

CITY OF CAPITOLA
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, Ca 95010

Michael Termini Mayor
Kirby Nicol Vice Mayor
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Sam Storey Council Member
Ron Graves Council Member

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CAPITOLA

Currents



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2007

Please email your comments or suggestions to 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

City Web Site:
www.ci.capitola.ca.us

april

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|------|
| 12, 26 | City Council/RDA* | 7:00 |
| 5, 19 | Planning Commission | 7:00 |
| 5 | Museum Board | 5:30 |
| 10 | Art & Cultural Commission | 6:30 |
| 30 | Finance Advisory Committee | 6:00 |
| | Village Master Plan Committee | TBD |
| 11, 25 | Arch & Site Review Committee | 3:30 |
| 3 | Commission on the Environment | 7:00 |

may

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|------|
| 10, 24 | City Council/RDA* | 7:00 |
| 3, 17 | Planning Commission | 7:00 |
| 3 | Museum Board | 5:30 |
| 8 | Art & Cultural Commission | 6:30 |
| 8 | Finance Advisory Committee | 6:00 |
| 22 | Village Master Plan Committee | 6:30 |
| 9, 23 | Arch & Site Review Committee | 3:30 |
| 1 | Commission of the Environment | 7:00 |

june

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|------|
| 14, 28 | City Council/RDA* | 7:00 |
| 7, 21 | Planning Commission | 7:00 |
| 7 | Museum Board | 5:30 |
| 12 | Art & Cultural Commission | 6:30 |
| 19 | Finance Advisory Committee | 6:00 |
| | Village Master Plan Committee | TBD |
| 13, 27 | Arch & Site Review Committee | 3:30 |
| 5 | Commission on the Environment | 7:00 |

* RDA meets between 6-7 P.M. 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 Communications
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

Library: 477-7240

Museum: 464-0322

Recreation: 475-5935

Parking Enforcement: 475-9274

Public Works: 475-7300
Street Repair
Road Information
Parks
Sewer Emergency: 464-5462

Police:
Information: 475-4935
Emergency: 911

NEWS CORNER

ON THE TELEVISION:

Tune into channels 71, 72 & 73 for Santa Cruz area Public, Education & Government programming.

TWILIGHT CONCERTS:

Begin on June 20, every Wednesday night through August in Esplanade Park. Check our website for detailed info.

ART @ THE BEACH:

Artists Wanted! Call 419-7485 or download an application at www.ci.capitola.ca.us.

NEW MUSEUM HOURS:

Now open Wednesday from 12-4pm in addition to regular hours of Friday-Sunday 12-4pm.

CAPITOLA ROD & CUSTOM CLASSIC CAR SHOW:
Capitola Village - June 9-10

BANDSTAND DEDICATION CEREMONY:
Esplanade Park - May 19 at 4pm

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RED LIGHT CAMERA ON THE MOVE

Red light running is a serious problem in the United States. In 2004, crashes caused by red light running resulted in as many as 854 fatalities and more than 168,000 injuries. Studies show there are two main reasons for red light running at intersections:

- Intersection engineering
- Driver awareness

During 2005, after conducting a traffic flow study on 41st Avenue, the most heavily traveled roadway in Santa Cruz County, it was determined the Clares Street intersection at 41st Avenue was particularly dangerous for vehicle and pedestrian travel.

Shortly after the completion of the study, this section of 41st Avenue was scheduled to undergo re-engineering precluding the installation of the red light camera currently located at the entrance to the Mall. That camera was originally intended for the intersection of

Clares Street and 41st Avenue because the traffic study showed there over 100 red light violations per day at this location.

Now that the roadway work has been completed, the northbound camera at 41st Avenue and the Capitola Mall will be moved to Clares Street at southbound 41st Avenue. It is the City's hope that relocating the camera to this spot will replicate the 20 percent reduction in accidents we witnessed during 2006 at the Mall intersection.

Remember, the red light automatically detects vehicles illegally entering the intersection documenting the violation by taking high quality photographs and video. By using this evidence in court, the current conviction rate for these violations is over 90 percent with a fine of \$381.00.

As always, please drive safely.

THE ESSENCE OF HERB

By: Captain Todd Mayer

On January 8th, retired Capitola Police Sergeant, Herb Ross, lost his valiant battle against cancer. On the 18th, in a celebration of Herb's life, a formal Law Enforcement Memorial Service was held at the First Congregational Church of Santa Cruz.

Herb, after retiring from the Capitola Police Department, had been hired by the Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Department to recruit and investigate the backgrounds of potential Deputies. For his years of dedicated service, Herb was eulogized by Sheriff Steve Robbins, and Capitola Police Chief Rick Ehle; with testimonials from close friends Mike Macmillan and retired Capitola Police Captain Joe Granata; niece Shelby Ross and Herb's son Jim. The service touched the hundreds of family, friends and Law Enforcement professionals in attendance.

During the service, I talked with many people who knew Herb. I realized people who spent anytime with Herb had a "Herb" story. That was Herb; everyone he interacted with came away with what I refer to as the essence of Herb. Herb had a dynamic personality crammed full of energy and character. Herb, as was his signature, would leave you laughing or crying and often speechless. Herb, even though slight of stature, was a giant among men.

In 1978, I started my career with the Capitola Police Department as a young, impressionable, Police Reserve. Herb, who had been with the Police Department since 1973 and had been quickly promoted to the rank of Sergeant, was my first Supervisor. People close to Herb knew he took great pride in his appearance and wore a mean, highly tailored uniformed with highly

Continued on pg 2

THE ESSENCE OF HERB CONTINUED...

polished Wellington boots. Herb took his appearance so seriously he polished the face of his uniform badge smooth. In military parlance, Herb wore a strack uniform- very intimidating for a young Reserve Officer.

I still remember my first week on patrol when one night my training officer pulled into a dark and deserted Jade Street Park to meet with Herb concerning a matter of high importance. Anytime Herb called for a "meet" you knew it was a matter of extreme import- just about everything Herb had to say or do seemed to involve an element of the utmost urgency. What I did not realize at the time is that I was going to be screened for acceptability by the ultimate authority on everything Law Enforcement.

The trap had been set and foolishly I took the bait. To put it nicely, Herb chewed me up and spit me out. I weathered one of the most extreme interrogations since I crashed my father's car in high school. I knew I had passed the "Herb" test when that night I was crowned forever "Todd the Rod."

I never asked, but I imagine Herb liked this moniker because number one it rhymed nicely, Herb had been in a rock band in his earlier days and his sense of prose was impeccable, and number two this was Herb's implicit cipher for letting me know I had checked out satisfactorily. In Herb's world if he hadn't coined you with a pet name of some sort I am not so certain you made the cut.

Herb never defined himself by the number of suspects he arrested, but by the number of victims he helped. Herb was one of those uncommon cops who showed compassion and empathy for victims. I often thought Herb developed this talent growing up hardscrabble in Boulder Creek one of 10 kids. It was rumored Herb, during his high school days, would often go to blows protecting other people's honor. For

all the years I knew Herb he constantly sacrificed for the underdog; simply stated this was Herb's strength of character.

Even though Herb had difficulty relating to computers, he had more in common with those confounding machines than he knew. You see Herb also thought in binary design. Herb's rules were simple there was no gray. You were either good or bad; ethical or unethical; friend or foe. Herb knew a bad seed when he saw one. If you happened to harm or injure a resident of Capitola was to toss the dice; to crap out was to face Herb.

Once Herb "Mad Dog" Ross caught your scent he would chase you to all four corners of the earth until he caught you. There was no tree high enough, no hole deep enough or body of water wide enough to hide from Herb. Herb embodied the meaning of single-mindedness and resolve. Just ask anyone of the thousands of people Herb had a hand in putting in jail during his 33-year career. To be on the wrong side of Herb was not a good choice that paid no dividend.

What made Herb a great cop was his innate ability to meld his tenacity and empathy in to a neat, tidy package. Herb gave no thought or reservation to stepping into the breach to protect the unprotected. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Herb knew he was a genuine champion of the community.

Without qualification, Herbert Allen Ross, husband, father, grandfather, and Law Enforcement professional, was one of those rare people who earned the right to be called an American hero.

Herb, as a friend and proud colleague, I salute you. Fear not my friend, you will never be forgotten for your memory will be everlasting in our hearts.

CAPITOLA SPRING GARAGE SALE – APRIL 28TH

REUSE & RECYCLE!! Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual City wide Garage Sale on April 28th. The City of Capitola will be sponsoring the Garage Sale and will do all of the advertising. All you have to do is call Lisa Murphy at 831-475-7300 ext. 236 or email lmurphy@ci.capitola.ca.us by April 24th. Tell her you would like to participate, be prepared to give your name and address and list of up to 3 types of items you will be selling.

The Friday before the Garage Sale, a map will be available to the public at City Hall (420 Capitola

Ave.) and on the web ci.capitola.ca.us listing all of the addresses of the garage sale participants. Get your map and go find that one-of-a-kind treasure.

After the Garage Sale, package up your unsold items to be picked up that week on your regular garbage day by Waste Management, or donate the items to a charitable cause of your choice. This is a terrific opportunity to clean out your garage, and help to divert refuse from our landfills by reusing and recycling!!

MEASURE P DOLLARS AT WORK

With the approval of the 1/4-cent sales tax increase the City Council appropriated a significant portion for Capital Improvements throughout the City. These improvements include work on streets, parks, and facilities, some have been completed and others are will be completed soon. Below is a list of the current projects, their current status and the Measure P contribution toward the funding.

Value of completed projects to date: \$650,000

Recently completed projects:

New UPRR Stairway

Status: Complete Cost: \$37,000

Burlingame Avenue Roadway Resurfacing

Status: Complete Cost: \$143,100

Slurry and Cape Seal Roads – Jewel Box neighborhood, McCormick Ave, Loma Ave, Monterey Ave, Washburn Ave

Status: Complete Cost: \$136,000

Projects coming soon:

Jade Street Play Equipment Replacement

Status: Construct Spring 2007
Cost: \$35,000

Street Resurfacing – 41st Avenue (northbound from UPRR to Capitola Road), Park Drive, 42nd Avenue, Pilgrim Drive, Beverly Drive, Del Monte Avenue, Oak Drive, Center Street, and Sunset Drive

Status: Construct Summer 2007
Cost: \$700,000

Cortez Park Play Equipment Replacement

Status: Under Design
Estimated Construction: Fall 2007
Cost: \$75,000

Stockton Avenue/Esplanade Sidewalk Improvements

Status: Under Design
Estimated Construction: Fall 2007
Cost: \$130,000

FROM THE MAYOR

The mayor would like to hear from any Capitola resident or child of a resident who has recently served overseas in the military. This is in preparation for a ceremony to recognize their service to the country. Please email your request to:

citycouncil@ci.capitola.us

CAPITOLA LEADS COUNTY BANNING POLYSTYRENE SUMMER REC CLASSES

The Capitola City Council passed an ordinance on December 14, 2006, requiring restaurants and other food service vendors in Capitola to substitute disposable polystyrene food packaging and utensils, including Styrofoam, with biodegradable or compostable alternatives made from renewable resources such as paper, corn starch, and sugarcane. Non-biodegradable food service products constitute a large portion of litter collected at Capitola beaches, lagoons, parks and waterways. They also pose a threat to the environment and to human health. Research shows that it takes 100 years or longer for polystyrene to break down, while organic materials decompose within weeks or months. Other studies suggest that styrene, a component of polystyrene, is a suspected carcinogen and neurotoxin that may leach from polystyrene containers into food and drink.

The new ordinance, which takes effect July 1, 2007, states that all Capitola food vendors shall use biodegradable or compostable, disposable food service ware unless affordable alternatives are not available. Items banned include disposable cups, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, forks, spoons, knives, clamshell containers and other take-out packaging made of plastic and designed for one-time use. Capitola is the first city in Santa Cruz County to implement such an ordinance.

To assist business owners, the Capitola Commission on the Environment has compiled a list of products and companies that manufacture

or distribute environmentally-safe food service ware. This list of suggested products is available at no cost to Capitola restaurateurs, food vendors, and interested persons. The ordinance also allows restaurants and food vendors to charge customers a small "take out" fee to cover the cost of approved packaging materials. All affected Capitola businesses have until October 1, 2007 to comply with the ordinance. Violations are subject to fines of up to \$500 for each violation.

Capitola joins an estimated 100 cities throughout the country, including Oakland and San Francisco, in banning polystyrene foam food service ware. The polystyrene manufacturing process is the fifth largest producer of hazardous waste in the United States, and the second worst environmental offender in California. As plastics do not decompose, they pose serious hazards humans, wildlife, the oceans, and the economy. Many Capitola businesses have already successfully eliminated most polystyrene and non-biodegradable packaging from their business operations. These leaders include Beach House, Dharma's Restaurant, Grinds Coffee/Tea, New Leaf Community Markets, Shadowbrook, Stockton Bridge Grill, and Zeldas.

As a Capitola resident, you can make a difference by requesting biodegradable or compostable packaging for your take-out orders. Thank you for your help in making Capitola a cleaner and healthier place to live.

BUDGET CALENDAR 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR

Become involved in your government. The City Council will begin budget deliberations and would like to have your input. Let us know your needs and ideas. Together, we will do better working towards our vision of the greater good for the City of Capitola. Below is the tentative schedule for the budget hearings and may be changed as desired by the City Manager and Council. Some meetings may be cancelled if they become unnecessary based on prior sessions. Check the web or scroll for updates.

March 22, 2007

- Finance Report – re: Grant Funding Level

April 26, 2007

- City Manager Report – re: Grant Funding Level for each specific agency

April 27, 2007

- Target Distribution of Proposed Budget

May 3, 2007

- Presentation by Staff of City Operating budget, RDA & CIP. Planning Commission to Review CIP.

May 8, 2007

- Finance Director and Capitola Finance Advisory Committee to review proposed budget and draft

Committee recommendation

May 16, 2007

- Joint Public Hearing (RDA & City); Finance Advisory Committee Presentation; Council Deliberation

May 30, 2007

- Continued Joint Public Hearing/Final Council deliberations

June 14, 2007

- Appropriations Limit; Investment Policy

June 21, 2007

- Continued Joint Public Hearing/Final Council/RDA deliberations (if necessary)

June 28, 2007

- Final Adoption of Operating Budget, RDA budget and CIP budget by resolution

The City of Capitola Recreation Department's Late Spring catalogue will be mailed to homes and online March 22, with registration for Late Spring classes, Junior Guards, Camp Capitola, & Aquatics classes at Cabrillo College pool beginning Monday, March 26. Registration for other Summer classes starts when the Summer catalogue comes out May 7.

Camp Capitola is offered in 2-week or 3-week sessions, starting June 18 & running through August 17. Camp, for kids ages 6-11, is held at Jade Street Park & uses the outdoor environment & Capitola Community Center to provide kids with an awesome summer experience! Activities include sports, arts & 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. Camp also offers teens ages 14-17 an opportunity to participate in our volunteer Junior Leader program, a work-training program designed to teach them the skills to become a Leader when they are older.

Our very popular Summer Aquatics program, held at Cabrillo College pool, is structured to meet American Red Cross guidelines to teach basic swimming skills and to help kids 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; there are 4 two-week sessions, starting June 18 and ending on August 10.

Returning Junior Lifeguards have priority registration as soon as the Late Spring catalogue comes out. Check the brochure or our website for information regarding registration for New Guards. 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, work-outs, and competitions. Junior Guards ages 16 & 17 who have participated in Guards for at least 2 years have the opportunity to participate in the Captains Corps work-training program to begin to prepare them to be Instructors. Program fees include instruction, official t-shirt & patch, & discounts w/local merchants. Each session ends w/awards picnic at Jade Street Park. Session 1 is 6/18-7/20, & session 2 is 7/23-8/17.

For full information, to view our Late Spring catalogue, print out registration forms and more, visit our website at www.capitolarecreation.com.