

## City Manager's Weekly Update

January 31, 2020

### WATER

This week, for the first time ever, the wash water tank at the treatment plant had to be taken offline for cleaning and inspection. It was a big deal, as the tank is used for a critical task in the treatment process, backwashing the filters. Once the tank was taken offline it was a race to get the work done – we only had 72 hours before the loss of the tank would become critical. I'm happy to report that we were successful both with the inspection and with getting the tank back online before our deadline.



*(Wash water tank inspection underway)*

The interior shell of the University 5 tank was coated Wednesday, getting this project closer to completion. We still need to coat the bottom of the tank and finish a few other odds and ends, but should be done with the project sometime around February 19. The neighborhood near the tank has been very patient with the noise and dust impacts; we will be providing them tours of the inside of the finished tank (always an impressive sight).

Night work on the Water Street main replacement will occur the nights of February 9-13. This project is also scheduled to wrap up in late February.

Our new utility bill is out. We've received five complaints from customers about the new format, and five compliments.

Our Distribution crew has been all over town renewing services, fixing leaks, and replacing main line valves. One seemingly routine service line replacement on Fair Avenue turned into an emergency, with the need to shut down the main serving the entire neighborhood. There is never a dull moment when working with decades-old infrastructure, and our team is exceptional at trouble-shooting.

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### 908 Ocean Street

In December, our department received an application to combine 20 lots and construct a mixed-use development that will comprise most of the block bound by Ocean Street, Hubbard Street, May Avenue, and Water Street. The development will include commercial spaces on the ground floor along Ocean Street and 408 Small Ownership Units (SOUs) in buildings three to four stories tall. This proposal incorporates one more parcel than was originally proposed during last year's pre-application process that included two community meetings and also includes 75 additional SROs than the original design. The applicant will be holding a new community meeting for the project in the next couple of months.



Ocean Street view



May Avenue, left side



May Avenue, middle of block



May Avenue, right side to Hubbard

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### Wharf Update

Work continues rain or shine on the no-roost, water shedding, litter restraining, and Wharf perimeter fence with over 1000 feet of 4000 of improvements near completion. A temporary shelter to keep fence rails, paint and painters dry has been erected at the Wharf Corporation yard to support the ongoing renovation.



The Wharf Construction crew has also been working in cooperation with the Water Department to install a series of stainless steel hangers and custom crafted seismic thrust hangers in place of the galvanized hangers supporting the Wharf water main that begun to corrode away.



The sunshine that peeked through also gave the Building Maintenance crew the opportunity to begin rebuilding the walls containing one of our recycling enclosures.

## News from the Field

Last weekend Parks & Rec Commissioner Jane Mio along with members of the Downtown Street Team and community volunteers braved the cold to give Mike Fox Park some attention and care. This work helps provide wildlife food sources, future bird shelter and nesting places. The Parks crew delivered tools to help with the work, which included:

- Re-installing a fence;
- Removing storm debris;
- Pulling weeds - mostly Bermuda grass;
- Pruned bushes, deadheaded plants, and spread seeds;

Thank you to these community volunteers for working together to make a positive change to our City parks and community.



## Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group at the Civic Auditorium

**Saturday – February 22, 2020**

Back by popular demand, Texas singer-songwriter **Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group** make their return to Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium on Saturday, February 22 for a very special all new acoustic performance!

A singer, composer and actor, Lyle Lovett has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums over three decades. Coupled with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician fuses elements of Americana, swing, jazz, folk, gospel and blues in a convention-defying manner that breaks down barriers.

[Tickets available.](#)



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Engineering

Mayor Cummings was one of seven inspirational speakers at Saturday's Rail Trail Segment 7 -- Phase I party. He was pleased to accept FORT and Ecology Action's \$14,000+ check for a bike/ped counter to be installed during construction. Our Transportation Planner Claire Gallogly explained plans for Segments 8 & 9 to enthusiastic community members. Thank you to FORT for hosting this exciting and energizing event! [Read more in our Santa Cruz Waves column.](#)



## Operations

PG&E has completed the transformer upgrade installation at the Corp Yard and the bases for the EV charging stations. The contractor has laid the asphalt and will soon stripe and install wheel stops. The project is part of the utility's EV Charge Network Program; PG&E provided all infrastructures up to the EV charging stations at no cost to the City. The project provides 16 EV charging stations for City and employee vehicles at the Corp Yard. The EV charging stations are expected to arrive shortly.



On January 28, the City Council approved submittal of Public Works and Parks and Rec's collaborative application for CalRecycle's Fiscal Year 2019-20 Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Abatement Grant (FR69). The grant provides one-time funding per site for the abatement of illegal dumping. If awarded, the funding from the grant will allow both departments to provide measures to protect the public and environmental health and safety by deterring illegal dumping within the City.

We replaced four electric pool cars with new electric LEAF vehicles as the previous leases had expired.

## Streets

Our crews have been busy working on asphalt patchwork around Pacheco, repairing the asphalt and wheel stops behind the Parks & Rec admin building, repairing streets signs, repainting disabled parking spots so that they're up to code, and conducting regular citywide pickups of abandoned encampment debris.

## Resource Recovery

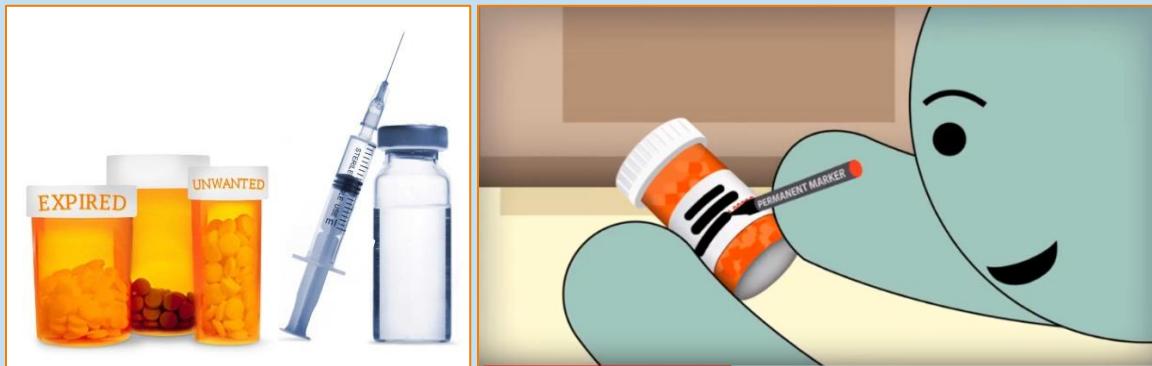
This week City Council adopted an update to the Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging and Products Ordinance. The changes intend to encourage greater environmentally sustainable business practices while aligning with a similar Santa Cruz County ruling. They become effective on Sept. 8.

The changes expand the current Ordinance's definitions of "compostable" and "biodegradable" for disposable food service ware at retail food service establishments and also include a 25-cent fee on hot and cold drinks sold in disposable cups. This fee intends to reduce waste by encouraging retail customers to bring reusable cups whether dining in or taking beverages out. Businesses will keep the fee. [Read more.](#)



### Environmental Compliance

If you have expired or unwanted medicines or sharps, proper disposal is important and easy. Our Med-Project program offers various Santa Cruz locations for this. Find the closest one to you [here](#) and see our new animated video in [English](#) or en [español](#).



### Wastewater Treatment Facility

Electrical, Maintenance and Operations staff are working together to install a new foul air odor control treatment system. This replaces an older model and will improve odor control dosing efficiencies.

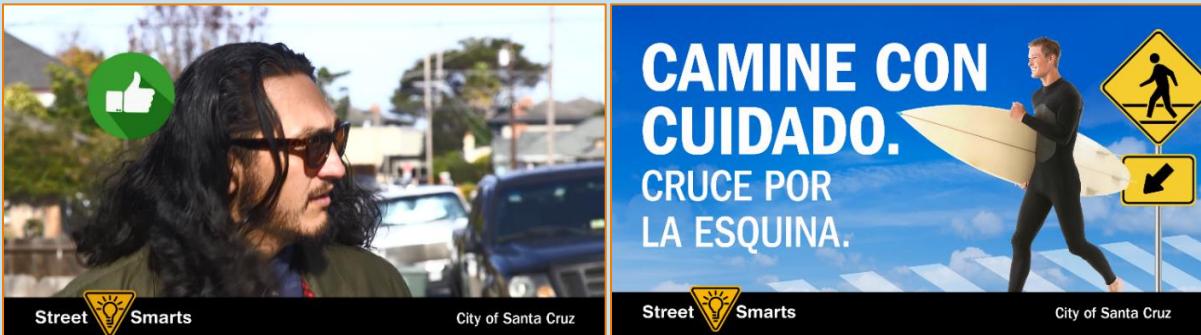
We replaced a worn-out bearing on an odor reduction tower, using it as a training opportunity for some of the newer maintenance staff.

Maintenance installed newly fabricated stairs to the facility's recycled water pumping room. These metal stairs with handrails are replacing an aging wooden step.

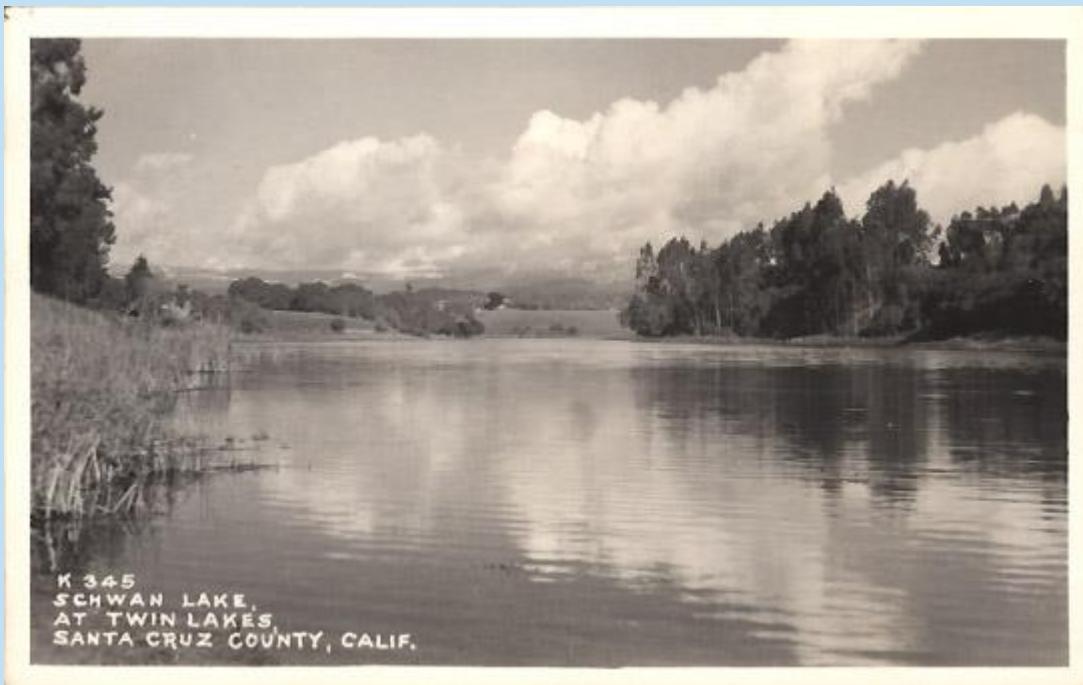


## Transportation/Community Outreach

Learn how to "Walk Smart" (with a smile!) in this week's traffic safety video in [English](#), en [español](#).



**Genealogical Society Lecture Series**  
**Historic East Twin Lakes with guest speaker**  
**Norman Poitevin**



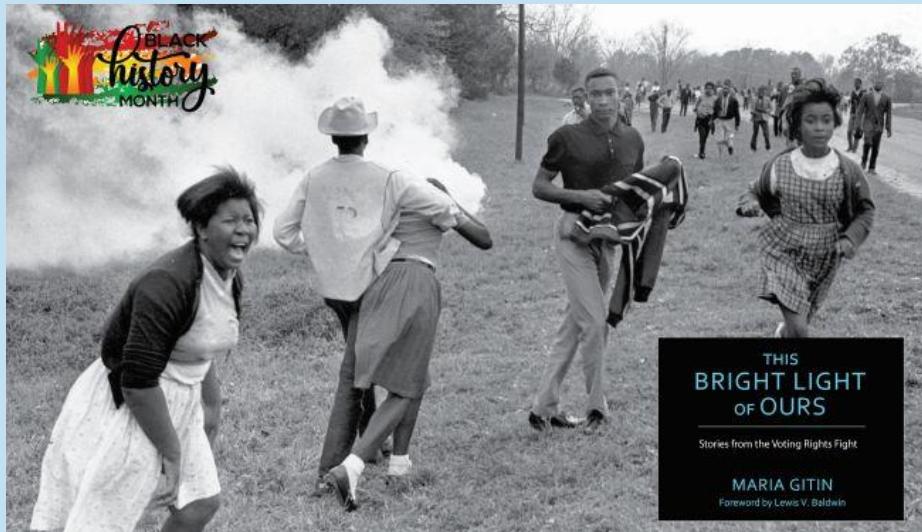
**Tuesday, February 4th • 1:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Downtown Branch Library • 224 Church St. Upstairs Meeting Room**

Norman Poitevin will present stirring and amusing tales centered around the people and places of the eastern part of the 1890 Twin Lakes Subdivision, originally owned by the Baptist Assembly of California. Norm's presentation will be based on details included in his walking tours of the area.

Norman Poitevin has been a genealogist for many years, dating back to the era when the Genealogical Society's collection was housed at the Branciforte Branch Library. He got started in 1987 when he corrected errors in his own family history. After retiring from nursing at the end of 2000, Norm became involved in local history research with Phil Reader and developed a series of walking tours for Live Oak Neighbors. There are now fifteen different Live Oak walking tours. Norm also serves as a historian for Old Holy Cross Cemetery, where he has researched the people buried there. In addition, he serves on the Landmark Committee of the Museum of Art and History, which identifies and honors historic sites and buildings in Santa Cruz County. Norman has been a Genealogical Society member for many years.

For more information, please call the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County (831) 427-7707 extension 5794.

## Celebrate Black History Month • Author Talk: Maria Gitin



**Thursday, February 6th • 2:00PM - 3:00PM**

**Downtown Branch Library • 224 Church St. Upstairs Meeting Room**

We're kicking off our Black History Month celebration with an exciting discussion with Civil Rights author Maria Gitin. The one-hour presentation will include a slide show, stories, brief discussion and book signing. United Way CEO Keisha Frost Browder opens with a special introduction.

After the successful march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, African American civil rights workers launched an all-out effort to register thousands of new Black voters in the Deep South. A few hundred white youth were invited to join them. Santa Cruz County resident and NAACP member Maria Gitin was an idealistic 19-year-old college freshman at San Francisco State College who responded to Dr. Martin Luther King's call to action. She will read from her memoir, ["This Bright Light of Ours: Stories from the Voting Rights Fight,"](#) (University of Alabama Press) which is the only in-depth account of this summer from a participant perspective. Former Watsonville resident and nationally acclaimed civil rights activist and photographer Bob Fitch contributed historic photos to the book, some of which will be presented in a slide show along with Gitin's talk.

Maria Gitin has been the Martin Luther King Jr. Day keynote speaker for King County in Seattle; for the U.S. Army Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey and for the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University, among her many other public presentations. She is the curator of an art and history exhibit, "Vote! Your Voice is Your Vote" which opens at the Santa Cruz County Government Center 3rd floor on January 27th.

## **More Black History Month Events**

**First Friday exhibits will also be a part of our celebration of Black History Month this year.**

At the Santa Cruz County Government Center, Maria Gitin has curated a Vote exhibit. Vote! Your Vote is Your Voice/¡Vote! Su Voto es Su Voz, features Bob Fitch photos from Stanford Libraries and artifacts from civil rights veteran Maria Gitin. The exhibit includes contemporary regional artists' interpretation of voting rights and informative displays from Santa Cruz County Elections Department and Watsonville City Clerk's Office. A visual timeline highlights key events in voting rights history including the historic Watsonville v. Gomez case.



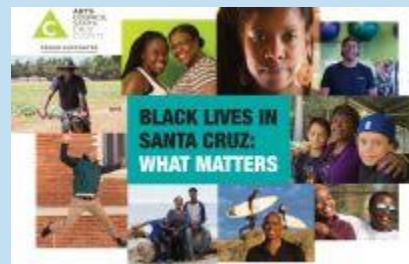
The exhibit is presented by Pajaro Valley Arts in partnership with Santa Cruz County Elections Department.

## **Black Lives in Santa Cruz: What Matters**

**Photography and interview exhibit by Allison Garcia**

**Friday, February 7th • 5:30PM - 8:00PM**  
**Downtown Branch Library • 224 Church St. Upstairs Meeting Room**

SCPL will also host the exhibit "Black Lives in Santa Cruz: What Matters" by local photographer [Allison Garcia](#). Through the words and images of the people who experience it, "Black Lives in Santa Cruz: What Matters" reveals some of the racial disparity and injustice in our community. It focuses the lens on "what matters" to the participants-each unique, yet with common threads of family, friends, work, health, and joy. All are welcome to view the exhibit at the February First Friday reception from 5:30 - 8 p.m. and meet the artist.



[Maria Gitin](#) is the recipient of numerous racial justice awards and has received congressional, military and state assembly recognition for her lifetime commitment to civil rights. Gitin is a member of the NAACP, Bay Area Civil Rights Veterans and of Temple Beth El, Aptos. She and her photographer husband, Samuel Torres Jr., live in Santa Cruz County.

Black History Month at your library is made possible by a partnership with the NAACP and United Way of Santa Cruz County.