

# City Manager's Weekly Update

September 7, 2018

## LIBRARY

### SCPL Programs Resume

Regular programs such as Storytimes, most Craft Times, and some Tales to Tails are back the week of September 10th at all SCPL branches. Check out our [Calendar of Events](#)!

### Reminder: Children's and Teen's Books & Media Go Fine-Free

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) is celebrating 150 years of library service by giving the gift of reading to every child and teen in the county. **Starting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 all children's and teen's books and media will become fine-free.**

One way to improve children's access to library materials is to remove the burden of overdue fees. Library Director Susan Nemitz says, "We weighed what was more important to our mission, collecting these fees or improving access for children. As we reflect on the important changes in library services over the last 150 years, we felt that this was an appropriate change for a 21<sup>st</sup> century library."

The fine-free status only applies to children's and teen's materials – not accounts. Adult materials will continue to generate overdue fees even if checked out on a child's card. Individuals will continue to be responsible for damaged and lost items -- children's, teen's and adult. After a one-time amnesty removal of account charges relating to children's and teen's materials that will occur on September 9<sup>th</sup>, everyone should be starting with a clean slate. Children's and teen's materials go fine-free on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

If overdue fees have prevented your child from getting a card or reading more books, now is the time to visit your library. **Apply for your free card today and stop by any branch on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> to make your own sesquicentennial party hat!**

Check out the PSA for this celebration here: <https://youtu.be/tsprWfuSe30>

### Digital Skills Workshops

Join our hands-on introduction to digital skills for adults and seniors! You can safely use the Internet for learning and engaging the world when you know the basics. Each week we explore



different topics: Internet Browsers, Search Engines, Email, Google Apps, and Databases. Always free... Just drop in!

**Wednesday's starting Sept. 5th • 4:30-5:30pm • Downtown Library • 224 Church St.**

### **Free Financial Literacy Classes at County Libraries**

*Building Financial Literacy is Critical to Healthy Communities*

The Santa Cruz Public Library System (SCPL) will offer free financial literacy classes at the Downtown Santa Cruz and Boulder Creek Branch Libraries. These programs were made possible through partnerships with three community experts, and classes cover a variety of topics to help people take charge of their financial lives.

At the Santa Cruz Downtown Library, Money Mondays is led by Financial Literacy Coach Lisa Bennet. It will be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 4 – 5:15 p.m. starting September 24<sup>th</sup> and running through March 2019 with a break in December. Topics will include: uncovering your money archetype, creating a spending plan, credit and your credit score, insurance, stock market basics, and funding college.



Also at the Downtown Library, Financial Fridays run the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month 1 – 2 p.m. September 14<sup>th</sup> through March 2019 with a break in December. Led by Jennipher Lommen, a Certified Financial Planner, this series begins with retirement planning and covers Medicare and long term care in October and November, respectively.

Finally, another Financial Friday's series will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, this one at the Boulder Creek Library. This series is led by Aaron Brandt, Financial Advisor, and takes place at 10:30 a.m. The series kicks off September 14<sup>th</sup> with the foundations of investing, then covers retirement by design in October, preparing for the unexpected in November, and estate planning in December.

According to Library Director Susan Nemitz, "Financial literacy is a critical skill that isn't always taught in school or at home. Yet the ability to make financially responsible decisions is an important part of everyday life. Making sure people have these skills can help improve outcomes for our entire community." The library is offering no-cost learning opportunities to bridge the gap in knowledge.

## POLICE

### SCPD Implements Proactive Plan To Prevent Targeted Violence



After working with federal authorities on threat strategies, Chief Mills decided to take a proactive approach to identify potential threats. Now, SCPD implements a new plan and training to identify potential mass shooters before they attack, and take action to minimize potential harm. **Great job Officer Burruel, excellent presentation!**

[KION](#) and [KSBW](#) each aired news stories highlighting the Santa Cruz Police Department's proactive approach in threat assessment training to prevent mass shooters or mass casualty events.

Over the last six months, SCPD Officer Burruel researched and developed with Chief Mills a strategy to identify potential mass-shooter and casualty threats. This week they presented training outlining strategic indicators officers can use to prevent the escalation of a massive violent event.

Officer Burruel advocated for and presented the training at SCPD in response to the series of mass shooting tragedies across the country.



### Talk To Your Kids to Keep Them Safe

Santa Cruz City Schools shares information with parents from [SCPD Facebook post](#) in response to an annoying child incident where a student was followed home from school. SCPD Officer Linman responded to a report of a child luring incident that occurred in the area of Bay Street and King Street. A 14-year-old female juvenile noticed a suspicious vehicle was following as she was walking home from Santa Cruz High School. The suspect in the car followed the teenage girl and on two occasions told her to get in his car.



SCPD published a Be on the Lookout notice, including these following safety tips. Supportive partners with SCPD, SCCS emailed the following to all school district families. There's nothing more important than our children's safety.

**TALK TO YOUR KIDS Tonight!** Remind them never to get near or into a car with anyone they don't know. Start the conversation with these **"What if" scenarios and safety tips.**

### **Play "What if" scenarios**

Role-playing "what if" scenarios can be a valuable educational tool. Discuss these "What-If" scenarios to be sure your child knows what to do in an emergency.

1. What if you're walking home from school and someone in a car stops to ask you for directions. What do you do?
2. What if it's raining and a parent of a student in your class offers to drive you home. What do you do?
3. What if you're walking back from school and a neighbor invites you to his home to see his new puppy. What do you do?
4. What if you're at the mall and an older adult asks for your help to choose a gift for her grandson. What do you do?
5. What if your best friend asks you if you would accompany him or her to meet a very cool friend met online. What do you do?

### **Keep a safe distance**

Parents, make sure children understand that they do not have to engage in conversation with adults that approach them. Children should always keep a safe distance between themselves and someone they don't know or who makes them feel uncomfortable. If someone ever grabs a child or tries to force them into a vehicle, parents should teach children to shout: "This is not my father/mother! I need help!"

### **Know where to go for help**

Parents are advised to teach children to always stay on the designated route when walking to

and from school. They should also help children to identify safe havens along the way, like neighbors, offices, fast food outlets, telephones where he/she can call 911, where they can seek refuge if they ever need help.

### **Safety in numbers**

A child accompanied by a friend is less likely to be approached by an individual with questionable intentions. Parents, get to know your children's friends, their parents and other adults who spend time with your children.



Source: Missing Children's Network

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### Civic Auditorium



Saturday, September 8: Santa Cruz Indivisible General Meeting: at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, SCI will be having a general meeting from 10-11:30am, followed by a day of Blue Wave volunteer recruitment from 1-5pm, where you will be able to take short training sessions about canvassing, phone and text banking, GOTV, and writing postcards to voters.

### Parks Projects

Public access of Moore Creek has always been limited due of the sensitive nature of the native plant and animal species found in the Preserve. It is hoped that these new signs will help further protect these natural resources.



## PLANNING

### **Planning Department Community Outreach Policy Adopted by City Council**

On August 28, 2018 City Council adopted a new *Planning Department Community Outreach Policy*. Development of such a policy was one of the recommended actions outlined in the Housing Blueprint Subcommittee report to Council on June 12, 2018. The intent of the Policy is to provide the community opportunities to have meaningful input early in the development process, creating better project and policy outcomes.

The Policy encourages early community notification of new project or policy proposals, including sign postings on project site during different project phases and broader noticing for community meetings. Under the new Policy, community meetings are required for larger projects earlier in the planning process, and community meetings are also encouraged for small and medium projects. In addition, a list of recently filed applications will be updated monthly on the Planning Department website, and expanded information will be provided for significant projects. Notifications regarding community meetings will be posted on the City's website and sent via U.S. Mail to owners and residents within a specific radius. Email notices would also be sent to anyone who signs up to receive notices regarding community meetings.

For more information on the newly adopted policy, please contact Katherine Donovan, Senior Planner at [kdonovan@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:kdonovan@cityofsantacruz.com)

## WATER

While this may look like “sleeping on the job,” below is a photo of Water Resources staff conducting snorkel surveys on salmonid (steelhead and coho) size, population abundances, and available habitat. Protecting the watershed is often an overlooked responsibility of the Water Department, yet it’s one of the most critical things that we do. In protecting the watershed we’re protecting the community’s critical water sources. Can you imagine what a wildfire could do to the reservoir?



In addition to protecting our sources of water, we’re also responsible for protecting the species that share our resources – and there are lots more species than just coho and steelhead salmonids living in the watershed. Also from Water Resources this week, our watershed education season began this week and word on the street is that our staff did a great job of getting the 150 or so 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Westlake Elementary excited about enhancing their understanding of watershed functions this year. Our education programs combine both in-class and field-trip learning, but it’s no surprise that the field trips are always the favorite part! The community of Santa Cruz is passionate about protecting its environmental resources, so we take all of our stewardship work very seriously.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Engineering

The Storm/Sewer division is replacing the concrete storm drain channel adjacent to Ocean Street (at Plymouth Street) that was damaged during the storms of January 2017. This FEMA funded project will include a new channel design that includes a debris rack as well as an overflow channel to handle future heavy debris flows



### Resource Recovery - Operations/Engineering

The Cell 3B Access Road Project started this week. Granite Rock was on site setting up survey points and will mobilize for clearing and grubbing this Friday.

RRF Staff is working on turning the West Canyon benches into vegetated swales to slow down stormwater flow and increase sediment drop-out in an effort to lower the site's stormwater runoff TSS. Photo below shows benches graded at 5%.



Recycling Staff are stock piling materials this week while contractors are re-lining the baler. Approximately every three to four years the baler needs to be re-lined with new steel panels due to the abrasive nature of the recycling materials degrading the floor and side panels of the

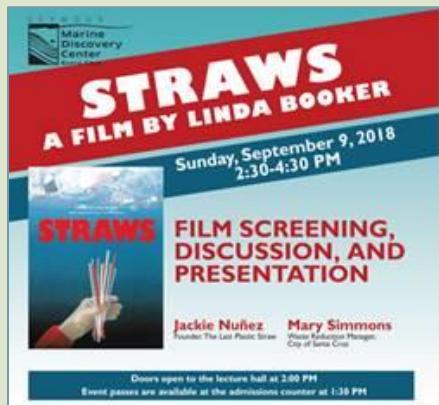
chambers. The work will continue through the weekend and is expected to be wrapped up Sunday. The baling crew will be working overtime next week to catch up on the backlog of materials.

Recycling Processing confirmed a booking for 20 loads of mixed paper for shipment starting next week (approximately 840,000 pounds). This booking should alleviate the backlog of mixed paper and allow staff to take back the recycling yard

### **Resource Recovery - Waste Reduction**

Waste Reduction staff welcomes a new Waste Reduction Assistant, to our team this week. She will take over the duties as the commercial and business outreach specialist.

Waste Reduction staff will be participating in a special film screening of 'STRAWS' this Sunday afternoon, September 9th, at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. Staff will be tabling before the film 1:30 to 2:30 pm with a reuse activity and reusable straw give-away. Following the film screening, staff presents a program about straws and other single-use plastics and shares how local ordinances and outreach efforts are addressing the problems associated with disposable plastics.



### **Resource Recovery - Green Business**

The Green Business Program welcomes a new UCSC intern to the City's program through a grant from PG&E. He starts his position with intensive 3-day energy audit training at the PG&E Energy Center in San Francisco.

The newest Certified Green Business in the City of Santa Cruz is the office of Chiorini, Hunt & Jacobs.

### **Resource Recovery - Collections**

The Solid Waste workers and supervisors have been dealing with the increase of increasingly aggressive people, sleeping in dumpsters this last month. We will be distributing our (Don't

Sleep in Dumpsters Flyers) and do some outreach with the businesses to encourage them to lock there containers.



### **Administration**

Staff submitted a \$2.2 million grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board's Streamflow Enhancement Program for the permanent water level control structure at the San Lorenzo River Lagoon.

### **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Currently it's all hands on deck for refurbishing the out-of-service Solids Contact Tank #2, getting it ready to place into service. These tanks provide both total organic carbon removal and flocculation of the sloughed off solids from the Trickling Filters, which allows for better solids settling in the next treatment process. Both Operators and Mechanics have entered this tank, utilizing confined space procedures, to replace worn out equipment and verify all the parts are in good working order.

