 420-5952 or lgomez@cityofsantacruz.com



This month SCPD welcomed new Officer Joshua Garcia and Officer Sergio Alvarez. Chief Mills presided over the swearing-in of Officer Joshua Garcia and Officer Sergio Alvarez after their police academy graduation. SCPD Sergeant Bush, Officer Rodriguez and the families of both new officers were proud to represent at the ceremony. SCPD congratulates each officer as they embark on their new career. Please join us in giving them a huge SCPD welcome!

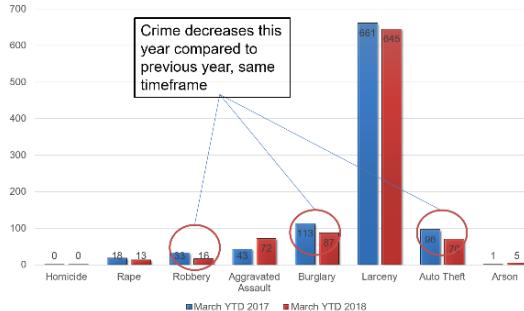
SCPD collaboration to bring about the MLK March for the City of Santa Cruz takes home top award from NAACP. Joyce Blaschke, SCPD Community Relations Specialist was awarded, the Community Leadership Award for her steady professionalism, collaboration, organization and mobilization of the successful MLK March in Santa Cruz. Joyce commented "This award is affirmation that we're leading the way among cities across the nation in how we engage with the community."



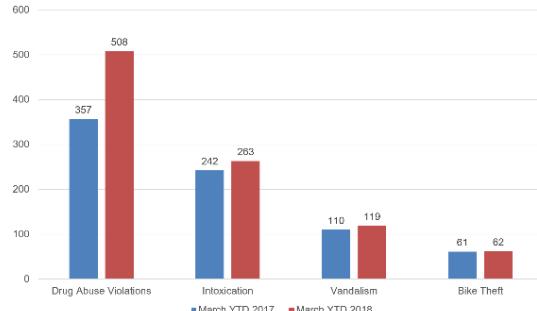
In April, the City of Santa Cruz launched the [#StartByBelieving](#) campaign. SCPD is a proud partner with the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women in the Start By Believing awareness campaign. It is designed to create a positive community response; informing the public, uniting allies and supporters, and improve responses to sexual violence. Our goal is to pave the way for survivors to achieve justice and healing, so the decision to come forward and seek help is a safe one. - Start by Believing- Survivors often find it difficult to tell someone or talk about it for because of— fear, shame, doubt. It is critical that the first person a survivor confides in after an assault; know to start by believing when someone confides in them.

Public Safety Subcommittee April SCPD Activity Report
 SCPD is a busy department. Officers are doing an outstanding job.

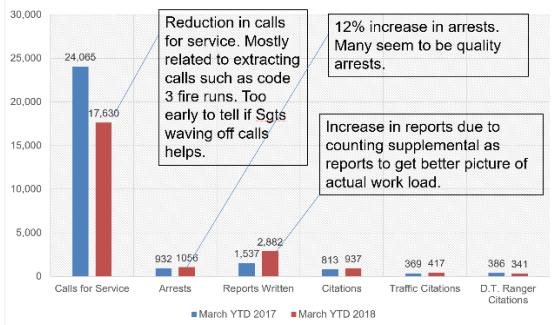
Part 1 Crimes



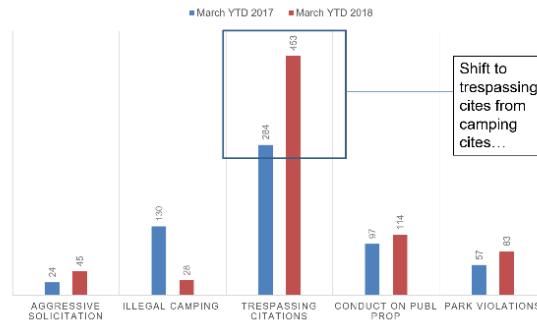
Nuisance Crime Reports Taken



Work Volume



Nuisance Crime Citations



Put your phone down. Just drive! Throughout April, SCPD promoted Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Thousands die every year from distracted driving. From cell phones to dashboard infotainment systems to evolving voice command features, all pose a threat to our safety. Just one second of your attention is all it takes to change a life forever. SCPD Tip: Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle until you arrive at your final destination.





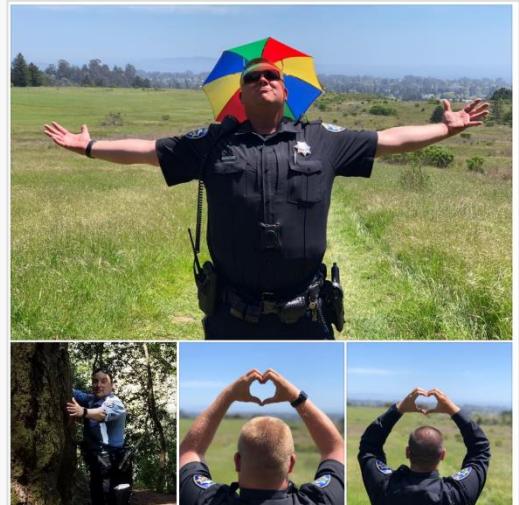
GET YOUR Santa Cruz Police PINK PATCH! Help support breast cancer education, early detection, and treatment - with 100% of the proceeds benefiting WomenCARE. Patches are \$10 each. SCPD PINK Patches are available for purchase during business hours at the Santa Cruz Police station on 155 Center Street. SCPD Lobby is open Monday - Thursday 9 am - 4 pm. We have limited stock so get yours today and support a great cause!

Cops Are Cool.

Officers Protect and Serve the Planet too! Happy [Earth Day](#) 2018! Let's work together to respect and protect our planet. We are all so lucky to call this place home.



SCPD LT. Escalante serves up an A+ Fastball! You still got it Bernie. In April, the San Jose Giants honored Hometown Heroes on First Responders Night. And a big thanks to the San Jose Giants and Alliance_CU for sponsoring the event.



Cops Care Photo Of The Month - We are all so happy that Apple is back in the loving arms of her owner. ❤️❤️□👉😊👉 Sgt. Bush with Apple & her devoted Dad.



PLANNING

Lanai Lodge

Last June, the City Council, on appeal, approved an application for Commercial Demolition, Coastal, Design and Special Use Permits to demolish an existing 20-room hotel and replace it with a 60-room hotel located at 550 Second (corner of Front and Second Streets). The project includes a three story building above basement parking, replacing a two-story structure constructed in the early 1960's. This week, the owners filed an application for a building permit. At the time the project was approved by City Council an operator wasn't firmly in place. The construction drawings indicate that the hotel will be a *La Quinta Inn and Suites*. Construction is expected to begin in the fall.



Casablanca Inn

This week, the Zoning Administrator approved an application for an addition and remodel to a portion of the *Casablanca Inn* located at 189 Beach Street. The project includes construction of six hotel rooms as part of a new third story on the building adjacent to Main Street, as well as the conversion of the six street level garages into six guest rooms for a total of 12 new rooms. Conversion of the garages allows the curb cut on Main Street to be eliminated and replaced with eight additional metered parking spaces for beach area visitors. Additionally, the entire structure will be remodeled into a more Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style, consistent with the Beach and South of Laurel Design Guidelines. Although the property includes two structures on the City's Historic Building Survey, construction is not proposed on either of those buildings. Prior to Zoning Administrator approval, the Historic Preservation Commission approved a Historic Alteration Permit confirming that the design, materials and location of the new construction will not impact the historic buildings. Ryan Bane is the Planner working on the project.



501 Cedar Street

This week, the Zoning Administrator also approved an Administrative Use Permit, Design Permit, and a Sign Permit to convert the existing two-story commercial office building at 501 Cedar Street to a mixed-use building. The new building will include two, two-bedroom apartments above a ground-floor restaurant with alcohol service and outdoor seating. The

proposed remodel includes exterior improvements on all elevations to modernize the design of the building, and improvements at the commercial frontage to create outdoor dining space along Cedar Street. The proposal also includes 769 square feet of additional floor area on the first floor to create storage areas, office space, a trash enclosure, and additional dining area at the rear of the building. The project site is located within the Downtown Parking District and the proposed site plan required the removal of four of the eight existing on-site parking spaces at the rear of the parcel. The Downtown Commission (DTC) heard the proposal on November 30, 2017 and weighed the benefits of the proposed use against the impacts of a drawdown on the downtown parking supply. The DTC was supportive of the new use and determined that there is adequate supply in the district to cover the reduction of parking spaces. Samantha Haschert is the planner working on the application.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

Thanks to \$1,175,000 in SB 1 or “gas tax” funds, we will soon be moving ahead with two storm drain projects that will reduce flooding and improve road safety. Estimated project dates for both are September through November 2018. Each has a project life of 30-50 years. The SB 1 funds will also partially fund two pavement rehabilitation projects. Read all the details [here](#).



SB 1 funded this Taylor Street storm drain improvement project completed earlier this year.

Engineering staff received the 95% plans and specifications for the Highway 1/9 Intersection improvement project for review by Public Works and Caltrans. Appraisals for the right-of-way acquisition will be completed this month.

Engineering and Traffic Engineering have completed review of the IS/MND for the San Lorenzo River Parkway Phase III (Trestle path widening) project and anticipates its 30-day public review starting this month.

Traffic Engineering/ Community Relations

We look forward to the soft launch of our [Bike Share](#) program on Thursday, May 10, Bike To Work Day. Fifty of our new community bikes will then be available for rental and Mayor David Terrazas will lead a group Bike Share ride from Verve Coffee Roasters on Pacific Avenue to Mission Hill Middle School and back to City Hall. Cyclists include Santa Cruz Vice Mayor Martine Watkins, Santa Cruz City Manager Martín Bernal, Santa Cruz County Deputy Superintendent of Schools Faris Sabbah, Santa Cruz City Schools Board Member Deb Tracy-Proulx, Police Chief Andy Mills and Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Casey Beyer.

Be sure to save the date! of our official Bike Share ribbon-cutting: Tuesday, May 22, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Bike Share station on the northwest corner of Center and Church streets, in front of City Hall.

Read all the [details](#).



Street Smarts urges both cyclists and drivers to "exercise caution" during Bike Week which begins Friday, May 4th. Our weekly tip short [video](#) addresses cyclists. Our video with tips for drivers can be found [here](#).



Wastewater Treatment Facility

We are excited about our Follow the Flush 5K Walk on Saturday, May 5. This free family-friendly walk follows the approximate path of Santa Cruz wastewater through natural and urban landscape with art installations and performances, interactive water displays, games and activities. The walk begins at UC Santa Cruz where participants can start anytime from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The walk concludes at our Wastewater Treatment Facility where free tours are offered at 11 a.m., noon, 1 and 2 p.m. You are welcome to tour the plant whether or not you participate in the walk. Read more in the [Sentinel article](#) and be sure to [register](#) as spots are almost full!



WATER

Water restrictions began this week (May 1) and we had good media coverage about the Stage 1 Water Shortage Alert. We met directly or communicated with several agencies, departments, and large customers, including parks, fire, schools, UCSC, the boardwalk, large irrigation accounts and others, to be sure folks know what restrictions are in place. We also sent a direct mailing to all restaurants in our service area. The month of May is all about getting the word out.

Good news this week is the clarity of the water in Loch Lomond! The lake is looking good. Twenty-foot visibility was observed this week by Water Quality staff. That's excellent news as we head into warmer weather; hopefully it's a good sign that algae will stay at bay for a while.

Speaking of Loch Lomond, the Water Department will be hosting The Big Dam Deal event in the park on Saturday, June 23rd. We are at 50% design on the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet project and the open house type event will provide an opportunity for us to share information about that project with the public, as well as to share information about the variety of other programs occurring in the watershed. We'll be teaming up with other organizations, including Cal Fire and several fish-related groups. We'll also be able to share the new Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Newell Creek Dam and the accompanying inundation maps with the public.

The Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet project is expected to cost \$50M ~ and take at least two years, so it really is a big dam deal!



This week we updated our short term agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for flow releases over the coming year for anadromous fish species. With agreed upon fish flow releases taking up a lot of the flows in the San Lorenzo River this summer, most customer demand will be met with from Loch Lomond. The difference between anticipated water use from the Loch this year and last year is the amount of precipitation we had during the winter of 2016-2017 (i.e., REALLY A LOT!!!) and the winter of 2017-2018 (i.e., not so much). Very wet winters mean higher flows in rivers throughout the summer, providing enough water for both water supply and fish.