

City Manager's Weekly Update

September 17, 2021

Fire

Fire Department Partners with Prospect Heights Firewise for Wildfire Preparation

At the end of August, the fire department sponsored a wildfire home hardening event for the Prospect Heights Firewise neighborhood. The fire department provided a 30 yd. yard waste dumpster to encourage residents to thin and clear vegetation around their homes in an effort to provide defensible space around each home and throughout the entire neighborhood. The event was such a success, and the dumpster was filled in only two days! The fire department also provided home hardening and emergency preparedness information and associated reference materials for all participants.



Police

Santa Cruz Police FREE GUN LOCK Giveaway

Why? Because as a firearm owner, it is your responsibility to ensure that guns in your home are stored where they are inaccessible to children or other unauthorized persons. Stolen firearms can end up in the hands of criminals who can use them to commit violent crimes.

For those who choose to own a firearm, proper storage and safety are of vital importance! To help with that, SCPD is giving away free child safety gun locks and gun safety brochures. That's right, FREE.

You can pick up FREE gun locks and gun safety brochures at our lobby Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 155 Center Street.



Ask for a gun lock, get a gun lock. We will give you as many as you need. SCPD does NOT require any personal information. Do NOT bring guns to the Police Department when picking up gun locks.

The safest way to store a gun is with a state-approved firearm safety device and keeping the weapon in a locked container. For more information on the safe handling and storage of firearms, visit projectchildsafe.org/.

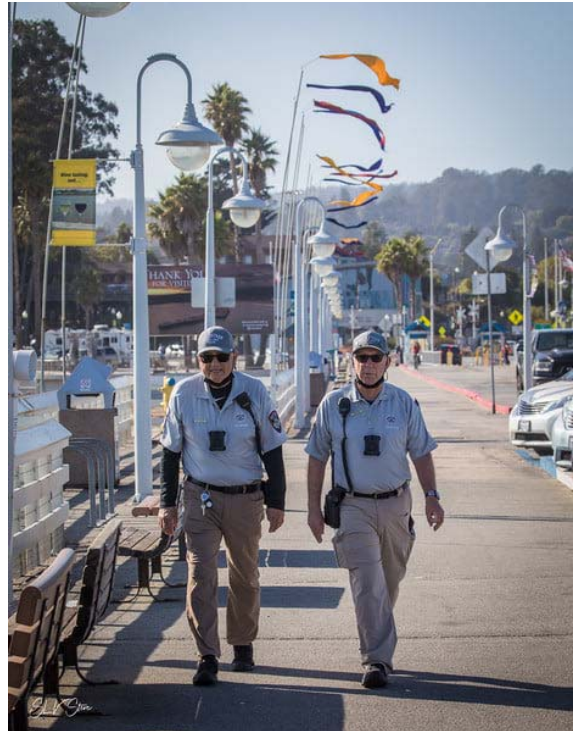
SCPD VIPS Team Up with Patrol Officers and Community Service Officers to Support Public Safety Efforts in the City of Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz PD Volunteers in Policing (VIPS) are a dedicated group of community members who work with SCPD to make our city a safer place.

Our Volunteers give about 5,000 hours a year to the city, making thousands of contacts with community members. They tagged 1,200 vehicles for abatement and visited hundreds of senior's homes. During the CZU fire, SCPD volunteers notified many residents of how to evacuate, walking door to door in the smoke. They helped the Santa Cruz Fire Department freeing up firefighters to fight the advancement of flames and officers to patrol burned areas. Chief Andy Mills shares his insights on why their work matters in his blog post - [Community Policing in the Real World https://bit.ly/3ndnN1w](https://bit.ly/3ndnN1w)

If you are interested in joining the Santa Cruz Police Volunteer Program,

email scpdvolunteers@cityofsantacruz.com, call (831) 420-5916 or visit [Santa Cruz PD Volunteer webpage](#).



Public Works

Engineering/Environmental Programs



COASTALCLEANUPDAY.ORG

We are sponsoring another Save Our Shores Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 18, funded by the Clean River, Beaches and Ocean fund (Measure E). This unique event allows people in our community to pick up litter in places where they live, work and play. These volunteers' efforts help to eliminate trash from our rivers, beaches and ocean.

Volunteers may [register to volunteer](#) online for a clean-up site of their choice. We thank everyone for their generous and vital participation!

Resource Recovery



The residential curbside Food Scrap Collection Pilot Program, which began last month in the Seabright neighborhood, continues with strong participation. We have recovered approximately 1,100 pounds of food scraps from 57 participating households. We have provided the residents with a 6-gallon locking pail which is collected at the curbside.

The mass excavation portion of the Cell 3B project is expected to wrap up next week. Approximately 390,000 cubic yards of material were excavated and stockpiled on site. Liner installation (underdrain system, low permeability layer, plastic liner, leachate removal system, etc.) will take place over the next few months.



Engineering Division



The Neary Lagoon vegetation and sediment removal project has started and is anticipated to continue into October. The project's goal is to remove excessive tule vegetation and sediment that is accumulating in the lagoon to improve habitat, water quality, and circulation. Tules and vegetation will also be removed along some sections of the floating walkways. The project will help prevent the lagoon from "filling up" from sediment, which is primarily carried into the lagoon by local creeks.

Transportation Engineering

Notice of Preparation (NOP) on an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Rail Trail Segments 8 and 9 was issued this week. Projects limits are Pacific Ave. (Wharf Roundabout) to 17th Ave. Comments on the EIR scope are due Friday, Oct. 15 by 4 p.m. The scoping meeting for the EIR analysis will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 6 via zoom. The full NOP with meeting link and preferred method to provide comment can be found at www.cityofsantacruz.com/railtrail89.

In partnership with the Cities of Capitola and Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz, UCSC, and Cabrillo College, the Public Works Department has released the Request for Proposals for a Regional Electric Bike Share Program. Collaboratively, the jurisdictions are seeking firm or team for the delivery of a no-cost turn-key regional Bike Share system that can become a vital part of the regional transportation network and a valued community amenity. Proposals are due Oct. 4, 2021 and more information can be found at cityofsantacruz.com/Home/Components/RFP/RFP/207/2109

Economic Development

Downtown Walkabout Job Fair | UCSC Downtown Day



Two exciting events are happening in two weeks: UCSC Downtown Day and the Downtown Walkabout Job Fair. Thanks to a partnership between DTA and the Workforce Development Board of Santa Cruz County the Job Fair is marketed to both UCSC students, Cabrillo students, and will be shared more widely with the Santa Cruz community.

In addition, the City of Santa Cruz Economic Development Department, The Downtown Association, and UC Santa Cruz have collaborated to host an exciting event for returning students. On Friday, Sept. 24, students are invited to join in the fun at the UCSC Downtown Day event welcoming slugs to Santa Cruz. The

event will include student performances on the closed block of Pacific Avenue between Lincoln & Cathcart at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., a treasure hunt amongst several locations throughout downtown, and prize bags. Downtown Day is being promoted to thousands of new and returning UCSC students. It is expected to attract several hundred slugs downtown.

Infrastructure & Property Development | Del Mar Theatre to Reopened Sept 10



Economic Development is pleased to announce that since closing due to the pandemic in March 2020, the historic Del Mar Theatre downtown once again reopened for shows on Sept. 10. The Del Mar will open with showings of [The Card Counter](#), [Language Lessons](#), and [On Broadway](#), with an advanced screening of the Cannes Film Festival selected [Blue Bayou](#) on September 16th.

Shows are initially planned for evening matinees (~4 p.m.), nightly viewings (~7 p.m.), and afternoon matinees (~2 p.m.) on weekends from Friday-Sunday. Beer and wine service will soon be

available for those 21+. For more information, visit the Landmark Theatres [website](#).

Arts & Culture Development | Sea Walls Santa Cruz 2021

The City of Santa Cruz has been host to the Sea Walls Mural Festival this week. From Sept. 13-18, 2021, a team of regional and visiting artists has gathered in Santa Cruz to create a series of locally relevant public artworks to help spur environmental activism while beautifying the town's streetscape.

The Santa Cruz City Arts program is sponsoring the festival after unanimous approval by the City Arts Commission. PangeaSeed, as the organization overseeing the mural installation, is managing the artists and the murals they are producing in coordination with the property owners of the walls being

painted. More information about the Santa Cruz activation and sponsors is located here: seawalls.org/activation/santa-cruz-usa/

With so many artists, there is a wide variety of styles and content in the mural imagery. The purpose of the Sea Walls Mural program is to provoke conversation and action to support ocean conservation. Each muralist is submitting an artist statement about the work and the issues they are highlighting. The murals and the statements will be posted to social media on the PangeaSeed website and the City website. They will serve as valuable resources for education and discussion in our community. This project is at the intersection of arts and environmental action. The City certainly has a role in promoting both.



The Sea Walls Festival will be officially closing on September 18. However, there may be some walls that get finished up within a couple of days afterward. The local Made Fresh Crew, the boots on the ground with the phenomenal preparation and support role for the Festival, will have a chance to do some painting themselves. The range of mural art installed in the City within the week is phenomenal. It has undoubtedly energized our arts community. Linda Cover, a City Arts Commissioner, Tannery Artist, and Resident, has brought her students to watch the muralists at work. They sketched what they saw and showed their work to the artists.

With support from their parents, they visited the individual muralist's websites and learned about them. The image to the left is of two students with Jet Martinez (Oakland, CA) painting "Endangered Marine Life."

A walking map has been produced of all the mural locations and is available on the Sea Walls Activation website. [Download the Sea Walls Santa Cruz map.](#)

Below are some of the murals in progress.

Nychos (Austria) "Ocean Stewardship" and Davie Rice (Oakland) "Shark Conservation"



Left: Jeks One (Greensboro, NC) "The Last Salmon"

Right: Abi Mustapha (Santa Cruz) "Environmental Justice"



Sea Walls Santa Cruz Festival 2021 (Events)

Patrons met the local and visiting artists at an ARTivist panel talk Thursday, Sept. 16 at the Tannery Arts Center Courtyard.

September 18 there will be a morning coastal clean-up event at Natural Bridges, in partnership with Save our Shores. More information: [Coastal Beach Cleanup Day](#)

Also on September 18, celebrate the close of the festival that evening with live music and food at the Shanty Shack from 5–9 p.m.

Below is the list of mural locations and the artists who will be painting them!

1. **York Framing** - 619 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 - *Shane Jessup*
2. **York Framing** - 619 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 - *Madeleine Tonzi*
3. **Windts Tv Radio Repair** - 1515 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 - *Zoe Boston*
4. **Community Printers** - 1827 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 - *Hannah Eddy*
5. **Santa Cruz Movement** - 730 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 - *Caia Koopman*
6. **Orange Theory** - 1501 41st Ave N, Capitola, CA 95010 - *Max Ehrman*
7. **Sesame Korean Grill** - 435 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Abi Mustapha*
8. **Lenz Arts** - 142 River St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Jimbo Phillips*
9. **1010 Apartments** - 1010 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA - *Nychos*
10. **Monster Pot** - 435 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *David Rice*
11. **Parking Garage** - 601 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Ricky Watts*
12. **Parking Garage** - 601 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Jet Martinez*

13. **Parking Garage** - 601 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Jeks One*
14. **Parking Garage** - 601 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Kai Kalukukui*
15. **Birichino Winery** - 204 Church St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Made Fresh Crew*
16. **New Leaf** - 1134 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Alexandra Underwood, Joey Rose*
17. **Dominos** - 2391 Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Lauren YS*
18. **Mission Liquors** - 2335 Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Griffin One*
19. **Twice As Nice** - 1204 Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 - *Made Fresh Crew*



Housing Development & Preservation



The Housing Team is excited to share the news that the federally-funded Central Park and Playground renovation project is complete! There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the improvements this Saturday, September 18, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. In addition, The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the event, which will include refreshments, speakers, and plenty of time for children to play on their awesome, new playground!

This project was part of the 2019 HUD Annual Action Plan and, with Council approval, was funded with an \$86,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The improvements include safety and accessibility improvements, drainage, irrigation, and new play features so that the whole community can use the playground more often. Before the renovations, the park flooded annually with heavy rains and was not accessible by wheelchair.

Water

Things are wrapping up for the season at the Loch Lomond Recreation Area, as we head into our weekends-only schedule now through October. It's probably a good thing, too, since the lake level continues to drop. We're losing about 1-2 inches of water per day and are now at the end of our boat ramps. We're now some 20 feet below where we were last year and only 27 feet above our all-time low record of 525.80' in November 1977.

Speaking of the reservoir and drought, we had a booth at the Santa Cruz County Chamber's Business Expo last week. We had lots of opportunities to talk with people about the dam and other projects and hear about their experiences conserving water this summer. As you can imagine, there isn't much appetite for more restrictions. People seem to be feeling the pinch of 5 CCF per month allotments much more strongly this summer than they did when we rationed with 10 CCF in 2014/15.



A number of forecast models predict that we'll see above-average rainfall in October and November, more so in November. Aside from our selfish hopes for more water supply, we also hope for early rains to wet forest fuels down so that we can have an earlier end to fire season. In the meantime, a number of us are working on plans to bring in additional supply. We've reduced the amount of water we're releasing for fish from the Newell Creek Dam, and we're planning to restore service from Major's. We've also reduced the bypass from Tait Street, and we're exploring possible longer-term solutions that, in addition to the implementation of the water supply projects including ASR, may also include additional wells along the San Lorenzo River. All of this helps but doesn't take the place of sorely needed rain.

Work continues on a number of infrastructure projects, including the tunnel excavation for the Newell Creek Dam Inlet/Outlet replacement. The contractor is now encountering water as they make their way under the reservoir. The photo below is taken inside the tunnel, showing water coming out of a probe hole. These holes are then grouted with cement to prevent water from entering the tunnel excavation area.



Work on the concrete tanks replacement project at the treatment plant also continues, with good progress being made this week on a soil nail wall behind the tanks. Shotcrete has been applied as you can see in the photo below, and the contractor is testing a second verification nail to ensure that the soil nails meet the designed strength.



Saving our best news for last, our Watershed staff have been busy with fall fish surveys and – while the San Lorenzo is too hot to seine right now – Laguna is looking very good. Lots of healthy fish were observed, including some coho! The presence of coho in Laguna is a testimony to the success of the Department's commitment to releasing flows to support fish habitat and demonstrates that this strategy plays an important role in the protection of endangered coho salmon.



Parks and Recreation

Celebrating Jack Sprow's 30 years of Distinguished Service



Jack Sprow is an unbelievably dedicated employee who is celebrating 30 years of distinguished service to the City of Santa Cruz. Jack was originally hired as a temporary City employee back in 1988 at the Civic Auditorium as a Maintenance Aide. He was then hired into a regular position as Facility Attendant at the London Nelson Community Center in 1991 and was promoted not long thereafter to his current position as Auditorium Coordinator where he has excelled for the majority of his 30 year career.

