



# COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

[www.santacruzcounty.us](http://www.santacruzcounty.us)

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A publication of the County Administrative Office Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrator



## 'Overdue' Library Unveiled



Proposed new Felton Branch Library on Gushee Street.

Residents of Felton and the San Lorenzo Valley rejoiced May 9 when the design of the long-awaited new Felton Library was revealed, including sloping roof lines, a wood and rock exterior, natural light, an outdoor patio and a new footbridge over Bull Creek. The new site is adjacent to the U.S Post Office. Visit [www.feltonlibraryfriends.org](http://www.feltonlibraryfriends.org).



The [Santa Cruz County Arts Commission](#) named musician Shelley Phillips the 2017 Artist of the Year. The multi-talented Phillips is a local treasure who plays folk harp, oboe, cor anglais, and flutes, and has played with many professional folk musicians. [Learn more about Shelley here.](#)

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# Goodbye, Susan!

On July 7, Susan A. Mauriello will say goodbye after leading the County for 28 years. Over the years, she worked for 24 Board members, built countless public facilities, secured millions in state and federal funding for local projects and brought numerous programs to light. On June 27, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and many community members recognized Susan for her years of dedicated service.



# Hello, Carlos!

On June 20, the Board of Supervisors swore in Carlos J. Palacios as the next County Administrative Officer. Mr. Palacios is a 25-year resident of Santa Cruz County, has extensive ties to the community and represents the first Latino executive officer in the County's 167-year history. He previously served as Assistant County Administrative Officer. "I look forward to the challenges ahead as we work with the Board and the community to improve the quality of life for all County residents," Palacios said.





## Soquel Creek Linear Park moves forward

The [Santa Cruz County Parks Department](#) is pleased to announce a \$243,608 grant to restore the Soquel Creek riparian corridor while improving connectivity and school access.

"This is an exciting project that will emphasize Soquel Creek as a feature of downtown Soquel, while improving access and circulation for residents, school children and neighborhood businesses," County Parks Director Jeff Gaffney said.

The California State Parks grant enables the County to acquire land along Soquel Creek, continuing the Soquel Creek Linear Parkway project that includes river corridor restoration and a new trail connecting Heart of Soquel County Park, Lions County Park, Soquel Union Elementary School, the Discovery Preschool and Family Center, and the commercial district of downtown Soquel.

## UFO visits coast?

In May, a strange flying object was spotted flying along the coast between Seascap



and the harbor. It was actually a highly sensitive scientific measuring instrument enlisted by the [Mid-County Groundwater Agency](#) to help better understand the scope of any local seawater intrusions issues.



## County recognized for juvenile justice

Demonstrating its leadership in reducing juvenile detention and improving outcomes among youth offenders, a delegation of Santa Cruz County justice system stakeholders recently participated in the 25-year anniversary of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).

Started as a pilot project to reduce reliance on local confinement of court-involved youth, the JDAI model is now operating in nearly 300 counties nationwide. It was one of the first programs to recognize the problem of a growing population in jails and prisons, and was founded on the principle that despite posing little or no public safety threat, locking up youth prior to court hearings increases the odds they will be committed to corrections facilities and reduces their prospects for future success.

Santa Cruz County was the first national replication site for JDAI, has been a national model site for JDAI since 2000 and has hosted juvenile justice experts from across the country interested in replicating our successes. Judge Rebecca Connolly, Probation Chief Fernando Giraldo and several members of his team; Watsonville Police Chief David Honda; and representatives of Santa Cruz County Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, the Santa Cruz County Administrative Office and United Way of Santa Cruz County also attended the conference, which was held in Orlando, Fla.

To view a video commemorating 25 years of the JDAI (featuring interviews with local officials), visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH9ejXLXMRQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH9ejXLXMRQ)

 COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT OF  
**PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND CULTURAL SERVICES**



**2017-18 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES**

Looking for something to do? Whether you're 8 or 85, the Parks Department's Activity Guide is a great place to start. The 2017-18 guide is out! [Check it out!](#)

## New waste hauling contract approved

Establishing a new model for local governments across California, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a new contract with recycling and waste hauler GreenWaste Recovery.

Under the 10-year agreement, GreenWaste will expand organic waste collection and composting, set a raised target to recycle 65 percent of the waste stream, replace its local fleet with greener vehicles that use locally-sourced biodiesel, hold three free annual curbside pickups for bulky items such as couches or washing machines, and increase educational and outreach opportunities.

Santa Cruz County waste-diversion programs ([dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/RecyclingSolidWaste.aspx](http://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/RecyclingSolidWaste.aspx)) have won numerous awards as it moves toward a goal of Zero Waste, and the local waste hauler franchise agreement is a key piece of local efforts to protect the environment. The new contract also continues existing programs such as used motor oil and filter collection, holiday tree pickup and a 15 percent "Lifeline" discount for qualifying low-income customers.

## Citizen Connect



We've always updating our award-winning Citizen Connect app to give you access to any-time, anywhere services. [Download Citizen Connect](#) for iTunes and Google Play.

## Soquel-San Jose Road reopens; winter storm repairs ongoing

Soquel-San Jose Road reopened to through traffic on June 26, following a four-month closure due to winter storm damage.

Soquel-San Jose was one of several major roads closed or impacted by successive storms during the 2016-17 winter. Public Works crews designed a temporary repair while design work continues on a permanent fix. Overall, the County is working to repair 230 damage sites and \$114 million in damages, with state and federal disaster agencies contributing most of the repair costs.

So far, Glenwood Drive, Ca-



brillo College Drive, Skyland Road, Laurel Glen Road and several others have been repaired, while work continues on major routes such as Soquel Drive in Aptos Village, Bear Creek Road and Swanton Road.

Work continues at Valencia Road. PG&E recently lifted power lines in the area, allowing us to finish drilling and shoring work and prepping us for the installation of the tem-

porary bridge, which is being assembled off-site and should be ready by early August. The County wishes to thank everyone for their patience as we work to get things back to normal!



Looking for employment?  
[www.santacruzcountyjobs.com](http://www.santacruzcountyjobs.com)



## 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.

## Board Approves 2017-18 County Budget

On June 26, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a \$717 million 2017-18 Budget that improves public services and fiscal reserves while assisting with County disaster recovery efforts.

“On behalf of the Board, I’m pleased we were able to approve a budget that demonstrates fiscal responsibility while increasing public safety, furthering our recovery from winter storm damage and reinvesting in our community,” Board Chair John Leopold said.

While the 2017-18 Budget includes reductions in spending and staff positions, it adds staff in the Parks Department, Probation Department and Sheriff’s Office, including four deputies. It also incorporates several priorities of the Board of Supervisors, such as improved mental health and substance abuse services, expanded economic opportunity, green energy initiatives and more.

The Board also approved \$5.2 million for the Whole Person Care pilot program, which coordinates physical health, behavioral health, and social services for vulnerable Medi-Cal beneficiaries who continually sustain poor outcomes as high users of multiple health care systems.

The Budget includes funding for the Nurse-Family Partnership and Thrive by Three programs, and formalizes a shift in how nonprofit community funding through the "CORE Investments" strategy. It also includes funding for a new Sheriff’s Office service center in Boulder Creek, funding for road repairs due to the 2016-17 winter storms, and funding for bike/pedestrian education at local schools.

The budget also increases County reserves to \$43.8 million. Residents may read the Budget at [www.santacruzcounty.us](http://www.santacruzcounty.us), or view on online, interactive budget tool at [sccbudget.com](http://sccbudget.com).

## MAH’s “Lost Childhoods” exhibit examines lives of foster youth

Created with input from more than 100 current and former foster youth, artists, and advocates from across Santa Cruz County as well as the Foster Youth Museum, on July 7 the Museum of Art and History will debut an illuminating portrait of portrait of the experiences of youth transitioning out of the foster care system through personal belongings, photographs, and artwork. The exhibit runs through December 31 at the MAH’s Solari Gallery, 705 Front St., Santa Cruz.



## 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](http://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

**Benefits**  
(888) 421-8080

**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