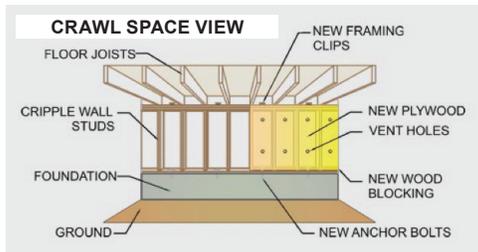




Strengthen Your House



Is your house earthquake-ready? How would you like to receive up to \$3,000 toward an earthquake retrofit of your house? The Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program provides homeowners up to \$3,000 to lessen the potential for earthquake damage. A typical retrofit may cost between \$3,000 and \$7,000 depending on the location and size of the house, contractor fees, and the amount of materials and work involved.

The primary purpose of earthquake retrofitting is to keep your home from being displaced from its concrete foundation — making the building safer and less prone to major structural damage during an earthquake. Homes constructed more than two decades ago may need earthquake strengthening

upgrades to their foundations. The EBB program relies on adherence to the California Existing Building Code, Appendix Chapter A3, which sets prescriptive standards for seismic retrofits of existing family residential buildings.

Houses that meet Chapter A3 specifications are typically:

- wood-framed construction built before 1979
- built on a level or low slope
- constructed with a 4 ft. (or less) cripple wall under the first floor OR
- constructed with a cripple wall between 4 ft. and 7 ft. (requires an engineered solution)
- have a raised foundation

Homeowner registration will be open January 25 – February 27, 2017 for residents living in Watsonville, CA 95076. Homeowners interested in participating must create an online account, answer questions, and review the program guidelines. For more information call 1-877-232-4300 or go to <https://www.earthquakebracebolt.com/HomeownerRegistration>.

Going With The Flow

Wastewater travels miles to get to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our Wastewater Collection Maintenance team works hard to ensure that the 150+ miles of sewer pipes are cleaned for the journey that continues after dishwashing, showering, brushing teeth and toilet flushing.

Caring for these pipes involves science, technology, and committed City employees. That's why the collection team was so proud of the work they did this month as they managed to finish cleaning every pipe within the City; it takes about three years to accomplish!

It is crucial that these pipes are kept clean and clear to prevent overflows causing a mess for residents or neighborhoods and eventually harming the environment. Sewer pipes are made to hold only wastewater from homes and businesses. Products that are often advertised as flushable usually are not. Hair,



dental floss, birth control of any kind, food waste, medications, gloves, rags, clothing, wipes, and diapers are all items that damage sewer lines and sewer lift station equipment. Our collection team reminds residents that we cannot treat toilets like trash cans.

Please do your part and remind everyone in your household that only toilet paper should be flushed! Also remember that grease down the drain can also cause blockages in the system. Our dedicated collection team is at the frontline of keeping our community healthy.

Call Elizabeth Padilla, Editor at 768-3018 with questions or comments.



Keeping Up with Watsonville

Free Curbside Collection Pickup Jan 9th - 13th

Christmas trees will be picked up on regular trash collection days, Jan 9th-13th. Please set your tree out the night before. Maximum length is 6 ft.



Businesses & apartment managers call 768-3133.

Free tree drop off at:

- Fire Station #2 at 370 Airport Blvd. during daylight hours.
- Waste & Recycling Drop-Off at 320 Harvest Dr., Mon. thru Sat. 9am-3:30pm (Closed Dec. 30-Jan. 2)

2017 Parking Permits

Parking Permits will be available for purchase the week of December 5th at City Hall, 250 Main Street.



Holiday Closures

City of Watsonville facilities will be closed December 23rd-December 26th in celebration of the holiday season. City facilities will also be closed December 30th to January 2, 2017 and will re-open on January 3rd.

Health & Safety Emergencies -- 911

Non-emergencies or water-related emergencies -- 471-1151



New LED Lighting Downtown

New commercial-grade LED lights have been installed on trees from East Lake Avenue to City Hall just in time for the holidays. The new lights provide a stunning display that will last for many years. As additional funding is identified, the city intends to replace the lights on the remaining trees from East Lake Avenue towards Freedom Boulevard.