

City Newsletter



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Prepared by the Office of the City Manager

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

"The New Year, like an Infant Heir to the whole world,
was waited for, with welcomes, presents and rejoicings."
Charles Dickens - A Christmas Carol.

City Government Week

City Government Week was held the week of November 9 through 14 at City Hall. A committee of city employees, appointed by the City Manager, met each week and planned this event which included free bus tours to city facilities, tours of city offices, an equipment display of all city equipment, and a demonstration of under-water fire fighting techniques on the Municipal Wharf.

An "Open House" was held on Thursday, November 12 from 1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and free coffee and soft drinks were provided. There was an art show on the patio and a singing group performed in the evening. Movies and slides were shown during the afternoon and evening. All city offices were open and employees were on hand to explain the operations of their departments. We received good newspaper and television coverage of the event, but in spite of this, the turn-out for the occasion was disappointing, especially for the evening open house.

The Committee held a meeting the following week to discuss the successes and failures of the program and are still undaunted in plans for future programs of this type. They did, however, have several suggestions on where it could be improved upon. Suggestions included having it at a different time of the year - early fall or late spring - to take advantage of longer, warmer days. They also felt that it was necessary to get the public more involved in future events of this type. This could be accomplished by inviting service clubs to participate and by making the event more attractive by developing some theme which would reflect the heritage of Santa Cruz, such as "Spanish Heritage", etc.

While the response was smaller than we had hoped for, the enthusiasm of those in attendance and the participation of all the city employees were excellent. Many classes from the local schools attended and toured City Hall. The Police Department hosted a large number of students who also participated in the demonstrations of the equipment display. The Police and Fire vehicles were of great interest to these young people.

The Annual Boards and Commissions dinner was held on November 9 at the Riverside and was well attended. Senator Donald Grunsky was the guest speaker.