

City Manager's Weekly Update

August 14, 2020

Economic Development

Outdoor Expansion Program Continues Going Strong

Economic Development, working closely with Public Works, Fire, and Parks and Recreation continues to support local businesses through the Temporary Outdoor Expansion Area Program. The program was initially designed to allow restaurants and retail establishments to operate in public spaces, streets, and outdoor private lots with notable installations like Cathcart Street, the 1100 Block of Pacific Avenue, and the Wharf. Due to the County's placement on the state COVID-19 Monitoring list the program has now been expanded to permit other commercial uses like gyms, salons, and personal services. To date, staff has worked with nearly 80 local businesses to expand operations outdoors and, where needed, has provided technical assistance and supplied more than 80 water barriers, as well as nearly 150 parade barricades and other assorted materials, to ensure the safety of customers and the public.

While outdoor expansions are happening around the City, a few new installations include the Walnut Avenue area with Soif, Falafel Hut, Betty's Burgers, and Rosie McCann's all joining Walnut Ave Café with expanded outdoor dining. Additionally, several beach area restaurants like Sawasdee Thai and Beach St. Pizza have also moved outdoors as has El Palomar, now open in Frazier Lewis Lane. This weekend, look for the new outdoor tent with wine tasting and light fare - [via food and beverage davit](#) - at Vino Locale on the Wharf. Special thanks to all the field crews in Public Works and the Wharf Crew for making this program a success. More information on the Temporary Outdoor Expansion Area Program is available at ChooseSantaCruz.com/OutdoorExpansion.



Outdoor Dining at El Palomar on Frazier Lewis Lane (behind Soquel-Front garage).



A stroll past outdoor dining under the row of palms at Riva's on the Wharf.



Evening dining at Riva's on the Wharf.



Wharf Crew leads Patrick Mason and Britt Hoberg setting up the food and beverage davit for Vino Locale on the Wharf.

Infrastructure & Property Development Update

Electric Trolley Charger Installed

Economic Development received the first electric shuttle charger, as part of a grant from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's Motor Vehicle Emissions Reduction Program. Economic Development and Public Works worked together to install the Level III DC Fast Charger at the City's Corporation Yard.



Wayfinding Sign Installation Happening Soon!

The City has been working on the Citywide Wayfinding Project since 2011, and it's now moving into the installation phase. Over 300+ vehicular, parking, pedestrian, and gateway signs will be installed throughout the City. Economic Development is currently working with contractor Corporate Sign Systems on final plans for fabrication and installation.

Housing Development & Preservation

Housing Team Continues Seeking Funding to Move Projects Forward

Over the last few weeks the housing team has been able to complete the following important milestones to work toward securing funding for two major projects:

- Submitted State HCD Transit Oriented Development competitive funding application (if awarded, up to \$10M would go toward development of Metro Pacific Station South 100% affordable housing development)
- Submitted State HCD Local Housing Trust Fund competitive funding application (if awarded, up to \$5M in State Match funds will be allocated toward Library and Metro affordable housing developments)
- Submitted State HCD Permanent Local Housing Allocation funding application (non-competitive, approximately \$1.6M will be allocated toward Metro and Library affordable housing developments)



Mockup of illuminated Gateway signage to be installed on the West Side at Mission/Swift and East Side at Soquel/La Fonda.

Arts & Culture Development

Chinatown Gate To Be Installed in October



Site preparation work at the Chinatown Bridge is currently underway. This collaborative project is sponsored by the Coastal Watershed Council and generously supported by George Ow, Jr. Artist Tom Ralston is collaborating Kathleen Crocetti on the place-making project, which will be a concrete arch with the title of "Chinatown Gate Santa Cruz" in bright red Chinese characters. The columns will have Chinese poems in the same style characters in red and indented into the columns. On top of the arch will be a water dragon. The base form was fabricated in Kathleen Crocetti's driveway under the watchful eyes of her neighbors. Artisans Sean Monaghan of the Bronzeworks Studio, Michael Corcoran with Moonchild Cabinetry, and Tony Armor of Day One Solar are also contributing to the project.

Tom shared the following inspirations regarding his work. "Personally this project is grand and most joyous. There may be some strange synchronicity working here: My great grandmother



who came from Italy worked in Chinatown Santa Cruz from 1900-1902! My vision for this monument came instantaneously and I saw bright yellow concrete pedestals, columns, bronze plaques, with solar lighting as well as an arch with a dragon on top of the arch. As usual Kathleen will create a fantastic dragon beyond what any of us had envisioned.

There has been more work and surprises that I expected but the collective enthusiasm for this project will carry me and the other artisans past any challenges we may face. The craftspeople here are phenomenal and this monument is going to shout Santa Cruz Talent!"

Parks & Recreation

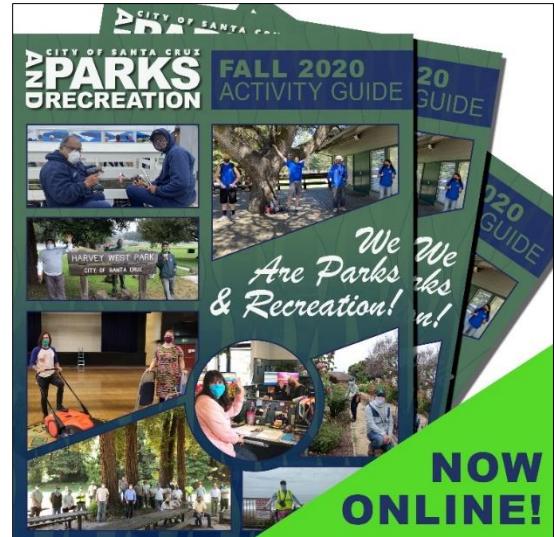
Fall 2020 Activity Guide

The theme of the Fall 2020 Parks & Recreation Activity Guide is “We Are Parks And Recreation” and celebrates the amazing people of the Parks and Recreation Department. The guide is filled with staff photos and information on how our department is working hard for our community during COVID. **The guide is available in English and Spanish at santacruzparksandrec.com.**

Fall Registration began August 17. Parks and Recreation is excited to offer fun, educational and active classes for all ages both virtually and in person. In-person outdoor adult fitness classes have been carefully planned with safety in mind, following current County Health guidelines.

Louden Nelson

Our Facility Maintenance Worker, Bob Duran, is busy preparing the Center for the re-opening of the City Day Care for essential employees on August 24.



Senior Programs Coordinator Kelly Mercer-Lebov is connecting seniors with free Amazon Fire tablets and access to a variety of online classes through the Senior Center Without Limits partnership with Community Bridges and Elder Day.

Jack Sprow and Isaac Steinbrook are working on a top secret film project! Details to come...



Kelly Mercer-Lebov,
Senior Programs



Bob Duran,
Facility Maintenance Worker



Jack Sprow and Isaac

Childcare for City Essential Workers

Registration for childcare with priority to City essential workers will open Wednesday August 19. Childcare will operate at the Louden Nelson Community Center, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Recreation staff will assist with student's virtual learning in the morning and provide recreational activities in the afternoon. Staff have trained with City schools teachers on effective ways to assist students with virtual learning. Second priority for childcare will be given to City schools teachers and then to high need families identified by City schools staff.

Planning and Community Development

514, 516, 518, 524, and 530 Front Street

On August 3, 2020, the Planning Department received an application for the demolition of two existing buildings and the construction of a six-story, mixed-use building with ground floor and Riverwalk-facing commercial spaces and 170 upper level condominiums. The project includes a mix of studios, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom condos and includes 10,338 square feet of commercial space. The project site is located within the Front St Riverfront Corridor area of the Downtown Plan and is within Additional Height Zone B that allows for building heights up to 70-feet and five floors above ground floor commercial under specific conditions.

A Pre-application review for the project was submitted on January 15, 2020 and was deemed complete on February 5, 2020; therefore, pursuant to SB330, which was approved by the Governor on October 9, 2019, the development is locked into the fees and inclusionary housing requirements that were in effect at the time that the pre-application was deemed complete, and the project is subject to a 15 percent inclusionary housing requirement.

A community meeting was held as part of the pre-application process, pursuant to the City's Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects, and any additional significant changes in the project could require an additional community meeting as part of the formal application review process. It is estimated that the project will require approval of a non-residential demolition authorization permit, a tentative map, a special use permit, and design permit with a recommendation for approval by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission and final action by the City Council.

A Rendering of the proposed project from Soquel Ave and the Riverwalk



Police Department

Fugitive in 2009 Homicide Apprehended



This week in a press conference the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office and Santa Cruz Police Department announced that 34-year-old Paulo Ramirez Luna was apprehended in Mexico in connection with the 2009 murder of 16-year-old Tyler Tenorio in the City of Santa Cruz.

Chief Andy Mills described the arrest as part of a "relentless pursuit of justice" in partnership with Santa Cruz Police, District Attorney's Office, and federal authorities. "Justice for Tyler Tenorio would not have been achieved without crucial evidence obtained by Sgt. Butch Baker and Detective Elizabeth Butler along with cold case Detective Ron Truhitte" said, Chief Mills. District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell said. "Since the night of that incident, Santa Cruz Police Department has worked diligently and investigated this horrific crime."

SCPD Lends Support In Water Main Breaks

In the past few weeks, City work crews responded to multiple water main breaks; the teams appreciate our CSO handling of these incidents. Because of the CSO's managing traffic and helping with extra muscle, the crews can get the water back online ASAP. Community Service Officers support crime prevention, investigations, and responses that do not require a police officer. They help with crash scenes, motorist assists, and ensure our roadways are clear. We are grateful for our Community Service Officers who assist our community members, other city departments, and officers.



SCPD - A Balanced Approach

Coral Street | Westside Parking on Delaware, Natural Bridges, and Swanton

When somebody calls the City to complain about homeless people or encampments, SCPD is the primary agency dispatched in response. Due to many ongoing complaints from community members regarding health and safety issues and the prevalence of crime associated with impacted areas, SCPD developed and implemented a twofold balanced approach of outreach and enforcement to support a coordinated City and County response to persons experiencing homelessness.

Santa Cruz Police Department has increased outreach, education, and streamlined enforcement to address unhealthy street behavior on City sidewalks, streets, and public rights-of-way. These efforts are only part of an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life in our City.





SCPD is continuously challenged to treat homeless people compassionately, while also addressing constituent complaints about the unhoused and the accompanying negative impacts on the overall health and safety of the community. As an alternative to police-led enforcement, our H.E.R.O team, Homeless Engagement Resources Officers compassionately serves the homeless population by providing information and referrals to individuals struggling with drug addiction, behavioral health issues, and related public safety issues.

Coral Street & Westside Parking are areas with significant challenges based on numerous complaints from community members, ongoing calls for service, and COVID19 public health concerns.

Santa Cruz Police focused on proactive engagement with houseless community members and neighbors, including businesses and residents, to address urgent public safety issues on Coral Street, the adjacent railroad corridor, and Westside hotspots, including Delaware Street, Natural Bridges, and Swanton Road.

Our Department's approach is quite different from those jurisdictions where enforcement happens without coordination with support services response. SCPD utilizes a balanced approach to establish effective change on both contentious community issues on Coral Street and the Westside.

Coral Street - The SCPD Neighborhood Policing Team and Homeless Outreach Officers continue to work closely with other city departments and community partners to restore and improve Coral Street's overall conditions along with the adjoining railroad tracks.

Coral Street Challenges - The cleanup is ongoing because the area is repeatedly filled with trash, drug debris, and other biohazards that pollute the environment. Coral Street is known among offenders to be conducive to narcotic crimes, theft, dumping, trespassing, and loitering. Finding immediate shelter options for displaced people continues to be a challenge. It is common for encampments to re-populate or relocate nearby after the City conducts a cleanup.

SCPD Proactive Steps on Coral Street - Officers work continuously to affect unhoused people positively and place them into safety net services. The goal is to be a collaborative partner in the coordinated response to resolve homelessness issues.

- Businesses and residents around Coral Street see some relief in nuisance crime.
- SCPD instrumental in Coral Street Project becoming operational



- SCPD supports and collaborates with City and County on a long-range homelessness plan.
- H.E.R.O. partners with service providers and build positive interactions with houseless individuals.

Westside Parking – SCPD receives hundreds of complaints from Westside neighbors about illegal parking and storage of over-sized vehicles in residential and commercial areas. Every day officers respond to unlawful parking and reports of RVs leaking human waste sewage in the streets, into storm drains, or trash piling up outside of the vehicle. Neighbors also report concerned about sidewalks blocked by belongings associated with vehicles. SCPD has received reports of intimidating behavior and drug use from occupants that cause other citizens not to feel safe. SCPD has recovered multiple stolen cars and made drug-related arrests in those parking areas.



Westside Parking Challenges- Law enforcement is perceived by many as the only viable option to address to homelessness on our streets. Westside neighborhoods feel overwhelmed by numerous illegal parking issues. Residents and businesses have nowhere else to turn for help and call the Police Department to intervene and interact with houseless individuals who, in many cases, need a homeless service worker's assistance. Finding alternative parking options for people after being displaced can be an ongoing challenge. Some simply prefer not to relocate. It is common for vehicle and RV campers to re-poopulate, move to a nearby location, or impact Eastside neighborhoods.

SCPD Proactive Actions on Westside Parking

SCPD has facilitated the towing of 73 vehicles and RVs contributing to neighborhood problems from the Westside for issues ranging from expired registration (some by as many as 5-to-10 years), leaking sewage, neglected citations, abandoned or inoperable vehicles.

Delaware/Swanton Parking Enforcement Cause and Effect - When Enforcement is Up, Citizen Initiated Calls for Service Decrease = Community Satisfaction is High



Along with parking enforcement, the Department's balanced approach includes outreach to people living in their vehicles. Officers work with vehicle occupants to educate and direct them to resources: the SCPD Neighborhood Policing Team and H.E.R.O. team assists in helping to make arrangements to resolve vehicle and parking issues without requiring enforcement if at all possible.

When a vehicle is reported or observed to be abandoned stored, a courtesy warning notice is placed on it, so that vehicle owner has the opportunity to correct the violation.

Officers, Community Service Officers, Rangers, and Volunteers distribute SafeSpace flyers on long term parked cars throughout the city. SafeSpaces for RVs and Cars program is provides safe overnight parking areas for people who are living in their car, van, or RV. The SafeSpace program is a partnership between the City of Santa Cruz and the Association of Faith Communities.

Did you know SCPD partnered with SafeSpaces and designates sites for overnight parking?

For more information on the steps the SCPD has taken to help our most vulnerable population compassionately, while also addressing community complaints and demands for enforcement, follow us on social media. Especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, our highest priority is the health and safety of our entire community.

Community Resources

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING TEAMS (NPT)

SCPD Police Officers, Community Service Officers, Rangers, and Volunteers are an integral part of our neighborhoods. NPT partnering with the community activates crime-fighting strategies to tackle the underlying causes of crime and safety issues and put sustainable solutions in place.

Need to Contact your Neighborhood Policing Team Sergeant?

Downtown: Sgt. Carter Jones at Downtown@cityofsantacruz.com or (831) 420-5992

Eastside: Sgt. Dan Forbus at UpperEast@cityofsantacruz.com or (831) 420-5800 x4832

Westside: Sgt. Wes Morey at LowerWest@cityofsantacruz.com or (831) 420-58057

To Get Nuisance Vehicles & Parking Violators Off Neighborhood Streets

Parking Enforcement & Complaints throughout the City of Santa Cruz

Public Works, Parking Dept enforces and issues parking citations citywide call 831-420-5185.

Report Abandoned Vehicles to SCPD Vehicle Abatement call 831-420-5863.

Be prepared to leave the following information on the abandoned vehicle hotline:

Location of the vehicle

Color of the vehicle

Make and model of the vehicle

License plate number



or
the

SafeSpaces - Faith communities provide parking spaces those living in their vehicles on their property from 7 pm to 7 am without any government permission or oversight.

Santa Cruz County Homeless Resources
City of Santa Cruz Homeless Resources

Public Works

Our department was featured in the July issue of the national Municipal Magazine: Public works adapts in face of the pandemic.



Employees wear masks from Santa Cruz's 10,000 Mask Project. Our Wastewater Facility collected more than 7,000 rolls of toilet paper to include in weekly Healthy Food Program grocery bags.

Environmental Compliance

A reminder that needles should never be placed in a recycling cart, flushed down the toilet, or discarded separately or loosely. To properly dispose of sharps, place them in a dedicated, approved, red sharps container and drop off the full container at one of the MED-Project locations. These red sharps containers are available at a very nominal fee in 1-quart, 5-quart, and 2-gallon sizes at all pharmacies. Here is a video on this in English, en español. You may also now request a sharps mail-back package by visiting MED-Project or calling (844) MED-PROJECT (633-7765).

MED-Project™
Medication Education & Disposal

**SAFELY
DISPOSE OF
UNWANTED
SHARPS**

You



1. Visit the
MED-Project
website **OR**
2. Call MED-Project
to request a
mail-back package



3. Receive
mail-back
package

TO REQUEST A MAIL-BACK PACKAGE

Visit www.MED-Project.org or call
1 (844) MED-PROJECT (633-7765)

Wastewater Treatment Facility

In June, we published our second annual Neighborhood News. Learn about our new UV construction project, Clean Ocean Businesses and much more with the online edition here.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Neighborhood News

FROM THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY **JUNE 2020**

Providing quality life service to the community while helping to reduce the City's carbon footprint and protecting the environment.

Dear Neighbors:
All of us at the Wastewater Treatment Facility hope that you and your family are healthy during these difficult days of the COVID-19 pandemic. We enjoyed getting to know many of you last year at our Neighbors-only event on April 13. We look forward to staying in touch with you through this annual newsletter. While our in-person tours are on hold given the pandemic and onsite construction, we welcome you to visit us virtually. Please see the details below.

NEW UV SYSTEM WILL SAVE ENERGY AND REDUCE COSTS!

CITY ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS have completed the design and solicited bids for the replacement of the ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system here at the WWTF. UV disinfection is part of the first treatment process for secondary effluent wastewater before ocean discharge. UV disinfection provides compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit effluent limitations which protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water as prescribed in our state's California Ocean Plan.

Replacing the aging ultraviolet light disinfection system, including controls and lamps, with current technology will provide significant energy savings and reduce operating costs. The installation of the replacement UV system requires some demolition of existing concrete channels to fit the new smaller unit. The demolition part might take up to four weeks and may be noisy. This construction schedule will follow the city noise ordinance which limits noise before 8 a.m. Construction is slated to begin this summer. Pardon our dust!

VIRTUALLY TOUR THE FACILITY
See what happens to 7 million gallons of wastewater daily as it travels from your home and through our treatment facility for environmentally friendly all natural processing at cityofsantacruz.com/wastewater.

ABOVE:
Our aging UV disinfection system will soon be replaced with state-of-the-art technology.

CLEAN OCEAN BUSINESSES GO THE EXTRA MILE

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
DWSW annually delivers Clean Ocean Business awards to Santa Cruz water service and food service facilities that meet strict criteria to protect Santa Cruz creeks, the Santa Cruz River and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Over 300 award recipients to date have adopted practices that keep pollutants away from both storm drains and the sewer system. "Any wastewater routed to the sanitary sewer.

"This is the reason why Dream Inn we are located right on cowell beach and cherish the environment we sit on. If we did not protect our oceans we would not be Dream Inn," said Director of Sales and Marketing Dan Smart.

Another 12-year award is given to Scott's Body Shop. "They meet strict pollution prevention and hazardous waste criteria, train employees on best management practices, and route any wastewater to the sanitary sewer. According to DWSW, Scott's meets Clean Ocean Business criteria not only help with community environmental responsibility, but also with the business—keeping us organized and on track."

The number of Clean Ocean Business awards continues to increase annually. The complete list of recognized businesses is available at cityofsantacruz.com.

ABOVE:
The Dream Inn Santa Cruz and Scott's Body Shop with owner Edby Scott—both establishments have been Clean Ocean Businesses for 12 years.

On August 4, four operators worked overnight to shut down the wastewater treatment plant in support of a complicated confined space repair of the UV System influent gate, as had been practiced the week prior. Flow to the plant was shut down for about 7 hours, in which time the contractor was able to remove significant hard deposits from the seal of the gate that had prevented it from closing completely. With the UV system now isolated from the treatment plant effluent, the next steps to remove the old system can proceed safely.



The Maintenance department oversaw repairs to Secondary Clarifier # 1, performed by an outside contractor. All of the work to repair the clarifier was accomplished in one day, shorter than expected. Clarifier #1 is now released to be put back into service.

Electricians worked this week to troubleshoot a recurring problem with the pump which moves settled solids from the secondary clarifiers to the sludge digester system. The specific rate at which solids are removed is the main variable that Operations uses to control the secondary treatment process, so it is critical that this pump work correctly. While the source of the problem is chased down and addressed, an identical standby pump is in service to remove secondary solids; there is also a third redundant standby pump.



Sometimes animals get trapped in areas of the plant where they can't easily escape. Plant staff are careful to protect wildlife when they can: several years ago the primary clarifier effluent channels were modified to add ramp-like grates that help ducks escape on their own. This last month operators caught and released a garter snake that had gotten trapped in the underground barscreen room. Garter snakes are native to this area and are harmless to humans.



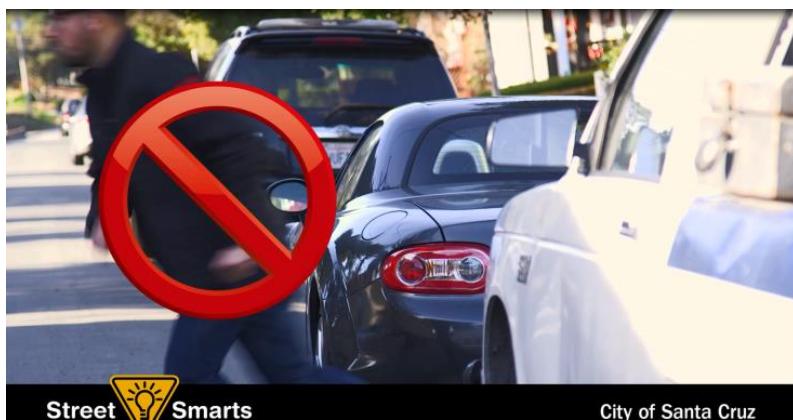
During a routine check, a maintenance mechanic discovered a leak in the cooling system for Cogen motor #2, which generates a portion of the electrical power used by the plant by burning digester produced-methane gas. Because Cogen motor #1 is undergoing a planned rebuild, the plant had to go without onsite power generation temporarily while the repair was made.

Sensitive electronics and computer networks at the plant are protected from even momentary power loss by an Uninterruptible Power Source (UPS). The electrical department had planned an upgrade to the UPS that supports the SCADA system. With automation and feedback from SCADA unavailable during the upgrade installation, operators needed to carefully run several different equipment groups manually. Knowing how to keep the plant running without operation is a critical skill for both the Operations and Electrical departments.



Traffic Engineering/ Community Relations

This week's Street Smarts message offers [a few important tips](#) to help pedestrians stay safe. En [español](#)



We posted an article to our Santa Cruz Waves City Beat column: [PROVIDE YOUR INPUT ON SANTA CRUZ COASTAL HAZARD PLANNING](#) and invite you to participate.



1 Natural Bridges State Beach



2 Main & Cowell Beaches



3 Seabright State Beach



4 West Cliff Zone #1: Pyramid Beach



5 West Cliff Zone #2: Mitchell's Cove



6 West Cliff Zone #3: Lighthouse Point to Its Beach