

City Manager's Weekly Update

October 11, 2019

WATER

Another busy week was had at the Water Department. On top of our normal load of work, we had the added activities of preparing for the Public Safety Power Shutoff event. Water production is an energy-intensive enterprise. While we can all go without power for an extended amount of time, not so without water. We need water to literally survive. So ensuring that water production could continue during the power outage quickly moved to our highest priority this week.

With that said, I'm proud of the Water Department team. We've weathered a few crisis (pun intended) since my arrival here six years ago, and I've been more impressed at our ability to pull together to serve our community with each passing event. This week was no exception, preparing to maintain all of our energy-dependent pumps, collection, and treatment infrastructure, as well as our distribution systems. Several staff worked through the nights to monitor weather, power, generators, fuel and tank levels throughout our service area. Power at the treatment plant and the coast pump station is still off as of this writing.

During the power shutoff we were pleased to be able to provide emergency support to Soquel Creek Water District, which was in worse shape than Santa Cruz. We were able to provide them emergency supply through our intertie with them, similar to the emergency aid that they provided to us during our multiple 2017 winter storm infrastructure crises.

This week, we also began working with the contractor that will replace the problem water main that's been plaguing the 7th Avenue area with leaks and breaks. This will be a big project and was added to our plate in the last few weeks due to the persistent issues with this pipe.



Preparing for work on 7th Avenue

We are at about 80% completion with the Carbonera tank access road wall project and we've been able to reopen the road again to all pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Water resources staff donned masks and snorkels this week to measure and count steelhead and other fish and aquatic species in Mountain Charlie Gulch on Thursday. This work was done in conjunction with the Zayante Creek habitat improvement project. We also spent a lot of time monitoring the watershed this week for wildfires. Thankfully none were found.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On Monday, October 14, 2019, the Planning, Building, and Payment counter opens at its new location in the City Hall Annex, Room 101.

The opening, does not complete the move of the Planning & Community Development department, but is an exciting piece staff is looking forward to celebrate with the public. All those wishing to apply for building permits or planning applications, or apply and pay for business licenses and make other city payments, except utility payments, should now visit Room 101.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Highlights

It's tree planting time again! Parks staff and volunteers have been working hard completing the planting of 500 trees funded by a grant from CAL FIRE. At the DeLaveaga Golf Course we planted 30 coast live oak and cork oak trees with help from the Environteeners. We're also preparing planting holes for another 40+ trees to go in along Bethany Curve. Thanks also to the City's Climate Action program for supporting this project.



Monterey Bay Master Gardeners have been spending time at Lighthouse Avenue community gardens this fall. They have been meeting with gardeners and visitors to build relationships and share University of California research based best practices. They also interacted with area birders who came from all around one Sunday to see a rare Virginia's Warbler in one of the garden plots.



Upcoming events

Deepak Chopra: October 17 @ 7pm. Presented by Bookshop Santa Cruz. Deepak Chopra will discuss his latest book and take questions from the audience; the event will conclude with a book signing. Tickets include entry to the event and a hardcover copy of *METAHUMAN: UNLEASHING YOUR INFINITE POTENTIAL*, to be collected at the event. Tickets available.



Santa Cruz Music Festival: October 19 & 20. Details & Tickets
(<https://santacruzmusicfestival.com/>)



LIBRARY

ALL BRANCHES CLOSED: Monday, October 14th, All Day

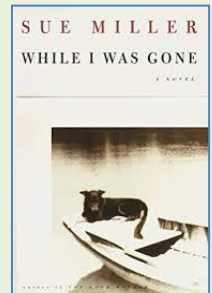
All branches of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries are closed Monday, October 14th for an in-service staff training day focused on service improvements. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and look forward to working with you on Tuesday.

To renew or check your account online, visit our [catalog page](#). Remember, you still have 24/7 access to all of our [Digital Collections](#)!



Branciforte Book Discussion Group

The Branciforte Book Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Please try to arrive on time! This month's book will be 'While I Was Gone' by Sue Miller. Copies may be available at the Branciforte Library!

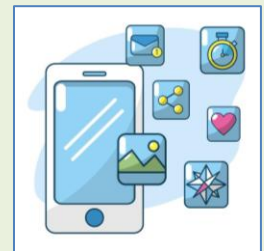


TECH TALKS: Health Apps for iPhone

Thursday, October 17th • 11:00am - 12:30pm

Garfield Park branch • 705 Woodrow Ave.

This is not your typical computer class...it's a discussion about optimizing your iPhone or iPad! In this hands-on workshop, you will discover the ways your device can help you track health goals for exercise, diet, meditation and more.



The meeting space at this library is limited, so sign-up from the library's calendar to reserve your seat: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/5862195> If you have any questions about signing up, please call the library at 831-427-7717.

Loma Prieta Earthquake 30th Anniversary Event

Thursday, October 17th • 4:45pm - 6:15pm

Downtown branch • 224 Church St.



EPICENTER

Join us for a 15-second moment of silence at 5:04 PM and watch the unveiling of Santa Cruz Public Libraries & Epicenter: The Loma Prieta Earthquake 30th Anniversary Oral Histories Project. Watch stories from Santa Cruz residents, discuss the earthquake, listen to special lecturers, and enjoy light refreshments.



PUBLIC WORKS

Our Transportation and Public Works Commission invites you to "Project Open House" on Monday, Oct. 21, 5:30-7 p.m. at Gault Elementary School. Talk with commissioners, Public Works engineers and other staff on 9 current and developing projects. We hope to see you there! [Details](#) [Facebook event link](#)

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

5:30 – 7 pm Monday, Oct 21
Gault Elementary School
1320 Seabright Ave



Speak with Commissioners & Public Works Department Staff

Traffic Engineering/Community Outreach

Street Smarts is one of five City tables at [Open Streets](#) this Sunday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m. -2 p.m. along West Cliff Drive. We welcome visitors to games and activities and a chance to win an adult or a youth bike.

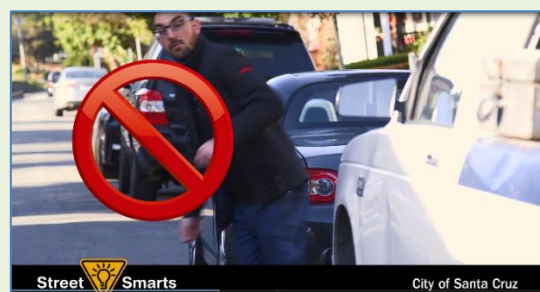
Our [Street Smarts](#) booth invites adults and youth to take a traffic safety pledge with reflective slap-band reward. The table also offers a take-home traffic safety "Family Policy," yard signs that say "Slow Down" and "Drive Neighborly," and tips to help all road users contribute to a safer Santa Cruz community. We hope to see you there!





Read details of the other City tables in our [Santa Cruz Waves City Beat column](#).

Walking "smart" is fun in this week's [short Street Smarts video](#). [En español.](#)



Operations:

The San Lorenzo River Flood control projects have been completed. All work was done in conjunction with the contracted biologist conducting a thorough survey for sensitive species and a review of the CDFW permit parameters with the contractors prior to work starting. The vegetation management program was followed by the annual ripping of the riverine section of the levee between Hwy 1 and Water Street. Heavy equipment tilled the hardened dirt between the toe of the levee and the 15 ft vegetation buffer to allow for a better scour and flow of water during heavy rain events. The contracted biologist will conduct a thorough survey for sensitive species and will go through the CDFW permit parameters with the contractor prior to starting work.



East bank



West bank

Resource Recovery

Resource Recovery collection and sweepers collected and disposed of 6.39 tons of debris from City streets.

After months of stakeholder engagement, meetings and collaboration, the City's Dimeo Lane Recycling Facility will once again accept for processing Mixed Recycling loads from UCSC's Dining Services (only). Work continues on reducing contamination in recycling streams from other parts of the campus including student housing.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Coral Street power washing program expanded from twice a month to weekly sidewalk, gutter and storm drain cleaning with the help of financial support from the City Manager's Office. With the help of PD and the Streets Team, debris from homeless campers is cleaned up and followed by the contracted Power Washer. This project aims to reduce the environmental impact homeless campers have on the storm drain system, which leads to our local creeks and bay. Additionally, the Sharps Kiosk on the corner of Coral and Limekiln Street was serviced by Sharps Solutions for the first time at the end of September. Sharps Solution staff reported that the kiosk was filled with 39 lbs. of needles.



Engineering

Work on the Ladera Sewer and Storm Drain Project has closed King Street from Mesa Lane to Miramar Drive weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18. Residents of this King Street block are allowed through while all other traffic is detoured. Travelers may care to seek alternate routes during this time frame or plan for delays.