



### City Looks at Funding and Timing for New Library

In late 2015, the City Council authorized Capitola’s participation in a regional library funding measure that, if approved by voters in June 2016, would include an additional \$8 million for a permanent new home for the Capitola Branch Library. Those funds would be used to augment the \$2.6 million the City has already saved for a new library.

The City’s current branch library is housed in temporary, modular buildings that opened 16 years ago. Although the facility has served the community well, the building is in disrepair and nearing the end of its 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.

In 2004 the City entered a contract with the County of Santa Cruz obligating Capitola to start construction of a permanent library by 2018. In December the City and

County agreed to a one-year extension to that deadline, allowing the City to better coordinate the timing of construction with the anticipated regional funding measure.

Nevertheless Capitola is committed to building the new library, and intends to move quickly into the final design phase once funding for the project is obtained.

The City has already taken initial steps to start designing a new library. Last November the City hosted a design workshop, asking participants to identify characteristics they would like to see in the new library. Outcomes from that workshop, including conceptual drawings, will be presented to the community later this winter.

If you would like to help get involved in helping to design the library, or support the development of the library, please contact Rich Grunow at 75-7300 or rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us

### Capital Improvement Projects Slated for 2016

Two long-awaited street projects should begin this winter: the Stockton Avenue and Esplanade intersection improvements and 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue paving. The Stockton Avenue and Esplanade project will construct new sidewalks and provide a single pedestrian crossing at this busy intersection. The 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue paving project will replace pavement from Capitola Road to Brommer Street while also adding bike lanes in each direction.

A remediation plan has been approved for naturally occurring arsenic in the soil that delayed the McGregor Drive multi-use park, and the City is now waiting for an opening in the contractor’s schedule to complete the facility. Work should commence on that project in early 2016.

The Public Works Department plans public workshops in early 2016 on the Park Avenue sidewalk, the potential roundabout at Bay and Capitola Avenues, and pedestrian improvements for Hill Street. These workshops will be followed by community meetings regarding the bike lane issues on Monterey Avenue in the Cliffwood Heights neighborhood.

This spring and summer should see work begin on several more projects. These include the Park Avenue sidewalks and paving, Monterey Avenue paving, 42<sup>nd</sup> and Diamond neighborhood paving, Hill Street pedestrian improvements, Rispin Park development, Jade Street tennis court reconstruction, and green bike lanes at Highway 1 crossings.

These projects are paid for out of both the City’s General Fund and Measure O sales tax revenue.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Martin Luther King Holiday**  
Jan. 18, City Offices Closed

**Peery Park Work Day**  
Jan. 23  
9 a..m.- noon  
By foot bridge near Nob Hill

**Lincoln’s Birthday Holiday**  
Feb. 12, City Offices Closed

**Presidents’ Day Holiday**  
Feb. 15, City Offices Closed

**Capitola Village Easter Egg Hunt**  
March 26

**City-Wide Garage Sale**  
April 23

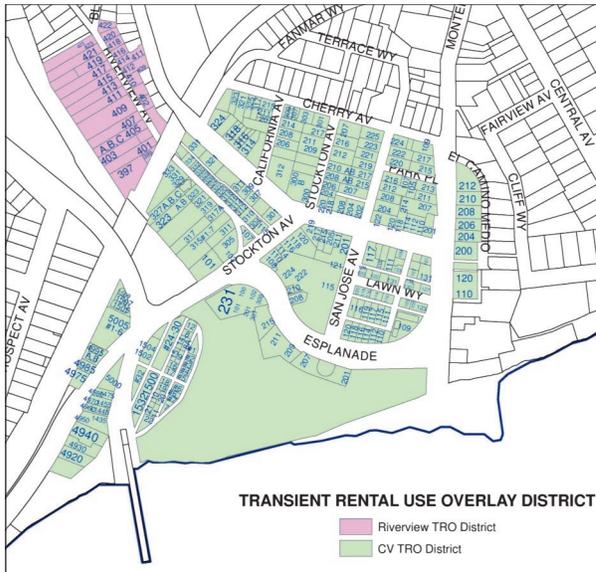
**Spring Garbage Clean-up Week**  
April 25-29

**Memorial Day**  
May 30  
City Offices Closed

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## Proactive Code Enforcement Options Considered for Unpermitted Vacation Rentals



Back in 1991, Capitola's City Council took action to allow short-term vacation rentals in the Village area, while preserving the year-round residential nature of other neighborhoods. The City established a "transient rental use overlay district" to allow rentals of less than 30 days in this area (see map). Public input during the recent General Plan update supported maintaining these limitations on short-term rentals.

However, the increase in online vacation home listing services has led to escalating issues with unpermitted vacation rentals and neighborhood complaints about noise, parking, and parties in residential areas. In response, the Planning Commission and City Council considered implementing options for enforcement to address all non-compliant vacation rentals. Those options were heard by the City Council on January 14. Check the City's website for an update regarding the outcome of that meeting.

Property owners, property managers, and/or real estate agents who rent or advertise vacation rentals outside of the district or without a permit are in violation of Municipal Code section

17.84.030 and may be subject to daily fines. To operate a vacation rental, a property owner must obtain a permit and a business license from the City of Capitola. Vacation rental owners are also required to collect the 10 percent Transient Occupancy Tax from each renter.

If you would like additional information to register a vacation rental, or if you would like to confidentially report an unpermitted vacation rental, please contact the Community Development Department staff at 475-7300.

## Community Development Department Program and Project Updates

### Proposed Monterey Avenue Skatepark

In 2015, Capitola City Council granted some local residents permission to apply to build a privately funded skate park within Monterey Avenue Park. The application is currently under review and a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) recently ended its public review period. The project is anticipated to be presented to the Planning Commission in March 2016 for a permit. More information is available on the City's website under Community Development.

### Zoning Code Update

Over the past several months, the City has held workshops with the Planning Commission and City Council to discuss issues with the current Zoning Code and opportunities for improvement in a new code. City staff is currently drafting a new Zoning Code which will be released for public review and comment in early 2016. There will be several additional public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council to discuss issues related to parking, height limits, multi-family uses in single-family neighborhoods, and other development standards. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the process and share their opinions. For more information, please visit the Zoning Code Update page on the City website.

### Green Building Program Update

City staff will initiate an update to its Green Building Program in early 2016 to encourage greater energy and water efficiency in new and substantial remodels of residential and commercial developments. The updated program will be primarily incentive-based. It will be designed to meet or exceed existing State of California CALGreen mandatory building requirements and to implement goals of the recently adopted Capitola Climate Action Plan. Please contact Community Development staff if you would like to share ideas or participate in the update process.

### Supporting Home Energy and Water Efficiency Upgrades

Capitola offers free permitting to add solar panels, solar hot water heaters, grey water systems, and electric vehicle charging stations to homes. In addition, through the City's association with the HERO program, Capitola property owners can receive low interest loans with no money down to finance thousands of energy and water efficiency home improvements through their annual property tax payments. Eligible improvements include solar panels, insulation upgrades, windows, HVAC units, light fixtures, and high efficiency irrigation systems, faucets, and showerheads. Visit [www.heroprogram.com/capitola](http://www.heroprogram.com/capitola) or contact City staff at 475-7300 for more information.

## Photo Exhibit Captures What Capitola Looked Like a Century Ago

For this year's exhibition, the Capitola Historical Museum will showcase the stunning photographs of Ole Ravnos. In Capitola during the early 1900s, Mr. Ravnos and his wife, Amelia, operated a photo concession and took some of the town's most iconic images.

Their pictures of the beach, wharf, lagoon, and trestle capture Capitola during its heyday as a summertime resort and campground. The Grand Hotel Capitola drew many visitors while hundreds of young people from various organizations camped en masse along the creek where Riverview Avenue is today.



An early 1900s view of Capitola Village from the wharf. Photo by Ravnos.

Ravnos's photographs played an important role in promoting Capitola as a vacation spot in brochures and pamphlets. Several were also reproduced by San Francisco postcard publishers. With the help of Museum board member Gordon van Zuiden, over 30 Ravnos images of Capitola have been uncovered in various museum and library archives and in private collections. A number of these have never before been exhibited.

"Photos by Ravnos: Capitola in the Early 1900s" will run from Feb. 27 through Dec. 28, 2016.

The Museum is also planning a special display for its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and several birthday-related events during the year. Check the museum's website and Facebook page for updates.

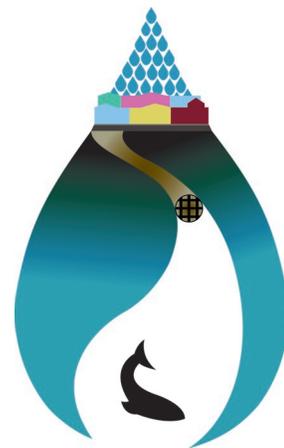
## A Clean Creek and Bay Start with Neighborhood Storm Drains

Capitola's storm drains are designed to carry only rainwater. They flow directly to Soquel Creek and into Monterey Bay without receiving any type of treatment. Storm drains are separate from the sanitary sewer system, which treats wastewater from sinks, toilets, and other indoor drains.

Whether or not you live right next to the creek or bay, runoff from your home will eventually drain to Monterey Bay. Storm water pollution is toxic to fish and other wildlife and it degrades our beaches and ocean. During the winter it is especially important to keep pollution from washing down the storm drains.

Please do your part to limit these common sources of bacteria and toxic chemicals:

- pet waste – scoop dog feces and cat litter in plastic bags and throw them in the trash
- herbicides and pesticides -- limit use and apply minimal amounts during winter months
- leaks from vehicles – keep cars maintained and contain fluids during work
- illegal dumping -- paint, motor oil, and erosion material are often dumped illegally into drains or waterways. If you see someone dumping anything into a storm drain, please report the incident immediately by calling the Capitola Public Works Department at 475-7300.



## Recreation Classes Offer Residents a Variety of Choices

Try something new this winter! The City of Capitola Recreation Department offers classes for all ages.

Meet people, get in better shape, relax, explore the arts, develop work-related skills, or just plain have fun. Classes are affordable, convenient, and enjoyable, and we are proud

of our highly qualified, professional instructors.

The brochure can be viewed on the City's website or give us a call at 475-5935 or 475-6115. Check out the Capitola Recreation Facebook page for updates, instructor profiles, class photos and information about events around Capitola.

# 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

## City Council

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## 'Capitola On Watch' Partners with Private Surveillance

Does your business or home have a video surveillance camera? If so, the Capitola Police Department would like to partner with you. You may be able to help us catch a criminal one day.

As part of ongoing efforts to keep the City's neighborhoods safe, the Capitola Police Department is working with community members to compile a list of privately owned video camera surveillance systems.

Many residents and business owners have installed camera systems to monitor activities around their properties. Increasingly, such camera systems have captured images critical in solving crimes.

To this end, the Capitola Police Department is asking Capitola residents and business owners with surveillance systems to install cameras covering the front and/or side of property that capture the public street and sidewalk. These systems can be registered with Capitola On Watch, along with cameras already in place.

In the event of a crime in your neighborhood, investigators will contact you to determine if suspect information was captured by your cameras.

Surveillance systems can be registered through the City's website, [CityofCapitola.org](http://CityofCapitola.org).

## Public Meeting Schedule

City Council regularly meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month beginning at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission meets on the first Thursday at 7 p.m.

Meeting agendas, packets, minutes, live streaming, and videos are available through the City's website. Click the "Meeting Video" button on the home page.

Special meetings and schedule changes are also available online.