

## City Manager's Weekly Update

### October 18, 2019

#### WATER

As we continue to make progress on numerous projects throughout the system, we also continue to get sidetracked by recurring leaks in the system. In addition to the water main replacement projects on Ocean Street and on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, this week we addressed a hydrant hit on Ocean at Broadway, three leaks on the north coast pipeline, and two leaks on the Newell Creek pipeline.

This week we received the final design drawings for the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet replacement project. This project is the most technically challenging project the Department has faced since the creation of the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant in 1960. There have been a number of reviews throughout the design process (which has taken well over a year,) but final design review is a big deal. So we have a number of engineers and consultants pouring over the plans and specs now and into the coming weeks prior to bringing the project to the Council late this year or early in 2020 to approve the plans and specs and authorize going out for bids.

The tube settler replacement project at the treatment plant is complete! We've been working on this project for several months and are happy to have it completed on time and on budget. Not sure what role tube settlers play in the treatment process? You can learn about it through two short videos on our Facebook page.

In addition to reading some 27-thousand meters for utility billing every month and maintaining our metering infrastructure, the Meter Shop staff conducts various performance tests on system components. One of these services is called a "*bucket test*". This test is performed by disconnecting the water meter and installing a hose that fills a 32 gallon bucket. We then use a stopwatch to record the number of seconds it takes to fill the bucket at full flow. Then, after a bit of basic math we have a calculated flow rate in gallons/minute. This calculation is submitted to engineering who then provides it to the requesting customer or contractor and appropriate fire department to determine whether that service delivers sufficient flow for a proposed fire suppression system. We tend to perform a few of these tests each month and one conducted yesterday yielded the following from the applicant:

*"Man you guys are on it. Be sure and tell the Director that I suggest he [sic] put a note in all the employee's file's that I've interacted with from the beginning. The first time I called, I spoke with a human. That person clearly directed me to the next step. When I contacted engineering they were excellent. Then the field crew was the best-efficient, on time, polite, skilled -AND-we had a positive test result-that always helps. From my stand point I compliment you individually-you all should get a raise- and collectively you "rep'ed" your department well."*

It is always a delight to get such feedback!



Next Wednesday is national Imagine A Day Without Water (IADWW.) Put on by the Value of Water coalition, it's a day to shine a light on the value of water and the need to reinvest in American water infrastructure in order to maintain safe, reliable drinking water. As you know, the Santa Cruz Water Department, with the City Council's support and approval, is making huge investments in the City's water infrastructure, so we're doing what we can to support and promote IADWW. This fall's SCMU Review has a focus on IADWW, and Tuesday this week Rosemary was on the KSCO morning show talking about it. Hopefully you'll have a chance to see the campaign we've put up in the windows of the Locust Street offices – we've received some great feedback from the public on it.

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### **Code Compliance and Rental Inspections**

The Code Compliance Division (Division) of the Planning & Community Development Department works to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our residents and visitors.

Here are a few examples of how the Division, through the Residential Rental Inspection Services and Code Enforcement, continues to remedy hazardous conditions and encourage property maintenance.

On August 30th, there was a structure fire at the residence in Figure 1. The fire started in a second-story bedroom and was attributed to electric appliances in the closet that also contained combustible materials. The fire was contained to that bedroom through the great work of our Fire Department, but the house suffered additional smoke and water damage.

The inspection of the property revealed that two people were living in an unpermitted room in the attic with inadequate means of escape and rescue (ingress/egress). The Rental Inspection Service team inspected the unit approximately a year ago, and no stair or ladder access was available to the attic at the time. During this inspection, the owner indicated the attic was only used for storage at the time, and that the two attic tenants had moved in subsequent to the initial rental inspection. Fortunately, the fire was discovered and extinguished quickly, before it spread. Had it occurred at a different time (e.g., while tenants were sleeping) and spread, many lives would have been at risk, especially those in the attic area that did not have adequate escape and rescue access. In total, eight people were vacated due to this fire, two of whom received rental relocation from the owner due to the fact that they were living in the illegally converted attic. The owner lived on site, in a garage on the property that was converted without the benefit of permits. Currently, our Planning & Community Development Department is working with the property owner to legalize the unit. Following the fire, utilities were turned off and the property is currently posted as unsafe to occupy.



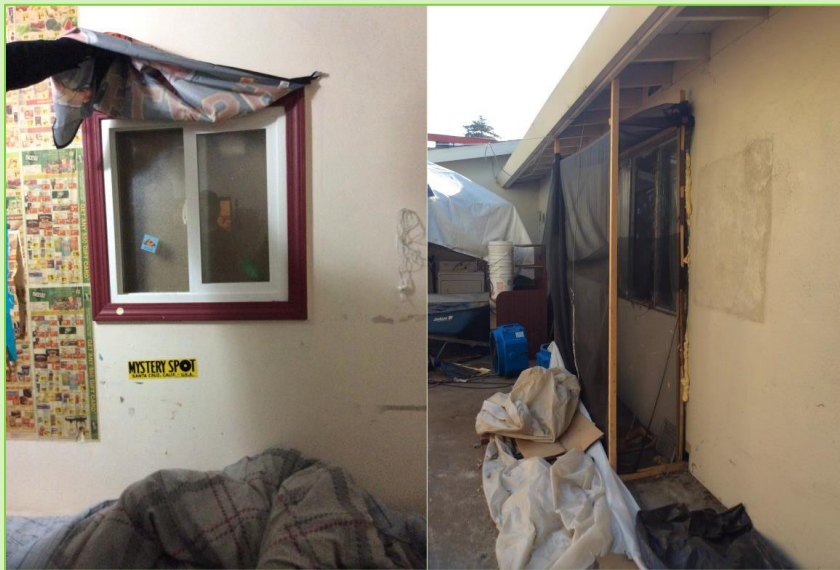
Figure 1

On October 14th, the Building and Safety Inspection team was made aware of numerous individuals living at a commercial restaurant without sanitation. Building, Code Compliance, and Fire inspectors, as well as Police responded to this location. In total, ten people, including a minor child, were living in an office section of the building that was converted without permits. The people occupying the space had no running water or working toilets due to sewer and water leaks that had occurred at least one month prior. Multiple bedrooms had been created with inadequate means of escape and rescue (ingress/egress) in the event of a fire. There were numerous building code violations pertaining to the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems. Environmental Health was called to inspect the restaurant kitchen and found

unsanitary and unsafe/hazardous conditions. The building was posted unsafe and the power, gas and water were all turned off. PG&E would not approach the substandard electrical in the building and disconnected the power from the overhead power lines.

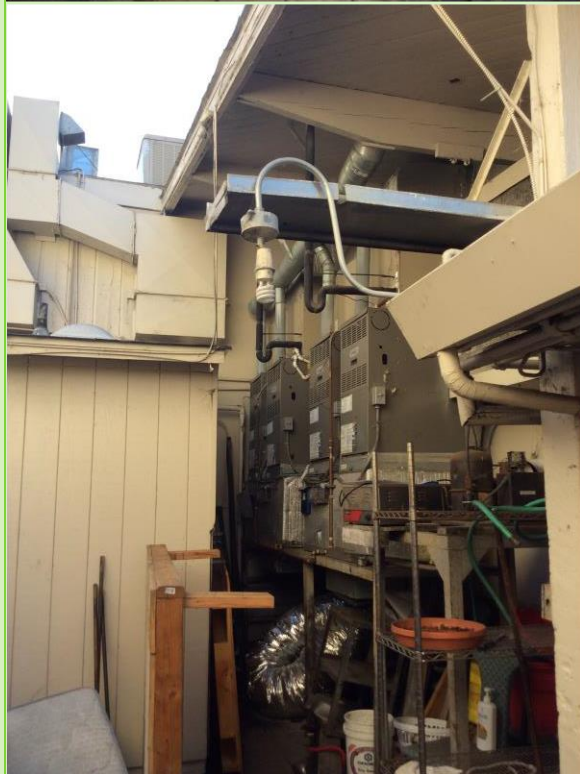
The people residing inside of the office were employees of the restaurant and were provided emergency hotel vouchers by the City. Working with the City Attorney's Office, the Code Compliance team ensured that rental relocation assistance (four months of fair market rent) was paid to these tenants by the owner of the building, and the building has been secured. The tenants of the building were given handouts detailing local services available to them, and this was explained to them via a translator.

Photos below:



Sealed bedroom windows create a hazardous condition, as it does not provide adequate means of escape and rescue (ingress/egress) in case of fire.





Inadequate Sanitation: Bathroom is not properly functioning which leads to leaky plumbing and sewage.

Water leaking over mechanical and electrical systems that are not intended for outdoor use, a shock hazard.



Rotting food in the restaurant kitchen and possible rodent infestation is a health hazard.  
A bedroom in a former walk in food storage area with a sealed window, which is a hazardous condition in the event of a fire.

As part of the Code Compliance outreach, Code Enforcement and the Rental Inspection Service teams also participate in the neighborhood clean-ups in the Beach Flats and Lower Ocean areas.

The last neighborhood clean-up for this year in the Beach Flats area was held last Saturday, October 12. It was a warm, clear day and well attended by the neighborhood. The Code Compliance Division consisting of Jacob Rodriguez, Joe Granda and Nancy Concepcion, Sanitation Driver Xander, Community Bridges partner Edgar Landeros, and Lydia, and Tina Forrest of Grey Bears were again in attendance. Additionally, the Climate Action Program group headed by Dr. Tiffany Wise-West were present to survey the residents regarding climate change and flooding in this area. This event would not be possible without Public Works who donates the debris and recycling bins and Parks staff who assist in keeping the community park in the area maintained.

The residents were happy to share their thoughts, and it was great to see many people continuing to come to this event. A 40 cu. yard bin and a 20 cu. yard bin were filled which is less than the 80 cubic yard bins in the past cleanups. This is due to the approximately 20 years of neighborhood cleanups and educational outreach to promote environmental awareness by recycling, reuse and providing information to other agencies that can further assist with community improvement.

The residents expressed gratitude that the City continues to provide the residents with this event.



Our next neighborhood clean-up event will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Neighbors of Lower Ocean (NOLO) community. See details below:



## NOLO 2019 FALL COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP



**Saturday, October 19, 2019**

**7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.\***

**\*or when the bins are full**

(Rain-out date is Saturday, October 26, 2019)

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

**We cannot accept hazardous waste in the dumpsters.**  
(Please do not bring 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...



**Neighbors, do you want to stay informed about our neighborhood? Our website is:**  
<https://nextdoor.com/> **for more information.**



# 2019 Día De Limpieza en la Vecindad –Lower Ocean



**Sábado, 19 de Octubre, 2019, 7:30 am-11:30 am\***

**\*o cuando se llenen los botes**  
(fecha si llueve es Sábado 26 de Octubre)

Evento Día de Limpieza- Este año, estaremos al fin de la calle Barson donde se termina, en la esquina de la calle Jessie St.

Habrà 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 en los botes)



**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 no. 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: Por favor, vea el sitio web <https://nextdoor.com/> para más información.



## PARKS AND RECREATION

### **By the numbers**

736 = # of tickets were sold this week to 13 upcoming Civic events

45 = # trees planted at Bethany curve this week

13 = # days of Halloween on the Wharf

### **Highlights**

Golf Course staff has completed the fall core aeration of all putting greens and tees at DeLaveaga Golf Course. This includes the greens on holes 1-18, two practice greens, a 5,000 sq. ft. turf nursery, and roughly 3 acres of trees. Core aeration is performed twice per year (in the spring and fall) to relieve soil compaction, promote gas exchange, improve drainage, modify thatch, and amend the soil profile. We used a 3/8 inch hollow core tine to aerate then 'harvest' the aeration cores and use them for other projects such as filling trip hazards and repairing damaged turf areas. Our colleagues in Parks even use them to repair the worn areas of soccer field goal boxes. First, we aerate the turf and harvest the cores. Second, we clear off any debris left behind. Next, we apply fertilizers and soil amendments including seed. Finally, we apply a heavy sand topdressing and drag the sand into the aeration holes with a steel mat. After about a week, the holes start to heal over and we begin mowing the grass again.



Core aeration





Windrows



Sand Topdressing



Green completed



One Week Later

More trees went in this week as part of our CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Grant. This time Parks staff and volunteers from the Sierra Club and Ecology Action worked at Bethany Curve to install 45 red oaks, big leaf maples, October Glory maples, river birch, and California sycamores.





13 Days of Halloween on the Wharf kicked off with the Haunting Hour Saturday, October 9 featuring carnival games, hot apple cider, face painting, and pumpkin carving by Bill Lewis of Santa Cruz Sand. The Great Pumpkin Bingo hunt begins and runs through October 31. Visit Wharf stores and restaurants for specials during the 13 Days of Halloween on the Wharf.

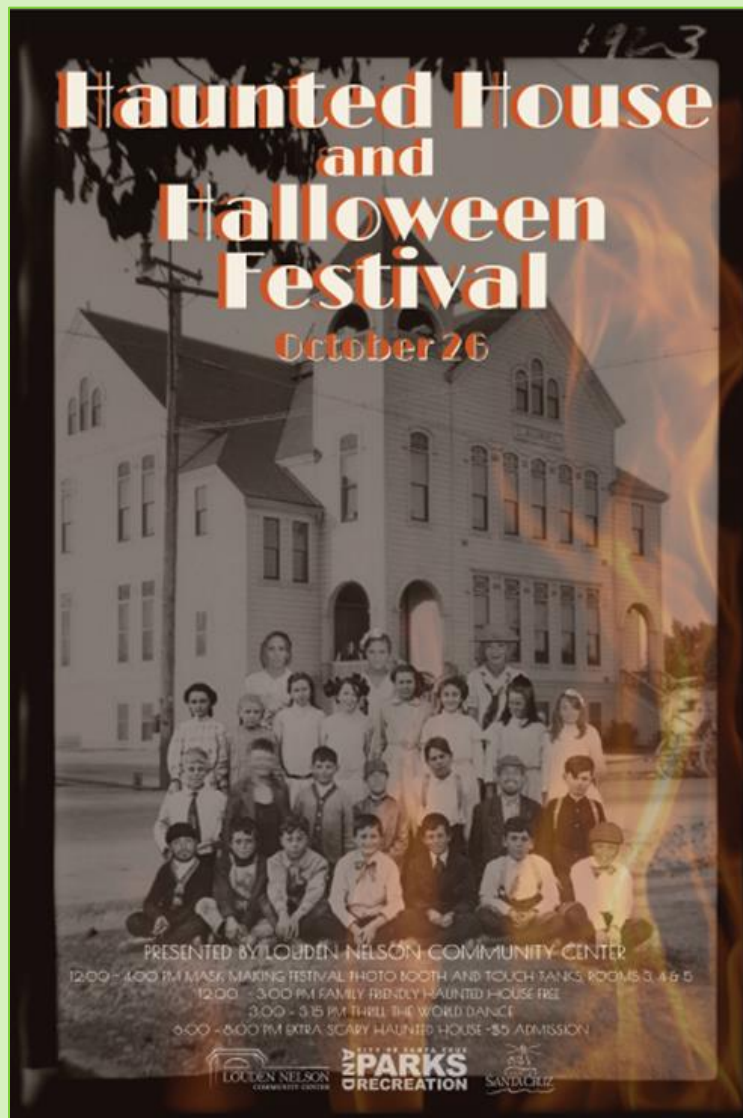




## Upcoming

October 26: LNCC Haunted House and Halloween Festival 12:00pm – 4:00pm FREE  
Join us for a fun and fright filled afternoon of mask making, photo booths, touch tanks, Thriller dance and the family friendly version of the Haunted House!

For those braver souls seeking a more exhilarating haunted house experience come down to the New Laurel School Orientation, if you dare. 6:00pm – 8:00pm Admission \$5



## POLICE

### **SCPD Awarded a \$75,000 Traffic Education and Enforcement Grant**

Santa Cruz Police Department received a \$75,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a one-year enforcement and education program. The money will fund various activities intended to reduce deaths and injuries on California roads.



“After receiving this grant in 2018-2019, our extra patrols resulted in a 31% increase in traffic citations, ten widely-publicized traffic safety awareness and enforcement campaigns, and five officers in the department attended California Traffic College. All of these measures have been proven to increase roadway safety’ said Sergeant Scott Garner.

The grant-related activities are for the 2020 federal fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020. The funding from the OTS will be used for numerous programs, including:

- DUI checkpoints.
- Patrols specifically looking for suspected alcohol and/or drug-impaired drivers.
- Patrols targeting violations of California’s hands-free cell phone law and vehicle code violations by drivers, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians that put other roadway users at risk.
- Patrols targeting the primary causes of crashes: Speeding, improper turns, running stop signs or signals, right-of-way violations and driving on the wrong side of the road.



- Patrols specifically looking for seat belt and child safety seat violations.
- Creating “Hot Sheets” identifying repeat DUI offenders.
- Officer training to identify suspected impaired drivers and conduct sobriety tests.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

### **Be The Difference Award Goes To SCPD Volunteers!**



SCPD Volunteers recognized as one of the Top 50 People, Groups, and Businesses who do the most to transform Santa Cruz County through volunteerism. Our VIPS Volunteers in Policing Services have contributed more than 350 hours to the community that's far in 2019. Thirty trained volunteers have committed to enhancing public safety services in the city of Santa Cruz. Volunteers assist the department with non-enforcement duties helping to increase police responsive and maintain positive relationships with

the public.

SCPD volunteers have earned respect and gratitude from the police department, local businesses, neighborhoods, and hundreds of community members and visitors they have helped. SCPD VIPS makes our community a happier, healthier place to live through volunteerism.

### **SCPD NOW HIRING: Rangers!**

If you are a hardworking, honest, and dedicated person who cares about Santa Cruz and people, we have an opportunity for you. [Apply to be an SCPD Ranger today!](#)

SCPD Rangers provide investigative and protective services for the City of Santa Cruz in areas of urban, suburban, and open spaces.



## PINK PATCH PROJECT



Santa Cruz Police are a proud supporter of the [Pink Patch Project](#) to help raise money to crush cancer. You can support this great cause, too, with the purchase of a pink patch.

The Pink Patch Project is an innovative public awareness campaign to bring attention to the fight against breast cancer and to support breast cancer research organizations in combating this devastating disease. The program centers on vibrant pink versions of the public safety employee's uniform patch.

Pink Patches are available for purchase at SCPD on 155 Center Street. Our lobby is open Monday - Thursday 9 am - 4 pm and Friday 10 am - 3 pm. Payments can be cash or credit card. Patches are \$10 for the standard size and \$5 for the mini (2.75").

Email [lrobinson@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:lrobinson@cityofsantacruz.com) for SCPD pink patch purchases to help support breast cancer education, early detection, and treatment - with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Walnut Ave Women's Center.

Pink Patch t-shirts are available for sale in sizes S-M-L-XL while supplies last. Contact Jodi at 831-420-5810 or [jmulloy@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:jmulloy@cityofsantacruz.com)



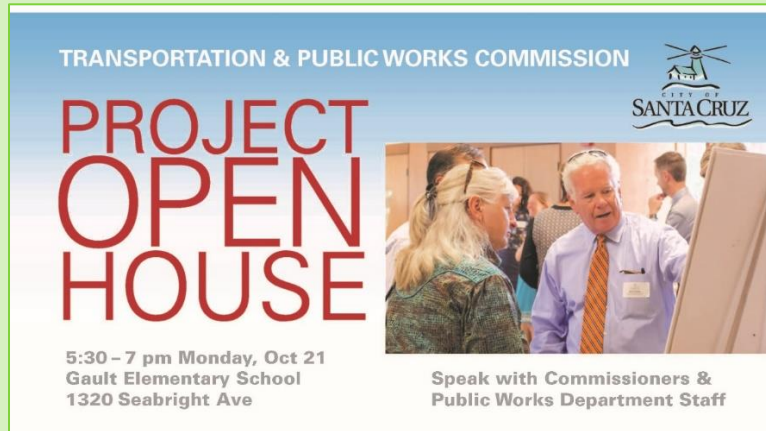
## SCPD Inbox

"I just wanted to thank all of the officers that help keep us safe. I know it's a hard job and your hands are somewhat tied, but please know that you are appreciated. Thanks and keep up the good work." - Louie



## 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 including:

The Highway 1/9 Intersection Improvements Project which will widen the intersection to provide traffic operation and safety enhancements.



The Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project that will strengthen the bridge to better resist seismic forces.



New project plans that will allow street sweeping in high impact areas for cleaner streets and better water quality and will develop food waste collections projects newly mandated by the state of California.



Safe Routes to School projects that will add safety enhancements to 22 crossings adjacent to Santa Cruz City School campuses. These improvements include rectangular rapid flashing beacons, radar speed feedback signs, street lighting, ADA compliant curb ramps, and enhanced striping for crosswalks.

Another 21 street crossings throughout the city will be similarly improved in the HSIP Pedestrian Crossing Improvement Project.



The Ocean and Water Streets Northwest Corner Improvement Project will reconfigure the corner and intersection to allow for two left turn lanes From Ocean southbound to Water eastbound. This will create more room for the intersection by moving the sidewalk at the NW corner back and expanding the traveled way.



Read all the [details in our Santa Cruz Waves 'City Beat' column](#). We hope to see you there!

### **Traffic Engineering/Community Outreach**

Open Streets, Sunday's pop-up park along West Cliff Drive, brought a fun-filled opportunity to share City activities and information with young and old. Thank you to the Bike Santa Cruz County organizers and hundreds of attendees who made this such a successful event! The winners of our free bike raffle have happily claimed their prizes!

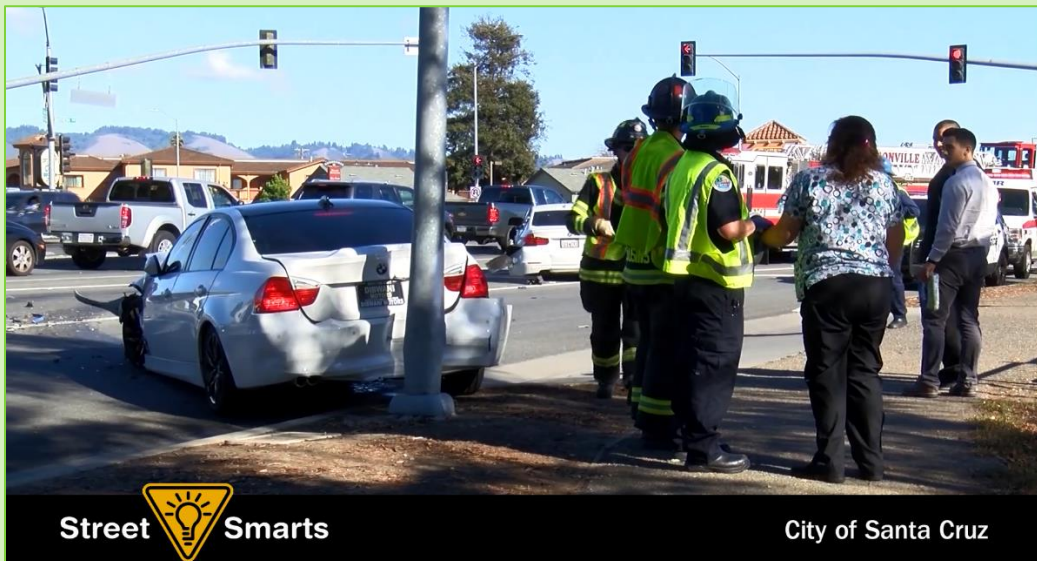


Street Smarts was one of five City Open Streets tables. We spoke with dozens of visitors encouraged by the traffic safety campaign, many of whom took home our yard signs and made a traffic safety pledge.





This week's [Street Smarts video](#) reminds us why stopping is such an important part of driving. [En español.](#)



Street  Smarts

City of Santa Cruz



## LIBRARY

### MYSTERY WEEK PANEL **Murderous Intent: *Secrets of Killer Writers***



**Thursday, October 24th • 6:30pm - 8:00pm**  
**Downtown library • 224 Church St.**

We are very lucky to once again host one of the many Mystery Writers of America (MWA) NorCal Chapter events scheduled in celebration of Mystery Week October 19 - 26, 2019.

In *Murderous Intent: Secrets of Killer Writers*, you'll get up close and personal with some of the most Killer Writers in Northern California. Our panelists represent a variety of sub-genres and include Ellison Cooper (Jennifer Dornan-Fish), Mary Feliz, Katherine Bolger Hyde, and Sandra Balzo. Laurie R. King moderates the discussion, which was coordinated by Laurie Sheehan.

Enjoy terrifying treats and a glass of wine as we learn the secrets of these Killer Writers. Costumes are welcome! Each author's books will be available for purchase at this free event. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/santacruzpl](https://facebook.com/santacruzpl) during the month of October to play in our weekly Mystery Week Contest and win great and mysterious prizes!



**Moderated by  
Laurie R. King**

Mystery Writers of America NorCal Chapter celebrates Mystery Week with talks and panels by local MWA members on topics related to mysteries all over the Bay Area. Visit [mwanorcal.org](http://mwanorcal.org) to find out about other events being held during Mystery Week.