

# City Manager's Weekly Update

February 16, 2017

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### Civic

Friday, February 16 at 7pm- An Evening with Deepak Chopra: *The Healing Self*. There is a new revolution occurring in health today and that revolution is you. Bookshop Santa Cruz is thrilled to present an evening with Deepak Chopra as he shares new insights from his latest work *The Healing Self* and explores some of the most important and baffling questions we face in the face of environmental toxins, potential epidemics, superbugs, and the accelerated aging process. This event is sold out.



Saturday, February 17 at 7pm-9pm: Twisted Tasting. **Sponsored by Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing & The Arts Council of Santa Cruz County.** An expected 400 people will attend to taste the craziest, flavor bending, once in a lifetime creations from your local brewers, cider makers, distillers, and food artisans. But that's not all. As usual, we've got some surprises in store for you that will not just tingle your taste buds but blow you away. **Tickets still available at SantaCruzTickets.com.**



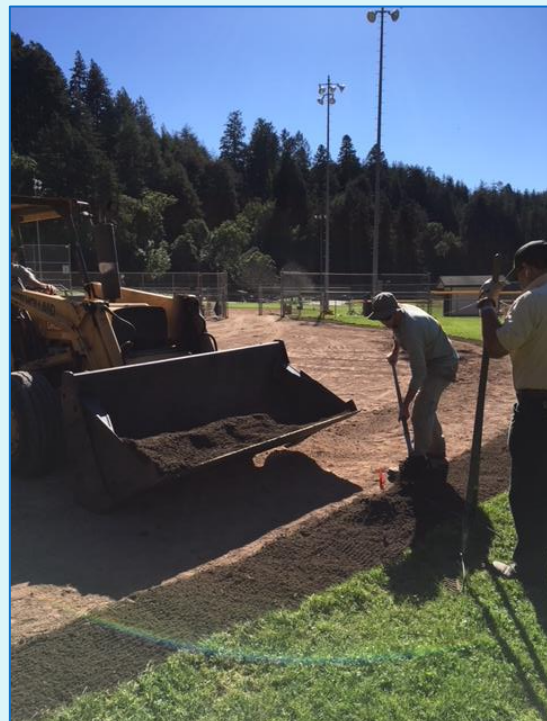
### Louden Nelson Community Center

Tuesday 2/13 – Senior Computer Center classes continue to thrive in the new conference room, like Carolyn Waldrip's "iDevice Discoveries", Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 – 4:00pm.



### **Lower DeLaveaga Park**

Parks staff is prepping the ball fields at Lower DeLaveaga Park. The work includes removing and conditioning the fines, edging the arches, grading, and re-sodding.



### **Pogonip Open Space**

The Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz County and Juliana Bicycles held a trail building volunteer day, Ladies' Dig Day, to help maintain the Emma McCrary Trail in Pogonip Open Space (Photos: Campbell Steers).



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Wastewater Treatment Facility

Our Wastewater Treatment Facility has won four 2017 regional awards from the California Wastewater Environment Association-Monterey Bay Section: Overall Plant of the Year, Plant of the Year (Medium), Collections Person of the Year and Operator of the Year. The awards were presented at the section's 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Banquet on Feb. 9. We are so proud of our WWTF team! Read all the details [here](#).



Operations assisted an infrastructure study engineer on their inspection inside the out-of-service digester which can hold up to 1.4 million gallons of sludge. The digestion process of settled and removed wastewater sludge is an anaerobic system working similarly to our own stomachs, producing acids to break down organic material and generating methane gas that is

used to generate electricity on site. Mechanics replaced an aeration pipe in record time with minimal impact to the treatment process.

### **Resource Recovery Collections**

Some of our Collections Crew assisted with the Benchlands Camp cleanup. Our vehicle removed 2,700 lbs. of material left in the area.



### **Streets**

The Streets crews have been working on various projects citywide including weed abatement along Front Street. They have been helping to prepare the new River Street homeless camp by laying base-rock pads for trailers and moving trailers with the assistance of Wharf crews.



## Engineering

Working with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, we will be removing dead and potentially hazardous pine trees from Murray Street on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The work is scheduled from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. with traffic impacts to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. All travelers should expect delays and plan alternate routes if possible. Read the [details](#).

## Transportation Engineering/Community Relations

Even if you don't see anyone else around, please be sure to resist the "California" stop and brake completely at stop signs. This week's Street Smarts reminder helps to make our streets safer for everyone.

More info: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/.../tra.../safety-tip-of-the-week>



## Community Relations

We are excited to be planning a 'Slugs to Sludge' art walk culminating at the WWTF on May 5. We are working with the City's Arts Program Coordinator and artists from the [Fictilis](#) group.

## WATER

You may have been following the news out of Cape Town, South Africa, where they are dealing with an unprecedented water shortage. If you aren't familiar with the situation, the New York Times did a comprehensive story on it that's worth reading:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/30/world/africa/cape-town-day-zero.html> In a nutshell, Cape Town is dangerously low on water and faces "Day Zero" within the next few months, when the water supply may be gone.

The story is worth reading because there are several elements to it that are chillingly familiar to Santa Cruz. See if these ring a bell:

- Climate change is changing the frequency of droughts and the "normal" patterns of rainfall.
- Almost all of Cape Town's water comes from dams that are dependent on rainfall.
- Cape Town is known for its strong environmental policies, including being awarded a climate change "adaptation implementation" prize for its management of water.

- Described as one of the world's top "green cities," Cape Town has had huge success with conserving water.
- Though population increased by 30% since the early 2000's, overall water consumption remained flat.

Fortunately Santa Cruz is already pursuing several water augmentation strategies as recommended by the Water Supply Advisory Committee. But, like Cape Town, our strength is also our vulnerability— we have become so good at conserving water that if and when we need to conserve again, there may not be much more our community can do to save the amount of water that needs to be saved. Case in point, water use patterns in Santa Cruz haven't bounced back much since rationing. Should our current dry spell hold to where we are completely reliant on the reservoir – and thus need to preserve our only source of water – it may be a challenge for us to achieve significant demand reductions.

This week we wrapped up the watershed Sanitary Survey. The Sanitary Survey is conducted every five years and it's a Big Deal. Just what is a sanitary survey? It's a thorough investigation of our water source watersheds to look for issues that could potentially impact the quality of our water sources. These include potential contaminants (things like chemicals used for cannabis cultivation,) watershed management activities (things like drinking water regulatory requirements,) and non-drinking water regulatory requirements (things like fisheries-related habitat requirements.) We received a few recommendations to ensure that we continue to meet drinking water regulations in the future, but "the San Lorenzo and North Coast watersheds are generally providing a high water quality resource for our local drinking water."

Last, we're already gearing up for the opening of Loch Lomond Recreation Area in March. It seems like just yesterday we were closing for the season! But our boat storage yard is filling up and all of the trailered boat spaces are already taken. The lake sits at 93% capacity.