



COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

www.santacruzcounty.us

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IN DRIVE TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCE WASTE, COUNTY TO PROHIBIT SINGLE-USE SHAMPOO BOTTLES

In November, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to implement what is likely the first prohibition on single-use bottles of personal care products at visitor accommodations in the U.S.

Acting to protect the Monterey Bay and expand efforts to prevent plastic pollution, the Board voted to eliminate single-use plastic shampoo, conditioner and lotion bottles from local hotels, motels and vacation rentals. The ordinance would go into effect Dec. 31, 2020.

"Environmental protection is a core value of Santa Cruz County. Tourism is one of our leading industries, and many of our visitors come for Monterey Bay and our pristine beaches," said Supervisor Zach Friend, who brought the ordinance forward. "Single-use plastics have dire consequences for these ecosystems and threaten our local economy, and we must act locally to protect them."

Santa Cruz County is a pioneer in the environmental movement and has been at the forefront of reducing plastic pollution. It was

among the first to ban single-use to go plastic bags, polystyrene products, plastic straws and other disposable plastics products, and has been recognized for its environmental leadership over the last several decades.

"This is a great step forward," said Barbara Meister, director of public affairs for Monterey Bay Aquarium. "It's encouraging to see Santa Cruz County working together with the hospitality community to address ocean plastic pollution. We applaud the county, and its hospitality industry, for their leadership."

The collapse of the global market for recycled plastics is increasing the volume of plastics going into landfills, where harmful chemicals can leach into soils and precious groundwater supplies. Under the ordinance, owner-occupied "hosted rentals" are exempt, and exceptions are available for those with disabilities or special needs.



OPEN ACCESS:

In December, the County removed coastal access barriers preventing public access to a public promenade in Rio Del Mar. Supervisor Zach Friend, right, discusses the project with media.



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Animal Shelter celebrates 10 years at home

On Saturday, Oct. 20th, residents joined the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) to celebrate 10 years in operation at its home in Live Oak, at the corner of 7th Avenue and Rodriguez Street.

Since opening its doors in October 2008, the Animal Shelter has spayed and neutered over 32,000 animals, facilitated 19,000 adoptions, and returned over 11,000 lost animals to their owners. The Shelter continues to go above and beyond our core services to help animals and their guardians beyond the Shelter's doors. The Shelter is proud of established preventive initiatives such as spay/neuter clinics, training classes, humane education, and community outreach.

Residents and their pets enjoyed live music by Grateful Dead Cover Band Matt Hartle & Friends, local beer from Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing, Sante Adairius Rustic Ales & New Bohemia Brewing Company, a veggie chili cook-off, face painting and more! A doggie spa and other dog activities were also available.

SCCAS is an open admission shelter which welcomes EVERY animal in need. Our goal is to be a humane resource for the community by providing a safety net and second chance for local animals. Owners can find and recover lost pets, adopt new animal companions, or sign up for PLANNED PetHood, our low cost spay/neuter program available for all resident pets. Visit www.scanimalshelter.org.



Staff and volunteers help prepare for the Grateful Shelter Festival.

Winter brings storm prep reminder for residents

With winter upon us, it's a good idea to refresh your family emergency plans and update your resources for winter storm preparedness.

Your first stop should be our [Emergency Services website](#), where you can find the latest resources for all kinds of disaster preparedness, from storms to earthquakes to fires.

Signing up for CodeRED helps assure your cell phone will receive emergency notification calls. The CodeRED notification system sends important messages to residents and businesses within Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. The system has the capability of sending thousands of messages in a very short time based on geographic location of an incident. Download the CodeRED app, or visit [the Regional 911 page](#).

It can rain in Santa Cruz County—a lot. Our Public Works Department supplies sand and sandbags through community partners, and [maintains a list of locations online](#).

During storms, travel can be quite difficult, especially when roads start to give



out. Particularly in the mountains, many of Santa Cruz County's roads are susceptible to damage. To see which roads are out during a storm visit our [Road Closure List](#).

We have many other resources for residents, including tip sheets and check lists for preparing yourself, your family and your property for emergencies. We also have links to external resources, such as [PG&E outage maps](#).

Of course, information is the greatest resource during emergencies, and we'd remind everyone that local news often provides accurate, timely information during major disasters and emergencies. Stay tuned!

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



2018-19 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Looking for something to do?

Whether you're 8 or 85, the '18-'19 Parks Department's Activity Guide is a great place to start.

[Check it out!](#)

Aptos Safety Center will open in 2019

To be opened in early 2019, the new Aptos Safety Center will be the first multi-agency public safety center in Santa Cruz County and will be located in the new Aptos Village development. It will include the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office substation, as well as offices for the Santa Cruz County District Attorney, Santa Cruz County Probation Department and County Supervisor Zach Friend.

"Establishing essential services within our community helps increase public safety while furthering the connection between residents and their government," Friend said. "Once completed, I look forward to welcoming residents to these offices."

The 3,200-square-foot space will include offices, equipment and meeting space and house an outreach center for the DA's consumer affairs and environmental protection staff, probation staff, office hours for the Board of Supervisors and the relocated public safety substation.

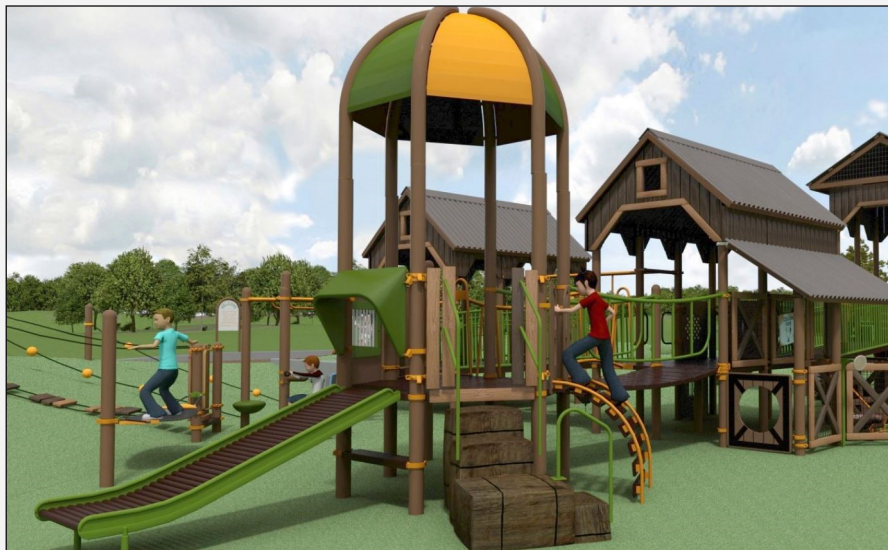
"I'm excited that my office, for the first time, will be able to meet with the people we work so hard to protect at a dedicated Mid-County location," District Attorney Jeff Rosell said. "This is a wonderful contribution to public safety in Santa Cruz County."

"Once we move in and get settled, I look forward to hosting a grand opening community celebration for the new substation," Sheriff Jim Hart said. "This new center will support public safety by providing deputies a place to conduct business and interact with the public, and will be a valuable community resource."

**Citizen
Connect**



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LEO's Haven, an accessible playground at Chanticleer Park, is now out to bid thanks to voter approval of Measure G.

Voters overwhelmingly approve Measure G

The County of Santa Cruz would like to thank local voters for approving Measure G, a new half-cent sales tax to fund public safety and behavioral health programs, homeless services, parks facilities, and other critical needs.

"We take seriously the confidence voters have placed in the County and their desire to work as partners as we rise to meet the challenge of addressing community needs together, including those of vulnerable populations," said Supervisor Zach Friend. "The Board intends to act quickly to put these critically needed funds to work on residents' behalf."

"The results are consistent with the community concerns that the Board worked to address," Supervisor John Leopold said. "Now we have a funding plan to put the money to work immediately. We have designated \$1 million to pay for several parks projects, including Chanticleer Park and LEO's Haven, the County's first all-inclusive playground."

Santa Cruz County has a track record of responsible fiscal stewardship, including

healthy County reserves and credit ratings, and lowering long-term employee retirement and health care obligations. The funding priorities for Measure G include new North and South County homeless shelters and navigation centers; a public safety and behavioral health outreach and deterrence program for low-level offenders; and completion of several new parks to serve residents throughout Santa Cruz County.

"We have critical public safety, behavioral health and substance use disorder needs to address with low-level, repeat offenders. I intend to work diligently with the Health Services Agency over the coming weeks to establish intervention teams as soon as possible," Sheriff Jim Hart said.

Park projects include a planned Nature Discovery Park adjacent to the new Felton Library; the Heart of Soquel Linear Parkway connecting Soquel Village with Soquel Creek; completion of Mid-County's Farm Park; upgrades to Aptos Village Park; funding for South County parks; and restoration and upgrades to Simpkins Family Swim Center.



Looking for employment?
www.santacruzcountyjobs.com



Possible Tax Relief for Domestic Partners

With a recent change in California tax laws, qualifying locally registered domestic partners who transferred ownership of property between themselves may be eligible for property tax relief.

Under Assembly Bill 2663, transfers of real property between local registered domestic partners that occurred between January 1, 2000, and June 26, 2015 may be eligible for tax relief. The benefit is not automatic and a claim form must be filed with the Santa Cruz County Assessor's Office.

If domestic partners had a change in ownership reassessment during the eligible period, the reassessment may be eligible to be reversed on a prospective basis. When a claim is filed with the assessor before January 1, 2019, the benefit would apply for the following calendar year and thereafter. Persons who may qualify are encouraged to review the claim form and file before January 1.

In Santa Cruz, County Assessor Sean Saldavia has made a downloadable form available on his department's webpage under "All Assessor Forms," <http://www.santacruzcounty.us/Departments/AssessorsOffice.aspx>. The form is titled "Claim for Reassessment Reversal for Local Registered Domestic Partners" (form BOE-62-LRDP).

"Applications received after January 1 won't be eligible for the benefit until the following year, but we encourage eligi-



ble residents to apply," Saldavia said.

The State Board of Equalization is expected to release more information on program specifics soon. At that time, the Assessor's webpage will be updated. In the meantime, parties may contact the Assessor's Office for additional information at 831-454-2002 or by e-mail at asrwebmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us.

Crop values declined slightly in 2017, while strawberries remain top crop

In October, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner Juan Hidalgo announced the release of the 2017 Crop Report for Santa Cruz County.

The 2017 Crop Report shows crop values at \$581,200,000, a 9 percent decline from 2016 values of \$637,332,000, which follows several years of strong growth in Santa Cruz County's agricultural sector. The report estimates gross values and does not take into account production costs nor reflect the total contribution of agriculture to the Santa Cruz County economy.

While strawberries remain the top crop in

Santa Cruz County with an estimated value of \$211,196,000, a drop in acres under production and adverse market forces contributed to the decline. Berries, including strawberries, raspberries and blackberries, account for nearly two-thirds of the total gross production value of Santa Cruz County crops.

Vegetables, timber, livestock, and tree and vine fruits such as apples and wine grapes all increased in total production value in 2017.

Santa Cruz County is a world leader in



agriculture, with dozens of crops exported across the globe. Trade partners including Australia, Hong Kong, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and many more.

Memorial honors deceased homeless residents

On December 20th, the Homeless Services Center, the Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons Health Project and Encompass Community Services' River Street Shelter led the 20th annual Homeless Memorial Service, honoring more than 50 homeless community members who passed in 2018.

The event is held annually in conjunction with Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, a nationwide event celebrated in over 150 U.S. cities at the onset of winter. This year's event included a ceremonial reading of the names of homeless and formerly homeless, who died in the past year. Each name is read aloud, and friends and loved ones are invited to speak.

Compared to the general population, people who experience homelessness are more likely to suffer chronic disease and mental illness, substance abuse and violence. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the mortality rate of homeless persons is four to nine times higher than the general population, and the risk of homelessness is a concern for one in eight Americans.

Across the U.S., 19 million people experience housing insecurity. Within California, the homeless population



The names of Santa Cruz County's homeless persons and formerly homeless persons who passed away in 2018 are printed on flags, which are displayed at the Homeless Person Memorial, held annually at the Homeless Services Center.

jumped 14 percent from 2016 to 2017, and 134,000 Californians are now without a home.

Advocates hope to work with the Museum of Art and History to establish a permanent memorial at Evergreen Cemetery.

Need help?

The Winter Shelter Program runs each year from November 15th to April 15th. The program is operated at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building in Live Oak and the Salvation Army building in Watsonville, with various pickup locations and all guests completing an intake process. The Winter Shelter is operated under contract with the Salvation Army.

In addition, the Association of Faith Communities operates a rotating shelter at churches throughout Santa Cruz County. Space at the Faith Community Shelter is limited. For more information, go to <https://www.afcsantacruz.org/shelter.html>.

The Warming Center program also operates on the coldest nights of the year, or during extreme rain events. It also operates a day and night storage program. Their emergency hotline is (831) 246-1234, or visit <https://www.warmingcenterprogram.com>.



A crowd of homeless persons, advocates, elected officials, city and county officials and many other listen to speakers at the annual Homeless Memorial Service.

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.

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

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



County annual report shows accomplishments

Did you know the County funds important early childhood intervention programs? That we've removed building fees for small accessory dwelling units? That we're on track to nearly triple the number of beds available for substance abuse treatment? That we've created a \$2 million plan to address youth homelessness? That County clinic conducted nearly 100,000 patient visits last year?

Not only is the County the hometown to half of Santa Cruz County's residents, but it plays a critical role in the lives of many of our most vulnerable residents. Learn more about the work we're doing — including our work to improve County operations — [in our first Annual Report](#).

