

City Manager's Weekly Update

November 20, 2015

PARKS AND RECREATION

City Hall Garden Renovation

Parks staff will be conducting a major renovation of the City Hall Gardens on December 2, 2015. In addition to removing a significant amount of turf around City Hall, staff will be expanding and preparing the rose garden along Locust Street (roses will be planted in January) and adding pathways, raising limbs on all trees surrounding City Hall Campus, weeding all plant beds, transplant Cherry tree further away from building, removing turf from courtyard and creating a City employee area. The turf areas will be slowly converted to planting beds with a variety of drought tolerant native and non-native plants.

Tule Removal from Golf Course and West Lake

Partnering with the Public Works Dept. and their contract for the Tule removal and dredging of Neary Lagoon, staff has coordinated the Tule removal at the DeLaveaga Golf Course reservoir and West Lake. The overgrowth of tules had become significant and was impacting the water quality of both the reservoir and West Lake. The Tules have been stacked near each of these locations and will be allowed to dry out prior to hauling them off to the landfill.



Civic Auditorium

The Civic will host a free El Nino Preparedness Workshop this Saturday, November 21 from 12pm to 4pm to help residents prepare for the upcoming heavy rains. City departments and key agencies participating in this event include Public Works, Water Department, the Red Cross, Police and Fire Departments, Emergency Services and the National Weather Service.



Laurel Park /Louden Nelson Community Center

A Neighborhood Meeting will be conducted on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:00p.m. at the Loudon Nelson Community Center Conference Room located at 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input regarding the Loudon Nelson Community Center operations. Topics of discussion will be usage and security of the community center and park, a proposal to fence the park, existing and planned leisure programs and other concerns or issues. Members of the City Council and/or Parks and Recreation Commission may be in attendance at this meeting. For more Information call 831-420-6177.

PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Engineering

The speed limit is being posted 30 mph on segments of Delaware (and soon to High Street) so that Police can use radar enforcement. In 2011 Council approved an increase on some streets to 30 mph to allow the Police Department to use radar enforcement. Staff moved forward on posting most of the streets shortly after approval. Staff was very hopeful that a re-survey of segments along Delaware and High would come in just low enough to keep the speeds at 25. The results again substantiated the need to increase the posted speed limit to 30 mph for radar enforcement.

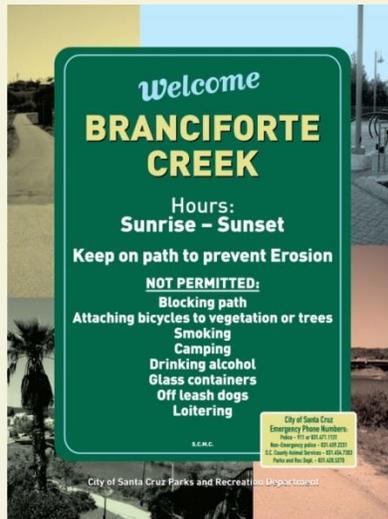
Wastewater Collections and Flood Control

Crews continue to work cleaning catch basins and our storm water pumping stations from the recent rain events. One of the pumps had a large bath towel lodged in the impeller. Once removed pump returned to normal pumping operation.



Community Relations

Communication with City residents regarding their concerns over activity in the Branciforte Creek pathway area resulted in collaboration with Parks & Rec and the PD for new signs featured below.



Resource Recovery Waste Reduction

The Banana Slug String Band, a local favorite, performed Reduce, Reuse and Recycle assemblies at two schools this month - with one show at Gateway and two shows at Bay View Elementary. The City sponsors these educational assemblies through grant funding from Cal Recycle.



Wastewater Facility Operations and Maintenance

The Wastewater Facility received national attention from a trade magazine article on the efforts of our green energy power production and energy saving process innovations. The article is in the Treatment Plant Operators Magazine December 2015 issue at <http://www.tpomag.com/ezine/2015/12> beginning on page 20.



Community Relations

A presentation was made at Santa Cruz Neighbors 11/18 meeting encouraging residents to attend our El Nino Preparedness Workshop on Nov. 21.

11.18 KSCO Good Morning Monterey Bay with Chief Frawley and Chris Cave 20 min. segment.



Resource Recovery Waste Reduction

Staff is currently working on two different video productions: Recycle Right – A How to series with short videos for each material type: paper/cardboard, glass, metal, plastic and plastic bags. We are also hosting a video shoot at the RRF for our regional recycling media group: Central Coast Recycling Media Coalition. The ad campaign focus for 2016 is anti-contamination. These video ads will appear on local TV in early 2016 and will also be available on our group website www.protectyourcentralcoast.org

Laboratory & Environmental Compliance

Environmental Compliance Inspectors are actively following up on '**hotspots**' of water pollution in the City especially ahead of the coming storm events. Among the more significant hotspots is the area of Bay Street at Bay Creek which drains into Neary Lagoon. This area drew attention because our laboratory analytical data showed sporadic association of caffeine and high levels of indicator bacteria in the area in the recent past. Inspectors had also noted visible evidence of probable negligence in the wake of a few plumbers working in the area. Therefore, this week an inspector continued the monitoring by sampling along Bay Creek and through adjacent storm drains. Photo below was taken from one such investigative sampling event on Wednesday.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Focus on Downtown

Mandarin Gourmet Restaurant, the city's newest tenant, is now open at 1010 Cedar Street in the Locust Garage. They serve tasty, fresh Chinese food at reasonable prices. It is table service rather than buffet style. The remodeled interior is clean and pleasant. Several city employees have already found this to be a good place for lunch. The Chinese chicken salad was excellent.

The Downtown hosts are working with Public Works to tag abandoned bikes in the downtown. The Hosts tie a tag on the bikes alerting the owner that the bike will be removed after seven days. The hosts send the information to Public Works and the clock for removal starts ticking. This process will speed up the time abandoned bikes are removed.

Downtown Cleaning Extravaganza



The Downtown Association, with support from the City staff and Hope Services, sponsored a successful Downtown Cleaning Extravaganza on Tuesday morning, November 17th. Thirty three volunteers including Councilmembers Chase, Comstock and Terrazas cleaned Pacific Avenue, Front and Cedar Streets from Water St. to Laurel St. and one block of side streets. Sidewalks were swept, windows were cleaned, tons of cobwebs along buildings removed, 15 bags of trash and 30 bags of leaves picked up, trash cans and planter boxes cleaned and hundreds

of cigarette butts were picked up out of tree wells and sidewalk cracks. Kianti's and Rip Curl took advantage of replacing scratched window film with a 20% discount from Transparent Glass Coatings (TGC) and 30% discount from Economic Development. At the end of the event, downtown looked clean, merchants were inspired to clean their storefronts and volunteers enjoyed a free lunch at Woodstock Pizza.

Graffiti Abatement Program

The graffiti abatement program has an exciting new "tuul" for reporting graffiti! We have partnered with the creators of Tuul to create a new reporting system for the Graffiti Abatement Program. This simple to use app can be downloaded to your phone and used to send in graffiti reports and photos. You can also text with graffiti abatement staff.

This partnership was brought about through the passion Tuul staff had to remove graffiti (co-creator Wayne Tsuchitani is an abatement volunteer). Tuul reimagined how City staff can communicate with the public in regards to reporting graffiti. The texting format makes it easy to submit graffiti reports and if staff needs a bit more information there is a quick way to communicate to get the details needed.

Tuul also provides an opportunity for volunteers to not only report graffiti that needs to be abated, but submit reports of graffiti they themselves have removed. This creates a sense of participation and can inspire volunteers to not only report graffiti but remove it (if possible) as well!

There will be an article appearing on the ChooseSantaCruz.com website in the coming months which will further discuss the Tuul app.

If you have any questions about this new graffiti abatement “tuul” please contact Jessica Mellor at 831-420-5150 or jmellor@cityofsantacruz.com. Please also email if you would like to become registered with the Graffiti Abatement Program to use the Tuul app.

WATER

As we head into the holidays and what we hope will be a more normal rainy season, folks at the water department are hurrying and scurrying to finish some of our bigger main replacement projects. The final tie in (for a total of 17) was performed on the Soquel Main Replacement project this week. Paving has commenced and all work is expected to be complete by Thanksgiving. Whew!

In other good project news, phase two of the Ocean Street valve replacement project is proceeding as scheduled. A section of the pipe was video inspected and appears to be in good shape. The Lombardi Gulch project, which is the replacement of critical main on the north coast, is making steady progress. As you may recall from last week’s update, the project includes challenging horizontal drilling. They’ve already drilled about 600 feet, which is good news. Here are some photos from the north coast project:



If you’re one of the many Californians who are wondering whether a wet El Nino this winter will end the drought, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) came out with a great infographic this week to explain what it will take: <http://www.acwa.com/news/water-supply->

[challenges/infographic-will-el-ni%C3%B1o-end-california%E2%80%99s-drought](#) Speaking of El Nino, the Water Department will have a table at tomorrow's El Nino prep workshop to provide information to residents on how they can track storms, river flows and our reservoir level from the comfort of their living rooms.

China TV had a nice story on our water school this week. Since none of our council members have had reason to go to water school ☺, you might enjoy watching this snippet of what it's all about: <http://www.cctv-america.com/2015/11/18/california-initiates-extreme-measures-to- conserve-water>

This week we bid farewell to three of our amazing water production and distribution staff who are retiring, and it's a bittersweet farewell as they will all be very challenging to replace. Water systems, treatment and delivery is a complex science that benefits greatly from historical knowledge and perspective. That's the kind of thing that can't be taught in college courses, unfortunately.