



COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

www.santacruzcounty.us

Winter 2018

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



Climate Lawsuit Filed



Supervisor John Leopold and Santa Cruz Mayor David Terrazas announce climate change litigation against 29 oil, gas and coal companies on Dec. 20.

In December, the City and County of Santa Cruz joined a growing chorus of communities suing Big Oil over the local impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and increased fires, drought and severe storms. Read the complaint on our website, www.santacruzcounty.us.



GOING SOLAR: Led by the General Services Department, the County is installing \$7.4 million in solar arrays at eight county facilities. Once completed, the projects will save taxpayers' money and shift nearly half the county's energy consumption to renewables. The project is funded by Clean Renewable Energy Bonds.

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Green Business Award Recipients Honored

Nineteen local businesses were honored with Green Business Certificates at the Dec. 12 Board of Supervisors meeting. The Green Business Program is an incentives-based certification program designed to encourage businesses to meet and exceed environmental standards while conserving natural resources. For more, [click here](#).



Hepatitis A cases recede locally, remain elsewhere

The Santa Cruz County Public Health Division is pleased to announce there have been no new local cases of hepatitis A since October, following 76 confirmed cases beginning in April.

Hepatitis A is an inflammation of the liver and is usually transmitted through person-to-person contact, touching contaminated surfaces or consuming contaminated food or water. The outbreak has hit a number of California counties, and local public health officials worked diligently to vaccinate impacted populations and educate the public about the disease.

Unfortunately, hepatitis A is still impacting other counties, and Santa Cruz County public health officials have not declared an end to the outbreak. For more information, [click here](#).

Board takes measures to address local homelessness

With homelessness on the minds of many during the holiday season, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has taken several steps recently to reduce homelessness and improve conditions for the local homeless population.

In December, the Board voted to increase the availability of substance use treatment, expand outreach to homeless persons, hire additional mental health specialists, increase housing and medical services and support additional housing for very low-income residents. The actions include:

- An agreement with the State Department of Health Care Services for an expansion of drug treatment services available to Medi-Cal patients in Santa Cruz County, which is estimated to more than double the number of Medi-Cal patients seeking drug treatment.
- Creating the Santa Cruz Homeless Outreach, Proactive Engagement, and Services (HOPES) Team to provide expanded services to homeless persons in downtown Santa Cruz and elsewhere and brings all homeless outreach efforts under one umbrella. The program was created with support from the City of Santa Cruz.
- Accepting an update on implementation of the Whole Person Care program, a \$20 million program that benefits up to 1,000 County residents who suffer mental illness and/or substance use disorder, have multiple chronic health conditions and repeated hospitalizations, involvement with the criminal justice system and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Accepting \$600,000 in grants for the Health Services Agency to provide additional public health nurses at County clinics in Watsonville and Santa Cruz for medically complex Medi-Cal patients, including homeless persons.
- Approving hiring two full-time positions in the Behavioral Health Division to support the County-run Mobile Emergency Response Team (MERT), which embeds mental health specialists with law enforcement agencies.

The Board took several other actions, including continuing funding for the Recovery Center, continuing negotiations on a program to help recently discharged female inmates find housing, applying for the California Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, which assists homeless individuals with one or more disabling conditions, and more. The County is also working with the city of Santa Cruz on long-term solutions to local homelessness, including the restoration of day services.

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. [Check it out!](#)

Cemex Reuse Options Available for Review



Reuse of the former Davenport Cement Plant is one of the most important local land use decisions in a generation. On Dec. 5, scores of North Coast residents came to a meeting with Supervisor Ryan Coonerty at Pacific Elementary School in Davenport for a presentation on reuse scenarios for the property.

At 103 acres, the Cemex property is one of the prime coastal properties in all of California, and its history is deeply intertwined with the town of Davenport. Local concerns include everything from increasing tourism to utility bills.

RRM Design Group, the consultant team hired to develop alternatives for the site, presented potential scenarios to the public for the first time. The scenarios were based on previous community feedback.

The County seeks to develop a Draft Restoration and Reuse Plan that will be supported by the community, the Board of Supervisors, property owner Cemex Corp. and regulatory agencies such as the California Coastal Commission. More information is available at: <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/DavenportCementPlant.aspx>.

Citizen Connect



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

Honor loved ones and help build a community park

Honor a loved one, celebrate a milestone or show community support by dedicating a plaque on Chanticleer Park benches, picnic tables and trees.

The Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and the Chanticleer Park Neighbors Association is unveiling a new "Chanticleer Park Legacy Program" whereby businesses, individuals (or other community entities) can, through a tax-deductible donation, support Chanticleer Park improvements and create lasting memories.

"The Legacy Program is a great way for residents to make sure their money stays in the neighborhood, while joining friends and neighbors in celebrating wonderful community assets such as Chanticleer Park," Parks Director Jeff Gaffney said. "The investment allows people to leave a legacy that honors their family and loved ones, friends, pets or milestones."

"This program is a wonderful way to bring this park campaign to completion and be a part of creating this legacy of inclusion for future generations. We are grateful to County Parks for their help in making the Legacy Program a success," Chanticleer Park Neigh-



bors Association Director Mariah Roberts said.

Levels of support start at \$500 for trees, \$3,000 for benches, and \$4,000 for picnic tables. For more information on sponsorships, please visit www.scparks.com and look under News & Announcements for details and rules. Sponsors can also go to www.chanticleerpark.org and click on "Dedicate a Plaque."

Located in the Chanticleer Park area of Live Oak, Chanticleer County Park is an under-development 4.5-acre community asset. It is also the future home of LEO's Haven, Santa Cruz County's first inclusive park for children of all abilities. Led by Patricia and Robert Potts, the Santa Cruz Playground Project has raised in excess of \$1 million in community donations to support construction of LEO's Haven.



Looking for employment?
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.

Honoring our veterans

On Nov. 10, officials from Santa Cruz County and the city of Santa Cruz honored local employee veterans who have served our county. Thank you all!



Watsonville Connect draws hundreds



Project Homeless Connect came to Watsonville Nov. 16, drawing hundreds of homeless persons who were connected to housing and medical services, clean clothes and even free haircuts. For more, [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