

CITY OF CAPITOLA
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, Ca 95010

Bruce Arthur Mayor
Dennis Norton Vice Mayor
Stephanie Harlon Council Member
Kirby Nicol Council Member
Michael Termini Council Member

Bob Begun City Treasurer

Richard Hill City Manager
Pam Greeninger City Clerk

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CAPITOLA

Currents

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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.

april

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

may

12, 26	City Council/RDA*	7:00
5, 19	Planning Commission	7:00
5	Museum Board	5:30
TBD	Art & Cultural Commission	TBD
2	Finance Advisory Committee	12:00
24	Wharf Group	12:00
24	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
11, 25	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30
3	Environment	7:00
TBD	Recreation Board	TBD

june

9, 23	City Council/RDA*	7:00
2, 16	Planning Commission	7:00
2	Museum Board	5:30
TBD	Art & Cultural Commission	TBD
6	Finance Advisory Committee	12:00
TBD	Recreation Advisory	TBD
No Meetings	Wharf Group	12:00
28	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
8, 22	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30
7	Environment	7:00

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

Recreation Dept.:
caprec@cruzio.com

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

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

NEWS CORNER

Boards & Commissions Vacancies:
Apply on-line or call 475-7300.

Farmers Market
Starts in May in the Capitola Village:
Thursdays @ 2:30.

City Hall is closed
on Memorial Day, May 30.

Capitola Sales Tax
Increases by .25% on April 1, 2005

Twilight Concerts
begin June 22, every Wednesday
night through August in
Esplanade Park. Check
our website for detailed
information.

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Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

The State of California mandates that Cities and Counties recycle at least 50% of their trash or risk the potential of being fined \$10,000 a day. The County is researching the possibility of locating a new landfill or, more likely, shipping our trash out of County in combination with increased recycling due to the imminent closure of the Buena Vista Landfill.

The City of Capitola met its required diversion rate in 2002, but is in danger of falling below the 50% threshold for last year. The State estimates the total trash generated by Capitola on the Employment Rate, Sales Tax, Consumer Price Index and Population. They then subtract the actual amount of trash that went to the landfill from this "estimate" to determine how much the City recycled. Unfortunately the actual amount the City recycles is not measured, but is estimated based on the economy. The city has implemented single stream recycling, an annual E-Waste Day (July 2005) and an annual garage sale (April 16 2005), but it is not enough. The City will also be considering adopting a Zero Waste Goal in the upcoming months.

The City can not do this alone. The City needs you to increase your recycling efforts at home and at work in an attempt to increase our rate, preserve our community, environment and educate our children.

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:

- Recycle all paper, cardboard products, newspapers, mail, catalogs, and magazines.
- Recycle all bottles, cans, jars, milk jugs and plastic containers.
- 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.
- Bring your own beverage container to the coffee shop and use a lunch box that can be washed instead of tossed.

Museum Volunteers

Capitola Historical Museum is looking for greeters who would like to meet neighbors and visitors to the community. Volunteers do not need knowledge of history, just a desire to share their appreciation of Capitola. An orientation is provided. Museum shifts are only two hours. Duties are: opening and closing, welcoming guests, and answering questions about the current exhibit. Shifts are scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. or from 2 to 4p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays. Volunteers can sign up for as many or as few shifts as their schedule can accommodate—all are appreciated. Service as a Capitola Museum volunteer is an excellent way for people to learn about the past and present of Capitola and is ideal for newcomers, seniors, history buffs, and students. Call the museum at **464-0322** for details.



NEW FREE LOW-INCOME ENERGY-SAVING

Free low-income energy-saving devices

Energy utilities regulated by the CPUC have low-income energy efficiency programs in which consumers, who qualify under the low-income discount program referred to as the CARE program, and seniors and disabled consumers, who earn slightly more than the CARE income limits, may get energy saving devices for free. Consumers can call their energy utilities for more information. Also, consumers are asking us if vendors who have approached them about the programs are legitimate. Advise your constituents that the vendor must provide the name of the utility with which it has contracted. Also, utilities keep lists of which vendors are on contract and if in doubt, consumers may call the utility before agreeing to the vendors' offers. Following is the largest energy utility's phone number for its low-income programs:

Pacific Gas & Electric - 1-800-933-9555

SANDY LYDON TSUNAMI FUNDRAISER

Saturday, February 19, people who came to the Bay Shore Lyric Opera Theater in Capitola waded through devastating mudslides, sweated through the inferno of wild fires, and held their breath during deadly earthquakes. And during all of these disasters the people learned that Susan B. Anthony really got her start in Santa Cruz County; the City of Watsonville became a leader in flood control planning—right after the Chinese laborers; and there is no telling what the state legislature of the past would do given enough alcohol. History was never so much fun-or scary-but thanks to Sandy Lydon, the history dude, we now know better.

Sandy contributed his time, over three hours, to help raise money for the Capitola Tsunami Relief sponsored by Gayle's Bakery and Rosticceria, the Beach House Restaurant, and Dennis Norton. By any measure the evening was a success. All who attended enjoyed the presentation, the food and the atmosphere of community and good humor. More importantly the event raised more than \$7,400 that will be contributed to UNICEF for tsunami relief.

The Capitola Tsunami Relief—Village to Village organizing team wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event. Disasters such as the South Asia tsunami impacts everyone, and although we cannot change the tragic past, we can help to reduce its tragic impact on the future.

Capitola Spring Garage Sale: April 16th

REUSE & RECYCLE!! Mark your calendars for a City wide Garage Sale on April 16th. 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 or e-mail lmurphy@ci.capitola.ca.us by April 14. Tell her you would like to participate, be prepared to give your name and address and list of up to three 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 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 items to a charitable cause of your choice. This is a terrific opportunity to clean out your garage, and to help divert refuse from our landfills by reusing and recycling!!



SPRING CLEAN UP WEEK

APRIL 18- 22 One Bulky Item and seven bags or cans of trash, not to exceed 50lbs each. No tires, rocks, construction lumber or paint cans. Place items out on your regular trash day.

Inside the Police Department

Chief Richard Ehle

Crime in Capitola - In November & December 2004, I wrote articles for the Mid-county Post regarding significant increases in reported crime during the last two months of 2004. In my December Mid-County Post article, I recommended several precautions citizens could take to help reduce crime in their neighborhoods, as did Sheriff Steve Robbins in his Mid County Post article in December. Although we achieved about a 5% reduction in reported crime in 2004, we are off to a terrible start in 2005. As of Monday, February 28, 2005, the city has experienced an overall increase of 4% in all reported crime, with the most significant increases being in burglaries, which have already increased 32% over last year. According to Sheriff's investigators the county is also experiencing increases in thefts. Theft in other categories such as shoplifting & from automobiles have also gone up 6% during the first two months of the year. That means the city has had 181 thefts in the first two months of the year & is on pace to experience a 14% increase this year if the trend continues. My officers are currently running from call to call & taking theft reports, thus, they have little time to engage in preventative patrol. We need your help.

There are numerous things you can do as residents of Capitola to reduce crime in this community. Please help us by reporting suspicious persons in your neighborhood. Remove valuables from your vehicles, arrange to have your newspaper & mail picked up when you are on vacation & have several interior lights placed on timers to suggest someone is home when you are away overnight. Lock up your bikes & don't leave garage doors open, unless you or a family member is present. I suggest you either join a Neighborhood Watch group or form a new group in your neighborhood. Knowing your neighbors, regularly communicating with them & applying simple crime prevention strategies will greatly enhance public safety for you & your neighbors. Burglaries & thefts have increased the most in the areas of the Jewel Box, above Capitola Road in the Cliffwood Heights area. If you are interested in joining or forming a Neighborhood Watch group please contact either Sharon Presco at 475-4242, extension 203 or Sergeant Tom Held at 475-4242, extension 298. Remember, secure your property & do not leave valuables in vehicles or insecure premises.

Public Safety & Community Service Foundation: January 2005 - Christian Thompson, President of The Capital Quorum (a local money management firm) suggested we consider the creation of a police foundation. After preliminary discussions between the City Manager, Mr. Thompson, & myself we decided to create the Capitola Public Safety & Community Service Foundation. The foundation will help promote public safety initiatives & community service projects through solicitation of funds & community participation via the Foundation's Board of Directors & Advisory Committees. With the continual budget problems we face & significant reductions to state & federal grants, it was suggested that a non-profit foundation might provide an alternative to funding special programs & public safety initiatives. We also envision the foundation helping to fund volunteer programs, special crime prevention programs, community outreach, equipment purchases & in promoting a closer working relationship between the business community & the city. If you are interested in contributing time or to help fund the foundation please contact Chief Richard Ehle by telephone at: (831) 475-4242, extension 213, or by email at: rehle@ci.capitola.ca.us Board of Director & Advisory Committee members will be recruited & appointed within the next few months.

Capitola Improvements

41st Avenue and Gross Road Improvements

Improved traffic flow into Capitola along 41st Avenue is hopefully well along its way. The project along 41st Avenue and Gross Road will add new traffic lanes along both of these congested corridors. 41st will be getting a right hand turn only lane at Clares Street to better facilitate the flow of vehicles into Capitola Mall and Brown Ranch Marketplace. Gross Road will be receiving a new eastbound lane, which should help the flow of traffic off of Soquel Avenue to 41st Ave. New bike lanes, center island medians and pedestrian improvements are also included with this project. If all goes well, the project is scheduled for completion before Memorial Day.

Bay Avenue Sidewalks

Design work is well underway to fill the missing sidewalk along the south side of Bay Avenue, between Capitola Avenue and Monterey Avenue. Included in this project is filling in the gap of missing sidewalk along Bay Avenue between Pilgrim Avenue and Monterey, and replacing the asphalt walkway along Monterey with a concrete sidewalk. New landscaping will be included behind the sidewalk along Monterey. Construction will hopefully begin this fall.



Capitola Commission on the Environment

The council has established, by way of a resolution, the Capitola Commission on the Environment (C.C.E.) upon the initiation of Mayor Bruce Arthur. As the City moves on into the new century it is going to be more and more important that it keeps up with evolving technological processes as they relate to the environment. Technology is great and should be addressed, but there are less expensive natural disciplines surrounding ecological processes. We can't rely on the old ways of burying our waste or throwing chemicals at them. We need to incorporate natural means of reducing or eliminating waste and runoff from properties within the City. The C.C.E. will be a resource to investigate emerging technologies and make recommendations as to their effectiveness and applicability. The C.C.E. will be an important ally to an already excellent Public Works staff that has to keep up under an always-growing workload. The meetings will be advertised and open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to come and join in the dialogue.



Summer Recreation Programs

Register now for our three big summer programs: Camp Capitola, Junior Lifeguards and Aquatics classes at Cabrillo College pool. Registration for other summer classes starts May 9.

Camp Capitola is offered in two-week or three-week sessions, starting June 20 and running through August 19. 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.

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 four two-week sessions, starting June 20 and ending on August 12.

We are now registering returning Junior Lifeguards, with registration for new Guards starting at the Registration Fair on Saturday, April 23. 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. Program fees include instruction, official t-shirt & patch, & discounts with local merchants. Each session ends with an awards picnic at Jade Street Park.

Summer activities for kids include classes and camps in activities such as Horse Vaulting, Teen Kayaking, Beach Volleyball, Dog Training, Horseback Riding, Surfing, Martial Arts and Tennis. Look for more information in our summer brochure.

Life-long learning offers teens and adults opportunities to keep learning, growing, creating and exercising, in a fun, safe, supportive environment. Make a broken plate mosaic stepping stone or wall plaque; create earrings or beaded necklaces; paint in oils, acrylics, or watercolor; learn a foreign language; play the guitar; remodel your house; build a pond; create a garden; enjoy our coastal beauty while learning to surf, kayak, or sail; improve your tennis game; play volleyball indoors or on the beach; and dance. 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.

CITY SETS GOALS FOR 2005

A special meeting of the City Council was held on February 19, 2005 to discuss the future of the City of Capitola. Council Members were asked to list what their goals for the City for 2005. Each member had the opportunity to outline what they wanted to be a priority for the City. Several hours of discussion were spent over such things as testing and cleaning Soquel Creek; fiscal stability; expanding the T.O.T. zone; traffic; the railroad corridor; increased code enforcement; street maintenance; Measure P funds and parking in the village.

After Council discussion and input from members of the community, the following items were identified as the key issues for the City Manager to pursue:

1. **Environment: Design & construct a wetlands filtration system to improve the water quality of Soquel Creek.**
2. **City's Fiscal Responsibilities: Work with Capitola Chamber of Commerce on economic development, including participation on Economic Paper.**
3. **Capital Improvement Projects: Emphasis on streets. Include 46th Avenue in 2005/06 Budget.**
4. **Automatic Traffic Enforcement: Look into feasibility of using cameras in Capitola.**
5. **Parking Problems: Establish a schedule for the next steps to construct a parking structure at Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park.**
6. **General Plan Update: Establish a time line for working on the General Plan Update.**

The City Manager will prepare a work plan to determine how to implement each of the identified goals.