

July 26, 2024

SPCD Officers Honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for Distinguished DUI Enforcement



We are proud to announce that Santa Cruz Police Department Officers Leal, Chon, and Lamoly were honored with the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) California DUI Award for their outstanding efforts in 2023. This award recognizes their exceptional work in DUI enforcement and prevention.

Chief Escalante said, "I am extremely proud of these officers for their dedication to protecting our community and ensuring our streets are safe from impaired drivers."

In 2023 alone, these officers collectively made over 300 DUI arrests, significantly contributing to the safety of our community. Each impaired driver taken off the road represents potential lives saved. Officer Leal, Officer Chon, and Officer Lamoly demonstrated our commitment to DUI enforcement to ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to make it home safely.

City of Santa Cruz Awarded Nearly $8 Million for Coastal Resilience Projects

The City of Santa Cruz is proud to announce the award of nearly $8 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge.

This grant is part of a larger $71 million award to

the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities in the Monterey Bay region. The funded projects will address challenges posed by extreme weather events and other climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, atmospheric rivers, and drought.



The City will use its portion of the funding to support the planning, design, and construction of resiliency projects at three critical locations: the mouth of the San Lorenzo River on Main Beach, San Lorenzo Park, and Jessie Street Marsh. The Santa Cruz City Council has previously provided direction to evaluate the use of nature-based solutions to enhance coastal resilience and this award will put that direction into action.

This funding supports the ongoing Resilient Coast Santa Cruz Initiative, the City's broad strategy for coastal management. Through this initiative, the City is developing new policies, plans, and monitoring to ensure safe and equitable access to the coastline for current and future generations.

Learn More!

Record-Breaking Enrollment for Santa Cruz Junior Guard Program

Our Junior Guard program continues to grow every year, and it's incredible to see the enthusiasm and energy the kids bring. Watching them develop their skills and confidence while having fun and staying safe is truly rewarding. We love to be part of their summer experience!



More About Junior Guards

Neary Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project Begins

The Public Works Department started the Neary Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project last week. This essential infrastructure upgrade involves upsizing the existing 6" clay sewer main to a more reliable 8" PVC pipe. The

project aims to prevent sewer backups and replace the deteriorating pipe that has reached the end of its service life. Construction began last week and is expected to last until mid-August.

Note: *This is different from the* ***Front-Spruce-Pacific Sewer Rehabilitation Project*** *happening downtown, which is projected to wrap up in mid-September.*



More About Public Works Projects

Branciforte Middle School Student Wins Keep Santa Cruz Clean Poster Contest

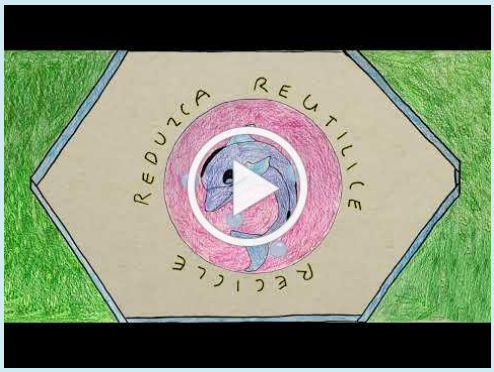
We're excited to announce Brayden Willick, 12, from Branciforte Middle School, as the winner of this year's Keep Santa Cruz Clean poster contest!

Brayden's poster, celebrating the three Rs of waste reduction—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—features a colorful hand-drawn dolphin that will be displayed on City recycling and refuse trucks. We also animated the poster into a video for Plastic Free July, sharing it across platforms to promote waste reduction and litter prevention.

Thanks for the cool artwork, Brayden!



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
Keep Santa Cruz Clean!



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¡Mantenga Santa Cruz Limpio!

Read the Press Release



62nd Annual Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music: Celebrating Music as Movement in 2024

The Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, America's longest-running festival of new orchestral music, announces its 62nd season, July 29-August 11, 2024.

Every summer, the Cabrillo Festival allows composers to experiment and realize their visions for today's music. The festival fosters a community of artists and audiences as they participate in the creative process. Under the leadership of Grammy Award-winning Music Director and Conductor Cristian Măcelaru, this year's festival, themed "Music as Movement," boasts 15 composers in residence, alongside four world premieres and nine West Coast premieres.

All festival events are held at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium at 307 Church Street in Downtown Santa Cruz. It'll be a journey of connection, transformation, and inspiration fueled by the power of music to move us all.

Check it Out!

Parks and Recreation is Where You Belong!

We're celebrating the many ways park and recreation professionals foster a sense of belonging in their community by providing welcoming and inclusive programs, essential services for all ages and abilities and safe, accessible spaces to build meaningful connections. Santa Cruz residents can always look forward to ongoing events and activities.



Explore Events!

A Summer of Community and Joy!

The Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department continues to shine this summer, bringing joy and vibrant activities to the community. Luisa Gill, Recreation Leader V, shares her heartfelt observations:



"Parks and Recreation is my favorite department in the city, not just because I work here, but because of the dedication and hard work of the entire team. It's really a team effort to organize events, plan and execute great activities, and continuously improve our parks program. I'm inspired by how residents engage with us at events, asking questions and offering positive feedback about our parks and programs. The people I work with show up with great attitudes and create memorable days for the kids, the community, and me. Even though my role is relatively small, I always feel welcomed and valued, and I appreciate being part of the positive experiences we create together."

Plastic Free July Biz Highlight: Swellcycle Transforms Waste Into Sustainable Surfboards



In celebration of Plastic Free July, we are excited to highlight Swellcycle, a Santa Cruz company dedicated to sustainability in surfboard manufacturing. Using innovative 3D printing technology, Swellcycle recycles plastic waste from hospitals into zero-waste surfboard cores, turning waste into new products.

The company hopes to set a blueprint for the entire surf industry, encouraging other manufacturers to adopt its model. "We want everyone onboard," says co-founder and CEO Patricio Guerrero, nodding to the catchy pun. To learn more, **visit Swellcycle's website**.



They're also collaborating with the Seymour Center to rehabilitate Ms. Blue, the beloved whale statue outside the center. Ms. Blue's restoration needed a sustainable solution for her deteriorating bones, and Swellcycle's innovative 3D printing technology was the perfect fit!

It's exciting to be home to so many local businesses committed to sustainability! Thanks for participating in **Plastic Free July** — say no to single-use plastics, keep our beaches clean, and sign up for Resilient Santa Cruz to do more for the planet.

Plastic Free July

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