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April 3, 2025

City Lifeguards and Public Safety Personnel Honored with Lifesaving Awards



At last week's Spring California Surf Lifesaving Association (CSLSA) Board of Directors meeting, several City of Santa Cruz lifeguards and public safety personnel were honored for their exceptional lifesaving efforts during a critical water rescue on July 16, 2024. Recognized by both CSLSA and the United States Lifesaving Association, these awards highlight the dedication and skill of those who keep our community safe. We thank these brave and quick responders for their lifesaving actions!

- **Brendan Daly** received the Medal of Valor for his extraordinary bravery.
- For his courageous actions, **Carter Baginski** was honored with the Heroic Act Award.
- **Captain Bodine** and **Probationary Firefighter Rodger** will receive Meritorious Act Awards for their outstanding service.

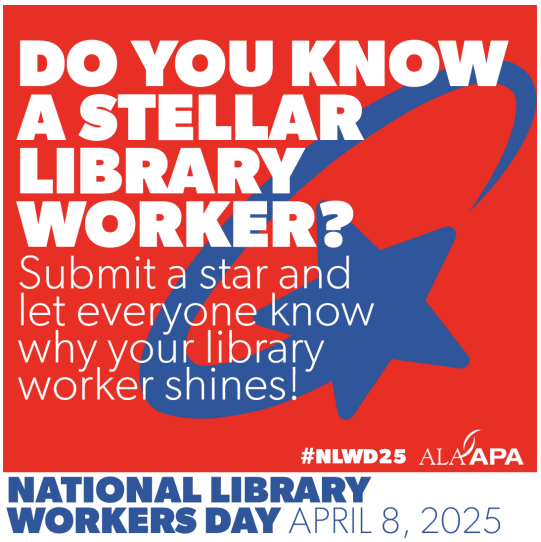
The City's Parks and Recreation, Public Safety Team, and leadership are proud to support and collaborate with our dedicated ocean safety professionals who work tirelessly to protect residents and visitors along our coastline. Congratulations to all award recipients!

National Library Week - Nominate a Stellar Library Worker!

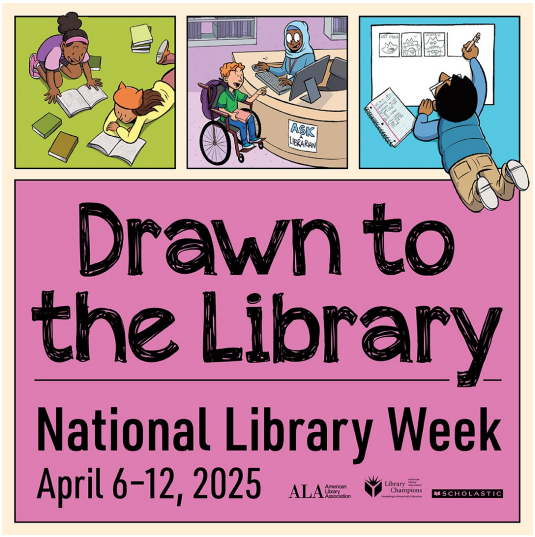
National Library Week — April 6–12, 2025 — is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. National Library Workers Day — April 8th — is a day for library staff, users,

administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. Now is the perfect time to highlight the critical role library workers play in keeping our libraries running. Join us in recognizing the amazing STARS who work in libraries.

Nominate a STAR Library Worker Today!



NATIONAL LIBRARY WORKERS DAY APRIL 8, 2025



Help Improve the City's Active Transportation Plan

The City of Santa Cruz is updating its Active Transportation Plan, and we want to hear from you! Share your thoughts on how we can improve walking, biking, and rolling in our community. Your input will ensure that the updated plan represents what the community wants and needs.



Share Your Input Now!



Take the Survey!

Santa Cruz PRIDE Parade Celebrates 50th Anniversary with Public Art

The City will soon have ten new pieces of public art adorning traffic signal boxes around town, painted by local artists. To commemorate and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first PRIDE parade in Santa Cruz, City Arts and the City Arts Commission collaborated with Santa Cruz Pride on this new initiative. These partners selected ten vibrant designs that showcase the history and express authentic, diverse viewpoints from the LGBTQIA+ experience. For two weeks in April,

follow the progress as these artists transform our intersection traffic cabinets into works of art! Visit Santa Cruz Pride for all their celebrations planned culminating to the downtown parade June 1, 2025 and Queer Santa Cruz for more on the rich history of our local community.



Traffic Safety Box Art
PRIDE Parade
50th Anniversary
Artist Jessica Carmen



Traffic Safety Box Art
PRIDE Parade
50th Anniversary
Artist Ty Brown



Traffic Safety Box Art
PRIDE Parade
50th Anniversary
Artist Melissa West

Learn More About Upcoming PRIDE Events!

Apply to be a Youth Member on the City's New Sustainability and Resiliency Committee



The City is recruiting one at-large youth resident member (age 24 or younger) to serve on the new Sustainability and Resiliency Committee. Applicants should have an interest or expertise in climate advocacy, transportation, water, trees, waste, buildings, energy, or resiliency. This is a pilot committee that will serve as an advisory body to the Santa Cruz City Council on climate and resiliency, helping to guide operational decisions and implementation of initiatives to reach climate and resiliency goals. The committee will meet quarterly for 18 months, and stipends are available. Apply by April 28.

Apply Now!

Inaugural Santa Cruz Small Business Camp a Success!

Kicking off at the Museum of Art and History with a musical performance by Alwa Gordon and a keynote address by Jared Truby of Cat and Cloud Coffee, the inaugural Santa



Cruz Small Business Camp launched on March 21st. A gathering of local businesses, old and new, the event featured intimate fireside-chat sessions hosted at various locations in Downtown Santa Cruz, like Rosie McCanns, M.K. Contemporary, Cruzio, Minnow Arts, Pleasure Pizza, Botanic and Lux, and more. After all sessions concluded, the group was brought back together at Kuumbwa Jazz Center for a chance for participants to get their final burning questions answered during an "Ask Me Anything" panel of all workshop hosts.

Produced by Event Santa Cruz, Small Business Camp was made possible by partners Santa Cruz Community Credit Union; Downtown Association of Santa Cruz; Brereton, Mohamed, & Korte LLP; Lookout Santa Cruz; Santa Cruz Works; Think Local First Santa Cruz; Wynn Capitol Management; and the City of Santa Cruz Economic Development & Housing Department.

Parks & Recreation Restores Tarplants at Arana Gulch



Have you noticed the recent addition of tarplants to Arana Gulch? Parks and Recreation planted more than 1,000 Santa Cruz tarplant seedlings in experimental plots as part of an ongoing restoration effort. This federally threatened and California-endangered species has seen a dramatic decline in recent years, dropping from more than 10,000 plants in the early 2000s to fewer than 250.

Through strategic restoration efforts, we aim to reestablish a sustainable native seed bank and support the long-term recovery of this rare species. This project reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship across parks, open spaces, beaches, and urban forests, helping to preserve biodiversity and ecological health.

This initiative is a collaboration between the UC Santa Cruz Greenhouses, the Arana Gulch Adaptive Management Working Group, and various environmental agencies, including the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Native Plant Society, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and consulting biologists.

Thank you for your support in protecting and restoring our natural spaces!

The 2025 Summer Activity Guide Is Here!

Get ready for an action-packed summer! The 2025 Summer Activity Guide is now available online, featuring an incredible lineup of programs, classes, and events for all ages. Whether you're looking for adventure camps, Junior Guards, sports leagues, arts and crafts, or family-friendly activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



Mark your calendars! Online registration opens April 12 at 8:00 AM for City residents and 10:00 AM for non-residents. **Popular programs fill up fast, so be sure to sign up early.**

Stay active, explore new interests, and make unforgettable memories this summer. View the guide today and start planning your best summer yet!

For questions, contact us at 831-420-5270 or parksandrec@santacruzca.gov. Join Parks and Recreation—the heartbeat of Santa Cruz—and make this summer one to remember!

2025 Summer Activity Guide



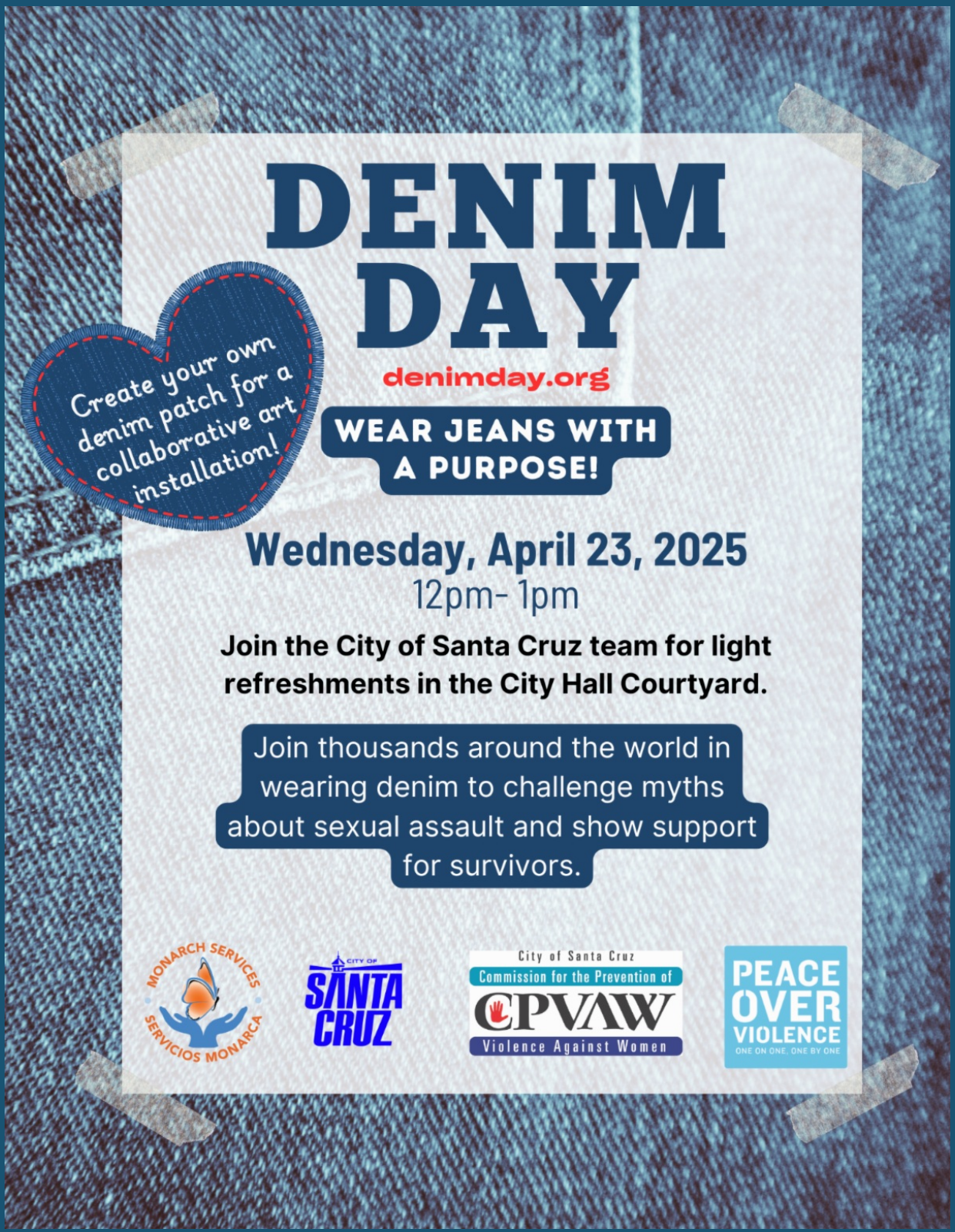
SANTA CRUZ DOWNTOWN LIBRARY & AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Getting the City Hall Rose Garden Ready



Neighborhood Parks staff have been preparing the City Hall Rose Garden for the season — pruning, mulching, and improving the soil to set up the roses for a strong bloom. In Santa Cruz, roses typically hit their stride in May and June. This early care helps to prevent pests and promotes healthy, vibrant flowers throughout the summer. One key tip for home gardeners: after pruning, apply a layer of organic mulch around the base of your roses to help retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.

Preparing the City Hall Rose Garden is a yearly tradition that makes the garden vibrant and looks great for everyone passing through to enjoy. Thank you to our Neighborhood Parks staff for their great work!



Sign Up for Murray Street Bridge Project Updates

Stay informed about the Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit and Barrier Replacement Project by visiting the project website at cityofsantacruz.com/msb.

Sign up to receive email updates and follow the City of Santa Cruz Public Works on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected to project news.



Sign Up for Project Emails

Apply for a Special Events Grant to Receive Up to $2,500

Applications are open for the Special Event Grant Program for fiscal year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

Grants offer up to $2,500 to support events that enhance Santa Cruz's vibrancy and community well-being.

To be eligible to receive a grant, events must be held in Santa Cruz city limits, be previously held or newly established, and comply with City policies. Applicants must be Santa Cruz-based or demonstrate clear community benefits for the Santa Cruz community.

Apply by April 16. Awards will be announced on June 2.



Santa Cruz Pride is a previous recipient of a City of Santa Cruz Special Event Grant.

Learn More & Apply Today!

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