



# County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **St. Stephen's Senior Housing Lands Award**

On behalf of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and MidPen Housing Corporation, the County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce that the St. Stephen's Senior Housing project was recently honored with a Structures Award as Affordable Residential Project of the Year by the Silicon Valley Business Journal.

Located at 2500 Soquel Ave., the site provides 40 units for very low-income seniors including formerly homeless vets and frail elderly, as well as walking paths, gardens, a bocce court and more. Construction broke ground earlier this year, and is expected to be completed in spring of 2017.

"MidPen and the St. Stephen's congregation deserve special recognition for forming a creative partnership in order to address a critical community need for additional housing, especially when it comes to our vulnerable residents," said Julie Conway, Santa Cruz County's Housing Coordinator. "This is the latest example that affordable housing can be visually striking and enhance the character of neighborhoods."

The County contributed \$5.3 million in affordable housing funds toward the \$18 million project, which was initiated by the Rev. James Lapp and the congregation at St. Stephen's Church. The number of Santa Cruz County seniors aged 65 and over has grown 18.7 percent since 2010, and is growing faster than the national average, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"We want to create livable communities for our seniors that supports an active lifestyle and enhances their quality of life," said Betsy Wilson, MidPen's Director of Housing Development. "Putting this project together required persistence and cooperation, and this award is a validation of our efforts."



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The County of Santa Cruz is a leading supporter of affordable housing the region. Foster City-based MidPen Housing has garnered numerous awards and operates several properties in Santa Cruz County, and most recently worked with the County to develop the Aptos Blue and Schapiro Knolls communities.

The annual Structures Awards issued by the Silicon Valley Business Journal are the preeminent real estate awards in the Bay Area, honoring some of the most impactful projects and people in real estate and development.

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