

## City Manager's Weekly Update

### September 13, 2019

#### WATER

We're happy to report that even with the spike in temperatures, Loch Lomond lake clarity remains excellent.

We hosted a demonstration this week for City Fire staff on a proposed solution to maintain water quality and environmental regulations while doing critical fire hydrant maintenance. Fire staff is responsible for maintaining over 1,200 hydrants throughout our service area. A small crew has been tasked with painting, operating and greasing hydrant valves to ensure proper operation and flow. In order to prevent the potential for "water hammer" and other pressure-related impacts on the distribution system, a modified hydrant cap fitted with a pressure regulator and ¼" flow valve will be used in hydrant maintenance. The outcome of the demo and conversations with Fire staff is an excellent example of interdepartmental collaboration – many thanks to Fire Department staff for asking important questions.



Miguel Valencia, Distribution Superintendent (right) with Fire Dept. staff

We continue to lay the foundation for our big dam project. Collateral improvements that must be made to the Newell Creek Dam Access Road Bridge began last week, and the work is already nearly complete. We also began reviewing Statement of Qualifications from six qualified tunneling contractors this week. We were very pleased to receive SOQs from firms that are reputable and highly experienced in tunneling work.

In response to the continued failure of a water main on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, we are going off-script to do an emergency main replacement. We have five contractors interested in the project and those bids are due today.

Last, staff from Water Conservation are at the County fair this week. All of the agencies in our region worked together again to create a water-wise demonstration garden. If you go, please check it out – it's right next to the award-winning pumpkins!

## POLICE

### SCPD Recognizes Excellence

This week, Police Chief Andy Mills proudly recognized and presented awards to SCPD personnel for outstanding achievement. "I always look forward to these events because we get to highlight some of our department's hardworking unsung heroes," said Chief Mills.

**August Employee of the Month** - Joyce Blaschke, SCPD's Community Relations Specialist, is the August Employee of the Month. Over the past two years, Joyce has excelled at promoting the department, working with the men and women who serve this community and informing the citizens of current events.

Joyce thoughtfully shifted from traditional media sources to social media, increasing the departments reach to 1.4 million viewers per year.

Joyce also created, organized, and manages the Volunteer Program that now boasts more than 40 volunteers.

Capping her herculean efforts, Ms. Blaschke, on her own, organized and facilitated a National Night Out extravaganza opening the Police Department to the community for the first time. The fair and events allowed community members to see the interworking of a

progressive and transparent police agency that honors the community it serves. In all, about 400 people attended the event, and more than 200 people took a detailed tour of police headquarters.



**De-Escalation Awards** presented to: Sergeant Forbus, Patrol Officers Rock, Bailey, Trueblood, Becerra, Yoon, Gutierrez, Linman and Mental Health Liaison Danielle Long



On August 4, 2019, at 10:30 am, Sergeant Daniel Forbus, Patrol Officers Bailey, Rock, Trueblood, Becerra, Yoon, Gutierrez and Linman received a radio call of a man walking around naked on Coral Street waving a knife and acting strangely. Mental Health Liaison, Danielle Long, supported the team. Officers preplanned a coordinated police response, including ensuring roles were clear and well defined. When officers arrived, they timed their approach to have a maximum deployment, quickly identifying the man in crisis and deployed from their vehicles. Officers ensured containment for community safety; dispassionately gave clear directions to the man, and communicated effectively with the man and each other. Officers deployed less lethal equipment and began talking with the man. Their effort to carefully subdue the man, minimizing the risk of using deadly force, was exceptional and in the highest traditions of sound law enforcement.

Specifically, officers used to cover, deployed less-lethal options, readied a shield for protection, and communicated horizontally with one another, so their roles were clearly defined. A reactionary team prepared to solve problems as they arose. As a result of their tactical superiority and communication skills, officers placed the man in custody without incident or significant use of force.

The patrol team and Mental Health Liaison, are commended for defusing a potentially violent encounter. They exercised judgment and calmness hereby de-escalating this incident. All were awarded commendations and custom De-Escalation pins for their efforts.

**Life Saving Award** – In December of 2016, Officer Marcel Cathrein and Officer David Rosell were partnered up in the downtown beat. A medical call came out from the Poet and Patriot of a subject not breathing. They responded from close by. When they walked in, the drummer in the band was out of his seat with the drumsticks still connected to his fingers. It was apparent that he was suffering a medical emergency. A bystander attempted to give CPR, but he was doing it incorrectly. The officers took over and did several rounds of CPR, switching off as they are trained to do. Santa Cruz Fire and AMR paramedics took over further lifesaving efforts



relieving the officers. After the call, they learned the patient had several more heart attacks while on the way to Dominican Hospital. A year later, they were able to speak with the person who had the heart attack. It was a man who works at the Starving Musician downtown next to the Catalyst. They were able to speak with him and he told them that the doctors said he had a heart attack that kills most people and he should not have survived. He said once he was better, he was able to finish the tour his band was on. He was grateful to everyone involved for giving him the chance to play the drums still today.

AMR paramedics relayed that the officers kept the patient alive until they arrived on scene and took over the lifesaving effort. They also claimed it was likely a result of their efforts that saved the patient's life that night. Officer Marcel Cathrein was commended for saving the life of another and awarded the Life Saving Medal.



## PARKS AND RECREATION

### By the numbers

223 = # tickets sold this week to 17 upcoming Civic events

### Highlights

It was an old-school Derby-Q at the dedication of the Leung Memorial Bench in Sergeant Derby Park Saturday, September 7th. Family and friends gathered to honor the memory of Santa Cruz skateboarder Brendan Lai-Wing Leung. Cabrillo College instructor Payson McNett created and installed a custom memorial bench in the form of a working skateboard for the park.



### Upcoming

Santa Cruz Symphony's opening night concert Saturday Oct 12 @ 7:30pm: Ascendance. The season begins with world renowned pianist Jon Nakamatsu performing Beethoven's magisterial piano concerto no. 5, 'The Emperor'. Grammy award winning composer & DJ Mason Bates joins us for performances of his wildly popular showpiece for DJ and orchestra, 'Mothership'. Stravinsky's enchanting score to his ballet the 'Firebird' luxuriates in dazzlingly romanticism.

Kick off the start of the 2019-20 season at our Street Party in front of the Civic starting at 6:00 pm with food and music.



## LIBRARY

### Kids Create!

Explore where science meets art with a new STEAM based project every week, and leave the mess at the library! For kids 5 - 12 years old. Make sure to wear appropriate clothing as it will be messy. No program on October 31st or November 28th.



**Thursdays • 3:30pm-4:30pm**

**Garfield Park Branch Library, 705 Woodrow Ave.**

### Pickwick Book Club Discussion



Brought to you by the Dickens Project at UCSC & Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

The [Santa Cruz Pickwick Book Club](#) is a community of local bookworms, students, and teachers who meet monthly September-June to discuss a nineteenth century novel. Join us each month for conversations about the novel and guest speaker presentations to help us contextualize our readings.

**Sunday, September 22nd • 4th Sundays • September 2019- June 2020 • 2:00pm-4:00pm**  
**Downtown Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room • 224 Church St.**



## PUBLIC WORKS

### City Government Academy

Our Public Works staff hosted the second night of City Government Academy at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Twenty community participants spoke one-on-one with engineers, environmental analysts and waste reduction experts in a lively open house. They also toured the award-winning plant where they dialoged with operators and saw precisely what happens to 7 million gallons of wastewater daily.



### Storm Water

The Storm Water Program (Measure E/Clean River, Beaches and Ocean Fund) has teamed up with Save Our Shores to support the 2019 Annual Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to Noon. Cleanup volunteers will help prevent litter from entering local waterways. For more information including clean-up sites and to sign up, please visit [saveourshores.org/annualcoastalcleanup/](https://saveourshores.org/annualcoastalcleanup/) and many thanks in advance to all who will participate in this year's cleanup event!





## Operations

The annual San Lorenzo River vegetation management program for flood control began on Monday, Sept. 9, between the Hwy 1 and Water St bridges. The work will take approximately 2 weeks to complete as the contractor continues to work downstream to the Riverside Bridge. The work is permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and required by the US Army Corps of Engineers for flood control prior to the rainy season. We have received support from the City Attorney's office to post signage 72 hrs. prior to work commencing to notice the area as closed. PD Rangers will sweep the area prior to our Streets crew removing debris and garbage. So far, four dump-truck loads of trash have been removed from the area between the Hwy 1 and Water St bridges.



## **Resource Recovery**

Our sweepers collected 11.26 tons of debris from the roads this week.

The Food Waste System Electrical Feeder Installation Project is ongoing. The contractor has installed conduits in the recycling yard and is backfilling the trench.

It was inspection week at the Resource Recovery Facility. The Air Board was on-site to review our Title V permit, generator permits and above ground fuel tank permits. Cal-Recycle performed their monthly inspection and we had a separate meeting with their engineering department to review our gas monitoring probes. Santa Cruz County Environmental Health has scheduled their inspection to review our permits to operate our Household Hazardous Waste Facility, Hazardous Materials Management Plan, Aboveground Petroleum Storage plan, and Hazardous Waste Generator forms.

Several ongoing projects this week include replacing a failed water monitoring well, electrical trenching for the food waste processing project, preparations for the upcoming rainy season, tree and brush removal for access to start dredging our sedimentation ponds, and our monthly wood and green waste processing. Concrete processing is scheduled for the end of the month. Our Waste Reduction team worked closely with coordinators of the recent annual Mole and Mariachi Festival, put on by the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, to educate attendees and volunteers about proper sorting and disposal during the daylong event. Clear signage, dedicated volunteers and cart placement resulted in a high yield of clean materials.



*Electrical Feed Installation*



*Mole and Mariachi recovered material*

## **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

On Sept. 11 we conducted a standard annual environmentally-friendly dye test of the Wastewater Treatment Facility's effluent ocean outfall. The purpose of this test is to visually search for leaks. The test was performed by air flight with contractor Skywords Aerial Services.



## **Traffic Engineering/Community Relations**

Whether you're a driver, cyclist or pedestrian, the goal is to reach your destination safely. Traffic signals, stop signs and other road markings are designed to protect you. They're meant to be obeyed whether you're behind the wheel, on a bike, or on foot. The road is a shared space where we all have rights and responsibilities. Remember, streets are for everyone. Be mindful of others and heed the rules of the road. It's the Street Smarts thing to do.

