

Capitola grows by annexation

By KATHY SALAMON
STAFF WRITER

Five annexations to the city of Capitola last year are largely responsible for the city's population increase of 283 people.

According to figures from the State Department of Finance, Capitola's population grew from 9,686 to 9,969, an increase of 3.56 percent.

City Manager Steve Burrell said most of the increase came from annexations of the Surf and Sand Mobile Home Park and a convalescent home on 47th Avenue.

Three other smaller annexations — an area on 38th Avenue and Deanes Lane I and II — also contributed to the growth.

Only 15 additional residences were built in the city from Jan. 1, 1985 to Jan. 1, 1986, according to Angie Crisostomo of the city's building department.

Thirteen of the residential building permits issued were for single-family homes. One other permit was for a condominium with two units.

"Our growth was fairly typical with that of the county," Burrell said. "We usually only grow by about two percent a year, but we had some annexations this year."

The unincorporated area of the county grew in population by 3.62 percent, the city of Santa Cruz grew by 3.25 percent, and Watsonville, the fastest growing area in the county, showed an increase of 5.69 percent.

Burrell said Capitola's increase of 3.56 percent will not mean much in either benefits or difference in character of the city.

"There are certain kinds of funds that we get from the state based on population," he said. "So that will be a little more, but you really have to grow a lot faster than the rest of the state for that to make a difference."

He added that the mobile home park and the convalescent home look over the Village area of the city.

"Everyone thought they were in the city anyway," he said. "Even they thought they were in the city."

Stephanie Harlan, a City Council member, agreed that the increase in population would not make much of a difference to the character of the city.

"What has changed the character of the town is the popularity of the Village on the weekends," she said. "This used to be a quiet town on winter weekends."