

City Manager's Weekly Update

November 1, 2019

LIBRARY

No Overdue Fines Through Thanksgiving!

Things have been crazy for all of us with these power outages. We had to unexpectedly close branches and had limited services where we were open. We know that times like these are when you need us most.

We want to thank you all for your patience and help alleviate some of the stress these outages have caused. So we are eliminating all overdue fees through the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) Forum

Thursday • November 7th, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Downtown Library • 224 Church St.

Medicare open enrollment is October 15 through December 7. This is the time for Medicare beneficiaries to compare plans and make sure they have the right health and prescription drug coverage for 2020. Senior Network Services Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will present unbiased Medicare changes and options for 2020.



California Department of Aging registered counselors will be available for questions. For information or other dates/locations, please call 831-462-5510. Free of charge and first-come, first seated.

Citizen Science: How might we reverse engineer a brain?

Thursday • November 7th, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Downtown Library • 224 Church St.

Computers will one day match our own mental agility; learning, navigating and performing complex interactions all on scant power. But getting to that point will require neuroscientists and engineers to reverse engineer our least understood organ—the brain.



In this talk, third-year neuroscience Ph.D. student at Stanford, Tyler Benster will describe his dreams, theory, and many failures towards reverse engineering a larval zebrafish brain using machine learning. The discussion will include an overview of cutting-edge methods for whole-brain imaging and stimulation that are ushering in a new era for systems neuroscience, as well as a brief overview of modern AI techniques as applied to neuroscience.

PARKS AND RECREATION

By the numbers

227= # of tickets sold to Civic events for 11 upcoming events

400+ at the Halloween Festival at LNCC

200+ braved the Haunted House!

8 Tournament Directors requested Main Beach Volleyball Tournaments for 2020 for 45 dates

Highlights

The Fall 2019 Softball season ended without a single rainout! Look forward to the Spring season early March 2020!



The Santa Cruz Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association and Dome on the Go hosted a “Star Party” event at Arana Gulch on October 19, 2019. Telescopes were setup alongside the paved pathway and approximately 80 visitors were treated with a clear sky, with the most popular attractions being Jupiter and its moons and Saturn and its rings. Volunteer astronomers engaged visitors with interesting discussions about the planets, moons, stars, and overall solar system. The Parks and Recreation Department is working with the Santa Cruz International Dark Sky Association to receive status as an Urban Dark Sky Place under the International Dark Sky Association certification process. This event was a trial run and there will likely be other opportunities to stargaze in the future.



Upcoming

Winter 2020 Women’s Soccer registration begins on 10/31! The season will be played at Depot Park starting in January!

Just announced!

WWE Presents NXT Live! December 14 @ 7:30pm

WWE NXT heads to Santa Cruz for the FIRST TIME EVER! See the likes of NXT Champion Adam Cole, NXT Women’s Champion Shayna Baszler, NXT North American Champion Roderick Strong,

NXT Tag Team Champions Bobby Fish & Kyle O'Reilly, Finn Balor, Matt Riddle, Damian Priest, Velveteen Dream, Dakota Kai, Tommaso Ciampa, and many more! [Tickets available](#)



Saturday, November 02 – Diversity Center Santa Cruz County -Imagine Healing: Arts of Transformation Exhibition Opening

Experience an afternoon of live music, an exhibition of art by survivors, a panel of guest speakers and the chance to support Santa Cruz survivor-allied organizations.

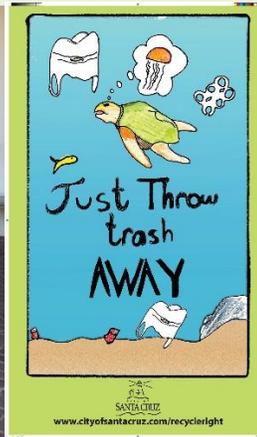
Together we will make a space that honors the courage and the art of transforming after/in trauma. The exhibiting artists at this show demonstrate the alchemical power of art to heal after abuse and assault.



PUBLIC WORKS

Resource Recovery

Four students from Santa Cruz elementary and middle schools were recognized as winners of our annual Keep Santa Cruz Clean and Litter Free poster contest on Monday. Their winning artwork was unveiled in a ceremony with Mayor Martine Watkins that included a tour of the downtown big-belly trash compactors where the artwork is being displayed over the next year. Read all the details in our Santa Cruz Waves [City Beat column](#).



Staff replaced and upgraded signage throughout the landfill this week. Years of sun, wind and weather had degraded many of the signs. Hopefully this will help to inform and direct first time customers to their designated drop-off areas and alert them to proper disposal and recycling requirements.



Traffic Engineering/Community Outreach

The Transportation Engineering team applied for a grant to complete a Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP), a key component in furthering the direction to move forward with a Vision Zero Plan. Announcements of funding should happen fairly quickly.



Since the official launch of GO Santa Cruz on October 1, the program has signed up 673 downtown workers. These workers have requested 444 transit passes, 151 JUMP benefits, and 85 bike locker cards preloaded with \$20. Since its launch, GO Santa Cruz program data indicates 990 trips logged using biking, walking, transit, or carpool, 3,092 non-auto miles logged, and CO2 savings of 879,752 grams from logged trips. To sign up and access more information on the GO Santa Cruz program, visit www.cityofsantacruz.com/gosantacruz.



[This week's Street Smarts video](#) was timely to share with trick-or-treaters. [En español.](#)

