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Sentinel

# City will honor long-time worker

SANTA CRUZ — Nearly 35 years ago, Lee Rodriguez took a job with the city.

His family had roots in the city that went back six generations to the day in 1797 when their forebears settled in the Branciforte area.

Rodriguez attended schools in Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz, Aptos and Watsonville and served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946 before returning home.

He started with the city in 1948 and

is a veteran of the sanitation, water, and public works departments.

As an equipment operator, he helped put much of the city's fresh water system into place.

As a heavy equipment operator, he worked to improve the streets and keep the San Lorenzo River free of sand and debris.

During the January storm this year, he and his crew worked around the clock to move logs and prevent

jams that could have completely destroyed the Riverside bridge and cause floods into the city.

Rodriguez is going to retire and Mayor Michael Rotkin is planning to designate Nov. 26 as "Lee Rodriguez's Retirement Day" in the city.

A luncheon in his honor will be held this Friday at Adolph's Restaurant to give his co-workers and other friends a chance to wish him well.