

City Manager's Weekly Update

May 13, 2016

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RECREATION DIVISION

CIVIC

Spring Showcase + Michael Moore This Saturday

This weekend the Civic hosts a Saturday, May 14 matinee with *Motion Pacific Dance* 'Spring Showcase' at 2:00 p.m. and then a quick transition to hosting *Michael Moore* for an 8:00 p.m. speaking engagement.



Motion Pacific Dance will showcase pieces from their current Youth/Teens classes as well as many Adult classes and special guest dance artists from the community. This is a jam packed fun and fabulous family event. Motion Pacific is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to dance as art, cultivating imagination, community engagement and discipline

through accessible dance education and presentation.

Michael Moore was born and raised in Flint, Michigan. He was an Eagle Scout, Newspaper Boy of the Week, and at 18, the youngest person ever elected to public office in the state of Michigan. Moore is the Oscar and Emmy-winning director of the ground-breaking, record-setting films 'Roger & Me', 'Bowling for Columbine', and 'Fahrenheit 9/11', which also won the top prize at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival and went on to become the highest grossing documentary of all time. This Saturday he will be talking about – among other things – his newest documentary, 'Where to Invade Next' in which Moore visits various countries to examine how Europeans view work, education, health care, sex, equality, and other issues.



PARKS DIVISION

Depot BMX Park

Forty (40) volunteers from Keller Williams Realty chose to come to Depot Park and its BMX facilities on May 12th for their annual day of service. The BMX Park received some much needed attention with painting and repairs to the bike



jumps. The efforts were led by City Staff and Casey MacDonald who has volunteered lots of his time and effort to the care of the Park. Much was accomplished. All was appreciated and now recognized.

University Terrace Park

Staff will be holding a neighborhood meeting at University Terrace Park on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss a proposal to add a separate small dog area (for dogs less than 25 pounds in size) within the existing dog park. The purpose of the small dog area is to accommodate smaller dogs that may not socialize well with larger dogs. Smaller dogs that do enjoy the company of larger dogs would still be able to access the larger dog area. Currently, no off-leash dog use areas within the City have a separate area for smaller dogs. Staff had received feedback from a frequent user of the park that it is a desirable feature.

Junior Watershed Rangers Presentation

Ranger Chris Caldwell made a presentation to the Junior Watershed Rangers at the Santa Cruz City School District Branciforte Middle School on the May 4th.

The presentation focused on the diversity of plant and wildlife in the watersheds. Ranger Caldwell also taught how a watershed like the Branciforte Creek not only is a source of water for the City but also provides rich nutrients to our land for growing food.



The Watershed Rangers is an after-school program for 6 and 7th graders focused on



connecting, inspiring and empowering students to explore and learn about their local watersheds while developing leadership and communication skills to take action in their community.

They have investigated benthic macro invertebrates and water quality, learned about anadromous fish, climate change and components of the watershed. They do monthly visits to Branciforte

Creek and engage in art projects twice a month. The goal of the program is for the students to share what they learn with others and to take action within their community to support our watersheds, hence Watershed Rangers. Their program on May 4th introduced environmental leadership, and who better to introduce the topic than a Ranger!

The two pictures used in this article are of Santa Cruz City School District Branciforte Middle School and its students and our Ranger.

PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Collections & Flood Control

A badly deteriorated corrugated metal pipe was replaced in the area of Beach and Third streets. Crews removed the damaged pipe and replaced it with one made of new plastic. The line was also relocated to allow better access for cleaning and maintenance.



Crews cleaned out a large storm vault located at Cowells Beach. Crews also prepared the beach and placed a steel plate over the 66" gravity discharge pipe at Cowell Beach. This will prevent water and sand from back feeding into the pipe during the summer months.



Engineering

The 2016 Surface Seal and Overlay Project will begin the week of May 16, with a couple of weeks of concrete work before the actual resurfacing begins. The overlay project is expected to have a notice to proceed before the end of May. These projects will be constructed over the summer. The [press release](#) details the initial residential street work.

Resource Recovery Collections

Resource Recovery Collection, Disposal and PW Engineering toured the SAFE (Sustainable Alternative Feed Enterprises) facility and their food waste processing facility. The tour was very informative and has given us a look at other options for our food waste program. This program is unique because it takes food waste and processes it into animal feed, rather than a compost-like material.



Community Relations

The first article for our new “City Beat” column on [Santa Cruz Waves homepage](#) was completed and will be posted next week. It acknowledges National Public Works Week with a look at our “Public Works Engineers Out and About Town.”



We have placed ads in the Sentinel and Good Times for next week announcing National Public Works Week and our upcoming celebration with trolley tours and City Car Truck Tool Expo in September during the City’s 150th birthday party. Our press release with photo of the Mayor delivering a National Public Works Week proclamation to Public Works Director Mark Dettle received [Sentinel](#) and other media placement.



Wastewater Operations and Maintenance

The contractor who is lining the County of Santa Cruz force main line has found and exposed the sewer line located at the treatment facility. A pit has been dug to allow the liner to be retrieved.



Laboratory and Environmental Compliance

The Laboratory began a series of sampling and analyses in cooperation with Operations to discover the reasons behind the extreme clarity of the water in secondary effluent this past week. This investigation was prompted after a senior operator noticed the clear foams in the process. All permit requirements are being met while this situation continues.

Environmental Compliance sent a finished report to the Coastal Commission Enforcement Officer and the Water Board regarding our analyses of possible sewage spill into ponds on the west side. The analyses performed at our lab indicated that although bacteria levels are high around the area, there is no linkage to domestic pollution. This was the first application of the USEPA licensed technologies to identify human associated bacteria in Santa Cruz. Those molecular analyses were combined with caffeine and TOC. All of which reinforced the same conclusions. Pictures below show sampling at the pond, and the analytical work in progress at the workstation for molecular analyses at the laboratory.



Left: Sampling at the pond found no traces of domestic pollution associated with high indicator bacteria. Right: Analyzing for evidence of human associated bacteria DNA which was not found.

Parking Services

Parking has brought on new temporary crew members in the Attendant, Maintenance, and Enforcement programs to rev up for another busy summer. Our regular crews are training them in time for our summer season.

Parking Attendants met for their regular summer kickoff meeting to go over the parking programs, get updates from management, and do some team building.



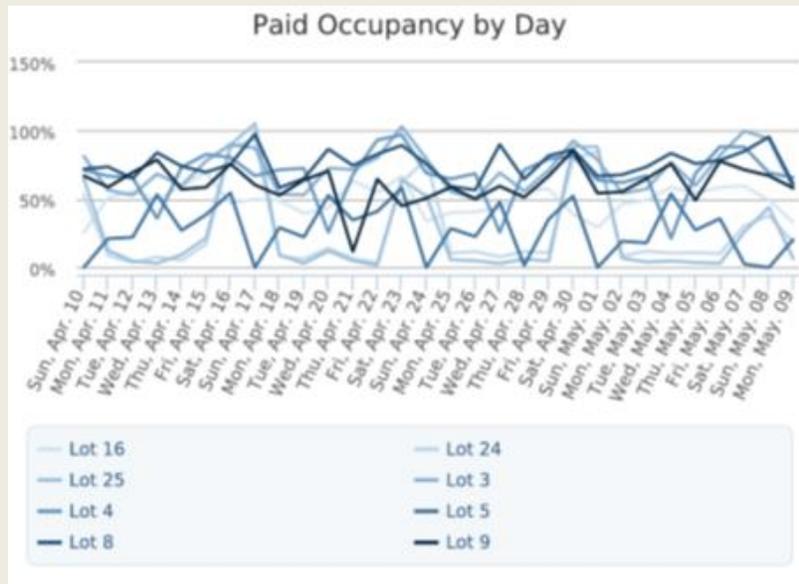
Occupancies at the Locust Garage ranged between 85% and 90% between noon and 4pm with weekend occupancies between 60% and 70%. Permit holders account for 50% of parked vehicles weekdays between noon and 4pm and 10% of parked vehicles on weekends. We have 260 persons on the waitlist wanting 358 permits. The waitlist is 10 months long.

Occupancies at the Soquel/Front Garage ranged between 85% and 100% between noon and 4pm with weekend occupancies between 85% and 90%. Thursday, Friday and Saturday night between 6pm and 8pm the garage was at capacity. Permit holders account for 40% of parked vehicles weekdays between noon and 4pm and 10% of parked vehicles on weekends. We have 200 persons on the waitlist wanting 387 permits. The waitlist is 15 months long.

Occupancies at the River Front Garage ranged between 90% and 100% between noon and 4pm with weekend occupancies between 60% and 100%. Saturday May 7th there was an event at the Boardwalk and Seaside co. employees parked at the Garage creating the 100% occupancy on that date. Permit holders account for 55% to 65% of parked vehicles weekdays between noon and 4pm and 5% of parked vehicles on weekends. We have 147 persons on the waitlist wanting 506 permits. The waitlist is 7 months long.

Average Paid Occupancies in Pay-by-Space Lots for the week of May 4 – May 10, 2016:

Lot 3 78%
Lot 4 67%
Lot 5 23% also a monthly permit lot
Lot 8 80%
Lot 9 67%
Lot 16 52%
Lot 24 20%
Lot 25 15%



Community Outreach

Progress has been made working with Leslie Keedy on PG&E public outreach meeting regarding tree removal. The date is now set for 6:30 p.m., Weds. July 6 at PD Community Room.