

City Manager's Weekly Update

March 29, 2019

POLICE

SCPD Explores Health Benefits of Load-Bearing Vests



Santa Cruz Police Department decided to change up the traditional duty belt and how officers carry their equipment. Some of our officers elected to try out load-bearing vests as a healthier and safer alternative to the duty belt.

"The health and well-being of our officers is our priority," said Chief Mills. Lower-back pain is a significant health issue for law enforcement personnel everywhere. The equipment that officers have to carry when in uniform can weight almost 30 pounds.

The load-bearing vests are worn over the uniform shirt and allow police officers to move much of the gear to vest and off of officer's hips and lower back.

Officer Emigh reports, "The pressures on my lower back decrease when wearing the vest, and the vest doesn't limit my range of motion."

The duty belt an essential tool of the trade as the

primary means of carrying equipment, it's good to be able to offer a new option. This gear provides relief and helps to mitigate long-term injuries by redistributing as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of the weight away from their hips and lower backs.

SCPD is committed to continuously identifying strategies to improve the overall health, well-being, and readiness of our officers.



Meet and Congratulate K9 Ryder and Officer Whaley

This week, Chief Mills swore in SCPD's newest four-legged officer. Ryder, a K9 Belgian Malinois officer, officially joined the department on March 29th. The ceremony was complete with both the oath and a badge. Ryder's addition to the department was made possible through a \$10,000 donation.

Ryder's handler Officer Ben Whaley was also awarded Officer of the Month for February 2019. Officer Whaley leads through quiet strength and in-depth knowledge of several essential functions at SCPD. Officer Whaley is an ESU operator, K-9 handler and gang expert.

Congratulations to SCPD's new dynamic duo!



PARKS AND RECREATION

San Lorenzo Riverwalk

The median crew replaced Hollywood Juniper bushes on Chestnut hill near Locust Street. These median bushes have been damaged over the years from car accidents. Billing invoices with the assistance of the City finance department have been processed to purchase replacement trees at the cost of the insured.



San Lorenzo Riverwalk

Parks staff has been busy staying ahead of the weeds this season along the Riverwalk. This week we line trimmed and cleared out debris at the Felker Street entrance.



Arana Gulch

Staff worked along the Capitola Road side of Arana Gulch this week installing new signage.



Lower DeLaveaga Park

Parks Maintenance staff worked alongside the Earth Stewards Program student volunteer group planting new California natives at Lower Delaveaga Park!



Lighthouse Community Gardens

Parks staff renovated planters at the Lighthouse Community Gardens



Special Events and Civic

On Saturday, March 23, Parks and Recreation held its 2nd annual **Summer Activity Fun Fair - at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium**. Parents learned about Parks and Recreation's summer programs prior to summer registration opening Saturday, April 13. The Civic parking lot was transformed into a "Pop Up" Park complete with tetherball, corn hole, bounce houses and food trucks. Kids and adults participated in hands on activities including "Fall In" beach drills with Junior Guard instructors. Parks and Recreation administration staff were on hand to ensure customer's accounts were up-to-date and ready to roll for "Super Saturday" registration.



Louden Nelson Community Center

Via the Adopt-A-Park program, Mike Waller, who has attended Line Dancing classes at the Loudon Nelson Center with his wife Helen for over 20 years, is providing some additional TLC to Laurel Park! Mike's projects include pruning three of our beautiful Japanese Maples, and adding some additional foliage to the planter areas around the park. Thank you Mike!



On Thursday March 21, the City of Santa Cruz Sister Cities Committee hosted a Bon Voyage Dinner for the teen delegates from Santa Cruz who will be visiting Shingu during Spring Break.



On Saturday, March 23, the Center hosted “Small Bites from Around the World”, a special spring event held for the senior community. Partnering with 10 local restaurants, participants took a journey around the world through cultural cuisine, showcasing bites from India, Greece, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka and more!



Also on Saturday, in the auditorium, the Water Department held a well-attended State of the San Lorenzo River Symposium.



Summer Activity Guide



The Summer Activity Guide full of great programs and activities for kids and adults has arrived! Guides were mailed to city residents and surrounding communities last week.

WATER

This coming Monday, the Water Commission will meet with members of the former Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC) for a comprehensive report on progress that's been made in the past three years on the WSAC's recommendations to secure our water supply. Simultaneously, our 2018 Annual Report on WSAC progress will be hitting mailboxes. Because of the deep, thorough technical dive that the WSAC took into developing their recommendations, as well as because the process was community-driven, we are committed to keeping their work alive and relevant to Santa Cruz water service area customers. We hope members of the public will join us for Monday's meeting; it will be at 7:00pm at the Police Community Room. An article on the Department's ongoing work to test aquifer storage and recovery in the Beltz wellfield ran in this week's Good Times; we hope it will encourage folks to show up for Monday's meeting.

This week we received the 75% design documents for the concrete tanks replacement project. This project will replace the three large (two 700K gallon and one 1M gallon) concrete tanks and associated pipes and pumps at the treatment plant. The proposed project will be all encompassing - akin to riding and fixing a bicycle at the same time, as the tanks and associated appurtenances will need to remain online during construction. Hence, we are going through the design documents with a fine-tooth comb to ensure the design engineers have things right.

Last weekend we co-hosted another successful State of the San Lorenzo River Symposium. The goal for the event is to ensure that public and government agencies, non-profits and the public all have an opportunity to get on the same page regarding different interests in, and aspects of the river. This year was the fifth annual event— we look forward to partnering on the sixth event next year.



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Code Compliance and Rental Inspections



The Code Compliance Division of the Planning & Community Development Department works to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our residents and visitors. Their work improves quality of life and civic pride in our community. The Code Compliance Division frequently coordinates with other divisions and departments to assist in and direct compliance measures.

The following are a few examples of substandard and/or hazardous conditions found during Code and Rental inspections

from March 13th through March 25th, 2019.

The dark smoke up the side of the house is due to a heater burning incomplete combustion and a possible gas leak; it results in carbon monoxide pollution.

Through the Community Request for Service Portal (CRSP) the Code Division responded to an active building site where the unsecured temporary fence had failed which exposed the site. The exposed work site is an attractive nuisance for homeless and children that contained materials such as nails, screws, lumber, piping, bottles and cans. The rear yard of the work site had become a dump site for surplus construction materials and trash and debris. Through a coordinated effort by the Code Compliance and Building & Safety Divisions, the site was cleaned up.



Front yard before



Front yard after



Side yard before



Side yard after



Rear yard before



Rear yard after

Our team received a report that a broken planter box was hanging over the public right of way, which was a potential falling hazard that could injure pedestrians. After contacting the property owner to inform him of the conditions of the planter box, the planter box was removed within hours.

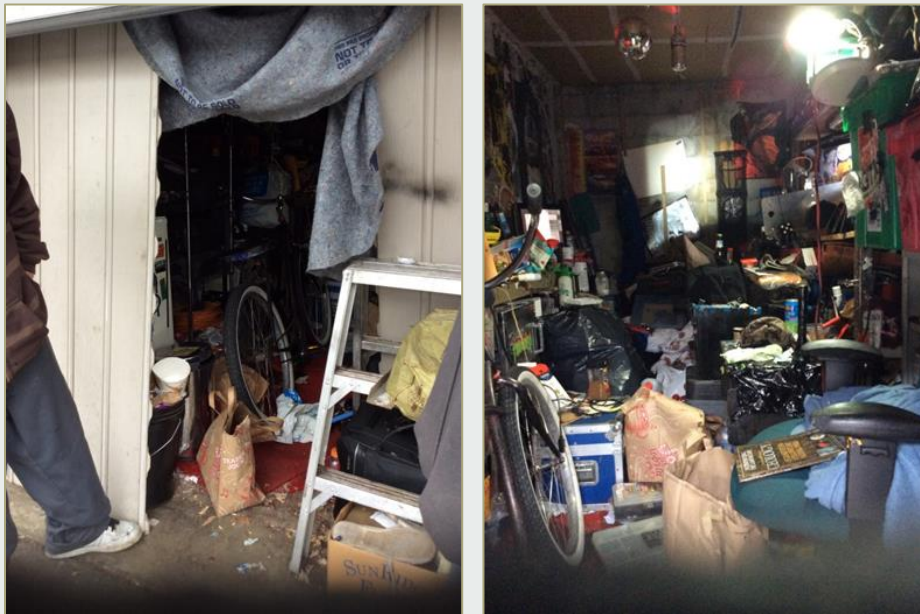


Before



After

Code received a report of people living out of a storage unit. The inspection revealed the unit was being inhabited. The electrical system had been damaged, which posed a fire hazard. Public nuisance complaints included drug use and an increase in theft and vandalism in the immediate area. Due to the fire hazard, unpermitted use and substandard living conditions, the unit was posted Unfit for Habitation and Vacate Order was placed. The elderly property owner, who was unable to get the “tenant” to leave, now had the tools to assist with the eviction.



Storage unit before



Storage unit after eviction

Here are some other examples of safety, health, and living conditions that the Code and Rental inspectors helped to improve in the past couple of weeks:



Exposed wires in this J-Box pose an electrical shock hazard



Water intrusion in this bedroom area has caused drywall in the ceiling to sag and peel

In our final news for this week, the Code Compliance Division has four proactive Community Clean-Ups each year, two in Lower Ocean and two in Beach Flats. Code organizes and coordinates the events with other City Departments like Parks and Recreation and Public Works, as well as non-profit organizations such as Grey Bears. Our division coordinates with community members to get the word out and encourage participation. The communities look forward to these events, as we provide dumpsters for tossing and recycling their unwanted items, provide direct contact with public employees who answer Code and Rental related questions, and give updates on items that may affect their neighborhood. It's always a great community-building event! See the flyers below for more information.

NOLO 2019 SPRING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP



Saturday, April 6, 2019
7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.*

***or when the bins are full**
(Rain-out date is Saturday, April 13, 2019)

CLEAN-UP DAY: This year's event is **at the dead-end of Barson and corner of San Lorenzo Blvd.** There will be one dumpster for garbage and one bin for recycling.

Sorry, no hazardous waste will be allowed in dumpsters.
(We cannot accept hazardous solids, liquids, refrigerators, vehicle batteries, tires or paint)

GOOD NEWS: Grey Bears will pick up any unwanted electrical devices. **Please do not pile trash, or recyclables on the sidewalks, or streets prior, or during the event.**

For more information about the clean-up, please call Jacob Rodriguez 831-420-5136

Co-Participants:

Neighbors of Lower Ocean (NOLO), City of Santa Cruz Planning Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Public Works- Sanitation, Grey Bears, La Plaza Market on Ocean St.



Neighbors, do you want to stay informed about our neighborhood? Our website is:
www.nolosantacruz.com for more information.

2019 Día De Limpieza en la Vecindad –Lower Ocean

NOLO
Neighbors of Lower Ocean



Sábado, 6 de Abril, 2019, 7:30 am-11:30 am*

***o cuando se llenen los botes**
(fecha si llueve es Sábado 13 de Abril)

Evento Día de Limpieza-Este año, estáremos al fin de la calle Barson donde se termina, en la esquina de San Lorenzo Blvd.
Habrá un bote grande para la basura y otro para el reciclaje.



No aceptamos desperdicios peligrosos en los basureros.
(Productos como químicos peligrosos, refrigeradores, llantas, baterías de vehículos o pintura son prohibidos)

BUENAS NOTICIAS: Aceptamos aparatos electrónicos para donar a una agencia comunitaria- Grey Bears. Por favor, no pongan basura y otras cosas en la banqueta, o en la calle antes, o durante el evento.



Para más información por favor llame a: Jacobo Rodriguez al 420-5136

Patrocinado por:
Los vecinos de Lower Ocean (NOLO), la Ciudad de Santa Cruz, Departamento de Planificación, Departamento de Parques y Recreación, Obras Públicas-Saneamiento, y Grey Bears.

Vecinos, ¿Quieres mantenerte informado de nuestra vecindad? Por el internet: www.nolosantacruz.com Por favor, vea el sitio web para más información.



LIBRARY



Genealogy Society Book Fair

Tuesday, April 2 • 10:30am - 12:00 pm

Downtown Branch Library • Californiana Room

The Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County will hold a genealogy book fair in the Genealogy & Californiana Room at the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Downtown Branch. Come find those genealogy reference books you've always wanted! The Genealogy Society will gratefully accept donations.



Citizen Science:

Exploring Pluto, Charon and the outer reaches of the solar system

Thursday, April 4 • 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Downtown Branch Library • Upstairs Meeting Room

The Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County will hold a genealogy book fair in the Genealogy & Californiana Room at the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Downtown Branch. Come find those genealogy reference books you've always wanted! The Genealogy Society will gratefully accept donations.

In 2015, the New Horizons spacecraft flew past icy Pluto and Charon and sent back the first images of these objects in the furthest outskirts of our solar system. Join **Francis Nimmo**, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UCSC for a marvelous discussion plus Q & A about what we have learned about these heavenly bodies. Professor Nimmo will review what we now know about Pluto and Charon, and how the study of these bodies has evolved. He'll also discuss the images received over the New Year from the much smaller icy object Ultima Thule.

Francis Nimmo is Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UCSC. He earned his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from St John's College, Cambridge University, UK. He has worked at the California Institute of Technology, University College London, and UCLA. He joined the faculty at UC Santa Cruz in 2005.

He has made significant contributions to the understanding of the internal structure and evolution of icy bodies of the solar system and the resulting influence on their surface processes. He was awarded the 2018 Paolo Farinella Prize from the Europlanet Society for his contributions to understanding of the internal structure and evolution of icy bodies in the solar system. Nimmo investigated the internal processes that affect plume activity at Enceladus' southern polar region, suggesting that shear heating is at the origin of the plumes and heat flux on this moon of Saturn. He has also studied other moons of giant planets, including Europa, Ganymede, Titan, Tethys, Dione, Rhea, Triton, and others.

PUBLIC WORKS

Operations

The City Hall Annex renovation continues with a new Planning counter, flooring, and conference room setup. New work spaces and desks were delivered and installed last week. Installation of new LED lighting in the remodel area continues this week. Demolition of interior walls in currently occupied space on the first floor will begin this weekend.



Facilities

Operations and Facilities are completing the final reimbursement request for a CEC Energy Loan. The original approved budget for the loan was \$1,416,238 and the total project cost is \$1,408,651. From October 2016-October 2018, energy saving projects such as lighting retrofits, heating and cooling equipment replacements and pool pump replacements were completed at various City facilities: City Hall, Fire Department, Corporation Yard, Loudon Nelson, Harvey West Pool House, Delaveaga Golf Club House and facilities, as well as, citywide streetlight retrofits.

Streets

Streets and Facilities crew assisted setting up the River Street Camp by preparing tent platforms, overseeing the delivery of storage containers, and laying 20 tons of base rock. The Streets crew also worked in the Corporation Yard garage area filling obsolete mechanic underground pits with slurry and placing rebar for concrete in-fill slabs. The crew will return next week to cover the areas with concrete.

Beach area painting and sign repairs will begin in April in preparation for the summer tourist season.

Resource Recovery

Our Green Business program certified Mynt Systems, a construction company, as a new City Green Business—Congratulations MYNT! This brings the total number of certified City businesses to 176.

Our Collections operation delivered 30 yards of clean-up beach wood to the Tannery Arts Center for a community art project.

This week 25 City residents successfully completed the Master Recycler Volunteers in Training class. From various City neighborhoods including the Upper Westside and Seabright, they will join last year's 28 graduates in helping to mitigate the largest Santa Cruz (and nationwide) recycling problem of contamination. Watch for their valuable help at Earth Day on April 20!



MYNT SYSTEMS
BUILDING PERFORMANCE



This last week Recycling operations processed 168.13 tons of mixed recycling and 50.44 tons of cardboard. We shipped out 39.08 tons of material. The landfill processed 955.58 tons of refuse, 238.47 tons of wood and green waste, and 222.79 tons of fill material.

Our contracted processor finished the monthly grinding this week. Processed redwood and clean lumber were made into wood chip for resale. Our processed green waste will be used for composting and erosion control, and our processed construction debris for landfill cover material. These numbers are about average for us this year.



Processed organic materials



Beach Driftwood for art project

Did you know that there are two basic rules for recycling plastic bags and plastic wrap here in Santa Cruz? Click our video link on the left for details.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Our electrical staff worked to troubleshoot and repair a scum (floatable solids) skimmer that had stopped working correctly. The electricians ended up re-running the equipment wiring as it had shorted. Electricians also conducted a cogeneration engine #2 breaker inspection prior to PG&E's peak power charging season. During PG&E's peak power (May 1 - Oct 31) the facility runs a second cogeneration engine daily to produce power from less expensive purchased natural gas. This lowers the facility's energy consumption costs, producing around 845,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year during peak season.



Transportation Engineering/Community Relations

This week's Street Smarts message reminds us why it is so important to brake completely at stop signs. Read the details [here](#) or click the video links below.

