

City Hall

# 'Follow Your Dollar' During City Government Week

"Follow Your Dollar" is the theme of this year's Santa Cruz City Government Week — Nov. 9 to 14 — and you can get an idea of the city financial picture when city departments hold open house.

The city finance department will be one of the offices open to the public, Nov. 13 from 1:30 to 8 p.m., with city personnel on hand to explain its functions.

Ray Rupert, city finance director, who came to Santa Cruz from Redding last March, said there are 16 employees and five divisions in the department. He heads the administrative section which is responsible for the overall operation of the department and for setting up the city budget.

"We start setting up the budget as soon as the previous one is completed," he said.

Other sections include treasury, headed by Winona Randall; purchasing and stores, which Bill McBroom oversees; accounting, which is the responsibility of Lamont Royer, and data processing, supervised by Blaine Snyder.

In these divisions, records are kept including bids on projects,



Ray Rupert

collection of taxes and assessments, issuance of business licenses and dog permits, budget preparation and city payroll.

Rupert does not deny that cities throughout the nation face some financial problems in the future, but adds it is his department's function to assist (and record) in seeing how the municipal taxpayers' dollar can be best spent.

The city recently passed a 1970-71 general fund budget of \$3.44 million that was more than \$40,000 in the red. It is now searching for ways to get the additional revenue to balance the budget.

A tax on amusements was suggested but action delayed for 60 days on Sept. 23.

To support this year's budget, the city council had to up the tax rate from \$2.19 to \$2.27.

Services such as water, sewer

and sanitation are self-financed and do not present a monetary problem that the general fund does, which is supported through property taxes.

Rupert said the law prohibits a city's general bonded indebtedness from exceeding 15 per cent of its total assessed valuation, and added that by June 30, 1971, Santa Cruz, rate will be about 11 per cent. Included in the general obligation bonds are library, storm drain and municipal improvement bonds approved by voters.

In addition, but not included when considering the 15 per cent figure for the municipality, there are revenue bonds, such as water or parking, which are paid for by the customer or merchant within a parking district.

At the 15 per cent rate, Rupert said the debt capacity of the city could go up to \$11.45 million, based on estimated city assessed valuation of \$76.3 million. He added that the city as of June 30, 1971, will have \$8.2 million in outstanding general obligation bonds, leaving a margin of \$3.24 million.

These points and others on the city's financial operation will be explained on tours during "City Government Week."

## Photo Exhibit At SC Library

The second annual exhibit of Photo Spectra, an informal association of Monterey Bay area photographers, is in progress at the Santa Cruz Public Library.

Hours are noon to closing time each day for the Photo '70 ex-

## Pam Rouss Wins Sand Sculpture

Pam Rouss, 15, Aptos High School sophomore, won the "best of show" award in Saturday's Sandscript sand sculpturing contest at Seaciff Beach in Aptos.

Her sand sculpture was entitled "three dragons."

There were seven prizes in