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City Still Addressing Winter Storm Damage

While the City of Capitola escaped this past winter’s fury with fewer impacts than our neighboring jurisdictions, the City did suffer damage along Park Avenue, the upper portion of Esplanade Park, the Wharf, and along the Depot Hill bluffs.

The damage to Park Avenue, where several large trees fell across the road, has required the closure of the bike lane. Fortunately, much of the repair costs to Park Avenue will be paid for by federal emergency funds. However, those federal funds require a more complicated process to design and bid the project; as a result, the repair work is anticipated to begin in Spring 2018.

Landslides on the cliff below Depot Hill have resulted in the partial closure of the Grand Avenue pathway and the upper portion of Esplanade Park at the bluff base. A geologist has advised the City to keep both areas closed while corrective measures can be developed to protect the public.

Plans for securing the upper portion of Esplanade Park are underway and that area should be reopened late this summer. The Grand Avenue pathway, on the other hand, will likely remain closed for the indefinite future as long-term plans are evaluated. City Council will receive an update regarding those options this fall.

On the Wharf, pilings holding the floating dock were damaged in late April. An emergency contract has been awarded for the repairs and the work should be completed by mid-July.

New Capitola Branch Library Taking Shape

The design of the new Capitola Branch Library is moving forward right on schedule. The architects are now working on detailing the design and making this Capitola’s library. Below is a draft look at the children’s area, with a colorful ceiling and large windows overlooking a deck and the tot lot. Groundbreaking at the Wharf Road location is anticipated in 2018.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Twilight Concerts

Esplanade Park
Wednesdays through Aug. 31

Sunday Art & Music at the Beach

Esplanade Park
July 16 & 30, Aug. 6 & 20

Wharf to Wharf Race

Sunday, July 23

National Night Out

Tuesday, Aug. 1
5-7 p.m. Jade Street Park

Movies at the Beach

Aug. 25, Sept. 2, 8, 15
Dusk Esplanade Park

65th Begonia Festival

Begonias Take a Bow
Sept. 1-4

Labor Day Holiday

Monday, Sept. 4
City Offices Closed

35th Annual Art & Wine

Sept. 9-10

Opera at the Beach

Sept. 17
Noon at Esplanade Park

Monte Foundation Fireworks

Oct. 8

Capitola En Plein Air

Nov. 1-5

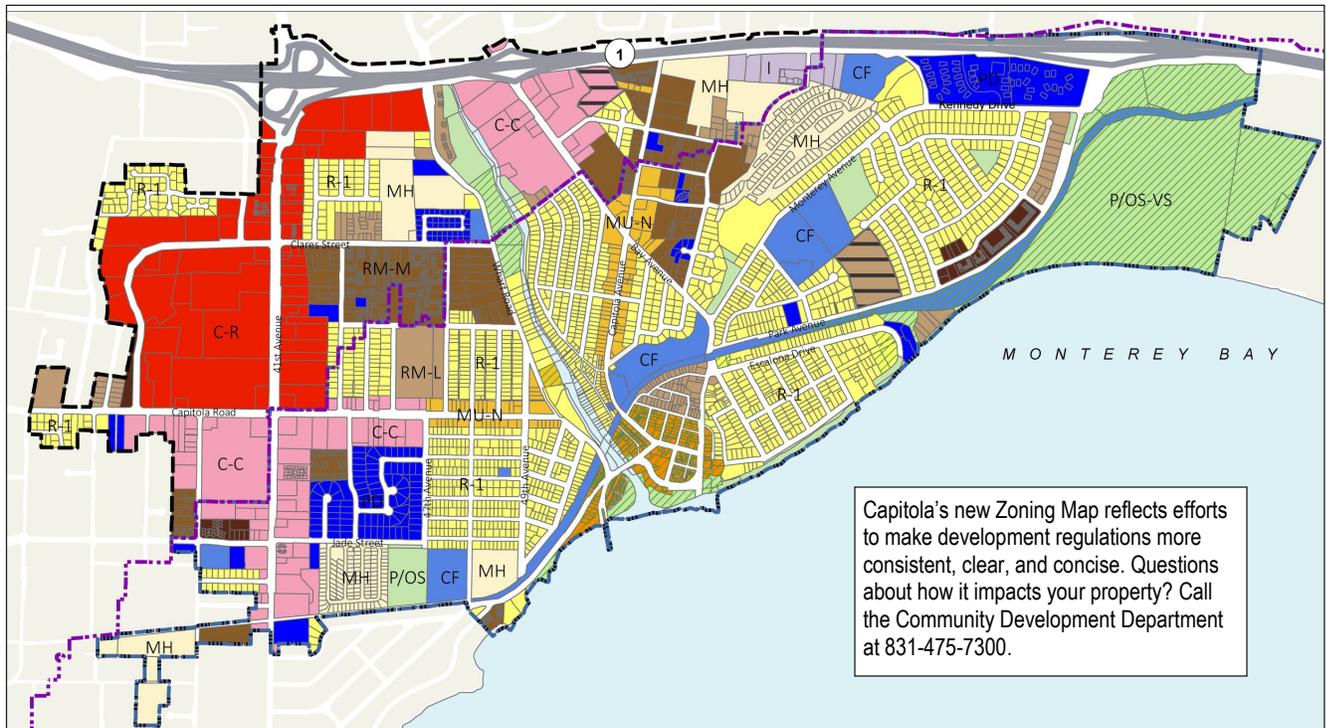
Draft Zoning Code Update Now Available for Public Review and Comment

The City of Capitola released the draft Zoning Code update for a 60-day public review period on May 31. The draft is available for review on the City website, at City Hall, and at the Capitola Branch Library. The comment period closes August 1. The Planning Commission is scheduled to begin the final adoption process for the new code on September 6.

In late August, property owners and residents will begin to see mailed and posted notices around the City. These will give an overview of changes to an area's zoning as part of the overall update and announce hearing dates.

The City initiated the process to update its 1975 Zoning Code in 2014 and has since held more than 40 public hearings and workshops. The Zoning Code regulates how land may be used; controls the type, size, and height of buildings; and establishes standards for design, parking, signage, and other matters of local importance.

The Zoning Code update strives to promote high-quality design, protect neighborhood character, and comply with current legal standards in a manner that is easier to understand, administer, and enforce. The updated Zoning Code will also implement the goals, policies, and actions of the recently adopted General Plan Update. Additional information about the Zoning Code update can be found on the City website.



ADA Plan Review Looks at Capitola's Accessibility

The City of Capitola is currently in the process of updating its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation Plan. This plan identifies accessibility deficiencies in the City's facilities, rights-of-way, and services, and provides a timeline and cost estimate to correct any issues.

This process allows the City to ensure that all residents and visitors can enjoy everything that Capitola offers equally, without discrimination to persons with disabilities.

The evaluation and update began in June 2016, and is scheduled to be completed in two phases. Phase I consisted of the evaluation of all the City of Capitola facilities and parks,

while Phase II will consist of the evaluation of the public rights-of-way and the services provided by the City. Phase I is nearly completed and Phase II will begin in July 2017.

Once Phase II is complete, the City will hold a public outreach meeting, currently scheduled for January 2018. It will help identify the most frequented facilities and services used by the public, and ensure they are given a higher priority.

Following that public input, the final draft of the plan will be presented in a public hearing before the City Council. Interested members of the public are encouraged to participate in the process. Please contact the Building Division at 831-475-7300 for additional information.

Capitola Becomes Founding Member of Monterey Bay Community Power

Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) is a new regional partnership between local governments that plans to provide electricity to residents and businesses throughout Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties starting in Spring 2018.

MBCP aims to improve consumer choice, increase renewable energy, and stimulate the regional economy by reinvesting in the community.

In February 2017, local government boards, including the City of Capitola, passed an ordinance to form MBCP. The first meeting of the new board of directors was held in May. This summer MBCP will hire its first CEO, as well as continue community outreach and planning for a Spring 2018 launch.

This exciting project grew from approximately 100 community meetings, as well as in-depth focus-group meetings with elected officials and staff from every city and county in the three-county region. Eventually 19 jurisdictions chose to join MBCP, including the City of Capitola.

In Capitola's Climate Action Plan, the most significant opportunity for the community as a whole to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions is for the City to partner with other local governments to establish a public sustainable-energy partnership. MBCP is that entity and will allow City residents and businesses to choose clean-source electricity at a cost equivalent to PG&E. PG&E will continue to provide gas and customer service, including billing, and to maintain power lines.

This nonprofit model helps boost local economic vitality because the money from rates paid by customers stays local, helping to fund regional renewable energy projects and create jobs.

This Fall local PG&E customers will be notified about how the transition to MBCP electricity will work. Customers may remain with PG&E if they wish. Visit mbcommunitypower.org to learn about upcoming meetings and sign up for the MBCP newsletter.

Meet the City's New Finance Director

Capitola welcomed Jim Malberg as our new Finance Director on June 26. Jim joins the City from the Elk Grove Water District, where he served as the finance manager for the past two-and-a-half years.

Jim has worked for a number of cities and special districts over the past 17 years, overseeing public sector accounting, budgeting, utility billing, purchasing, and information technology programs.

Jim was born in Long Beach and raised in Lodi, CA. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he earned his bachelor of science and master's degree in public administration from California State University, Stanislaus.

Jim brings a wealth of experience and a well-rounded background to the Finance Department and is excited to be a part of the City's team. His hobbies include outdoor activities and traveling.



As a reminder, skateboarding is prohibited in Capitola Village. Generally the City's code prohibits skating from the train tracks, or the top of the hill, down into the Village. See the map above for specifics.



STORM WATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Summer Pollution Prevention Tips to Help Keep Soquel Creek and Monterey Bay Clean

Pack your trash and don't feed the birds: The beach and parks are for everyone to enjoy. Seagulls, pigeons, and waterfowl are attracted by trash left behind and feeding the bird population degrades water quality of the creek and bay.

Only rain down the drain: Remember our storm drains are for storm water only, and allowing landscaping over-watering, car wash rinse water, oils, paints, or any other liquids or debris in these systems adds to water pollution.

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

MAYOR

Stephanie Harlan
sharlan@ci.capitola.ca.us

VICE MAYOR

Michael Termini
Michael@triadelectric.com

COUNCIL MEMBER

Jacques Bertrand
jbertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us

COUNCIL MEMBER

Ed Bottorff
ebottorff167@yahoo.com

COUNCIL MEMBER

Kristen Petersen
ladykpetersen@gmail.com

Email for all council:

citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us

Mark Your Calendar for National Night Out

On August 1, the City of Capitola will be celebrating National Night Out at Jade Street Park from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This event promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, helping make our neighborhoods safer while growing community.

The Capitola Police Department will be joined by the Central Protection Fire District and American Medical Response. Enjoy free food and drinks, a jump house, face painting, climbing wall, and a petting zoo.

National Night Out is a great opportunity to bring neighbors and public safety organizations together in a relaxed and positive environment. Join us!

Free Trees for Capitola Residents

The City of Capitola is pleased to announce a Free Tree Program that will provide up to two free trees for interested Capitola residents.

The program is a partnership between the City of Capitola and the Arbor Day Foundation – Energy Savings Tree Program. It will launch in September and will feature an interactive website where residents may select two trees from a variety of available species. All trees will be appropriate for the Central Coast climate conditions and grown in the Bay Area.

Trees will be shipped directly to the homeowner in November at no cost. Additional information will be provided on the City website in coming weeks. Please contact the Community Development Department at 831-475-7300 for more information about the program.

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