

CAPITOLA

Currents



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2003

NEWS CORNER

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

Dolphin Sculpture Reward Fund:
\$1,000. To contribute, or if you
have information call 475-7300.

Capitola Museum Exhibit: "Catch
a Wave" opens July 4th. Museum
hours are Friday – Sunday 12 – 4 pm.

Twilight Concerts Every
Wednesday Night @ 6pm,
Esplanade Park beginning June
18 to August 20. Check the web site
www.ci.capitola.ca.us for more details.

Art at the Beach: Esplanade Park, 1st
& 3rd Sunday of each month 10 - 5,
May – Sept. More information call
475-7300.

Begonia Festival: August 30 –
September 1. Nautical Parade is
Sunday, Aug. 31st at 1 pm.

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HOUSING PROGRAMS

Offered by the City of Capitola

The City offers four programs that provide financial assistance to eligible households to help them pay for housing that they could not otherwise afford. These programs are: the Housing Rehabilitation Program, the First-time Homebuyers Program, the Security Deposit Program, and the Emergency Housing Assistance Program.

Housing Rehabilitation Program

This program provides eligible mobile home owners with up to \$12,000 for rehabilitation work, such as earthquake bracing, foundation work, roofing, painting, siding, skirting, disabled access improvements, and interior work (electrical, plumbing repairs) for health and safety code compliance. Licensed contractors must do the work. The financing provided is a deferred-payment second mortgage at 3% interest. No payments on the loan are due until the home is sold, refinanced, or transferred. Low and moderate-income Capitola coach owners residing full-time in their mobile homes are eligible for this program. Maximum income limits are \$62,650 gross annual income for a household of one, \$71,600 for two, and \$80,550 for three-person households. For larger families, income limits are higher. The Housing Authority administers this program for the City. If you are interested in this program, you can get all the details and download an application at: <http://www.hacosantacruz.org/mobilehome/mobilehome.html>, or call Sandra at 464-0170 x 241. The City is considering expanding the program in fiscal year 2003-04 to allow low-income homeowners of single family homes or condos, and rental property owners who provide housing to low income tenants, to participate. If you are a homeowner or rental property owner

interested in this possibility, please email Suzanne at sise@ci.capitola.ca.us.

First-time Homebuyer Program

This program provides gap financing to low-income first-time buyers purchasing mobile homes in Capitola, in the form of deferred second mortgages at 3% interest for amounts up to 20% of the purchase price. Buyers must have their own downpayment of 5% of the purchase price. Mobile homes priced up to \$258,000 can be purchased through this program. Maximum annual income limits are \$42,400 for one person, \$48,450 for two, and higher for larger households. Bay Federal Credit Union provides first mortgages for program participants. If you are interested in this opportunity, talk to the lending staff at Bay Federal to see how much you can borrow for a mobile home purchase, then talk to your realtor about finding a mobile home in Capitola. Once you've located one, your lender will refer you to the Housing Authority. You can get more info and an eligibility worksheet at: <http://www.hacosantacruz.org/homebuyers/index.html#cap>, or call Beth at 464-0170 x 286. In some cases this program can be used in conjunction with other types of homebuyer assistance, such as the Section 8 Homeownership Program, also administered by the Housing Authority, or other programs offered by county agencies. The City is currently considering program changes to allow moderate-income first-time homebuyers to participate (see income limits under Rehab Program, above) and to expand property eligibility to include real estate, such as condos and single-family homes, within certain price limits. If you are a moderate-income first-time buyer interested in purchasing in Capitola and can't find anything within your price range, and you're interested in the possibility of downpayment assistance from the City, email Suzanne at sise@ci.capitola.ca.us. *Continued on page 2...*

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING!

Summer is in full swing, with over 200 classes for kids and adults, in addition to our 3 big summer programs, Camp Capitola, Junior Lifeguards and Aquatics.

There is still room in the second session of **Junior Lifeguards**, starting Monday, July 21. Junior Guards is a very active, physically challenging, competitive program which provides instruction in the basic fundamentals of ocean water safety, first aid, lifesaving, fitness, and good sportsmanship. Activities include mock rescues, beach & water games, fun workouts, and competitions. Program fees include instruction, official t-shirt & patch, & discounts with local merchants. Each session ends with an awards picnic at Jade Street Park.

Camp Capitola, is offered in 2-week sessions, and there is still room for everyone in Session 3 (7/14-7/25), Session 4 (7/28-8/8) and Session 5 (8/11-8/22). Camp, for kids ages 6-11, is held at Jade Street Park and uses the outdoor environment and the Capitola Community Center to provide kids with an awesome summer experience!

Activities include sports, arts and crafts projects, water games, drama productions, beach days, theme weeks, specialty camps, carnivals, and more! We offer half-day



(mornings or afternoons) or all-day care, with extended care hours and transport for those children enrolled in both Camp and Junior Guards. Our program's emphasis is on developing healthy self-esteem in children, which we define as appreciating one's worth and importance and having the character to be accountable for oneself and to act responsibly toward others.

There are still two sessions of **Aquatics** and Diving classes open: Session 3 (7/14-7/25), and Session 4 (7/28-8/8). Our popular program, held at Cabrillo College pool, is structured to meet American Red Cross guidelines to teach basic swimming skills and to help people learn to be safe when they are in, on, or around water. Classes are small: 6-10 students per instructor, depending on the age, class level, and ability of the students

in the class. Classes meet every day, Monday through Friday.

Still to come are many fun activities for kids, including: several Drama Camps, Horse Vaulting Day Camp, Teen Kayaking Camp, Beach Volleyball Camp, Freshman Girls Volleyball Camp, Tutoring, Fitness Training, Gymnastics, Golf, Martial Arts, and Tennis.

Adults and teens can join our fun art classes and make broken plate mosaic projects, painted floor cloths, handmade greeting cards, and monotype prints, or learn realistic painting or folk-art furniture painting. Find out how to create nutritious and delicious Thai and Japanese meals, and how the foods you eat affect your energy, moods, weight and risk of disease. Meet others and have a great time learning to dance; we offer Tap, Bellydance, Salsa, Swing, Jitterbug, Country Line, and Polynesian. Enjoy the beach and ocean with the Capitola Master Lifeguard Program, Kayaking (at Elkhorn Slough and in the ocean), Sailing, Scuba Diving and Surfing. Get active and fit with Bone Builder, Free Weight Strength Training, Stability Ball, The Invisible Gym, Golf, Stretching, Volleyball and Tennis. Or slow down, relax and enjoy Yoga, Qi Gong, Aromatherapy and Meditation.

Come join the fun! Our entire brochure is online at www.capitolarecreation.com, or give us a call at 475-5935 or 475-6115 for a catalog, prices, and registration information.

Housing Programs continued from page 1...

Security Deposit Program

This program is available to low-income renters trying to rent a new unit in Capitola. The Housing Authority will determine if you are eligible and provide you with funds for your security deposit and a letter of credit for your last month's rent, if needed. Households already receiving rental assistance, such as Section 8 vouchers, are not eligible for this program. You must apply for this assistance before moving in to or paying for your new rental unit. Contact Sandra at 464-0170 x 241 for more information.

Emergency Housing Assistance Program

The Community Action Board administers this program. It provides very low-income Capitola residents with one-time financial assistance to prevent homelessness. If you have lost your regular income source due to an emergency, such as a job loss or medical emergency, and you don't have funds to make your next rent or mortgage payment, call CAB at 457-1741 for assistance.

Do you need another type of housing assistance? Send your ideas to sise@ci.capitola.ca.us.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

Are you Building a Fence?

Did you know that if you are going to build a new fence, or replace an existing fence, you need a permit issued by the Community Development Department? A fence as defined by the Capitola Municipal Code includes the following materials: wood, masonry, metal and other permanent materials. Applications are available at City Hall, 420 Capitola Ave. Upon completion of an application and payment of \$33.00 a permit may be issued over the counter.

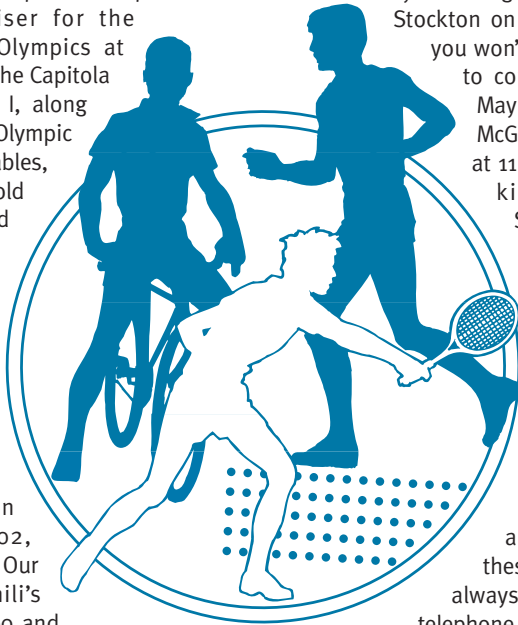
When building your fence, there are some key requirements: 1) Do not build in the public right-of-way, 2) When building a fence on the front of your property, such as a picket

fence, it may only be 3.5' feet high, 3) The fence height in the back or side yards can only be a maximum of 8' provided that the top 2' are lattice, otherwise 6', 4) On corner lots, fencing must be set back at least 5' from the property line along the side of the lot which has the greatest length along the street, and 5) On corner lots, site distance for corners and driveways must be taken into consideration. Fences in these areas shall be no greater than 2.5'. If you should have any questions, please call the Community Development Department at 475-7300.

Special Olympics

On April 25, 2003, from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, the Capitola Police Department sponsored a Tip-A-Cop fundraiser for the California Special Olympics at Chili's Restaurant in the Capitola Mall. My staff and I, along with several Special Olympic athletes, waited on tables, greeted customers, sold Torch Run T shirts and collected donations for the Special Olympics. This was the second event of the fundraising year sponsored by the Capitola Police Department. The fundraiser held at Marie Calender's on November 15, 2002, raised over \$2,000. Our latest effort at Chili's collected over \$2,900 and with shirt sales we have raised over \$5,000 for Special Olympics this year. Although the State faces a 35 billion dollar deficit, the hearts and pocket books of our residents opened up for these deserving athletes and this worthwhile cause. I'd like to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Special Olympics and our fundraising efforts again this year. I'd also like to extend a thank you to the management of both Chili's Restaurant and Marie Calender's for sponsoring these functions at their restaurants. Additional thanks goes to both Ocean Honda Chevrolet and Toyota of Santa Cruz for their generous corporate sponsorship of the Torch Run.

The Torch Run will occur again this year in Santa Cruz County on May 29, 2003. The torch will arrive at McGregor and Park Avenue carried by Park Rangers at about 11:30. Capitola officers, special Olympic athletes and a select group of citizens will then proceed with the torch to City Hall for a short ceremony and proclamation by Mayor Gualtieri. Runners will then proceed to Cliff Drive and the county border to pass off the torch to the Sheriff's Department. A buffet is being hosted at City Hall for the participants and city staff after the run. This year I am sponsoring an auction item for the Capitola Chamber of Commerce's Art and Wine Festival kick-off party. The auction item will be a certificate for the highest bidder and 3 of his/her guests to run in the Torch Run with the Chief of Police, receive a Torch Run T shirt and a photo opportunity with the Mayor



at City Hall. Breakfast will follow and a tour of the Police Department is included.

The Special Olympics are scheduled to occur in Stockton on June 6, 2003. If you are looking for an exciting and heart warming experience try attending the Special Olympics in Stockton on the 6th, I assure you, you won't be sorry. If you'd like to come cheer us along on May 29th, we will meet at McGregor and Park Avenue at 11:00 AM to work out the kinks and meet the Special Athletes who will accompany us into Capitola. We will proceed into town on Park, turn left on Monterey and make out way to City Hall to meet the mayor and catch our breath. Thank you Capitola for opening your hearts and pocket books to these special athletes. As always I can be reached by telephone at: 475-4242, extension 213, or by e-mail at: rehle@ci.capitola.ca.us.

-Chief Ehle

New Employee

Late in 2002, we sent Community Service Officer (CSO) Leo Moreno to the South Bay Regional Police Academy in Gilroy at Gavilan Community College. This academy is just short of six months in duration, and certifies that graduates meet California Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training requirements. In concept, the police academies scattered throughout California should all have the same training curriculum. Six months of eight-hour days, five days-a-week classes, physical training, and a number of nighttime exercises are necessary to complete this training. This particular academy is sponsored by a consortium of law enforcement agencies from the between the San Francisco Bay area and South Santa Clara county. A majority of recruit police officers from this area attend the Gavilan Academy.

Officer Moreno was presented with his badge by his father on his graduation, April 25, 2003, at Gavilan College. A number of

his family members and friends were present for this important and exciting event, as were numerous members of the Capitola Police Department.

Officer Moreno is in the Field Training Program for the next fourteen weeks, and will work with a series of field training officers before going out on the street as a solo beat officer.

With Officer Moreno's promotion to Police Officer, a vacancy arose in the CSO ranks. Reserve Officer Leland Blankenship was immediately promoted to fill the empty spot. During this last month, another of our long-time officers quit and CSO Blankenship was offered a position as a police trainee and is scheduled to go to the next police academy on May 20th.

Several months ago, applicants were tested for reserve and police officer positions. From that group, Amy Harper was offered a job as a CSO. She will fill Officer Blankenship's position after she completes her Field Training Program.

The Capitola Museum Wants You!



The Capitola Historical Museum is looking for volunteers to greet visitors at the museum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The 2-hour shifts are 12-2 or 2-4. There are openings for regular, occasional and on-call volunteers. Call Carolyn Swift at 464-0322 for more information or to sign up.

City Sponsored Recycle Day

The City of Capitola sponsored a 1 day free computer recycling day event on May 17 thanks to a grant from the Integrated Waste Management Board. The event was also co-sponsored by the County of Santa Cruz, Gayles Bakery and Cruzio. Although volunteers outnumbered customers, the event did collect an estimated 1,500 pounds of materials. It is hoped that the City will be able to make this an annual event using grant money.

The goal of this project was to bring public awareness on the ways to recycle and dispose of computer and hardware equipment and to divert toxic material from the landfill. Every computer contains 5 to 8 pounds of lead as well as mercury, arsenic and other heavy metals and toxic chemicals. When a computer is buried in a landfill,



we run a high risk of the toxic chemicals eventually leaching into the groundwater.

In 2002, approximately 41 million computers become outdated; and current analysis by the National Safety Council estimates that 63 million computers will become obsolete in 2005. It is estimated that 75% of these obsolete computers

are stored, and by 2007, these stored computers will amount to about 500 million computers needing to be disposed. There are different options available for computers

besides just throwing them away. Many computers are built in a way that allows them to be repaired, upgraded or recycled.

The materials collected that day were picked up by United DataTech Distributors, located in San Jose. They

have performed a similar event for the City of San Jose where in one day they had over 850 cars come through and dropped off 140,000 lbs of material that was recycled or reused. United DataTech does not export or sell to buyers who export the materials, they use domestic labor as opposed to prison labor or overseas labor. Much of the material is dismantled and recycled and some is refurbished for reuse.

You may still dispose of your old computer or printer by bringing it and other household hazardous waste to the Buena Vista Landfill located in Watsonville. The hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. The first computer system is free, there after it is \$18.00 each.

Municipal Academy

The Capitola Municipal Academy is a program developed by the City to provide residents with a comprehensive overview of their local government. The program is meant to be informative and engaging while providing citizens a unique opportunity to see how their government works inside and out.

The Municipal Academy Program will meet twice each month from October 1, 2003 through February 4, 2004 for a total of eight meetings. The meetings will be about three hours in length, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at about 9:30 p.m. A light dinner will be served to the participants. Most of the meetings will be held on a Wednesday in the Community Room.

The program will consist of the following topics: History of Capitola; a panel of local government representatives from various boards (Central Fire, Water District, County and School); a comprehensive presentation by all of the departments including a firearms demonstration and a police ride a-long; an overview of regional, state and federal issues impact on the City; how the citizens can contribute locally and finally a Graduation Ceremony.

Approximately 20 local citizens may participate in the program. The program is funded by the City, there is no cost to participate. If you would like to apply, please contact Joan Fuhry, Interim Assistant to the City Manager at 475-7300.

51ST Annual Begonia Festival

Every fall for the last fifty years, Capitola has celebrated part of its horticultural history by staging the Capitola Begonia Festival. The theme for this year's festival, "The Fabulous Fifties", will be presented through two evening concerts, various art events, horseshoe and volleyball tournaments, a children's fishing derby, a rowboat race, and a parade of colorful floats decorated to reflect the festival's theme.



The Capitola Begonia Festival is a non-profit community event that is presented by an all-volunteer committee with the generous support of the City of Capitola and local merchants. Everyone is invited to join in and be a part of this year's

celebration. The Capitola Begonia Festival Committee meets at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month in the Community Room which is located downstairs at Capitola City Hall. You can also show your support for this local event with either a cash donation or by gathering a group of your friends together and using your imagination and creativity to build a float for the nautical parade. Merchant sponsorships are always appreciated or they may want to join the Home and Commercial contest.

For information, to volunteer or to enter a parade float:
(831) 476-3566 or
info@begoniafestival.com

NEW BIKE LANES COMING !

In April, the City Council authorized staff to prepare plans and specifications for a citywide bike lane striping project. The project will complete the installation of the Bike Lane plan adopted by the City Council in 1993. Bike lanes increase safety. Bike lanes help define road space, decrease the stress level of bicyclists riding in traffic, encourage bicyclists to ride in the correct direction of travel, and signal motorists that cyclists have a right to the road.

Bike lanes help to better organize the flow of traffic and reduce the chance that motorists will stray into cyclists' path of travel. Well - designed bike lanes encourage proper behavior by drivers and cyclists and decrease the likelihood of crashes. In addition, a comprehensive set of bike lanes throughout the area increases bike riding as an alternate to auto trips. The Centers for Disease Control rank " a shift in auto trips to walking and biking" as the number one strategy to reduce diseases related to inactivity, such as heart disease and diabetes.



Restriping of existing bike lanes that have faded out. The bike lane-striping project is scheduled to be completed this summer. Inquiries regarding the project and other bicycle issues can be addressed to Daniel Kostelec at dkostelec@ci.capitola.ca.us.

◆ 100 % of the funding for the bike lane-striping project will come from Regional Transportation Commission funds. The project will include: Completing the bike lanes on Bay Avenue between Capitola Avenue and Park Avenue

◆ Adding bike lanes on the Stockton Bridge.

◆ Striping a bike lane on Stockton Avenue and going up Wharf Road. The traffic lane will be moved over to accommodate a lane for cyclists going up the hill. Negotiating the steep slope of Wharf Road without a dedicated bike lane is difficult and dangerous for cyclists.

◆ Extending the bike lane that currently ends at the county line on Brommer Street along Brommer Street and Jade Street all the way to 45th Avenue. Parking will be removed from one side of the street.

◆ Restriping of existing bike lanes that have faded out.

The bike lane-striping project is scheduled to be completed this summer. Inquiries regarding the project and other bicycle issues can be addressed to Daniel Kostelec at dkostelec@ci.capitola.ca.us.

City Manager Corner

Cable Television

What is the City's Role in Regulation

The City's role in regulating the cable television companies drastically changed in 1996 when congress adopted the Telecommunications Act. Virtually all ability to regulate fees, and control quality of the firms providing services was taken away. Cities never had the ability to regulate programming because of constitutionally protected free speech issues. There are two documents that the City uses to regulate cable television: the CATV ordinance and the Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications. These two documents allow the City to step in when quality of service issues are raised by Charter's customers, but the enforcement process is burdensome. The first step is for the City to receive notice from the customer when, where and to what degree negative service problems have occurred. The City must then notice Charter and give them an opportunity to be heard. This can be as long as 30 days. If the problem is not corrected or if Charter has not identified the problem as someone else's, the City must give another notice to Charter of not less than 20 days to conduct a public hearing. Once the hearing is conducted the Council must make certain findings before any damages can be assessed against Charter.

Although the cable television regulation process is long and complicated, the most important element for its success is for the customer to inform the City of continued service deficiencies. The next most important element is that the City has regulatory authority over the matter of concern. For example, there has been a lot of interest in obtaining the Community Television programming that broadcasts the Board of Supervisors meetings and various community produced programs. This requires a physical interconnection to be constructed between Charters system and that of Com Cast (formerly AT&T Broadband). The City's Franchise Agreement only requires that Charter do the best it can to make that interconnection. The agreement language does not require the connection. The good news is that the County Franchise Agreement with Com Cast does require the connection. The County has put Com Cast on notice that they are in material breach of their contract for that reason and others. It will likely take some time for this to wind its way to a conclusion, but you can watch the newspapers for up dates.

Seeking Solutions for Creek Pollution

City staff is continuing its efforts to keep Capitola Beach open to the greatest extent possible. The City is currently working with the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Agency to identify sources of pollution and remedies to reduce them. Projects preliminarily identified address bird population control and diverting non-storm water flows to the lagoon.

While long-term solutions are being sought, Capitola residents are encouraged to do their part in keeping the creek clean by following these two simple tips.

◆ **DON'T FEED THE BIRDS.** As the seagull, pigeon, and other waterfowl populations increase along the creek and beach, there is a noticeable decrease in water quality.

◆ **DON'T PUT ANYTHING IN THE STORM DRAINS.** Storm drains are for storm water only, allowing landscaping over watering, car wash rinse water, oils, paints, or any other liquids or debris in these systems adds to the problems. Sweep your driveways, don't hose them down!!

Water Quality monitoring results are available on the Environmental Health Web under current water quality data. A direct link to the site is: <http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/eh/index.htm>

These advisories are updated weekly throughout the year; with special advisories posted when problems exist.

CITY OF CAPITOLA

420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, Ca 95010

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- Tony Gualtieri** Mayor
- Stephanie Harlan** Vice Mayor
- Bruce Arthur** Council Member
- Dennis Norton** Council Member
- Gayle Ortiz** 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

Recreation Dept.:
caprec@cruzio.com

City Web Site:
www.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.

july

10, 24	City Council/RDA*	7:00 p.m.
2, 17	Planning Commission	7:00
3	Museum Board	5:30
14	Arts Commission	
8	Finance Advisory Committee	7:00
22	Wharf Group	12:00
22	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
9, 23	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30

august

7, 21	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
7	Museum Board	5:30
11	Arts Commission	
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

september

11, 25	City Council/RDA*	7:00 p.m.
4, 18	Planning Commission	7:00
4	Museum Board	5:30
8	Arts Commission	
9	Finance Advisory Committee	7:00
15	Recreation Advisory	
23	Wharf Group	12:00
23	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
10, 24	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30

* RDA meets between 6-7pm. See agenda for time.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Administration: 475-7300

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

Cable TV: Charter 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: Waste Management
1-800-665-2209

Sewer: 24 Hour Emergency
464-5462

Library: 477-7242

Museum: 464-0322

Recreation: 475-5935

Public Works: 475-7300
Street Repair
Road Information
Parks

Police:
Information: 475-4935
Emergency: 911