

# CAPITOLA

# Currents



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

FALL 2002

## NEWS CORNER

City Hall will be closed from December 23 through 27

Capitola Village Halloween Parade. October 27, Line up at 1:30 p.m. at Pacific Cove Parking Lot

Surfin' Santa – November 30, 12 p.m. Main Beach in Capitola

“Children of the World” Sculpture Re-dedicated at the Capitola Library

Recycling: Coming soon from Waste Management, 1 can for all recyclables

Boards & Commissions Vacancies: Finance Advisory Committee, Recreation Advisory and Village Master Plan Advisory Committee. Apply on-line or call 475-7300

Visit our new web site for all your informational needs!

### CORRECTIONS:

In last quarters issue, the following names were misspelled: Douglas Piggott and Diane Reyrer.

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## BE COUNTED - VOTE ✓ ON NOVEMBER 5, 2002

The Capitola Municipal Election is in full swing with four candidates running for three seats on the City Council. All three incumbents, Bruce Arthur, Stephanie Harlan and Dennis Norton, have decided to seek re-election. In addition, the current elected City Treasurer, Bob Begun, has also decided to run. Individuals may also qualify as a write-in candidate. In order to be a “Qualified Write-in Candidate” and have votes officially counted by the County Elections Department, a candidate must file a “Statement of Write-In Candidacy” and a “Nomination Paper” with the requisite number of sponsor signatures required for the office sought with the City Clerk no later than 14 days prior to Election Day.

Also on the City’s ballot will be two measures: **Measure W** asks voters if the Transient Occupancy Tax should be raised from 9.5% to 11%, dedicating the revenues from .5% of the increase to the General Fund and 1% of the increase to the Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors Council for the promotion of tourism. **Measure X** wants to know if the electorate of Capitola wishes to enact an ordinance setting a limit of two consecutive terms for elected officials in the City of Capitola. If adopted, council members and city treasurers could only hold office for two consecutive 4-year terms. A person could run again for the same office after remaining off for two years.

On Wednesday, October 30, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., the Capitola Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidate’s Forum at Capitola City Hall Council Chambers. The forum will be televised “live” on Capitola Community Channel 8. Is there a question you have always wanted to ask a council member but were afraid to ask? This is your opportunity! Members of the public are encouraged to participate by submitting questions for candidates to answer and your identity is not necessary. Contact the Capitola Chamber of Commerce at 475-6522 for more information.

If you have moved, changed your name or changed your political party affiliation, or if you are not a registered voter, you have until Monday, October 7th to register for the November election. Forms are available at Capitola City Hall, you can call the Secretary of State’s Office at 1-800-345-VOTE, or to register on-line go to: [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com) and click on “Register to Vote.”

For complete up-to-date information regarding the November 5, 2002 General Election, including Capitola’s Municipal Election, visit the Santa Cruz County Elections Department’s Website at: [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com)

If you have any questions regarding the City’s election, please feel free to call the city clerk at 475-7300.

## RECYCLE THOSE CANS

For the fifth consecutive year, the recycling rate for aluminum cans has dropped, falling drastically from 2000. The aluminum can recycling rate for 2001 was 55.4 percent compared to 62.1 percent in 2000. The drop represents 7 billion cans thrown away instead of recycled.

The aluminum can was always considered the recycling success story because its inherent scrap value provided sufficient incentive to turn it in for cash even without government-sponsored recycling programs.

The statistics quoted above come jointly from the Aluminum Association and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, representing manufacturers and recyclers, and was reported in the May 13 issue of Waste News.

Soon you will be able to throw those cans and bottles in with your newspaper now that the City will be implementing single stream recycling. Waste Management, the Cities garbage collection company, will soon be mailing you information on this new program. No longer will you be burdened with 3 crates for recycling because single stream allows you to put all of your recyclables into one container.

## Capital Improvement Projects Update

### Municipal Wharf Entrance Gate

The new entrance gate to the wharf will be completed this fall. Designed to reflect the Venetian Hotels architecture. The gate will provide a friendly welcome to the wharf and its businesses, Capitola Boat and Bait and the Wharf House Restaurant. Look for a "Grand Opening" in mid-October.

### Lawn Way Storm Water Pump Station

A contract for the construction of a new storm water pump station is to be awarded in September. The pump station will be located in the center of Lawn Way and will collect storm water from the surrounding area and pump it to the beach. Construction is scheduled to start in October and should take 6-8 weeks to complete.



little lifeguard elbow grease, the refurbished towers were put into service in late August just prior to the Begonia Festival. The tower bases are far superior to the previous ones and should last 20 years or beyond.

Finally, the Capitola Lifeguard Service has entered the modern lifeguard era with the approval of a grant from Honda Motor Corporation for use of a new 4 stroke PWC called "Aquatrax" at the cost of \$1 a year to the City. This tool will be very valuable during high surf rescues, cliff rescues, and boat rescues. It will also be of great help to our fledgling volunteer response during the large stormy winter time conditions. Expect to see the "Aquatrax" on the beach, in service, next spring.



### Monterey Avenue and Park Avenue Sidewalk Construction

The design is nearly complete for the construction of new sidewalks along Monterey Avenue and Park Avenue. The sidewalk will run from Noble Gulch Park along the east side of Monterey Avenue and then along Park Avenue to McCormick Avenue. These sidewalks will provide safety for those traversing Monterey Avenue from the Cliffwood Heights neighborhood, New Brighton School and Capitola Elementary. Construction is tentatively scheduled for this winter.

### New Pedestrian Crossing at Capitola Road at 42nd Avenue

A lighted in-road crosswalk along with some traffic calming improvements are being designed for Capitola Road between 42nd Avenue and 45th Avenue. A traffic engineering consultant is currently working on some options that will be presented to the City Council.

The Capitola Lifeguard Service is pleased to announce it has acquired two new assets at little to no cost to the City. Lifeguard Captain Eric Mitchell was able to secure a donation from California State Parks for two of their old towers, and he wrote a grant to Honda Motor Corporation requesting a Personal Water Craft (PWC) for the lifeguard service.

With many thanks to California State Parks Lifeguard Supervisor Alex Peabody, the City of Capitola has replaced their dangerous and dilapidated old towers with sturdier recycled ones. With new safety railings and a

## A WORD FROM THE CITY MANAGER

It is worthwhile as the City of Capitola begins a new budget year to review costs for services. The City budget for all operating services is about \$10 million, and about \$6.8 million (or 68%) of that is paid for by taxes. Most of those taxes, \$5.5 million, are sales taxes. The City receives less than 10% of your property taxes, by the way. The rest of City revenues come from fines, permits, service charges, investments, and some money from the State of California.

There are about 5,000 residential units within the City, and if the entire \$10 million of the City budget were to be paid entirely by the residents, the cost would be less than \$170 per month per residence. If we eliminate the fee for service programs, such as recreation and development permits, and look at the costs of City services as paid for by tax dollars the cost would be less than \$125 per month per residence. Using this calculation you can see that on the average it costs each family in Capitola about \$125 per month for police services, street maintenance, park maintenance, code enforcement, and all other assorted municipal services. Compare this to your PG&E bill or your automobile and home insurance costs.

As a practical matter, however, the average family is paying much less than the \$125 per month, because most of the tax revenue received by the City comes from sales tax, and most of that sales tax is paid by people who live outside the Capitola city limits. The League of California Cities has determined that on the average a resident pays about \$50 per month for services. The City of Capitola has about 2.11 persons per household which yields about \$106 per month per household for all City services, a good value by any measure, and it is the mission of the City of Capitola and its employees to endeavor to make it even a better value.

## Project ID for Children

### By Sgt. Todd Mayer

2002 has been a heartbreaking year for kidnapped children being murdered by their abductors. Violent kidnappings are on the rise across the country causing many parents, including myself, to revisit the potential threat strangers, and in certain cases, estranged family members, present to the well being of our children. I would like to take a moment to share some encouraging information about an outreach program the Capitola Police Department has started.

According to statistics published by the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, each year 800,000 children go missing. 450,000 of those are runaways, a family member is responsible for taking approximately 350,000 every year, and 4,600 qualify as being abducted every year by non-family members. That's one child every 40 seconds. Yet less than one in five parents has a copy of their child's fingerprints in case of an emergency.

Caring for our own children is a fundamental concern for those of us at the Capitola Police Department. As a preventative measure, the Police Department has started a Child Identification Program.

To be involved in the program is simple. Come to the Police Department and ask for an inkless fingerprint I.D. Kit. Inside you will find a triptych, a small inkless pad, an area for fingerprinting, entering dental information and medical records—all the information an Officer would ask for when taking a missing child report.

In the event your child goes missing, this information will then be close at hand and will help the Police locate your child in a timely manner. For more information on child safety tips you can visit the Federal Bureau of Investigation web site at [www.fbi.gov/kids/crimepre/abduct/abdrules/htm](http://www.fbi.gov/kids/crimepre/abduct/abdrules/htm).

## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Many times throughout the day, we all take actions in and around our houses that adversely affect our neighbors and those who walk, ride, or drive by our homes and businesses. Whether our actions include putting out the garbage cans for pick up, parking on the street, or trimming landscaping, the City of Capitola would like to encourage everyone to think about how their every day actions affect others. Other things such as loud music or late night parties also adversely impact our neighbors. By following the examples below, you are sure to be a good neighbor.

- ✓ Avoid parking in such a way that your car blocks the sidewalk and forces people to walk in the street.
- ✓ Trim landscaping back away from sidewalks to keep the pathway clear
- ✓ Do not park in front of driveways or entranceways.
- ✓ Place garbage cans in front of the house to avoid blocking the sidewalk or parking spots and be sure to remove them promptly.
- ✓ Don't allow landscaping to block the sight distance for passing cars, bikes, and pedestrians especially if you live on a corner lot.
- ✓ Properly store flammable and hazardous materials.
- ✓ Don't let garbage or other debris accumulate on your property.
- ✓ Be conscientious about the level of music.

Many of these issues are prohibited under the Capitola Municipal Code. If you have questions or concerns, please call. Be a good neighbor and take care of these and other similar issues.

## HOW MANY TREES SHOULD WE PLANT AND CARE FOR?

We live in "a world of machines...cars, airplane, factories, and electric generators. Most run on fossil fuels which, when burned, give off carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. How many trees should you plant or care for in order to off-set the carbon dioxide you'll be responsible for in your life time? It depends on the age of the tree and how soon in life you start. As you can see from the chart which follows, the sooner you begin, the better!" \*1

Your Age	Seedlings	10-year-old trees
1	45	30
10	60	35
20	80	40
30	120	50
40	210	70



\*1 Source: International Society of Arboriculture

Trees grow by using carbon from the atmosphere, and by producing oxygen we need to breathe. We do not precisely know how many trees we would need to plant and care for to provide for our individual consumption of oxygen...We know that in one year, a single tree can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven 26,000 miles. A 70-year-old tree stores over three tons of carbon dioxide. We must each do our part to clean up the atmosphere. **We can make a commitment to plant and care for trees.**

**Come and help the City of Capitola to do its part. Nominate and/or support the nomination of a locally significant, mature and scenic tree for our proposed Heritage Tree list.** The Community Development Department is revising the City's Tree Ordinance, to incorporate a Heritage Tree List, performance standards, and incentives for the care of existing and the planting of new trees, protecting and enhancing our "community/urban forest." The City will contact property owners for trees nominated to be Heritage Trees in order to request their support.

Heritage Trees will be treated specially, since they are to remain for future generations. The care of our scenic, and mature trees, as well as of our sensitive habitat areas is very important for the maintenance of our "current canopy coverage," help supply oxygen and clean the air. We have not even talked about the many other benefits of trees, such as providing food and shelter for wildlife, reducing noise, reducing utility bills, beautifying our neighborhoods with green and flowers, enhancing our property values...and more.

To nominate a tree, please contact the Community Development Department, at (831) 475-7300, and nominate a tree. Staff would add the tree to the proposed Heritage Tree List. The List will be incorporated into the draft ordinance and be reviewed by the Planning Commission, in late October and November.

## Streets Are Not Garages:

Citizens of Capitola have made their concerns heard by the City Council in regards to the storage of vehicles on public streets and right of ways. The City Council has directed the Police Department to find out if the city ordinance concerning storage of vehicles on streets could be changed to reflect a shorter period of time before abatement. Capitola's current ordinance requires a waiting period of 120 hrs. of consecutive parking before vehicles can be abated. However, other agencies such as CHP only require a wait of 72 hours before the vehicle can be removed. The California Vehicle Code does allow modification of local ordinances, under Section 22651 (k), to reflect the 72 hour period. The Capitola Ordinance will soon be changed to reflect this shorter period, thereby allowing

vehicles to be removed 72 hours after notification. Trailers, boats, motorcycles and RVs are also considered vehicles under California law, so street storage of these types of vehicles for longer than 72 hours will be illegal too.

## Graffiti Eradication Efforts:

The graffiti problem has continued in Capitola, and throughout the County, despite the Police Department's best efforts. As part of the Capitola Police Department's expanding program to combat this problem, a new City Ordinance has been proposed and is on the fast track for approval by the City council. Capitola's new ordinance will make it much more difficult for persons under 18 years of age to obtain spray

paint and larger sized marking pens. It will require all businesses selling these items to store them in an area inaccessible to the public and requiring assistance from store personnel to purchase. This ordinance has been patterned after one currently on the books in Santa Cruz and should help in making it a little tougher for the "taggers" to get their tools of the trade. And for those of you who weren't aware, under California law it is currently illegal for anyone under 18 years of age to purchase or possess any aerosol container of paint, and illegal to sell anyone under 18 years of age any aerosol containers of paint. So most of the time, our underage taggers were not paying for their artists supplies, just grabbing them from the shelves. Hopefully, this will eliminate our businesses as a source for illegally obtained and used spray paint and marking pens.

**CITY OF CAPITOLA**  
 420 Capitola Avenue  
 Capitola, Ca 95010

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 PERMIT #13

- Gayle Ortiz** Mayor  
**Tony Gualtieri** Vice Mayor  
**Bruce Arthur** Council Member  
**Stephanie Harlan** Council Member  
**Dennis Norton** Council Member
- Bob Begun** City Treasurer
- Richard Hill** City Manager  
**Pam Greeninger** City Clerk

Please email your comments or suggestions to: [lmurphy@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:lmurphy@ci.capitola.ca.us)

# CALENDAR OF CITY MEETINGS

City Council/RDA meetings are held in the City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue.  
 For all other meetings locations or for more information, call 475-7300  
 or watch Cable Community Channel 8 scroll. Dates are subject to change.

Recreation Dept.:  
[caprec@cruzio.com](mailto:caprec@cruzio.com)

City Web Site:  
[www.ci.capitola.ca.us](http://www.ci.capitola.ca.us)

## october

10, 24	City Council/RDA*	7:00 p.m.
As Needed	Traffic Advisory	7:00
3, 17	Planning Commission	7:00
3	Museum Board	5:30
14	Arts Commission	7:00
8	Finance Advisory Committee	7:00
28	Recreation Advisory	7:00
15	Wharf Group	12:00
15	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
9, 23	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30

## november

14, 26	City Council/RDA*	7:00 p.m.
As Needed	Traffic Advisory	7:00
7, 21	Planning Commission	7:00
7	Museum Board	5:30
11	Arts Commission	7:00
12	Finance Advisory Committee	7:00
18	Recreation Advisory	7:00
26	Wharf Group	12:00
26	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
13, 27	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30

## december

12	City Council/RDA*	7:00 p.m.
As Needed	Traffic Advisory	7:00
5, 19	Planning Commission	7:00
5	Museum Board	5:30
9	Arts Commission	7:00
10	Finance Advisory Committee	7:00
16	Recreation Advisory	7:00
TBD	Wharf Group	12:00
TBD	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
11	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30

## HAVE A QUESTION?

**Administration: 475-7300**

**Building Dept: 475-7300 ext. 218**  
 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)  
 Building Permits/Inspections

**Cable TV: 1-866-731-5420**

**City Clerk: 475-7300 ext. 228**  
 City Council Information  
 Elections  
 Agendas

**Community Development:**  
**475-7300 ext. 216**

**Emergencies: 911**

**Fire (County): 479-6842**

**Garbage: 1-800-665-2209**

**Library: 477-7242**

**Museum: 464-0322**

**Recreation: 475-5935**

**Public Works: 475-7300**  
 Street Repair  
 Road Information  
 Parks

**Police:**  
 Information: 475-4935  
 Emergency: 911