

City Manager's Weekly Update

December 4, 2020

Library

Ready for a little magic this season?



Saturday, December 12 • 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

[Online Program - Click to register in advance](#)

A magic show inspired by the most magical season of the year, a time of shorter days, colder nights, and annual celebrations of light. Warm yourself this season with a little fun and a whole lot of wonder!

Magician Mike Della Penna creates WONDER and LAUGHTER with family magic performances that are equal parts PLAYFUL and ASTONISHING! He is a favorite at preschools, libraries and family venues and is known for captivating the 3-to-7-year-old crowd with his fun-filled, participatory magic shows.

Join the Santa Cruz Public Libraries in this virtual winter magic show on Zoom.

Naturalist Night: Santa Cruz Sandhills

Tuesday, December 15 • 6-7 p.m.

[Online Program - Click to register](#)



Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History have partnered to bring you Naturalist Night! Join fellow nature enthusiasts for monthly explorations of the biodiversity of Santa Cruz County.

This month: sandhills! Explore the natural diversity that exists within Santa Cruz's sandhills.

Registration is required for the Zoom access link. Your registration confirmation email will have the Zoom link in it.

Planning & Community Development

119 Coral Street (File No. CP20-0047, APN

001-172-14). On November 19, the City Planning Commission approved an application to construct a five-story, mixed-use project to provide services and 100% affordable supportive housing for the chronically homeless at the Homeless Services Center Campus at the corner of Highway 1 and River Street. The first floor will consist of a new recuperative care center, a behavioral health clinic, and uses related to the upper-floor residences. The upper four stories will consist of 120 supportive single room occupancy (SRO) units and one manager's unit. The units will be used as very-low-income supportive housing for those needing a high level of ongoing supportive services uniquely available at this location. The application approval included a Residential Demolition Authorization Permit, Design Permit, Special Use Permit, and a Density Bonus Request to exceed height. As part of the motion to approve the project, the Planning Commission added a condition that requires the applicant to provide a Services Plan, as well as a Property Management Plan. Also, the Commission recommended that the City Council support the fee waiver that the applicant has requested, with the caveat that the project be required to be 100% affordable at the very low-income level in perpetuity. The fee waiver request will be before the City Council at an upcoming meeting. Ryan Bane is the planner for the project.



Parks & Recreation

Parks Update

The San Lorenzo Benchlands Camp was closed last week, and City staff, along with contractors, did an excellent job cleaning and reseeded the benchlands area.



City Parks crews are hard at work at Harvey West Park removing the old Oak Picnic area to make way for a larger meadow. The large oak tree at the original picnic location fell last summer. A new Oak Picnic area will be created in a shaded area of the park.



Cookies, Cocoa and Connection

The Louden Nelson Community Center will be hosting a special **FREE** drive-through event featuring hot cocoa, cookies and a “connection kit,” which will pair area seniors together for a series of fun over-the-phone and virtual activities during the holiday season. Seniors who complete this challenge with their match and let us know by Friday, Jan. 8, will be entered to win a prize. Registration is required by Monday, Dec. 14. To register for the event, [please fill out this form](#) or call us at 831-420-6177.



Cookies, Cocoa & Connection

A very special drive-thru event,
FREE for area seniors, 55+
December 16 from 2 - 4 PM

This special drive-thru event will feature hot cocoa & cookies and a “connection kit” which will pair area seniors together for a series of fun over-the-phone and virtual activities during the holiday season.

On Maple Street between Center & Washington Street in Downtown Santa Cruz

Pre-registration is required, call us at the Downtown Senior Center at 831-420-6177 or visit nelsoncenter.com to register by Monday, December 14

DOWNTOWN SENIOR CENTER
at Louden Nelson Community Center

Police



SCPD hosts Santa Cops & Friends for Kids to help make the holidays brighter for underprivileged children in the City of Santa Cruz. Santa Cops & Friends works to provide gifts and necessities to those who would otherwise receive nothing over the holiday season. This much-needed program is a donation-driven and a volunteer effort!

SANTA COPS & FRIENDS FOR KIDS DRIVE THROUGH EVENT | Saturday, Dec. 12 Santa Cops & Friends is a drive-through holiday experience to observe social distancing rules. As families drive down the 300 block of Church Street, they are cheered on with treats, dancers, Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and elf helpers. When cars pull up to the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, Santa Cops deliver gifts selected to children in our program. Our goal is to help as many families as possible; the number depends on donations.

How Can You Help?

Give a Gift | Purchase a new unwrapped child's toy/clothing or gift card for ages 5-13 and bring it to the Civic or SCPD by Dec. 9.

Donate | Monetary donations can be made [online](#) or by check payable to Friends of SCPD.
Federal Tax ID #: 83-2035112

Nominate a Child | If you're aware of a family in need, please fill out a referral form.

APPLICATION PROCESS | Eligible applicants must be 5-13 years old, reside in the City of Santa Cruz, and family has an economic or social hardship. Such as losing a job, homelessness, military deployment, or illness.

* Referrals come from schools & nonprofit children's social service organizations.

* Community members can also nominate children.

* Application deadline is Friday, Dec. 4.

Donation Drop-Off Locations

SCPD Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Call (831) 420-5870 to be met at the door.

Civic Auditorium, Tues-Fri, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. For alternative times, contact [Jessi Bond](#), 420 -5243.

Donation Pick-Up

We'll come to you! Call (831) 420-5844 to make arrangements.

[Everything you need to know about Santa Cops & Friends for Kids](#)

[Event Details, Donations, Applications, Forms & Flyers in English and Spanish](#)

Santa Cops & Friends for Kids | www.cityofsantacruz.com/SantaCops

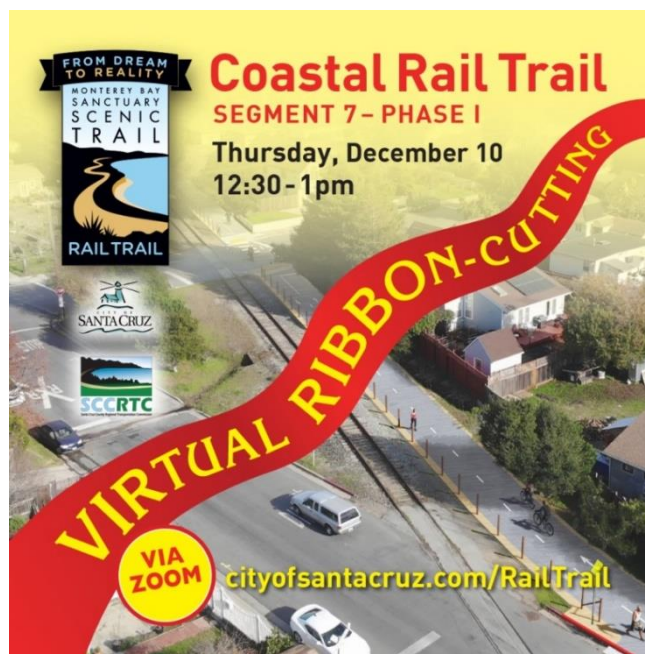
Phone 831-420-5844 | Email: SantaCops@cityofsantacruz.com

Public Works

Engineering

We near the completion of Rail Trail Segment 7, Phase I! Please mark your calendar for our virtual ribbon cutting on Dec. 10 hosted by Mayor Cummings. The Zoom link is at

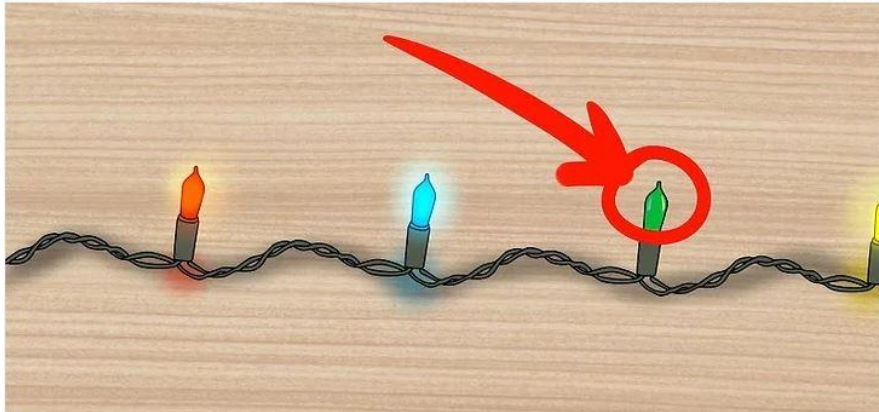
www.cityofsantacruz.com/RailTrail | [Read more about the virtual event.](#)



Resource Recovery

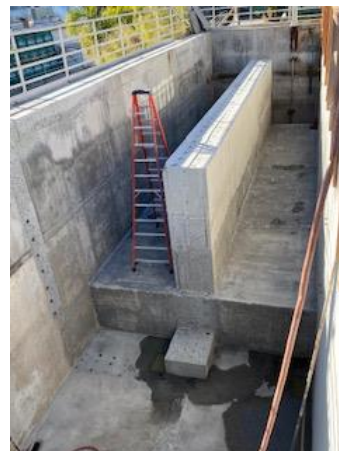
Waste Reduction staff's recent outreach efforts seem to have made a difference in reducing Thanksgiving post-holiday contamination in the recycling carts. Cart inspections revealed that mostly clean recyclable items were in the carts in areas previously noted to be problematic.

A tip for our residents who may be setting up holiday décor: Try these four easy fixes for tree lights before you throw them away -- and please remember, if not fixable, they belong in the trash, not the recycle bin: www.wikihow.com/Fix-Christmas-Lights



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Demolition is nearing completion on the ultraviolet disinfection system upgrade project. Contractors have re-made the channels that will house the new UV light system, and the electrical control building floor has been dug out to accommodate the new system panels.



Operations performed an Effluent Pump Test. This is a monthly preventative maintenance task done to verify this emergency equipment will turn on when needed. The natural gas-powered engines and pumps turn on automatically during high flow situations to help push the treated effluent out to the gravity-fed ocean outfall pipe. To simulate high flows, Operators change the flow of the treated effluent waters to head back towards the flow entry point of the treatment process. In this test, we

were able to simulate incoming flows of 56-million gallons. The high flows generated during this test also help scour settled material from the pipes within the facility, which is removed through the pre-aeration grit removal system that, in turn, dumps the accumulated material into a hopper for later disposal at a landfill. The removed material consists of rocks, sand, eggshells, plastic trash, cloth, bones, etc.



Operations received the monthly delivery of ferric chloride to an on-site bulk storage tank. Ferric chloride is used to enhance settling in the primary treatment process and inhibit siloxanes from entering digester gas. Siloxanes, silicon-derived chemical compounds, are present in cleaning products such as shampoos, detergents, deodorants, toothpaste and cosmetics. Without the addition of ferric, the siloxanes present in biogas produced during anaerobic digestion damage the cogeneration equipment.



Water

Projects, projects, projects – we continue to make progress on projects underway and on new programs as well:

Newell Creek Dam Project Update

- WD Staff held a kick-off meeting with State Water Board staff to discuss compliance with our SRF loan. Staff also submitted our first two reimbursement requests, which totaled over 4,000 pages of documentation.
- The contractor is working on the soil nail wall for the tunnel portal of the project. Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) was on-site for some of the activities this week.

- Dredging continues, with the depth to Intake No. 1 having been reached, and deeper intakes 2 and 3 likely to be completed next week.
- Lake turn-over appears to have had a positive impact on the project in terms of turbidity, reducing it by 50%. Turbidity inside the silt curtain is also proving much lower than expected.

Completion of the U-5 tank project

Granite Construction completed repaving on El Refugio. WD staff worked closely with the contractor, neighbors and operations to ensure drainage and accessibility issues were appropriately addressed. The final steps are the permit mitigation work and, tangentially related, dealing with horse manure neighbors have been storing at the U-5 tank gate.

Coast Pump Station Pipeline Replacement Project

- The microtunneling equipment has been demobilized.
- The 24" water main pipe has been installed in the 42" casing pipe under the river and will be pressure tested Thursday.
- After passing the pressure test, risers will be installed.
- The project team is setting up a lessons learned workshop for the project, the first we've had. We're eager to learn some lessons and apply them to future projects.



New 24" water main for the Coast Pump Station pipeline replacement project

Enhanced post-fire water quality monitoring

Production brought the San Lorenzo River back into service this week for the first time since the rains a few weeks ago. The river was taken offline before the rain, and it stayed that way as turbidity and color were elevated after the first flush storm event. We're still waiting on the bulk of the results from the enhanced monitoring that we set up to evaluate the fire's impact on water quality. But some initial results do suggest that the fire is having an influence.