



Workers lay fresh asphalt Tuesday morning as the final phase of the Capitola Village improvement project began on Capitola Avenue.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Village project nears completion

By **LIZ KELLAR**
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The end is in sight for the village's \$1 million streetscape project.

CAPITOLA Paving, the last major piece of the puzzle, closed Capitola Avenue Tuesday.

"This was the biggest day of disruption," said Patrick Dwire, city housing and redevelopment planner. "I really want to thank the community for their patience."

According to Dwire, the street was closed just one other day — April 4 — for regrounding. The paving, delayed by inclement weather, was a one-day project. Capitola Avenue will be open

today.

"We're just really pleased all the big work is done," Dwire said, adding the project will be finished in mid- to late May. What is left is the "finishing touches" — putting in benches, landscaping and other cosmetic work.

While Capitola Village businesses acknowledge the closure affected them, most took the nuisance in stride.

"We definitely saw a decrease in our sales for the day," said Kirsten Tidd, Craft Gallery office manager. "Some customers complained they wanted to come down and couldn't get here, some people said they didn't know the road was going to be closed."

Terry Baker, owner of Friends on

Capitola Avenue, said the merchants of the village are getting the improvements they asked for.

"It's obviously slowed us down, but it's done," she said Tuesday. "We're just happy the work is almost completed, and it looks great ... We're ready for the summer."

Once improvements are completed, Capitola Avenue will again be a two-way street. Detouring eastbound traffic has resulted in problems, with some drivers taking Fanmar Way as a shortcut, and others illegally cutting through the parking lot behind City Hall.

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