

City Manager's Weekly Update

July 2, 2021

Parks & Recreation

Outside the Frame Across Santa Cruz County

The four Mayors of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Capitola and Watsonville have teamed up with Friends of County Parks for [Outside the Frame](#) this summer.

Five frames have been placed in parks throughout each city.

For Santa Cruz, locations include the Santa Cruz Wharf, West Cliff Drive and Bethany Curve. Find all 5 frames, painted by local artists, and snap a photo in our fantastic outdoor spaces.

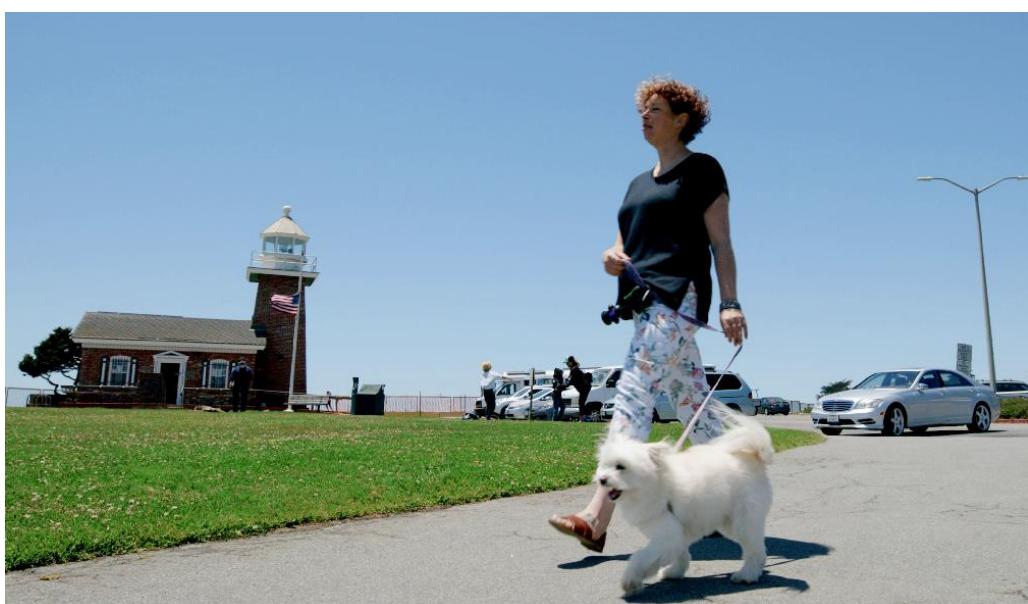
The five local artists selected for Santa Cruz are Dennis Scott, Ome Garcia, Sarah Bianco, Rachel Barnes and Mario Guizar. The artist-painted frames put the focus on our beautiful parks, places and YOU! Mayor Meyers kicked off the project with an art walk on Saturday June 26. Come enjoy nature, take a photo, be inspired and [GET OUTSIDE THE FRAME!](#)

#OUTSIDETHEFRAME



Our new PSA for dog owners in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) hopes to help keep

Santa Cruz safe and welcoming for canines and humans alike! Produced in collaboration with State Parks, City of Watsonville and County of Santa Cruz.



Public Works

Environmental Compliance

Hurrah! For the second consecutive year, Cowell Beach is not included on Heal the Bay's "Beach Bummer" list! The environmental nonprofit's annual [Beach Report Card](#), released Tuesday, shows that our beloved beach continues with water quality success in weekly levels of ocean bacterial pollution.

A critical factor in the Cowell Beach water quality success has been the installation of bird screening designed to reduce pigeons and gulls roosting and defecating under the Wharf. Another important installation has been the sliding gates placed at Neary Lagoon to keep bacteria-infested water there from flowing through a storm outlet vault and onto Cowell Beach during summer months. A third installation of a steel plate at the Neary outfall pipe below sea level has diverted the flow of bacteria-laden water to the Wastewater Treatment Facility for treatment and disinfection.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

The treatment facility digesters received the first load of food waste this week. This is being done under a newly implemented program to divert food waste from landfills. Under the anaerobic conditions of a closed landfill cell, wastes high in organic carbon release a lot of methane which is a potent greenhouse gas. For this reason California lawmakers have mandated that 75% of these types of waste must be diverted away from landfills by 2025. Pumping liquified food waste sludge to the anaerobic digesters already in place at the WWTF is a good way to efficiently capture that methane and use it to produce energy. Under this program, the facility will be accepting one truck load of food waste per week to start. Operators will test samples from each load for solids content and pH before accepting it, to ensure that the load will not upset the biological process in the digesters.



Above, our Wastewater Collection Crew leaders tended to the outfall on Auburn Avenue.

Engineering

The **2021 Overlay Project** continued construction this week. The project has been doing pavement work at the following locations:

- King Street from Mission Street to Miramar Drive
- Miramar Drive from King Street to Escalona Drive
- Market Street from Avalon Street to Stoney Creek Road

The **2021 Surface Seal Project** will resume the installation of Microsurfacing on local streets the second week of July. The public is advised to seek alternate routes when possible. We apologize for any inconvenience this construction work may cause and appreciate the public's cooperation.



Homelessness Response

New Funding for Homelessness Response

Thanks to the efforts of Senator John Laird and Assemblymember Mark Stone, the City of Santa Cruz is set to receive more than \$14.5 million to support homelessness response efforts within the City. In collaboration with the County, the City will use the funds to support the goals of the countywide, three-year Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz plan.

San Lorenzo Park

This week federal Judge Susan van Keulen ruled to dissolve the injunction governing San Lorenzo Park. City staff will continue supporting the camp with hygiene services and water and will continue employing camp stewards while a plan for closure is developed. Key to closure will be the start of both the safe sleeping and storage programs outlined in the Camping Services and Standards Ordinance. Camper will be given ample notice of eventual closure, and staff will continue working with the County support them along the pathway to stable housing.

Police

Team Work Makes the Dream Work | Clean Beaches Start With You

We all know Santa Cruz Beaches are amazing, and City Staff wants to keep it that way. This past week, frontline staff from several city departments came together to initiate a campaign to encourage visitor cooperation on keeping our beaches clean.

City workers in the beach area have been overwhelmed by the increasing trash and safety hazards left behind each week. The 4th of July weekend is when summer's in full swing and even more people head to the beach. Busy beaches bring more problems, and city staff focused on solutions.

TAKE IT TO THE TOP | City Staff tapped on Councilwoman Renee Golder, who pulled in pro surfer Nat Young. We brought in Parks & Rec Director, Police, and Fire Chiefs too. Everyone quickly confirmed they'd show up, sign off and participate in a video that we hope goes viral.

"We all know Santa Cruz Beaches are amazing. Clean Beaches Start with You. No one comes here to enjoy the litter. Pack Your Trash, Keep Santa Cruz Beautiful", said everyone.

Watch the Video <https://vimeo.com/568996052> & please share it widely.

PSA TAKEAWAYS | Keep the Beach Clean & Safe for Everyone

- Please carry out everything you bring to the beach. If you can't carry it out - Make sure you dispose of it in trash cans, recycle bins or donate beach toys in designated locations.
- Trash on the beach contaminates the water you love to swim in, makes life hard for wildlife, and damages the delicate beach environment.
- For everyone's safety, no wood or coal fires are allowed on Main and Cowell Beach. They're a fire hazard and can result in life-threatening injuries. REMEMBER - All fireworks are illegal in the city.



Officer Ross & Officer Kiar | SCPD's MAY Employees of the Month



Congratulations to Officers Dustin Ross & Ryan Kiar! Two officers who consistently work behind the scenes and receive little thanks. NOT TODAY. Both are Awarded Employee of the Month for May 2021!

Officers Ross and Kiar's core focus on SCPD's Neighborhood Policing Team addresses long-term criminal activity, quality of life issues, and enhancing community relations.

The duo's mission in May was daunting. But, that did not stop them from doing an outstanding job assisting Cal-Trans and the Highway Patrol in relocating individuals from the Hwy 1 and Hwy 9 corridor to allow the State to begin necessary roadway improvements.

Together, Officer Ross and Officer Kiar successfully addressed multiple homeless encampment issues in our community. Their handling of complicated situations required extensive outreach, many logistical challenges, and a coordinated effort involving multiple agencies.

Both officers received significant praise and recognition from the State agencies for their abilities to lead, facilitate, and accomplish such an enormous task without any conflicts. "It was one of the smoothest operations we've had to work on, thanks to their efforts (PO Ross and PO Kiar). Had it not been for their outreach and people skills, we would not have been as successful."

Officer Ross and Officer Kiar, both methodical and compassionate, contributed to the project's overall success with our community's most vulnerable and challenging population.

The communication, de-escalation skills, and work ethic these officers display daily are a testament to their commitment to quality service for all in our community. PO Ross and PO Kiar are commended for May, and every day, they serve our city with integrity.

Planning & Community Development

415 Natural Bridges Drive. Late last year, our department received a pre-application submittal from the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz for a 20 unit, 100-percent affordable housing development with 20 Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units to be constructed within a three- story building on a vacant lot located at 415 Natural Bridges Drive. In accordance with the City's Community Outreach Policy, the applicants held a community meeting on Monday, June 28th to solicit feedback on their design. Nine members of the public attended the meeting and their responses to the project were all positive. A formal application, which is expected to include a request for Coastal, Design and

Planned Development Permits will be submitted in the coming months and heard by the Planning Commission and City Council. Clara Stanger is the planner working on the project.



Building and Safety is in the process of authorizing a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for 350 Ocean St. for the purpose of maintaining their award for tax credits. Occupancy will not occur until Final Certificate of Occupancy is attained.