

Santa Cruz City Council: Mayor Sally DiGirolamo, Vice Mayor John Mahaney; Bert Muhly, Lawrence Edler, Joseph Ghio, Charlotte Melville, Carole De Palma.

CITY HALL BRIEFS

SANTA CRUZ CITY HALL - 809 CENTER STREET 426-5000 EXT. 251

March-April 1976



THIS IS OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR

The City of Santa Cruz has been designated as an official Bicentennial Community and since December 11, 1975 has been flying the official Bicentennial flag directly under the American Flag. Starting in March, a series of historical flags will be flown at City Hall. The first one will be the Great or Grand Union Flag (era 1775-76) followed in April by the 13 stars in circle, 13 stripes; in May the 15 stars, 13 stripes; in June the 20 stars, 13 stripes; and in July 48 stars in field, 13 stripes. These flags will alternate with the Bicentennial Flag - each being flown approximately 2 weeks out of each month until July.

The first event will take place on March 18, at 3:30 p.m. at the City Hall courtyard. Veterans and military organizations as well as school bands will add to the color of the occasion. This will be followed by a ground breaking ceremony at the site of the Town Clock Restoration project. The Town Clock is a major Bicentennial Project. The Citizens' Committee on Community Improvement is the coordinator of the project and the Town Clock logo has been adopted as the official City logo for the Bicentennial Year.

Everyone is invited to participate in these and coming events for the Bicentennial Year.

CONSERVE WATER - OUR MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY

This year has been the driest year in our history and no relief is in sight. At present the City has embarked on a voluntary water conservation program to eliminate needless waste. Water conservation will have to become a way of life for all of us and we must start now.

The Water Department has compiled a list of conservation ideas and the following is a condensed version of these suggestions:

Baths - a partially filled tub bath will consume far less water than a long shower. A five minute shower can consume four to seven gallons per minute.

Hygiene - Don't leave water running while you shave, brush your teeth or wash your hair. Running water like this is like connecting the drain to your tap.

Toilets - Each time a toilet is flushed as much as seven gallons of water flows into the sewer. Most toilets use more water than is necessary and can operate just as well using less. This can be accomplished by some method of water displacement. The Water Department suggests filling a plastic bottle with water and weights (such as pebbles) to displace some of the water in the tank. It should be placed so as not to interfere with the flushing mechanism.

Kitchen - An automatic dishwasher will use around 25 gallons per run whether there is a full load or just a teacup in it. Use stopper in sink when hand washing dishes or laundry.

Plumbing Maintenance - A dripping faucet can waste 12 gallons in 24 hours - replace washers on dripping faucets immediately.

Lawn and Garden - Water in the morning. Irrigate slowly, deeply and infrequently. Avoid flooding lawn and gutters. Letting the grass grow a little longer (to 1½") will help reduce water loss. Mulching in planted areas will improve absorption.

Washing the Car - Use a bucket for the soapy water and don't leave the hose running while you wash. A shut-off nozzle on the hose will help conserve water. Use the hose for rinsing car only.

When we are aware of the water we use, it becomes easier to conserve it. It shouldn't be hard to conserve water. All it means is that we become more aware of our wasteful habits and use a little common sense. It will also save money on our water bills - another good reason for conservation. As one conservation minded customer noted - "Break an old habit - think before you open the tap".