



COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

www.santacruzcounty.us

Spring 2017

A publication of the County Administrative Office Susan A. Mauriello, County Administrator



Winter of Our Discontent



The record-breaking 2016-17 winter storms dumped rain across Santa Cruz County, causing nearly \$100 million in road damage and triggering three Presidential Major Disaster Declarations. Repairs are likely to take years to complete. Visit <http://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us> for updates.



Seascape County Park, both kid-friendly and a great place to watch sunsets, is the latest County park to be upgraded. To participate in the County Parks Department's upcoming strategic planning process, [click here for information](#).

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Major grant to enhance SLV watershed

The State Wildlife Conservation Board recently awarded a \$330,000 grant to the Water Resources Program of the County of Santa Cruz and San Lorenzo Valley Water District to develop a plan for more reliable water supplies and improve steelhead trout habitat in the San Lorenzo River Watershed.

The plan will determine the optimal way to implement routine exchanges of water that would increase water diversions during the winter (when the San Lorenzo watershed has excess water), while allowing the over-drafted Santa Margarita Basin the opportunity to replenish. Once the rainy season ends, the District would utilize the replenished groundwater basin while reducing surface water diversions and improving habitat.

[Read more about the County's water resources activities.](#)

NPS gives boost to Chanticleer

The Santa Cruz County Parks



Department recently received a \$500,000 grant from the National Park Service toward the completion of the 4.5-acre Chanticleer County Park, which will include LEO's Haven, the County's first all-inclusive playground. Director Jeff Gaffney called it a significant step toward realizing the community's vision for the park. [Read more.](#)



A change at the top

CAO Susan A. Mauriello to retire after 28 years at helm

Susan A. Mauriello, California's longest-serving county executive and a champion of innovation and collaboration in county government, is retiring from serving the people of Santa Cruz County in July.

Appointed as just the second woman county administrative officer in the state in the weeks prior to the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, Mauriello's leadership skills were immediately tested as she helped guide the County through post-earthquake recovery. Since then, Mauriello has shaped Santa Cruz County into a model for other counties through her deep reservoirs of knowledge and native New York verve.

"I consider it an honor and privilege to serve the people of Santa Cruz County," Mauriello said. "Public service is one of the highest callings as we strive to make our community a better place for all residents, but the time is right for me to move on to the next phase."

During her tenure, the County's budget grew from less than \$200 million to more than \$700 million, the number of County parks and recreation spaces nearly tripled, and the County became a leader in the field of criminal justice reform and health and human services programs. She has served 24 Board members, and oversees a staff of more than 2,000 that delivers a wide variety of services to county residents.

Many of the County's public facilities bear Mauriello's influence, including the Public Safety Center, Simpkins Family Swim Center, Animal Services Center, Behavioral Health Center, Live Oak Library and reuse of the old County Jail (now the Museum of Art and History). Construction of a new Rountree Detention Facility and renovation of Juvenile Hall are both underway, focused on programs to reduce recidivism and improve chances for successful reentry. Under her leadership, the County improved the business climate with neighborhood and commercial developments, such as those on the Soquel Corridor and Upper 41st Avenue. And alongside partners, the County built 2,142 affordable housing units with another 66 units underway, replaced 242 mobile homes and eliminated substandard conditions at many farm labor camps.



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 new 2017-18 guide is out! [Check it out!](#)

Community power agency nears finish line

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors recently joined many other Central Coast governments opting to provide clean, locally managed power to residents and businesses across Monterey Bay.

Under a joint powers agreement, [Monterey Bay Community Power](#), a new “community choice energy” entity, would purchase and deliver clean, renewable energy over existing transmission lines at prices competitive with larger utilities. More than a dozen other local governments have officially joined the effort — including every one in Santa Cruz County — and votes in several more jurisdictions are imminent.

The formation of Monterey Bay Community Power follows approximately 100 community meetings and presentations, with 19 local governments having taken formal action signaling their interest in joining. MBCP aims to provide consumer choice, increase renewable energy and stimulate the regional economy by reinvesting consumer energy spending locally.

Citizen Connect



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County, local police departments launch crisis intervention training

In a continuing effort to improve service to individuals with mental health issues, law enforcement agencies within Santa Cruz County, the Santa Cruz



County Health Services Agency and the National Alliance on Mental Illness have started a new training program to help law enforcement officers safely interact with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

The Crisis Intervention Team effort is modeled after a successful system developed in Memphis, Tenn., and provides comprehensive, three-day multidisciplinary training course certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to local law enforcement officers and mental health professionals. The goal is to increase the safety of encounters and divert individuals from the criminal justice system to mental health care.

“In the last 10 months, my deputies responded to nearly 1,700 calls for service involving people experiencing a serious mental health crisis,” Sheriff Jim Hart said. “This training gives local law enforcement personnel the tools they need to help resolve these encounters safely and successfully. I want to thank the Health Services Agency and NAMI for their partnership on this project.”

More than half of the individuals in U.S. prisons and jails suffer some sort of mental illness. The use of Crisis Intervention Team training has expanded with an increasing focus on the dangers to law enforcement officers and individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.



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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.

2nd Annual Micro-Business Summit Set

The biggest small business event in Santa Cruz County returns April 28, 2017 when up to 500 local business owners gather at Cabrillo College to collaborate, share ideas and learn how to grow their business from leading entrepreneurship experts.

A project of the Santa Cruz County Office for Economic Development, this year's event features a range of speakers on topics including managing cash flow, technology for startups, working with millennials, making the Internet work for you and more.

"We're building on the success of last year's Micro Business Summit with even more exciting speakers and topics," said Barbara Mason, economic development coordinator for the County of Santa Cruz. "Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. We want to support these entrepreneurs, because their success lifts our entire community."

For \$49, participants will be able to



choose from a range of dynamic speakers and breakout seminars, receive a complimentary breakfast and luncheon and have access to an afternoon mixer as well as fantastic raffle prizes. Enrollment is limited to 500 participants. Registration is available at microbusinesssummit.com. Follow the event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/82percent.

County employees honored for going beyond the call of duty

Every year, the County honors employees who show extraordinary dedication to the residents of Santa Cruz County. This year's awards recognized advancements in community-based policing, a volunteer-based elections team that oversaw the 2016 presidential vote and work that is helping secure Davenport's water future and more.



"Our employees are some of the most creative, resourceful and dedicated public servants anywhere," Board of Supervisors Chair John Leopold said.

For a full list of awardees and their achievements, [click here](#).

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