

# OUR TOWN

Newsletter OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE

September 2019



## KEEPING WATSONVILLE SAFE

A few years ago, the City of Watsonville struggled with rising crime rates, drug houses and alarming gang incidents. In 2014, residents approved Measure G, a local public safety funding measure to help fight gangs and crime, support efforts to keep youth safe and on the right track, improve neighborhood police patrols and also support fire and paramedic 911 response.

This local funding has been beneficial and successful in keeping Watsonville Safe. Today, Watsonville has some of the lowest crime rates and gang incidents of cities in the region, including Santa Cruz.



Since 1983, the Watsonville population has more than doubled and the number of calls for help have increased by 680%. Measure G funding has helped our firefighters, paramedics and police officers respond to life-threatening emergencies safely and quickly.

### RENEWING LOCAL FUNDING TO KEEP WATSONVILLE SAFE

Measure G funding will expire soon unless renewed by voters. Our City Council is considering a renewal of the half-cent sales tax measure for the March 2020 election. This renewal would:

- Maintain after-school and summer programs to keep youth safe and out of trouble

- Support anti-gang and youth violence prevention efforts, Police Activity League and Parks and Recreation programs
- Maintain lifesaving 9-1-1 fire and paramedic emergency response times
- Continue neighborhood police patrols



The citizen oversight committee that reviews public safety funding reported that the City has spent Measure G funds effectively and as promised. A renewal measure would mandate the same strict fiscal accountability provisions as Measure G:

- Funding could only be spent locally in Watsonville for the specific purposes outlined in the ballot measure and could not be taken by the State.

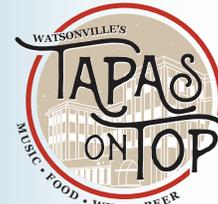
- Independent citizen oversight, mandatory financial audits and annual reports to the community would be required.

For more information about public safety in Watsonville, visit [www.cityofwatsonville.org](http://www.cityofwatsonville.org) or call **768-3010**.

Questions or comments contact: Tamara Vides, Editor at 768-3034

### KEEPING UP WITH WATSONVILLE

NEWS



**Friday**  
**September 27**  
**5:30pm - 9:30pm**  
Admission tickets  
**\$35 in advance**  
**\$40 at the door**

#### Admission includes:

- Admission to the venue
- Free Parking
- Five (5) tapas (food servings)
- One (1) drink
- Live music

To purchase your tickets please visit the link below

[www.eventbrite.com/e/tapas-on-top-tickets-50005069509](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/tapas-on-top-tickets-50005069509)

### CARTONS ARE NOW RECYCLABLE!



Be on the lookout for our new, **Recycle Right App** coming soon!



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**  
**6PM - 8PM**

Esperanza del Valle will perform Huapangos to the music of the Santa Cruz Symphony. With a special performances by PVUSD students.