

City Manager's Weekly Update

January 4, 2019

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

711 Pacific Avenue

Last October, the Planning Commission approved a project allowing a small addition and conversion of second floor above a vacant restaurant space (formerly *KC's Sports Bar*) to seven Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units. In addition to the floor plan improvements, the project approval included exterior modifications which will provide an upgrade to the overall appearance of the building. Just prior to the holiday closure, the applicants submitted an application for a building permit. Construction is expected to occur in the late winter/early spring timeframe. The ground floor restaurant space is currently undergoing renovations in advance of a new tenant. Nancy Concepcion is the planner working on the project.



Marianne's Ice Cream

On December 20, 2018, *Marianne's Ice Cream* submitted an application for a Design Permit to construct a 10,000 square foot, 42-50 foot tall industrial building for ice cream manufacturing, frozen and cold storage, dry storage, offices, and a retail space (ice cream shop) at 1201/1211 Fair Avenue. The site is currently developed with a vacant building that was previously used as a recycling center and that would be demolished as a part of the project. The retail component and offices would face Fair Avenue while the parking area and roll up doors would face the railroad tracks. The parcel is zoned as I-G/Per-2 and an industrial use with a small retail component is a principally permitted use, however, the construction of a new industrial building requires approval of an administrative-level Design Permit. While the size and use of the project does not trigger the requirement for a community meeting, the Planning Department has requested that the applicant hold a community meeting given the proximity of existing adjacent residences to the north. The community meeting will be held on the project site within the existing building on January 14, 2019, 6:00 -7:00 p.m. and notices have been sent to all property owners and tenants within 300-feet of the project site.

LIBRARY

New Series: *Legally Speaking*

Legally Speaking is a new series intended to answer questions about the most frequent legal issues people in our community face. These community discussions, focusing on legal and financial life events, will take place at various locations throughout the county. Legally Speaking is also intended to raise awareness about legal and professional resources available through the Santa Cruz County BAR Association, the Santa Cruz County Law Library, and the Santa Cruz County Court.

The first presentation in the series covers *Know your Rights* in regards to Immigration Law. We will discuss Immigration Law fundamental principles, such as: ways to become a U.S. citizen, main categories of immigrant, ways to get a green card, the process of naturalization, and the Do's and Don'ts of Immigration Law. Most importantly, we will discuss the truths and myths about current Immigration Law and Policies.

The first event will be held at the Downtown Library on January 24th from 6-7 pm.

Presented by Jeraline Singh Edwards, Esq. Attorney at Law. Born in the Fiji Islands, Jeraline Singh Edwards immigrated with her family to the United States in 1987. In 2004, Jeraline was deployed with the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion to Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq as a Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) Paralegal Specialist. Jeraline opened her Law Practice in December of 2013. Jeraline is currently a Professor at Monterey College of Law teaching Immigration Law Clinic, she is a Seaside Rotary Club Board member, Del Monte Manor Board Member and a member of Monterey County and Santa Cruz Bar Association and American Immigration Lawyers Association.



PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

Please join our celebration with City and County officials and community members at the historic groundbreaking of the first segment of the Coastal Rail Trail on Thursday, Jan. 10, from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Rain or shine, the event will be at the west base of the San Lorenzo River Railroad Trestle Bridge with free parking and bike valet! A community party follows the ceremony. We hope to see you there! Read all the [details](#).



FROM DREAM TO REALITY
MONTEREY BAY
SANCTUARY
SCENIC
TRAIL

Join us at the groundbreaking for the first segment of the 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail! This paved trail will provide continuous access for bicyclists and pedestrians along the Santa Cruz County coast.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10
San Lorenzo River Railroad Trestle Bridge (west base)
Free parking & bike valet. Visit cityofsantacruz.com to learn more.

Groundbreaking Ceremony
12:15-12:45 pm
City/County/State officials & community members

Community Party
12:45-2:15 pm
Speakers, refreshments & commemorative giveaways

FREE

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ **SCCRTC** **FRIENDS OF THE RAIL & TRAIL**

Cushman Contracting mobilized this week for this first Coastal Rail Trail project, the San Lorenzo River Parkway Phase III/Trestle Trail Project. Actual construction and closure of the existing walkway will start Monday, Jan. 7. Advance posting of the pedestrian and bike detour was completed before the holiday break and [press releases](#) were issued. All affected agencies have been notified. The required bat survey was completed last week and no bats were found.



The first phase of the Cedar Street Overlay project which included the upgrading of a sanitary sewer main along Cedar Street and down Elm Street to Pacific Avenue, and the reconstruction of the storm drain system at the Cedar Street and Elm Street intersection, is nearly complete. The next phase of this project involves the grinding of the asphalt concrete

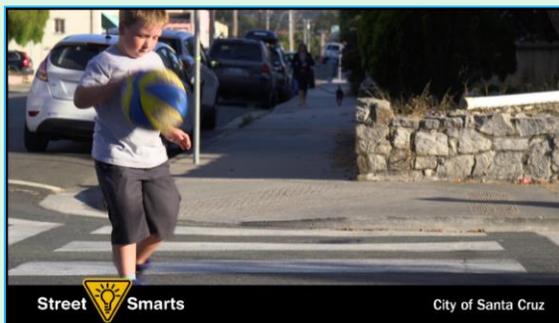
pavement (from Church Street to Lincoln Street) and the demolition of the concrete street panels from Lincoln Street (approx.) to Maple Street is starting, but we will hold off until the next rain event has passed. After grinding and demolition, paving back both the asphalt concrete and the concrete panels will begin. The project is expected to be complete in the middle to end of February.



PG&E has been completing the construction of two new replacement gas mains: one on the east side of the City in the Frederick Street Park neighborhood and the other replacing the above ground crossing of Branciforte Channel from Berkeley Way to Market Street. Both of these projects are replacing old transmission mains which have reached the end of their service life. The new transmission mains for both projects have been completely constructed and are in service, and the contractor is in the process of restoring the pavement impacted during the projects. The Branciforte channel project has restored all of the local streets and is complete. The Frederick Street Park project has restored approximately 70% of the damaged pavement and will be restoring the remaining portion in the next few weeks, depending on weather.

Traffic Engineering/Community Relations

This week's Street Smarts video explains why it is especially important for drivers to slow down when they see kids this new year and always. [English](#), [Spanish](#).



WATER

Although the Santa Cruz water system isn't dependent on snowpack in the Sierra's annual snowpack measurements are one of the things all water utilities around the state follow because these measurements are so important to the State's messaging about water supply conditions and drought issues. The first snow survey of this season was conducted yesterday and demonstrated that snowpack is only 67% of "normal" for this time of year (though I suspect many are questioning what "normal" is these days.) The more important local statistic for us is local precipitation and our rainfall total in the City for the year is 8.79 inches, which is about 80% of average for us this time of year. Rain is forecast for the next few days so we're hopeful that we'll get a healthy addition to our supply.

For the calendar year of 2018, the Water Department produced a total of 2.65 billion gallons of water, nearly the same as the year before (2.66 billion gallons in 2017.) Metered water consumption for the year amounted to 2.39 billion gallons. Sales and production have been holding in the same range now for five years, beginning the year we started rationing in 2014. Water sales continue to be a little bit below forecasts and we will be examining consumption trends among our various classes of customers in the coming weeks.



A snarl of fishing line at the water's edge.

Because we're a little behind normal in rainfall, about eight feet of shoreline is exposed around the reservoir. This gives us the opportunity to remove fishing line, lures and trash from the lake basin. Discarded fishing line poses a huge threat to wildlife, especially birds. So while we're praying for rain, we've also been glad to use the dry time productively.

This weekend is the annual Fungus Foray in Loch Lomond Recreation Area, and the free event has been "sold out" for weeks, with a waiting list. Santa Cruzans love their mushrooms! Even though it's been relatively dry at Loch Lomond, there's still an abundance of fungus among us to see.

We continue to be full speed ahead with a myriad of both large and small projects. The annual "Parade of Projects" occurs at this coming Monday night's Water Commission meeting, where commissioners will get an overview of capital projects that we worked on during 2018. Council members are welcome and encouraged to join us for the presentations.