

# Capitola Currents

WINTER/SPRING 2020-21

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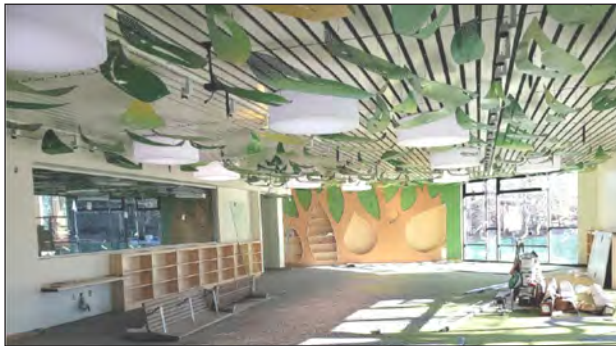
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## Capitola Library Project Nearing Completion

The new Capitola Library Branch is nearing completion! The City hopes that construction will be complete and the building ready to “hand over” to the Santa Cruz Public Library (SCPL) system in late April. SCPL operates all library branches within the County outside of those in Watsonville. The opening of the library to the public is dependent on restrictions due to the pandemic, but there is hope that by mid-summer the building will be open for at least limited services. A virtual Grand Opening will likely be held in Summer 2021.



The new library building, from Clares Street



Leaf art-pieces hang from the ceiling in the future children's room

## Council Reorganizes

Voters elected Margaux Keiser and re-elected Kristen Petersen to Capitola City Council in the November 2020 Election. On December 11, 2020, they were both sworn in as Council Members to serve four-year terms, joining Council Members Jacques Bertrand, Yvette Brooks, and Sam Storey. In December, Yvette Brooks was appointed Mayor and Sam Storey was appointed Vice-Mayor by the five-person Council. Mayor and Vice Mayor are annually appointed positions.

## City Hall Open

Since last June, Capitola City Hall has been open to the public with safety precautions in place and COVID-19 guidance strictly followed. Currently, administrative, planning, and building services are available using a walk-up service window.

Service is provided to members of the public one-at-a-time and facial-coverings are required. We are happy to be open to the public, with staff working both on-site and from home as scheduling and social distancing requirements allow.

## COVID-19 Resources:

### Vaccines:

*SC County Health Services Agency*  
santacruzhealth.org

- click on “COVID-19 Response
- click on “Vaccine” (if you are eligible, call your healthcare provider to schedule)

### Local Information:

*SC County Call Center*  
M - F, 8am—5pm  
(831) 454-4242

*United Way of SC County*  
Call 211 –or–  
Text “covid19” to 211211

### County Restrictions:

*Blueprint for a Safer Economy*  
covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#county-status

## How to Watch & Participate in Council Meetings

In accordance with current health orders, City Council meetings are currently not physically open to the public. To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can watch meetings live online by clicking on “Meeting Agendas/Videos” on the City website homepage, live on Spectrum Cable Television channel 8, or by joining the Zoom meeting. Zoom links are available at the time of agenda publication on the City’s website and on the printed agenda. Past meetings remain available to watch on [CityofCapitola.org](http://CityofCapitola.org) at any time.

As always, the public can send emails to [citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us) to comment on agenda items prior to a Council meetings taking place. The public can also mail or drop off written comments at the “after hours drop off” box at City Hall.

To comment during a meeting, join the Zoom (with computer or landline phone) and “raise your hand” to speak when the Mayor asks for public comment. Or, email [publiccomment@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:publiccomment@ci.capitola.ca.us) including the agenda item in the subject line. Emails received during the public comment period for any agenda item will be read aloud and shown on a screen (three minute limit per comment).

### What’s New for Recreation?

Capitola Recreation is hard at work developing plans for summer 2021. The City is currently planning on operating its Junior Guards and Camp Capitola programs in a similar format to last summer; but is paying close attention to Public Health guidance that could allow for greater participation in the programs. The City is also investigating the possibility of offering a Family Camp this summer. The three day program would be held at an outdoor-oriented camp & retreat center in the Sierra foothills. Family Camp, open to all Capitola residents, would provide opportunities for community building while families engage in COVID-safe recreational activities.



Now and always, the City is focused on safely offering the high-quality programs our community appreciates so that everyone stays healthy. Check the Recreation page on the City website for updates and registration information. Plus, be sure to check out the Virtual Recreation Center for online classes and more!

### See Your Measure F Dollars at Work

The City is using the revenue from the voter-approved Measure F, a quarter-cent sales tax, to rebuild and refortify Capitola’s beachfront structures. This past winter the beach jetty was reconstructed to its original height, which will provide a more consistent summer beach by ensuring enough sand remains on the beach. In addition, the flume was refurbished by reconstructing its top and inserting a liner to prevent leakage and sinkholes. The flume allows the City to recreate the creek’s natural pattern of seasonally closing to the ocean and forming a lagoon. The lagoon provides an important habitat for juvenile freshwater steelhead and Coho salmon. This refurbishment should ensure the flume is functional for years to come.

The next key project is widening and rehabilitating Capitola Wharf to improve its resilience. The City is in the midst of acquiring the necessary permits, with construction scheduled for next winter and spring. The project includes widening the narrow section at the start of the wharf, improving the utilities, and re-decking the structure so that Capitola maintains a lasting Wharf for all to enjoy.



The Jetty before



The Jetty after, December 2020

## News from the Historical Museum

Although the Museum has been closed due to the pandemic, the City hopes it can reopen later this year with the “Then & Now” exhibition. In the meantime, Museum staff has been working behind the scenes cataloging recent artifacts and photograph donations and taking an inventory of all collections.

While organizing the Museum’s art collection, staff came across an old oil painting of two locomotives pulling a train across the trestle, with smoke billowing into the sky (top right). The painting is clearly based on a photograph taken in about 1907 by Ole Ravnos (middle right). Mr. Ravnos operated the photography concession in Capitola for several years during the very early 1900s. In 2016 the Museum held a special exhibit of his Capitola photos. Of the many images Ravnos took, this picture of the train is one of his best known. It was made into postcards which tourists mailed to relatives in towns across the United States (bottom right).

Unfortunately, there is no signature or date on the original painting. However, Ravnos’ wife, Amelia, was a painter of some renown. Could it be that she painted this piece of art based on her husband’s photograph? So far, only one painting by Amelia Ravnos is known to exist: a portrait, currently located in another state. Perhaps if of her work is discovered, we can at least see if our painting is in the same style. If anyone knows of a painting by Amelia Ravnos, please contact Museum staff at [capitolamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:capitolamuseum@gmail.com).

### *Stay Connected with the Museum :*

Facebook: @CapitolaHistoricalMuseum

Newsletter: email [capitolamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:capitolamuseum@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing-list

YouTube: search “Capitola Historical Museum” and subscribe to the channel



Mystery painting



Ravnos' photograph



Popular postcard

## Resources for COVID-19 Assistance

**Eviction Protection**—Tenants in Capitola have protections from eviction under local, state, and federal law. The State of California website, [housingiskey.com](http://housingiskey.com) is a great resource for tenants, landlords, and homeowners with up-to-date information on AB 3088 and SB 91; laws that protect tenants from eviction for nonpayment of rent due to a COVID-19 related financial impact, if the tenant provides the landlord with a signed declaration of financial distress. Laws also protect tenants from “no cause” evictions, meaning an eviction when the landlord does not state a reason. Currently, AB 3088 extended eviction protections through June 2021. Visit [housingiskey.com](http://housingiskey.com) for further information on eviction protection.

**State Emergency Rental Assistance Program**—The State’s COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act (SB91) created the State of California Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Rental assistance will be available to qualified Capitola

residents through this program, which is scheduled to go live on March 15, 2021. For more information, visit the State’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program webpage at [www.bcsd.ca.gov/covidrelief/](http://www.bcsd.ca.gov/covidrelief/). If you need assistance with your application, email the Planning Division at [planning@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:planning@ci.capitola.ca.us).

### Help Keep Our Bay Healthy

**Only Rain Down the Drain**—Storm drains are for storm water only, and allowing over-watering, car wash rinse water, oils, paints, or any other liquids or debris in these systems adds to water pollution.

**Report Spills**—Report any spills or dumping incidents, accidental or intentional, to the Department of Public Works at 475-7300. To report illegal dumping during nonbusiness hours, call 911.

## City of Capitola

420 Capitola Ave.  
Capitola, CA 95010

831-475-7300  
www.cityofcapitola.org



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## City Council

### MAYOR

Yvette Brooks

### VICE MAYOR

Sam Storey

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jacques Bertrand

Margaux Keiser

Kristen Petersen

### EMAIL CITY COUNCIL:

citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us

Visit Our Updated Website  
**CityOfCapitola.org**

- Submit Planning and Building applications
- Request a building inspection
- Easily navigate to Council meeting video

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## Capitola Police Officer of the Year

Capitola Police Department detective Brantly Sandretti was recently named the department's 2020 Officer of the Year. The annual award, presented in memory of retired police sergeant Herb Ross, honors an individual member of the police department for their leadership, performance, and community engagement. Detective Sandretti has been with the Capitola Police Department for nearly ten years, beginning as a volunteer police explorer in 2011.

Throughout Brantly's career he has demonstrated excellent leadership and teamwork, often committing himself to providing valuable mentorship to younger officers; advancing the overall mission and vision of the police department while meeting the expectations of the community. This, in addition to many other skills recognized by his peer group, paved the way for his selection as Officer of the Year and for this prestigious honor in memory of Sergeant Herb Ross, who served the city of Capitola and its residents from 1973-2001.

Congratulations to Detective Brantly Sandretti; the 2020 Capitola Police Department Officer of the Year.



Brantly Sandretti in 2015