



## CSA welcomes homegrown produce

Written by Mary Beth Hislop - Town Crier Staff Writer

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COURTESY OF CSA

Agricultural biologist Julius Calso of the Santa Clara County Agricultural Division will continue weekly inspections of homegrown and donated produce at the Community Services Agency. is looking for larvae of the light brown apple moth.

Associate Director Maureen Wadiak of the Community Services Agency (CSA) reassured home gardeners that there's still a place to bring any homegrown greengroceries that exceed their families' needs. In an agreement with Santa Clara County officials, inspectors with the agricultural division will continue to examine the fruit and vegetable donations.

Donors can drop off fruit-tree harvests and garden produce 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays at CSA's 204 Stierlin Road location in Mountain View.

Earlier this year, the county quarantined locally grown produce to prevent the spread of light-brown apple moth larvae to the Central Valley. Wadiak worried the decision would hamper CSA's ability to provide those in need in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View with fresh, healthful food choices.

Of the approximately 151,000 finds of the larvae in California since 2007, 395 were located in Santa Clara County, prompting the quarantine, according to Kevin O'Day, county deputy agricultural commissioner.

A collaboration among CSA, the county and Village Harvest (a volunteer organization that harvests fruit from backyards and orchards) has kept fresh produce available to people at a time when food and monetary donations to the agency are down and the need has increased.

Since instigating the inspections in early August, agricultural biologists inspecting CSA's produce donations have not discovered any larvae, O'Day said.

"In Santa Clara County, the level of infestation is lower than in other counties," he said. "Infestations are much heavier in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Alameda and Monterey counties."

O'Day said the larvae don't actually infest fruits and vegetables.

"It's primarily a leaf pest," he said.

Wadiak is thrilled late-summer and fall gardeners have ample opportunity to donate their extras.

In just one week last month, approximately 30 people delivered more than 700 pounds of produce in a two-hour period, she said.

The agency will continue accepting fruits and vegetables Tuesdays indefinitely - "until the end of growing season," Wadiak said.

For more information, call 968-0836 or visit [www.CSAcares.org](http://www.CSAcares.org).

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