

# City Council New agenda

## Council, mayor emphasize social issues

By MARK BERGSTROM  
Sentinel staff writer

11-14-90  
SANTA CRUZ — Renewed emphasis on a social agenda was promised Tuesday night as a progressive-dominated City Council was seated and Jane Yokoyama was elected mayor.

For the past 10 years, social and human rights issues have dominated local politics, but those issues gave way to

the pressing need to rebuild downtown after the October 1989 earthquake.

Yokoyama acknowledged that rebuilding the downtown business district is essential and must be done in an "expedient and meaningful way," but said pressing human rights needs must be addressed as well.

The beach area, she said, must be revitalized. Equal lending and housing

must be demanded in the Beach Flats, she said. Meaningful jobs must be found in businesses that don't destroy the environment.

"We want our community to take pride in the treatment of all of its citizens," she said.

Don Lane was elected vice-mayor, and he used the opportunity to push for solutions to the city's problem of home-



Jane Yokoyama

New mayor: Revitalize beach areas

lessness.

"As we rebuild our city, it's good to know it won't just be about rebuilding

Please see NEW — A10

## Farewell for 3

By MARK BERGSTROM  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Outgoing Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt, praised by her fellow city councilmembers Tuesday for exemplary leadership following the 1989 earthquake, urged residents to cut the new council and themselves some slack in the coming year. "We are a large, complex, interesting and endlessly diverse community," said Wormhoudt. Santa Cruz is a generous and forgiving community, she said, but one which is too quick to square off on issues.

"If I have a criticism of this community, it's that people move from neutral to hostile in very little time. People aren't really good at cutting each other a little slack and sitting back and kind of saying 'OK,

Please see FAREWELL — A10

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 1990 — Santa Cruz Sentinel

## New council

Continued from Page A1

buildings but rebuilding a city where everyone has a part in it," Lane said.

Yokoyama, Lane, Katherine Beiers — who was returned by the voters to serve the remainder of the term she had been appointed to — and newcomers Scott Kennedy and Neal Coonerty will form a 5-2 progressive majority.

Dr. John Mahaney and newcomer Louis Rittenhouse will represent the moderate/conservative point of view.

Like Lane, Beiers let it be known that she intends to continue to pursue solutions to the homeless issue. "I look forward to the opportunity of serving the city I love and the citizens I love, with or without homes," Beiers said.

She and Lane were on the losing end of a 5-2 vote last month on a controversial plan to erect a temporary campground behind the homeless shelter on River Street.

As a council candidate, Kennedy supported the campground, leaving supporters of that plan now just looking for one more vote for passage. It's expected that the issue will be among the first the new council will face.

Mahaney voted "no" last month and Coonerty and Rittenhouse both opposed the campground plan in the campaign. Yokoyama voted "no," too, but is being eyed as a potential swing vote.

She spoke often to the subject of homelessness in her acceptance speech, emphasizing the words "permanent" and "real" when she talked about solutions.

In his acceptance speech, Kennedy promised to keep daytime and evening hours to meet with his new constituents. He said he soon would announce a phone number where he could be reached.

Kennedy said he also would name a



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Scott Kennedy announced he is setting up a 'kitchen cabinet.'

"kitchen cabinet" of advisors to give him a broad base of information on which to base his decisions. He said he also plans a team of volunteers to reach out to the community.

Like other incoming and outgoing councilmembers, Kennedy said the great earthquake has taught Santa Cruz that everyone is valuable. "We need everybody. We need everybody's ideas," Kennedy said.

Coonerty, the top vote-getter in last Tuesday's election, focused his comments on the aftermath.

"The council has to dedicate itself to the renewal and rebirth of downtown Santa Cruz," he said. He said the citizens and the outgoing council members have set high standards of conduct since the 1989 quake.

Rittenhouse, the first downtown property owner to serve on the council in years, made very brief remarks. "I wish to thank the community for giving me the opportunity to serve. I will serve you, that's what we're all here for," Rittenhouse said.

## Farewell

Continued from Page A1

we're all trying to be reasonable people and trying to do the best we can so let's try to work things out one way or another," Wormhoudt said.

Looking back on her nine years on the council, Wormhoudt said she worked to improve social conditions and to protect the environment. "It was not a perfect job, but a job done by everyone here with a lot of concern, care and a real love for Santa Cruz," she said.

Wormhoudt, John Laird and Joe Ghio left the City Council on Tuesday, taking with them 31 years of experience that those left behind admitted would be hard to replace.

Ghio, who lost his bid for a fourth term on the council by a scant six votes, said he spent some time driving around Santa Cruz after the counting of absentee votes last Saturday spelled defeat for him by just six votes.

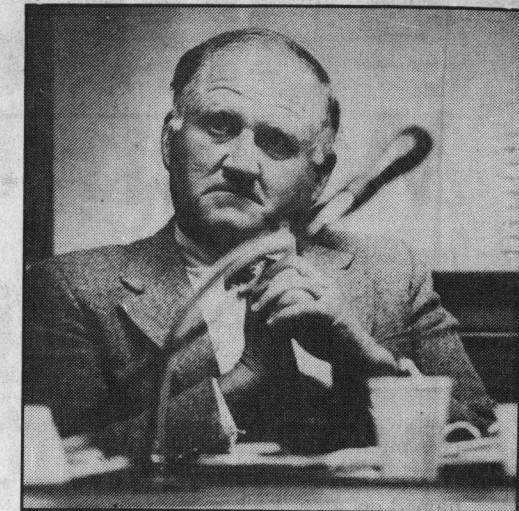
He said he saw a bit of himself in the streets, sidewalks and bikelanes. He said he saw a little of himself in the many new parks in the city and in the rebuilt wharf.

And Monday as he cleaned out his office at City Hall, Ghio said he saw a little more of himself in the policy manuals and the budget documents that he packed up.

Finally, he said, he drove to Frederick Street, an area which has changed dramatically in his tenure on the council.

Ghio said he looked with great interest on a long, thin parcel of land at the end of the street. Little did he know how important that parcel would be to his political future when he voted to approve a townhouse development there two weeks ago, despite overwhelming neighborhood opposition.

Louis Rittenhouse beat Ghio by 30 votes in that neighborhood last Tuesday, the biggest spread between the two in any precinct in the city. Ghio's vote on the development



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Joe Ghio: a bittersweet farewell.

clearly cost him the election.

In retrospect, Ghio said, "That (vote) was my proudest moment. I put into practice what I believed in," said.

As for himself, Laird said he is proud to have been part of the vote that will keep Pogonip in permanent open space and with his lobbying effort in Washington last year which won federal funding for a new downtown parking garage. He said he is proud to have been part of the votes to establish curbside recycling and benefits for domestic partners of city workers. "And I'm proud to have been a role model, I think, for lesbians and gay men over the fact that there just are not elected (gay) officials in this country. When I was elected you could count them on one hand. But at the election last November it moved to almost 70 in the United States. It really was a difference I accepted speaking engagements around the state to try to let people know that we can do it; that we can succeed in the political process and I was proud to have played a role," Laird said.