

CVRA Newsletter

Fall 2009



CVRA's First Begonia Festival Float

The work started months ago. The CVRA board decided that they wanted to create a float for the Begonia Festival. CVRA President Nels Westman, an experienced float maker, volunteered to design the float and build the underlying structure, which is made of wood, wire, and lots of nails and staples.



CVRA members did the rest. They showed up early the day before the festival at the Begonia picking fields in Marina and gathered box after box of red, yellow, white, and orange blossoms. Then they meticulously wired each and every begonia into place on Saturday afternoon and evening with finishing touches applied Sunday morning. They endured blisters, wire-pokes, splinters, begonia stains, and sun burns.

When all was said and done, more than 40 volunteers attached over 3800 begonias to the float.

The design in keeping with this year's Begonia Festival theme was a kite with the slogan, "CVRA Takes Off" to highlight the many accomplishments of CVRA during its first year. These accomplishments included electing a board of directors and neighborhood representatives, developing and approving bylaws, holding its first and second annual summer parties, co-hosting two neighbors' night events with Capitola Cares, launching the CVRA news-letter, and creating a float for the festival.



Musical accompaniment for the float was a new song, "Camp Capitola," written specifically for the festival by songwriter Theodore Didday and his mother, Margaret Kinstler, CVRA Vice President and cofounder. The catchy tune was a hit at the festival.

If you missed it, there's still time to listen to it at www.songsmadeforyou.com.

Many thanks to Girl Scout Troup #11096 for showing up and riding on our float!



Camp Capitola

It's 105 in San Jose
Get in your car and make your way to
CAPITOLA

Leave it behind and beat the heat
Setup camp along the creek in
CAPITOLA

Chorus: Camp Capitola—the surf is nice and
the season's always right
Camp Capitola—let's hit the beach 'cuz the
sun is shining bright

Warm days and foggy nights
Come on down and stay all night in
CAPITOLA

Bring a jacket and your swimsuit
From Sacramento you know the route to
CAPITOLA

Chorus

Kids can ride the carousel
Sit on the beach and stay a spell in
CAPITOLA

Build a castle by the shore
You know that's what this place is for
CAPITOLA

Chorus

Eating snow cones and cotton candy
Or playing Skee-Ball over at Andy's in
CAPITOLA

While Mom and Pop sip martinis
You're at the campfire roasting weenies in
CAPITOLA

Speaking of CVRA President Nels Westman, not only did he work on the CVRA float, he also designed and built the winning float (along with John Martorella) for his group called the Riverview Rascals. This is the third year in a row that they won the grand prize. When you see their float, you understand why. It was a magnificent Red Baron biplane complete with Snoopy, a smoking engine, a moving propeller, and the ability to take off to an altitude of almost 11 feet. Congratulations to Nels and his Riverview Rascals!



Neighborhood History: How Did the Jewel Box Get Its Name?

Here's what Carolyn Swift, Director of the Capitola Historical Museum wrote on the museum website: The name Jewel Box is:

. . . connected to a train stop and lumber yard named Opal, operated by the Loma Prieta Lumber Company just above Capitola Village at the end of what is today Prospect Street. A hundred years ago, the Loma Prieta logging camps in the mountains above Aptos and Soquel brought their lumber to Opal for shipment on the Southern Pacific Railroad to San Francisco."

Capitola's owner and developer, Frederick Hihn, deeded the acreage surrounding Opal to a grandson, Eulice Hihn. . . . In the summer of 1923, the land became Opal Subdivision 1 of the Fairview Tract, taking the name of the train stop.

Many of the streets of the subdivision were identified merely by numbers for years. After Capitola incorporated in 1949 and a demand for new homes grew in the Fifties, maps showed Opal Street joined by Garnet, Diamond, Jade, Topaz, Crystal and the other "gems" of the Jewel Box.

Central Village Reps

- Margaret Kinstler (mmkinstler@aol.com)
- Linda Hanson (llhsf@sbcglobal.net)
- Rich Diddy (rich@indecsystems.com)
- Laura Macleod (laura@familiamacleod.com)
- Alt: Heidi Kellison (heidy@cwo.com)

Upper Village Reps

- Bob Lilly (rbllil@comcast.net)
- Cheryl Ban (capvillage@sbcglobal.net)
- Mark Ban (capvillage@sbcglobal.net)

Riverview Terrace Reps

- Nels Westman (wnwestman@aol.com)
- Ann Filbin (afilbinrealtor@cruzers.com)
- Judith Feinman (judithfeinman@sbcglobal.net)
- Alt: Janet Russell (janet@capitolayoga.com)

Depot Hill Reps

- Molly Ording (mollyording1@yahoo.com)
- Darcy Horton (totoandme@aol.com)

Jewel Box Reps

- Linda Smith (vlrsmith@sbcglobal.net)
- Anne Nicol (annenicol@sbcglobal.net)

A Note from the CVRA President

As I write this the Capitola Art and Wine Festival is in full swing. The last 3-day weekend of the summer, Labor Day, was hopping with many Begonia Festival events. It has been a great summer in Capitola. Hopefully our many visitors enjoyed themselves and Capitola's merchants had a reasonably good year in the face of such challenging economic times. Fall is here, and things are calming down. Many think this is the best time of the year. So as residents of Capitola Village and its nearby neighborhoods, let us relax, savor these more peaceful times and enjoy our community and our beach.

This post-summer glow should remind us all of how important our involvement is in keeping Capitola a unique and special place for people to live as well as visit and shop. Please let your friends and neighbors know about the CVRA and encourage them to sign up. It is, of course, entirely free, and our email list is treated as confidential. It's a great way to stay informed about issues concerning residents and to be involved and have some fun in the process. They need simply email capitolaCVRA.org expressing their interest, and we'll take it from there.

Parking and Traffic Commission

The T&PC has had four meetings to date. Discussions on long term solutions are still in the generalized stage, but we have made good progress on exploring two short term test programs: Village Valet Parking and a Pay-By-Space system which will allow paying for parking by credit card and charge higher rates for parking during high demand periods such as summer weekends. The goal, of course, is to generate the parking revenues needed to pay for the long term parking solutions that will benefit us all. The CVRA is well represented on this Commission.

Parting Shots from the Begonia Festival



Capitola Village Residents Association
Website: www.capitolaCVRA.org
Email: capitolaCVRA@gmail.com
President: Nels Westman
Vice President: Margaret Kinstler
Secretary: Darcy Horton
Treasurer: Linda Hanson
Membership Coordinator: Linda Hanson