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Rispin Mansion Park Concept Plans Approved

Following two well-attended public workshops, the City Council in May approved the conceptual design for restoring and improving the grounds of the Rispin Mansion for park use. This action allows the City to begin the required environmental review process of the 5.7-acre historic site along Wharf Road.

The proposal includes restoring the fountain, sundial, staircase, overlook, and arbor. The plan also adds new benches, tables, lighting, and a possible amphitheater adjacent to the front portico of the mansion.

The plan also provides accessible access to all portions of the park, which connects to Peery Park on the east of Soquel Creek by the pedestrian and bike bridge. Bids for the first portion of that work will be opened and the contract awarded in July.

Construction of the other elements is estimated for Summer 2016. Funding comes from a state grant and city sources.

McGregor Park Pending

The City had hoped to open the multi-use park under construction on McGregor Drive sometime this summer, but work on the dog park, bike pump track and final stages of the

skate park has been delayed.

Soil tests at the former dirt parking area showed contamination, which must be mitigated before construction can begin. Watch our website for updates and ribbon-cutting announcements.

Capital Improvement Projects

For 2015-16 the City Council approved \$1.567 million dollars for capital improvement projects. This includes \$1 million of general fund money plus grants. The following projects are funded:

- Paving on Monterey Avenue, Kennedy Avenue and 42nd Avenue/ Diamond neighborhood
- Rispin Park development
- Jade Street Park tennis court reconstruction
- Enhanced bike lanes on 41st Avenue, Bay Avenue, Park Avenue at Highway 1 crossings
- Stockton Avenue Bridge assessment and parkway design
- Utility underground and roundabout design work at Capitola Avenue and Bay Avenue

Register Your Cell Phone To Receive Emergency Alerts

When an emergency occurs, the Capitola Police Department uses the Code Red Emergency Notification system through the Santa Cruz Regional 911 dispatch center to notify community members of the situation. With the growing trend of households giving up their traditional landline phones and going completely cellular, some people are being left out of the information loop during these events.

To help ensure you receive emergency updates, the Capitola Police Department encourages community members to register their cell phones with the Code Red system and link their cell phone numbers with their residence or business address.

Registration is simple. Go online to the home page at SCR911.org, find the Code Red logo and click on "Register your Cellular or VOIP Phone for Code Red Emergency Notifications." Then enter your information.

Code Red Emergency Notification also offers a mobile application that can be downloaded onto Apple or Android phones. Users must activate their phones' GPS services. Subscribers will receive notices when they are in an any area using this system.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Twilight Concerts

Esplanade Bandstand
Wednesdays 6 p.m.
Through Aug. 26

Sunday Art & Music at the Beach

Esplanade Park
Art booths 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.
Bands 2-4 p.m.
Aug. 2 & 16

Wharf to Wharf Race

July 26

National Night Out

Tuesday, Aug. 4
5-7 p.m. Jade Street Park

Movies at the Beach

Aug. 28, Sept. 5, 11, 18
Dusk Esplanade Park

63rd Begonia Festival

Beach Blanket Begonias
Sept.4-7

Labor Day Holiday

Monday, Sept. 7
City Offices Closed

32nd Annual Art & Wine

Sept. 12-13

Monte Foundation Fireworks

Oct. 11

City Welcomes New Finance Director Mark Welch



Mark Welch joined the City staff as our new finance director this spring, jumping right in to the development and approval of the annual budget.

"I'm pleased to be working with a community of involved citizens and look forward to continuing a tradition of sound finances," he said.

Mark came to Capitola from the City of Santa Clara, where he served as the principal financial analyst. There his duties included managing the operating and capital improvement budget along with overseeing that city's investment portfolio.

Prior to working at Santa Clara, Mark spent nearly seven years with the City of Sierra Vista, Arizona, progressing from finance analyst to the assistant to the city manager. Mark holds a bachelor's degree in business economics from UC Santa Barbara and a master's of

public administration from the University of Oregon.

A father of three, he and his family live in Morgan Hill.

News from the Community Development Department

Capitola Makes It Easy to Go Green! The City of Capitola is committed to helping residents improve home energy efficiency while reducing utility bills. The City offers **free** permitting for residential rooftop solar systems, solar hot water heaters, vehicle charging stations, and gray water systems.

The City has also enrolled in the HERO (Home Energy Renovation Opportunity) program, which enables Capitola property owners to finance a variety of home energy upgrades through annual property assessments and zero up-front costs. These improvements include heating and cooling systems, efficient windows, insulation, solar panels, water-wise irrigation systems and more.

For more information, please contact Ryan Safty at 831-475-7300 or rsafty@ci.capitola.ca.us or visit the Capitola HERO webpage at heroprogram.com/capitola/

Proposed Monterey Avenue Skatepark: Earlier this year the Capitola City Council granted some local residents permission to apply to build a privately funded skate park within Monterey Avenue Park. That application came in this spring and the review process has begun.

The proposed Monterey Avenue skatepark is currently undergoing environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A public scoping meeting was held on June 30 to receive input on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). City staff will consider all comments received and will prepare a draft EIR, which is expected to be released for public review in fall 2015. More information is available on the City's website under Community Development.

Retail Remodels: The Planning Commission recently approved remodels of the Orchard Supply Hardware store on 41st Avenue and the Nob Hills Foods store on Bay Avenue. OSH plans a new façade, expanded outdoor nursery, and

improved outdoor display areas. Nob Hill is creating a new dining area serving beer and wine, including an exterior makeover featuring a new 40-seat outdoor dining area.

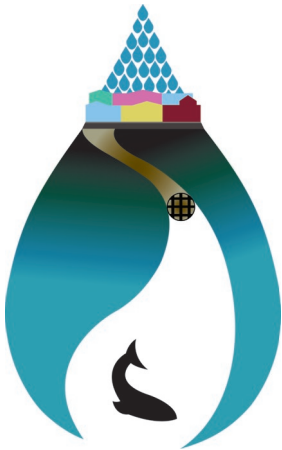
Zoning Code Update: Over the past three months, the City has held several Planning Commission workshops to discuss issues with the current Zoning Code and to evaluate potential opportunities for improvement. Among the issues being debated are parking, height limits, secondary dwelling units, multi-family uses in single-family neighborhoods, and general permitting procedures.

Workshops with the City Council will begin in September 2015. Members of the public are invited to participate in the process and share their opinions. For more information, please visit the Zoning Code Update page on our website.

Climate Action Plan: The City has completed a draft Climate Action Plan (CAP), which is currently available for public review and comments. The proposed CAP identifies strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and support California's efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. Once adopted and implemented, the CAP will fulfill several General Plan goals and bring the City into conformance with state mandates. The draft CAP can be reviewed on the City's website.

Want to Remove a Tree? Please remember that if you want to remove a tree within City limits, you may need to obtain a tree removal permit.

The City requires a tree permit to remove any tree six inches or greater in diameter measured at 48 inches from grade. Fruit bearing trees are exempt from tree permit requirements. Please contact the Community Development Department at 831-475-7300 for additional information.



Keeping Water Clean and Onsite

In the midst of the long, dry summer, planning for rain runoff may not be on many minds. Yet both locally and statewide, residents and businesses are being asked to manage storm water onsite. Any new construction is required to evaluate and mitigate impacts.

Last winter's rain often came in concentrated, heavy downpours that flooded low areas and taxed the storm water drains. The more water that can be absorbed onsite, the better for both our aquifer and our neighborhoods.

One easy way to capture roof runoff is with a rain barrel. The City placed a bulk order for residents last year and another rain barrel program will be available in fall 2015. Check the city website for further program details.

Soquel Creek Water District is offering rebates for downspout disconnections, lawn replacements, and rain catchment and gray water systems. It also provides individualized conservation advice through water-wise house calls. Visit SoquelCreekWater.org for information.

As less water runs into our streets, the water that does escape can quickly become polluted from vehicle leaks, illegal dumping, and pet waste. This harms water quality in our creeks and the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary.

To dispose of household hazardous waste properly, contact GreenWaste Recovery or the Santa Cruz County Household Hazardous Waste Program (SantaCruzCountyRecycles.com).

PG&E Pipeline Testing

From July through September, PG&E will be testing to insure the safety of its gas transmission lines within the city. The project entails work on McGregor Drive, Kennedy Drive, Monterey Avenue, Hill Street, Bay Avenue, and 41st Avenue. The heaviest impacts will be along Bay Avenue from Hill Street to Capitola Avenue with periodic traffic control daily. As part of this project, PG&E may be venting natural gas to the atmosphere. This gas will dissipate quickly and is not harmful. If you have any concerns or questions about this project, contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

Vacation Rentals Are Not Allowed in City's Residential Neighborhoods

Vacation rentals are becoming increasingly popular with visitors. Often advertised through internet sites like VRBO and AirBnB, vacation rentals offer short-term lodging in private homes for less than 30 consecutive calendar days.

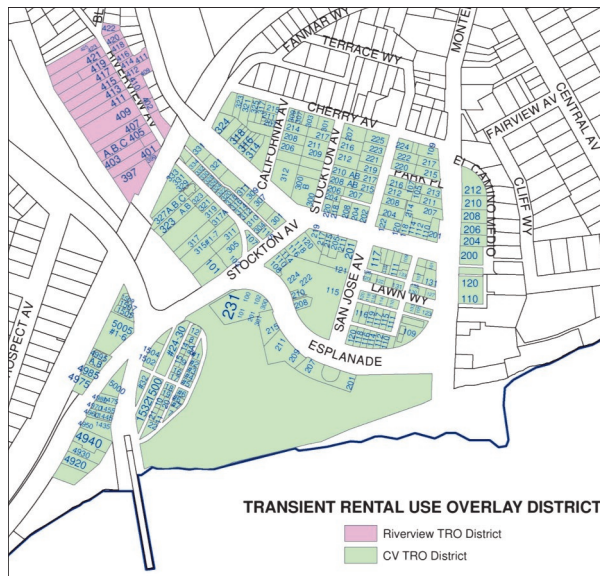
The City of Capitola allows vacation rentals only in the Transient Rental Overlay Zone (see map). To operate a vacation rental, a property owner must obtain a permit and a business license from the City of Capitola. In addition, vacation rental owners are required to collect Transient Occupancy Tax from each renter.

Vacation rentals are prohibited outside of the overlay zone. Property owners, property managers, and/or real estate agents who rent or advertise vacation rentals in other areas of the City are in violation of Municipal Code section 17.84.030 and may be subject to daily fines. If you would like additional information, or if you would like to report an unpermitted vacation rental, please contact the Community Development Department staff at 831-475-7300.

Museum Plans Golden Anniversary

The Capitola Historical Museum opened on July 9, 1966, featuring photographs, artifacts, and other items to help preserve and share the story of Capitola's fascinating past. Its first home was a rented storeroom behind 115 Capitola Ave.

Next year the Museum will mark the 50th anniversary of its founding. The Museum curator, board, and volunteers are just starting to plan some special events for the occasion. If you have old photos, clippings, or stories relating to the Museum's early years, please contact curator Frank Perry at 831-464-0322 or email fperry@ci.capitola.ca.us.



City of Capitola

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Named one of *Sunset* magazine's best beach towns with one of *USA Today's* best California beaches

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Capitola Begins to Plan New Library

The City of Capitola's library is housed in temporary, modular buildings that opened 16 years ago. Although the facility has served the community well, the buildings are in disrepair and are nearing the end of their useful life. The City is committed to replacing this existing 4,320-square-foot temporary structure with a new, modern library at the current Wharf Road site.

The size of the new library could range between 7,000 and 12,000 square feet, depending on funding availability and community needs.

A contract with the County of Santa Cruz commits Capitola to start construction of a permanent library by 2018. The City has set aside \$2.6 million to help pay for the new library, but additional funding will be needed.

Over the next year, the Capitola community will gather to consider design concepts and funding opportunities. If you would like to be involved in the process, please contact

Rich Grunow at 831-475-7300
or rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us

Parking Structure, City Hall Plan Shelved

The City Council in July voted to end discussion of redeveloping the City Hall property. The decision followed broad community outreach regarding a proposal to consolidate the surface parking lots into a parking structure, build a new park, and relocate police and city administration out of the flood plain. The proposal involved a new hotel on the current City Hall site to help finance these public improvements.

The concept did not garner the public support needed for such a large undertaking. A community survey initially proposed for July as part of the outreach effort was cancelled.