

Capitola Braces For 26th Annual Begonia Festival

Begonia Festival

This year's 26th Annual Begonia Festival is expected to be the biggest and best ever, according to Dianne Graves, president of the Capitola National Begonia Festival Association.

Running from Sept. 1 to 9, it features a couple new volleyball events, as well as the return of the skateboard contest down Monterey Avenue. Of course, some 15,000 spectators are expected to line Capitola Bridge and Soquel Creek to view the big event — the Nautical Parade with handmade floats covered with colorful begonias. The parade is set Sept. 9.

Last year 21 floats wound their way

down Soquel Creek, added Graves. While there's no estimate of the number of begonias needed to cover the floats, hundreds of thousands are picked each year and transported to Capitola from the Borwn Bulb Ranch in Marina.

This year's theme is "Capitola Goes to the Movies." Entry forms are still available by calling Graves at 475-8404.

Visitors are encouraged to ride the free bus shuttle. The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District will operate every 10 minutes from two buses — one from the old Disco at Bay Avenue and Hill Street and the other from the Jade Street and

47th Avenue parking area. The Eureka Federal Savings and Loan double-decker bus will make rounds throughout Capitola Village on Sept. 9.

Saturday, Sept. 1, will kick-off the festival. Over 200 entrants are expected in the annual sand sculpture contest that gets under way at 8:30 a.m. on Capitola Beach. Call Jerry Clarke, 476-3789 or 462-0577 for more information.

The women's beach volleyball, two-person team tournament is a new look. It also begins at 8:30 a.m. that first day on Capitola Beach. Call Robyn McFarland at 426-7517 for details. The diaper derby,

complete with crawling babies, begins at 10 a.m. Sept. 1 on the lawns next to the Esplanade. Cherie Robideaux, 462-4799, is the contest chairman.

Sunday, Sept. 2, features the rowboat race around Capitola Wharf, as well as a community play beach volleyball contest. Juniors will lead off the rowboat races with the adults following. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Call Graves at 475-8404 or 475-3567 for details. Dennis Norton leads the volleyball competition, which gets under way at 3 p.m. Call 476-8278.

The Begonia Festival Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at DeLaveaga

Golf Course at 1 p.m., Monday, Sept. 3. Fred Marcucci at 475-8404 or 475-3567 is in charge.

A men's beach volleyball tournament is the kick-off event for the final weekend of activities following a four day rest. Under the leadership of Norton, it begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, on the beach. Call 476-8278 for details.

Also starting at 8:30 a.m. is the skateboard contest. Gary Tracey, 476-3446, is coordinator. He expects 30 of the best downhill skateboarders in California to be competing. A jester dinghy race has yet to have a definite time. It is

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headed by Bob Larson at 475-7107.

Volleyball finals continue Sunday at 8:30 a.m. The Nautical Parade draws the attention at 2 p.m.

Alida Stevens-Smith coordinates the home and commercial decorating contest which concludes Sunday. Call 475-2844 or 688-7524 for details.