

# Graves steps down after 28 years

## Capitola City Council gets a new lineup

By ANNA MARIA BASQUEZ  
Sentinel staff writer

CAPITOLA — Councilman Ron Graves made city history Monday, leaving his post with honors and commendations as Capitola's longest-serving city official after more than 28 years.

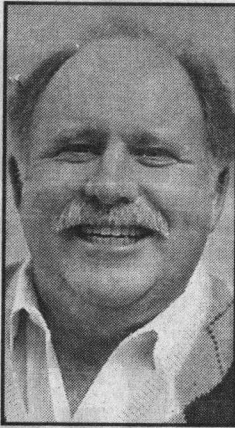
"From a historical point of view, Capitola was ready for him when he came here," said Capitola historian Carolyn Swift. "It was a mess and it needed him. There was no general plan, no environmental reports. Ron Graves was enough to take Capitola through all of that. Tonight, Capitola touched one of its own."

Graves was first elected in 1968.

That was when there was no beach, when people lived in the Village's storefronts and when very few businesses were operating.

It was also when the mayor's gavel was stolen. But Graves, who said Capitola needed a lot more order than it does today, just used his shoe.

Graves and outgoing Councilman Robert Garcia were honored as new council members came in. The two received a full-chamber standing ovation at Capitola City Hall



**Graves**  
Made city history

the night, on a motion by new Councilman Bruce Arthur. Arthur, former Mayor Stephanie Harlan and Councilman Dennis Norton took oaths together as the city's most recently elected officials. Arthur was voted vice-mayor.

Of Graves' 28 years, Gualtieri told him, "That's quite an accomplishment."

"It may not be so much an accomplishment as it is perseverance," Graves answered.

Gov. Pete Wilson wrote Graves a letter,

from an audience of Capitolsans that also included county Supervisor Walt Symons, state Sen. Bruce McPherson and Assemblyman Fred Keeley.

New Mayor Tony Gualtieri was voted into office in one of the first actions of

saying, "Your contributions assured the city government was effective and responsible in meeting the needs of its citizens."

Councilwoman Margaret Fabrizio read her own letter to him, saying Capitola is losing a bit of history at his decision to leave.

Fabrizio also bid Garcia, who has served more than eight years, a tearful good-bye, deeming him as having been the "statesman" of the council, giving it a certain dignity.

Graves asked Joe Urbancic to stand for acknowledgment as a good friend and representative of the spirit of Capitola Village.

"I call him Mr. Capitola," Graves said.

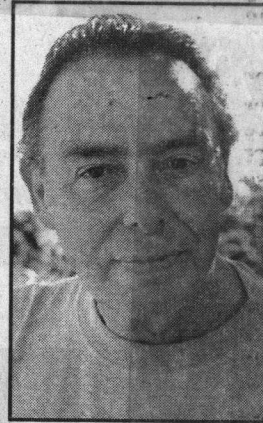
"I hope Capitola is as pleasant as it is today when I live to be 125."

McPherson, who was a reporter for the Sentinel at one point during Graves' time in office, presented him a resolution.

"He taught me everything I knew in politics and probably some things I want to forget," McPherson said. "You have really made this a classy city."

'He taught me everything I knew in politics and probably some things I want to forget.'

— **Sen. Bruce McPherson**



**Gualtieri**  
New mayor

The incoming council members each gave their opening speeches.

Norton detailed his vision of a "Capitola Renaissance," saying it is about thinking boldly, re-birthing Capitola Village, building a skateboard park and about making Soquel Creek pristine.

"It is a realistic undertaking," Norton said. "I am confident this council, staff and community can guide us into a Capitola renaissance."

Arthur said of the two outgoing councilmen, "You make a living on what you get and you make a life on what you give," he said. That phrase suited them well, he said. "I think they have given enough for four or five lives."