



CVRA Newsletter

Summer 2017

CVRA Summer Party!

All this beautiful summer weather makes for a great excuse to have another CVRA Summer Lawn Party. All CVRA members are invited. It is a good opportunity to reconnect with neighbors in the five traditional neighborhoods around The Village and to meet new friends as well. And, of course, to meet the members of the CVRA board who are your Neighborhood Representatives.

The party will be on Sunday, August 20th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. It will be at the home of Susan and Nels Westman at 507 Riverview Drive, between Oak and Gilroy. The party will be on their lawn adjacent to Soquel Creek and just across from Shadowbrook Restaurant.

We will serve hamburgers and veggie burgers as well as a selection of salads, side dishes and a sweet finish so hopefully there will be something for everyone. The party is free, but we hope that you will RSVP if you are coming so that we can do a good job shopping for groceries. Please bring your favorite beverage to share. Also, be sure to bring an extra layer as it can get a bit chilly creekside if we get a little fog.

Please RSVP by clicking [here](#) or by sending an email telling us how many will be in your group to CapitolaCVRA@gmail.com with subject "Summer Party".

FROM THE CAPITOLA BEGONIA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

It was a wet November day in 2016 when Justin Brown called to say there would no more begonias.

Golden State Bulb and the Brown Ranch Family, the Capitola Begonia Festival's only source of begonias since the early 1970s, were retiring. We reached out and pled for an opportunity to go out with a bang with our 65th Annual Festival and they graciously accepted. We say thanks to Golden State Bulb for decades of begonia blossoms in Capitola.

This Festival will return with all of our loved events, including the Sand Sculpture contest, the Fishing Derby, Rowboat Races, and Horseshoes Tournament. The Begonia Mural will be back again this year in front of the Six Sisters. For momentum we added a "Houserockers" concert on Thursday evening. On



Sunday, Joe Sharino's Band will spark decades of musical memories. Go to Begoniafestival.com for the complete program of Festival activities.

The Nautical Parade is shaping up nicely - we have 12 barges -and we hope to put each and every one of them on Soquel Creek this year. Already 9 teams have signed up so don't delay! We are still looking for float building sites.



The Festival Committee will have a "Gratitude Gala" on October 14 at the Boardwalk Coconut Grove: an evening of

memories, dinner, dancing and a chance to express our thanks. Announcements are being sent to individuals who have responded to the Festival Committee's outreach for "memories," to those who

have been deeply committed to the Festival and who have requested to attend. This initial outreach will conclude Sept. 1 and remaining tickets will be available through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Thank you to all CVRA members who have been a part of making history with the Capitola Begonia Festival. This Labor Day weekend help "Begonias Take a Bow" just one last time. Build a float, volunteer to assist our team, or just "Come out and Play" at one of our fifteen events.

Laurie Hill
Capitola Begonia Festival President

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

By Steven Woodside

Early this summer word spread in the Village that the law prohibiting dogs on the beach would be strictly enforced. No exceptions. No warnings. Instead, officers were instructed to issue tickets to anyone caught with a dog on any part of the beach at any time. And the ticket carries a hefty fine.

This zero tolerance policy caught many longtime residents by surprise. For decades, enforcement practices were relaxed in the early mornings or late evenings when the beach had few visitors, the dogs were well behaved, and the dog walkers were vigilant about removing dog poo. Many residents understood that dogs would be particularly tolerated at the eastern and western (Hooper's) portions of the beach at low tides.



work. It gives me great joy to watch him romp; and it keeps him in great shape. I pick up after him. I don't see a problem."

"Why this sudden change?" asked a Depot Hill resident, who spoke on condition that her name not be used. "For years I have been letting my dog run on this part of the beach in the early morning before I go to

Apparently at least one resident does see a problem. City officials confirm that they have received several complaints from one person who lives near the beach. The complaints range from "dog off leash," "barking dog," to "dog owner burying dog_____ in the sand."

When asked about the change in enforcement policy, Capitola Police Chief Terry McManus commented, "We respond to complaints. The law applies to the whole beach. We can't enforce it differently in parts of the beach."

Some coastal communities approach the issue differently. Carmel, at the urging of actress Doris Day, allows dogs off leash on the main beach all day long. Sausalito prohibits dogs off leash on its one hidden "Swede's Beach," but officers are instructed not to issue tickets unless the dog owner does not comply with an officer's request to leash up.

"It should be about common sense," asserted a Jewel Box resident and retired police officer as he walked his dog down toward the beach early one foggy morning. "I would hope our town would not waste its limited resources going after conscientious dog owners and well behaved dogs."

BEGONIA MEMORIES

By Steven Woodside

For many years, especially during the 1960's and 1970's, families living along the Soquel Creek enjoyed a friendly rivalry competing for the coveted home decoration award.

Younger members of the families would head off to the begonia fields early Saturday morning to pick the best and brightest begonias. Elders would construct frames and cover them with chicken wire to create the base on which to attach begonias... all designed to comprise a sculpture, figure, animal or something to do with the theme for that year's begonia festival. Decks, gardens and rooftops were laden with such creations as a Statue of Liberty, an



octopus, a hammock, a rainbow, and many other mercurial and sometimes whimsical works of begonia art. We were all Andy Goldsworthy artists before he created his first nature-based work.



More important than the end product was the gathering of family and friends coming together to enjoy several hours of activity to make something beautiful. At once raucous and fanciful, these gatherings built bonds that last a lifetime. Frantic to finish before the judges arrived, we could all relax once the judges passed by and kick back to watch the nautical parade.



Descendants of families with names like Finkel, Kinstler, Langholff, LoMonaco, and Woodside still reside in Capitola. The begonia gardens are long gone. So will the Begonia Festival fade away. But not so the great memories of the party along the river path.

CAPITOLA PLEIN AIR IS COMING

In the days leading up to Nov. 4 & 5 you may well see easels set up around town as 40 professional artists create their visions of Capitola during the 3rd annual Capitola Plein Air. This form of artistic creation incorporates the challenges of painting outdoors, often with curious onlookers, cars driving by, light constantly changing and so forth. The theory is that this environment produces unique work free from the controlled conditions of a studio.



Watch artists paint all around Capitola on Saturday, November 4th 10am-2pm. You may stumble upon them painting November 1-3 as well!

View their finished works and check out the award winners at the exhibition on Sunday, November 5th, 11am-4pm, at New Brighton Middle School Performing Arts Center. Chat with artists, have fun doing hands on art activities, enjoy live music, and purchase your favorite artwork at the fine art sale. And don't forget to vote for your favorite piece for the People's Choice Award! A portion of art sales will benefit art education. For more info visit www.capitolapleinair.com

Dueling house decorations

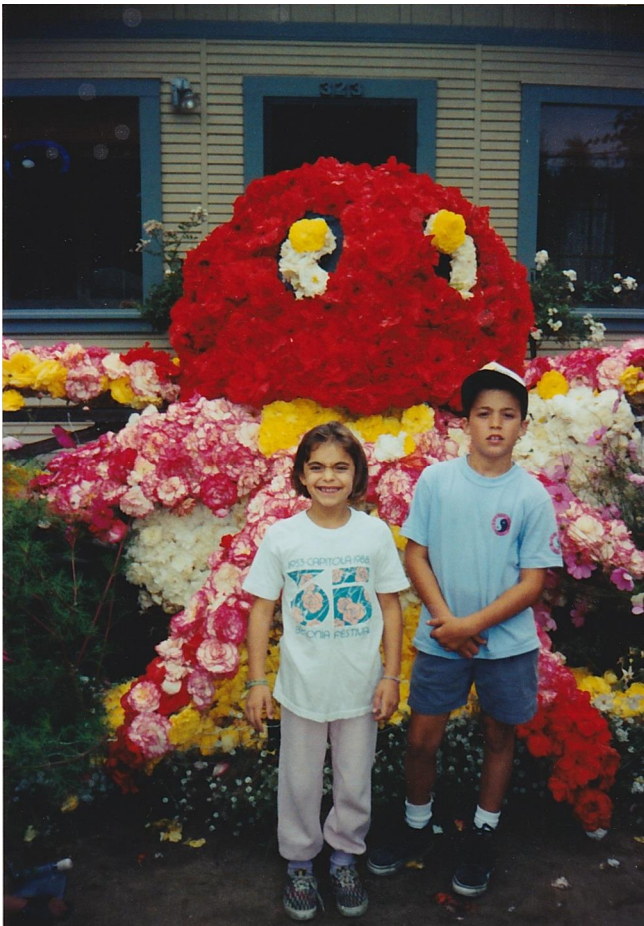
By Rich Didday

During the last third of the 20th century, neighbors along the Soquel Creek path, inspired by the string of prize winning house decorations by the Woodside family during the 60's and 70's, and fueled by youthful enthusiasm and a variety of fermented liquids created a series of house/yard Begonia constructs, eventually resulting in some victories of their own.

In that distant time, there were plenty of floats being built each year and more importantly, plenty of begonia blossoms to be picked, placed, and positioned in fanciful chicken-wire structures on decks and yards along the Creek and in the Village.



Last second Sunday morning revisionism



Kinstler extended family's "Octopus" Garden+with moving arms and blaring Beatles music took 1st place

Saturday afternoon, start to panic, bring in wood and chickenwire, make something, try to get people to help poking wires into blossoms, stuff begonias, twist wires from inside, argue about which colors went where, cheer when the lights along the path went on, complain about the PA system, fade off too sleep.

Sunday morning, see what was wrong and try to fix it before the judges arrived.

Celebrate!!



Residential displays in the last few Begonia Festivals have evolved into smaller, less labor- and begonia-intensive, fun displays like this "photo-op"



Kid's beach bucket and shovel getting last minute attention



Typical schedule in the 1980's:

Week before, ask each other if anyone knew what the theme was, look for 'flats'.

Friday before, get together after work and ask if anyone had an idea.

Saturday, get up early and go pick begonias.

Join the CVRA!

We encourage you to share with friends and neighbors the work of CVRA which is to serve as an

Next January will be the 10th anniversary of the CVRA!

unbiased conduit of information between city hall and the residents of the five traditional neighborhoods surrounding the Central Village of Capitola. CVRA membership

is absolutely free and is done via email only. Our email list is treated as confidential. We encourage you to pass the word and recommend that your friends and neighbors join. Besides, they get this great newsletter!

Additionally, for current members who have an interest in becoming more engaged with your neighbors, your city council members and some of your neighborhood



community leaders, we have openings for Neighborhood Representatives in the Jewel Box and Upper Village neighborhoods. If you live in one of these neighborhoods and would like more information, [please let us know](#).



President: Nels Westman



Vice-President:
Margaret Kinster



Secretary:
Ellen Miller



Membership Coordinator,
Treasurer:
Linda Hanson

Central Village Reps

- Margaret Kinster (mmkinster@aol.com)
- Linda Hanson (llhsf@sbcglobal.net)
- Linda Wadley (tim.linda.123@gmail.com)

Upper Village Reps

- Ellen Miller

Riverview Terrace Reps

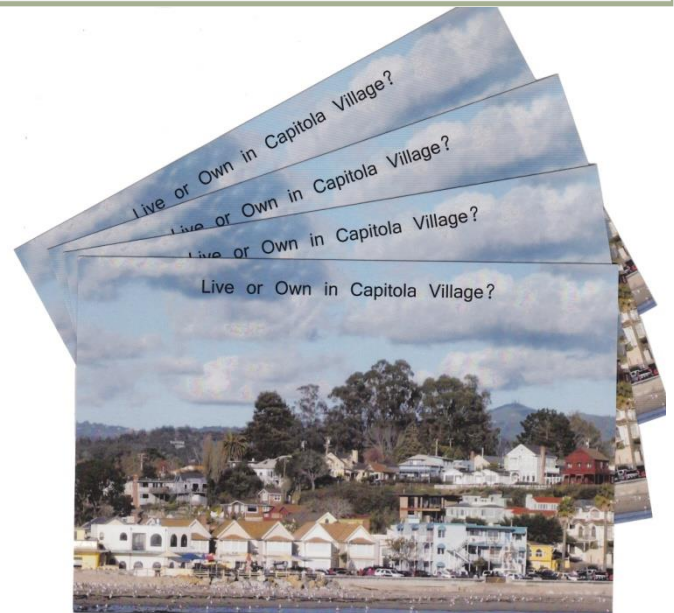
- Nels Westman (nels@bestwestman.com)
- Janet Russell (jrussell@davidlyng.com)

Depot Hill Reps

- Molly Ording (mollyording@yahoo.com)
- Katherine Parker

Jewel Box Reps

- You, maybe?



Capitola Village Residents Association

Website: www.capitolaCVRA.org

Email: capitolaCVRA@gmail.com

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Vice President: Margaret Kinster

Secretary: Ellen Miller

Treasurer: Linda Hanson

Membership Coordinator: Linda Hanson

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