

July 11, 2024

Stay Safe at the San Lorenzo River Lagoon!



Residents and visitors are reminded to prioritize safety near the San Lorenzo River Lagoon, as conditions are constantly changing and can be dangerous.

The lagoon breached naturally on Friday, July 5. The Fire Department's Marine Safety Division was there to monitor the breach and ensure safety for beachgoers over the holiday weekend. This week, the Public Works Department has been working with a contractor to move the channel closer to San Lorenzo Point and build a sand berm to try to prevent the river's meandering down the beach.

Mechanical breaching and sand management near the lagoon have been necessary to help prevent minor flooding at the Boardwalk, along lower Ocean Street, and in the Beach Flats neighborhood during the summer and fall when the river shoals. These maintenance efforts are approved by several regulatory agencies and are crucial for safety and environmental protection.

Once complete, the San Lorenzo River Lagoon Culvert Project should significantly reduce the need for mechanical breaching. We expect to finish that project by the end of this summer.

For more information, visit www.cityofsantacruz.com/culvert.

Culvert Project

Celebrate Plastic-Free July with Home/Work in Midtown!

Looking for ways to reduce plastic and find creative, sustainable alternatives? Check out Home/Work on Soquel Ave in Midtown.



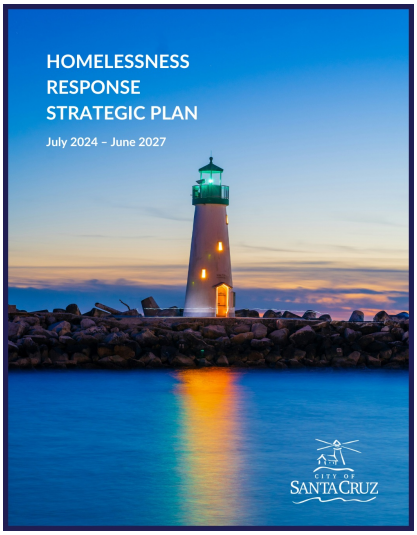
Owned by Sonia McMoran, this charming store offers a fantastic selection of reusable products and plastic alternatives, perfect for anyone looking to minimize waste.

Sonia's journey began with her own family's efforts to reduce plastic use. "We got super into bulking and finding creative products to help us reduce waste at home," she shared. "That's how I discovered most of the brands and products we sell in the store."

Home/Work has become a community hub for those committed to sustainability. Sonia is proud of her store's reputation for offering high-quality, sustainable products. "People visit Home/Work because they know they can find what they need," she said. "I love steering people looking for gifts towards these products, hoping it ignites a new passion for living a sustainable lifestyle."

Support local, shop sustainably, and make a positive impact! Learn more about Plastic Free July and how to join your neighbors in reducing waste and preventing litter.

Be Part of Plastic-Free July



Homelessness Response Strategic Plan 2024–27 Moves Forward

Last winter, the City began a strategic planning process to guide our homelessness response work with the goal of creating an enhanced, collaborative, and coordinated action plan to eliminate homelessness in our community.

The 2024 Homelessness Response Strategic Plan builds on our work over the past two years and provides a compassionate approach that supports people moving from encampments into more stable housing and rebuilding their lives. Priorities in the plan include affordable housing, shelter, outreach, and management of large camps that pose health and safety risks. The plan focuses on community safety, support and care for those in need, and environmental stewardship.

These ongoing efforts led to a remarkable 29% decrease in homelessness in 2023*— a testament to the effectiveness of our data-driven approach.

Progress in Action

- 165 tent-based safe sleeping spaces

- 121 people moved to more stable housing
- 776 people served in the shelter and safe parking programs
- 960 new affordable housing units
- 725 emergency beds provided during severe weather events
- 109 people have reconnected with family and friends

We made a significant impact over the past year, but there is still so much work to be done.

If you would like to learn more or get involved, please visit our**website**. There, you can read our **Strategic Plan**, learn more about our programs and partners, and**subscribe to our newsletter** to stay up to date.

*2023 Point in Time Count



Celebrate Lake Appreciation Month at Loch Lomond Reservoir with the Santa Cruz Water Department!

Located in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Loch Lomond Reservoir serves as vital water storage for our community. In fact, it's the only reservoir in our water system and helps us ensure a reliable water supply year-round.

Beyond its critical role, Loch Lomond offers a picturesque setting for outdoor enthusiasts, with activities such as boating, fishing, and picnicking available at its scenic recreation area.

Join us for the **Secchi Dip-In on Saturday, July 27, from 10 AM to 12 PM**, where you can participate in a hands-on water quality monitoring activity. Learn about the health of our reservoir and enjoy a day amidst nature's beauty at Loch Lomond!

This activity is limited to 25 people. Call (831) 335-7424 to reserve your spot! Entry fees to the park will be waived for all participants.

Plan Your Trip!

Santa Cruz Police Welcomes Three New Officers

We are excited to introduce Gabriel Rodriguez, Cyrus Kamkar, and Christian Barnett as the newest members of the SCPD family! Join us in congratulating these dedicated individuals as they embark on their careers in public safety.

It is always an honor to swear in new officers to our agency. Thank you, Officers Rodriguez, Kamkar, and Barnett, for choosing to serve and protect our community.





Santa Cruz Police Honors Officer Salvador Luna as Employee of the Month

Officer Luna was awarded Employee of the Month for his outstanding dedication and investigative skills, proving he is more than just a beat cop—a role that is already challenging in itself.

In October 2023, Officer Luna responded to a burglary with a dedicated follow-through to solve the crime. Using innovative techniques, he utilized a tracking device embedded in one of the stolen items to trace the property to a location in San Jose. He then authored and executed a search warrant. On May 30, 2024, his efforts led to the recovery of over $5,000 worth of stolen property.

"Officer Luna's dedication and investigative skills have greatly contributed to the recovery of significant stolen property. His commitment to a thorough investigation in a case lasting several months sets an excellent standard for the department," said Chief Escalante.

The Department is Hiring

Contact Deputy Chief Bush at (831) 420-5874 or jbush@cityofsantacruz.com to learn more about police career opportunities. Benefits include:

- PO trainee signing bonus
- Competitive salary & benefits
- Expedited hiring process
- Paid training & academy tuition

Join Santa Cruz PD

Go for a Group Stroll on the Santa Cruz Riverwalk!

Enjoy a wonderful stroll along the Riverwalk with Coastal Watershed Council staff. Leashed dogs are welcome. The terrain is easy, making it suitable for all fitness levels.

When: Tuesday, July 16 and Thursday, July 18, from 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Where: Chinatown Gate pedestrian bridge on River Street across from Trader Joe's

For more information, contact the Walking Adventure Group at (831) 420-6180.



FREE activities continue in July because July is Parks and Recreation Month!

Parks & Rec Events



Bonjour! French Sister City Flag Flies in Santa Cruz

This week, Parks and Recreation displays the French flag and the City flag of Biarritz alongside our own to welcome our Sister Cities Delegation from Biarritz, France! Santa Cruz Sister Cities Committee operates under the umbrella of the Parks and Recreation Department to create successful programs that promote cross-cultural partnerships between communities in different countries, aiming to create understanding and goodwill.



SC Junior Guards & Students from Biarritz Arrive in Santa Cruz

This week, the Sister Cities Committee is delighted to welcome the Santa Cruz junior guards returning from Biarritz.

We are also thrilled to welcome ten Biarritz student delegates as part of an annual exchange program. We extend our special thanks to the invaluable host families who provided homes for the delegates and played a crucial role in the success of the program!

BADGES Traffic Operation Focuses on Safety in Santa Cruz



Last week, the Santa Cruz Police Department hosted a multi-agency deployment day, with twelve traffic officers in a "BADGES Operation" focused on traffic safety awareness and enforcement within the city.

During the operation, officers conducted over 100 enforcement stops and issued 98 citations for various violations. The traffic stops targeted moving violations and bicycle/e-bike infractions.

By partnering with neighboring law enforcement agencies, this collaborative effort aims to concentrate resources and cover more ground, significantly enhancing traffic safety and contributing to the overall safety of our streets. Santa Cruz Police remains committed to these multi-agency saturation deployments and will continue to support such efforts throughout Santa Cruz County in 2024.

BADGES, which stands for "Before Aggressive Drivers Get Everyone Stopped," is an initiative that unites allied agencies to boost traffic safety awareness and enforcement in problematic areas across Santa Cruz County. Participating agencies include the Santa Cruz Police Department, Capitola Police Department, Watsonville Police Department, Scotts Valley Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol.



Front-Spruce-Pacific Sewer Rehabilitation Project

The Public Works Department has started the **Front-Spruce-Pacific Sewer Rehabilitation Project**. This essential project involves replacing a critical sewer pipe from KP Arena to Neary Lagoon, which is the largest influent pipe directing sewage to the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility. With the pipe nearing the end of its operational life, this replacement is crucial for maintaining efficient wastewater treatment.

Next week, the contractor will begin setting up traffic controls around the work areas. While no full road closures are planned, the community may experience some traffic delays. We understand that summer traffic disruptions are inconvenient, but the work must be done during this season to take advantage of the lowest sewer flows. Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

For a project map and FAQs, please visit our **website.**

Learn More



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