

# City Manager's Weekly Update

November 13, 2015

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The **Corridor Planning and Rezoning** project is well underway with a presentation scheduled for the Planning Commission for November 19, 2015. The summary will include the corridor physical characteristics, key issues and public input up to this point from the community workshops. The Corridor process continues to be coordinated with the preparation of the City's Active Transportation Plan. The Corridor Advisory Committee will be meeting several times over the next few months to prepare recommendations to the Planning Commission. Everyone is encouraged to attend this Planning Commission meeting to hear about the progress to date and the process moving forward.

**First Food Truck Park Application Approved for Private Property.** A Zoning Clearance was approved this week to allow the first mobile food vending park in the City, other than the one at Lighthouse Field State Park. This application was approved under the temporary (18 month) ordinance approved by the City Council in January of this year to gauge the interest and test the feasibility of allowing food trucks on private property. The project site is a vacant paved lot located at 519 Caledonia Street directly behind the commercial buildings located at 720, 722 and 730 Soquel Avenue. The project site had a nonconforming house located on it; however, a fire destroyed the home and the lot was paved for parking. There are no parking encumbrances between the vacant parking lot and the commercial uses on Soquel Avenue which makes this site ideal for this use. The Zoning Clearance approves the use of the lot for mobile vending and each vender will be required to obtain a zoning clearance which allows planning staff to ensure compliance with the operational requirements of the ordinance. Mike Ferry is the planner working on the permit entitlements.

**Tannery Arts Theater.** A certificate of occupancy was issued for the Colligan Theatre renovation of the historic hide house at the Tannery Arts Center located at 1010 River Street. It turned out beautiful, and the Jewel Theater Company opened this week with their first production in this new venue – Guys and Dolls. It is terrific fun.

**Pacific Collegiate School.** A temporary certificate of occupancy was granted to Pacific Collegiate School for the remodel of their building and new permanent home at 3004 Mission Street.

**Green Building/Environmental Specialist** recruitment is underway.

**Building & Safety October Counter Stats/Activity:** 572 public counter visits with average wait time under 10 minutes.

## WATER

The **horizontal directional drilling** (HDD) started yesterday for the replacement of the raw water main along Highway 1. The contractor has completed about 150 linear feet, or about 12% of the 8-inch diameter/1,300 foot long “pilot” bore hole. The pilot hole gets things started; then the contractor goes back and enlarges the pilot hole to a final diameter of 36-inches. This is a very challenging, time consuming, process and will take until mid-December to complete. So far; so good.



(HDD drilling)

In other exciting news, a few **bald eagles** have been frequenting Loch Lomond recently. One of our Rangers, Judie Cole, was able to snap this wonderful photo of a juvenile. We’re hopeful that the recreation area will open next season so that the lake can be stocked with fish, which might encourage our new eagle neighbors to stick around for a while!



(Juvenile bald eagle)

The second phase of the **trunk main valve replacement project** happens next week. And while it has far fewer potential impacts to our customers, it's only slightly less complicated for our staff to pull off than phase 1. Our goal has been to complete this project both before the rainy weather sets in (fingers crossed we will have rainy weather!) and before our long-time distribution superintendent, Dave Schneider, retires at the end of this year. Dave has a wealth of knowledge about our system.

On Friday, the **WSAC** was honored with the "**Visionary Stewardship**" award at the Chamber's annual Commerce Community Recognition Gala. Most of the WSAC members will be attending the event, and many of them are featured in a video the chamber put together on WSAC. I look forward to celebrating their achievement with them.

**Speaking of awards**, our rationing communication campaigns were recently recognized with a silver *Davey* award and a silver *Communicator* award for "marketing effectiveness." We won the prestigious *MarCom* gold award for the WSAC mailer *Our Water, Our Future* that went out in September. And we're one of three finalists for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) *Best in Blue* communications award for our rationing campaigns.

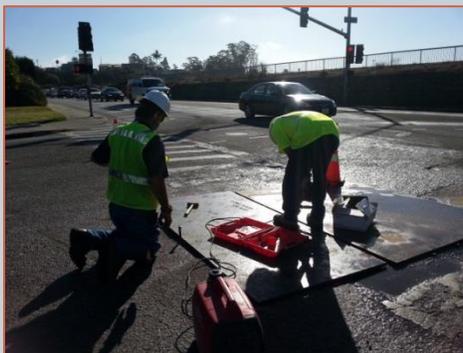
## PUBLIC WORKS

### Operations Streets/Traffic

Crews spread chips to minimize weeds on Swanton.



Crews drilled steel plates on Ocean at San Lorenzo to mitigate potholes caused by high ground water from the river.



## **Community Relations**

Staff worked on our upcoming five-part Recycle Right video series including rehearsing, set elements, script revision and graphics.

Staff continued work on Nov. 21 El Nino Prep Workshop with “El Nino 1982-83” booth added where retired Santa Cruz Fire Chief Matt McCaslin will be available to speak with visitors.

Revisions were made to our online English/Spanish storm [brochure](#) and a new bilingual postcard handout was created.



## **Traffic Engineering/Parking**

During the past two weeks both the sink and toilet in the men’s restroom in our Restroom Pilot Program clogged at the same time. This was taken care of by the staff on duty around 12 a.m. on 10/30/15.

Parking Services Supervisors, Superintendent, and Manager attended this year’s CPPA (California Parking Professionals Association) conference in Oakland last week. The staff attended many training sessions over the 4-day event including Hearing Examiner Training, Conflict Resolution and Disabled Parking.

**RECREATION DIVISION**

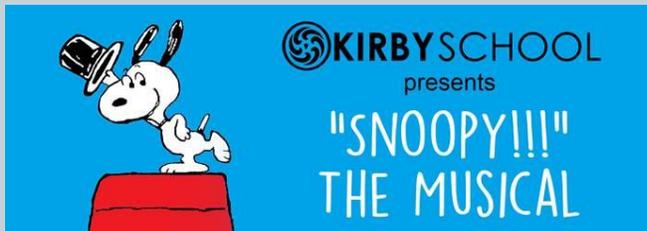
***Downtown Seniors Walking Adventure Group (WAG)***

Downtown Seniors' Walking Adventure Group (WAG) had another great outing with City of Santa Cruz Urban Forester Leslie Keedy. Twenty adventurers walked from downtown City Hall to Mission Plaza looking at some amazing trees. WAG meets every Thursday 9:30 – 11:30 am.



***Kirby School Musical***

Kirby School presents Snoopy the Musical this weekend only: Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm with matinees Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.



***Sprout Up Carnival Fundraiser in Laurel Park***

Bounce house! Raffle prizes! Live music! Local food! Face painting! Balloon art! Games and activities! Arts and crafts! Join us for an afternoon of family-friendly fun! Saturday, November 14, from 11am – 2pm, Laurel Park, 440 Washington Street.

Sprout Up (501c3) has been delivering FREE, quality environmental education lessons to 1st and 2nd graders in Santa Cruz since 2011, taught entirely by UCSC and Cabrillo college students. Join us if you are able for a celebration of Sprout Up's

successful four years in Santa Cruz! All ages welcome, and 100% of proceeds benefit Sprout Up. A \$5 donation is suggested. For more information please visit [www.SproutUp.org](http://www.SproutUp.org).



### ***Winter Adult Sports***

Winter basketball and women's soccer "early bird discount" registration on Tuesday, November 10th generated over \$7600! Registration continues until November 24th. We have spots for 6 basketball teams and 5 soccer teams.

### **PARKS DIVISION**

#### ***John Franks Playground Community Meeting***

On November 3, Parks and Recreation staff met with approximately 20 community members at the John Franks Park to discuss the playground replacement CIP. Staff presented four playground structure options for review and discussion. The residents were unanimous in choosing one of the options with only slight modifications. Staff is moving forward with the purchase of the equipment and is working with the contractor to schedule installation.

#### ***Storm Preparation on DeLaveaga Service Roads***

With the rain season eminent, Parks staff has completed additional storm preparation throughout DeLaveaga Park. Service roads along Prospect Heights have been re-graded to ensure runoff follows its desired direction and does not impact any of the neighboring homes. In addition, storm preparation has also been completed at Sand Pit Road and Park Way to protect adjoining properties and direct runoff toward the proper conveyance facilities.

### **P & R ADMINISTRATION**

#### ***City Hall Lawn***

Due to the ongoing challenges on the last remaining stretch of lawn across from Parks and Recreation office building & outside of the Planning Department offices, staff will post that area closed as we have the other lawn areas around City Hall. Screaming, cursing and stashing of personal belongings continue to take its toll on City Hall Staff and visitors.

#### ***BF Garden***

Staff is beginning to develop language for a three year lease for 16,000 sq. ft. of garden space on Seaside Company property in the Beach Flats Neighborhood as well as developing a timeline to implement the move of existing gardeners. The current lease expires today November 13. This project continues to be very challenging with many moving parts.

#### ***Civic Auditorium Leadership Team***

The 'Civic' is old and tired, and we collectively recognize it to be in need of improvement. It is anticipated that the required renovations will be costly but also recognize the Civic Auditorium is a very valuable community resource. It presently serves as host to events such as our very own Cabrillo Music Festival, our Symphony orchestra and our Ballet Company. Its potential is just being explored via this planning effort.

Recognizing such, the Civic Auditorium Leadership Team received the draft, preliminary report from AMS Planning and Research this week. This phase of the planning work is a feasibility study of converting the Civic Auditorium into a facility favoring performing arts. The report

introduced the results of a community survey, and then looked at operating and management options for consideration. The draft report is filled with great information about what our community thinks of the Civic Auditorium, and recommendations for improving the facility. Once the report is finalized, staff will deliver it to Council and community.

We are so thankful for the generous grant from the Packard Foundation that has allowed us to work with Cabrillo Music Festival staff to deliver all of the amazing preliminary work. Post planning: develop a funding strategy!

***New P & R Office Supervisor Recruitment***

Interviews for the new P & R Office Supervisor will be conducted November 18, with ten candidates being examined. We hope to have the position filled and the office staffed by mid-December. One of our interim, temp P & R Office Supervisors, Laura Waldren, has kindly offered to remain available to train the new person.

***Vermont Systems RecTrac/WebTrac Software***

The new Vermont Systems software implementation is on schedule, and we are targeting the second week in January for public access and in-house use. The product reps will be in town again all week November 16-20 to complete the basis training regimen. The Recreation Division staff members – as well as Karen Adams of IT – have done a marvelous job comprehending and mastering the program. We look forward to many years of collaboration and service from our vendor, most importantly to the benefit of our customers.