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The USS Francis Hammond will be steaming into Capitola for the Fourth of July.

## Capitola plans for Navy ship visit

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CAPITOLA — Stuffy formal ceremonies are out, but softball and volleyball tournaments are in as Capitola city officials gear up for the Navy ship's visit to Capitola.

The 438-foot USS Francis Hammond — a frigate used for anti-submarine warfare, carrying a crew of approximately 300 — is scheduled to anchor off the Capitola Wharf from July 1-5.

The Navy ship issue exploded after the Santa Cruz City Council voted in January not to invite a ship to Santa Cruz for the Fourth of July. The Capitola council "saw our opportunity," said Mayor Jerry Clarke, and tendered its invitation. Capitola immediately got the backing of the cities of Scotts Valley and Watsonville.

Five Capitola representatives have just returned from Long Beach, where they discussed the planned visit. The USS Francis Hammond is home-berthed there.

The representatives included Clarke, Councilman Ron Graves, City Manager Steve Burrell, Police Chief Don Braunton and Doug Thorne, a retired Navy captain from Scotts Valley, who is heading the committee. The visit cost the city about \$800, Clarke said.

While the schedule of activities has not been completed, Clarke said the committee has already narrowed the list, deleting all very formal activities with the exception of opening ceremonies and a reception. The public will be allowed to tour the ship.

Opening ceremonies are tentatively set for 3 p.m. at Esplanade Park in Capitola Village. An invitation-only reception also will be held that night at Capitola Community Center at Jade Street Park. About

60 crew members are expected to attend the reception, with each of the three cities receiving a limited number of invitations, Clarke said.

At the same time, the hosts don't expect to be entertaining the entire crew. According to Clarke, "around half of them are expected to leave and go back to their home berth in Long Beach."

The task force is planning a softball tournament and barbecue, which will likely be hosted by Scotts Valley, and a beach volleyball tournament for the crew, he added.

Tours of the USS Francis Hammond are planned. But Clarke doubts the city will be able to provide tours to the extent Santa Cruz did last year when more than

4,300 toured the USS Gary.

"It's primarily due to logistics," he said. "We think the ship is going to be anchored a little farther away, and we're not sure what type of shuttle service we'll be offering. More time is expected to get to and from the ship to serve thousands of people."

The ship's captain, Cmdr. Dave Klich, hosted the group for lunch and a tour, as well.

The ship was christened in 1968, Kilch said. Its principal armament is an anti-submarine homing torpedo that can be launched from a helicopter or conventional torpedo tubes. The ship also has an anti-submarine gun mounted on deck and carries a Harpoon missile system, which can hit enemy surface targets over the horizon.