



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

March 2022



Celebrating 50 years of Meals on Wheels Champions

Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County is celebrating 50 years of nutrition programming during Community Champions Week, a nationwide effort to help raise awareness for the importance of nutrition services for older adults. We are grateful to the many local elected officials and first responders that help deliver meals and visit seniors during this annual celebration.

On March 22, 1972, President Nixon amended the Older Americans Act to establish congregate dining and home-delivered meal service for seniors 60 years and older to address food insecurity and social isolation experienced by aging populations. Sadly, federal funding has not kept pace with the rapidly growing need for these services. You can help by clicking [here](#) to donate \$50 to provide a week of meals for a local senior and celebrate 50 years helping older Americans to maintain their independence and health.

We are also proud to announce the re-opening of dining sites where participants can once again visit friends and enjoy healthy weekday meals with Covid-19 safety precautions in place. Dining sites include Live Oak Senior Center for curbside pickup, London Nelson Senior Center in Santa Cruz, Highlands Park Senior Center in Ben Lomond, and Watsonville Senior Center. Meal service offered on Wednesdays at Scotts Valley Senior Center will reopen upon further notice.



Elderday Coming to Watsonville

Elderday is breaking ground on facility renovations for a brand new location in Watsonville. Elderday will make the move from Santa Cruz to Watsonville after the remodel is complete in early 2023.

The new facility will allow Elderday to offer a broader mix of patient services in a larger more modern adult day health care space. The new building – located at 501 Main St. in Watsonville – will join Community Bridges family of services on its south county campus. They include programs that provide whole family services like La Manzana, one of our Family Resource Centers, WIC (Women, Infants, & Children benefits), and CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program).

Close coordination with other benefit programs is an effective way to offer respite to caregivers who are supporting both younger and older family members and may need services for other members of their family. Community Bridges helps clients navigate challenges across all phase and stages of life.

The new facility will offer an additional 3000 square foot of space for programs and supportive care. It was purchased thanks to a \$2.5 million grant provided by Central California Alliance for Health.

The groundbreaking event will be held in the courtyard behind 501 Main Street in Watsonville on Friday, March 25 at 11 a.m. Speakers include Santa Cruz County Supervisor Greg Caput, Central California Alliance for Health CEO Stephanie Sonnenshine, and other local leaders.

The larger facility will need new furnishings, crafts supplies, and activities to help support Santa Cruz County's older adults. If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please visit communitybridges.org/donate/

Ray's Corner



No One Should Lose Their Home Because They “Stayed” Home

At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic we told everyone to stay home. For many people this meant not being able to pay their rent. The Federal and State eviction moratoriums were intended to protect our most vulnerable from losing their homes while we navigated these challenges. They end on March 31 but there are still hundreds of Santa Cruz County residents waiting for rental relief benefits that were promised to them at the start of the pandemic but are yet to arrive.

Santa Cruz County can extend the local eviction moratorium for the 2,005 local families who have applied for

“Housing is Key” benefits but have yet to receive a payment from the state. This doesn’t cost Santa Cruz County taxpayers anything. The county has received a significant amount of one-time only state and federal funding during the pandemic, which it has used to address long-needed capital projects, road repairs, and furloughs. Worthy projects, but among many that have universal benefits. Extending the moratorium can protect those left most vulnerable in our county and would be far more reaching than any local funding amount.

Email your County Supervisor and ask them to consider a local extension of the eviction moratorium to keep Santa Cruz County families in their homes especially those who have applied for the states “Housing is key” program.

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Community Bridges is an exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN #94-2460211. Donations are tax deductible in excess of the value of any goods or services provided in exchange for your contribution.