

# CVRA Newsletter

Spring 2014



Welcome to our two dozen new members who signed up at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Open Street event on the Esplanade. We think this was the largest number of members to join on a single day since our first meeting, over 6 years ago.



Rich and Georgia were among many CVRA members who took turns signing up new members

## The New Parking Lot

by Nels Westman

The much anticipated 230 car parking lot in the lower level of Pacific Cove is open for business! Concurrently the City has changed the name of both parking lots to the more descriptive but somewhat lengthy "Beach and Village Parking Lot #1" (upper level) and Beach and Village Parking Lot #2" (lower level). Parking fees are now collected at Pay Stations rather than the old style pole mounted meters. Similar to the stations now in use in the Village, these

accept coins, \$1 bills and credit cards. The rate is \$.50/hour (a comparative bargain).



The new Lot: View from the Bay Avenue exit

Better still, during the summer the free Beach Shuttle will now operate out of Lot #2 which means very fast turnaround times between the lot and the Village.



Permeable surface parking spaces have gravel held in place by a mat of plastic cells

## Stockton Street Changes

The planned redesign of the Stockton Street/Esplanade intersection has been postponed until Fall 2014 in order to gain time to work with adjacent property owners in hope of replacing the sidewalks between the bridge and Capitola Ave. This would be the same sort of sidewalk project just completed along a portion of The Esplanade. If you are curious about the planned changes, the designs are available for your review at City Hall.

## An Idea for Saving Water

By Rich Didday

If you use soaker hoses, even if you're careful, sometimes you can simply forget to turn the water off when you planned to. Do you need an expensive electronic water controller for your garden? No. Several brands of "hose end timers" are available, with a typical price of about \$15. You unscrew the hose and insert the timer in line. Timers are adjustable from a few minutes up to two hours. No batteries, no electrical connections. Most of them we've used fail after a few seasons and have to be replaced. Some have lasted 5 years. They've all saved from the expense and waste of letting watering run



all night by mistake.

The picture shows a Central Village

installation. The black tube between the hose end and the timer is a pressure limiter, there to protect the soaker hose from the occasional surges of high water pressure we get here.

Happy drought!

## Residents Weigh in On First "Open Streets" On Esplanade

by Molly Ording

"Open Streets," which is a national program with the goal of turning village and downtown streets and spaces intermittently into pedestrian friendly places for residents, neighbors and families to gather and

enjoy, sponsored Capitola's first Open Streets on Sunday, May 4, 2014.

The benefits and disadvantages of closing the Esplanade, either regularly, seasonally or intermittently have long been a subject of on-going, spirited discussions among residents, merchants and City governments throughout the years. This day was meant to be a first step in testing out the Esplanade as a pedestrian, bike and family friendly area, now that the City has completed the new 227 parking area, "Village and Beach Parking #2". Visitors and village employees were able to park and ride the shuttle from the parking areas to the village for free. Shuttle riders enjoyed the quick back and forth trips from the parking lots without all the traffic congestion which normally slows the ride.

Although the Esplanade is closed for other "events" during the year, this closure was primarily for the benefit of locals...walkers, bikers, residents and families who wanted to stroll or bike down to village and play in and around our beach-front area of the village without dodging cars, booths, motorcycles and traffic!



Among residents, there was an overwhelmingly positive response to the day...91% according to an Open Streets survey conducted. Additionally, respondents, like residents, indicated they would **definitely** attend another event and would like to see them done regularly during the warm weather season.

Village neighbors and Capitola residents appreciated the lack of traffic-related congestion and noise and the opportunity to view the village and beautiful beach without the physical



and visual obstructions of cars and traffic. Other residents had some new and creative ideas for future activities. Several families lamented the lack of a kids park close to the Village area and this gave their children opportunities to recreate beyond the beach! They also enjoyed running into their neighbors and friends. All agreed the restaurants and shops should be encouraged to be flexible and creative about outdoor seating for merchant-dedicated spaces. Surfers, boogie-boarders and stand-up paddlers enjoyed the waves and there seemed to be no mention of the extra walk or rides down the hills to



the village to reach the Esplanade and beach.

There were a few glitches, however! The streets were

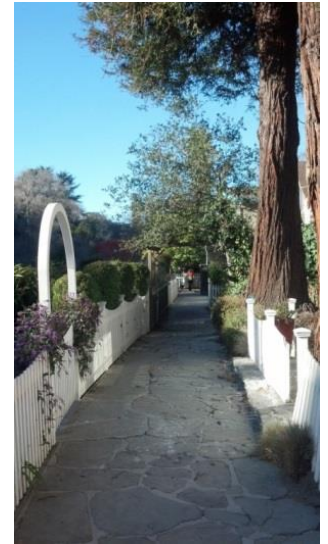
posted, in advance, to be closed from 11AM on but, in fact, they were closed shortly after 7AM! Handicapped accessibility was very limited, if not non-existent, although the new shuttle service will be handicapped friendly. Some neighborhoods reported their neighborhood streets were filled with visitors' cars. It was hoped, however that once visitors become accustomed to finding and using the new lot with their improved shuttles and signage, the parking impacts on the neighborhoods should be greatly lessened.



It has long been a lament of many residents that the Esplanade cannot be closed regularly, as so many villages and towns are doing with so much success! This event, so positively received by residents, was an important step in making that goal happen more frequently in the future successfully for both residents and merchants!

## The Soquel Creek Path

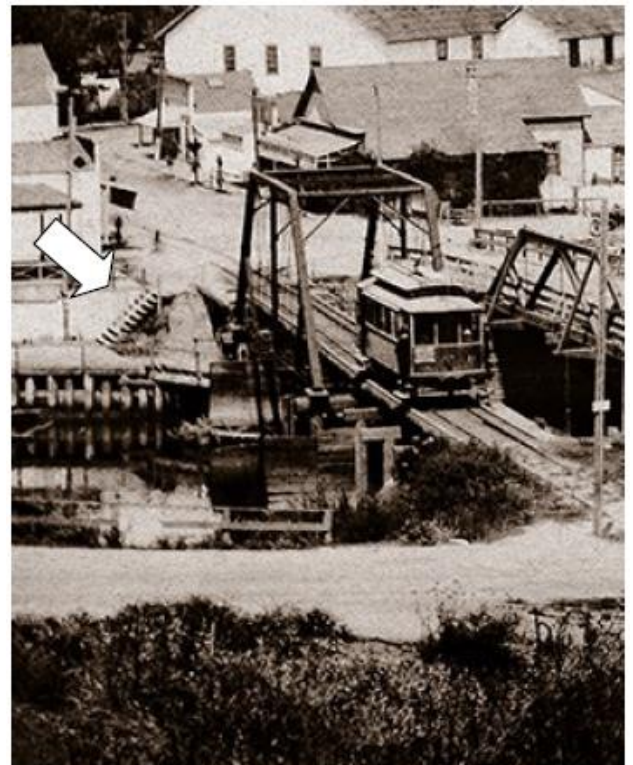
A path runs along the east bank of Soquel Creek from the end of the Stockton Avenue Bridge, under the trestle and then turns abruptly away from the creek to emerge onto Riverview Avenue across from Blue Gum Avenue.



Those who live along the path often hear people walking by asking "is this private? Is it public? Wouldn't you like to live here?"

And what is it called? The City Council Report of April 14, 2005 includes this clumsy name in its title: "The Soquel Creek Riverview Path". Most locals call it the "Creek Path", but you also hear "River Path" or "River Walk".

The path has been here for a long time. The earliest legal document that references the path is the 1922 subdivision map prepared by the Bay Head Land Co., H. Allen Rispin President.



Start of the Creek Path, circa mid 1910's. [Thanks to Capitola Museum for photo.]



Start of the Creek Path, circa 2010

A walk along the path offers many scenic views, some of the beach seen beneath the Stockton Avenue Bridge.

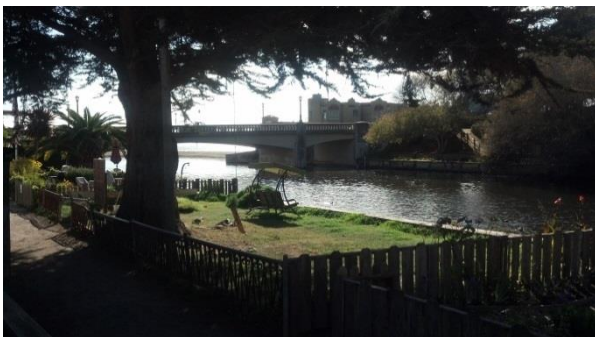
Hope to see you on the Creek Path one of these days!



Looking north, before the trestle

In the 1930's, developers decided that having a view of the Soquel Creek would sound more appealing if they called it "Capitola River", and so names like Riverview Avenue, Riverview Drive, and Riverview Terrace (the neighborhood) came to be.

In 2002, CVRA member Steven Woodside prepared a memorandum to the City Council that gave a careful history of the path and its use, and which guided the City Council's decision in 2005. The path remains private property (the lots of the houses along the path legally extend to the center of the Soquel Creek), but there is understood to be an ongoing right for the public to make use of the path for pedestrian access. The path is now subject to an ordinance that requires it to be at least 4 feet wide. Property owners are required to maintain their portion of the pathway so as to be safe for public pedestrian access. Other vehicular traffic is restricted.



## CVRA elections

At the Winter CVRA Board meeting, new officers were elected.



President: Janet Russell



Vice-President:  
Nels Westman



Secretary:  
Judith Feinman



Membership Coordinator:  
Treasurer:  
Linda Hanson



Newsletter:  
Rich Diddy

The Capitola Village Residents' Association is an association of the residents and property owners of Capitola Village and the nearby neighborhoods. Our goal is to follow issues of importance to the quality of life of the residents and to participate effectively in the political process.

The CVRA Neighborhoods are: the Upper Village, Depot Hill, Riverview Terrace, the Jewel Box, and the Central Village (including the Fanmar area). We chose the neighborhoods that are most affected by conditions in the Central Village. For details please go to [www.CapitolaCVRA.org](http://www.CapitolaCVRA.org). Each Neighborhood has one or more CVRA Neighborhood Representatives.

Neighborhood Representatives:  
Central Village:



Linda Hanson



Margaret Kinstler  
Linda Wadley

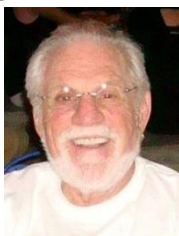
Depot Hill  
Georgia Bianchi  
Molly Ording

Jewel Box



Margaret Dixon

Riverview Terrace



Lew Feinman



Janet Russell



Nels Westman

Upper Village



Gina Velez

**Capitola Village Residents Association**  
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Email: [capitolaCVRA@gmail.com](mailto:capitolaCVRA@gmail.com)  
President: Janet Russell  
Vice President: Nels Westman  
Secretary: Judith Feinman  
Treasurer: Linda Hanson  
Membership Coordinator: Linda Hanson  
Newsletter Editor: Rich Diddy

Central Village Reps

- Margaret Kinstler ([mmkinstler@aol.com](mailto:mmkinstler@aol.com))
- Linda Hanson ([llhsf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:llhsf@sbcglobal.net))
- Linda Wadley ([tim.linda.123@gmail.com](mailto:tim.linda.123@gmail.com))

Upper Village Reps

- Gina Velez ([gina@bestan.com](mailto:gina@bestan.com))

Riverview Terrace Reps

- Nels Westman ([nels@bestwestman.com](mailto:nels@bestwestman.com))
- Lewis Feinman ([lewfeinman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lewfeinman@sbcglobal.net))
- Janet Russell ([jrussell@davidlyng.com](mailto:jrussell@davidlyng.com))
- Alt: Judith Feinman ([judithfeinman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judithfeinman@sbcglobal.net))

Depot Hill Reps

- Molly Ording ([mollyording@yahoo.com](mailto:mollyording@yahoo.com))
- Georgia Bianchi

Jewel Box Reps

- Margaret Dixon ([margaretd0595@aol.com](mailto:margaretd0595@aol.com))