

City Manager's Weekly Update

May 31, 2019

POLICE

Operation City Strides "Walk The Block"

This week, the Santa Cruz Police Department launched an open invitation for the community, neighbors and businesses to "Walk the Block" as part of Operation City Strides. This summer series program promotes "Walk the Block" patrols with the Chief of Police, Officers, and the Citizens they serve.

WHO:

YOU and any City Residents, Business Owners, Neighbors, Community Groups Along with the Chief of Police and SCPD Officers.

WHAT:

"Walk the Block" patrols with the Chief of Police, Officers, and the Citizens they serve. Community members choose areas in the city to do walking patrols with SCPD.

SHOW US WHAT YOU SEE

Identify the public safety challenges in your neighborhood

Discuss policing strategy along with crime prevention.

Reserve your "Walk The Block" date at walktheblock.youcanbook.me

WHERE:

YOU determine the location and how much ground to cover on the walking patrol anywhere in the City of Santa Cruz.

WHEN:

YOU choose available dates throughout JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2019

Sign-up online at walktheblock.youcanbook.me

WHY:

SCPD is committed to building diverse and longtime partners in public safety and working together to keep the city safe for residents, businesses, and visitors.



[BOOK YOUR WALK THE BLOCK EXPERIENCE](#)

[Additional Information](#) | jblaschke@cityofsantacruz.com | 831.420.5844

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Code Compliance and Rental Inspections

The Code Compliance Division of the Planning & Community Development Department continued its excellent work in protecting the health, safety, and quality of life for our residents and visitors this past few weeks. Here are some examples of the protections Code Compliance Division provides:

During an inspection on May 28, 2019, an attached 200 square-foot storage area with an uncapped gas line that was free flowing gas for an undetermined amount of time was found. Unable to locate the gas shutoff, the area was immediately vacated, and PG&E was called to cap the line. PG&E arrived within 15 minutes and completed the capping. The occupants of the home can continue to use the area for storage now that PG&E's work has capped the line. If left un-noticed, this situation could have had catastrophic results including personal injury, death, and wildfire due to the property's location on the western edge of the city at the wildland-urban interface.

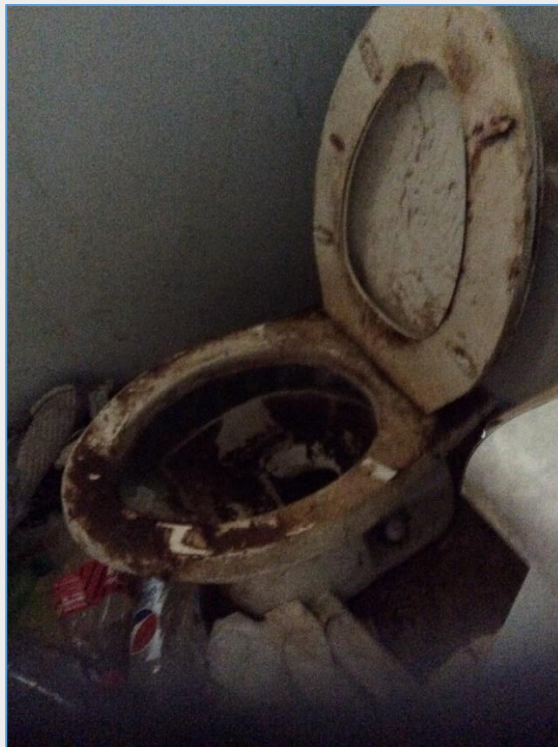


On May 24, 2019, an inspection was conducted which resulted with the property being posted as "Do not enter or occupy/Substandard Conditions." A single male owner, aged 68, had been living in the house since his parents bought it in the 60's. Little to no building maintenance had resulted in the roof collapsing in the sun room, kitchen and garage, causing penetrations through the ceilings. The home has an extreme amount of mold, and garbage is stacked up in every room. The resident did not have proper sanitation, as neither

toilet works. There are holes in the back decking, which would result in an approx. 4-foot drop if stepped on. The owner had a medical condition which rendered him unable to walk and was taking food deliveries. The living condition was reported, and the owner was assisted and taken to a rehabilitation facility. Currently, Code is working with Adult Protective Services (APS) to assist with the property owner with the property/living conditions and health concerns.



Kitchen and Sun room

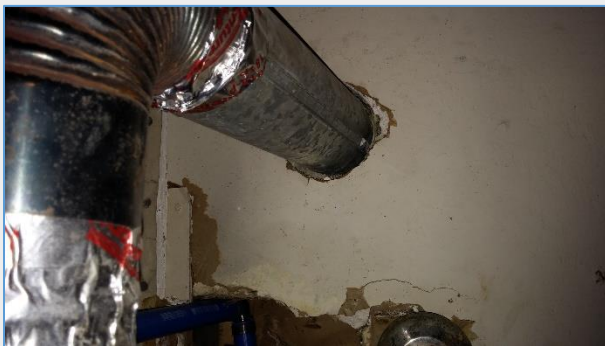


Bathroom



Bedroom has mold going up to the ceiling that should have been blue paint

In a separate inspection from our Code team on May 16, 2019, a gas leak was discovered at the water heater of a single family dwelling that was illegally converted to a triplex. The water heater had been installed without permit and was installed incorrectly. The water heater was not properly strapped, had no discharge piping, and had carbon monoxide venting into the walls and attic of two rental units in the illegal triplex. P.G.& E. was notified and they shut off the gas line at the meter. The tenants of the affected units had previously vacated and relocation was not required. An inspection of the third unit was conducted to assure the tenant was safe and the unit met the minimal habitable requirements. The inspection revealed the unit did meet the minimum habitable requirements, and a separate water heater serviced that unit. The tenant was allowed to remain while the property owner proceeds with the Unpermitted Dwelling Unit Legalization Program.



Improper venting and strapping

PARKS AND RECREATION

This Week by the Numbers

2 - # of weeks until summer classes begin!

30+ = Years celebrating the Japanese Cultural Fair. Join us Saturday June 8th in Mission Plaza.

1,200 = # of patrons at the Friends of Library book sale May 24 & 25.

2,504 = # of tickets sold during Cabrillo Festival Pre-Order period.

Highlights

Santa Cruz Symphony closed their season Saturday June 1 with A Tchaikovsky Laser light show and a pre-concert dinner street closure.



Even against gray morning skies, the City Hall campus continues to pop with spring colors. Shout out to the Parks central zone team for their work.



The Santa Cruz Lawn Bowls Club welcomes City employees to join them to learn and participate in the game of lawn bowling on the third Thursday of each month at 12:00pm at San Lorenzo Park. Santa Cruz has one of the premier lawn bowling greens in Northern California. Consider checking out this fun sport and engaging group on June 20th.



West Cliff Path

The entire Parks Division pulled together, with help from Public Works, to trim back ice plant along West Cliff Path. By the end of the day over 27,000 pounds of ice plant had been removed. This annual event keeps the path, parking lots, and road clear for the busy summer season.

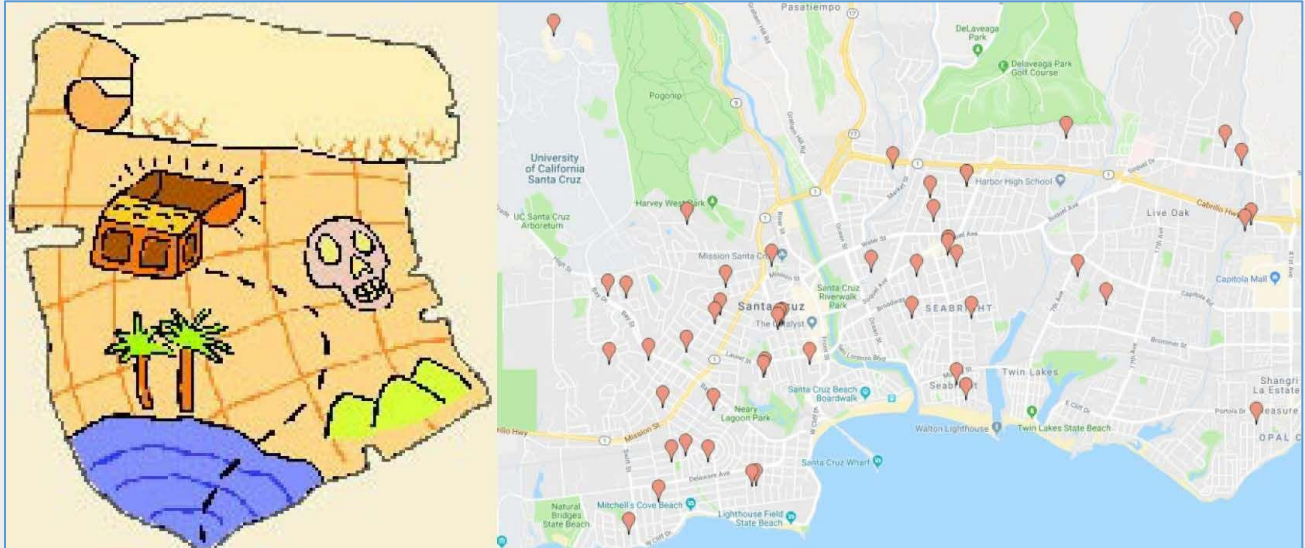




PUBLIC WORKS

Resource Recovery

June 1-2 are great days for bargain shopping with dozens of households registered in our annual Garage Sale Weekend. Best of all, you can locate items you are interested in ahead of time using our online [Garage Sale Treasure Map](#). Listed items include Bose speakers, sewing machine, climbing harness, costumes, tools, antique china, electronics, wheelchairs, camping equipment and more. The event promotes reuse, repair and resale opportunities with goal to help the environment by reducing waste.



Did you know that shredded paper is NOT accepted in our blue recycling bins? Check out our [RECYCLE RIGHT PAPER video](#) for some basic rules on recycling MIXED PAPER and PAPERBOARD in Santa Cruz.



Left: PAPER and PAPERBOARD items that are treated to be WATERPROOF can NOT be recycled.



Right: Items made of PAPERBOARD like cereal and cracker boxes, shoe boxes, Kleenex boxes and paper towel rolls ARE accepted for recycling.

Pollution Prevention

Neighborhoods along the San Lorenzo River are painting the City's first storm drain murals to increase awareness of how pollution and storm water travel along streets and sidewalks to the river and Monterey Bay. The first of three murals will be installed this Sunday, June 2, on Pryce Street by local artist Ralph D'Oliveira who has collaborated with Pryce Street residents to design and paint the mural.

Community members of all ages and abilities are invited to join in the mural installation from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 161 Pryce St. Attendees should come dressed to paint. Refreshments will be provided.

Please note that the Pryce Street painting is a DIFFERENT event from the originally scheduled Felker Street mural painting. The Felker Street mural painting has been postponed until August.

Read more on this [City/Coastal Watershed collaborative project series](#).



This is the mural design to be installed at the Pryce Street storm drain.

Streets

Crews assisted Parks & Rec in removing 27,000 pounds of ice plant on West Cliff Drive. There is a lot more to be done. P&R extended a huge thank you for the assistance.



Operations

The US Army Corps of Engineers conducted a Periodic Inspection of the San Lorenzo River Levee over a 3-day period. Typically, there is an annual inspection which is done in 1-day; this was a much more thorough inspection assessing potential flood risks. The USACE inspectors walked the entire levee system including Branciforte Creek, taking photos and notations regarding the levee, inspecting outlets, and exercising the pump stations.



Facilities

Interior walls, finishes, and carpet were installed in the remodeled area of City Hall Annex that is currently occupied by Code Compliance. The Planning lunchroom was also enclosed.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

The facility disconnected from utility power while PG&E repaired an issue with the distribution line leading into the plant. Operators, mechanics and electricians worked together to place the main cogenerating engine into stand-alone mode. This turns it into a generator feeding the facility directly rather than the usual way it connects with imported utility power. During the shutdown, electricians

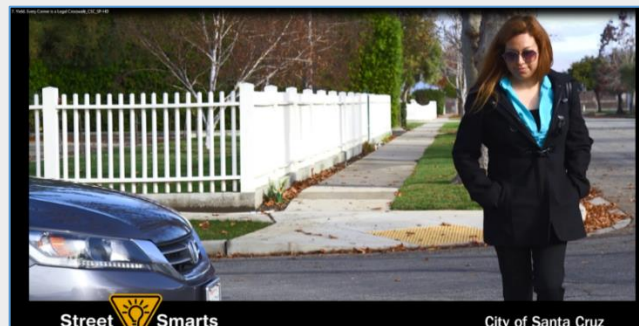
worked in conjunction with Pajaro Valley Electric to conduct inspections on all the electrical switchgears. Operations maintained facility processes and worked on numerous side-projects. This

included removing spent dewatering polymer (used as a glue/clumping agent to generate biosolids) from an old chemical tank.



Traffic Engineering/Community Relations

This week's Street Smarts video explain that even if the pedestrian is the slowest person on earth, drivers must YIELD... Click the photos to learn more in English or Spanish.



Santa Cruz was highlighted this week in a [Minnesota NPR story](#) about Duluth's new "Poop Fairy" campaign because the campaign was inspired by one of our Santa Cruz City signs!



Engineering

The 2019 Surface Seal Project started construction this week. The project will fix failing pavement areas by installing sections of 6 inches of asphalt concrete. The project, funded by Measure D and Measure H, is rehabilitating local streets with double chip-seal and micro-surfacing.



Toledo Street



Colorado Street

Our Cedar Street Rehabilitation Project replaced failing pavement with new concrete along Cedar from Elm to Laurel. The project, funded by Measure D and Measure H tax dollars and a Community Development Block Grant, is rehabilitating/reconstructing Cedar Street from Church to Laurel.



WATER

Last Friday the Water Department hosted an open house at the Civic for contractors and consultants to learn about our upcoming capital program of work. The work program consists of small projects, like replacement of tube settlers at the treatment plant, to huge projects – like the inlet/outlet pipeline replacement at Newell Creek Dam. Each of the projects had a “booth” at the open house, with project managers on-hand to answer questions and discuss details of each project. We had a terrific turn-out, with over 100 consultants and contractors coming from as far away as Nebraska. Given the pace and cost for construction projects in our area, and the sometimes low number of bid responses the City receives, we are heartened that there was so much interest in our program of work by qualified firms. Our preference is always to use local contractors and consultants; our bigger projects require very specialized work that may be challenging to secure locally.



This week, we're doing routine cleaning of settlement basins at the treatment plant. When this occurs, and the basins are empty, it's a good opportunity to see the size of the basins. They're really quite impressive:



Public servants sometimes get a bad rap these days. Which is unfortunate when many of them, particularly water-related public servants, work round the clock to ensure the public is provided with essential services. And exception occurred this week when a member of the public took this photo of one of our Distribution staff closing a valve to shut off flow to a hydrant that was hit by a car. The photographer was impressed with our quick response and this photo made the rounds on social media:



Last but not least, as if producing clean, safe drinking water around the clock isn't enough, this week two of our Production staff were able to save a baby deer that had fallen into the spillway at the dam – much to the delight and relief of Loch Lomond rangers and visitors.