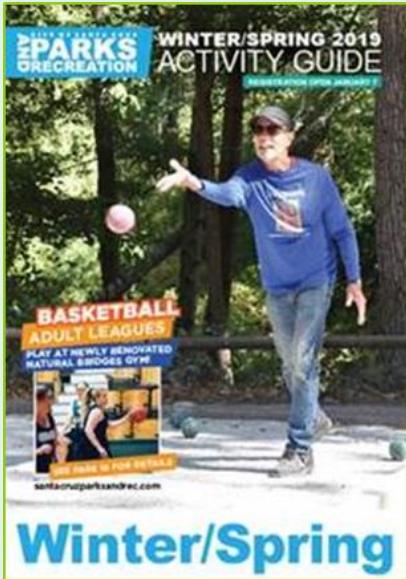


City Manager's Weekly Update

December 14, 2018

PARKS AND RECREATION



The Parks and Recreation winter-spring activity guide is now posted online at www.santacruzparksandrec.com. Activity guides will be mailed the week of Dec 17th. The winter-spring season is packed full of activities and events including 24 new class offerings. The activity guide cover highlights our spring bocce league now in its second season at Delaveaga Park. We are also happy to announce the return of our men's and women's basketball league to the newly renovated Natural Bridges Gym.

Winter-spring registration opens online, by phone and in person on January 7. Friends of Parks and Recreation (FOPAR) offers scholarships to City of Santa Cruz residents. Scholarship applications and information can be found at www.cityofsantacruz.com/scholarships. Scholarship deadline is Jan 4 at 5:00 pm.

Louden Nelson Community Center

Parks and Recreation and Stellaria Entertainment & Production present *Creatures* 6:30pm. This original aerial musical is about a child in the early 1990's who gets lost under the couch looking for her hat. She stumbles upon a world of dust bunnies and sock puppets, but will she make it out and back to reality before it's too late?



Civic

Thursday , December 13: Annual Employee Holiday Luncheon. Doors opening at 11am at the Civic Auditorium. Expect to enjoy our wharf grill team's famous BBQ – tri-tip and turkey—along with tasty sides, vegetarian dishes, and delicious desserts. We will have donation barrels for Second Harvest and Toys for Tots- bring a donation item(s) for an extra raffle ticket! Fun will abound with live music, Santa and his personal photographer, and raffle prizes. It is sure to be a fabulous time!



Sycamore Grove Cleanup

The City's Parks and Recreation and Water Department Rangers held a second Sycamore Grove volunteer river clean-up event on December 8th. The volunteer group of six adults and one child removed nearly two tons of refuse near the river and in one case right in the river. It was a beautiful winter day with plenty of sunshine and active wildlife. Having worked very hard collecting rain soaked refuse, everyone was tired by the end of the event, but satisfied with the results. Another successful clean-up of one of the City's valuable resources in the books, brought to you by another valuable resource in the City, our volunteers. Great job volunteers! Thank you!



Bluebird Boxes at Arana Gulch

Parks staff installed four Western bluebird boxes at Arana Gulch. Birders often visit Arana Gulch to view these birds and staff hopes that the boxes will be a pleasant nesting area for them. Special thanks goes out to the Santa Cruz Bird Club for helping staff choose the boxes and identify the best locations for them.



More wildlife news

Parks and Recreation Rangers saved this little bird from being run over today at the big Highway 1 and River Street intersection. The Western Gull species was running in and out of traffic and vehicles were trying to avoid her, nearly running over her. Realizing the animal was injured and in distress, the Rangers briefly delayed traffic utilizing their code 3 lights and chased the bird to the side into the grass. With no mechanism to safely capture and not further injure the bird, the Rangers called the Native Animal Rescue and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Santa Cruz to come pick her up. With the gull seemingly content to sit in the grass, near the intersection, the Rangers had to move on to another call. They checked on her later and she was gone. A quick call to Native Animal Rescue revealed they had picked her up and is she is now safe and being treated to once again be returned to the wild. Thank you Native Animal Rescue! This is one part of the Rangers duties that is very rewarding and one in which they happily serve.



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Demolition Permit Issued for 350 Ocean St

A permit to demolish 10 structures, totaling approximately 18,000 square feet, and remove 19,200 square feet of asphalt concrete was issued Friday, December 14th. The contractor, Buccaneer Demolition Inc., is looking to get started on the work right away. The building permit application for new construction on the site has not yet been submitted. We expect to see a building permit application for the new, 100% affordable housing project to be submitted early next year.



LIBRARY

SCPL Programs Holiday Break:

Dec 15, 2018 - Jan 7, 2019

Some programs will be taking a break during the winter holidays. Check with your branch or the online calendar for ongoing programs at santacruzpl.org/calendar.

SCPL's Best Books of 2018

It's that time of year again! The time when we reflect back on all the books we read and listened to and pick the best of the best. There are plenty of "Best Of" lists out there, but this list was created by our very own library staff. Staff throughout the county offered up the cream of the crop of their 2018 favorites.

Read the list of [SCPL's Best Books of 2018!](#)

Here are a few more "Best of 2018" lists to keep you busy during the holidays:

- [NPR's Book Concierge](#) Guide to 2018's Great Reads
- [Publishers Weekly](#) Best of 2018
- [The New York Times](#) 10 best of 2018
- [The New Yorker](#) best books of 2018
- [BookBrowse](#) 2018 Top 20 Best Books



Sock Drive for Homeless Persons' Health Project

Clean, dry socks play an important role in keeping folks' feet dry and relatively healthy during the wet and cold winter months. You can help people right here in our community by donating socks for the winter.

We've partnered with the [Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons' Health Project](#) to be a collection site for socks to distribute to our community's homeless population. Just drop by the [Downtown Branch Library](#) and place your sock donation in the collection box next to the service desk. Make someone warm, dry, and cozy this year.



PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Treatment Facility

The solids dewatering treatment system is the end of the line for solids at the facility. During routine cleaning, operations noticed a tear in one of the conveyor belts that deposits these biosolids into a semi-trailer for transport to the Central Valley for use as soil amendment on nonfood crops. Mechanics replaced the worn-out belt and came across a second worn belt which they also replaced. Dewatering operations is already back in service after minimal shut down time.



Traffic Engineering/Community Relations

In partnership with the Downtown Association, we are hosting the fifth annual Parking for Hope downtown holiday parking program from Tuesday, Dec. 18, through Monday, Dec. 25. The proceeds from street meters during these eight days will be donated to Hope Services, a local nonprofit, while the usual parking rates will apply. Hope Services has helped to keep Pacific Avenue and other downtown Santa Cruz streets clean for over 20 years while providing training and support services to adults with developmental disabilities. Read [more](#).



Street Smarts reminds us of essential pedestrian precautions in this week's video: [English](#), [Spanish](#).



Resource Recovery

Recycling processed 159.30 tons of mixed recycling, 51.50 tons of cardboard and shipped out 230.08 tons of material for the week. Landfill Operations processed 958.97 tons of refuse, 300.53 tons of wood and green waste, and 295.77 tons of fill material.



Storm Water

Staff recently submitted the City's Trash Implementation Plan to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). This plan outlines and demonstrates how the City will make milestone progress towards achieving the State mandated goal of zero trash transported from the storm drain system to receiving waters (creeks, rivers and the ocean) by the year 2030. The implementation plan also includes City pilot projects (clean ups, focused outreach, etc.) for reducing trash in areas with observed higher trash levels (Harvey West, Upper Ocean and the Beach Flats). The purpose of the State mandate is to protect aquatic life, public beneficial use of waterways and reduce environmental impacts associated with trash.

Engineering

The Cedar Street Rehabilitation Project continues this week with storm drain improvements at the intersection of Cedar Street and Elm Street. We also upgraded to ADA standards the curb ramp at the southeast corner of Cedar and Cathcart. Weekday traffic impacts continue on Cedar from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The project, funded by Measure H tax dollars and a Community Development Block Grant is reconstructing Cedar Street from Church to Laurel and is expected to conclude in early 2019.



WATER

A seismic event happened in Sacramento Wednesday. Indeed, the decision by the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt standards that will force San Francisco and several big San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts to give some of their river supplies back to the environment was earth shaking. There was hope before the decision was made that a set of so-called voluntary agreements would be adopted instead of the forced regulation, but that didn't come to pass. The SWRCB decision reflects a trend in California, where the needs of the environment will not be ignored when it comes to water supply. Of course that's a broad statement and the devil is in the details as to what that actually means.

The state's decision speaks well of the City of Santa Cruz's water operations, as we are arguably a decade ahead of the controversy that's currently happening in Sacramento in that we have already voluntarily negotiated a set of flow and other requirements to support the environment. In part because of those agreements, we are currently only drawing on two sources of supply for production – Liddell Creek and Loch Lomond, a decision largely being driven by our commitment to supporting environmental resources. But this situation is not without its challenges, and I want to appreciate the efforts of our Operators who are managing our sources and treatment through this; it's not easy. But we are honored to be working for a City that has made such a commitment to balancing environmental needs.

This week we held two public meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet replacement project; one in town and another in Ben Lomond. If you're interested in tracking the project, we're posting reports and information on a dedicated webpage at <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/water/newell-creek-dam-project>

The Sycamore Grove Clean-Up last Saturday was a success. Six volunteers and three staff members cleared 1,860 pounds of trash out from the river banks. Rangers from Loch Lomond and Parks and Recreation are going out this week to clean up the one remaining encampment:



Last, the annual Christmas Bird Count is coming up at Loch Lomond this weekend. An ecological consulting group is coming out for a boat ride on Saturday to count the bird species sighted. The results will be reported to the Audubon Society.