



COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

www.santacruzcounty.us

Fall 2015

A publication of the County Administrative Office, 701 Ocean St,

Susan A. Mauriello, County Administrator



With input from nonprofit executives with years of experience in the field, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors heard an August 18 update on the effort to create a Santa Cruz County parks and open space district. The well-attended hearing also represented a new phase for the project, as founding director Fred Keeley handed over the reins to Parks Director Jeff Gaffney and the County Parks and Recreation Department.

Did you know?

Santa Cruz County manages 58 parks, beaches, open spaces and facilities.

“Other counties have benefitted immensely from open space districts. Bringing one to Santa Cruz County would sustain our system for future generations.”

- Jeff Gaffney



Cut flowers remain one of Santa Cruz County's leading crops, but berries are king.

In This Issue

- New County Health/Dental Center opens
- Preserving Santa Cruz County history
- Debating Cannabis
- County Programs Get Statewide Honors
- Events Calendar



Helping cut the ribbon Aug. 25 were, left to right: Watsonville City Councilmember Felipe Hernandez, Supervisor Zach Friend, Councilmember Jimmy Dutra, Councilmember Lowell Hurst, Councilmember Rebecca Garcia, Supervisor Greg Caput, Congressman Sam Farr and county chief of clinic services Amy Peeler.

New Watsonville medical/dental clinic begins seeing patients

Expanding health care services for residents of Watsonville, the new Santa Cruz County Watsonville Health & Dental Center was unveiled in an August 25 ribbon-cutting ceremony before a crowd of 50.

The facility provides health and dental services and is a partnership between the County of Santa Cruz and Dientes Community Dental Care that serves a critical community need.

"You've used that community empowerment, you've used that local leadership, to build something that's really necessary," Farr told the crowd.

Made possible by the Affordable Care Act

The Center was built with funding from a federal grant available under the Affordable Care Act through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. It includes five medical exam rooms, four dental operatories, a small lab, counseling space and a group/education/meeting room.

The care will include integrated health services, including primary medical care, behavioral health care and case management. An estimated 2,400 adults and children will be served per year, with the County providing over 4,000 integrated primary care visits and Dientes providing up to 6,000 dental visits annually. For more, go to www.santacruzhealth.org.

Notes

Have our new app? [Download Citizen](#)

Santa Cruz County produced \$616 million in agricultural goods in 2014, led by berries.

Brushing back time: preserving county history

It takes maintenance worker Adam Rubalcava-Gonzalez less than a week to preserve the County's history.

Valencia Hall and the adjacent General Store/Post Office in Aptos are the last remnants of a logging community built by Frederick Hihn in the early 1880s. They are among a handful of historic properties owned by Santa Cruz County residents, and keeping them in good working order falls to people like Rubalcava-Gonzalez.

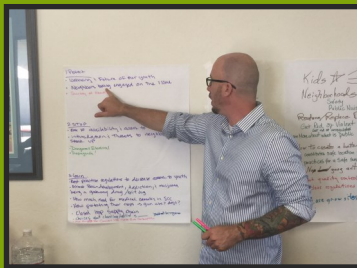
To keep it from falling into disrepair, the building must be painted every four to five years. Working largely alone, Rubalcava-Gonzalez finished the job in less than a week. He said it's important work given the damp air of the surrounding redwood forest and with possible rains this winter.

"Especially with El Niño coming," Rubalcava-Gonzalez said.

To reserve Valencia Hall for a future function, go to www.scparks.com.



Valencia Hall



C4 member Colin Disheroon

Committee to weigh cannabis regulations

The Cannabis Cultivation Choices Committee held its inaugural meeting Sept. 8 in Live Oak.

Following a four-hour discussion, the C4 members identified a raft of issues to wade through as it works on recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on medical cannabis cultivation by the end of the year.

Among the issues identified were protecting access, limiting neighborhood impacts, responsible agricultural practices, keeping drugs away from children and preserving medical cannabis cultivation as a viable small business.

At the same time, state officials were finalizing historic regulations on the medical cannabis industry statewide, resulting in a licensing system that protects local control over local cultivation operations. The bill is pending before Gov. Jerry Brown.

Moderated by Eric Olsen, the 13-member committee was formed at the direction of the Board of Supervisors to balance the needs of patients and neighbors. For more, go to www.scc4.us.



THIS IS NOT A SOCCER TEAM ...

The Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy is holding its first annual Golden Goals Gala on Oct. 15 at the Community Foundation in Aptos. This rooftop soirée will include local food, drinks and music, while benefitting a great cause that helps reclaim the lives of at-risk Latino youths. To purchase tickets and be a part of the premier event of the fall, go to www.aztecasyouthsocceracademy.org/golden-goals1.

County nabs statewide awards

For decades, the principles of collaboration and innovation have served the County of Santa Cruz well when it comes to meeting community needs.

Recently, our efforts were again honored with two statewide awards from the California State Association of Counties. Known as the Challenge Awards — think of them as the Oscars for statewide local government policy — Santa Cruz County was one of a handful of multiple award-winners to be acknowledged for its leadership and unique approach to problem-solving.



The Bob Lee Community Partnership for Accountability, Connection and Treatment (PACT), formerly known as the Downtown Accountability Program, was honored with a Challenge Award. It brings together District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender and Health Services staff to reduce recidivism in the downtown area.

The County was also given a Merit Award for its Maintaining Ongoing Stability through Treatment (MOST) program, which brings together Probation, Behavioral Health, courts and law enforcement staff to provide intensive services to individuals with psychiatric disabilities, with the goal of reducing mental health impacts on the justice system.

Meet Your Supervisor

John Leopold

District 1 includes Live Oak, Summit Road Soquel and parts of Capitola and Santa Cruz.



Zach Friend

District 2 includes Aptos, Corralitos, part of Capitola and the South County coast.



Ryan Coonerty

District 3 includes much of Santa Cruz and the North Coast.



Greg Caput

District 4 includes most of Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley.



Bruce McPherson

District 5 includes the San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and parts of Santa Cruz.



Click on each supervisor to learn more about them and their responsibilities, including how to reach them during constituent office hours.

County building goes green

In September, officials from Santa Cruz County and Silicon Valley-based Green Charge Networks celebrated the installation of Northern California's biggest intelligent energy storage system. Battery towers at the County Governmental Center protect the environment by storing cheaper energy and releasing it during peak demand.



County officials mingled with Green Charge Networks staff during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for new green storage batteries in the County Governmental Center.

Proven Leadership

The County also installed two more electric vehicle charging stations, adding to our suite of cutting-edge renewable technologies. The new Public Safety Center includes solar panels, and Simpkins Family Swim Center operates a small cogeneration plant.

Santa Cruz County Calendar

OCTOBER 2015

6 — **Board of Supervisors**, 9 a.m., County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

7 — **Geoffrey Dunn celebration**, 7 p.m., Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St.

8 — **Coffee with the Sheriff**, 6 p.m., Boulder Creek Fire Department, 13230 Highway 9

8 — **Farm Park Dedication**, 1:00 p.m., Farm Park, Soquel Drive & Cunnison Lane

9 — **11th annual Health Fair**, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Watsonville Veterans Building; 215 E Beach St.

12 — **Columbus Day**, closed due to holiday

15 — **Migrant Health Fair**; 5 p.m.-7 p.m.; Buena Vista Camp; 111 Tierra Alta Dr.

15 — **Golden Goals gala**; 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; Community Foundation; 7807 Soquel Dr.

18 — **SuperKids Triathlon**, 7 a.m.-noon, Simpkins Family Swim Center, 979 17th Ave.

20 — **Board of Supervisors**, 9 a.m., County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

24 — **Flu Vaccination Clinic**; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Ramsey Park Family Center; 1301 Main St.

27 - **Board of Supervisors**, 9 a.m., County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

NOVEMBER 2015

2 — **Coffee with the Sheriff**, 6 p.m., Aptos Service Center, 19D Rancho Del Mar Center

3 — **Board of Supervisors**, 9 a.m., County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

5 — **Flu Vaccination Clinic**; TBD; Capitola Mall, 1855 41st Ave.

10 — **Board of Supervisors**, 9 a.m., County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

11 — **Veteran's Day**, closed due to holiday

17 — **Special Election**, ballots due for Santa Cruz City Schools all-mail election.

26-27 — **Thanksgiving holiday**, closed due to holiday

DECEMBER 2015

6 — **Holiday Art Fair**, 1 p.m., Simpkins Family Swim Center, 979 17th Ave.

7 — **Coffee with the Sheriff**, 6 p.m., South County Service Center, 790 Green Valley Rd

8 — **Board of Supervisors**, 9 a.m., County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

15 — **Board of Supervisors**, 9 a.m., County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

24 — **Christmas Eve**; half day

25 — **Christmas Day**; closed due to holiday

Quick Guide

Citizens rely on county government for many needed services. Use this handy guide to find who to call, or come find us on the web at: www.santacruzcounty.us.

Main Number
(831) 454-2000

Board of Supervisors
(831) 454-2200

Agricultural Commissioner
(831) 763-8080

Animal Services
(831) 454-7303

Assessor's Office
(831) 454-2002

CalWORKS/Other Benefits
(831) 454-4080 or 763-8700

County Clerk/Elections
(831) 454-2060

Economic Development
(831) 454-2728

Environmental Health
(831) 454-2022

Health Services Agency
(831) 454-4800

Parks and Recreation
(831) 454-7900

Planning Department
(831) 454-2580

Public Works
(831) 454-2160

Recycling Information
(831) 454-2333

Sheriff/Coroner
(831) 471-1121
(call 911 if emergency)

Superior Court
(831) 763-8060

Tax Collections
(831) 454-2510