

# Flea market reopens with new set of rules

*Flea Markets*  
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Vendors signing in at the reborn Santa Cruz flea market — opening today after a three-month hiatus — will

**SANTA CRUZ** have one more form to fill out. Starting with this weekend's market, vendors selling used electronics and other goods with serial numbers will have to report what they're peddling to the market organizers. \*

The move is an attempt to keep stolen goods out of the popular flea market, which returns to the old Skyview Drive-In lot at 7 a.m. today

"Basically, it's a way of controlling crime at the swap meet," sheriff's Sgt. Fred Plageman said.

When vendors arrive to reserve a spot today, they will be given an information report where they must list descriptions of the items they're selling, including the brand name, model, size, color, serial number and price.

The report is required by the state Business and Professions

## Vendor information

Vendors who want to reserve space can come to the market at 7 a.m. today, opening day.

For information, visit [www.scgoodwill.org](http://www.scgoodwill.org) and click on the 'Flea Market info' link.

Code.

"These used to be done at the flea market .... It hasn't been done in awhile," said Michael Paul, the resident and chief operating officer of Goodwill, which is running the market under an agreement with Sutter Health, the new owner of the Skyview Drive-In property.

Why the reports fell by the wayside is unclear, but sheriff's deputies said monitoring the items sold at the market — copies of the information reports will be delivered to the Sheriff's Office on a weekly basis — is one way to discourage vendors from selling stolen property.

No statistics about how many hot items were sold at the old flea market were available.

"I think that stolen property gets sold at the swap meet," Plageman said, explaining that items stolen in Santa Cruz County are likely sold at flea markets

and hawk shops in Santa Clara and San Benito counties, while stolen property from those areas makes it to Santa Cruz.

Deputies used to make periodic checks at the old Skyview Drive-In Flea Market, as the event was known for decades before it closed down in November.

Those checks will continue, largely to watch for bootlegged DVDs and CDs that violate federal trademark laws, according to Plageman.

However, concern that stolen bikes, tools and electronics are making their way onto vendors' tables, coupled with the fact there is existing state law pertaining to those sales motivated the Sheriff's Office and Goodwill to collaborate and bring back the information reports.

"We don't have the resources to staff the swap meet, but that doesn't mean we want crime to run rampant," Plageman said.

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The forms should be easy for legitimate sellers to fill out, he said. A flea market worker, all of whom are Goodwill employees, will collect the forms, photocopy them and return one to the vendors, according to Paul. The second copy makes its way to the Sheriff's Office.

The forms are one of two significant changes at the flea market. The other is the existing snack shack has been closed for repairs and independent sellers will be providing food instead.

The flea market at 2260 Soquel Drive will open today at 7 a.m., 6 a.m. Saturday and 5:30 a.m. Sunday, weather permitting.

Vendor fees will be \$15 per space on Friday, \$30 on Saturday and \$35 on Sunday. A large or corner space will cost \$45 and up.

Admission will be \$1 a person on Friday, \$2 on Saturday and \$2.50 on Sunday. Children under 10 will be admitted free; anyone 13 or younger must be accompanied by an adult.

"I think we'll have a pretty good showing," Paul said.

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