

City Manager's Weekly Update

July 8, 2016

WATER

Our utility Customer Service crew continues to stay very busy, with the bulky item pick-up last week (which picked up twice as many items this summer as last) and an uptick in calls from customers asking questions about water rates. Most of our customers received the Proposition 218 Public Notice this week about the proposed changes and increases to water rates. We've set up a page on our website that provides the background information on why we're proposing changes and increases to rates, the studies on rates and rate structures that were conducted, frequently asked questions, and the Public Notice. You can view that webpage [here](#).

As you know from this morning's Santa Cruz Sentinel story, the San Lorenzo River has flooded main beach and there's a breach scheduled for next week. Our Water Resources staff always plays a key role in the breaches as they ensure the safety of fish and wildlife before, during and after the breach.



We continue to investigate automating our water meter system. This would allow Water Department staff to remotely read meters, as well as allow our customers to review their meter data real-time, online. Stay tuned.

Progress continues on the North Coast main replacement. So far Granite Construction has installed about 2,000 linear feet of the 16,500 linear feet that needs to be installed.



PARKS AND RECREATION

RECREATION DIVISION

CIVIC

Martial Arts Extravaganza!

The Civic Auditorium is hosting the annual Aikido Retreat presented by Aikido of Santa Cruz. This 5 day intensive workshop starts Thursday July 7 and runs through Sunday July 10. About 100 people will be practicing the art of Aikido with instructors from around the world.



EVENTS

July Is Parks and Recreation Month

Reminder of the upcoming activities and make sure you pick up your 'playing card' from Hakim:

- Fri 7/8: Dry Land Learn to Surf Clinic with Club Ed Surf School-4:00pm-5:00pm
- Fri 7/8: Teen Glow in the Dark Volleyball- 8-1pm
- Sun 7/10: Intro To Dry Stand- Up Paddle Clinic with Club Ed Surf School-9:30am-10:30am
- Sun 7/10: Rec Swim Day at HW Pool-12:00-3:00pm

Louden Nelson Community Center

LEGALLY BLONDE *The Musical. JR.*

Another All About (Great!) Theatre You Can't Miss!

All About Theatre presents their youth production of Legally Blonde Jr., The Musical. The performances are being directed by Kikau Alvaro, with musical direction by Marina Hallin and choreography by

Zendrex. This is a fun show for all ages. Performances will be offered Friday July 8th at 7:00pm, Saturday July 9th at 2:00pm & 7:00pm and finally Sunday July 10th at 2:00pm.

SPORTS

Junior Guards

Little Guards and Jr. Guards competed Wednesday and Thursday this week in for a race to the finish-line at Capitola Beach against Capitola and Santa Cruz County State Parks Jr. Lifeguard programs. Both days were full of fun and healthy competition. Competition events included: Surf Balls (AKA Toots), Run-Swim-Run, Flags, Rambo Relay, Distance Swim, Distance Paddle and Paddle Relay.





Pool is Open for Business!

Harvey West Instructional Pool is now open for summer swim lessons, birthday parties and fun swim. And the Harvey West Large Pool is open for summer swim lessons, lap swim, rec swim and water fitness. Call Jim Booth RE swim lessons at 831-722-3500. Call Parks and Recreation RE summer swim programs at 831-420-6140.

Summer is an especially active time of the year for the parks and recreation staff, from Glo Volleyball, to dryland training for new surfers!



PARKS DIVISION

San Lorenzo Park Pump Track is In!

The new pump track has been installed in San Lorenzo Park on the 'bench lands.' The pump track was funded by Santa Cruz Rotary, and installed by East Zone City staff and volunteers on Saturday June 25th.



Frederick Park Pooches Protected!

The new section of fence and bullpen to enclose the west end of the dog park at Frederick Park has been installed. This project was pursued to add a measure of safety, so dogs will not run from the dog park onto busy Frederick Street.



Citations were issued mostly for fireworks and alcohol violations. The beaches were relatively quiet with a majority of our problems coming from the neighborhoods. Seabright and Main Beaches were a mere shadow of their previous occupancy and problems as compared to past years. West Cliff Drive posed the majority of beachfront problems later in the night, however; our additional mitigations of lighting and extra patrols made a big difference as compared to last year. Mitigations included an aggressive media strategy including our “You Light it, We’ll Write it” campaign, and our own PSA on our YouTube Channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pWERKZeQYQ>

**YOU LIGHT IT.
WE’LL WRITE IT.**

\$1,305.00* FINE

* with court fees

NO FIREWORKS OF ANY KIND IN THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ.



Outside of crowd and traffic management, there were no major public safety issues. Our media release also highlighted two cases of interest. One involved a significant seizure of crystal methamphetamine during a traffic stop of a longtime and know drug dealer. The other involved the seizure of a firearm from a Watsonville Sureno gang member. The weapon was discovered by our officers during a traffic stop for a DUI investigation.



All in all, it was a relatively safe Independence Day Weekend. Thanks to all the departments who collaborated and worked alongside us during the weekend!

PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Operations and Maintenance

While the Wastewater Treatment Facility maintenance department was replacing some old sludge pipe control valves they noticed a pipe section that was about to burst through the bottom portion of the pipe. The maintenance department has made up a new pipe spool section for replacement of the failing section as noted in the photo below.



Primary Sedimentation Tank #5 has passed annual inspection after a few repairs. Operations crews have placed the process tank back in service.

Wastewater Collections & Flood Control

A broken sewer main and lateral connection was discovered during routine cleaning and inspection on Hanover Street. The section of main was removed and replaced with PVC.



Crews removed over 4CY of trash and debris At Gravity outlet 16 on the San Lorenzo River. They were assisted with lifting equipment provided by the Wastewater Treatment Facility.



Engineering

2016 Surface Seal and Overlay Projects – Concrete work for the overlay project took place on Soquel Avenue this week.



Streets/Traffic

Crews were very busy delivering and picking up all the barricades, signage, cones and lighting required by the Police Department before and after the July 4th holiday weekend.

Community Relations

The [grand opening of the new playground at Chestnut Park](#) was well and happily attended on July 7 by local neighbors. Children were thrilled to help Mayor Mathews and Parks and Rec Field Supervisor Steve Gomez cut the ribbon before racing into the park to test out the new play structure.

In coming weeks there will be more elements added to the park including picnic tables, barbecue pits, a climbing rock and ADA accessible playground panels. The basketball court will also soon be resurfaced.



PG&E's public meeting regarding their [Community Pipeline Safety Initiative's](#) proposed removal and replacement of 38 City of Santa Cruz trees brought lively dialogue to the PD's Community Room on July 6. City Arborist Leslie Keedy and the the PG&E team answered many questions.



Our latest City Beat Santa Cruz Waves article was posted [“Free Family Events During JULY IS Parks and Recreation Month.”](#)

FINANCE

The department recently released a year-end summary report. See attached.