

City Manager's Weekly Update

January 11, 2019

PARKS AND RECREATION

Wharf

Work has begun on the demolition of the Miramar. Some unexpected demolition occurred when a waterspout hit the Dolphin. The Wharf Crew assisted with emergency tarping until a more permanent repair could be completed.



Frederick Street Park

Following completion of the PG&E gas line project, hand seeding with native seed mix and top dressing of the sloped areas with new erosion control installed. The entirety of the dog park has been set to final grade, irrigation system upgrades and repairs performed. We are ready to go with hydroseeding of the dog park as soon as mother nature allows for a decent spell of dry weather.



Ocean View Park Pathway

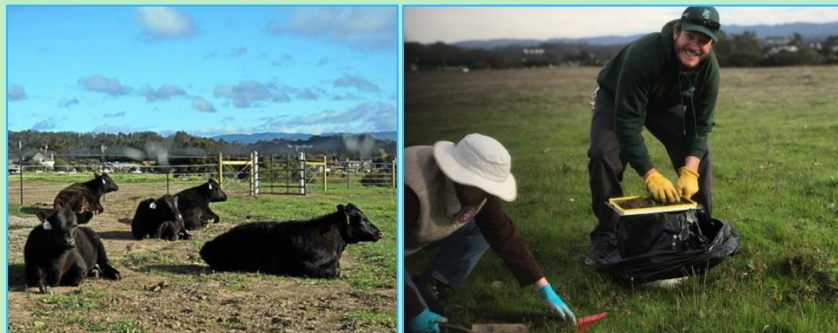
Upgrades and preventative erosion control infrastructure is being installed along the Ocean View Park Pathway. This pathway is a busy conduit for The San Lorenzo River Walk and the Seabright Neighborhood. Retaining walls going in, drainage upgrades and split rail fencing going in to create a safe path of travel.



Arana Gulch

The cows are back in Arana Gulch for the season. These grazers keep the grasses low and help create conditions for germination of Santa Cruz tarplant.

Soil samples have also been taken from Arana Gulch and will be sent to a lab to analyze the nutrient levels. The results will hopefully lead to a better understanding of the optimal nutrient levels for the tarplant. Data from onsite tarplant areas will be compared to see if there are any similarities, as well as from non-tarplant areas to see if there are any differences. Additionally, the data will be compared to soil testing performed prior to the beginning of cattle grazing as a means to monitor how cattle grazing has affected the nutrient levels of the site. The City is taking the lead on what will hopefully become a broader study. The US Fish and Wildlife Service will be working with other landholders with Santa Cruz tarplant to perform similar analyses. If there is a specific nutrient mixture which benefits the Santa Cruz tarplant, the Parks and Recreation Department can then begin to experiment with soil amendments to improve the habitat.



PLANNING

314 Jessie Street

On December 18, 2018, MidPen Housing submitted an application for Pre-application Review of a 27-unit, 3-story, 100% affordable, residential development to create supportive rental housing on two parcels located at 314 Jessie Street. The property is currently developed with a permitted, 14-unit residential building that houses referral patients from the county mental health facility. The proposal includes demolition of the existing building; however, the tenants within the existing 14 units would continue to be housed at the site within the new building.

The proposal includes 16 studios which range between 367-378 sq. ft., and 10 1-bedroom units, which range between 599 and 691 square feet. The project also includes an additional 616 sq. ft., 1-bedroom managers unit as well as residential amenity space and office space for counseling and other tenant services. The Zoning Ordinance provides three levels of multiple residence zoning: R-L (Low Density); R-M (Medium Density); and R-H (High Density). The project is site is currently zoned as R-L and the proposed density at 73 dwelling units per acre would require a rezoning of the property from R-L to R-H as well as approval of a 35-percent density bonus. The proposal also includes a request for reduced open space requirements and reduced front and side yard setbacks as concessions/incentives.

While a more thorough review will be conducted as a part of the pre-application review process, it is estimated that the project would require a recommendation of approval by the Planning Commission and approval by the City Council of a Rezoning (R-L to R-H), a General Plan Amendment (LM to H), a Residential Demolition Authorization Permit, a Lot Line Adjustment to combine the two parcels, a Coastal Permit, a Design Permit, and a Slope Variance. As the site is in the Coastal Zone, changing the underlying Zoning and General Plan designation would also require approval by the California Coastal Commission.

If you're interested in hearing more about this project, sign up to be alerted for "Community Meetings – Planning" on the City's e-notifications page at <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/how-do-i/register-or-sign-up-for/news-and-notifications>. A community meeting will be scheduled in the next month or so, after staff has an opportunity to coordinate with the Coastal Commission and following staff's review and preparation of initial comments on the application.



LIBRARY

New Monthly Series Sheds Light on Legal Life Events: *Legally Speaking*

Legally Speaking is a new series intended to answer questions about the most frequent legal issues people in our community face. These community discussions, focusing on legal and financial life events, will take place at various locations throughout the county. Legally Speaking is also intended to raise awareness about legal and professional resources available through the Santa Cruz County BAR Association, the Santa Cruz County Law Library, and the Santa Cruz County Court. These discussions will take place at various locations throughout the county.

According to Library Director Susan Nemitz, “Navigating legal and financial life events can be overwhelming. Getting a good overview and having a professional answer questions can significantly reduce this stress.” Nemitz also indicated that the series is a result of a 2018 SCPL Innovation Grant. These small internal grants “...encouraged staff at all levels to look to their own passions, and to try something new to meet the needs of the community.” The new series will serve as a pilot to help determine which additional topics and formats will benefit the community.

Thur., Jan. 24th • 6:00pm - 7:00pm • *Immigration law with Jeraline Singh Edwards, Esq*
Downtown Library • 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

Thur., Feb. 14th • 6:00 - 7:00 pm • *Estate Planning with Emily Buchbinder*
Aptos Branch Library • 7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Thur., Mar. 14th • 6:00 - 7:00 pm • *Elder Law and Abuse with Anna Penrose*
Downtown Library • 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

Thur., Apr. 11th • 6:00 - 7:00 pm • *Coastal Access with Gary Redenbacher*
Scotts Valley Library • 251 Kings Village Road, Scotts Valley

Thursday., May 9th • 6:00 - 7:00 pm • *Labor Law with Gretchen Reganhardt & Lizett Rodriguez (CRLA)* • Downtown Library • 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

Free Self- Management Program Helps Those Living With
Ongoing Health Conditions

Better Choices, Better Health is a 6 week self-management program series provided in partnership with [The Health Trust](#). Workshops are led by trained community leaders and intended for anyone dealing with the challenges of living with chronic or ongoing health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma, or high cholesterol and/or their caretakers. Participants



will learn about stress management, dealing with pain & fatigue, weight management, decision making, and more.

According to the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, chronic health conditions are the leading cause of death in the US, and are also the most preventable. [The Health Santa Cruz County 2015 Report](#) indicates that in 2015, 24% of adults over the age of 20 had high blood pressure. According to Library Director Susan Nemitz, "SCPL connects people with critical information that can transform lives. This is an excellent partnership with the potential to help many in our community live longer and healthier." Workshops are fun, interactive, and designed to enhance regular treatment and condition-specific education.

Workshops are Monday's 10:30am to 12:30pm from January 28th, 2019 through March 11th, 2019, except for Presidents Day, at the Downtown Library Upstairs Meeting Room.

Participants are requested to attend each session, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call 408-961-9877 or email wellnessprograms@healthtrust.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

Three hundred community members joined us in celebration of the groundbreaking for the first segment of the Coastal Rail Trail on Thursday at the base of the San Lorenzo River Railroad Trestle Bridge. Mayor Watkins led the City ceremony featuring our City's official golden shovels. Passionate speakers included Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Chair Ed Bottorff, Santa Cruz County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency John Laird, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County Executive Director Stephen Slade and Friends of the Rail and Trail Board Member/Bike Santa Cruz County Executive Director Janneke Strause. A special tribute was given to U.S. Congressman Sam Farr who also attended the event. The after-party hosted by Friends of the Rail and Trail included Santa Cruz Brewery's Rail Trail Ale and special cookies with Coastal Rail Trail logo. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success! [Read more.](#)



Wastewater Treatment Facility

This week our WWTF weather station recorded a total of 1.99" of rainfall and peak wind gusts of 38 mph. When it rains in Santa Cruz the treatment facility feels the impacts more than other local locations as we sit below sea-level at one of the lowest spots in the City. Operators saw the influent flow peak at 47 million gallons while the normal daily flows average 8 million gallons. This increase in flows pushed material including rocks, rags and sand in the sanitary sewer collection system to the treatment facility. Staff worked to remove approximately 20,000

lbs. of this material. Live data from the facility weather station can be found at <https://rainwise.net/weather/scwpcfwweather>



Resource Recovery

Last week our street sweepers collected 21.33 tons of debris from City streets.

Recycling processed 159.53 tons of mixed recycling, 37.32 tons of cardboard and shipped out 78.65 tons of material for the week.

Landfill Operations processed 786.01 tons of refuse, 170.01 tons of wood and green waste, and 127.12 tons of fill material for the week.

Pictured below is our new landfill compactor delivered to the Peterson facility in San Martin. A final walk through and installation of a fire suppression unit needs to be completed before final delivery to our facility on January 23rd. Training is scheduled for the afternoon of the 23rd and all day the 24th.



Waste Reduction staff just found out that the UPS stores are no longer accepting Styrofoam peanuts from the public to reuse in the package shipping operations. Speaking with the manager at the Soquel Ave. location we learned that this is a new UPS company-wide policy and not specific to the City of Santa Cruz. They have switched completely to the air pouch system (like Amazon). The decision was both from an environmental stand point and a safer way to ship things. They will still ship a customer's package if it is packed in packing peanuts, but will not use them in house. Unfortunately, that leaves residents with no option to recycle packing peanuts. We will be changing the information on our web pages to notify residents

that they should be contained in a bag and put in the trash. Block Styrofoam is still accepted at Grey Bears, but they do not accept peanuts or food packaging.

The current 2019 Refuse and Recycling newsletter was mailed to all single family households as well as duplex, triplex and 4-plex housing. The newsletter contains important information, a recycle guide and annual service tags that residents may use for bulky item pickup or extra trash or yard waste. At the same time Waste Reduction staff is reaching out to multi-family complexes with presentations to assist residents with their recycling questions. This is an important avenue from outreach to deliver current recycle guides and information to apartments complexes.



Waste Reduction's upcoming Master Recycler Volunteer Training Program will begin on Feb. 5 and run through March 19, with seven evening classes and two Saturday field trips. Students will learn about waste prevention, recycling processes, zero waste concepts, community engagement and much more. Upon completion, graduates agree to volunteer 20 hours of community service to share what they have learned from others. More information:

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/recycleright>.

**What's the difference between
Wish-cycling and Re-cycling?**

*Get The Answers -
Become a Master Recycler!*



The City of Santa Cruz is now accepting applications for the Master Recycler Volunteer Training Program. Over nine sessions from Feb. 5 to Mar. 19, 2019 participants will learn from local industry professionals and experts. Class topics include waste prevention, recycling processes, Zero Waste concepts, community engagement and much more.

Application and Information
cityofsantacruz.com/recycleright
or call 831-420-5593



Traffic Engineering/Community Relations

Our new Street Smarts message underscores the role we all play in keeping Santa Cruz roadways safe. Read the long version in English and Spanish [here](#).



Resource Recovery

Our Collections Division is seeing an increase in people rummaging through the refuse and recycling carts.

POLICE

MLK MARCH FOR THE DREAM



The Santa Cruz Police Department is partnering with the NAACP Santa Cruz to host the 2nd annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March for the Dream: Justice, Equality, and Love. Last year was a great demonstration of a united Santa Cruz. In a time of great turmoil, let this funky city show the world how to be unified toward a common goal. Join us on January 21, at 10 am at Cathcart and Pacific. More info <https://goo.gl/LBd5E1>

The theme is "March for the Dream – Justice. Equality. Love." The March is on Monday, January 21, 2019. The march begins at 10:00 a.m. in downtown Santa Cruz starting on Cathcart Street between Cedar Street and Pacific Avenue. Staging begins at 9:00 a.m. The route will march down Pacific Avenue to Church Street to the Civic Auditorium. There we will convene for speeches and family-friendly activities.

"Last year we established the MLK March in Santa Cruz as a fantastic, family-friendly, inspiring, and collaborative event," said Police Chief Andrew Mills. "This year, let's show the nation what a united community looks like."

We encourage all individuals, families, community groups, clubs, schools and congregations to march with us. Large groups who are marching together should RSVP the group name, an estimated number of people, and submit a participation form. We will follow up with group staging and line up information before the event.



Join us on January 21, 2019, to Celebrate Dr. King's Vision and 90th Birthday In the summer of 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamed of bright days of justice, when the nation would rise to fulfill its promise of equality, and love would light the darkness. With his words



and actions, Dr. King taught us that to achieve that dream. We must always walk together and continue to march ahead. Now, on the 90th anniversary of his birth, join us. March for justice. March for equality. March for love.

Sock Donation - The Association of Faith Communities accepts donations of new socks for their SPIN (Socks for People In Need) program at the staging site and at the Civic.

For event information: <https://goo.gl/LBd5E1>

SCPD Proudly Introduces Our Volunteer Team to Council



This week, Chief Mills proudly introduced the SCPD Volunteer In Policing (VIP) to the Santa Cruz City Council meeting. "Meet some of our new VIP team Members introduced to City Council. VIPs walk downtown, relieve cops of none essential tasks, educate on crime prevention and provide a visual deterrent. They are the best," said Chief Mills Santa Cruz Police could not be more pleased with each of them.

SCPD has engaged a team of trained citizen volunteers to support the department in non-enforcement duties. Our dedicated group of volunteers will help officers to provide additional services, maintain positive relationships with the public, free up officers' time for higher level duties, and maximize impact in the community.

“Each volunteer on the streets will increase both community safety and department effectiveness by adding more eyes and ears and by freeing up sworn police officers to complete other critical tasks,” said Chief Mills. Together, we can help to ensure the City of Santa Cruz remains a safe place in which to live and work.”

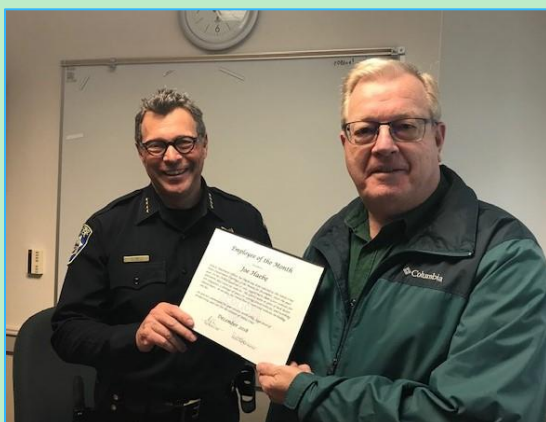


Uniformed police volunteers will be patrolling the downtown area and, neighborhoods. They observe and report crime and quality-of-life issues to the department staff. Santa Cruz Police Volunteers do not take enforcement action, carry weapons, or make arrests. Volunteer duties also include welfare checks on the elderly, conducting vacation home security checks, working at special events, enforcing parking violations, vehicle abatement and helping the department with clerical tasks.

Volunteers undergo screening and background checks, must be at least 18 years of age and be able to commit to a minimum of eight hours a month.

To become an SCPD Volunteer - email bthurman@cityofsantacruz.com or (831) 420-5989 AND for more information go to [Volunteer With SCPD](#)

Officer of the Month Awarded to Joe Haebe



SCPD [#Proud](#) to announce Vehicle Abatement Officer Haebe selected as the Employee of the Month for December. Over the past year, Joe has fielded hundreds of calls, tagged more than 2,000 vehicles for abatement, and towed 291 vehicles. His outstanding efforts were in spite of limited resources, a shortage of space for storing towed cars, including RVs and working limited hours.

"Joe, you are commended for your tireless work ethic, high level of productivity, and care for the citizens of Santa Cruz," said Chief Mills. In one day, Joe towed five (5) oversized vehicles including a "behemoth" sized bus.



Joe is our go-to guy that continuously responds to any illegal parking and/or storage of over-sized vehicles in residential and commercial areas throughout the City.

Thank you, Officer Haebe for a well-earned honor as our December 2018 SCPD Employee of the Month!