

CITY OF CAPITOLA

420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, Ca 95010

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CAPITOLA, CA 95010
PERMIT #13

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

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

oct

14, 28	City Council/RDA*	7:00
7, 21	Planning Commission	7:00
7	Museum Board	5:30
27	Art & Cultural Commission	7:00
5	Finance Advisory Committee	12:00
26	Wharf Group	12:00
26	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
13, 23	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30
TBD	Recreation Board	

nov

10, 23	City Council/RDA*	7:00
4, 18	Planning Commission	7:00
4	Museum Board	5:30
17	Art & Cultural Commission	7:00
2	Finance Advisory Committee	12:00
No Meetings	Wharf Group	12:00
No Meetings	Village Master Plan Committee	6:30
10, 24	Arch & Site Review Committee	3:30
TBD	Recreation Board	

dec

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

* 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 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

CAPITOLA

Currents



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

FALL 2004

NEWS CORNER

CITY HALL CLOSURES: City Hall is now closed from 12–1 Monday–Friday.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: City Hall will be closed November 11 (Veterans Day), November 25–26 & December 24–31.

HALLOWEEN PARADE: October 31, 2 P.M. Starts at the Pacific Cove Parking Lot.

ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2004

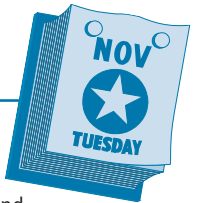
SURFIN' SANTA: November 27, 12 noon Capitola Main Beach.

CAPITOLA MUSEUM EXHIBIT: New exhibit opens in November.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News Corner	1
Vote November 2	1
Charter & Comcast Connect	1
New Museum Exhibit	1
Capitola Parking Violations	2
Thank You, Capitola	2
Planning Grant Awarded	2
Storm Water Pollution Prevention	2
Want Ad	2
Water Quality Improvement	3
Smoking Ban on Beach	3
Capitola Art & Cultural Commission ...	3
Single-Family Home Regulations	3
Calendar of City Meetings	4
Important Numbers	4

Be Counted: Vote ✓ on November 2



by Pam Greeninger, City Clerk/Elections Official

The Capitola Municipal Election is in full swing with six candidates running for two seats on the City Council, and the incumbent City Treasurer, Bob Begun, running unopposed. Your candidates for Member of the City Council are Jacques Bertrand, Colleen Corrigan-Armstrong, Richard “Rick” Halterman, Kirby Nicol, Daniel Passino, and Michael Termini.

Also on the ballot will be one City Measure: **Measure P** asks voters “Shall a City of Capitola temporary sales tax increase of one quarter of one percent, which sunsets in five years, be adopted to maintain general services including public safety and street improvements?”

On Tuesday, October 5, 2004, 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. This is a great opportunity to meet the candidates and find out more about them. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the forum by submitting questions for candidates to answer. It is not necessary to identify yourself. 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 4** to register for the November election in order to receive a Sample Ballot. A new law does allow voters to register up until the 15th day before the election—October 18. However, voters registering after October 4 will **not** receive a Sample Ballot. Registration 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 and click on the link “Register to Vote.”

For complete up-to-date information regarding the November 2, 2004 General Election, including Capitola’s Municipal Election, visit the Santa Cruz County Elections Department’s web site at www.votescount.com.

In 2002 Council Member Dennis Norton claimed his seat on the City Council by only **ONE** vote. A recount was requested and conducted by the County Elections Department. This experience truly proved to me that **EVERY VOTE COUNTS**.

Democracy Is **Not** a Spectator Sport—Exercise Your Political Rights. Get Informed and **VOTE ✓** on November 2, 2004.

Capitola Connects to Santa Cruz

The residents can finally be in tune with the rest of Santa Cruz County. On September 1, 2004, Charter Communications (Capitola’s cable T.V. company) and Comcast (Santa Cruz’s cable T.V. company) touched wires enabling Capitola residents to view Public Education and Government (PEG) programming on channels 70, 71 and 72. After years of negotiating, Charter and Comcast made the connection happen much to the delight of the community. For Capitola, this opens up many new doors and access to the governmental process that has significant impact on us: top rate programming such as Santa Cruz County Supervisor meetings, Cabrillo College and UCSC produced educational programs, health programs and many more locally produced programs. Stay tuned as we hope that the connection will become “two-way,” enabling Santa Cruz to watch programming generated by Capitola.

New Museum Exhibit to Open This Fall

The life and talent of artist and photographer Gorman Woody will be illustrated in the upcoming exhibit of the Capitola Historical Museum. Scheduled to open in November, the show will feature Woody’s paintings and photographs, including early aerial shots of Capitola. The views were taken by Woody during flights from the Capitola airfield in the 1930s. Situated near the 250th Coast Artillery Encampment at Camp McQuaide, the landing strip became the Santa Cruz-Capitola Airport, continuing from 1934 until it closed in 1954. Cliffwood Heights subdivision now exists on the site.



City Council Votes on Parking Violations

by Chief Rick Ehle

On September 9, 2004, the Capitola City Council voted to repeal Resolution 3281, which had previously established parking penalties within Capitola. The City Council also adopted a new resolution establishing new parking penalties for 12 of 29 Municipal Code violations and deleted Section 10.36.080, Parking For Demonstration, "For Sale Signs," as this law has been ruled unconstitutional. Several months ago, I was asked to conduct a parking fine analysis by the City Manager to insure our fines were consistent with the county's uniform bail schedule and carried penalties to dissuade parking violations which compromise public safety or result in gridlock. In addition to the 12 revised sections of the Municipal Code, the City Council also adopted an increase of \$100 for handicapped zone violations, bringing a handicapped parking fine up to \$375. Pursuant to the language of the California Vehicle Code, the \$100 surcharge for a handicapped parking violation will go into a separate city account to provide enhanced enforcement and expanded services to handicapped drivers and the city's enforcement program.

During the City Council meeting of September 9, I was directed by the City Council to amend the bail schedule for illegally parking on the wharf, raising the fine from \$65 to \$100. During discussions, the City Council voiced unanimous concern about excessive vehicle traffic and parking on the wharf and directed that the fine be raised. Of the 12 increased municipal parking fines, eight of the fines were increased from \$23 to \$30; three fines were increased from \$13 to \$23; one fine (illegal parking on wharf) was increased from \$65 to \$100. The second reading of the proposed ordinance change took place at the City Council meeting on for September 23, 2004, and will then go into effect 30 days later, on October 23, 2004. It is important to note that fines for Expired Meter, Two-Hour and Neighborhood Parking Permit violations were not increased and remain the same. However, bails for several California Vehicle Code violations have also increased pursuant to state mandates, and the county's uniform bail schedule. The staff report recommended raising fines for 12 parking violations to better regulate parking in the Village, and revenues are projected to be approximately \$6,600 a year.

Thank You, Capitola, For Your Strong Support of our Second Annual E-Waste Day!

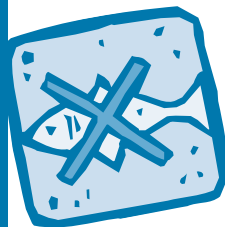
This year's annual event was a huge success! We collected around 18,000 pounds of material that will no longer be a threat to our groundwater or an increasingly cramped Buena Vista Landfill: three large trucks full of televisions, computers, monitors, keyboards, fax machines and copiers. With your help, we collected roughly 200 monitors, 190 CPUs/systems, 100 printers, 60 televisions, and about 70 keyboard and mouse sets, among many other items. All of these will now be given a new lease on life, and we have you to thank!

Special thanks also go out to Gayle's Bakery and Rosticceria, Cruzio, and United Data Tech—especially Thomas Hogye; the City of Capitola Public Works Department's Albert De La Torre and David Nakamoto; private individuals Casey, Gayle and Irish Meusel and Lisa Murphy; and the Capitola City Council.

Thank you all for your hard work and for helping make our event such an enormous success! Look for next year's event in August 2005.

Community Development Department Awarded \$70,000 Grant for Planning Activities

On September 9, 2004, the Community Development Department was notified by the state that it had been awarded a \$70,000 grant of Community Development Block Grant funds for planning and technical assistance activities proposed by CDD staff: housing feasibility studies and design of a GIS-based city web site. The grant will pay for city staff and consultant time to conduct predevelopment feasibility studies of certain housing opportunity sites and to design an interactive city web site using a Geographic Information System and related technology. This web site would allow anyone to read or search the Municipal Code, Zoning Ordinance or General Plan online, to view maps of city zoning, assessor's parcel data, demographic and labor force data, and much more. Such a site will be useful for anyone looking for detailed information on properties and land use in the city, including potential employers.



Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Home and Landscape Improvement Projects

- Plan to complete any landscaping projects prior to the rainy season so that loose soils won't be washed away.
- Cover soil and debris piles when it looks like rain to decrease runoff carrying sediment and trash.
- Place bark or mulch on hillside areas prone to erosion during a rainstorm.
- Clean out your gutters and downspouts before the rain hits.
- Connect hoses to your downspouts to direct roof and gutter runoff into your lawn. The lawn acts as a natural filter for roof and gutter debris.
- If pressure washing your driveway or sidewalk, plug nearby drainage inlets and vacuum out the runoff water to protect storm water quality.

Automotive

- Keep your car well maintained. Any leaks hitting the pavement will end up in the storm drains once the rain hits.
- When changing your motor oil, bring the used oil to a nearby recycling center, or call Waste Management at (831) 768-9505 for pickup. Usually they will accept oil and filters (sometimes batteries and antifreeze too). And remember, just four quarts of used oil can pollute **one million** gallons of water!

Household Cleaning

- Some commercial products can be hazardous for you and your family and can pollute storm water. **Baking soda** is a good all-purpose cleaner and great alternative to harsh cleaning products. **Vinegar** also makes windows sparkle.
- **Never** dump unwanted hazardous household chemicals down the drain, even if the label says they're biodegradable.
- The safest way to dispose of toxic household products is through a city or county household waster collection program. The number for Capitola is (831) 454-2606.

For more information about recycling and waste disposal, go to <http://www.ci.capitola.ca.us/capcity.nsf/PubWWaste.html>.

Want Ad

The Capitola Historical Museum is looking for volunteers to staff the museum on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday for a two-hour shift (12–2 P.M. or 2–4 P.M.). Regular, occasional, or on-call status are available. Call Carolyn Swift at 464-0322 for more information.

Water Quality Improvement Projects in Capitola

The City of Capitola has been awarded two grants from the State Water Resources Control Board to improve water quality on Capitola Beach and Soquel Lagoon. The funds for the grants came from Proposition 13, the voter approved Water Bond of 2000.

Clean Beaches Initiative Grant

This grant allocated \$100,000 to:

- Develop a Drainage Improvement Plan to prioritize projects to reduce periodic postings and closures at Capitola Beach.
- Complete the environmental documents and engineering for a dry weather diversion on the Esplanade.
- Place bird-proof trash receptacles on the beach and along the Esplanade to prevent birds from accessing the trash.

Proposition 13 Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant

This grant totaling \$344,900 will be used to:

- Send runoff through a dry weather diversion, an underground pump system, to the sanitary sewer system where pollutants will be removed.
- Implement a cost-share program to reimburse waterfront businesses for making roof and gutter improvements and installing bird barriers to protect water quality.
- Conduct beach and creek cleanups
- Expand Urban Watch and First Flush volunteer monitoring programs
- Conduct storm drain stenciling

Are Birds to Blame for High Bacterial Levels?

Water pollution comes from many different sources, but in Capitola seagulls and pigeons are main culprits as their droppings accumulate in the form of fecal coliform bacteria. In other Santa Cruz lagoons, bird droppings contribute up to 40% of fecal coliform bacteria in the water. It seems safe to assume that the impacts are similar in Capitola. High bacterial levels can make people sick and result in beach closures, which affect business and our perception of a clean environment. On any given day, there are hundreds of sea gulls and pigeons attracted to Soquel Lagoon and Esplanade buildings in part by the enticing food. Runoff from business patio decks and surrounding property that is hosed off into the lagoon also affects water quality.

What Is Urban Runoff?

According to the EPA, urban runoff is the leading cause of pollution in American rivers and streams. Urban runoff consists of water flowing from buildings, streets, and sidewalks, which carries with it many pollutants including bacteria, pet droppings, oil, metals, chemicals, sediments, pesticides, trash, and fertilizers. Most runoff flows untreated into rivers, creeks, lagoons, and the ocean. The pollutants kill aquatic life, create toxic buildup in shellfish and other marine species making them dangerous when eaten, and reduce coastal water quality.

Capitola Bans Smoking on the Beach

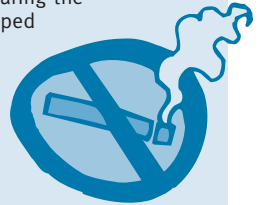
Every beach-goer has seen them—cigarette butts littering the shore, and this past September, the Capitola City Council decided to do something about it. They adopted an ordinance banning smoking on the beach. With a 5-0 vote, the Council prohibited all smoking on the beach. Several Southern California cities have already banned smoking on their beaches. The City of Santa Cruz is also considering a similar ban.

It is estimated that several trillion cigarette butts are littered worldwide every year. That's billions of cigarettes flicked on our sidewalks, beaches, nature trails, gardens, and other public places every single day. In fact, **cigarettes are the most littered item in America** and the world. Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate tow, not cotton, and they can take decades to degrade. The toxic residue in cigarette filters is damaging to the environment, and littered butts cause numerous fires every year, some of them fatal. **CigaretteLitter.Org.**

"[Cigarette butts] also present a threat to wildlife. Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales, and other marine creatures who mistake them for food... cigarette butts can persist in the environment as long as other forms of plastic." **Clean Virginia Waterways.**

The International Coastal Cleanup Day, organized annually by the Center for Marine Conservation, involves more than 500,000 volunteers picking up debris from beaches, rivers, and streams around the world. Volunteers complete Marine Debris Data Cards indicating the quantity and type of litter they pick up. Cigarette butts were the most common debris item collected during the international cleanup, numbering 1,616,841 in 1998. Cigarette butts have topped the list in all CMC International Coastal Cleanups since they were added to the Data Cards as a separate item in 1990.

Persons who violate the smoking ordinance would receive an infraction citation. The current fine for these infractions, as set forth in the Capitola bail schedule, totals \$124 which includes the city's base bail of \$35 and additional court-imposed fees and assessments.



Capitola Art and Cultural Commission

Capitola Art and Cultural Commission celebrated its 20th year of Twilight Concerts this summer with the largest attendance on record. Thank you to all who attended and enjoyed this musical event by the sea. A special thank you is extended to the 10 sponsors of the concerts: S. Martinelli & Co., Peter Dwares & the Capitola Mercantile, Shadowbrook, Union Bank of California, Capitola Magazine, Gayle's Bakery & Rosticceria, Ione Conlan, Zelda's, Margaritaville and The Lido. Their sponsorships gave the community a chance to come together, sing, dance and enjoy the twilight.

Changes to Single-Family Home Regulations

The City Council recently approved changes to the zoning regulations that govern construction and remodeling of single-family homes in the City of Capitola. The California Coastal Commission must now agree to the changes, and once that occurs the changes will take effect (likely by the end of this year). The changes decrease the allowable size of single-family homes and modify certain processes for securing permit approvals. Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is the measure of total house square footage, and the maximum FAR permitted in recent years has been 65% regardless of lot size. The new regulations create a sliding scale for maximum FAR, beginning at 58% for the smallest lots (less than 2,650 square feet) and decreasing with increasing lot size to a maximum of 48% for lots greater than 6,000 square feet. This change was triggered by the long-standing concern about the trend toward larger houses on smaller lots, particularly in older neighborhoods.

In combination with reducing maximum house size, the city will be reducing the parking requirement for single-family homes. Most homes currently require three to four spaces, two of which must be in a garage or carport. The new rules will reduce the covered parking requirement to one space for homes greater than 1,500 square feet and will eliminate the covered space requirement for homes less than 1,500 square feet. Two uncovered spaces must be provided for all new and remodeled homes as a minimum, with additional uncovered spaces required as house size increases. Detached garages will now be permitted as long as they meet the new detached garage setbacks, which were developed to encourage homes to be designed to reduce the dominance of the garage.

Numerous minor changes were also adopted to facilitate the permit process for small additions and changes to non-historic homes, and the rules governing small storage structures, home occupation permits, and garage sales were clarified and made simpler. In recognition of the importance of historic architectural elements in the city, a historian or architectural historian will be added to the Architectural and Site Review Committee. For more information about the new regulations, a copy of the changes adopted by the city can be obtained at City Hall.