

City Manager's Weekly Update

November 20, 2020

Library



Santa Cruz Public Libraries Thanksgiving Holiday Closures November 25-28

All branches and phone services will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Services will resume Monday, November 30.

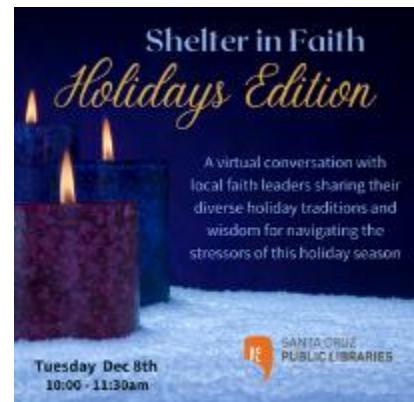
Visit our [e-materials page](#) to access on-demand e-books, films, and more!

Shelter in Faith: Holidays Edition

Tuesday, December 8th • 10-11:30 a.m.

Click [HERE](#) to register and more information

The popular virtual series, Shelter in Faith, is back with a special *Holidays Edition*. Learn from local faith leaders representing diverse spiritual traditions about different holiday customs, celebrations, and their deeper meanings. Take the opportunity to hear their thoughtful perspectives, relevant experience, and practical solutions for navigating the stresses of the holiday season. There will also be time for Q&A to get your unique questions answered.



Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Encourages Everyone to “Gel In & Gel Out”

In keeping with California State Health and Safety guidelines of supporting a safe environment for children and families to recreate, Parks & Recreation recently implemented sanitation stations around our playground areas. Awareness signage provides guidance on maximum occupancy limits, waiting areas, social distancing measures and California state guidance on safe play during Covid-19. Included within our sanitation stations are self-use hand sanitizer bottles to encourage everyone to “gel in & gel out.”



Program and Facility Changes in the Purple Tier

Most of Parks and Recreation's current programming can continue to operate now that Santa Cruz has moved into the purple tier. However, the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum will close again, as indoor museums are not allowed to operate. Merchandise sold at the museum from the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum will continue to be sold online at <https://santacruzmuseum.square.site/>. With gyms closed, we may see an uptick in requests for outdoor fitness permits. Staff are happy to work with businesses to identify reservable park space to hold fitness classes this winter. Outdoor pools are allowed to operate following social distancing protocols. Cruz Swimmers will continue their lease of the Harvey West Pool for swim team practice through November. They are interested in extending their lease through the winter months. Youth sports guidance remains the same so permits at Depot and Harvey West Park for Santa Cruz Youth Soccer, Little League, and Flag Football will continue. Our distance learning childcare program is in its final session for fall at the Loudon Nelson Community Center. Recreation staff are actively working with City Schools to design a winter program that matches the school schedule.

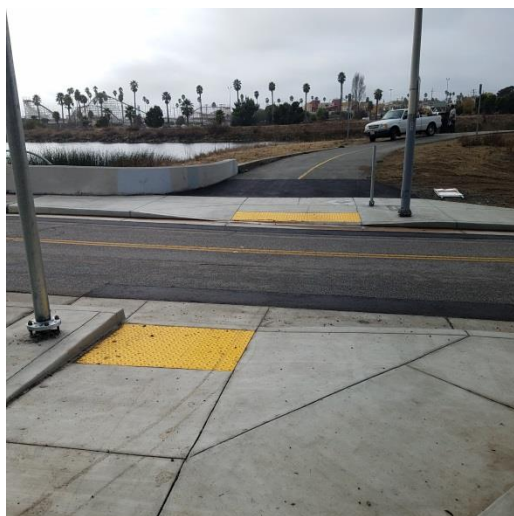


Public Works

Transportation Engineering

Construction of the HSIP8: Citywide Pedestrian Crossing Improvement Project continues. We have constructed two curb ramps at East Cliff Drive and San Lorenzo River Pathway and a bike ramp at the intersection of East Cliff Drive and Buena Vista Avenue. Thirty-seven ramps have been constructed for this project.

We continue construction this week with warning sign installation at various locations citywide. Striping and marking installation is anticipated to begin the week of November 30. This project is funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program Cycle 8 grant.



New curb ramp at East Cliff Drive & San Lorenzo River Pathway / New bike ramp at E. Cliff Dr. & Buena Vista

We have completed two of four Street Smarts Pop-Up Bike Light Giveaways in partnership with Bike Santa Cruz County installing nearly 200 front and rear bike lights for Santa Cruz bicyclists in need in the Beach Flats neighborhood and at Delaware/Bethany Curve. As the November days get shorter, these pop-up bike light giveaways are part of the Street Smarts mission to reduce the number of traffic-related crashes and injuries in Santa Cruz. [Read more.](#)



This month our GO Santa Cruz program took home a 2020 NEXTie Award, which recognizes the best and brightest of Santa Cruz County! In the first year of the program, the City received more than 1,000 downtown employee sign-ups (over 25%!), logged over 17,000 alternative transportation trips and over 62,000 alternative miles, and saved 19.1 tons of CO2! [Learn more here.](#)



Resource Recovery

An effort is underway to educate residents on the importance of securing their garbage in designated refuse carts when leaving out at the curb for service. Overloaded garbage carts and extra bags left on the ground attract animals. Torn open bags become a source of litter and have the potential to impact our storm drains during rain events.



*Illegal disposal at 204 Natural Bridges Blvd.
Bags*



Unsecured Refuse and Recycling

Wastewater Collections and Environmental Lab

The annual cleaning of the Neary Lagoon Pump Station in preparation for winter storms requires a full Wastewater Collections Division effort. This picture shows the pump mechanic cleaning the wet well at the base of the pump intakes.

The Environmental Lab program of sampling and analysis before and after the cleaning over the last four years shows how the cleaning program helps maintain low bacterial levels at Cowell's Beach.

We have great news from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation: Cowell's Working Group has been selected as a **2020 Sea Star** as leaders of conservation of the Monterey Bay! There will be a virtual breakfast to honor us on Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. This is an excellent acknowledgment for all of our work over the years and a reminder that this work must continue.

Water

This week, Water Quality Staff was focused primarily on rain event sampling following the water year's first significant storm. Wednesday was one of the largest sampling days in our state-certified lab's history. Samples were collected in the North Coast Watersheds, including Liddell Spring, Laguna Diversion, Majors Creek, and Upper Laguna at Ice Cream Grade. Four samples were collected in the San Lorenzo Watershed, including Junction Park, Highlands Park, Felton Diversion, and Tait St Intake. In total, we sent 10 large coolers to Eurofins Eaton Analytical laboratory; drove microbiological samples to MBAS in Monterey; and dropped off samples at the County of Santa Cruz laboratory. This is a substantial increase to our normal source water and storm event sampling procedure in response to the CZU Lightning Complex Fire. We will be closely monitoring the San Lorenzo River by collecting follow up samples at Felton Diversion and Tait St. Intake today and tomorrow to continue to monitor water quality to assist Production with turning in the source. You can see the [table of what we're sampling for](#) on our [CZU Water Quality web page](#).

Well, it's official – we are completely done with micro-tunneling for the Coast Pump Station pipeline replacement, and the micro-tunneling equipment has been removed from the receiving pit. Two hundred and twenty-two linear feet of new 42" steel casing pipe was installed 25' below the bottom of the San Lorenzo River. What a feat!



Shiny and clean, “before”



A bit worse for the wear, “after”

In other happenings in the Ocean Street Extension neighborhood, we replaced several 2-inch air vents along the raw water pipeline under OSE this week. Soon we will be replacing several on the treated trunk main as well, in preparation for replacing the critical main that runs under the street. We are grateful to the neighbors who have been patient and supportive of our work – we provide them with transparent weekly updates, preparing them for what they can expect to “see/hear/smell” resulting from our construction work in the following week.