

City Manager's Weekly Update

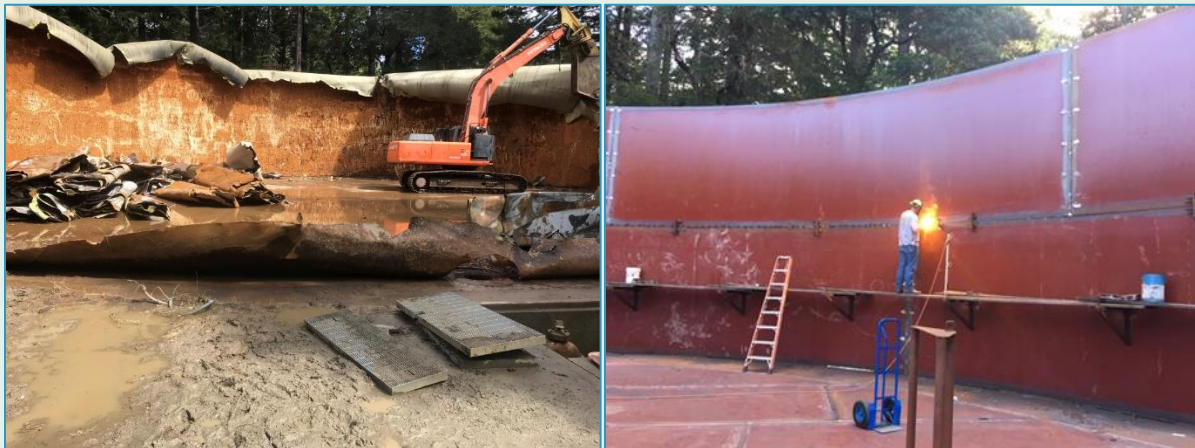
August 9, 2019

WATER

Our Operations Division staff participated in a major review of our system with the state Division of Drinking Water (DDW). This system survey is scheduled once every three years and is a major undertaking that covers everything from backflow prevention to financial management and revenue stability, and all the water system infrastructure and programs in between. Wednesday's survey focused on the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant (GHWTP), and DDW really kicked the tires at the plant, so to speak. They inspected every pump, tank, mixer, hatch, pipe, basin, conduit, raceway, meter, chemical, feed system and backflow device. Thus far we have received positive feedback from DDW.

Earlier this week, several Operations staff members met with representatives from PG&E to discuss a variety of things, prime among them was PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program. You may know about this program; it's an effort from PG&E to protect public safety from wildfire events that are sparked by their infrastructure. We were able to clarify some of the weather conditions that might trigger a PSPS and better understand what the timeline might be for the restoration of service. Needless to say, we'll need to be keeping a close eye on the weather over the next couple months and will anticipate critical fire conditions by topping off our water tanks and ensuring that all of our backup generators are fueled and in good working condition.

We continue to make significant progress on the University 5 tank project. You can see some before and after shots below.



POLICE

SCPD Open House Success

This week, SCPD hosted an action-packed open house at police headquarters on Tuesday, August 6th for National Night Out.

The event brought crowds of adults and children with overwhelmingly positive feedback that the open house was a great balance of fun activities, exciting demonstrations and displays, and useful information.

Our community had a blast spending time with officers and neighbors from around the city. Together, we are

strengthening our community bonds, and flat out just having fun. Community members

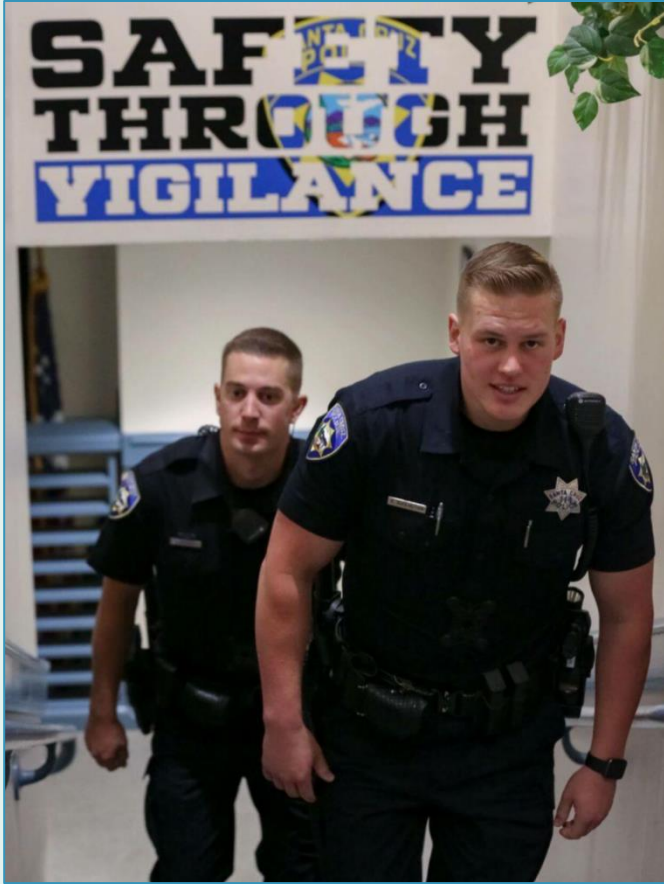
participated in department tours; met officers; learned about policing; saw K-9 and motors demonstrations; hopped into police vehicles; played detective in crime scene investigation; tried on equipment; enjoyed treats, jumped in the bounce house and more.

"We are very pleased to open the doors of our facility and family to our community. We want everyone to get an up-close and personal look at how our Department serves their city," said Police Chief Andrew Mills.

"We're extremely grateful to our residents

for supporting the Department and allowing us to provide community-oriented policing in Santa Cruz."





**Officer Boolootian
Employee of the Month**

Over the past several weeks, Officer Richard Boolootian made more than 22 arrests, 38 citations, and wrote 50 reports. More importantly, many of those arrests targeted specific problems and people in support of identified Neighborhood Policing locations. According to NPT Sergeants, Officer Boolootian is one of the most supportive officers in the department, helping them to accomplish their mission.

Thank you, Officer Boolootian, for your dedication. You deserve the well-earned recognition for Employee of the Month!

FIRE

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEETING

SCPD Community Room, 155 Center St.

Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 6pm-8pm

Information provided includes:

- Wildfire & Defensible Space Preparation
- Emergency Preparedness Presentation
- Useful Reference material provided
- Fire personnel on site to answer questions

For Questions and Information:

ROATEY@CITYOFSANTACRUZ.COM

PARKS AND RECREATION

Summer is Parks and Recreation's time to shine! With FREE Parks Make Life Better activities and a full-line up of classes and programs, Santa Cruz enjoyed another fun-filled summer in our parks and beaches.



This SUMMER by the Numbers

July Is Parks Make Life Better Month

- 60 participants at the Teen Glow Party on the Beach
- 25 participants in the Downtown Tree Walk
- 200+ at Wacky Water Day at the Loudon Nelson Community Center
- 2,000+ at Friday Night Recess on Cooper Street
- 1,000+ neighbors at Food Trucks in Garfield Park
- 800+ at Family Fun Day at Harvey West Park



Summer Sports

- 8 Bocce teams
- 10 Women's soccer teams
- 13 Basketball teams
- 82 softball teams

Jr. Guards –

- 65 Jr. Guards competed in California State Regionals Competition, July 26 in Carpinteria, CA.
- 1000 Little Guards and Jr. Guards from Santa Cruz City, Capitola, Santa Cruz State Parks, Monterey State Parks, and Half Moon Bay State Parks competed In NorCal JG Competition, hosted by City of Santa Cruz Jr. Guard program on Main Beach.



Santa Cruz City Regional U19 Rescue Relay Team – 2nd Place



Santa Cruz City Regional B Paddle Relay Team – 1st place

Teen Programs

- 13 Teen Interns worked over 1,000 hours in 8 departments and 12 divisions
- 18 Junior Leaders (ages 13-15) volunteered over 1,500 hours in our 6 Summer Day Camps
- 7 Teen Center Field trips serving approx. 40 teens throughout the summer
- Over 25 new TC members this summer
- 796 registrations for our 6 summer camps

Civic

- 2500+ = # of tickets were sold during the month of July to 27 upcoming Civic events.
- 12,000+ people attended the Church Street Fair
- 75+ artists, vendors, local food booths at the Church Street Fair
- 1174 family members who attended the Free Family Concert



Grant Park neighbors celebrated with Mayor Watkins and Parks and Recreation staff at the official ribbon cutting of the Pump Track at Grant Park on July 19th.





Parks and Recreation fall class registration opened on August 5th. Sign up for classes at www.santacruzparksandrec.com.

City Hall

Since our last update, a crew from The Davey Tree Expert Company skillfully pruned the date palm in the main courtyard at City Hall to improve safety and aesthetics. This tree, which grew from a volunteer seedling, will represent Santa Cruz in Davey's forthcoming "Big Tree" calendar as one of 12 trees selected from across the nation.



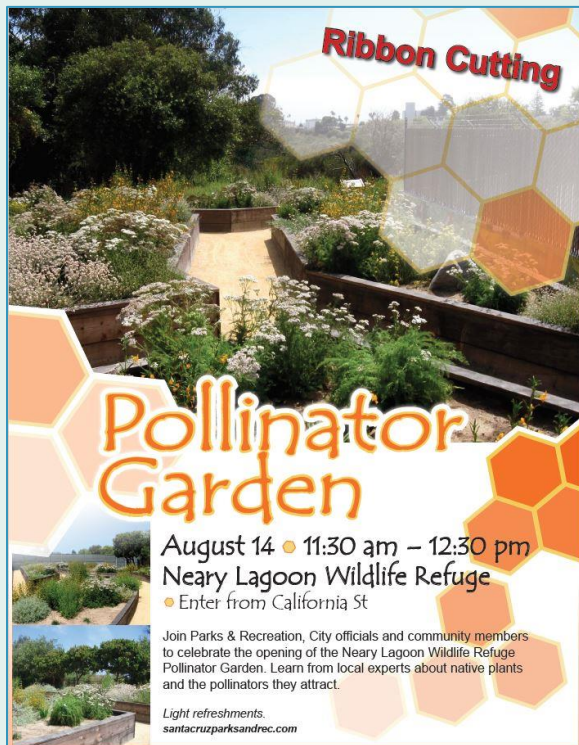
Tree Walk

As part of July is Parks & Recreation month City Forester Leslie Keedy led the significant downtown tree walk. The walking tour began at City Hall and showcased approximately 25 significant and beautiful downtown trees. Tree classification & nomenclature, interesting tree facts, biology and history are incorporated into the educational tour. The event drew over 25 community members this year and has become a popular addition to the department's planned activities.



Pollinator Garden Opening

Join us Wednesday for the grand opening of our new Pollinator Garden at Neary Lagoon. The garden features native California Plants to support native pollinators.



PLANNING

Housing Voices Outreach Process Wins Second 2019 American Planning Association Award

Following on the heels of the *Award of Excellence in Public Outreach* received from the local Northern California section of the American Planning Association (APA), the Planning & Community Development Department was notified in July that City of Santa Cruz will receive an *Award of Merit in Public Outreach* from the State of California Chapter of APA for the *Housing Voices Community Outreach Process*.

About the Housing Voices Outreach Process

In 2017, the City embarked on an extensive public outreach effort to provide facts and information about housing and engage the community in the housing crisis conversation. The outreach strategy was conducted through a four-pronged approach:

1. A “Listening Tour” conducted by then Mayor Cynthia Chase, which engaged organizations and community groups and met people in their homes, bars, libraries, farmers’ markets, and other similar venues on 22 separate occasions, engaging over 350 community members;
2. Five Housing Study Sessions held by City Council, with presentations by and dialogue with internal staff and outside experts on housing related topics;
3. Development of high-quality, online and printed engagement resources which were available in both English and Spanish and included distribution of approximately 1,000 toolkits that educated the public about specific topic areas and encouraged discussion on housing-related topics and
4. A series of community engagement activities, such as affordable housing tours and brown bag lunches.

The City also received over 1,300 online survey responses which included community input on an array of housing-related issues. In response to this prodigious feedback, City developed the *Santa Cruz Voices on Housing Fall 2017 Community Engagement Report* which included 99 recommendations generated by the community regarding the housing crisis.

After receiving the report, Council authorized the establishment of the Housing Blueprint Subcommittee (HBS), an ad-hoc Council Subcommittee charged with the task of evaluating and prioritizing the report’s 99 community recommendations. The HBS returned to City Council on June 12, 2018 with a set of priority actions entitled *Housing Blueprint Subcommittee Recommendations*. The report was accepted and the recommendations have become a substantial part of the City’s workplan for 2018-2020. The overall engagement and prioritization process, coupled with the Council’s support for the policy priorities, has yielded strong results so far. This can be seen in subsequent Council approval of updates to the City’s accessory dwelling unit, inclusionary, parking and displaced tenants ordinances and adoption of robust community outreach policy. For more information on the Housing Voices Outreach and Implementation Process, please visit www.cityofsantacruz.com/housing.

The awards ceremony will be held at the 2019 California APA State Conference in Santa Barbara, September 15-19. For more information on the awards program, please visit: <https://www.apacalifornia.org/events/awards-program/>.

Front St/Riverfront Apartments

On August 7, 2018, the Planning Department received an application for the construction of a mixed-use building on the properties at 418, 428, 440, 504, and 508 Front Street. The project requires approval of a Coastal Permit, Historic and Non-Residential Demolition Authorization Permits, a Design Permit, a Tentative Map, a Special Use Permit, an Administrative Use Permit, a Revocable License for Outdoor Extension Area, and a Heritage Tree Removal Permit. In April of this year, the applicant amended the application to include a revised proposal for affordable housing, a request for a Density Bonus, and a proposal for changes to the following development standards: six stories above ground floor commercial where a maximum of five stories are permitted, 85 feet in height where a maximum of 70 feet is permitted, reduced building setbacks along the Front Street and Riverwalk elevations, reduction of the sixty percent top story floor area and building length standards, location of the south public passageway approximately 80 feet from the future extension of Elm Street where a maximum of 50 feet is permitted, and to allow for balconies to be located within two feet of the building edges. Additionally, the applicant is now proposing to map the units as condominiums but to maintain ownership and rent the units in the short term. The applicant determined that 133 residential units could be constructed within the development standards provided by the Zoning Ordinance and the Downtown Plan. The standard inclusionary requirement is to restrict fifteen percent of these units (20 units) for rent to Low Income households (80% AMI) at an affordable rent, however, the applicant is proposing to make fifteen of the twenty units available for rent to Very Low Income households (50% AMI) with the remaining required five units restricted to Low Income households. Per Density Bonus State Law and the Zoning Ordinance, these proposed affordability levels make the project eligible for a thirty-five percent density bonus of market-rate units, or forty-seven additional units, and the applicant is proposing an additional forty-two units (175 units total). The affordability levels proposed and the location of the development downtown also make the project eligible for a reduced parking requirement of 0.5 spaces per bedroom.

The development is considered to be a Significant Project as per the Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects and a community meeting was held on July 1, 2019 to provide information to the public and solicit feedback. The meeting was noticed via a display ad in the Sentinel, signage posted on the project site, a calendar event on the City's website, and mailed postcards to property owners and tenants within 1000 feet of the project boundaries. Thirty-one members of the public attended the meeting as well as one member of the Planning Commission Subcommittee, five members of the development team, and two city staff members. Questions and discussion included topics such as affordable housing requirements, impacts of building within the flood zone, future use of the outdoor levee area, the process for demolition of two historic buildings, and the removal of heritage trees. There was significant support for the applicant to follow through with the proposal to create a new commercial space

for the 418 Project and many encouraged the developer to work with the other local businesses that would be displaced by the development. There was also a suggestion to provide public bathrooms as a part of the shared public/private amenities. The application was determined to be complete for further processing on July 19th. Over the next few months, the city will be assisting in the preparation of an application for a Section 408 Permit to submit to the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate potential impacts to the levee, and we will be evaluating project impacts under CEQA. CEQA review will begin with the preparation of an initial study checklist to determine the magnitude of project impacts on the environment and, it is assumed at this time that at minimum, a focused EIR will be required to evaluate the impacts of demolition of the two historic buildings. Once the CEQA review has been completed, the project will be scheduled for public hearings before the Historic Preservation Commission for the demolition of two historic buildings, the Planning Commission and the City Council.



314 Jessie

On July 3rd, MidPen Housing submitted an application to demolish an existing 14-unit apartment building at 314 Jessie Street and to construct a 27-unit apartment building for supportive housing and resident services. The apartments are proposed to be 100 percent affordable at the Very Low income level (and lower) and will be provided to adults with mental disabilities or to those transitioning from homelessness. The redevelopment is intended to modernize the facility by improving aesthetics and functionality and to enhance safety for community residents. The applicant is working with a professional relocation management company to ensure that the temporary, 1-year relocation of current residents during construction is consistent with all local, state, and federal requirements. Displaced tenants will be provided the opportunity to move into the new building once construction is completed. The proposal is to construct a three-story, approximately 40-foot tall building that includes 16 studios which range between 367-378 sq. ft., and 10 1-bedroom units, which range between 599-684 sq. ft. 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 project is site is currently zoned as R-L (Multiple Residence- Low Density) and is designated as LM (Low-Medium Density Residential) in the General Plan. The proposed density at 73 dwelling units per acre is not consistent with these designations and would require a rezoning from R-L to R-H (Multiple Residence – High Density), a General Plan/LCP amendment from LM to H (High Density Residential), as well as an 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. The project was evaluated in a pre-application review process early this year, which is a process that is intended to provide an applicant with early feedback. During this pre-application review, the applicant held a community meeting at which time existing residents asked about relocation and others asked about green building features, existing vegetation on the site, and the application process for new units. At the community meeting, the applicant allowed for attendees to vote on one of two design schemes and the proposed plans reflect the winning design. The project requires approval of a Residential Demolition Authorization Permit, a General Plan/Local Coastal Program Amendment, a Rezoning, a Coastal Permit, a Design Permit, and a Slope Variance and would require a recommendation by the Planning Commission, final action by the City Council, and approval by the Coastal Commission.



PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Facility staff are currently receiving their annual confined space safety training. Confined spaces are spaces that have limited or restricted means of entry/exit, are not designed for continuous human occupancy, and have the potential for significant hazards to be present such as poor air quality and/or engulfment. The majority of tanks at the treatment facility are classified as confined spaces, as are many of the collection system pumping stations. Conditions within a confined space can change in a matter of minutes, therefore it is beneficial to have all staff trained for confined space work and confined space rescue procedures.



Storm Water

Join artist Dan Velasquez, Felker Street neighbors and friends to paint a new sidewalk mural from the Santa Cruz Riverwalk to the Felker St. storm drain on Saturday, Aug. 24. Help celebrate Felker Street, the river neighbors who make this community great and our San Lorenzo River! Event. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/360169464661922/>



Engineering

Our East Cliff and 3rd Ave. Storm Disaster Damage Repair Project is now complete. We relocated, repaired and installed sidewalk, curb, gutter and handrail at the beach stairs at the junction of 3rd and East Cliff.

Improvements to the stairs were also made.



Resource Recovery Waste Reduction

Last Tuesday, August 6, rePlanet, the California Redemption collection and processing company, announced the closing of all 284 of its California Redemption Buy Back centers effective immediately. This is the company that operated the public buy-back center at Costco Wholesale, 220 Sylvania Ave. This is not a City operated program and does not affect the collection services provided by the City of Santa Cruz Curbside Collection program. Residents are encouraged to continue to place their clean and empty bottles and cans in the blue recycling cart. And for those interested in redeeming their bottles and cans for CRV value, there are still 3 redemption locations in Santa Cruz County that remain open. They are:

A & S Metals	1080 W. Beach St.	Watsonville	95076
State Steel Co	56 Porter	Watsonville	95076
Watsonville Metals Co	213 Dias Lane	Watsonville	95076

For more information about the State operated California Redemption Program, consumers are encouraged to contact [Cal Recycle](#).

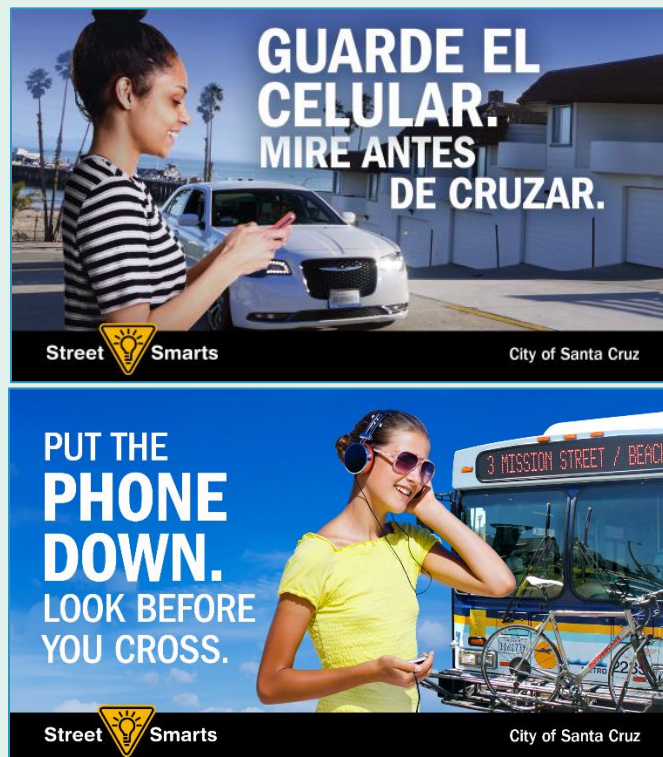
Operations

The temporary fencing behind Gateway Plaza was removed and permanent fencing was installed.



Traffic Engineering

Our kids will soon be walking to and from school. Please remind them of this week's important Street Smarts long form [message here](#).



LIBRARY

Epicenter: The Loma Prieta Earthquake 30th Anniversary Oral Histories Project



EPICENTER

Do you have a story about the 1989 earthquake?

In 1989, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake shook Santa Cruz and its surrounding cities damaging infrastructure and changing lives forever. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake, Santa Cruz Public Libraries is collecting oral histories from the Santa Cruzan's who lived through it.

If you have an earthquake story you'd like to share, contact Jennifer Hooker, hookerj@santacruzpl.org or call 427-7706 x7647 to schedule an interview.

Libraries across the county will also be hosting a series of workshops and lectures focused on various aspects of emergency preparedness and disaster response. Times, dates, locations and topics will vary. Visit our [Calendar of Events](#) for specifics.

Be Red Cross Ready + Hands-Only CPR Downtown Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room • 224 Church St Thursday, August 8th • 6:30-8:00pm

American Red Cross and Santa Cruz Public Libraries have teamed up to bring FREE emergency preparedness workshops to our communities. In this workshop you will learn how to prepare for a variety of emergencies and natural disasters, what to keep in your emergency bag, and get instruction in hands-only CPR*.



*This is not a CPR Certification Class.

Be Red Cross Ready Garfield Branch Library • 705 Woodrow Avenue Tuesday, September 8th • 6:00-7:00pm



American Red Cross and Santa Cruz Public Libraries have teamed up to bring FREE emergency preparedness workshops to our communities. In this workshop you will learn how to prepare for a variety of emergencies and natural disasters and what to keep in your emergency bag.