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Capitola Waves

The City of Capitola Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter

CITY HALL
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JANUARY 15



Capitola Turns 75!

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Back in the 1940s and after World War II, Capitola residents began voicing growing concerns over fire protection, inadequate water supply, and an outdated sewer system. Many were still reeling from the tragedy of the 1933 fire which destroyed several blocks of the Village, causing business losses totaling more than \$150,000 (3.5 million in today's dollars). Shared concerns culminated in a push to incorporate which was spearheaded by a new version of the Capitola Improvement Club. On January 4, 1949, the measure for incorporation passed by a margin of 54 votes (297 yea and 243 nay). On January 11, 1949, Capitola officially became the third city within Santa Cruz County.

Fast forward to 2024, when on Thursday, January 11, Capitola turned 75-years-young. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the city's "Diamond Jubilee" this 2024! We are excited to host a City Birthday Party this summer so stay tuned for more information as the season grows closer.

Storm Preparedness

During the winter months, our Public Works Department remains actively engaged in a multi-faceted strategy to fortify the community against potential winter storms. With inspections and maintenance, creek beds and tree-lined areas are cleared of debris, reducing the risk of flooding. Essential tools and equipment undergo thorough checks, storm drains are cleaned, and weather conditions are monitored to ensure the readiness of the department to respond swiftly to changing circumstances. **Sandbags are available at the police department and sand is provided in an upper lot throughout winter.**

When a storm hits, like in late December 2023, our Public Works crew is ready for rapid response. Crew members address fallen trees, blocked drains, and Village flooding as quickly as possible for the safety and convenience of the public. Our team also regularly communicates with the public via the City website and social media channels to provide updates on weather conditions, road closures, and safety measures.



Our Public Works crew works diligently to address storm impacts such as flooding, as shown in the image above.



Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project

The Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project (CWEP) continues to move forward! CWEP includes an updated entry to the Wharf, enhanced lighting fixtures, more seating, and possibly much more, dependent on fundraising. **For more information on this project and the campaign to raise funds, click [here](#).**

Capitola Museum Volunteers Wanted

Do you love history? Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer while promoting local history? If so you are in luck because the Capitola Historical Museum is recruiting for volunteers.

The Capitola Historical Museum preserves and promotes the history of Capitola through creating exhibitions, maintaining a collection of historic photographs and artifacts, conducting oral histories, and participating in special events. Volunteer docents are the museum's ambassadors to the community and help support the operation of the museum and promote museum activities.

Museum volunteers can contribute in several ways including greeting visitors during two-hour museum desk shifts and/or assisting with special community events and museum projects. If you're interested, use this [link](#) to apply.

Traffic Calming Workshop

The City of Capitola Public Works has scheduled a **virtual workshop** to discuss the Park Avenue Traffic Calming Project. Join us on **Tuesday, January 16 from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M.** for more information and to share your perspective. The meeting zoom link is available on the City website. A survey that outlines proposed bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic calming improvements for Park Avenue between Monterey Avenue and Coronado Street is available to collect your input. **[Click here to take the survey!](#)** City staff intends to take these recommendations with your input to City Council for approval and implementation.

Have You Heard about R.A.C.K.?

Have you heard about R.A.C.K., or Random Acts of Capitola Kindness? This local organization is a group of community members who are dedicated to spreading kindness by actively supporting our neighbors. Their mission is to cultivate compassion throughout our community.

For example, in early Spring 2023, hands-on R.A.C.K. volunteers were able to quickly repair the Depot Hill fence, faster than City crews could accommodate in light of other storm recovery efforts. Both the City and the Depot Hill neighborhood were grateful for this collaboration!

For information on other projects, the kindness campaign, and how to get involved, click **[here](#)**.



Stay tuned throughout the year on how to join the celebration of Capitola: 75 years as an incorporated City!

SCPL Recruiting for New Director

The Santa Cruz Public Library System is seeking an experienced professional librarian and leader to serve as head librarian for the Santa Cruz City/County Library System. This is a significant role in our greater community that will work with the City, our neighboring jurisdictions, and other partner agencies. To read more about this opportunity and to apply, use this **[link](#)**.

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries system delivers information, education, enrichment and inspiration through a network of 10 neighborhood library branches including the Capitola Branch Library. For more information about upcoming events at the Capitola library, including film discussions, tech help meetings, and youth chess club, use this **[link](#)**.



Latest Council Action

Below is a summarized list of the Council decisions and outcomes of the Thursday, January 11, 2024, City Council meeting:

General Government Items:

1) December 2023 Winter Storm Event - Staff provided an update on storm damage and repairs related to the storm at the end of 2023. Repairs to the Wharf, already in construction, are already in progress.

2) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Drone Program - Approved in the Police Department's Annual Military Equipment Report and the FY 2023-24 Budget, Capitola PD has proactively adopted policies and trained officers to properly use drones for the betterment of public safety. The drones will be used to survey during large crowd events/weather events, etc. For more information, read the report and policy [here](#). Staff shared a video made from drone footage during the meeting.

3) Remote Public Participation - Council asked that the public be able to attend meetings both in-person and via Zoom. Public comment during meetings will continue to only be accepted from in-person participants on a temporary basis, to be re-evaluated in spring. As always, written comments can be submitted to Council prior to meetings via email, mail, and in-person drop off at City Hall.

4) City Council Appointments to Advisory Bodies - Council appointed representatives to County/Regional Boards and to City advisory bodies.



Treasure Cove Playground

The City's upcoming universally accessible playground at Jade Street Park, recently christened "Treasure Cove," presents the opportunity not only to revamp the playground with innovative features but also to create a space that caters to users of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. This endeavor is made possible through a collaboration with County Park Friends, the organization spearheading a fundraising campaign for the project (**for more information and to donate, click [here](#)**).

The Friends have set a \$1 million fundraising goal, and many sponsorship levels are available. Be a part of Capitola and help make this dream project a reality by donating today!

Upcoming Council Items:

The following is a brief list of items to be discussed during near-future Council meetings:

- Santa Cruz Animal Shelter Presentation
- Special Event Process Updates
- Capitola Road and Bulb Street Project Conceptual Review

**Next Council Meeting:
Thursday, January 25 at 6 P.M.**