



SUMMER / FALL 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Volunteer at the Museum | 2 |
| Community Center Project | 2 |
| Capitola Plein Air 2025 | 2 |
| Capitola Wharf Master Plan | 3 |
| Recreation Classes | 3 |
| Police Department Updates | 4 |

Treasure Cove Playground at Jade Street Park: Construction to begin this Fall

The City of Capitola is thrilled to celebrate groundbreaking for the Treasure Cove Playground at Jade Street Park project this October. This marks the beginning of an exciting transformation that will bring Capitola its first universally accessible playground: a space designed for children of all abilities to play, explore, and grow together.

Treasure Cove has been years in the making. With a marine and shoreline theme designed by Verde Design, the playground will include features such as a wheelchair-accessible merry-go-round, cozy domes, sensory play equipment, and climbing and sliding zones, all specifically designed to welcome children with a wide range of abilities.

In 2023, the City initially allocated \$475,000 for project outreach and design. Construction has been made possible through an incredible partnership with County Park Friends, who led an 18-month fundraising campaign and raised more than one-million dollars in generous support from community members, service clubs, and local businesses; and the recently awarded \$3.2 million Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Together, these contributions not only fully funded the playground but also paved the way for additional upgrades to Jade Street Park, including new restrooms, improved pedestrian access, and enhanced connectivity to the Jade Street Community Center. Construction will begin this fall, with opening projected in summer 2026.

Mayor Joe Clarke shared, "Treasure Cove represents the heart of Capitola: a place where everyone is welcome, and where joy and inclusion come to life. We can't wait to share this incredible playground with our community." Stay tuned as the project moves forward, and join us this October to celebrate the start of something truly special for Capitola's families!

Coming Soon: New Art on Capitola Wharf

The City is happy to announce that bronze marine-life art pieces, generously funded by community donations made through the Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project, will soon be installed in the Wharf



Bronze sea and coastal animals will be installed in the Wharf deck.

decking. These ocean critters, designed and created by Sean M. Monaghan of Bronze Works, will form an interactive pathway that navigates visitors to the Wharf's many incredible vantage points. This "scavenger hunt" was designed to provide a fun educational experience, while inspiring environmental stewardship for all who visit Capitola Wharf.

In addition, the City is pleased to report that, in partnership with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, new educational signs will be installed on Capitola Wharf this fall. Featuring information on the Monterey Bay and the history of Capitola Wharf, we are excited for our community to engage with these beautiful and educational signs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art & Wine Festival
September 13 – 14

Boogie on the Wharf
Sunday, September 21

Capitola Beach Festival
September 27 – 28

**Monte Foundation
Fireworks**
Sunday, October 12

Indigenous Peoples Day
Monday, October 13
City Hall Closed

Women on Waves
October 18 – 19

Capitola En Plein Air
November 3 – 9

Veterans Day
Tuesday, November 11
City Hall Closed

Sip N' Stroll
Saturday, November 15

**Not all events are City sponsored*

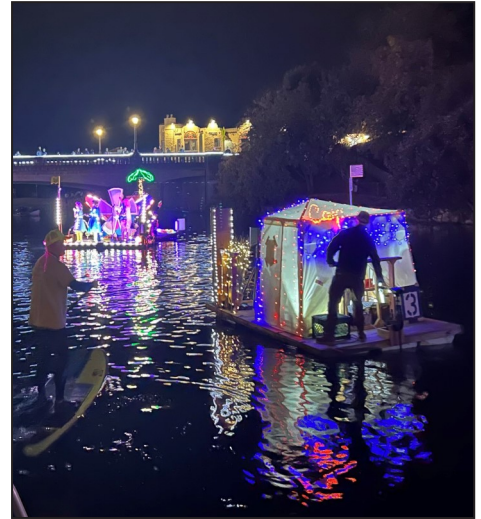
Love Local History? Become a Museum Volunteer!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Capitola Historical Museum. In 2024, the museum welcomed a record 8,892 visitors: more than 1,500 more than in 2023! These visitors were all welcomed by our amazing museum volunteers. As a city-owned and operated museum with only one employee (part-time Museum Curator), it is our dedicated volunteers who help us keep our doors open so we can share the history of Capitola with locals and visitors alike.

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 community events.

Most museum volunteers help greet visitors in the museum, and there are also opportunities to help with special events, public tours, exhibits, festivals (including help building our award-winning Beach Festival Nautical Parade floats), and other museum behind-the-scenes projects.

Over the past few years, Museum volunteers have helped our Curator create our new native plant garden, complete an inventory of our archives collection, and participate in events sponsored by other local museums like the annual Santa Cruz County History Fair. Our volunteers are the face of the museum and ambassadors to the community. Whether you live in Capitola or nearby, if you love Capitola's distinctive character, beauty, and unique history, and wish to share it with others, visit the City website to apply to get involved today. The admission-free Capitola Historical Museum is located at 410 Capitola Avenue and open Friday - Sunday, noon until 4 P.M., typically every March to the end of the year.



The Museum's 2024 prize-winning float.



New trusses in the Community Center ceiling.

Community Center Project Update

As of August 2025, construction is moving forward steadily. Major structural repairs, roofing, and underground utility work are nearly complete. Crews are now installing siding, pouring patio concrete, and preparing the building for the next phase, which will focus on mechanical systems, electrical work, and interior finishes. The project is on schedule for completion in summer 2026.

Capitola Plein Air Returns this November

The City, with the Art & Cultural Commission, is thrilled to host the 10th annual Capitola Plein Air event November 3-9, 2025! This celebrated occasion invites talented artists to capture the charm and beauty of Capitola's coastal landscapes, historic architecture, and lively village



2024 Plein Air winners with their art pieces.

scenes—all painted outdoors: *en plein air*. Whether you're an art lover, collector, or looking for a delightful way to enjoy the California coast, the Capitola Plein Air competition is a must-see event.

Over several days, selected juried artists will set up their easels throughout the city, transforming Capitola into an open-air gallery. Locals and visitors are invited to watch the creative process unfold in real time and experience the unique energy of art in the making. This year, artists will participate in a friendly Quick Paint competition on the Esplanade, where the community will vote on a People's Choice award, enjoy live music, and participate in some artmaking of their own, sponsored by Palace Art & Office Supply. The week culminates in an exhibition and sale on Sunday, November 9, at New Brighton Middle School, where completed works are showcased and a first prize of \$1,000, sponsored by Capitola Fairfield Marriott and Best Western, will be awarded by a panel of esteemed judges.

Capitola Wharf Master Plan: What's Next

Capitola Wharf has always been a beloved landmark and gathering place for residents and visitors. After reopening in 2024, the City began work on a Wharf Master Plan to guide its long-term future. Over the past year, community members shared their ideas through surveys, a community meeting, and stakeholder conversations. Seven potential options for the Wharf's future were created to spark discussion and creativity.

On June 26, 2025, the City Council reviewed the results of community input along with cost and timeline considerations. After discussion, the Council selected a hybrid of two options to incorporate an open marketplace and/or two separate structures to house a restaurant and fishing establishment as the preferred option for the Wharf. The City's consultant, local Fuse Architects, has now been tasked with preparing a formal, detailed master plan based on this direction.

This fall, the City will share the finalized development plan, which will include:

- A site plan and description of uses
- 360-degree conceptual renderings
- Cost estimates
- Permit & environmental review requirements



Scan for more.

The City Council is expected to adopt the final Wharf Master Plan in fall 2025, though the desired Wharf option would require public/private partnership for investments due to anticipated costs. If not found through the public process, the Master Plan can be reviewed and modified.

Stay updated and get involved by signing up for Wharf project notifications: scan the QR Code above or use this link: www.cityofcapitola.org/communitydevelopment/page/capitola-wharf-master-plan. Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas—your input has helped shape the future of Capitola Wharf!

Help Keep Our Bay Healthy!



Storm drains are for storm water only, and anything on the ground will eventually be washed into our storm drains and out to the Monterey Bay without any cleaning or filtering. Help keep our creeks, rivers, and ocean healthy by taking the following actions:

Pick up litter: Participate in local clean up events, or pick up 10 pieces of trash on your next walk around the neighborhood or visit to the beach.

Pick up after your pets: Put pet waste in the trash to keep harmful bacteria from contaminating our waterways.

Pack your trash: If a public trash can or recycling bin is overflowing, pack your trash and dispose of it at home.

Use less-toxic pest control: Find better alternatives to poison sprays to deal with pest problems. Find an effective solution at www.ourwaterourworld.org

Maintain your vehicle: Clean up drips and fix leaks properly. Remember, carwash rinse water can also pollute our waterways.

Fall Classes at Capitola Recreation — Registration Now Open!

The City is excited to announce that registration for fall classes is now open. Beginning August 8, community members can sign up for a wide variety of programs designed for all ages and interests. Registration is available online through the city's recreation web portal, by phone, or in person at Recreation's temporary home, Opal Cliffs School, while the Jade Street Community Center Project continues renovations.

This season's activity guide features an engaging mix of youth and adult programs, including creative arts, dance, fitness, enrichment, and sports instruction. Families will find favorites such as Pre-Ballet for ages five through nine, and Beginning Piano for kids. Adult residents can also enjoy opportunities to stay active and learn new skills, ensuring there's something for everyone in the lineup.

Early registration is strongly encouraged, as many of the most popular classes tend to fill quickly. A ten percent senior discount is available for those ages sixty-two and older, and refund policies allow flexibility for participants who need to adjust plans before their classes begin. With offerings that bring together creativity, fitness, and community, the fall schedule is designed to support learning, activity, and connection throughout Capitola. For more information or assistance with registration, residents are encouraged to contact Capitola Recreation at (831) 475-5935, email capitolarecreation@ci.capitola.ca.us, or visit Opal Cliffs School. The full catalog of classes is available online, making it easy to explore all that's offered and secure a spot before programs fill.



City of Capitola

420 Capitola Avenue

Capitola, CA 95010

831-475-7300

www.cityofcapitola.org

Follow Us on Social Media:



City Council

MAYOR

Joe Clarke

VICE MAYOR

Margaux Morgan

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gerry Jensen

Melinda Orbach

Susan Westman

EMAIL CITY COUNCIL:

citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us

Subscribe to **Capitola Waves**,
our bi-weekly e-newsletter,
here: [www.cityofcapitola.org/
newsletter/subscriptions](http://www.cityofcapitola.org/newsletter/subscriptions)



Scan to subscribe

PREST.STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SANTA CRUZ CA
PERMIT #7013

Leadership Changes for Capitola PD

In late 2024, the Capitola Police Department celebrated key internal promotions that strengthen its leadership team and reinforce its deep community connection:

Chief of Police: Sarah Ryan Serving the Capitola community for two decades, Chief Ryan has demonstrated unwavering dedication to public safety. Her role has extended beyond enforcement to collaboration—with local agencies, community groups, and service on community boards—making her a respected and effective leader.

Operations Captain: Leo Moreno With 20 years of law enforcement experience, Captain Moreno now leads the operations division. His promotion reflects both his longstanding commitment and readiness to guide future public safety efforts.

Administrative Captain: Pedro Zamora Captain Zamora now oversees administrative functions critical to departmental efficiency, including investigations, code compliance, revenue and events, recruitment and hiring, technology systems, and internal affairs. His leadership ensures these vital services operate smoothly.

Finance Department Streamlines Services

The City of Capitola's Finance Department is making it easier than ever for local businesses to manage their business licenses. Since November 2024, business owners have been able to apply for, renew, cancel, or update licenses directly through the City's website. And now, with the launch of online credit card payments in January 2025, the process is faster, more secure, and paper-free. Each year, nearly 1,500 renewal notices are mailed in mid-November, with payments due by January 15. With the new system, the City anticipates a major reduction in mailed forms and paper checks, saving time for businesses and City staff alike. More online services are coming soon, as the City continues to expand digital tools to support local businesses.