

The *San Benito Seniors Connect* newsletter is an initiative of the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, made possible by federal, state, and local funding, including private grants and donations.



In collaboration with the Community Foundation for San Benito County, this newsletter supports programs and services that enrich the lives of our seniors. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected community.



Your Monthly News & Updates

San Benito County Seniors Connect Newsletter

Volunteer Spotlight:

Make a Difference in San Benito County

This month, we're proud to recognize Robert Connolly and his commitment to giving back through the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT).

For Robert, volunteering is about more than giving his time—it's about continuing a family legacy of service and setting a positive example for his grandchildren. His dedication to SBALT helps protect local agricultural lands, preserve open space, and maintain the rural character that makes San Benito County so special.

Thank you, Robert, for showing how volunteering can make a difference today while inspiring the next generation! 

☀️ Visit www.sbcvolunteers.org to browse volunteer opportunities, register as a volunteer, or find organizations looking for caring community members just like you.

**Your time can change someone's day—
and strengthen our community.**

I Volunteer BECAUSE...

“

I volunteer because I see my work with **SBALT** as part of a legacy of service that is a tradition in my family as well as being a positive role model for my 3 grandchildren who have seen firsthand the work that SBALT is engaged in it's Mission (*The Mission of the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust is to conserve regionally significant lands that sustain productive agriculture, preserve open space, and maintain the rural character of the county*).

I recognize the privilege of having the time, energy and resources to devote to volunteer work in my post professional years that ironically started as a first responder volunteer many years ago.

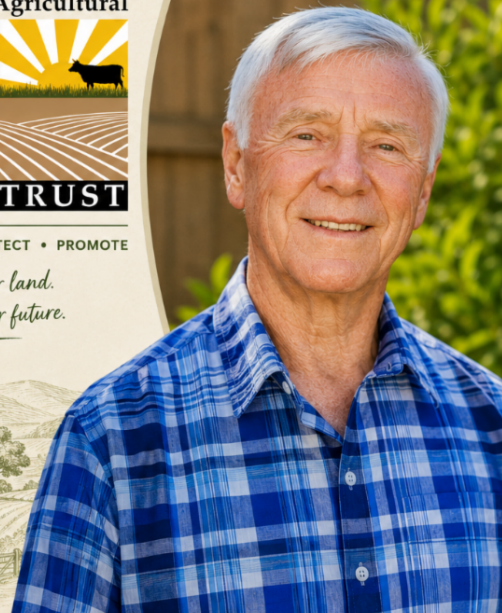
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San Benito Agricultural™



PRESERVE • PROTECT • PROMOTE

*Conserving our land.
Sustaining our future.*



CONSERVE
OUR LANDS



SUSTAIN
AGRICULTURE



PRESERVE
OPEN SPACE



MAINTAIN OUR
RURAL CHARACTER



SAN BENITO
SENIORS CONNECT

Connecting, Informing &
Empowering San Benito
County Seniors

Looking for a way to get outdoors, meet others, and give back to our community? 🌿

The San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT) welcomes volunteers to its monthly **Ranch Days**, where community members can help with trail maintenance, barn clean-up, weeding, and other projects on protected lands near San Juan Bautista. Ranch Days may also include opportunities to hike and enjoy some of San Benito County's beautiful open spaces.

Everyone is welcome—come lend a hand and help preserve the lands that make San Benito County special! 💚

San Benito AgriculturalTM



Ranch Days

Work days and/or hikes on Nyland and Rancho
Larios protected lands near San Juan Bautista

The first Sunday of
every month from 9:00
a.m.-noon.



Register at
[www.sanbenitolandtrust.
org/ranch-days](http://www.sanbenitolandtrust.org/ranch-days).
Everyone Welcome!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY

SEPTEMBER 5

*Small Acts.
Big Impact.
Stronger Communities.*

The International Day of Charity is a global reminder of the power of kindness, compassion, and giving. It's a day to celebrate the people and organizations who work to make our communities stronger, healthier, and more connected.

*"Alone we can
do so little, together
we can do so much."*

— HELEN KELLER 



**GIVE
YOUR TIME**



**SHARE
YOUR TALENTS**



**SUPPORT
LOCAL CAUSES**



**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

A kinder, stronger community starts with all of us. 

We're proud to celebrate our own Wayne Norton!

Wayne, a longtime member of the Seniors Council Board of Directors, was recently appointed to the California Commission on Aging by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas. His years of advocacy for older adults — right here in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties — will now help inform aging policy at the statewide level.

Congratulations, Wayne! We're so proud to have your leadership, experience, and commitment to older adults representing our communities across California.



Meet Commissioner Wayne Norton

Wayne Norton brings more than two decades of hands-on advocacy for older adults to his new role as Commissioner, with a career that spans journalism, education, and long-term care ombudsman work before landing in aging policy.



Commissioner Norton was appointed to the California Commission on Aging by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas on July 7, 2026.



ADVOCATE. LEADER. COMMUNITY CHAMPION.

Former Staff Ombudsman and Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Coordinator with PSA 13 (Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties)

PSA 13 Area Agency on Aging Board – President & Vice President

Board of the California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association

San Benito County Aging & Long-Term Care Commission



MAKING AN IMPACT BEYOND AGING SERVICES

Elected Director, Aromas Water District

Co-founder, Aromas–San Juan Broadband Access Project (Secured \$29.4 million grant to expand internet access)

U.S. Army Veteran (Vietnam)

San Benito County Veteran of the Year (2020)

Master's in Education & Bachelor's in Journalism, San José State University



A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

From newspaper editor covering local politics and government, to education leader, to long-time ombudsman — community engagement has always been at the heart of his work.

Driving voters to the polls. Volunteering on campaigns. Building stronger communities.

For Commissioner Norton, service is more than a career — it's a lifelong commitment to building a more just and equitable society.

“I see the state's change in leadership as an important moment to advocate for advancing the MPA's goals. Helping California's Master Plan for Aging take hold at the local level is a priority I'm eager to champion.”

– COMMISSIONER WAYNE NORTON



FOCUSED ON WHAT MATTERS MOST

- ✓ Strengthening California's Master Plan for Aging at the local level
- ✓ Advancing policies that support older adults and their caregivers
- ✓ Building stronger, more connected communities across our state

THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER NORTON, FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO CALIFORNIA'S OLDER ADULTS!

💙 Our Foster Grandparents are in the news!

We're so excited to see the Foster Grandparent Program featured in the July 2026 Young at Heart edition of the Santa Cruz Sentinel!

The article, "Foster Grandparents Program benefits seniors and kids," shares the incredible impact Foster Grandparents are making in local classrooms—and how these special relationships benefit both generations. ❤️

A huge thank you to our amazing Foster Grandparents for the time, encouragement and heart they give to our community!



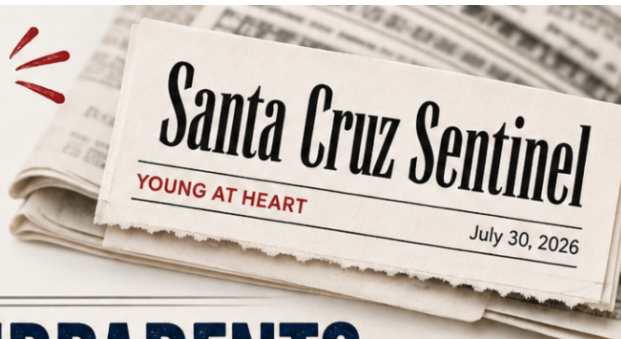
Read the Young at Heart special section here:

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/special-sections/>

Article by Tara Fatemi Walker | Santa Cruz Sentinel | July 30, 2026

In the News! 

❤️ Proud to be featured in the
YOUNG AT HEART section of the
Santa Cruz Sentinel!



FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

Program benefits seniors & kids ❤️

“ The Foster Grandparents Program connects older adults with local schools, giving students extra support and giving volunteers a meaningful way to share their time, wisdom, and heart. ”





MAKING A DIFFERENCE—
ONE CHILD & ONE SMILE
AT A TIME.

Thank you, Foster Grandparents! ❤️

 **READ THE FULL ARTICLE!**
Young at Heart – July 2026
Santa Cruz Sentinel

 [santacruzsentinel.com/special-sections/](https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/special-sections/)

❤️ **FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM** | *Changing lives. Strengthening communities.* ❤️

Foster Grandparent Program



SERVING SANTA CRUZ, SAN BENITO, MONTEREY, AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES

Foster Grandparents mentor and tutor students who are struggling academically and socially. The program connects role models like you with students who benefit from the caring connection you can provide. You'll be volunteering with young children in the classroom under a teacher's guidance. Anyone over 55 years old who is able to volunteer at least 15 hours per week can be a Foster Grandparent. Volunteers who meet the income requirement will earn a non-taxable stipend of approximately \$220 per month.



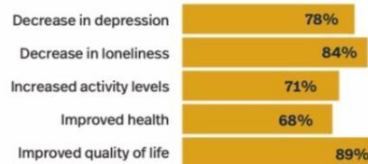
Improvement in Students Served by Foster Grandparents



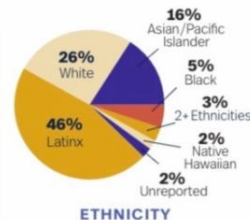
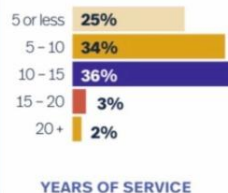
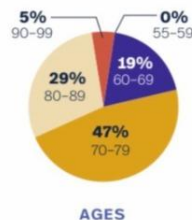
Foster Grandparent Program Benefits

- Tax-free stipend averaging \$220 per month
- Monthly training session with lunch provided
- Reimbursement for transportation costs
- A meal each day at the volunteer site or a cash subsidy
- Paid Time Off and Holidays
- Annual Recognition Luncheon and Gifts
- The satisfaction of helping children in your community

Our Volunteers Experience Improved Quality of Life



About Our Volunteers



seniorscouncil.org

(800) 945-0099 ext.112 (Toll free)

programspecialist@seniorscouncil.org

Did you Know?

September 21–25
is Falls Prevention Awareness Week!

Falls are not a normal part of aging. Staying active, improving strength and balance, making simple home safety changes, and talking with your healthcare provider about medications and vision can all help reduce your risk of falling.

And there's something happening locally! Our FREE Matter of Balance classes help older adults build confidence, improve balance, stay active, and learn practical ways to reduce fall risk.



Matter of Balance

Fall Prevention Classes

Build Confidence | Improve Balance | Reduce fall risk

**August 12, 19, 26,
Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

Wednesdays

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Prunedale Library:
17822 Moro Rd.
Prunedale, CA 93907**

You'll Learn To:

- View falls as controllable
- Build strength, and balance
- Make home safety changes
- Stay active and connected

Bonus for participants:

- Free snacks at every class
- Raffle prizes

Take the first step toward a stronger, more confident you!

REGISTER NOW!

(831) 427-5070



**A MATTER OF
BALANCE**
MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS



SERVICE • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY



VolunteerCenter
Connect for Good

Since releasing the San Benito County Master Plan for Aging Playbook, community partners have already begun putting ideas into action! From supporting caregivers to exploring new housing solutions, local efforts are shaping an age-friendly future one step at a time.

- 🏠 Housing for All Ages & Stages
- 👤 Health Reimagined
- 👐 Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation
- 👵 Caregiving That Works
- 💰 Affording Aging

San Benito County Master Plan for Aging Local Playbook 2024-2025



Pinnacles National Park in Paicines, San Benito County, California

 Keep an eye out as we highlight progress from each goal area in the months ahead.

[Read the full playbook CLICK HERE](#)



Community Foundation

FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

Prepared by the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties
and the Community Foundation for San Benito County.

From Idea to Action!

Through the San Benito County Master Plan for Aging, caregiver education and support was identified as an important community need. We're excited to see Gavilan College moving this work forward with its Elder Care Skills & Support Program, offering hands-on training for caregivers, healthcare students, and family members caring for older adults.



GAVILAN COLLEGE

Community & Continuing Education

FALL 2026

ELDER CARE SKILLS & SUPPORT PROGRAM

Training Today. Caring for Tomorrow. 



Hands-on training for caregivers, healthcare students, and family members caring for older adults.



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN



Essential daily caregiving techniques



Physical health monitoring



Mobility assistance



Basic rehabilitation support



Mental health support strategies



Alzheimer's & dementia care



Supporting chronic illness



Person-centered care



SATURDAYS

SEPTEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 5

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



HOLLISTER
CAMPUS
A-133



PRACTICAL SKILLS.
COMPASSIONATE
CARE.



TUITION
\$1,200
Payment plans
available.



REGISTER TODAY!

gavilan.edu/ce

or call 408.848.4732



Discover What's Possible This Fall 

Gavilan College is proud to provide education that strengthens our community and supports lifelong learning.



Hollister Campus



5055 Santa Teresa Blvd.,
Gilroy, CA 95020



gavilan.edu/ce

Upcoming Events and Classes SENIOR Focused



Tech Help Tuesdays at the Library

Need help with your phone, tablet, or laptop? You're not alone!

The San Benito County Free Library offers **Tech Help Tuesdays**, a free drop-in program where volunteers provide one-on-one assistance with everyday technology questions. Whether you're learning how to send photos, use email, download apps, connect to Wi-Fi, or navigate your device with more confidence, friendly volunteers are ready to help.

Bring your device and your questions—no appointment is necessary!

Tech Help Tuesdays



Every 3rd Tuesday of the month

- September 15, 2026



10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



San Benito County Free Library

470 Fifth Street

Hollister, CA 95023

Please Note:

- Bring your own phone, tablet, or laptop.
- Volunteers provide guidance and instruction only.
- Device repairs are not offered.

For more information, call the Library at [\(831\) 636-4107](tel:(831)636-4107).

Tech Help Tuesdays

AT THE LIBRARY

Join us every 3rd Tuesday for **Tech Help Tuesdays**, a free, drop-in clinic for hands-on help with phones, tablets, and laptops!



Dates

- Tuesday, August 18, 2026
- Tuesday, September 15, 2026
- Tuesday, October 20, 2026

10:30AM - 12:00PM



- Please bring your device and questions.
- Volunteers are available to help you with your cell phone, tablet or laptop.
- Guidance only - no device repairs provided.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL THE LIBRARY AT (831) 636-4107

Digital Literacy Program provided by



**470 FIFTH STREET
HOLLISTER, CA 95023**

✨ Looking for a relaxing and creative way to connect?

Join the Adult Knitting & Crochet Group at the San Benito County Free Library! 🧶💬 Whether you're brand new or a seasoned crafter, come share ideas, meet new friends, and enjoy some creative time together. 🧵🧤



ADULT KNITTING & CROCHET

EVERY TUESDAY

11 AM-1:00 PM

(**BARBARA ROOM**)

EVERY FRIDAY

11 AM-1:00 PM

(**BARBARA ROOM**)

Drop-ins
Welcome

ALL SKILL
LEVELS
WELCOME

470 Fifth Street,
Hollister, CA 95023

(831) 636-4107

✨ Looking for a gentle way to move, relax & recharge?

Join us every Wednesday for Qigong & Tai Chi in Hollister! 🌿
These slow, mindful movements can be modified for individual needs, making it a welcoming way to move your body, focus on your breathing, and enjoy some time for yourself. 🧘‍♀️ ✨

Qigong and Tai Chi

Slow & Gentle Exercises for Everyone

- ✦ Please arrive 15 minutes early
- ✦ There will be a 15 minute break between programs
- ✦ Modifiable for personal conditions
- ✦ Chi Gong @ 10:30 AM: An Ancient Chinese Health practice with slow repetitive body movements timed with breath
- ✦ Tai Chi @ 11:45 AM: Slow flowing movements through a set pattern of the Yang style 24 form.

*NOTE: A BIT MORE DIFFICULT



Times

Every Wednesday
10:30 AM Qigong
11:45 AM Tai Chi

Location

470 5th Street,
Hollister, CA 95023



Chair Yoga

San Benito County Free Library

470 Fifth Street, Hollister

For more information, visit us at www.sbcfl.org or call (831) 636-4107

Relaxing and rejuvenating Chair Yoga session designed especially for senior citizens! Whether you're looking to improve flexibility, reduce stress, or simply enjoy a peaceful hour, this program is perfect for you.



CHAIR YOGA

Instructor:
Alice Riordan

THURSDAYS 11:30-12:30



Upcoming Online Classes: Alzheimer's & Dementia Education

Topics include early warning signs, caregiving basics, communication, and healthy brain habits.

To register click [HERE](#) or call (800)272-3900

For on-demand recorded classes, click [HERE](#)

JOIN US IN JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association®



ENGLISH CLASSES

Exploring Care and Support Services

Tuesday, July 21, 10-11 a.m. | [Register](#)

Communicating Effectively

Thursday, July 30, 2-3 p.m. | [Register](#)

Navigating Dementia-From Diagnosis to Living Well

Thursday, August 13, 10-11 a.m. | [Register](#)

The Impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia in Our Community

Tuesday, August 25, Noon-12:30 p.m. | [Register](#)

Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

Thursday, September 10, 10-11 a.m. | [Register](#)

Building Brain-Healthy Habits

Tuesday, September 22, 2-3 p.m. | [Register](#)

SPANISH CLASSES

The Impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia in Our Community

Tuesday, July 21, 6:30-7 p.m. | [Register](#)

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

Tuesday, August 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | [Register](#)

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body

Tuesday, August 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | [Register](#)

FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS VISIT:

Recorded Classes: alz.org/education

Live Learning Webinars:
alz.org/livelearnings

ALZ Talks: alz.org/ALZtalks

To register, please call 800.272.3900 or visit us online at alz.org/crf

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Caregiver Support & Education

The **Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center** and **Health Projects Center** invite family caregivers to join their monthly workshops at the Community Foundation Epicenter in Hollister. Each session offers practical caregiving tips, valuable resources, and compassionate support to help you care for a loved one while also caring for yourself.

2026 SCHEDULE

In Person Caregiver Education and Caregiver Support Group

For caregivers seeking support, resources, and
knowledge to enhance the care of their loved one.

JOIN US! 1:30PM TO 3:00PM

Community Foundation for San Benito County -Epicenter
440 San Benito St, Hollister, CA

JANUARY 28	Seven Guidelines for the Caregiver Journey
FEBRUARY 25	Understanding The Mini Mental Exam
MARCH 25	How Caregiving Affects You
APRIL 22	Caring for You
MAY 27	6 Rs of Behavior Management
JUNE 24	Stress, Coping and Resiliency
JULY 22	Communication with Your Loved One
AUGUST 26	Ambiguous Loss and Grief
SEPTEMBER 23	The Myth of Closure
OCTOBER 28	Safety In the Home
NOVEMBER 18	Rituals, Celebrations and Gatherings
DECEMBER	No Meeting

For more information:

Please call (800) 624-8304

Facilitated by Health Projects Center-Del Mar CRC

Upcoming Events

Events Happening in the Community



5K Run/Walk at Southside Sand and Gravel Saturday, September 12, 2026

The River Run 2026 describes the unique experience that awaits as you meander through a working sand and gravel quarry. This 5K Walk/Run takes you inside the Southside Sand and Gravel Quarry to see the working quarry site, the banks of the San Benito River, specialized equipment that processes the rock and beautiful natural surroundings.

The River Run benefits the YMCA of San Benito county.



RACE TYPE: 5K Run/Walk

DATE: September 12, 2026

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Southside Sand and Gravel
5632 Airline Highway, Hollister



Having trouble scanning the QR code? Use this link instead:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Hollister/thegraniterockriverrun>

If the event title is highlighted, you can click on it for more information

- 9/02/26 - [Hollister Certified Farmers' Market 🍎🍌🍇🥕](#), 3 PM - 7 PM, Downtown Hollister
- 9/05/26 - International Day of Charity
- 9/05/26 - [Movies 🎬🍿 in the Park](#), 6:30 PM, Abbe Park Field, San Juan Bautista
- 9/07/26 - Labor Day
- 9/12/26 - [River Run 🏃🏃 5k/1mile](#), 7 AM, Graniterock Southside Sand & Gravel Quarry, 5632 Airline Highway in Hollister
- 9/12/26 - [Friends of the SBC Library Monthly Used Book 📖📚 Sale](#), 9 AM - 11:30 AM, Behind the SBC Library
- 9/12/26 - [Tacos 🌮 For Tails 🐕🐶](#), 12:45 PM - 3:45 PM, Damm Vineyards, 3028 Cienega Rd, Hollister

- 9/13/26 - [End Summer Outdoor Boutique 🧡](#), 9:45 AM, 351 San Felipe Road #101, Hollister
- 9/14/26 - [Crave Spooky 🎃 sign paint 🍷 and sip 🍷](#), 5:45 PM, Crave Wine Company, 616 San Benito Street, Hollister
- 9/15/26 - 10/15/26 - Hispanic Heritage Month
- 9/15/26 - [National Indoor Plants 🌿 Week](#), 10:45 AM, The GardenShoppe, 364 7th Street, Hollister
- 9/19/26 - [Mullets and Mischief a Murder Mystery Party!](#), 5:45 PM, The GardenShoppe, 364 7th Street, Hollister
- 9/19/26 - [Candles 🕯️ & Sound](#), 10:45 AM - 1:45 PM, Palette and Pour, 650 San Benito Street, Hollister
- 9/19/26 - [Farm Tour-Pinnacle Organically Grown](#), 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM, Phil Foster Ranch, 400 Duncan Ave, San Juan Bautista
- 9/19/26 - [Monthly Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event](#), 9 AM - 12 PM, John Smith Landfill
- 9/23/26 - [Rombauer Winemaker's 🍷 Dinner!](#), 6 PM- 9 PM, 36° North, San Juan Oaks Golf Club, 1996 San Juan Oaks Drive, Hollister
- 9/26 /26 - 9/27/26 - [Hope Harvest Festival 🎃](#), 9:45 AM - 4:45 PM, 8300 Airline Hwy, Tres Pinos
- 9/26/26 - [Taste & Treasures](#), 5:30 PM - 8 PM, Damm Vinyards, 3028 Cienega Rd, Hollister
- 9/27/26 - [Fall Outdoor Boutique 🍁](#), 9:45 AM - 2:45 PM, 231 Bridge Rd, Hollister

Every Week -

Mondays

- [San Juan Bautista Farmers' Market, 10AM-2PM, 310 Third Street, San Juan Bautista](#)

Wednesdays

- Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center Lunch, Chair Yoga & Bingo 11:00 AM chair yoga, followed by lunch and bingo, San Juan Bautista VFW for more info contact Mary Edge 831-262-3484 maryedge@sbcglobal.net
- [Hollister Certified Farmers' Market, 3PM-7PM, Downtown Hollister](#)

Thursdays

- Trivia Night with Miguel Silva @ Vertigo 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- [Vinyl Night at Vertigo, 81 Fourth Street, San Juan Bautista, 6PM-9PM](#)

Monday - Friday

- [Martha's Kitchen, 9AM - 4PM Pauline Valdivia Memorial Community Center, 300 West Street, Hollister](#)

Community Event Calendars (click links below) -

- [Mission Village Voice](#)
- [Benito Link](#)
- [San Benito County Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Hollister Downtown Association](#)
- [San Benito County Arts Council](#)
- [San Benito County Business Council](#)
- [YMCA of San Benito County](#)
- [Rotary Club of Hollister, CA](#)
- [Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista](#)
- [HappeningNext](#)
- [San Benito Home of the FreeLance](#)
- [County of San Benito](#)
- [The City of Hollister](#)
- [City of San Juan Bautista](#)
- [Aromas Community Grange](#)
- [California Aging & Disability Resource Connection of San Benito County](#)
- [Visit San Benito Events](#)



LOOKING AHEAD — RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

Casino Trip to Table Mountain

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Planning ahead for October? Martha's Kitchen is hosting a fun-filled casino trip to Table Mountain! Transportation is included, and seating is limited — **reserve your spot early before the trip fills up.**

Cost: \$50 per person

Departure: 8:00 AM

Return: 6:30 PM

Meet at: Senior Center, 300 W. Street

To register: Martha's Kitchen — [\(669\) 437-0865](tel:6694370865)



CASINO Trip!

JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY OF GAMES, FRIENDS & EXCITEMENT!

DESTINATION: TABLE MOUNTAIN

DATE: SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

DEPARTURE: 8:00 AM
RETURNS: 6:30 PM

MEET AT: SENIOR CENTER: 300 W STREET

COST: \$50 PER PERSON
(Includes round-trip transportation.)

★ YOUR DAY INCLUDES: ★

- SLOT MACHINES & TABLE GAMES
- CASINO PROMOTIONS (if available)
- COMFORTABLE TRANSPORTATION
- A FUN DAY WITH FRIENDS!

♣ RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!
Seats are limited and fill up quickly.

TO REGISTER: Martha's Kitchen 669-437-0865

CONTACT: Melissa or Jasmin

★ PLEASE BRING: ★

- ♣ Valid photo ID
- ♦ Spending money

21+ MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND ♦ VALID ID IS REQUIRED 21+

+ Good Friends. Good Luck. Great Memories! ♣

Money-Saving Tips

♥ Save on Your Garbage Bill

Did you know that **Recology San Benito County** offers reduced residential garbage rates for qualifying low-income



customers?

If you're enrolled in **PG&E's CARE/Lifeline program** or **AT&T Lifeline**, you may be eligible for discounted garbage service. To learn more or apply, call **Recology Customer Service** at [**\(831\) 636-7500**](tel:8316367500).

Please note: Discounts do not apply to 64- or 96-gallon garbage carts.

SAVE 25% ON YOUR Water Bill!

A LOW-INCOME DISCOUNT FOR SENIORS 62+

YOU MAY QUALIFY IF YOU:

- 62+** Are 62 years of age or older
- Home** Live in the City of Hollister
- Checkmark** Are enrolled in PG&E's CARE Program or AT&T Lifeline

HOW TO APPLY:

- Complete the Senior Citizen Discount application and provide required documentation.
- Copy of your PG&E CARE bill (first page showing name, service address, and CARE program) or proof of AT&T Lifeline.
- Copy of your ID showing age 62 or older.

It's easy to apply and the savings add up!

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

Email: hollisterbilling@hollister.ca.gov

Mail or Deliver To:
City of Hollister
327 Fifth St.
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 636-4301
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

SAVE WATER. Save Money.

A simple program that can save you 25% on your monthly water bill!

25% DISCOUNT ON CITY WATER SERVICE

Save 25% on Your City Water Bill

If you're 62 or older and participate in PG&E's CARE Program (or receive AT&T Lifeline benefits), you may qualify for a 25% discount on your City of Hollister water service. You may qualify if you:

- ☒ Are 62 years of age or older
- ☒ Live in the City of Hollister

☒ Are enrolled in the PG&E CARE Program or AT&T Lifeline
To apply:

You'll need:

- A copy of your PG&E bill showing your CARE enrollment (or proof of AT&T Lifeline)
- A copy of your photo ID showing your age
- A completed City of Hollister Senior Citizen Discount application. [Click HERE for application](#)

Submit your application by email to

[**hollisterbilling@hollister.ca.gov**](mailto:hollisterbilling@hollister.ca.gov) or deliver it to:

City of Hollister

327 Fifth Street

Hollister, CA 95023

[**\(831\) 636-4301**](tel:8316364301)

Health and Wellness Tips

September is Healthy Aging Month!

Healthy aging is about more than adding years to your life — it's about staying active, connected, and engaged along the way. This month, try adding a few simple healthy habits to your routine:

- ✓ **Keep moving:** Walking, stretching, and other activities you enjoy can help support strength and mobility.
- ✓ **Stay connected:** Spend time with friends, family, neighbors, or community groups.
- ✓ **Fuel your body:** Choose nutritious foods and remember to stay hydrated.
- ✓ **Keep your mind active:** Read, learn something new, play games, or try a new hobby.
- ✓ **Prioritize preventive care:** Keep up with regular checkups, screenings, vision, hearing, and dental care.

Small steps can make a big difference in staying healthy, independent, and connected as we age.



Community Partner Highlights

Discover the latest from our partners and see how we're all working together to support and uplift seniors in our community.



Financial Literacy Series for Women

The Women's Fund of the Community Foundation for San Benito County invites women to participate in a three-session financial literacy series designed to build confidence in budgeting, retirement planning, estate planning, and protecting financial information. Sessions begin August 27 at the Community Foundation Epicenter in Hollister. Registration is required by August 24. See the flyer below for details. [Click HERE to register.](#)



YOUR PATH TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO...



A THREE-SESSION JOURNEY **FOR WOMEN, BY WOMEN**



AUGUST 27TH
HOW TO BUDGET, IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS TO KEEP, DEBT MANAGEMENT, AND MORE.

Shannon Wilkinson
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



SEPTEMBER 10TH
INVESTMENT AND RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS.

Alexis Winder
FINANCIAL ADVISOR, EDWARD JONES



SEPTEMBER 24TH
ESTATE PLANNING, FAMILY TRUSTS AND ASSET PROTECTION FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

Marla Pleyte
ATTORNEY, CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW SPECIALIST



When:

THURSDAY 8/27, 9/10, & 9/24
MORNING SESSIONS: 11AM-1PM
EVENING SESSIONS: 6PM-8PM



Where:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EPICENTER
440 SAN BENITO STREET, HOLLISTER

Reserve Your Spot Today!

SINGLE SESSIONS: \$35 EACH
FULL BLUNDLE SERIES: \$60
(SAVE \$45!)

A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED

DEADLINE TO ENROLL:
AUGUST 24TH @ 5PM



tinyurl.com/financial-lit-sbc-2026

440 SAN BENITO STREET, HOLLISTER, CA 95023

831-630-1924

GIVESANBENITO.ORG

Hot Meals, Connection, and Care for San Benito Seniors 🧡

Enjoy nutritious meals and meaningful connection through local senior dining programs in Hollister and San Juan Bautista. For those who are homebound, weekly meal delivery is also available to help ensure no senior goes without support.



To sign up or learn more, call or text (669) 437-0865



Visit: <https://www.marthas-kitchen.org/san-benito-county>



San Benito County Food Programs



Daily Comfort: Hot Meals for Our Senior Community

**Pauline Valdivia Memorial
Community Center**
300 West Street
Hollister, CA 95023

Open
Monday through Friday
(excluding federal holidays)
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**San Juan Bautista
Community Center**
10 San Jose Street
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Open
Every Monday
(excluding federal holidays)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Project SCOUT: Free Tax Prep & CalFresh Assistance



Get help by appointment!

Call: 831-724-2606

email: projectscout@seniorscouncil.org

Attention Seniors! GET HELP WITH CALFRESH!

Calfresh is a financial assistance program for purchasing food that gives you a monthly deposit into a debit card (EBT) that can be used at:

- Supermarkets
- Farmers Markets
- Restaurants (through Restaurant Meal Program RMP)

Calfresh Application Checklist:

- 1- Current ID with Picture
- 2- Social Security card or statement 1099-SSA
- 3- List of ALL income received
- 4- Medical expenses
- 5- Household expenses
- 6- Any dependent care paid
- 7- Proof Immigration status (non-citizens only)

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards for Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE)/Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) (200% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$2,510
2	\$3,408
3	\$4,304
4	\$5,200
5	\$6,098
6	\$6,994
7	\$7,890
8	\$8,722
Each additional member	+ \$898

*Project SCOUT is an agency of
the Seniors Council of Santa
Cruz and San Benito Counties*



Reciba ayuda con cita!

llame: 831-724-2606

email: projectscout@seniorscouncil.org



Project Scout **FREE TAX PREP**

OUR SERVICE

Free tax assistance for those with reportable income of \$67,000 or less; simple tax returns only. To schedule an appointment with one of our tax prep volunteers, call 831-724-2606, email projectscout@seniorscouncil.org, or in person at our appointment or walk-in sites. Please leave a message with your full name, phone number, age, city or town where you live, and what forms or sources of income you need to report in your taxes. You will be contacted for an appointment.

**We will not prepare married filing separate, rental income, net losses, losses of \$35,000 or more, some K-1s with other income, deductions, and credits, plus others.

DIY SERVICE

Facilitated Self-Assistance Option. Do your taxes for free by using our free link: www.tinyurl.com/SCOUTFSA income limit \$84,000.00!



REQUIREMENTS

The Following are mandatory for your Tax Preparation Appointment:

- ✓ **FORMS of IDENTIFICATION:**
 - Valid Picture ID such as Drivers License or Passport
 - Social Security Card, 1099-SSA form for those with Social Security income
 - Official ITIN card or letter from IRS with ITIN for those without Social Security.
- ✓ **INTAKE SHEET:**
 - Provided by Project SCOUT, please fill out prior to appointment.
- ✓ **PRIOR YEAR RETURN:**
 - Or most recent if prior year not available.
- ✓ **INCOME:**
 - W-2 and 1099 forms
 - ANY OTHER amounts of income received.
- ✓ **DEDUCTIONS:**
 - Tip and overtime income (Schedule 1-A)
 - Itemized expenses by type (Schedule A)
 - Itemized expenses by type for self-employed (Schedule C)
 - For others consult your volunteer tax preparer.
- ✓ **HEALTHCARE:**
 - Form 1095 showing type of healthcare coverage

Thank you to our partners & sponsors!



PROJECT SCOUT

A program of the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

<https://seniorscouncil.org/project-scout>



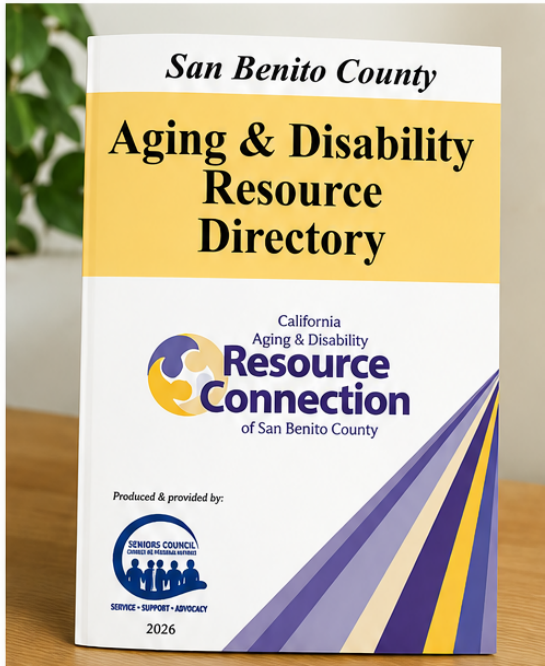
CONTACT US

For appointment services:

Call: 831-724-2606

email: projectscout@seniorscouncil.org

Aging & Disability Resource Directory – San Benito County



New for 2026! ☀️

Your Guide to Local Resources

The 2026 San Benito County Aging & Disability Resource Directory is your go-to guide for finding services and support in our community.

Whether you're planning ahead, caregiving for a loved one, or simply looking for help today, this directory puts essential information right at your fingertips.

Find information on:

-  Caregiver Support
-  Food & Meal Programs
-  Housing Resources
-  Health Support Services
-  Recreation & Exercise
-  Transportation
-  Legal & Consumer Services
-  Emergency Resources
-  Volunteer Opportunities

...and much more!

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Helping Our Community Ages Well

The Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is here to connect you with trusted information and local resources you can count on.



FREE RESOURCE!



Available in print and online



Trusted local resources for older adults, caregivers, individuals with disabilities, and families.



Pick up your free copy:

Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
300 West Street, Hollister, CA 95023
(888) 637-6757 | info@SanBenitoADRC.org



Or visit us online:

www.SanBenitoADRC.org/resource-directory

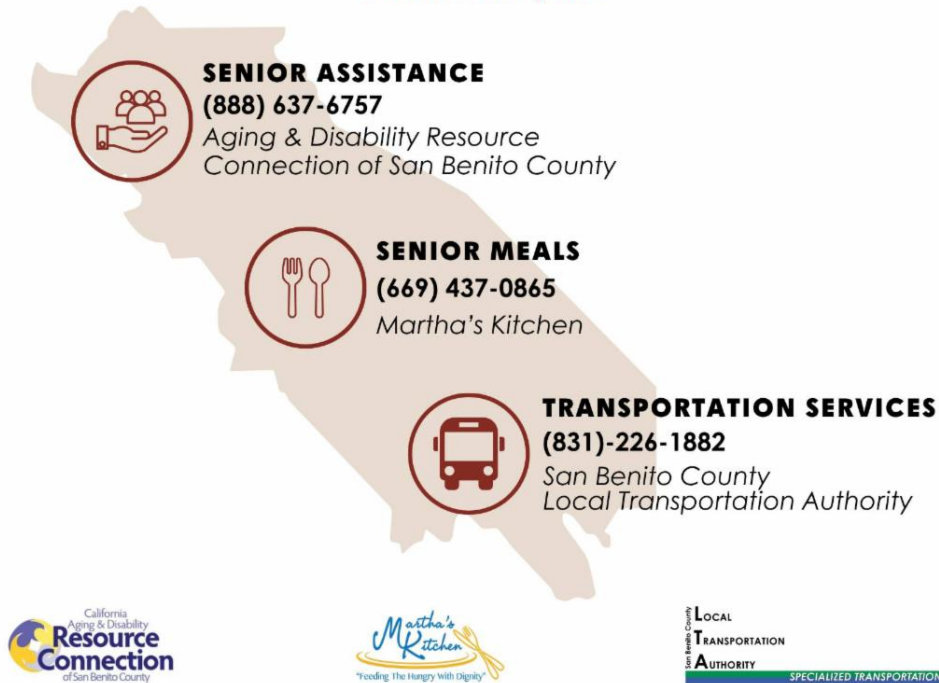
Bilingual, regularly updated, and available for download 24/7!

Aging & Disability Resource Directory created by the Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) in partnership with the Seniors Council. This guide serves as a “No Wrong Door” resource to help older adults, caregivers, and individuals living with

disabilities easily find support across San Benito County.

San Benito County Senior Services

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025



Do you know what a donor-advised fund can do for
you? Do you know what it can do for your
community?
Click [HERE](#) to learn more

what is a...

DONOR-ADVISED FUND?



A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a **charitable investment account** that allows individuals to contribute money to **support charities** while **receiving tax benefits**:

- A donor contributes cash, stocks, real estate, or other assets to a sponsoring organization, such as the **Community Foundation for San Benito County**.
- The donor receives a tax receipt and deduction for their contribution. The Community Foundation manages the funds, which **grow tax-free**. The donor retains **advisory privileges** over the funds, including the investment strategy and how they are distributed to charities.

Stay Connected!



Get In Touch

- Phone: **831-975-2596 ext 204**
- Address: **440 San Benito Street, Hollister, CA 95023**
- Email: **Coreys@seniorscouncil.org**
- Website: **www.seniorscouncil.org**

You can make a difference by making a **[donation!](#)**

The Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties is a community-based non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is funded through a combination of federal, state, and private sources. We appreciate any support that you feel comfortable giving.





Try email marketing for free today!