



Vision for Permanent Library Begins To Take Shape

Capitola City Council took another step toward establishing a permanent Capitola Branch Library with its February approval of conceptual renderings for a new building at the current Wharf Road location. The images offer residents and library users a glimpse of what a new Capitola Library could look like.

The conceptual drawings, developed by Capitola resident and architect Pamela Anderson-Brule, were inspired by community input received during an October 2015 public workshop. They show a library that is nestled on the site of the current library, retaining the existing lot and strong connections to the outdoors.

The renderings envision a permanent library nearly three times the size of the current temporary modular building, allowing for small group meeting space, dedicated areas for children and teens, and community access to upgraded technology. The final library design will be developed once funding is secured and following additional community meetings to refine the exterior appearance and interior programming needs.

The Capitola branch has proven to be an important component of the Santa Cruz regional library system, serving not only Capitola city residents but also library users from Soquel and parts of Live Oak. Use continues to grow, as shown in the library system's "busyness" measurement based on staff interaction with patrons, which increased 21 percent from January 2014 to January 2015. Surveys also show an average of more than 40 visitors per open hour.



These conceptual renderings of a permanent library on the current Wharf Road site were developed by Anderson-Brule Architects, based on community input.



The City is committed to replacing the existing 4,320-square-foot temporary structure with a permanent, modern library of at least 7,000 square feet at the current Wharf Road site by 2019.

Capitola Branch Friends

Community members have formed Friends of the Capitola Branch Library and held the chapter's first meeting in early April. For more information on how to become involved and stay informed about activities, visit its Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/CapitolaLibraryFriends/

City of Capitola

420 Capitola Ave.
Capitola, CA 95010

831-475-7300
www.cityofcapitola.org



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

City Council

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Michael Termini

Email for all council:

citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us

Fireworks Support Library

Mark your calendar for Oct. 9 and the annual Monte Foundation fireworks display off the Capitola Wharf. Funds raised at this year's event will support the new Capitola Branch Library.

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Upcoming Regional Parcel Tax: What It Means for the Capitola Library

This June, voters will be asked to consider Measure S, a bond measure to fund library facilities throughout the County, from Boulder Creek to Capitola to La Selva Beach. The measure is particularly important to Capitola as the City has been planning to build a permanent library since the temporary modular building on Wharf Road went up 16 years ago. Over the last several years the City has been able to save \$2.6 million for the new library. Those funds must be used by 2019, otherwise the City may lose the right to decide how to spend the money. While the \$2.6 million is a good start on funding a permanent library, it is not enough pay for the whole building.

Capitola is not alone in needing funding for library facilities. Many of the other libraries in the regional Santa Cruz Public Libraries System also need replacement or renovations. Over the last several years the partner jurisdictions in the Library System have been discussing how to pay for those library projects. In February, the Library System governing board agreed to place a bond measure for voters to consider in June.

The proposed measure would net \$62 million, of which Capitola would receive \$8 million toward the permanent Capitola Branch Library. This \$8 million combined with the \$2.6 million the City has already set aside would bring the total project budget to about \$10.6 million. To generate the \$62 million in bond proceeds, voters will be asked to approve a \$49.50 annual parcel tax on residential units. Commercial properties would be taxed at \$86 annually.

Without the support of the regional measure, the City would likely have to consider its own tax measure in order to meet the 2019 deadline to begin construction on the new building and preserve the ability to determine how the \$2.6 million will be spent.

Watch for your absentee or sample ballot in the mail soon.