



City Administrator's Report

January 2004

Dear Reader,

This monthly report summarizes and provides updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.

James L. Armstrong
jarmstrong@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us
(805) 564-5301

Marcelo A. López
mlopez@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us
(805) 564-5304

Key Meetings:

January 6, 13, 27 Council Meetings

Flags on State Street:

January 2-15 American
January 15-27 Junior League

Holidays:

January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(City Hall closed)

Community Events:

- January 6 ▪ New City Council members sworn in
- January 10 ▪ Annual rose pruning at the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden across from the Santa Barbara Mission, 8 a.m., 682-7899
- January 14 ▪ DARE Graduation, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Arlington Theatre
- January 15 ▪ Annual luncheon: *Downtown Citizen of the Year Award* and *The Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Award*, 12 p.m., El Paseo Restaurant, RSVP by Jan. 13, (805) 962-2098, ext. 22
- January 17 ▪ Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, Cabrillo Blvd., 10 a.m. - dusk
- January 28 ▪ Ribbon cutting at Bohnett Park for Old Mission Creek Restoration, 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30- Feb. 8 ▪ 19th Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival, (805) 963-0023; www.sbfilmfestival.org

City Administrator

Recognizing departing council members

We thank our outgoing council members for their dedicated service and many contributions:

- Harold P. "Rusty" Fairly, with the most recent term of office, three terms on the City Council;
- Gregg A. Hart, two terms of office; and
- Babatunde Folayemi, completed partial term of office.

Best Wishes!

Introducing new council members

The City of Santa Barbara welcomes its newest council members: Brian B. Barnwell, (805) 564-5324; Helene Schneider, (805) 564-5323; and Das Williams, (805) 564-5325. The new council members will formally take office at the January 6, 2004 meeting of the City Council.

Airport Department

More passengers

Reflecting the heavy holiday traffic, 64,746 passengers flew in and out of SBA in November – a 10.5% increase over the same month last year. The *America West Express* Las Vegas route experienced the highest passenger capacity with an average 91% load factor. Other high loads reported: *United Express* Denver flights at 81%; *Delta Connection* Salt Lake City flights at 66%. Year-to-date, the passenger count is up 3.3% over the same eleven-month period in 2002.

Cleared for 2005 takeoff

California Coastal Commission on Dec. 11 unanimously approved a Coastal Development Permit for the Airfield Safety Projects – the final requirement. Scheduled to begin construction in 2005, the projects include shifting the airport's main runway by 800 feet, creating new runway safety areas, and making taxiway improvements.

Community Development Department

Carrillo Hotel...on the up and up

A great place to check out construction progress on the Carrillo Hotel is the top deck of city parking lot 2, on Canon Perdido Street. The hotel's foundation was poured on Dec. 19 – a massive undertaking that lasted from 8:30 p.m. that night until 6 a.m. the next morning. Ten million pounds of concrete and 500,000 pounds of steel were put in place. The next steps for the 96-room hotel will be the walls, columns, and deck structure. Senior Building Inspector David Gomez reports that a giant crane with a 170-foot radius and capable of lifting 22,000 pounds, will arrive during the first week of January to facilitate work on the project.

Middle-income housing

A draft Inclusionary Housing Ordinance goes to the City Council Ordinance Committee for review on Jan. 27. If adopted, the ordinance will require that ownership residential projects designate a set percentage of the units as middle-income housing for a minimum of 45 years. A middle-income household is one earning between \$72,720 and \$96,960 for a family of four.

Finance Department

Sales tax

For the quarter ended September 30, 2003, sales tax numbers were down .4% from the same quarter of the prior year. We nonetheless expect to meet budget, as we only need a .8% growth this year. In developing our preliminary revenue estimates for next fiscal year however, we have assumed a 2% growth in the current year. Results for the quarter ending December 31, 2003 will be available in March 2004.

Quarter	Fiscal Year 2002	Change from Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2003	Change from Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2004	Change from Prior Year
Jul - Sept	\$4,407,462	-3.7%	\$4,556,500	3.4%	\$4,536,571	-0.4%
Oct - Dec	\$4,646,788	-0.2%	\$4,548,826	-2.1%		
Jan - Mar	\$3,915,141	-2.6%	\$4,016,831	2.6%		
Apr - Jun	\$4,349,512	-3.9%	\$4,373,358	0.5%		

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

The table shows November TOT is expected to be up approximately 1.7% from the prior fiscal year. As usual, there may be minor adjustments to this estimate. With YTD growth at 2.5%, we are still optimistic that we will achieve the 4.2% growth rate required to meet budget this year. Please note that there is a correction to the October TOT. Our previously reported 6.5% growth has been revised downward to 4.1%, due to a change of motel ownership during the month. Both the old and new owners mistakenly paid for a portion of October; therefore, October and November have been revised to reflect the actual amounts due.

	FY 2001	Change from Prior Year	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year
July	\$1,204,593	11.3%	\$1,171,041	-2.8%	\$1,183,951	1.1%	\$1,198,952	1.3%
Aug	\$1,246,973	7.9%	\$1,276,212	2.3%	\$1,328,278	4.1%	\$1,349,990	1.6%
Sept	\$952,314	14.1%	\$808,657	-15.1%	\$849,174	5.0%	\$887,095	4.5%
Oct	\$839,946	3.7%	\$790,919	-5.8%	\$830,054	4.9%	\$863,919	4.1%
Nov	\$691,398	13.2%	\$653,829	-5.4%	\$684,776	4.7%	\$696,742	1.7%

Restoring VLF funds

Making good on a campaign promise, Governor Schwarzenegger, on Dec. 18, announced his commitment to continuing the state's VLF (vehicle license fee) backfill payments to cities and counties for the balance of the 2004 (current) fiscal year. The governor's declaration of a "fiscal emergency" signaled his intent to restart the state's backfill payments. State Controller Steve Westly indicated that he will issue checks to local governments. Unless the governor's fiscal emergency declaration is overturned by a legal challenge, the city's VLF funding will be restored for the current year. The governor's "State of the State" address on Jan. 6, and his Jan. 9 submittal to the Legislature of his proposed fiscal year 2005 budget, will provide additional information on his budget plans for next fiscal year.

Fire Department

Life-saving training goes public

Targeting small business, the Fire Department has completed packaging and is implementing a comprehensive training program in AED (automated external defibrillator) and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). This program is designed to provide on-site, state mandated training for facilities such as rest homes, dental and medical offices, other health care providers, and also the general public.

Wildland Fire Plan

The Fire Department's proposed Wildland Fire Plan identifies and recommends specific fuel modification efforts in order to mitigate the impacts of wildfire. Last month, the plan went through the public comment process via the Santa Barbara City Planning Commission. Input received from the public and the Planning Commission on the draft Environmental Impact Report will be reflected in the final document this month.

Library Department

Children's Discovery Museum

The non-profit Children's Discovery Museum (CDM) project continues to be a possible city tenant on property near the future Granada Garage. Meanwhile, the CDM Board is developing mobile learning labs to bring hands-on science experiences to elementary schools, parks, and other venues. In partnership with funding sources, Santa Barbara School District, the city, and others, the CDM board hopes to have the mobile lab(s) ready within a year. Library Director Carol Keator serves as city liaison to the CDM board.

Parks and Recreation Department

Old Mission Creek restored – the city's first

A ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Marty Blum and the City Council on January 28, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. will celebrate completion of the Old Mission Creek Restoration project, at Bohnett Park (enter at San Pascual). With the goal of restoring native habitat and improving water quality, the project – implemented by the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division – includes two water treatment bioswales, more than 3,000 native trees, shrubs, and grasses, creek bank improvements, plus park improvements such as creek crossings, stairs, lights, and trails. For more information, contact Creeks Division, (805) 897-2658.

Wheelchair sports

The City of Santa Barbara has been accepted as an official member of BlazeSports Clubs of America, an organization dedicated to "maximizing the potential of people with physical disability through sport." The city was one of nine new clubs accepted for 2004 membership. BlazeSports provides funding and a national network for instruction and competition for a variety of youth and adult wheelchair sports. Parks and Recreation's Adapted Programs will work with other local agencies, including UCSB's Junior Wheelchair Camp, to provide regional participation in BlazeSports programs.

Resident discounts

Parks and Recreation's Resident Discount Program began on January 1, 2004. To date, more than 700 people have received their free Resident Discount cards to save money on programs, classes, and facility rentals. For program information, visit www.sbparcsandrecreation.com

Web site award

The Parks and Recreation web site – www.sbparcsandrecreation.com -- received the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) *Agency Showcase Award of Excellence for Best Department Web Site in the population category of 50,000-100,000*. This past year, the department added many new features to its redesigned site including an interactive city park map with photos, descriptions, locations, and rental information; a beachfront facility rental site; and a new, Teen Programs site. Online registration in the department's recreation classes through eRecreation is offered, along with The Activity Guide. The Award of Excellence will be presented at the CPRS Awards Banquet on March 12 in Anaheim, CA.

Police Department

Writing gone wrong

Talk about “accessory” to a crime. Responding to a call about two suspicious subjects at Victoria and De La Vina Streets, Officer Amoroso observed fresh graffiti on a nearby bus bench, a stonewall, and city street signs. He questioned two 15-year-old males who were walking away. The pair – dressed in matching clothing – denied any wrongdoing. However, one of the teens wore a necklace with logos matching the graffiti plastered all around him. A pat-down search of the suspects turned up several large “magnum” sized permanent markers. Confronted with the evidence, the pair meekly confessed to doing “a dumb thing, a stupid thing.” One suspect hailed from Los Angeles, the other from Goleta. Officer Amoroso was assisted by Officer Weninger.

Sticky fingers nabbed by CAL-ID

Technology pointed the way to the arrest for residential burglary by Detective Hansen of a 37-year-old parolee who couldn't keep his hands to himself. The burglary victim reported to Officer Gonzales that someone entered her West Sola Street home and stole her laptop computer, along with her jewelry. A single, latent fingerprint lifted by Crime Scene Investigation Officer Mallari from the underside of the door handle at the point of entry, was determined by Crime Lab Technician Mike Schwab using CAL-ID to be that of the parolee's right index finger. CAL-ID is the California Department of Justice database program for criminal fingerprint comparison. The victim's jewelry was recovered during a search of the parolee's room on Leslie Drive. In addition to having an extensive criminal history for burglary, the parolee is also a suspect in a series of burglaries where people's checkbooks were stolen – representing a loss of about \$75,000 in forged checks, and still counting.

Public Works Department

Water conservation award

California Urban Water Conservation Council has presented its *2003 Excellence Award for Local/Community Innovations in Water Conservation* to City of Santa Barbara Water Resources Specialist Alison Jordan. The award was given in recognition of the water conservation programs Alison has developed for the city, including the Green Gardener Certification Program and the Weather TRAK ET Irrigation Controller Program.

Facelift for city streets

The current Street Improvement Project will improve areas on the Riviera below Mission Ridge Road, Padre Street, and parts of the San Roque area. Construction will consist of grinding the edges of some streets, pulverization of existing asphalt on others, and in the case of Padre Street – reconstruction of the entire street from Castillo to Bath Streets. All the street surfaces will be renewed by the placement of an asphalt overlay. Sections of concrete sidewalks, curbs, and gutters damaged by street trees will be removed and replaced. Thirty-one trees will be removed, and replaced with species that are less likely to damage the concrete improvements in the future. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2004.

Waterfront Department

Shifting sands

In an effort to nourish eroded beaches at Goleta County Park, a recent dredging project removed 58,000 cubic yards of sand from West Beach – a “win-win” effort that added welcomed depth to the harbor’s quiet-water sailing area. Manson Construction Company began dredging West Beach on Oct. 6 and completed the project on Oct. 31. A hopper dredge made three round-trips per day from Santa Barbara, where it “borrowed” the sand, to Goleta, where it deposited the sand. The joint powers agency BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Control Operations and Nourishment) managed the project, which was funded by state grants. Originally, the project goal was to dredge approximately 76,000 cubic yards of material. The presence of rock and cobble in deep layers of sand – potentially damaging to dredge equipment – held the effort to 76% of its goal.