

Hello All FFF Supporters ~

There are now 161 of you receiving this newsletter. Several residents have contacted us recently and asked to have their names added to our [Supporters page](#) or to receive updates -- or both. Let's welcome all of them and thank them for their engagement with us in this issue.

The #13 FFF newsletter had all good news. For the most part, this newsletter does also.

County Media Outreach

On May 10th the Board of Supervisors voted to create specific policies and directives to deal with fireworks. Soon after that vote, the County assigned a member of County staff (Jason Hoppin) to coordinate media outreach. Jason has been busy ever since!

The first Sentinel article was just two weeks after the BOS vote on our recommendations. The headline read "*Santa Cruz County Memorial Day visitors advised to play safely.*" Using the Memorial Day weekend as a run up to the July 4th weekend to begin the process of enhanced public education worked well. Though there were still some fireworks, they were greatly reduced from the 2015 Memorial Day weekend.

On June 15, another Sentinel story appeared. This time it was about the Citizen Connect cellphone application that can be used to report illegal fireworks ("*Santa Cruz County residents can report fireworks by cellphone app*"). Recall that we were initially told it wouldn't be available for fireworks reports. They changed their minds and it was probably due to our original request that it be considered. Keep in mind that the app does not work for the incorporated cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Capitola or Watsonville. Using 9-1-1 is still best for residents of those four cities.

Hoppin also produced a *Public Service Announcement* that is currently being broadcast on television. It is terrific and is available to view on YouTube -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIzbM5MvudE> . Be sure to share it with your Santa Cruz family and friends!

As mentioned in our #13 newsletter, the County installed at least one sign (on 7th Avenue near Eaton) on June 16 to advise motorists that fireworks are illegal in SC County. Has anyone else seen another such sign on any other roadway?

Other Media Outreach

Besides the County's outreach, many residents are spreading the word about fireworks:

- Several recent forums on Next Door
- Letters-to-the-Editor
- Our [FFF Facebook page](#)

- Another [excellent article](#) by FFF supporter Rachel Wooster

Two FFF supporters are printing flyers and distributing them throughout the Live Oak area. If anyone wants to print a flyer, two documents are attached, one for the City and another for the County. Download the pdf file to your desktop and print it.

All efforts have kept the message about fireworks front and center. All public education methods mentioned in this newsletter can be seen on the FFF web site [News and Articles page](#).

City of Santa Cruz Activity

In a response to a query I sent, SCPD's Lt. Dan Flippo responded quickly. Those of you who live within SC City limits will be pleased to see what Lt. Flippo wrote (on June 21):

"We will be putting out mobile message boards advising the public that fireworks are illegal. I am working with the CHP to see if we can get something placed on the summit. I know that I cannot use the Highway Alert boards but will see if I can get a mobile sign deployed closer to the county line. I am also going to see about getting the mobile message boards set up for the entire weekend not just the 4th.

"I am also working with my Press Information Officer to get a media release out as far as the central valley advising that fireworks are illegal in Santa Cruz. We are working with the Sheriff's office on this message.

"I have every available officer working on the weekend of the 4th and have directed more officers further into neighborhoods for fireworks enforcement. I still have to deal with the sizeable crowds on our beaches, east cliff point, and the west side. I have staffed more officers to work than last year thanks to more robust staffing levels. I have also hired additional security staff to dissuade firework use throughout the coastal area.

"The City Manager's office has already approved the triple fine enhancement for the entire city of Santa Cruz which we will be advertising in our media release.

"I am meeting with some neighborhood groups to address concerns in their neighborhoods and, based upon their complaints, still have to deal with the high density crowds and traffic that will increase over the weekend.

"I believe the Police Department's approach has improved over the years and we will continue to work with on improvements. I will continue to address the issue of fireworks, but I also have to address the fights, drunks, gang stabbings, and other disturbances that increase in some of our neighborhoods over this holiday weekend."

Sheriff Deputies have said they will accept tips before the Fourth of July about properties where fireworks have been lit in the past. Several such tips have been passed along to the Sheriff. If any of you have any other tips, please send them. I will list them in one email and get it to the Sheriff asap. Same thing with tips for the City of Santa Cruz. Tips will go to SCPD's Flippo.

The Only Bad News So Far

Residents of the City of Salinas (Monterey County) voted to undo the ban on so-called safe and sane fireworks. Last year the Salinas City Council (at the urging of the fire marshal and law enforcement) had established the prohibition in an attempt to deal with out-of-control fireworks. Concerns by many residents about litter, noise and safety problems were voiced. The fireworks industry (TNT, Inc.) spent beaucoup bucks backing the Measure C initiative. Dang. That's a step backward. For now, however, the ban for this year remains ("*The city ordinance is still in effect and we do intend to enforce it,*" Deputy Chief David Shaw said.).

Our next e-newsletter will be published after the July 4th weekend.

For a truly safe and sane holiday,

Jean

[Freedom From Fireworks](#)