



PRESS RELEASE

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PRIDE MONTH CELEBRATED WITH BUILDING LIGHTING CEREMONY

Santa Cruz Pride and the County of Santa Cruz will kick off Pride Month with a ceremonial rainbow lighting of the Santa Cruz County Governmental Building on Monday, June 1, at 8:30 p.m. at 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz.

The public is invited to attend the brief ceremony celebrating LGBTQ+ pride, visibility, inclusion and community. Following remarks from local leaders and advocates, the County Governmental Building will be illuminated in rainbow colors throughout the month of June in recognition of Pride Month.

Speakers include Santa Cruz County Board Chair Monica Martinez, Adam Spickler, the first out trans man elected in California, and Ash Immoor, student representative on the County Board of Education. Also present will be Pride 2026 Grand Marshals Dinah Phillips and Gail Groves, the first same-sex couple married at the County building, in June 2008.

“Santa Cruz County has a long history of supporting inclusion, dignity and equal rights for all people,” Board Chair Monica Martinez said. “Lighting the County Governmental Building during Pride Month is a visible reminder that our LGBTQ+ community is valued, welcomed and celebrated here in Santa Cruz County.”

“Pride Month is both a reminder and a celebration to the generations of LGBTQ+ people and allies who helped build a more welcoming community here in Santa Cruz County that visibility, inclusion and equality still matter deeply today,” said Rob Darrow, Board chair of Santa Cruz Pride. “Seeing the County Governmental Building illuminated in rainbow colors sends a powerful message to LGBTQ+ people everywhere.”

Santa Cruz County was among the earliest communities in the United States to hold Pride celebrations, with the local movement tracing back to the mid-1970s. Today, Pride Month continues to honor the history of LGBTQ+ advocacy while celebrating the diversity and strength of the community.

The June 1 lighting ceremony is free and open to the public. Community members are encouraged to attend wearing rainbow colors and Pride attire in celebration and solidarity. Additional Pride Month events and information are available through Santa Cruz Pride at santacruzpride.org.