

City Manager's Weekly Update

May 6, 2022

Economic Development

Housing Development & Preservation | Pacific Station South & Cedar Street Family Apartments Groundbreaking Event



In celebration of [Affordable Housing Month](#), the Economic Development Department hosted a groundbreaking event for the [Pacific Station South](#) and [Cedar Street Family Apartments](#), both 100% affordable housing projects. The event was a walking tour beginning at the Pacific Station South project site, just south of the Metro Center, where the over 50 attendees gathered to hear about the project from Economic Development Director Bonnie Lipscomb, as well as representatives from the developer For The Future Housing and funder Housing Trust of Silicon Valley. There was a moment for photos with the golden shovels at the site, and then the group progressed to the Cedar Street Family Apartments site in the parking lot adjacent to the Calvary Church.

On the way to the Cedar Street site, the City's Asset Manager David McCormic provided a walking tour of future development projects coming soon on Front Street and the public paseos that will be built out with the projects to provide direct connections from Downtown to the Riverwalk. At the Cedar Street Family Apartments site, Bonnie gave an overview of the project highlights, which will include 65 affordable family apartments and a 25'-30' public paseo. Developer Matt Tunney, Reverend Austin Leininger from Calvary Church, which owns the property, and former Mayor and City Councilmember Don Lane from Housing Santa Cruz County spoke to the crowd.



The event ended at Lot 4 and the future home of the [Downtown Library and Affordable Housing Project](#), where the group learned about the progress made in the development of this project which includes a 35,000 square foot new downtown library, a childcare facility, 124 affordable housing units, and 310 replacement parking spaces.

Housing Development & Preservation | Virtual Classes

Have you ever wondered what the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program is or the benefits of providing housing to tenants who are participants in that program? What factors need to be considered when developing affordable housing? How does the financing work? Then the Affordable Housing Finance 101 and Housing Choice Voucher Webinars are for you!



For more information, visit the [Affordable Housing Month Events Page](#) and watch the pre-recorded classes at your own pace.

Fire Department

In 2021, the Fire Department was awarded a grant through the California State Coastal Conservancy to address wildfire resiliency in the City's open spaces. Work began in fall 2021 and was completed last week. Project funding was used to remove overgrown combustible vegetation, dead and dying trees and invasive non-native species in the areas of Arroyo Seco Canyon and DeLaveaga Park. This project reduced vegetative fuels in the Wildland Urban Interfaces, lessening the impact of wildfire risk and greenhouse gas emissions. The Fire Department will continue to seek out grant opportunities with Parks and Rec and our other City partners to continue vegetation management throughout the City's open spaces.

BEFORE



AFTER

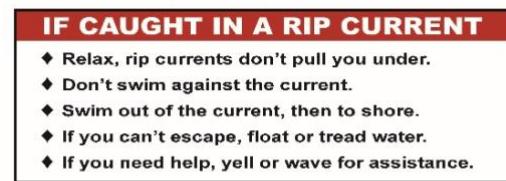
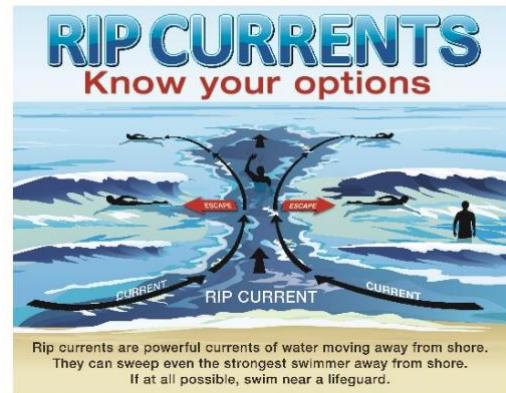


Parks and Recreation

National Beach Safety Week begins on May 23!

Each year, as summer begins, Beach Safety week is the Monday before Memorial Day and ends after Memorial Day Monday. The United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) sponsors beach safety week to remind beachgoers to use caution in the aquatic environment. Here are USLA's top 10 safety tips:

1. **Swim Near a Lifeguard:** LGs work to prevent drowning and injury. When you arrive at a beach, check in with LGs for designated swim areas and their safety advice.
2. **Learn to Swim:** Learning to swim means more than learning strokes; it is learning water survival skills, water safety and developing comfort and confidence in the water.
3. **Learn Rip Current Safety:** USLA has found that rip currents cause more than 80% of rescues by USLA LGs at ocean beaches. Learn more about rip currents on USLA's webpage:
<https://www.usla.org/page/RIPCURRENTS>.
4. **Never Swim Alone:** Always swim with a buddy so that if one swimmer has a problem, the other can signal for assistance to others on the beach or an LG.
5. **Designate a "Water Watcher":** When enjoying the beach with a group, make sure to designate a "water watcher" whose sole responsibility is to keep an eye on those in the water at all times.
6. **Alcohol and Water Don't Mix:** Alcohol influences balance, coordination, and judgment. According to the CDC, nearly a quarter of Emergency Department visits for drowning have alcohol use involved.
7. **Feet First Water Entry:** Check for depth and obstructions before entering the water, then go feet first. Diving headfirst and striking the bottom can lead to spinal injuries.
8. **Life Jackets Save Lives:** Children and non-swimmers should wear a US Coast Guard-approved, properly fitted life jacket when in or around the water and at the beach. It is a simple life-saving strategy for recreational boating, paddling, or towed water sports.
9. **Observe Signs and Flags:** Signs at the beach are intended to keep you safe. Read the signs upon arrival to learn about hazards specific to the beach and local regulations. LGs will also fly flags to advise of hazards and temporary restrictions in effect.
10. **Beat the Heat and Block the Sun:** Protect yourself by drinking plenty of water, avoiding alcohol, and use "broad spectrum" sunscreen rated from 15 to 50 SPF and reapply throughout the day.



London Nelson Community Center Volunteers Honored in 2022 Be the Difference Awards

This dynamic duo has transformed London Nelson Community Center with their talents, passion, and commitment to the community. Helen Waller has logged over 2,300 hours teaching line dance classes at our Senior Center to promote fitness and connection, and she continued offering and expanding her classes online during the pandemic, reaching over 4,000 people. Her husband, Mike Waller, adopted the one-acre Laurel Park surrounding the Center and turned it into an oasis of drought-resistant, beautiful plants. Mike's adoption of Laurel Park has become the paragon of park adoption. The beautification process has been regionally highlighted as what is possible when the public has a greater sense of ownership of public space.

The unseen hours of Helen's program outreach and practicing her craft to be the best teacher she can to Mike's prepping the seeds from home and transplanting the starts into our grounds is the type of volunteer work that happens outside of our walls. For these reasons and so much more, we find these unsung heroes truly inspiring to all of us at the London Nelson Community Center. [Watch their video here.](#)



Public Works



Engineer Steve Wolfman.

At the Highway 1/9 Intersection Improvements Project, the Sentinel's Jessica York and community members had many questions answered by Senior Civil Engineer Josh Spangrud.

Our three construction tours in celebration of Public Works Week were energized, with over two dozen attendees each. And who says a sanitary sewer isn't interesting?! Community members were all ears and eyes at the Trevethan Avenue Storm/Sewer Project tour led by Senior Civil



At the West Cliff Storm Repair Project, the City's Sustainability & Climate Action Manager Tiffany Wise-West joined Project Manager Miguel Lizarraga in answering many questions.



Engineering



At our West Cliff Storm Repair Project, the contractor has completed the drilling, rebar cage installation and concrete pour for the 21' deep CIDH (Cast-in-place Drilled Hole) piers. Next up is grading and pouring the grade beam that connects the tops of all thirteen piers.



Traffic Engineering

We resumed construction of the San Lorenzo Riverwalk Lighting Project this week. We installed arms and lighting fixtures for the new decorative streetlights along San Lorenzo Park.

Facilities

We coordinated the removal of the old satellite on top of the Police Department with the help of the Resource Recovery Collections team. The satellite was roughly 500 lb. and required a crane for removal.

Streets

Our Street Maintenance paint crew repaired the Arana Gulch bike/pedestrian path at Broadway/Frederick. The sign and paint crew



worked together to replace the STOP legends and installed a new crosswalk at Riverside/Second. Beach Flats curbs received a fresh coat of paint in preparation for the summer season.

Resource Recovery

Last weekend the Waste Reduction team held a free paper shred event for City residents. A line formed as soon as the event started, and there was a consistent flow of visitors over 4 hours. About 75 residents showed up for this first-time event! The shredded paper will be recycled into new paper and chipboard materials as a sustainability measure. Additionally, we staffed an outreach booth to spread the word about the June 4 & 5 Garage Sale Weekend, paper use reduction, and other Waste Reduction programs and opportunities.



Water

Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet project

Work in the reservoir is nearly complete, with final work on the air vent and hydraulic lines wrapping up in the next week or so. After that, we'll be able to remove the silt curtain that's been up for the past 18 months. Next is the installation of the inlet/outlet pipe in the completed tunnel, which will begin in early June.

In a related side note, our prime contractor for the tunnel project, Obayashi, submitted photos to an industry contest - "Critical Innovation: Developing Infrastructure for Tomorrow." The photos that Obayashi submitted highlighted the technical challenges of our project, which are many. These include using a navigation system to drill the 1,500-foot-long crescent tunnel to accurately line the tunnel up with vertical shafts in the reservoir. (A nail-biter for all involved - photo right.)

And in another related side note, the Water Department currently has projects with a total cost of \$100 M in active planning; projects with a total cost of \$180 M in design; and projects with a total cost of \$165 M under construction. (No wonder staff are so tired!)

Speaking of the reservoir, it currently sits at 571.25 feet (it spills at 577.15) vs. 561.40 at this time last year. Our customers continue to use water very efficiently.

