



# COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

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

Spring 2016

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



## March Madness



Miller Cut Off was one of several County roads damaged during March storms.

El Niño rains finally came in March — all at once, it seemed — prompting brief evacuations, knocking over trees and triggering mudslides. County crews worked long hours to clear streets and make sure residents could get home. The Board of Supervisors later declared a local emergency to help pay for damage repairs, estimated at more than \$11 million.

*“Given the amount of rain, our crews did well to respond quickly, prevent further damage and minimize storm impacts on residents.”*

*- Public Works Director John Presleigh*



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County's Live Oak Clubhouse opened March 19. See page 4.

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# Front and Center



Recipients of the 2015 Employee Recognition Awards were honored by the Board of Supervisors Feb. 23 for their work, everything from helping convict criminals to developing new ways to access county services. Click the links below to listen to the presentations and hear their stories.

## HUMAN SERVICES

**Gold**, [Human Services' Family Stabilization Unit](#) (Barri Dommer, Victoria Regan, Vivian Fenner-Evans, Sarah Mason-Sheely, Maria Sanchez Nolazco, Jim Narragon, Leticia Arteaga); **Silver**; [Human Services' Benefit Representative Training Team](#) (Andrew Stewart, Brittany Smith, Celina Orejel, Michael Rosales, Sean McAdam, Taylor Shellen); **Bronze**, [Margarita Gonzalez, Human Services Department](#).

## HEALTH

**Gold**, [Maria Vazquez, HSA Clinics](#); **Silver (tie)**, [HSA Clinics Homeless Persons Health Project Team](#) (Paul Gendreau, Jean Graham, Matt Nathanson, Andi Wass, Suzanne Samson, Alejandra Bermudez, Georgine Ibarra, Alba Avalos-Sanchez, Mariela Melgoza); **Silver (tie)**, [Health Services Communicable Disease Prevention Team](#) (Jessica Oltmanns, Theresia Rogerson, Eloy Mendez, Claudia Llamas-Padilla, Dena Loijos, Ruben Chavez, Suzanne Samson, Cathy Padilla, Denise Parodi); **Bronze**, [Linda Betts, Behavioral Health](#).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**Gold**, [Information Services Department Citizen Connect Team](#) (Aimen Al-Refai, Nada Algharib, Daniel Rubio, Tom Melkonian, Paresh Patel); **Silver**, [Information Services Department Voice Over IP Project Team](#) (Michael Goulter, James Gouin, George Washington, Rusty Ferguson, Tom Daskaloff, Myeong Lee, Tammie Weigl, Nada Algharib); **Bronze**, [Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Financial System Implementation Team](#) (Laura Bowers, Jessica Renda, Marianne Ellis, Pam Silbaugh).

## LAND USE & REGULATORY

**Gold**, [Planning Department Housing Division Team](#) (Julie Conway, Porcila Wilson, Carlos Landeverry, Micaela Lopez); **Silver**, [Parks Department Seacliff Village Park Project Team](#) (Sheryl Bailey, Kim Namba, Jennifer Mead, Annie Morris, Margaret Ingraham, Mary Chavez, Jessica Beebe, Gretchin Iliff, Kathy DeWild); **Bronze**, [Carisa Duran](#), Public Works.

## JUSTICE

**Gold**, [Jeffrey Simpson](#), Sheriff's Office; **Silver**, [Daniel Cruz](#), Sheriff's Office; **Bronze**, [Yolanda James-Sevilla](#), Adult Probation.

## A new day dawns for Cemex plant

With leadership from Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, the County is taking on reuse planning for the decommissioned Cemex plant in Davenport, after a \$425,000 grant from Los Altos-based Sempervirens Fund.

Having dominated the North Coast skyline for more than a century, the plant has been idle while the County and the Davenport community mull its future. Sempervirens recently received grants from the Moore Foundation, the Resources Legacy Fund and the California Coastal Conservancy to prepare a Coastal Restoration Plan and update of the Local Coastal Program for the site and explore reuse opportunities.

"I want to thank County staff, the Sempervirens Fund, and Cemex for working in cooperation with my office to make this exciting project possible," Coonerty said.

The County Office for Economic Development will lead the effort, hiring consultants to analyze reuse opportunities that are economically viable and acceptable to the community. In addition, a visitor center to provide public access to Coast Dairies Public Lands and the San Vicente Redwoods will also be considered as a high priority. The reuse plan is also expected to lead to a reduction in sewer and water fees paid by Davenport residents.

"We are the oldest land trust in California, and we work only in the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. We are pleased to have secured this package of funding for the County of Santa Cruz to conduct thorough work to envision a sustainable and appropriate use for the existing closed cement plant in Davenport," Sempervirens Fund President Fred Keeley said.



A paddleboarder enters the surf at Davenport Landing, one of many beaches managed by the Santa Cruz County Parks Department. Go to [www.scparks.com](http://www.scparks.com).

## Who are the 82%, and why do they matter?

The Santa Cruz County Office for Economic Development will hold the inaugural “82% - A Micro-Business Summit” event April 22 at Cabrillo College.

Open to 500 local small businesses, the daylong conference will feature a keynote speaker and two dozen education sessions to help small business owners navigate the marketplace to increase their exposure, grow their business and boost profitability.

“Santa Cruz County has a long tradition of incubating vibrant, successful, one-of-a-kind businesses that employ the majority of our workforce,” County Economic Development Coordinator Barbara Mason said. “This conference is intended to help those just starting out become the next Odwalla or Santa Cruz Skateboards, or even Plantronics or West Marine.”

Tickets cost \$49 and are available at <https://82percent.eventbrite.com>.

Eighty-two percent of county business are classified as small. The event was created by County, Central Coast Small Business Development Center, Sling-shot SV and the San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce. It is sponsored by PG&E, PayPal, Santa Cruz County Workforce Investment Board, Lighthouse Bank, SCORE, Bay Federal Credit Union, Life Aid Beverage Co., Santa Cruz County Certified Green Business Program and the City of Santa Cruz Certified Green Business Program, Santa Cruz County Bank and more. Local business chambers are also supporting the event.



## County homeless services land \$2M in federal grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently awarded nearly \$2 million to Santa Cruz County for homeless services.

Most of the grant money will go toward health care, mental health services and permanent supportive housing, with the goal of giving people a foundation to improve their lives and stay off the streets for good.

“These grants are an important piece of the puzzle in trying to solve a complex problem,” said Julie Conway, Conway, Santa Cruz County Housing Director. “Especially for people who have short-term challenges being able to make rent in a tight housing market, funding can be a critical bridge that keeps them from losing their homes.”

The Santa Cruz County grants were part of \$1.6 billion awarded by HUD nationwide. On a given night, more than half a million people are homeless across the U.S.

### Citizen Connect



We’ve updated our app to include restaurant inspections, voter registration and more, all at the touch of a finger. [Download Citizen Connect](#) for iTunes and Google Play.



**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.

## Live Oak Clubhouse opens

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County held an opening ceremony for the Live Oak Clubhouse on Saturday, March 19, with Supervisor John Leopold among the featured speakers.

A packed house got a firsthand look at a first-class facility: numerous computer

stations, an industrial kitchen, music room (including mixing studio), basketball court, bumper pool and much, much more.

Years in the making, the project was largely funded by the county's former Redevelopment Agency, with the Boys & Girls Clubs raising additional funds and Live Oak School District contributing the land.

Together, there is more than 10,000 square feet of education and activity space spread over two floors. Membership is \$60 a year. For more information, go to [www.boysandgirlsclub.info](http://www.boysandgirlsclub.info).

## Training Day



March 20-26 was Tsunami Awareness Week. On March 16, staff from various agencies gathered at the Emergency Operations Center to train for a scenario where a large tsunami strikes the county during a summer holiday.

## Santa Cruz County Calendar

### APRIL 2016

4-10 — National Public Health Week

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

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

22 — 82%: Micro-Business Summit, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr.

30 — Prop 47 Legal Clinic, noon-5 p.m., Youth N.O.W., 124 E Lake St.

### MAY 2016

8 — 2016 Election; June 7 primary mail

ballots sent to voters

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

23 — 2016 Election; voter registration due for June 7 primary

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

30 — Memorial Day, county offices closed

### JUNE 2016

7 — 2016 Election; June 7 primary Election Day

14 — Board of Supervisors, 9 a.m., County

Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St.

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

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

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

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

24 — Prop 47 Legal Clinic, noon-5 p.m., Santa Cruz Main Library, 224 Church St.

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

## 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