

CVRA Newsletter

Fall 2012



CVRA 5th Annual Summer Party

By Darcy Horton

This year's party was generously hosted by Linda Hanson, Margaret Kinster and Rick Diddy at their creekside gardens. The weather cooperated as a large group of CVRA members came together to talk, laugh, catch up with old friends, make news one and discuss all things Capitola.



JOIN US FOR NEIGHBOR'S NIGHT
Tuesday, October 30th

This time we're meeting at Stockton Bridge Grille. Owner Lee Walters will be our host. The fun begins with no-host cocktails at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm. Dinner costs \$25 and includes an entrée and a salad, plus choice of a glass of house wine or dessert. Tax and tip are extra. Contact Darcy Horton (darcyhorton@aol.com) to RSVP.

What is Nixle?

By Linda Hanson

The Capitola Police Department has a new tool to communicate with Capitola residents called Nixle. By registering, you can get alerts and advisories about conditions that might affect you via text message, e-mail and over the web. For instance, when Park Avenue was closed temporarily because of an accident, Nixle alerted people to the fact. Same thing when Highway 1 had a massive back up due to an overturned cement truck. It could also be used if a senior with Alzheimer's wandered away from a home in your neighborhood.

Registering is easy. Simply go to the City of Capitola website (www.ci.capitola.ca.us), click on the Police tab and then look for the Nixle symbol. You can specify what kind of messages you want to receive to limit your number of notices. Note that Nixle will not give out your personal information to anyone, including the Police Department. Give it a try! If you don't like it, you can remove your name at any time.

nixle

VIPS Among Us

By Lewis Feinman



Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) help the Capitola Police Department perform their mission by providing non-law enforcement services throughout Capitola.

According to the VIPS website, "The VIPS are organized and trained to run the Diversion Program for teenagers, to make court runs to the County Court and Department of Justice, to accomplish vacation checks in neighborhoods, to patrol the mall and the entire village area, to provide home checks for the elderly and shut-ins, to reduce the number of abandoned vehicles in the city, and to man the community outreach center in the mall.

This group of volunteers has also been trained as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. In this capacity, each volunteer has been trained to deal with events which will undoubtedly occur during any disaster.

The VIPS recently received enough funds through a grant and donations to purchase an electric car (configured and painted as a black and white police vehicle), which they use to increase the visibility of the police force and demonstrate the city's determination to keep our air clean.

In 2011, the Capitola VIPS added a chaplains core of 5 chaplains. The Capitola VIPS is a growing organization which provides a valuable service to the city's residents and guests while relieving some of the pressure on the law enforcement officers."

To take advantage of VIPS services, contact the Capitola Police Department at 831-475-4242.

Capitola in the 1950s

By Margaret Kinstler



Margaret and her brother John

When I was a kid, growing up in Sacramento, our family of five always took a two week vacation in the summer. We were looking for water and an escape from the excruciating heat of the Sacramento valley. We usually went to Lake Tahoe and stayed in cabins right on the beach at King City. One time, my dad, thinking it was getting too crowded for his liking in Lake Tahoe, asked the owner of the cabins if he knew of any other place to

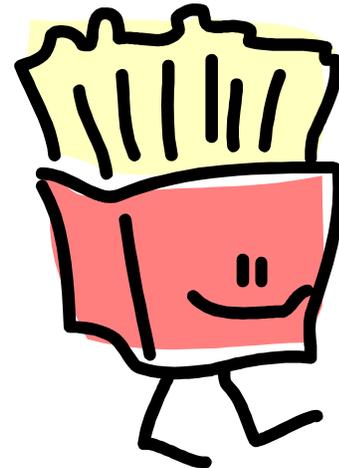
vacation. The guy recommended Capitola and so the next summer we went and fell in love with Capitola. We'd rent houses usually. Several times we stayed in one of the houses right by the wharf. We also stayed in a second floor apartment on Monterey Ave. which is now a sushi restaurant.

We'd spend the whole day on the beach and at night spend our nickels at one of the skeeball places on the Esplanade. There were at least two, maybe three of them, but our favorite was Andy's who I think was the mayor of Capitola at the time. Andy always had a change belt around his waist for changing our dollars into nickels and was friendly to us kids. We'd hoard our tickets and spend a lot of time examining the prizes locked away in the glass cabinet and choosing which prize we hoped to have enough tickets to win. The prizes were cheap toys, a Chinese finger puzzle, a plastic whistle, a Kewpie doll, a glass ashtray you could present to your parents; but it could take all summer to save enough tickets for the better prizes (which were really still junk).



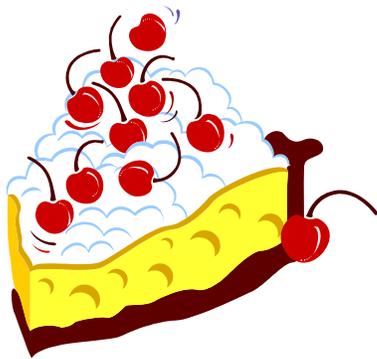
There was the merry-go-round to ride on and Babe's bandstand was right next door at

the end of the Esplanade. Babe sold cotton candy, beach balls, beach shovels and pails through an outside window. Babe in his white apron and white hair was bent over the grill that was in the middle of a ring of red stools where we sat, waiting for the best french fries ever, terrific hamburgers and hot dogs.



At that time, 1952 to 1960, Capitola was like any regular little town. It didn't have any gift shops. Instead, it had Robinson's Pharmacy, a five and dime, a bakery where my dad and I would pick up donuts to take back to the house for breakfast, a bowling alley (where the Mercantile is) and a movie theater where the Jacobsen mother and daughter team reigned. Mom Jacobsen sat behind the glass window selling the tickets and the daughter with her dark hair pulled back in a bun would take your ticket and pronounce "Thank You" in the very same tone and manner over and over. The daughter would also man the snack bar where you could get your popcorn and juju beans to last you the whole movie. Smoking was allowed on the left side of the theater and of course would permeate the entire theater but no one thought anything about it in those days.

There was also Nusbaum's tiny grocery store with a meat counter in the middle of the block of Stockton Avenue, the Post Office, and two restaurants: Mac's Patio where Britannia Arms is now and Lino's. Mac's Patio was divided in two: the dark bar where you could barely make out who was sitting at the bar and the restaurant in the other half of the building serving grilled meat, steak, chops, etc. The other restaurant, Lino's, was on the corner of the Esplanade and Stockton where Café Violette is now. Lino's had stools in a semi-circle with the kitchen in the back. A lot of seniors ate there because they had a blue plate special every night with family style cooking like pork chops, mashed potatoes, a vegetable. Everybody knew everybody, and they'd be talking back and forth across the room. But the best were the pies. Lino's would bake fresh pies every day. They'd be set by the open window on the Esplanade side to cool off and every day you could walk by and look and smell the pies that had been baked that day: rhubarb, strawberry, peach, apricot, chocolate, lemon meringue. Umm yum!



There were only two bars in town then: the Edgewater and Mac's Patio, plus a liquor store on Capitola Avenue. There was a buzzer on the floor to alert the old man who would emerge from the back room when someone arrived. We took great delight in jumping over the buzzer just to annoy him

but he would say nothing and glumly walk to the front of his store to sell us candy and gum.

Capitola village was filled with young families in the summer, staying in the small beach cottages that lined the narrow streets of the old part of Capitola - the "flats" as the locals called it. In the winter, the town was almost empty, most of the permanent residents lived in the more substantial houses up from the "flats."



In 1960, our parents bought a small beach cabin on the Soquel Creek between the Stockton Avenue bridge and the trestle and we would come more often and stay longer. Many times my mother and us kids would spend the whole summer with my dad coming down on the weekends. My baby brother was born in 1959 and we three older kids were moving into our teens. We met a group of locals and became our own gang, but that's another story - the Sixties in Capitola.

(These are my memories. I may not have my facts completely straight but that's the way I remember it.)

GPAC Update

By Linda Hanson

The GPAC is now working on reviewing the Goals, Policies and Actions (GOPAs) for the elements of the General Plan. The GOPAs are intended to provide guidance to the city on how to direct change and manage its resources over the next 20 years. They have been developed from input received at prior public meetings, GPAC comments, and documents prepared by city staff and the consultants. The final draft of the General Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013.

The next meeting of the GPAC will be at 6:00pm on October 17th and will continue the discussion of the GOPAs. As always, a massive amount of information on the General Plan Update is available at www.plancapitola.com.

Capitola Village Residents Association

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Vice President: Gina Velez

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