



The Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County team cooks up delicious food for hundreds of seniors throughout the county each week day.

Progress toward a permanent kitchen

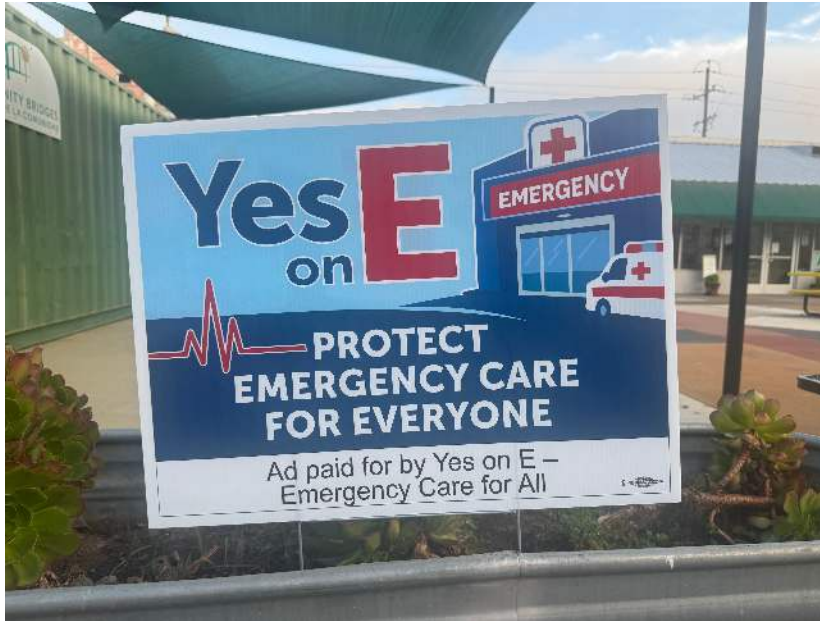
We are proud to announce that the California Legislature has approved a one-time investment of \$550,000 to help acquire a permanent production kitchen for Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County.

The investment was secured through the leadership of State Senator John Laird, Chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. It represents an important step toward the estimated \$5 million needed to establish a permanent home for our Meals on Wheels food production. This initial investment will allow us to acquire and purchase a property for the future kitchen site.

The kitchen is central to our ability to prepare and provide meals for older adults across the county through the Meals on Wheels program. A permanent production kitchen will help us strengthen service continuity, expand capacity, and respond sustainably to the growing number of older adults who depend on nutritious meals, wellness checks, and caring human connections.

We extend our deep thanks to Sen. Laird for helping secure this funding. If you'd like to learn more about our effort to establish a permanent production kitchen, please [contact our team at: donations@cbridges.org](mailto:donations@cbridges.org).

Why we support Measure E



Community Bridges Board of Directors has approved a resolution in support of Measure E, the temporary sales tax on the November 3 ballot.

Federal funding reductions associated with the H.R. 1 budget bill are expected to significantly affect Medi-Cal, nutrition assistance, healthcare, and other services used by Community Bridges participants, especially older adults who rely on programs like Meals on Wheels.

Santa Cruz County estimates funding for local healthcare and safety-net programs could be reduced by more than \$200 million annually as a result of federal budget cuts. The scale of the anticipated Medi-Cal and safety-net reductions presents a great risk to our community, and voting for Measure E offers one way to help address that threat.

The Community Bridges Board of Directors recently approved a resolution of support for Measure E. It would not replace the full local loss of funding, but it could help preserve essential services and reduce the likelihood that vulnerable residents experience simultaneous reductions across multiple support systems.

Measure E would establish a temporary, countywide 0.5% sales tax from April 1, 2027, through April 1, 2032. This is a proposed increase across Santa Cruz County.

The revenue would be deposited into the county general fund and could be used for any lawful county purpose approved by the county Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has identified healthcare, emergency medical services, food security, behavioral health, housing stability, and other safety-net services as priorities.

Community Bridges urges the Board of Supervisors to pair the measure with transparent annual reporting and specific, visible community investments. We are advocating for Measure E to fund

News and Notes

We're looking for volunteer drivers to help deliver meals and support local seniors. If you've been thinking about making a difference in your community, now is the perfect time to get involved.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply today and start changing lives!

In the Press

Click the headlines below to read local and national news affecting county residents.

[Yes on Measure E campaign kicks off in Santa Cruz County](#)

[Watsonville Hospital facing closure as staff urges financial improvements](#)

[Santa Cruz strawberries had a \\$61 million year. Here's what drove the surge](#)

[Community Bridges built ECM to prevent health crises. Now the state funding is shifting and we have to close the program](#)

up to \$1 million to eliminate the Meals on Wheels waitlist in Santa Cruz County, ensuring older adults can receive nutrition and wellness support before their needs become crises. This investment would give residents clear, measurable evidence that the tax is protecting people most affected by federal funding reductions.

We encourage you to [learn more about Measure E](#) and vote yes on it in the November 3 general election. We also hope you will advocate to [your county supervisor](#) that they should prioritize a portion of the funding for older adult nutrition, helping sustain the Meals on Wheels promise of empowering older adults to age with dignity, security, and caring connections.

Other options would be to remove this and add our survey data to emphasize impact or to reframe to say that if Measure E passes would would have a locally-accountable tool to end our waitlist.

—Ray Cancino, CEO, Community Bridges



Roasted root vegetables recipe

Let root veggies shine! Bring out the flavor of sweet potatoes, carrots, and more in this recipe.

Ingredients

- 1 sweet potato (chopped)
- 1 rutabaga (chopped)
- 1 onion (chopped)

- 1 potato (chopped)
- 2 carrots (chopped)
- 1 turnip (chopped)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 ounces Parmesan cheese (grated)
- 1/4 ounce garlic powder
- 1/4 ounce sage (ground)
- 1/4 ounce rosemary (dried)

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 350°F.
2. Evenly spread all vegetables on a baking sheet or baking dish. Drizzle oil and seasonings over vegetables. Toss to combine.
3. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until all vegetables are tender.
4. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese before serving.

Source: Nutrition.gov

Thank you for your ongoing support. Your kindness is transforming our community.

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