



COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

www.santacruzcounty.us

Winter 2016

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Susan A. Mauriello, County Administrator



A Sign of Things to Come?

December rains brought the County a foreshadowing of what's expected from El Nino as we head into the winter season. The much-needed rainfall was also a reminder to residents to prepare, as Corcoran Lagoon (above) flooded, the Pajaro River had to be breached, trees came down and minor landslides were reported throughout the county.

"Our crews have been out for months getting ready for winter. We've done everything we've can to prepare, and we'll be there if and when residents need us."

- Public Works Director John Presleigh

Did you know?

The County has put together a handy guide to El Nino preparedness. Find it at www.santacruzcounty.us/elnino.



Illegal dumping impacts many rural areas. In November, the Board of Supervisors passed a new law that begins to address the problem, and the County is looking at further steps.

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- New laws aim to keep environment clean
- Parks dedicated in Soquel, Seacliff
- Celebrating Small Business Saturday
- Solving veteran homelessness
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New Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Edith Driscoll, center, was sworn in Thursday, Dec. 17. Driscoll was the Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller under Mary Jo Walker, right, who is retiring after nine years in office. Supervisor Bruce McPherson administered the oath of office in a small ceremony attended by family, friends and coworkers.

So long, and good luck

The end of the year has us saying goodbye to some familiar and beloved faces, as generations of collective experience get set to retire from County service. The wave began in late November when Terry Dorsey, the longtime analyst for the Board of Supervisors, called it a career after 40 years.

Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Mary Jo Walker (above right) retired at the end of the year after nine years as a department head, after overseeing the merger of two County departments. Agricultural Commissioner Mary Lou Nicoletti hung up her boots — for the second time! — after being hired in 1981.

It's unfair to call it a grey wave — our retirees have years of productivity left, and we hope to see them around in the future. But the loss is undeniable. A partial list of employees leaving County service includes:

Senior Departmental Analyst Paula Pelot, TK years; Assistant County Counsel Marie Costa, 33 years; Elections Program Coordinator Margaret Morrison, 20 years; Associate Personnel Analyst Mary McAllister, 18 years; Fleet Manager Tom Hambleton, 9 years; Fleet Clerk III Michael Derosa, 8 years; Building Maintenance Worker II Michael Derrigan, 12 years; Custodian Pedro Rubio, 14 years; Custodian Maria Barros, 19 years; Assessment Technician Holly Rice, 13 years; Senior Departmental Information Systems Analyst Gulla Gisladdottir, 20 years; Legal Document Examiner Leslie Harris, 41 years;



Supervisor Zach Friend and son.

New parks dedicated

Continuing to create new parks at an unprecedented pace, the County of Santa Cruz dedicated its second and third new parks of 2015 during the fall.

More than a decade in the making, Seacliff Village Park is the first neighborhood park in the vibrant Seacliff Village neighborhood, and the first in Aptos in more than a generation. Once designated for commercial development, the 1.25-acre site now features a light-house-themed playground, public art by local artist Kathleen Crocetti and more. It is located at Sea Ridge Road and State Park Drive.

“This park has been a dream of the community for a long time,” Supervisor Zach Friend said. “To see it come to fruition is a testament to what can happen when a neighborhood comes together to leave a great legacy for the next generation.”

At Soquel's Farm Park, visitors can celebrate one of the birthplaces of the farm-to-table movement with a community garden and natural landscaping on the site of a famed local restaurant. The Farm Park is located at Soquel Drive and Cunnison Lane.

To learn more about county parks, go to www.scparks.com.



Small Business Success Story

On Nov. 28, more than 800 local businesses participated in Small Business Saturday, either by signing up themselves or through the County, local cities, and local business groups. PG&E and the County contributed full-page newspaper ads to promote the event. We hope this year's success is a sign of good things to come.

County picks economic development manager

The County of Santa Cruz hired its first economic development manager, nabbing Kenneth "Andy" Constable from the City of San Jose.

Formerly San Jose's Real Estate Development Manager, Constable has a background in real estate development, developing business opportunities, marketing and negotiating commercial lease and sale agreements. He is also adept at working with communities to assure projects meet the goals of local government and neighborhoods.

"Santa Cruz County is a special place with unique economic development opportunities. I look forward to meeting the challenges and furthering the implementation of the County's Economic Development Vision and Strategy, including the key priorities identified by the County Board of Supervisors.," Constable said.

Constable leads a newly created division that reports directly to the County Administrative Office. It is tasked with servicing existing businesses, creating jobs and increasing the county's tax base. While in San Jose, Constable helped attract private development to the downtown area, helped implement the City's retail strategy, and worked with neighboring governments to coordinate economic development.



Andy Constable

Solving veteran homelessness, one vet at a time

A coalition of groups, including the County, have come together to end homelessness for a significant segment of the homeless population—veterans.

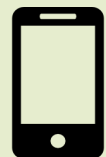
On Veteran's Day, the groups announced a push to end homelessness for 193 local vets, primarily using a federal program that provides housing vouchers with services tailored to each veteran.

Despite the challenges of Santa Cruz County's housing crisis, the groups met their 2015 goal for housing veterans. They hope to house all veterans by the end of 2016.

More help is needed. Landlords able to "House a Hero," volunteers willing to work as housing navigators and ordinary people who can donate money or essential household items should call the Veterans Resource Center at 831-477-7873.

In addition, the County hired its first Homeless Services Coordinator in Rayne Marr. Congratulations, Rayne!

**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.

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.

Garbage time for County Board

Who said the county Board of Supervisors never gets its hands dirty?

This fall, the Board passed two laws to help clean up the environment. The first addresses the problem of illegal dumping by requiring residents in the unincorporated area to have garbage hauling ser-

vices (believe it or not, that wasn't a requirement). The second law improves the collection of sharps and unused pharmaceuticals by requiring pharmaceutical companies to take more responsibility for the collection and disposal of their products.

The so-called "Universal Service" ordi-

nance addresses the problem of dumping in someone else's bins, as well as the number of illegal dumpsites that proliferate throughout the county.

"Illegal dumping is among the most common complaints from neighbors," said Tim Goncharoff, resource planner for the County of Santa Cruz. "This won't eliminate the problem completely, but we really do believe this is going to help with some of the unauthorized use and illegal dumping issues."

The season of giving...



ANNUAL TRADITION: County supervisors and staff visited Second Harvest Food Bank on Dec. 16 to help sort food for the needy.

Santa Cruz County Calendar

JANUARY 2016

1 -- New Year's Day, closed due to holiday

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

18 -- MLK Jr. Day, closed due to holiday

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

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY 2016

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

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

15 -- **President's Day**, closed due to holiday

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

x -- **Veteran's Day**, closed due to holiday

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

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

MARCH 2016

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

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.

22 -- **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.

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