

CAPITOLA

Currents



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2004

NEWS CORNER

Now registering for Summer Camp Capitola at Jade Street Park, Summer Aquatics at Cabrillo College, and for remaining Late Spring classes.

Returning Junior Guards have priority registration through Friday, April 23. New Guards register at the registration fair on Saturday, April 24.

Registration for summer classes, starting in June, starts Monday, May 10.

Capitola Museum Exhibit: In the Company of Fredrick Hihn -1874-1913

Twilight Concerts Every Wednesday Night, Esplanade Park beginning June thru August. Check web site for more details

Art at the Beach: Esplanade Park, Two Sunday's a month 10 - 5, May - Oct.

The Capitola Police Department is still recruiting new members for our Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program, Youth Explorer Post and Citizen Patrol Unit. Those persons interested in joining a growing and dynamic group of Capitola citizens working with the Capitola Police Department should contact Records Supervisor Sharon Presco or Captain Mike Card, (831) 475-4242.

Regional Transportation Commission, Public Meeting on HWY 1 Widening, 4/26/04 @ Seacliff Inn 6:00, and 4/29 TBD. 831-460-3208

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City bans drinking of alcohol on Wharf

by Cheif Richard Ehle

Effective March 26, 2004, public possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the Capitola Wharf, with the exception of the Wharf House Restaurant, will be illegal. In response to growing public concern about public intoxication on the wharf, the Police Department was asked by the City Council to research and report back to the council on the various options available to the city. After meeting with business owners, city staff and citizens the Police Department offered several options on how to address the growing problem of public intoxication on the wharf. One option the police department suggested was simply banning alcohol consumption on the wharf, which is consistent with the prohibitions already in effect on public property, to include the beach, in Capitola and the city of Santa Cruz. Another option the police department explored was enhanced enforcement on the wharf during the summer months. However, the council did not favor this option as the department could not guarantee officers would consistently be available for stepped up patrols, as other calls for service and peak demand often coincides with the warm summer months. Banning alcohol consumption from one end of the wharf or the other was also discussed but not favored by the majority of the council.

On February 26, 2004 the City Council voted 3 to 2 in favor of banning the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the wharf, except for the Wharf House Restaurant, which has a General on-premise ABC license. Pursuant to adoption of the resolution the ban on alcohol will officially take affect in 30 days, or March 27, 2004. The City Council asked that the Police Department report back to the council at the end of the summer and provide them with an analysis of the effectiveness of the new ordinance.

A handful of local residents commented on how unfortunate it was that a handful of "trouble makers" had once again ruined it for everyone. Due to the alcohol ban, fishermen on the wharf can no longer legally sip a beer while fishing. I have to admit, it is a shame that a small handful of people always seem to ruin things for the majority of law-abiding folks. However, I can assure you, the people that ruined it for everyone else will be cited and/or arrested each and every time my staff catch them consuming alcohol in public within Capitola. .

Begonia Festival Volunteers Needed

The 52nd Capitola Begonia Festival Committee would like to invite Capitola residents to join our committee and help support



the growth of the Festival. The Begonia Festival Committee meets on the 1st Monday of each month for an hour or so to shape the upcoming Festival. Meetings are held at 7:00 pm in the Community Room at Capitola City Hall, 420 Capitola Ave. For more information on the event call Linda at (831) 462-3197 or check out the Capitola

Begonia Festival website: www.begoniafestival.com

CITY OF CAPITOLA SETS MAJOR GOALS

In one year the City staff completes about 250 specific projects that are in addition to their routine workload. These projects include items such as code enforcement, the annual audit, policy revisions, municipal code revisions, new position hires, major development approvals and many more. The City Manager is responsible for providing direction to accomplish these goals, but most of them are completed by the City staff.

This year as part of the City Manager's performance review, the City Council conducted a goal setting session, to which the public was invited. The object of this session was to solicit from the public some ideas of major accomplishments for the City during the next year or so. The Council then selected four or five projects as major goals for the City Manager to complete. The public goal setting session was held on Saturday, January 31, 2004 and lasted for about two hours. Once the City Council approved the goals in general, the City Manager prepared a work plan for each goal, and submitted the plans to the Council for approval. The plans were approved at the February 26, 2004 Council meeting and are now part of the Citywide staff project priorities.

During the public goal setting session several good ideas were suggested, but did not make it to the top of the list. These ideas included: DNA testing in Soquel Creek to help determine where the high fecal coliform bac-

terial counts come from; create an economic development plan; improve 41st Ave. signage; create a green building program; hire a full-time grant writer; continue improving the Village; acquire the Union Pacific Railroad Right of Way; bike path on Bay Ave.; bring the Farmers Market to the Village; adopt a utility tax to pay for storm water projects such as, filtration pond, storm drain and replacement; encourage more cultural events; work to keep Capitola Elementary School open; revise zon-

ing ordinances; and several other ideas. Simply because these ideas did not make it on the list of the top five does not mean that they will not necessarily get done. The City is well on its way to bringing the Farmers Market to the Village, for example. Nor does it mean that they will be done. They have however risen to the attention to the Council, the ones responsible for setting policies and approving projects.

TOP FIVE MAJOR GOALS

1) Depot Hill Local Historical District. This project has identified about a three block area in the Depot Hill area in which historical preservation is an important consideration. This project will also reestablish the Historical Resources Committee. The project should be completed by August 2004.

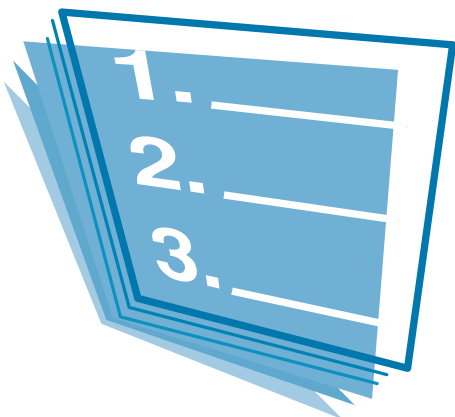
2) Capital Improvement Funding Plan. This project is to present to the City Council a plan identifying available options to fund Capital improvements. Some of these options would include new tax revenues that require the approval of the voters. This project should be completed by May 2004.

3) Increase Affordable Housing. This project requires identification of a building site, securing grant monies and the adoption of an inclusionary ordinance. An inclusionary ordinance comes in many forms, but generally they all require that a certain percentage of housing construction be dedicated for affordable housing. This project is expected to be completed in February 2005.

4) Create a Budget Work Sheet that clearly Associates On-Going Revenues with On-Going Expenditures. This project is expected to be complete by May 2004.

5) Soquel Creek Filtration Pond Feasibility Study. A filtration pond is one method that can be used to improve the water quality of Soquel Creek and do it naturally. The feasibility study will identify the project size, cost, schedule and other relevant aspects to determine whether such a pond can be built. The study is expected to be completed by early June 2004.

The Council will conduct another goal setting session next year. You are encouraged to attend. It is a good way to engage your City government to make it work for you.



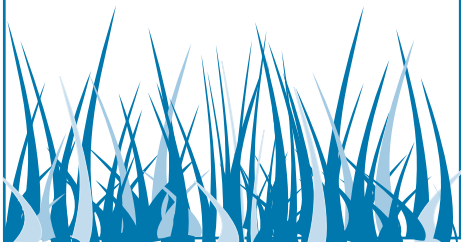
BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) sponsors the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. The program helps you create a wildlife habitat right in your own backyard. A habitat at your home or school can provide a haven for some wildlife while opening your eyes and heart to the natural world. Backyard Wildlife Habitat landscapes nurture wildlife and benefits the environment by improving air, water, and soil. The NWF list four basic elements that all wildlife need to survive: food; water; cover to protect against the elements and predators; and places to reproduce and bear young in safety.



Even if you don't have a backyard, you can still provide habitat elements in window boxes or patio planters. With the right type of plants, birds and butterflies will make your window box a part of their lives.

How can you get started creating your own wildlife oasis? The NWF will help you identify the existing habitat elements and to become familiar with the birds and other wildlife residing in your region. By calling (703) 438-6100, or visit their web site at www.nwfnetwork.com.



WHERE DO CAPITOLA'S \$42,200,000 IN SALES TAX \$ GO?

Sales Tax revenue generated in the City of Capitola for the 2002-03 fiscal year (7/1/2002 to 6/30/2003) was approximately \$42,200,000. Only \$5,300,000 was retained for use by the City of Capitola. The State of California received \$ 33,125,000. The Library District received \$1,325,000 and the Transit District received \$ 2,650,000. The following pie chart is a visual presentation of this data.



WASTE REDUCTION IDEAS

The beginning of a new year, often brings with it thoughts of new beginnings. What a perfect time to begin a waste reduction program in your own home.

So in that spirit, here are some ideas for reducing and reusing common household items. If each household can adopt just a few of these ideas it will make a BIG difference in our community's overall waste:

- Use cloth shopping bags or bring paper bags back to the store on your next trip.
- Buy the least wasteful packaging (our dollar is our vote, and manufactures will begin to rethink their packaging as we consume more and more items in minimal packaging.
- Buy fruits and vegetables free of plastic wrapping and buy in bulk when possible
- Choose reusable items such as cloth napkins, real silverware, or ceramic mugs over paper and plastic products, which are designed for "one-time use".
- Buy as few throwaway products as possible (shavers, cameras etc.)
- Buy recycled products whenever possible, this small effort will help promote the recycled product industry
- Cut down on purchases of plastic containers. Use refillable containers.
- Minimize your use of Styrofoam products
- Bring your own beverage container to the coffee shop and use a lunch box that can be washed instead of tossed.

A WETLANDS FOR SOQUEL CREEK

By Bruce Arthur

Wetlands are nature's answer to the water filtration and purification dilemma. Wetlands have been around since before man or beasts walked the earth. A couple of good examples of local wetlands are Corcoran Lagoon and Schwan Lake. Their shores are lined with emergent wetland plants that filter the water. Wetlands act like giant sponges removing toxic substances from storm waters and wastewaters that are generated by mans development of the land. These pollutants end up in the water that is released from the hardscape that we have developed in our quest to populate the planet. Some of the principal contaminants of concern are nitrogen, phosphorus, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, and trace organics. The major health concern is possible pollution by nitrogen, metals, pathogens or organics. Wetlands protect our rivers, ponds, lakes, and underground aquifers from these contaminants. The principal ingredients in wetlands that make it such a wonderful filter are its plants. Plants have the ability to uptake many of the harmful contaminants and store them in their biomass, as well as adding ambience and beauty to the landscape just as Mother Nature intended. Scientists are constantly discovering different species of plants that are good at removing pollutants. Many of the plants that grow naturally in the wetlands of the U.S. are also native to our area. Cattails, grasses, sedges and rushes are good examples. One of the overlooked additional advantages of wetlands, whether natural or manmade, is their ability to sustain many species of aquatic and terrestrial life.

So, why does Capitola need wetlands? The answer is very simple. We have a water quality problem in Soquel creek, lagoon and river mouth. The City's Lagoon Management Plan was adopted to address and mitigate many of the concerns biologists and water quality professionals had expressed with regard to the creek environment. I'm sure many of you have read the

articles in the Sentinel about the high coliform levels in the creek, the lagoon and the jetty. Before the major flood of 1955, the creek was lined with natural wetland plants and areas that allowed the plants to perform their job of removing the pollutants that entered the creek. The Army Corps of Engineers determined that to protect the Stockton Ave. Bridge and the property along the creek, a bulkhead needed to be installed. Construction of the bulkhead caused the removal of a vast amount of wetland habitat. As development increased, a time when we should have been encouraging the preservation of the wetlands, we were destroying them. The saying "hindsight is 20/20" is appropriate here. That is all water under the bridge, literally and figuratively. What we need to do is reconstruct those wetlands as best we can. We have the technology to do just that, and the technology isn't rocket science. The Capitola City Council has made the wetland project a priority this year and it is well on it's way to becoming a reality. In a nutshell we would construct two wetlands. One would be located at the lower level of the park on the west side of the Stockton Bridge and the other on the city property at Noble Gulch Park. There isn't enough space in this newsletter to explain in any great detail the benefits and design, but suffice it to say cleaner water and better habitat for fish and other animals is a great start.

If there is interest I would be glad to meet with anyone or any group and give a detailed presentation. I can be contacted at City Hall or my personal e-mail is capcouncil@aol.com.

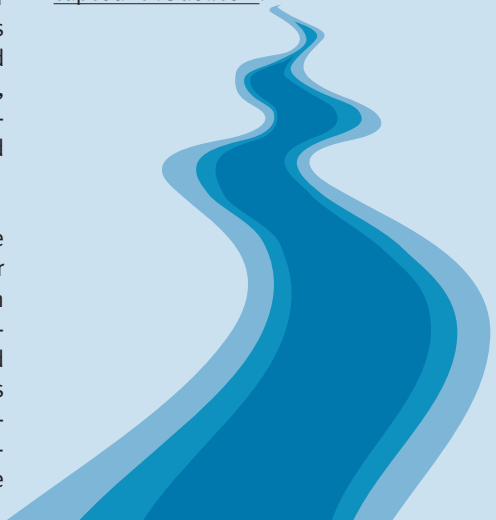
FARMERS MARKET IS COMING TO CAPITOLA

People worldwide are rediscovering the benefits of buying local food. It is fresher than anything in the supermarket and that means it is tastier and more nutritious. It is also good for your local economy—buying directly from family farmers helps them stay in business.

The Capitola Farmers Market will be run by Santa Cruz Community Farmers Market, a non-profit organization that also runs the Santa Cruz and Live Oak farmers market. It will start in May this year, and run thru September, every Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 7:00 at the Capitola Theater parking lot in the Capitola Village.

Farmers' Markets are one of the oldest forms of direct marketing by small farms. From the traditional "mercados" in the Peruvian Andes to the unique street markets in Asia, growers all over the world gather weekly to sell their produce directly to the public. Farmers' Markets, common in old-time America, are now making a comeback. In a farmer market, a group of farmers sell their products once or twice a week at a designated public place like a park or parking lot. Some farmers' markets have live entertainment. Shopping at a farmer market is a great way to meet local farmers and get fresh, flavorful produce!

Direct marketing of farm products through farmers markets continues to be an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide. Farmers markets, now an integral part in the urban/farm linkage, have continued to rise in popularity, mostly due to the growing consumer interest in obtaining fresh products directly from the farm. The number of farmers markets in the United States has grown dramatically, increasing 79 percent from 1994 to 2002. According to the 2002 National Farmers Market Directory, there are over 3,100 farmers markets operating in the United States. This growth clearly indicates that farmers markets are meeting the needs of a growing number of farmers with small- to medium-size operations.



SPRING GARAGE SALE

REUSE & RECYCLE!! Mark your calendars for a City wide Garage Sale on April 17th. 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 @ 475-7300 ext. 236 by **April 12**. Tell her you would like to participate, be prepared to give your name and address and list a few items you will be selling at your house. The Thursday before the Garage Sale, a map will be available to the public at City Hall (420 Capitola Ave.) and on the web www.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 times 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!!



Garage Sale

CRIME BEAT

By Chief Richard Ehle

I am very pleased to report that the State's Attorney General, Bill Lockyer, honored three members of the Capitola Police Department on Wednesday, February 18th, during the Attorney General's Zone meeting in Santa Cruz. AG Lockyer presented a dozen or so awards to law enforcement officers from the central California region. Additionally AG Lockyer provided about seventy law enforcement attendees with an update concerning Department of Justice programs, as well as the impact of the state budget on his office and law enforcement agencies in general. Capitola Police Officer Jason Smith received a Commendation of Valor for his actions regarding two incidents occurring in 2003, while Officer James Murphy received a Commendation for Meritorious Service for assisting Officer Smith in preventing a suicidal subject from taking his own life. Officer Smith's commendation also referenced his lifesaving efforts at an apartment fire, which occurred at 207 Monterey Avenue in December 2003. In that incident Officer Smith entered a burning building to alert and help rescue five or six occupants of the building. On that occasion, Officer Smith slipped and fell injuring his back, but despite his injuries he continued to assist with the evacuation and safety of area residents. Lucky both incidents had happy endings and Officer Smith has recovered from his back injury and smoke inhalation. Officer Leo Moreno was also honored by the AG and received a Commendation of Meritorious Service for assisting Officer Smith with the fire rescue in December. Leo also suffered smoke inhalation as a result of his rescue efforts.

As a chief, it is very gratifying to have outstanding staff that continually work hard and routinely risk their lives and personal safety for the citizens we serve. I feel it is extremely important to recognize employee's outstanding service to the community by officially recognizing positive contributions through awards and recognition programs. In our continual quest to improve the services we provide to the citizens of Capitola, the department has worked tirelessly to implement Community Policing and outreach initiatives throughout the city. We have expanded police services by opening the Capitola Mall Community Outreach Center, recruiting and training members of a newly formed Citizen Patrol, adding a dozen or so members to our Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program, hiring four new officers this last year and in successfully applying for and receiving several state and federal grants. Although we have made significant progress over the course of the last few years, our crime rates have continued to climb. We are in the process of developing improved crime analysis programs and strategies to deal with the persistent crime problems within the city. However, much of what we have been successful in accomplishing is in jeopardy due to the impacts of the state's financial crisis.



CITY OF CAPITOLA

420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, Ca 95010

Stephanie Harlan Mayor

Bruce Arthur Vice Mayor

Tony Gualtieri Council Member

Dennis Norton Council Member

Gayle Ortiz Council Member

Bob Begun City Treasurer

Richard Hill City Manager

Pam Greeninger City Clerk

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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

8, 22	City Council/RDA*	7:00
1, 15	Planning Commission	7:00
1	Museum Board	5:30
28	Art & Cultural Commission	7:00
6	Finance Advisory Committee	12:00
27	Wharf Group	12:00
27	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
14, 28	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30
19	Recreation Board	

may

13, 27	City Council/RDA*	7:00
6, 20	Planning Commission	7:00
6	Museum Board	5:30
26	Art & Cultural Commission	7:00
4	Finance Advisory Committee	12:00
25	Wharf Group	12:00
25	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
12, 26	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30
17	Recreation Board	

june

10, 24	City Council/RDA*	7:00
3, 17	Planning Commission	7:00
3	Museum Board	5:30
24	Art & Cultural Commission	7:00
1	Finance Advisory Committee	12:00
21	Recreation Advisory	7:00
22	Wharf Group	12:00
22	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
9, 23	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30

* RDA meets between 6-7p.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 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

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