

City Manager's Weekly Update

October 29, 2021

Economic Development

Business Development | Free Webinar: ADA Compliance for Businesses

Silicon Valley Businesses & ADA Compliance

Resources and Information

**November 3, 2021
3:00 - 4:30 PM • Zoom**



Many communities are seeing a rise in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-related lawsuits impacting small businesses. On Nov. 3, 2021, at 1 p.m., the Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance (SVEDA), a collaborative of local economic development departments including Santa Cruz, is hosting a virtual discussion to help small businesses evaluate their current compliance with the ADA, how to serve customers with disabilities better, and share resources.

During the webinar, local businesses and ADA experts will offer their real-world perspectives to help understand what it means to be ADA compliant. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions of the experts and chat directly with local jurisdictions in the

breakout session. Register: <https://bit.ly/3mIIFDa>

Infrastructure & Property Development | *Provide Your Input on the New Downtown Library*

Join the [Downtown Library](#) Master Architects via Zoom to discuss what you'd like to see in the new Downtown Library. Your feedback will help facilitate and inform the overall design process. At this one-hour Zoom meeting, we will ask you a series of questions and record your feedback. You will also have an opportunity to ask the architects and City representatives questions about the project and its timeline.

Register via Eventbrite:

[Teens](#) | Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, 4–5 p.m. via Zoom

[Adults and Seniors](#) | Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021, 5–6 p.m. via Zoom

[Parents and Kids](#) | Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021, 5–6 p.m. via Zoom

**New Downtown Santa Cruz Library
Discussion Groups | Nov. 1-4, 2021**

Join the Downtown Library Master Architects to discuss what you'd like to see in the new Downtown Library. Each Zoom group will be limited to 30 participants, so sign up today!

Teens | Monday, Nov. 1, 4-5 p.m.
Adults and Seniors | Wednesday, Nov. 3, 5-6 p.m.
Parents and Kids | Thursday, Nov. 4, 5-6 p.m.

Register today!
cityofsantacruz.com/mixeduselibrary

Housing Development & Preservation | CDBG-CV Services Year-End Summary

As part of the yearly reporting for CDBG, HOME and CDBG-CV funding, recipients provide a narrative to the Housing Team for reporting to HUD in the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), which is submitted annually at the end of September. Below are some highlights of Hope

Rehabilitation Services' COVID-19 distance learning materials made possible with \$17,979 of CDBG-CV funds.

Hope Services applied for funding for equipment and communication programs necessary to implement Coronavirus-related safety and infection control procedures to prevent the spread at their locations. The funded supplies consisted of technological equipment, including HD webcams, headsets, tablets, protective gear accessories, Zoom licenses, and program supplies. These communication and tech devices were pivotal in providing a range of services to many Santa Cruz residents and their family's from infants through senior participants. This ability to provide distance learning, remote education, and virtual support to those in need made a big impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities and helped build a stronger community. Some highlights and successes of the program submitted by Hope Services to the City of Santa Cruz are below:

"With the help of special coronavirus CDBG funding from the City of Santa Cruz, Hope Services was able to transition entirely from providing in-person services and programming in its day programs in Santa Cruz to providing programming and services to participating day program clients via remote technology delivery through its new "From Hope to Home™" (FHTH) program, launched in June 2020. Without FHTH, clients would have been homebound with very few available productive activities and little new learning taking place; as it was, through FHTH, they were able to receive 3.5 hours of online learning, programming, and interaction with staff and other clients daily, as well as being able to complete curriculum packets that were sent to their homes weekly. What could have been a very long and lonely year at home turned out to be an interactive, productive, and happy year to the fullest extent possible while also ensuring as much as possible on Hope's part that they remained safe and healthy in their homes throughout the pandemic. This also proved to be a tremendous help to their families and caregivers, who could see that their loved one was still enjoying and benefiting from daily interaction with staff and other clients, and being positively engaged in learning and fun activities."

Finance

The Great Shakeout

On Thursday, Oct. 21, at 10:21 a.m. City staff participated in the Great ShakeOut, a statewide earthquake drill.

During the drill, employees across all City departments were encouraged to DROP! COVER! And HOLD ON! For 60 seconds. After 60 seconds, employees evacuated their facilities and discussed emergency preparedness.

As public employees, City of Santa Cruz employees are Disaster Service Workers (DSW). Earthquakes are an example of emergencies for which City of Santa Cruz employees may be called to help as DSWs.

Visit the City's website to learn more about the City's role in a disaster: <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/community/emergency-management> | Is your cell phone registered for emergency notifications? If not visit <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/218A80E36F49>



Parks and Recreation

LNCC Halloween Festival and Mask Making Event

On Saturday, Oct. 23, the London Nelson Community Center presented its annual Halloween Festival and Mask Making Event. Instead of the Haunted House, this year, the team put together an incredible Creepy Carnival complete with an exciting mid-way of carnival games and a thrilling “Big Top” themed performance. Originally the plan was to hold the entire event in Laurel Park. However, when Mother Nature decided for a trick (and a treat, drought-wise) with an epic atmospheric river, the LNCC crew made fast work of transferring the entire event indoors. Their efforts paid off, and the event was a hauntingly huge success! Over 400 attendees experienced the thrills and chills under the LNCC “Big Top.”



Parks Teams Clean Up After Storm



After last weekend’s atmospheric river storm, Parks teams fanned out across the City to assess and take care of downed trees, leaves, and debris. Urban Forestry handled 20 tree incidents in 24 hours. Parks staff cleared fallen trees and limbs at numerous locations and joined forces with Public Works for a Downtown leaf cleanup. The Wharf & Beaches team picked up materials brought in by the storm surge and litter washed down the San Lorenzo River. The Community Parks Team repaired vandalism of the electrical charging station at the San Lorenzo Benchlands and made the station safer for the rainy season. As the clouds cleared, life returned to normal thanks to the quick work of these public servants.

Planning and Community Development

Front Riverfront Mixed-Use Development

On Oct. 27, the Building & Safety Division received an application to construct a seven-story, mixed-use building on the parcels located at 418, 428, 440, 504, and 508 Front Street (B19-0529). The Coastal Permit, Historic and Non-Residential Demolition Authorization Permits, Design Permit, Tentative Map, Special Use Permit, Administrative Use Permit, Revocable License for Outdoor Extension Area, Tree Removal Permits were approved by the City Council on January 12, 2021. The approval was appealed

to the California Coastal Commission by a member of the public and, on March 12, 2021, the Coastal Commission made a determination of no substantial issue and declined to take jurisdiction. The project includes 175 residential condos (15 of which will be affordable to incomes at 50% AMI, 5 at 80% AMI) and 11,498 square feet of ground floor and levee front commercial space within three buildings that are separated by two paseos that will connect the Downtown with the Riverwalk. On July 16, 2021, the City was notified that the project obtained approval of a Section 408 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers to allow for the placement of fill between the levee and the proposed building and to allow for the development of an outdoor extension area adjacent to the Riverwalk path. The applicant is working with the City to coordinate the design of the murals and to determine the programming of the Riverwalk extension area. The building permit is currently under review.



130 Center Street, “Calypso” Development

On Oct. 21, the Planning Commission approved an application from Swenson Builders to redevelop the property at 130 Center Street with a six-story, mixed-use development consisting of 2,356 square feet of ground-floor retail and 233 residential single-room occupancy (SRO) units (units with a maximum of 400 square feet and an average unit size being no greater than 345 square feet, some common facilities, and on-site management). The approval includes a request for a Non-Residential Demolition Authorization Permit to demolish the existing commercial buildings with evaluation by a qualified historian, as well as a Special Use Permit, Coastal Permit, and Design Permit. The applicant indicates that the project consists of 155 base units, which is the number of units that can be provided in a fully conforming project. Of the 155 units, the city zoning ordinance requires 31 units, or 20%, to be provided as inclusionary units restricted to Very Low Income (50% Area Median Income). However, the project also includes a request for a Density Bonus under AB2345 to allow for a 50% bonus of market rate units. As part of the Density Bonus request, the approval included two waivers: 1) Exceed height limitations with a building that is approximately 70-feet in height and six stories; and 2) Reduce required setbacks. The Planning Commission unanimously approved the project, with the applicant volunteering to provide an additional four very-low income units for a total of 35 very-low income units, with the stipulation that if the application is appealed to City Council that the inclusion of the

four additional affordable units is null and void and would revert back to the 31 very-low income units required by the City Inclusionary Housing Requirements Ordinance.



Police

Farewell Chief Mills



This week, Chief Mills leaves the City of Santa Cruz to begin his next position as the Chief of Police for the City of Palm Springs. Deputy Chief Bernie Escalante has been appointed to serve as the Interim Chief of the Santa Cruz Police Department, effective Oct. 30. Interim Chief Escalante said, "I plan to hit the ground running. My first priorities will be building our staffing and expanding on the trusting community relationships and innovative problem-solving brought to Santa Cruz by Chief Mills."

Features SCPD Volunteer

you

City

day.

us
our

I enjoy the work. Volunteering provides an opportunity to do something worthwhile, making a real difference at SCPD and our community.”

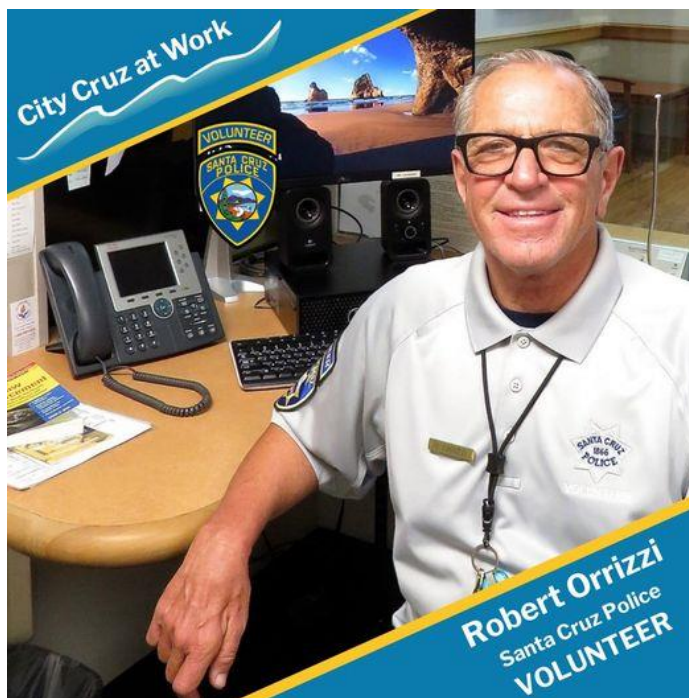
Robert Orrizzi Volunteer Police Department

Interested in the SCPD VIPS, visit <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/.../volunteer-with-scpd>

Last year, the United States Senate passed a resolution designating Oc. 28 as National First Responders Day to honor the men and women who act selflessly when called on in emergency situations, often putting their lives on the line.

First responders dedicate their lives to saving the lives of others. They are the people who run toward a crisis while the rest of us are forced to flee. According to the Department of Homeland Security, 4.6 million career and volunteer first responders support the communities they live in. These dedicated professionals answer the call each time a crisis arises.

This National First Responders Day, the Santa Cruz Police Department is proud to recognize the firefighters, police, 911 & EMS personnel, medical staff & all workers who serve Santa Cruz. These frontline workers and public health nurses, social workers,



and other dedicated public servants have stood strong delivering essential services during the pandemic of 2020.

Public Works

Resource Recovery

With the heavy weekend rainfall, our City streets were filled with leaves and debris. There are several areas where it is difficult to use our mechanical sweepers due to parking impacts and traffic calming devices. We augment our sweeping staff with a crew from Hope Services that can get into and hand sweep these difficult areas to keep these areas clean. They were especially busy after these storms. Thank you, Hope Services Team!



Operations

The annual vegetation management project work was completed in time for our first rain of the season. The positive effects can be seen along the levee and most noticeably upstream and downstream at the Felker Street Bridge area. As a result of vegetation management, there are fewer chances for debris to be stuck in the river and at the bridges during high river flows.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

Streets

Street Maintenance crews organized various small cleanups required due to the recent storm. Water in Pasatiempo Creek brought debris at the Plymouth/Grant Street culvert. Streets crews used the backhoe to remove vegetation and miscellaneous trash from the culvert's bar rack.



Traffic Engineering

We are excited to announce that downtown employees enrolled in the GO Santa Cruz program will have the opportunity to apply for an e-bike rebate starting Tuesday, Oct. 26. This new GO Santa Cruz benefit is the latest investment in a robust program designed to reduce barriers to biking and encourage more downtown workers to use bikes for transportation. The number of rebates



available is limited, and two amounts are available — a \$200 rebate for anyone and a \$400 rebate for low-income individuals.

Launched in 2019, GO Santa Cruz supports and rewards local commuters for choosing alternative transportation methods such as riding a bike, taking the bus or walking to work.

Our Street Smarts program hosted two pop-up bike safety events with free bike lights given to bicyclists in need. The pop ups were held after dusk along high traffic cycling routes at Arana Gulch and near the County office buildings at Water Street. Those riding without lights were outfitted with rechargeable front and rear lights for safer cycling with greater visibility at night. More info on our other upcoming bike and pedestrian safety events is available [here](https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/StreetSmarts).



Parking Services

Public bathrooms at the Locust Garage will be closed until repairs can be identified and completed. We are investigating plumbing issues. A vendor is videotaping all of the plumbing lines connected to the public restrooms and private tenant spaces to determine the scope of repairs. There have been off and on issues with plumbing at this facility due to its age and frequency of use.

Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Wastewater Treatment Facility was affected by a power outage over the weekend lasting several hours. An electrical ground fault prevented emergency generator power from being routed to the Cogeneration building and digester equipment. Without power to the control and support systems, the Cogeneration engines could not run, and the Waste Gas Flare could not open and ignite to burn off digester gas. For rare situations like this, the digesters are designed to store the excess gas. The weekend lone-operator called in standby support from the Operations and Electrical divisions to assist with troubleshooting the issue. Repairing the ground fault will require replacing some equipment. While that repair work is in preparation, the emergency generator power distribution system has been reconfigured to power the Cogeneration and auxiliary equipment through an alternate switchgear.



Water



Though we're always relieved and grateful for rain, the atmospheric river of last week creates its own set of challenges. Below is a photo of a couple of the WD's unsung heroes, Dan Kocher and Rosemary Bean, preparing to do post-storm source water-testing. Extreme rain events cause extreme turbidity in our source (river and creek) waters, prompting all sorts of tests and treatment balancing acts to ensure we maintain our high standard of water quality.

Speaking of last week's storms, we received about 7+/-" of rain at Loch Lomond Recreation Area, bringing the reservoir up a little over a foot to about 55% of capacity. That's still a long way from where we'd like to be, but every little bit helps! As forecast (pun intended), the media was very interested in the results of the storm: did the storm mean we're out of the drought? Short answer, no. But it's a good start to the hydrologic year, which began Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30.