

# City Manager's Weekly Update

August 20, 2021

## Parks and Recreation

### Community Center and Park Reopening!



The London Nelson Community Center and Laurel Park officially reopened to the public on August 16. LNCC staff have enjoyed seeing members of the community back in the park, playing basketball on the newly refinished court, and at the front counter signing up for classes! The Center is now open Monday through Saturday. Visit [nelsoncenter.com](https://nelsoncenter.com) for hours.

### Halloween Horrors Film Competition

Registration for the second annual Halloween Horrors Film Competition is now open! Sign up with your friends, family, or (after) work groups to submit a short film or tutorial in one of our three hauntingly cool categories:

- 1.) Horror Scene  
Remake
- 2.) Original Horror Short
- 3.) Make-up/Costume  
Tutorial



Find competition details and register [here](#). Be sure to check out this year's promotional videos and see if you recognize any of your City co-workers. View the promotional videos for this year's program: [Promo #1](#) | [Promo #2](#)

### Teen Center Open Again!



The Santa Cruz Teen Center is open again! After 517 days the local teens have their spot back! On Wednesday, August 11, which was also the first day of school, the Teen Center

welcomed our fabulous teens with a pizza party and a small distribution of school supplies. Currently, the Center is open Monday – Friday from 3-8 p.m., but hours will be expanded as staff returns and new staff are hired. We are very excited to have our doors open again and to be able to see our T members in person.

## Police

### Introducing Sergeant Ruben Badeo

The Santa Cruz Police Department is proud to announce the promotion of Officer Ruben Badeo to the rank of Police Sergeant. Sergeant Badeo, an 11 year veteran of the department, will be assigned to the Operations Division.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Badeo has had the opportunity to gain experience within various



assignments, including; Patrol, Field Training Unit, Investigations, School Resource Officer, and providing support for the Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team/Gang Task-Force. Sergeant Badeo has also held several auxiliary assignments within the department, including Defensive Tactics and Tactical Communications Instructor and serving on the Santa Cruz Police Department Emergency Services Unit Tactical and Sniper team.

Reflecting on his 11 years of service, Sergeant Badeo's most memorable experience with the Santa Cruz Police Department has been his leadership role as a Field Training Officer and assisting in the training and development of new Officers joining the ranks within the department.

"Sergeant is one of the most important roles in our organization. I'm confident that Sergeant Badeo, who is a dynamic officer, will be successful in his new post", said Chief Andy Mills.

Please join us in celebrating and congratulating Sergeant Badeo on achieving a significant milestone in his career.

## Water

Last summer, when the CZU Fire hit our watershed, there was a lot of concern about potential impacts to water quality. Though we had emergency "what if" plans for impacts to the watershed, those plans needed to be dusted off and adapted based on the potential negative effects on water quality from post-fire precipitation and debris flows from fire impacted areas.

This summer, we're busy dusting off and making another round of adaptations, triggered by the prediction of a La Nina weather pattern in the upcoming winter. Of course, we all know the old adage about the weather on the Central Coast – "Don't like the weather? Wait 5 minutes" but we're taking the threat of La Nina – another dry year – very seriously. With Loch Lomond Reservoir already at less than 60% capacity, another dry year would put a significant strain on our water supply.

That said, we've been working for the past several weeks on adapting our ongoing water supply planning work so that we can potentially implement parts of supply projects, though the project in its entirety might not be completely baked yet. We've been working concurrently on several supply projects since the Water Supply Advisory Committee recommendations were adopted by City Council in 2015, and some are far enough along now to where we think, with some adjustments, we may be able to squeeze out some additional supply next year. Our Engineering and Operations staff are working to evaluate a number of short term strategies, including improving the operability of existing facilities to increase production from existing sources; advancing aquifer storage and recovery strategies (should we receive adequate rainfall this winter); increasing supply by working with our regulators to adapt regulatory obligations; and exploring opportunities for additional water supply. Stay tuned.

We've made great progress the past couple of weeks on the water main replacement under Ocean Street Extension. We're actually running a little ahead of schedule, which we're happy about since the patient neighbors have been putting up with us in their neighborhood for months now.



*"Hot patching" the trench we dug in Ocean Street Extension for the water main replacement project*

## Public Works

### Engineering

Grading for the Highway 1/9 Intersection Improvements Project on the southeast quadrant is underway, and construction of the retaining wall near the property with the chiropractor's office has begun this week.



PG&E has scheduled for night work this week and next, but their subcontractor has had some illnesses on their crew, and that may push the timing out a bit.

The tree work is completed. The River Street sign was moved and is being stored for reinstallation at the end of the project. Surveying and layout for future work in the northeast quadrant is underway.

This project will provide traffic operation and safety improvements by reconstructing the existing intersection to accommodate additional lanes, safety lighting, green bike lanes, sidewalks and accessibility ramps that meet current standards. It will widen the intersection at Route 1 and Route 9, adding an additional left-turn lane on southbound Highway 1, an additional northbound lane on Highway 9 between Highway 1 and Encinal Street, a northbound lane on River Street and a southbound through-left lane on Highway 9.

### **Traffic Engineering/Community Relations**

We completed our Street Smarts public service video **Drive Smart, Drive Sober** in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) featuring testimonials from community members, including our Vice Mayor. This will be our September monthly message.



### **Resource Recovery**

Waste Reduction staff this week attended a virtual conference hosted by the California Resource Recovery Association, CRRA for short. Sessions included a broad range of topics around Waste Prevention, Organics Collections, Legislation, Compliance Mandates, Recycling, Best Practices, Education/Outreach and so more. The CRRA conference always yields great returns on the investment of time as seen through our improvements to programs and outreach efforts.

Mass excavation for the Cell 3B project has started and is expected to continue through September. Approximately 393,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated and stockpiled onsite prior to the installation of the liner system.



Scrapers hauling material.

## Economic Development

### Business Development



#### Shop Santa Cruz Banners Installed Citywide!

Economic Development has installed new banners citywide promoting the Shop Santa Cruz messaging. The banners provide a call to action (Shop Local, Dine Local, and Support Local Jobs) for residents and visitors to support local businesses in the community. The banners are printed in both English and Spanish to promote inclusive messaging.

### Housing Development & Preservation



350 Ocean Street Apts 1 bdrm vid tour

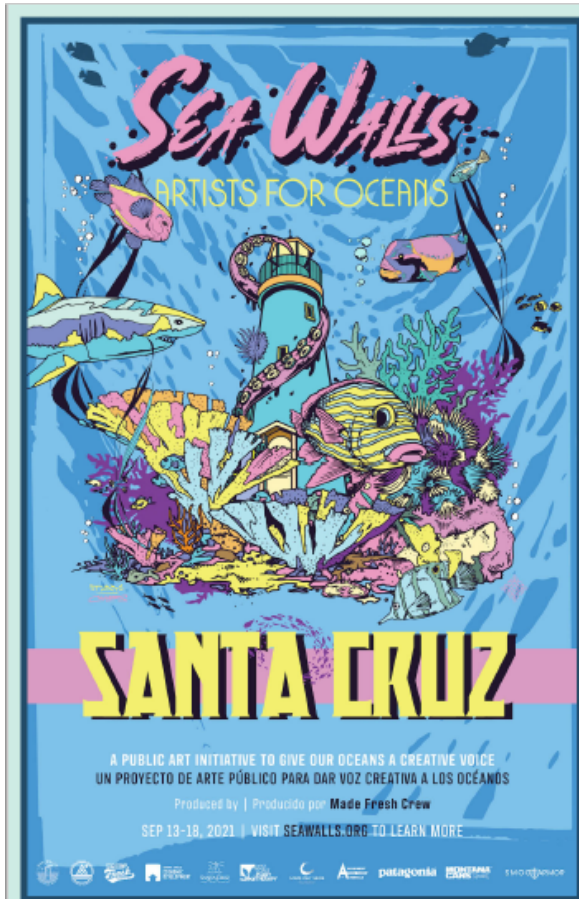
#### Affordable Housing Month 2021 Recap

Each May, the City of Santa Cruz and other regional organizations dedicate the month to Affordable Housing. This year, the Housing Division hosted multiple events to celebrate Affordable Housing Month 2021. Additionally, the City and its housing partners look for ways to engage with the community to educate and promote the positive impact affordable housing has in the City of Santa Cruz.



In 2021, we accomplished that through webinars, housing policy panels, affordable housing bike tours, and a grand opening and tour of the 350 Ocean Street Apartments, the newest 100 percent affordable housing project. [Read More](#)

## Arts & Culture Development



### PangeaSeed Foundation's Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans comes to Santa Cruz

PangeaSeed Foundation is a globally engaged nonprofit acting at the intersection of culture and environmentalism to further ocean conservation. With sponsorship support from the City Arts, Lost Coast Plant Therapy, Save Our Seas Foundation and others, Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans will create 15 ocean advocacy murals and host various public events to engage the community, young and old, and increase interest and engagement in marine stewardship. The murals will speak to locally relevant, pressing marine environmental issues such as plastic pollution, warming seas, local biodiversity issues, and environmental justice. In alignment with the sustainable mission of this project, the murals will be painted with Smog Armor, a new non-toxic paint that absorbs carbon.

To learn more about wall locations, event dates, and related logistics, please contact Taylor Reinhold, Seawalls Project Director at [Taylor@pangeaseed.org](mailto:Taylor@pangeaseed.org).

[Click to View Video](#) | [Read More About the Murals](#)

## Graffiti Abatement Program Update

The Economic Development Department manages the City's graffiti abatement program. In July 2021, our contract removed a total of 372 public tags. That's 29 fewer tags compared to July 2020.



## How to Report Graffiti

- Report via [Community Request for Service Portal \(CRSP\) App](#)
- Call the Graffiti Hotline at (831) 420-5303

Please provide a description of the tag on the object or surface and the location with the nearest address or cross-street and, if possible, a photo.

Quick removal within 24 to 48 hours is proven to be the most effective way to deter graffiti vandalism. The longer graffiti remains, the greater the chances graffiti vandals will return. For more information about the City of Santa Cruz Graffiti Abatement Program, receiving a free removal kit, and other resources, please visit our website at [www.cityofsantacruz.com/graffiti](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/graffiti).