

# OUR TOWN

October 2017



*Newsletter* OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE

## RESIDENTS TAKE-ON RECYCLING

DID YOU KNOW THAT OVER HALF OF OUR "TRASH" IS ACTUALLY RECYCLABLE?



Watsonville residents can increase their recycling by taking advantage of the City's Free Curbside Recycling Program and reduce their garbage bill when choosing a smaller garbage cart. Not only will you save money, but you are allowing recyclable materials to begin a new life instead of getting buried in the landfill.

Recycling is mandatory and it should be done according to posted guidelines. Avoid a contamination fine by making sure your blue cart only includes materials that can actually be recycled. Rinsing your recyclables is not required but it makes the recycling process cleaner and easier. Employees regularly check your recycling cart for compliance.

The Peña family is a great local example who was able to lower their utility bill while helping to conserve valuable space in the landfill. They learned about recycling at our Watsonville Earth Day event years ago. Since then, recycling has gradually become a habit and a way-of-life in their family. Over time, they have been able to reduce their waste by 80%. Thank you to the Peña family for doing your part. **For more information on how to reduce your waste/recycle properly, please visit the City's Nature Center located on 30 Harkins Slough Rd or call 831-768-1622.**

## Pink Patch Project

In support of breast cancer awareness month, Watsonville Police Officers will wear pink police patches on their police uniforms for the month of October.

The pink patches are intended to generate conversation with the community and to encourage public awareness about the importance of early detection and the on-going fight against this disease. Most importantly, the pink patches are intended to show our support and unity with those who are affected. The pink patches are being sold at the Watsonville Police Department for \$10.00 each. All proceeds will be donated to breast cancer research.

During the month of October, we invite you to find a police officer wearing pink patches in the community and take a picture with him/her with your pink patch in hand. We also ask that you send those pictures to our Facebook page so that we can share with the rest of the community, showing that the entire community stands with those affected.



KEEPING UP WITH WATSONVILLE

NEWS



Text to 9-1-1 will provide another means for the public to report emergency incidents requiring a law enforcement, fire protection or an emergency medical response. The slogan **"CALL IF YOU CAN, TEXT IF YOU CAN'T"** targets the deaf and hard of hearing or speech impaired community or those who are in a situation where they cannot speak. Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito County Emergency Communications Centers implemented the Text to 9-1-1 capability a few months ago.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE?



Old computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, phones, copiers, and fax machines are considered electronic waste and cannot be disposed of in the trash or recycle bins. Some of these items contain lead, mercury, arsenic and other heavy metals and chemicals that must be kept out of our landfill.

**Nonfunctioning electronics should be recycled by a qualified organization**

**Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center**  
320 Harvest Dr. 831-768-3133

**A&S Metals**  
1080 W. Beach Street 831-722-3597

## WATSONVILLE'S CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Community Development Department has recently added a new Enforcement Officer which has allowed the City to implement a more proactive enforcement approach with an emphasis in the downtown area and business corridors including Freedom Boulevard.

Code Enforcement was established to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing standards governing the condition, maintenance, and appearance of all residential and nonresidential properties within the Watsonville city limits. These are the standards that our Code Enforcement Officers enforce on a daily basis. For example:

### Property Maintenance

Respond to complaints that allege violations of the City of Watsonville Property Maintenance guidelines; such as:

- Parking of vehicles on the front lawn
- Movable or temporary structures such as tents, canopies, or storage sheds erected in an area visible from the public right of way
- Broken windows on a residential or commercial building
- Storage of furniture, appliances, trash, and debris in the front yard
- Overgrown or neglected landscaping
- Abandoned vehicles on private property
- Non-permitted signage

These guidelines were established to ensure that properties do not reach a state to cause depreciation of surrounding properties. Our Code Enforcement Officers also have a duty to respond to complaints that allege violations of the Health and Safety, and California Building Codes.



### More Examples of Code Enforcement:

#### Substandard Housing:

A housing unit can be declared substandard if the housing unit lacks running water to the plumbing fixtures, lacks a water closet, lavatory, shower or bathtub, or lack an adequate heating device.

#### Illegal Construction:

No building or structure shall be constructed enlarged, altered, repaired, improved, or removed without first obtaining appropriate building permits. When our Code Officers identify this type of violation a Stop Work Order is issued. Work is only allowed to recommence once proper permits are obtained.

#### Non-permitted Dwellings:

Garages and storage sheds that are converted into habitable space without proper permits and inspections are declared Dangerous and the occupants are not allowed to remain in those units.

For questions, concerns or when you see a violation please do not hesitate to call (831) 768-3050, or visit our office at 250 Main Street.

Complaints can also be filed electronically by visiting our website at [www.cityofwatsonville.org](http://www.cityofwatsonville.org)

Please be advised that all complainant information is strictly confidential and is used for internal use only.

## NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

National Community Planning Month



October 2017  
#PlanningMonth

The planning process is essential for preserving and developing thriving, vibrant communities. Planning provides a roadmap for the community, addressing today's challenges while also envisioning what we want our community to be in the future. This involves working together, taking innovative, community based approaches to topics such as transportation, economic development, housing, and recreation. It is planning that creates communities that are healthy, safe and resilient.

Established in 2006, National Community Planning Month is celebrated each October as a way to highlight the role of planners and the importance of good planning in our communities.

Each year, a theme is identified to help a community highlight an aspect or outcome of planning. This year, the theme is innovation in planning. Planning plays an important role in addressing and adapting to the challenges faced by communities in the 21st century. From using data sources and technology to address issues including inequality, access to transportation and social mobility to celebrating new approaches to creating communities of lasting value.

For more information: (831) 768-3050



### CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

The Watsonville Environmental Science Workshop celebrates twenty years of providing free learning experiences to thousands of local children and parents.

Children learn science and engineering by using their imagination to build projects. Thanks to the generous contributions from donors, the Science Workshop can continue to bring hands-on experiences to these children.

#### For more information

[darren.gertler@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:darren.gertler@cityofwatsonville.org)  
831.768.3256

[www.cityofwatsonville.org/706/  
Environmental-Science-Workshop](http://www.cityofwatsonville.org/706/Environmental-Science-Workshop)

Tuesday - Friday: After School  
Saturdays: 11am - 4pm

