



## Freedom Boulevard Reconstruction

Public Works and Utilities Engineers have the complex job of assessing, maintaining and reconstructing the roads that get us around town every day. While improving road conditions and ensuring your safety is their goal, they also aim to minimize delays and traffic during construction because they know how important it is to keep people moving and limit closure times! During the Freedom Blvd reconstruction project, staff kept access to Freedom Boulevard businesses open and scheduled the work in phases.

Significant improvements were made to allow for a smoother drive along one of the busiest roads in Watsonville. Some of the improvements included: repaving the road, replacing aged storm drains to avoid flooding, and improving safety for pedestrians by renovating the median, which will allow pedestrians to safely cross the street in two stages.

Upgrades were also made to improve accessibility for pedestrians in wheelchairs and those with limited mobility by widening



sidewalks from Laurel to Sycamore Street, installing sidewalk ramps, and making cross buttons easier to reach. In addition, an ADA accessible bus pull-out was added in front of the County building, letting passengers off without causing traffic to back up.

Finally, better free flowing traffic will result thanks to the adaptive traffic signals along Freedom Blvd. This means traffic signals will adjust to the needs of the traffic resulting in shorter wait times and more green lights! The Public Works & Utilities Department thanks you for your patience as we work to improve our town!

## Revitalization Efforts Continue Downtown



The City of Watsonville recently contracted additional cleaning services for downtown. These new services will augment the maintenance efforts of the City's Parks Division staff and continue to support beautification efforts to revitalize downtown for residents, business owners, and visitors.

The city will be utilizing a local company to pressure wash sidewalks in the core downtown area, which will include parts of Main Street, Rodriguez Street, Union Street, Peck Street, Beach Street, East and West Lake Avenue,

and East Fifth Street. Depending on available funds, the city intends to pressure wash downtown sidewalks a minimum of twice per year.

In addition, cleaning services in downtown municipal parking lots will now occur once a week, a significant improvement from the previous monthly cleaning schedule. The increased cleaning services will result in less leaves and debris remaining on Main Street sidewalks and parking lots.

To complement our downtown revitalization efforts, the Parks Division in collaboration with Public Works will be installing a landscaped street median with palm trees across Main Street. These improvements are intended to help slow down cars in the area and provide a safer, more comfortable pedestrian experience.

These additional services will allow the Parks Division to focus their efforts on maintaining

## Keeping Up with Watsonville

### Engineer's Week

Join us and celebrate Engineer's Week on February 19th - February 25th by participating in the 14th Annual Egg Drop Contest on Thursday, February 23rd! For more information call 768-3117.

### World Wetlands Day

Help us celebrate by joining us in a planting project along Struve Slough on the trail behind the Body Zone - on February 4, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information call 768-1622.

### Red Curb Parking Enforcement Now in Effect

Red curb painting has been installed adjacent to fire hydrants, curb ramps, and crosswalks in congested areas throughout the City to improve public safety. Curbs painted in red indicate no stopping or parking under any circumstances and are enforced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Full parking enforcement has begun, so please be sure to obey parking restrictions indicated by posted signs, curb colors, or meters. Citations for red curb parking violations are \$47.

existing landscaping and trees. All of these enhancements bring us closer to the creation of a beautiful downtown that will attract more people to visit, shop, and spend time in Downtown Watsonville.

For more information about Downtown cleaning services and landscape improvements please contact Parks Superintendent Ben Heistein at 768-3150.

## 2017 City Council Members

### Mayor

Oscar Rios, District 2 -- 768-3002

### Mayor Pro Tempore

Lowell Hurst, District 3 -- 768-3003

### Council Members

Felipe Hernandez, District 1 -- 768-3001

Jimmy Dutra, District 4 -- 768-3004

Rebecca J. Garcia, District 5 -- 768-3005

Trina Coffman-Gomez, District 6 -- 768-3006

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich, District 7 -- 768-3007

