

Obituary

Dale Skillicorn dies suddenly

Bio - 5
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Watsonville city Councilman Dale Skillicorn died suddenly on March 14 from a brain aneurysm. Skillicorn had served on the City Council representing district 7 since 2002 and was involved in many civic projects including recently the development of green jobs and the restoration of the historic Redman-Hiragana House.

A man of boundless energy, Skillicorn was an advocate for local agriculture and put together a green construction exposition at the fairgrounds in 2008 to draw "green" jobs to area. As a strong supporter of the Watsonville Airport, he was working on a history of the county's only still-active airport.

Skillicorn contributed a great deal of his knowledge and his family's photos to the Pajaro Valley Historical Association, as his ancestors were early pioneers to the area.

He served on the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission for 15 years and the Watsonville Parks and Recreation Commission for five years. He also was a volunteer with the Santa Cruz County Fair and the local Bicentennial Commission in 1976.

In 2005, he gained attention for his advocacy of splitting Santa Cruz County in two because of the social and political differences between the north and south areas of the county. His greatest satisfaction as a council member came from his personal involvement in helping his constituents find city resources to improve their neighborhoods.

Dale was always looking for another project or cause to champion. He will be greatly missed. ■

