

Santa Cruz to observe earthquake anniversary

The city of Santa Cruz will mark the second anniversary of the October 1989 earthquake tomorrow with a variety of activities.

They will culminate with a commemorative ceremony at 5:04 p.m. at the Town Clock. Local churches are being asked to toll their bells at that time.

Following will be a community get-together on Pacific Avenue featuring live music.

Earlier in the day, Assemblyman Sam Farr and Santa Cruz Mayor Jane Yokoyama will conduct a walking tour through downtown Santa Cruz. Afterward, both will participate in groundbreaking ceremonies for the new St. George Hotel at 11 a.m.

Santa Cruz sustained more commercial damage from the earthquake than any other community in Santa Cruz County. More than 375,000 square feet of commercial space was lost with total damage

estimated at \$115 million. Thirty-four commercial buildings in the city were demolished; 27 of them were in the historic downtown commercial district.

By Oct. 1, three downtown buildings had undergone major repairs and restorations, two buildings had been rebuilt from the ground up, and seven are either under construction or renovation. Three projects will break ground before Dec. 31.

"What happened to Santa Cruz in October 1989 was transforming," said Ceil Cirillo, executive director of the city Redevelopment Agency. "We lost a historic district — many of the demolished buildings had endured over a century of change. In rebuilding we have been careful to maintain the same timeless architectural integrity while providing for a commercial environment that will serve us for decades to come."

—Bob Smith

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