

1940s-era hotel set to reopen in June

Hotels and Boarding Houses

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CAPITOLA — A new, slightly upscale inn will open soon in the village.

Finishing touches are being put on the Capitola Hotel, 210 Esplanade Way. Among the things that need to be done: laying the carpet and installing bathroom fixtures and window shutters, said Christine Herberg, one of the hotel's three owners. Also, the dirt lot next door will be transformed into a patio for guests.

Herberg, her husband, Michael, and their partner, Nick Infantino, bought the property in the fall after previous owners filed for bankruptcy.

"We all love Capitola," said Herberg, who, along with her two partners is from the San Francisco Bay Area. "The area is close to our hearts, and this will be a great place for people to stay in Capitola."

The city is banking on that. The hotel, the only one on the Esplanade, will add to the village's ambiance and to the city's coffers through the city's transient occupancy tax charged to lodgers.

The hotel has seven rooms,

Capitola Hotel

WHERE: 210 Esplanade Way, Capitola.

OWNERS: Christine and Michael Herberg, and Nick Infantino.

ROOMS: Seven; one is disabled accessible.

EMPLOYEES: Five.

RATES: \$100-\$200, depending on the season.

OPENING: June 11.

OPEN HOUSE: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 26. Event includes room tours and refreshments.

RESERVATIONS:

www.capitolahotel.com or 476-1278.

including one that is disabled accessible.

"Some of the rooms are small," Herberg said. "But we're making the best use of the space by having wall beds (which fold into the wall). That will provide a comfortable sitting by day and room service will come in the evening to set it up as a bedroom."

Room rates will range from \$100 a night during the winter to \$200 a night during the tourist-heavy summer months, Herberg said.



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Remodeler Ralph Oliver works on the facade of the Capitola Hotel on the Esplanade in the Capitola Village.

The hotel will employ five people.

The owners plan to start booking rooms June 11, slightly later than the originally planned Memorial Day weekend opening.

Meanwhile, the Capitola Cham-

ber of Commerce will host an open house and ribbon cutting May 26.

"It's wonderful; it's so exciting," said Toni Castro of the chamber. "It's a welcome addition to Capitola. We need more hotels in the

area. People call us and want to be on the beach. This is pretty close to the beach and right in the heart of the village."

The Capitola Hotel has a long history.

Built in 1945, it served as a lodge for tourists until its sale in the 1970s to Minna Hertel of Palo Alto.

During her ownership, the former hotel was used as a family residence, Castro said, until the property changed hands in 1999 and then again in 2003.

The building has not been lived in for five years.

It needed a face-lift, and under the new ownership, it got it.

"It's part of ongoing improvements in the village," Castro said, noting upgrades throughout the village, including two of the "Six Sisters" vacation rentals and the recent remodel at Margaritaville.

"It looks like a construction zone now but by summer all that should be done," she said.

"Anyone who improves their building is improving the village."

For reservations, call 476-1278 or visit www.capitolahotel.com.

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