



CVRA Steps Up to the Plate

By Margaret Kinstler and Darcy Horton



Julie Thiebaut and Maureen Kane collect donations

After two brutal days of rain and flooding in late March, Capitola residents and merchants were left with daunting and expensive cleanup tasks. In addition, merchants lost revenue as their shops remained closed.

Capitola elected officials, city employees and residents, including CVRA members, rose to the occasion as they quickly began repair and clean-up efforts to help those affected by the flood. Dennis Norton, Mayor of Capitola and a CVRA member, asked CVRA to staff a donation booth for the two weekends following the flood.

CVRA sent out a request for volunteers, and Linda Hanson, CVRA Vice President, scheduled the volunteers and set up the booths. The first weekend, CVRA volunteers staffed the donation booth in the tent that was raised outside the Mercantile for displaced businesses to display their wares.

The next weekend CVRA was at the Capitola Village Revival and Benefit festival which took place on Saturday, April 9 with live music, street performers, clowns, raffles and more. There was even a prize for the person who spent the most money in the village. Between the two weekends we collected \$6,188 in donations. People were extremely generous.

Monies raised went to the Capitola Village Flood Relief Fund, which benefits village businesses and local residents affected by the floods. To apply for assistance, contact the Capitola-Soquel Chamber of Commerce at 475-6522 or visit their website at <http://www.capitolachamber.com>.

Many thanks to CVRA members who manned our donation booths: Dorie & Bruce Arthur, Ed Bottorff, Rich Didday, Ted Didday, Margaret Dixon, Lew & Judith Feinman, Ginger Fortier, Linda Hanson, Maureen Kane, John Kinstler, Margaret Kinstler, Bob Lilley, Carey McCaffrey, Rachel Rowe, Janet Russell, Julie Thiebaut, Gina Velez Will, and Bill & Ute Wirth.

Cars Blocking Your Driveway?

By Margaret Kinstler

CVRA recently investigated the subject of cars blocking driveways and carports. According to Captain Tom Held of the Capitola Police, if a car is blocking your driveway or carport, call the police at their non-emergency number 471-1141 (unless it is an emergency of course). They can cite the vehicle and tow

upon the property owner's request. For the police to cite and tow a vehicle it must be on public property (i.e., the roadway) and then the police would be responsible for the tow. If the vehicle is on private property, the property owner is responsible for the tow (i.e., the property owner pays for the tow if the vehicle owner doesn't claim his or her vehicle).

Held also explained that "the officer responding to a vehicle blocking a driveway or carport has the discretion to either tow or cite. This depends on the circumstances surrounding the incident. For instance, if the resident needs to move their vehicle from within their carport, then the officer would most likely tow. If a vehicle is partially blocking a driveway, but the resident can still move their vehicle, then the officer may elect to cite. Before towing, the officer will check the license plate in an attempt to contact the owner of the vehicle and to ensure the vehicle is not stolen. In the instance the owner is contacted, the officer may also elect to cite, even if the vehicle is moved. In our profession, every situation an officer responds to is different; most often there is not a black and white answer. CPD Officers will respond professionally and ensure the situation is resolved to the best of their ability and within their legal rights. If ever you are not content with an officer's response or have questions, you can always contact their direct supervisor through dispatch (471-1141)."

CVRA 4th Annual Summer Membership Party!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 21st from 4 to 7pm for yet another fun summer activity. Once again Nels and Susan Westman have generously offered to host the party at their home at 507 Riverview overlooking Soquel Creek. More details will follow.

Update on the Rispin

By Nels Westman

The proposal to build a hotel, heavily subsidized by the City, on the Rispin property has been abandoned. The City is currently having the fire-damaged Rispin Mansion structure stabilized and sealed against unauthorized access. Various improvements in

pathways, landscaping and so forth are being made after which the property will be opened to public access. The City is about to begin a study of possible future uses for the property.

Traffic and Parking Commission

By Nels Westman



There continues to be good progress in developing information about possibly constructing a multi-level parking structure on the upper Pacific Cove parking lot. The ultimate goal is to present all the pros and cons to the

community in order to decide whether to proceed with such a project in the next few years.

The City hired Watry Design to do a general feasibility, preliminary design and cost study of a multi-level parking structure using a \$40,000 Economic Development grant. This report was presented to the Council April 14th. The Traffic and Parking Commission had previewed and supported Watry's report.

The report described two designs yielding 354 to 430 NEW parking spaces at an estimated cost of \$12.7 to \$18.8 million. The Council instructed staff to study prospective funding sources for such a project and directed the report to be passed on to the General Plan Update Committee.

Many members of the Traffic and Parking Commission envision substantial benefits from a parking structure to Village residents, adjacent neighborhood residents, merchants, employees and visitors as well as a critical component in the development of a well designed hotel on the theater property.

A decision on a parking structure will likely be a process requiring several years to complete.

We Need Your Help!

The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be, so help us attract new members.

Send a copy of our newsletter to your Capitola friends and neighbors and ask them to join our organization by contacting us at capitolaCVRA@gmail.com.

Tell them that our goal is to stay on top of issues that affect residents and participate in the political process. Our benefits include:

- Free membership
- Quarterly newsletter
- Annual summer membership party
- Annual membership survey
- Website

General Plan Update

By Linda Hanson

The first community workshop for Capitola's General Plan Update was held on March 19th. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the public to the update process, and receive public input on key issues. In spite of nasty weather, the workshop was quite well attended.

The bulk of the workshop was spent discussing six specific topics that will be addressed in the General Plan Update. Three were general topics: Community Character and Vision, Environmental Protection and Sustainability, and Economic Development. The other three were specific geographical areas: 41st Avenue/Capitola Mall, The Village, and Bay Avenue.

In the discussion of The Village, the usual suspects were well represented. Parking and traffic were high on the list, especially complaints about the noise and pollution created by traffic congestion, and the difficulty residents can have in finding parking. The hotel had proponents on both sides—concerns were expressed about the size, how it would fit in with the village character, and its impact on parking and traffic. A lot of people talked about making the

village more pedestrian and bike friendly, with pretty strong support for closing part of the Esplanade to traffic.

Other Village topics included keeping the its small town character, making it more resident friendly, improving the wharf, improving the water quality in the creek and lagoon, relocating city hall, improving the state of the sidewalks, and the smell and dirtiness of the Esplanade area—pretty much all the stuff most of us have been talking about for years.

The next GPAC meeting will be held at 6:00pm, Wednesday, April 27th, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue. Summaries of the input received at the community workshop will be presented and CVRA members are encouraged to attend. For more detailed information, check out the project website at www.plancapitola.com.

Central Village Reps

- Margaret Kinstler (mmkinstler@aol.com)
- Linda Hanson (llhsf@sbcglobal.net)
- George Bergna (agbergna@charter.net)
- Laura Macleod (laura@familiamacleod.com)
- Alt: Heidy Kellison (heidy@cwo.com)

Upper Village Reps

- Gina Will (gina@bestan.com)
- Bob Lilley (bobitola@gmail.com)
- Michael Adams (Michael@adams321.com)

Riverview Terrace Reps

- Nels Westman (nels@bestwestman.com)
- Lewis Feinman (lewisfeinman@sbcglobal.net)
- Janet Russell (jrussell@davidlyng.com)

Depot Hill Reps

- Molly Ording (mollyording@yahoo.com)
- Darcy Horton (darcyhorton@aol.com)

Jewel Box Reps

- Linda Smith (vlrsmith@sbcglobal.net)
- Margaret Dixon (margaretd0595@aol.com)

Capitola Village Residents Association

Website: www.capitolaCVRA.org

Email: capitolaCVRA@gmail.com

President: Margaret Kinstler

Vice President: Linda Hanson

Secretary: Molly Ording and Rich Didday

Treasurer: Linda Hanson

Membership Coordinator: Rich Didday

Newsletter Editor: Darcy Horton