

City Manager's Weekly Update

February 10, 2017

PARKS AND RECREATION

Civic

Monday, Feb 13th, Santa Cruz Indivisible Meeting 6:30pm

The group Santa Cruz Indivisible will be holding their second meeting at the Civic Auditorium. For more information please visit: <http://santacruzindivisible.org/events>

Symphony, Feb. 18th at 8:00pm

Symphony will begin loading in on Tuesday for their third concert of the season, Yuja! In what promises to be a landmark event, one of the world's most sensational, accomplished, and acclaimed artists, Yuja Wang will join the Santa Cruz Symphony for an all piano concerto program. Friday will be an open rehearsal from 6:30pm-10:30pm.



Louden Nelson Community Center

- New electrical switches and fixtures were installed this past Tuesday on the back wall of the new auditorium seating system. The project is now complete with the exception of painting of the wall which may include a mural.



- The Warming Center dinner will be continued until the end of April. Here is a link with further information regarding the dinner.

<https://santacruzgives.org/nonprofit/warming-center-program/>

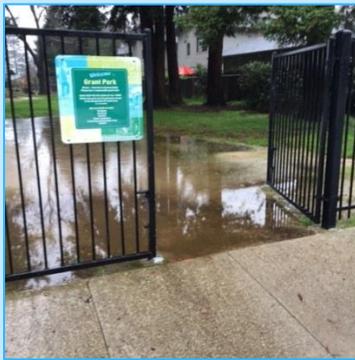
- Youth Serve Senior Tech day noon to 3pm.

Parks Division

The parks division has felt the impact from over three weeks of rain, despite the flooding the staff has been able to complete some projects throughout the parks system.

East Zone Projects

On Monday Grant St Park was temporary closed due to amount of rainfall impacting the entrances of the park and playground amenities on then on Tuesday the park was re-opened. The follow up on the vandalism at DeLaveaga Park the steel door was replaced and the large gate lock was repaired and no able to close. The roll door has been ordered in the meantime plywood has been installed.



At the Santa Cruz Riverwalk the Health and Wellness initiative continues, with the completed installation of the Air Strider accompanied by some of the existing exercise structures.



Some other areas within the parks that have been impacted include the golf course which has been closed, the upper road and service road were temporarily closed to due to fallen trees that have been removed and reopened. We have park staff working diligently responding to calls of trees blocking main roads and the current status they have all been removed.

POLICE

Chief of Police Kevin Vogel Announces Retirement

Santa Cruz Chief of Police Kevin Vogel has announced his retirement, effective June 2, 2017. Kevin was hired by the department on February 9, 1987, and was appointed Chief in December 2010.

Beginning his law enforcement career with the Santa Cruz Police Department, Kevin attended a 16-week basic police academy as a police officer trainee and was sworn in as a police officer in June 1987. As a policeman, Kevin served as a patrol officer, traffic officer, and detective. He was promoted to sergeant in 1995, where he acted as a supervisor in patrol, downtown, and investigations. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2002, where he served in patrol and community services. He was promoted to deputy chief of police in 2004, where he served in both major divisions of the Police Department. Kevin took command of the Department as the 21st Chief of Police on December 9, 2010.



Photo Credit: Tarmo Hannula, Register-Pajaronian

Under his leadership, the Department succeeded in enhancing public safety by leveraging the Department's effectiveness through the use of emerging technologies. The Santa Cruz Police Department collaborated with two UC Santa Cruz graduate students to develop a mobile smartphone app, the first of its kind in the industry that gives community members a wealth of information in the palm of their hand. The Department was recognized by the League of California Cities as a recipient of the Helen Putnam Award of Excellence for the development of the mobile smartphone app. The Santa Cruz Police Department collaborated with a Santa Clara University math professor to develop and introduce a technology known as Predictive Policing, a concept in which historical crime data is used to predict areas within the City that have the highest probability for future criminal activity to occur. Time Magazine named the Santa Cruz Police Department's Predictive Policing technology as one of the 50 best inventions of 2011. The Santa Cruz Police Department has increased transparency and community involvement through the creation of a Chief's Advisory Committee comprised of community members, a Citizen's Police Academy offered in English and Spanish, a Teen Public Safety Academy, as well as the P.R.I.D.E. program geared toward keeping at-risk youth out of gangs.



“For thirty years, Kevin served the Santa Cruz community with honor and distinction. He is a model of integrity and professionalism, and it has been an honor to work with him,” stated City Manager Martín Bernal. “He epitomizes the values of teamwork, leadership, and public service. He has dedicated his career to improving the quality of life in our community and responding to the significant public safety issues faced by cities.”

In reflecting on his career, Kevin said that “it has been a tremendous honor to work alongside the dedicated men and women in the Police Department, and to serve the Santa Cruz community. I will miss each and every employee.”

Following his departure, Kevin will shift his focus to spending much more time with his family, traveling and completing many unfinished home projects.

The City Manager will begin the process to identify Kevin’s successor in the coming months.

Santa Cruz Police Department Collaborates with Veterans Resource Center to Support Veterans

This week Santa Cruz Police Department launched a first-of-its-kind pilot project to assist homeless Veterans in the City of Santa Cruz. SCPD is partnering with Santa Cruz Veterans Resource Center (VRC) to help Veterans find housing and support services.

Our priority focuses on trying to keep Veterans out of jail if possible and divert them to services provided by Santa Cruz VRC.

As part of a pilot program, Santa Cruz Police will connect homeless or struggling Veterans to critical services as part of the outreach. Officers can offer the option of transportation to Veterans Resource Center.



Under the pilot program, VRC will check to see if the individual has access to benefits through the [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#). If they are eligible, VRC will work to get them housed, if needed, and see what services the vet is interested in, like job training or counseling. If the Veteran is ineligible, VRC will call the [Homeless Services Center](#) to see if anyone there can help. As explained by Deputy Chief Rick Martinez, “We strive to implement long-term solutions

to ensure the safety of our community and the well-being of every person in our city –homeless or not.

By partnering with VRC, we now have direct access to professionals with qualified wrap around support services for our Veteran population that needs special attention.”



This week Goodtimes produced an excellent story on the SCPD & VRC collaboration. Read part 1 of 2 in series <http://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/news/scpd-courtesy-rides-help-homeless-vets/>

City of Santa Cruz Alerts Community to Potential Flooding

The City of Santa Cruz Emergency Operation Center is activated monitoring Thursday’s storm event. SCPD was there with the EOC Activation team coordinating support activities for operational field response, providing media releases, community updates.

With a Flash Flood Watch in effect now through Friday morning, the City of Santa Cruz urges all



residents and business owners in low-lying areas to be prepared for changing conditions that could result in localized flooding.

STEER CLEAR of Flooded Roads

SCPD rule of thumb, don't drive into water that's too deep to see the painted markings on the road.

- Did you know...just 6 inches of standing water (sometimes less) can be enough to cause engine stalling?
- In approximately 1 foot of water, a typical car can begin to float and, as traction is lost, so is the steering control.

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets/Traffic

Staff has continued with response to typical storm related issues: clearing catch basins and downed trees and repairing many potholes. KION broadcast a [report of our crews in action](#).

Upper Park Road has started to fracture because of the adjacent hillside settling/moving. Staff sealed the cracks to prevent more water intrusion and will stabilize this area in the spring.



We barricaded a portion of West Cliff Drive by Chico Street which was eroded by weather and wave action. Our engineering team will address repairs after the storms have passed.



Wastewater Collections/Flood Control

The vigilant work of our crews helped to keep storm water moving during this week's storms preventing sewer back-up and flooding.

Engineering

Our contractor continues with demolition of the [Front Street/Pacific Avenue Historic Wall](#). All of the columns and railing have been removed and removal of the sidewalk portion has started. The road remains closed to vehicle traffic, but is open for pedestrians and bicyclist.



Facilities

Staff has been busy dealing with roof leaks and site drainage issues.

Community Outreach

One new Santa Cruz Waves City Beat story was posted: [VOLUNTEERS ENRICH RIVERWALK.](#)



Staff served as public information officer when the Emergency Operations Center was activated on Wednesday with concern for potential emergency conditions from the storm.

Two media releases were distributed:

[City of Santa Cruz Alerts Community to Potential Flooding \(Ciudad de Santa Cruz alerta a la Comunidad de posibles inundaciones\)](#)

[City of Santa Cruz Advises Preparation for Next Storm Event](#)

Media placements:

[Sentinel 2.8 County preps for new blast: Santa Cruz Mountains could see 5 inches more rain "santa cruz public works" on KION \(CBS\) - Monterey, CA 02/06/2017 17:02:54 KION 5/46 News Channel](#)

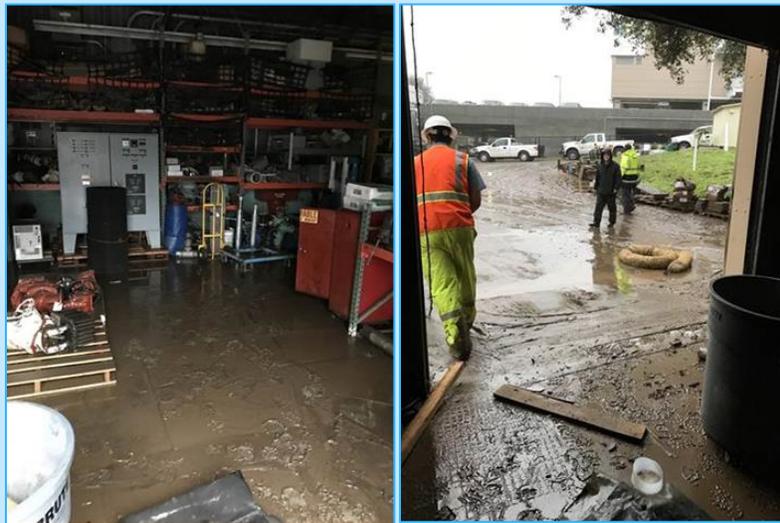
[Parking +"santa cruz" on KSBW \(NBC\) - Monterey, CA 02/07/2017 18:06:58 Action News at 6](#)

WATER

Along with so many in our county, the Water Department also dealt with significant flooding this week. On Tuesday, the Coast Pump Station flooded. Because it plays such a vital role in our service delivery, it was all-hands-on-deck to get it cleaned up and operable again. That said, I was stunned at the speed and efficiency with which our staff completed the task:



Tuesday



Wednesday, after the flood water receded



Thursday morning – pretty impressive, yes?!

In other news this week, we had a workshop on recycled water at this week's Water Commission meeting. You likely recall that the WSAC Recommendations call for us to work on parallel recommendation tracks. So as we continue to study water transfers and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) we are also tasked with studying the feasibility of using recycled water. The workshop this week brought the Water Commission up to speed with the various alternatives that are being looked at. There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to recycled water, just as there isn't for ASR and water transfers. The Santa Cruz Sentinel reported on the meeting, which you can see [here](#).