

Traffic Patterns

41st Avenue Traffic: Capitola Headache

By TOM HONIG

Sentinel Staff Writer

There are three big trouble spots for traffic on 41st Avenue, and the Capitola City Council will need to find solutions to the problems.

That message was presented Monday by Russell Pearson, a consultant who is preparing a report on 41st Avenue traffic for the council.

At the council's regular meeting, Pearson showed charts of the big commercial street, pointing out that there are three trouble spots in the area.

The recent construction of

Outdoor Education Fund Drive

Efforts to raise public funds to purchase 95 acres of land off Branciforte Drive for a county schools outdoor education program begin in earnest Wednesday.

William Mott, former state director of beaches and parks, and now head of the California State Parks Foundation, a private organization, is meeting at 11 a.m. that day in the old county hospital building to explain the possible uses of the property and ways of raising funds.

At 2 p.m., members of the County Board of Education will

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the Capitola Mall shopping center has attracted traffic to 41st Avenue, and the headache of dealing with the increased traffic is now the property of the Capitola city government.

Pearson said the 41st Avenue interchange produces more than its share of traffic woes. As motorists leave Highway 1 on the southbound offramp, they find themselves battling a steady stream of traffic whizzing by on 41st Avenue. Left turns are difficult, and cars soon start backing up on the offramp. At times, according to Pearson, the line of cars goes all the way back onto the freeway.

Pearson also commented that the intersection of 41st Avenue and Capitola Road has become traffic-weary, with more cars than the engineering can take care of.

The third big headache, Pearson said, is actually off 41st Avenue, on Capitola Road. The left turn lane from eastbound Capitola Road to 41st Avenue isn't long enough, Pearson said; traffic gets clogged because of it.

A fourth and less serious

area of concern, Pearson said, is a left-turn lane from southbound 41st Avenue near County Bank. That lane is traveled heavily, he said, and something must be done.

Those somethings which must be done take the form of short- and long-term street improvements. Pearson did not discuss possible solutions dur-

Harbor Concert Set Wednesday

Harbor High School's music department will present its annual Christmas concert Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater on the lower campus.

The orchestra will perform two Bach chorales. Five French horn fanfares will be performed by Andy Levin and Jeff Clark, and "Two Fugettes" will be played by Leslie Chin on flute and Laura Silverman and Brenda Hedges on oboe. The vocal ensemble will sing a variety of Christmas music. The public is invited to the free concert, under the direction of Earle Lapp.

ing his report to the council Monday, and said that his next report to the council will take up the topic of finding answers.

In a related issue, City Manager Max Kludt announced that Caltrans, the state highway department, will install traffic signals at the 41st Avenue and Highway 1 traffic interchange in June.

Other issues before the council Monday included these topics:

TAXI SERVICE — Cab service provided by the Capitola-Soquel Cab Company was disrupted early in the month because of internal management problems, Kludt told the council. He said cab drivers were not available, and the dispatching office was closed.

Ed Newman, an attorney who represents the taxi company, alluded to the internal problems in the company, but did not spell out exactly what the problem was. He said service would be resumed Thursday at 6 a.m., and until then, Santa Cruz Yellow Cab taxis would serve Capitola residents.

Capitola-Soquel Cab Company has been granted an exclusive franchise to operate in Capitola, and the council has the right to terminate the contract if the company can't provide adequate service.

The council adopted a recommendation by Councilman Ron Graves not to revoke the company's permit. Newman, on behalf of the company, had vowed that an interruption of service would not happen

again, and Graves spoke out in discussion until after the Dec. 20 hearing.

Graves added that the city's agreement with the taxi company expires in six months, and the quality of taxi service can be reviewed then.

In the meantime, Kludt said he would keep tabs on the performance of the company, and if service is disrupted again, would notify the council.

POLICE CHIEF — The demotions of Police Chief Martin Bergthold and Commander Dennis Syfers will be the only order of business at a special council meeting on Dec. 20. At that time, Bergthold and Syfers will be granted a hearing before a special appeals board in an attempt to save their current jobs.

The council requested the demotions late last month, and Bergthold and Syfers decided to fight for their jobs.

Monday, the council was expected to discuss the process of selecting a new police chief, but councilmen voted to delay any

"It makes good sense!"

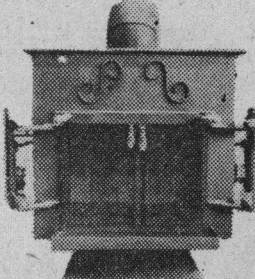
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