



- April 17
  - Chicken BBQ to benefit Michael Thomas “TT” McGrew, Earl Warren Showgrounds, \$7 per person, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., (805) 897-2384
- April 17
  - Summer camp registration, 8-10 a.m. at Carrillo Recreation Center, 100 E. Carrillo Street, or online at [www.sbparkandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparkandrecreation.com), (805) 564-5418
- April 17-18
  - Maritime Museum Annual Sea Festival (805) 962-8404, <http://www.sbmm.org/index.php>
- April 18
  - South Coast Earth Day Festival, Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (805) 963-0583
- April 18 – 24
  - National Library Week
- April 25
  - Wheels and Waves, classic car, hot rod & motorcycle show, lower State Street, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., (805) 683-3869
- April 30
  - Richard C. Johns, “Picnic in the Park” celebrating 31 years of service. RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup> to Terri Yamada, (805) 564-5480 or Karla Megill, (805) 564-5430
- April 30 – May1
  - Parade of Green Buildings, (805) 963-0583, ext. 113
- May 1 – 2
  - The Thirteenth Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival, Plaza de la Guerra and at the Casa de la Guerra, <http://www.cincodemayosb.com>, or call (805) 965-8561
- May 2
  - The 18th Annual Jewish Festival, Oak Park, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., [sbjewishfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:sbjewishfestival@yahoo.com)

## **City Administrator**

### **State budget**

There have been no new developments on the state budget within the last month. Since the governor and legislature are currently focused on workers' compensation reform, it is unlikely that serious work on the state budget will begin until after that issue is resolved. As in past years, meaningful budget negotiations might wait until after the state has updated its revenue estimates in May. Referred to as the “May Revise,” this important budget document incorporates updated information on income tax revenue after the April 15<sup>th</sup> tax-filing deadline.

### **City budget**

The city's fiscal year 2005 budget is currently in production, and will be released to the City Council and the public on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, city staff will discuss with the Finance Committee a proposed budget review schedule. The schedule covers the 10-week period between the filing of the budget on April 13<sup>th</sup> and budget adoption set for June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and includes presentations by each city department to the Finance Committee, the full City Council, and to the public at regularly scheduled council sessions. After April 13<sup>th</sup>, the budget will be posted on the city's website at <http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/>, and also available on CD-ROM from the city's Finance Department. Printed copies of the budget will be available for

review at City Hall in the Finance Department, the City Clerk's office, and at the reference desks of the Santa Barbara Central and Eastside libraries.

### **Bargaining unit and employee budget briefings**

As part of the budget process, the City Administrator and Finance Director will conduct budget briefings on the proposed operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2005, scheduled to be filed on April 13, 2004. Meetings with bargaining units are being scheduled. Also, as in prior years, city employees will be invited to attend briefings by the Finance Director and City Administrator to learn more about the proposed budget. The meeting schedule for city employees will be issued later in the coming days.

### **Car-pooling and alternative transportation encouraged**

To encourage car-pooling and alternative transportation, Councilmembers Williams and Schneider have agreed to share one parking space and, starting April 7, 2004, make a parking space available for assignment to a City Hall rank and file employee.

By sharing and giving up assigned parking spaces Councilmembers Williams and Schneider hope other employees will follow their lead to explore and use alternative transportation. Every month one assigned parking space will be raffled and assigned to a rank and file employee.

### **Neighborhood Improvement Program**

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the City Council participated in a 90-minute tour of city neighborhoods to gain awareness of needs and efforts to improve neighborhood conditions. The neighborhoods visited included the Lower Westside, Lower Eastside, Westside and West Downtown.

The following day, the City Council received an overview of the recently launched Neighborhood Improvement Program. The overall goal of the program is to systematically and routinely correct and prevent neighborhood problems.

### **"Inside Santa Barbara" on City-TV Channel 18**

Premiering April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and airing through May 8<sup>th</sup>, the April episode of Inside Santa Barbara features: 101 In Motion; Oak Park Neighborhood Transportation Management Plan; El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant's Fuel Cell Project; Airport Rescue Firefighting Trucks; Community Emergency Response Training; and Cultural Arts Summer Programs. Weekly airtimes: Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5 p.m.; Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 9 p.m.; Sundays at 10:30 p.m.

### **New technology at City-TV expands taping options**

City-TV has recently completed a major, two-part equipment installation project, funded through the city's fiscal year 2004 Capital Program and City-TV's annual equipment grant from Cox Communications. Part one involved separating the equipment control for the City Council Chambers and the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room. Having separate control stations now allows City-TV staff to videotape meetings in each location simultaneously, with one being televised live while the second is recorded for later rebroadcast.

Part two of the project involved the installing new DVD recording and playback equipment to replace antiquated, high-maintenance VCRs with modern DVD recording technology. Over the next month, staff will transition to recording all meetings and programming in the DVD format. In addition to improving the playback quality of City-TV programming, members of the public and staff can now request DVD copies of city meetings and other programs.

### **Among the best places to live**

The publishers of Frommer's Travel Guides have ranked the City of Santa Barbara as the "4<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live" in the United States. In recognition, Frommer's will present Santa Barbara City Council with an award on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., in Council Chambers at City Hall. The cities Ranked and Rated report analyzed 403 U.S. cities using dozens of variables. Each city was ranked on 10 major criteria: economy and jobs; cost of living; climate; education; health and healthcare; crime; transportation; leisure; arts and culture; and overall quality of life.

## **Airport Department**

### **2004 passenger count surpassing 2003**

This February, 57,953 passengers arrived at and departed from Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) – a 12.3% increase over the same month last year. By comparison, the national passenger count average for February 2004 was up 5.5%. For the first two months of this year, SBA's passenger traffic was up 8.8% over 2003. The *America West Express* flights to Las Vegas experienced the highest average load factor at 81%, followed by the *United Express* flights to Denver at 78%.

### **Twin Lakes Golf Course begins third youth program**

The First Tee Central Coast (TFTCC), a non-profit organization serving Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, has opened another youth program at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Goleta. TFTCC's mission is to improve the lives of young people by emphasizing educational and character development through the game of golf. The popular year-round program at Twin Lakes' new learning center offers a high quality golf experience for young people ages seven to 17.

## **Community Development Department**

### **Planning Commission April hearings**

The Planning Commission this month will hold a hearing on the proposed restoration of the Arroyo Burro Estuary and installation of an ultra-violet system to reduce harmful bacteria in the estuary. In addition, the Commission will consider a Conditional Use Permit allowing Brooks Institute to operate a new facility in the old Lyons Moving Building on West Ortega Street downtown, and will make a recommendation to City Council regarding zoning changes allowed for the "Funk Zone." The Planning Commission will also hold an April hearing to take comments on a Draft Negative Declaration for an addition to the Harborview Inn at 29 State Street.

## **Neighborhood Visual Survey Workshops**

More than 100 local residents attended a citywide Neighborhood Visual Survey Workshop in March at the Central Library, conducted by RRM Design Group. Participants shared their opinions on single-family home designs by rating numerous photographs of single-family houses. Attendees also discussed their preferences for updating the city's Single Family Design Guidelines. From April through May, city staff will facilitate five follow-up workshops to review more photos and hear concerns specific to Santa Barbara neighborhoods, as scheduled:

- |                              |                        |           |                             |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| - Upper Eastside & downtown: | April 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 6:30 p.m. | MacKenzie Park Meeting Room |
| - Eastside & Westside:       | April 13 <sup>th</sup> | 6:30 p.m. | Louise Lowry Davis Center   |
| - Mesa:                      | April 21 <sup>st</sup> | 6:30 p.m. | SHIFCO 418 Santa Fe Place   |
| - Hillside areas:            | April 28 <sup>th</sup> | 6:30 p.m. | MacKenzie Park Meeting Room |
| - Northside & Hitchcock:     | May 12 <sup>th</sup>   | 6:30 p.m. | MacKenzie Park Meeting Room |

For more information, visit <http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us>, contact Heather Baker at (805) 564-5470, or at [hbaker@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:hbaker@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us).

## **Fire Department**

### **Arson murder conviction**

Following a three-month trial prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Joyce Dudley, Martin Thomas Hartmann was found guilty of murder with special circumstances, but not guilty on a hate crime allegation. The conviction was a result of a combined investigation by the Fire and Police Departments. A fire on February 24, 2002 killed Clinton Risetter in his own apartment. Martin Hartmann was arrested two days later for murder with special circumstances and a hate crime enhancement. The follow up investigation and pre-trial activity lasted for two years, generating hundreds of reports.

### **Defibrillator**

For the treatment of cardiac arrest victims, an Access Cardiosystems Defibrillator (AED) has been placed at Santa Barbara Golf Club – the city's municipal golf course. This life-saving external device is being housed at the adjacent Mulligan's Café & Bar on McCaw Ave. Designed for appropriately trained users of all levels, the AED is completely automated and easy to use. Restaurant and golf course staffs have recently received CPR/AED training on the proper use of the defibrillator device.

### **New Firefighters**

Five new firefighters hired in March are now enrolled in a seven-week training academy, and will begin working at a fire station after May 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the first combined agency academy, which also includes new firefighters from Santa Barbara County and Carpinteria/Summerland Fire Departments. With the academy being taught by instructors from the different agencies, training costs will be lower.

## Finance Department

### Sales Tax

The sales tax numbers for the quarter ended December 31, 2003 are in and we are up 4.8% from the same quarter of the prior year. The revenue table below shows that we were up 1.9% for 2003. On a fiscal year basis, we are up about 1%. We are hopeful that sales tax will grow 2% this fiscal year, which would exceed budget.

Quarter Ended	Calendar 2001	Change from Prior Year	Calendar 2002	Change from Prior Year	Calendar 2003	Change from Prior Year
Mar 31	\$4,018,983	-0.5%	\$3,915,141	-2.6%	\$4,016,831	2.6%
June 30	\$4,527,263	3.4%	\$4,349,512	-3.9%	\$4,373,358	0.5%
Sept 30	\$4,407,462	-3.7%	\$4,556,500	3.4%	\$4,536,571	-0.4%
Dec 31	\$4,646,788	-0.2%	\$4,548,826	-2.1%	<b>\$4,765,855</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$17,600,496</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>\$17,369,979</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>\$17,692,615</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

### Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

The table below shows February TOT is up approximately 14% from the prior fiscal year. This brings our year-to-date growth to 3.5%. We are optimistic that we will reach our budgeted growth rate of 4.2% for this fiscal year.

	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%
Dec	\$594,145	16.2%	\$539,598	-9.2%	\$529,694	-1.8%	\$553,094	4.4%
Jan	\$578,703	9.4%	\$511,090	-11.7%	\$583,413	14.2%	\$584,653	0.2%
Feb	\$628,764	9.4%	\$611,322	-2.8%	\$616,824	0.9%	<b>\$703,700</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>Yr Total</b>	<b>\$6,736,836</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>\$6,362,669</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>	<b>\$6,606,164</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>\$6,838,145</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

## Library Department

### National Library Week is April 18 - 24

Visit your local public library!!

### Library Theatre

The talented troupe of actors of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (a.k.a. PCPA) will present, "The Sword in the Stone" at four local libraries this month. Performances are April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Goleta Branch and 3:30 p.m. at the Central Library; and April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Carpinteria Branch. On April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Solvang Branch, medieval magic will be performed while the story of Merlin and the boy king is told.

### **Eastside Poet's Society**

Poet-in-residence Sojourner K. Rolle presides over the "Eastside Poet's Society" on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. at the Eastside Branch Library. All ages are invited to exercise their poetic creativity and hear the works of other participants.

## **Parks and Recreation Department**

### **Eggstravaganza and Youth Programs information day on Saturday, April 10**

The Parks and Recreation Department holds its *45th Annual Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza* at both Franklin School and Chase Palm Park on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for toddlers and children up to age nine. Families are encouraged to bring a camera for pictures with the Big Bunny, and a basket to collect eggs.

The Franklin School event at 1111 East Mason Street has an egg hunt at 10 a.m., and from 9-10 a.m., pictures may be taken with the Big Bunny. At Chase Palm Park, 323 East Cabrillo Blvd., egg hunts will occur every half hour beginning at 10 a.m., with the last hunt at 12:30 p.m. Additional activities at Chase Palm Park will include face painting, Dino Jump inflatables, a real fire engine to explore, food and refreshments.

Also, a *Summer Youth Programs Information Day* will be held during the egg hunts at Chase Palm Park. Families can find out about Parks and Recreation's summer camps, sports clinics and other summer youth programs, talk to camp counselors, learn how to register for camps on the Internet, and apply for the city Resident Discount Card.

### **Spring & Summer Activity Guide**

Copies of the "Parks and Recreation Spring/Summer 2004 Activity Guide" are now available as inserts in *The Santa Barbara Independent* on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the *Valley Voice* on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the *Santa Barbara News-Press* on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Guide is also available at all Parks and Recreation offices, and online at [www.sbparksandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com).

### **Summer camp registration begins Saturday, April 17**

In-person and online sign-up options are available for parents to register their children for the city's popular summer day camp and sports clinics programs. In-person registration is Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 8 - 10 a.m. at the Carrillo Recreation Center, 100 E. Carrillo Street. The online, eRecreation option is available to anyone with Internet access and a password at [www.sbparksandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com) during the same hours as the in-person registration on Saturday.

### **New website for youth summer programs**

A new website at [www.sbparksandrecreation.com/summerfun](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com/summerfun) offers parents detailed information about the Parks and Recreation Department's summer camps, sports clinics, and summer youth programs like swimming and tennis lessons, art, music and dance classes, and the Teen Programs Summer Late Nights. The site includes registration forms and instructions, program schedules, plus information on program directors and counselors. The "Summerfun" website was designed by Santa Barbara City College multimedia graduate and city temporary employee Juan Minera.

### **Earth Day celebration on April 18**

The Parks and Recreation Department's Creeks Division will host an exhibit booth during the annual Earth Day festival on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the county courthouse sunken gardens. Information will be available on water quality education and restoration projects, and visitors can test their knowledge of pollution by taking a water quality quiz.

### **Old Mission Creek community celebration on April 25**

Creeks Division invites the community to celebrate the completion of the Old Mission Creek restoration on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. at Bohnett Park. Educational activities will encourage children and adults to take an active role in the health and water quality of the creek while music, refreshments and games with prizes will make this a fun and relaxing afternoon to share with family and neighbors. Everyone is welcome!

### **Clean Water Business Certification Program**

More than one hundred auto service businesses in the City of Santa Barbara were contacted as the Creeks Division launched its Clean Water Business Certification Program. Developed in collaboration with local businesses, the program provides technical support regarding current clean water regulations, and reviews best practices for reducing surface run-off pollution in our creeks and ocean. Many auto service centers are interested in the program, thanks to a study showing that 80% of Santa Barbara residents are more likely to patronize an auto service business that is certified as environmentally friendly. Future plans include similar programs for the food and construction industries.

### **Richard C. Johns celebration**

Best wishes to Parks and Recreation Director Richard C. Johns, who is retiring after 31 years of service with the City of Santa Barbara. A "Picnic in the Park" in his honor will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at Chase Palm Park. RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup> to Terri Yamada, (805) 564-5484, or Karla Megill (805) 564-5430.

### **AARP and Community Service work training program**

Community Services has been working with the Community Service Employment Program of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The program recruits individuals over the age of 55 whose incomes are below the poverty level, for work training and on-the-job experience opportunities. To date, 18 individuals have been placed with 10 agencies throughout the city, six of whom are working for Community Services in the Community Gardens Program. These paid positions are funded 100% by AARP. For more information, contact Wally Close at (805) 568-1385, or Antonio Velasquez at (805) 963-7567.

## **Police Department**

### **Train track tour**

On March 31, Santa Barbara police officers in partnership with Amtrak, Metrolink, Union Pacific, and Burlington Northern, participated in the Officer-on-a-Train Program. The program is part of a statewide rail safety awareness campaign sponsored by California Operation Lifesaver, a national non-profit highway-rail safety education organization. During the event, Santa Barbara police officers rode in the locomotive of a special train to witness what train engineers observe

daily as people attempt to cross tracks ahead of an oncoming train. As the train moved along the tracks, the officers on board contacted officers on the streets to issue citations to motorists driving illegally through rail crossings, and to pedestrians trespassing on the tracks. Santa Barbara was selected as a location for this event due to the number of recent railroad fatalities. Santa Barbara was the second stop in a three-day event. Camarillo and Moorpark were the other scheduled locations. Selected members of city staff and members of the local news media rode the train as observers.

The operation resulted in citations and arrests for 146 pedestrian violations and 14 motor vehicle violations. Among those arrested, one individual was cited for possession of heroin and another had two felony warrants from San Francisco. Of the pedestrian violations, 82 people were cited for trespassing on railroad property. Railroad officials characterized the Santa Barbara event as the best ever in the history of the Officer-on-a-Train program.

### **Dog bite incidents**

Last month, all four of the dogs owned by homeless people that were involved in bite incidents became the property of Santa Barbara City Animal Control. The bite incidents occurred at 100 S. Milpas and 317 S. Alisos Streets. Both Ed Mannon and James Magruder relinquished ownership of their dogs, and Ambrose did not redeem his two puppies from the shelter. The pups are only five months old, and so require loving owners plus lots of patience and training. Magruder's dog, Brandy, was temperament tested by an animal behaviorist and recommended for adoption by a family with no children under the age of 10. Mannon's dog, Sammy, is scheduled for testing by another animal behaviorist. For more information or to adopt any of these four canines, please contact Pam Christian of Animal Control at (805) 963-1513.

### **Two suspects arrested**

After repeated confrontations with loaded gun against to his former girlfriend, Antonio Loza was arrested without incident or injury and charged with threats, brandishing a firearm, and domestic violence. Prior to his arrest, a Good Samaritan intervened as Loza publicly brandished a loaded semi-automatic handgun at his ex-girlfriend in front of bystanders. Loza's bail was set at \$500,000. Also arrested without bail and charged with possession of drugs for sale and parole violation was Loza's friend Adrian James Hernandez.

## **Public Works Department**

### **New brick sidewalks on Carrillo Street**

The two blocks of Carrillo Street closest to State Street will be upgraded with new brick sidewalks beginning in May 2004, replacing the existing deteriorated concrete sidewalks, and visually integrating the area with the State Street corridor. The existing Ficus trees will be protected and retained with root and crown pruning as necessary to permit safe grades on the sidewalks. Street furnishings will include new bicycle posts and trash containers. Portions of the work will take place at night, and although the work will cause some inconvenience to the public, keeping impacts to a minimum is a primary goal. Work will be completed in approximately 3-1/2 months.

### **Spring Green Gardener classes**

Teaching landscape professionals how to conserve resources and reduce the pollution is the focus of the city's Green Gardener Certification Program. Course topics include water efficient irrigation, green waste reduction, fertilizer management, pesticide reduction, low maintenance plant material selection, and pollution prevention. Basic and advanced certification classes are being offered this spring. Basic classes will be held in Spanish only on 10 Wednesdays from April 14 - June 16 at La Casa de la Raza (601 East Montecito Street), from 3 - 5:30 p.m. Bilingual advanced classes will be held on 10 Tuesdays, from April 13 - June 15, also at La Casa de la Raza, from 3 - 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.greengardener.org](http://www.greengardener.org), or call (805) 564-5460.

## **Waterfront Department**

### **Kelp removal**

Japanese kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*), a non-native aquatic weed that was the focus of three removal efforts in Santa Barbara Harbor last summer and fall, is back. As such, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), in conjunction with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, UCSB and Waterfront staff, completed this year's first *Undaria* removal effort in March. The effort involved 20-30 divers working in various parts of the harbor where *Undaria* had been identified in past years. New hot areas were identified at Marina Four and Sea Landing. Also, a considerable reduction in the amount of *Undaria* compared to last year was noted. This year's first removal effort produced a modest 50 pounds, compared to the more than 2,000 pounds removed in 2003. CDFG will conduct another survey in 30-45 days to help discern reasons for the change. CDFG also noted that the reduction of plant material could be related to the increased boater's awareness of the non-native pest. The Waterfront Department will provide *Undaria* updates in following quarters.

### **Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Third Annual Sea Festival**

The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's (SBMM) Third Annual Sea Festival is set for Saturday and Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The tall ship, *Spirit of Dana Point*, will highlight the weekend event with public tours off the City Pier in the harbor. Festival activities for the whole family are planned during the two-day celebration.

On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, the public is invited to sail aboard the Spirit of Dana Point from 1- 3:30 p.m. Sail fees are \$36 per adult and \$19 per child age 5-12 years. Sign ups for the public sail are limited. For more information, contact the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum at (805) 962-8404, or visit their website at <http://www.sbmm.org/index.php>