



City Administrator's Report

June 2004

Dear Reader,

This monthly report from the City Administrator's Office 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.

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Key Meetings:

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 ▪ Santa Barbara City Council

Flags on State Street:

June 1-7 ▪ Big Dog Foundation
June 7-14 ▪ Summer Solstice
June 14-17 ▪ Flag Day (American Flags)
June 17-29 ▪ Summer Solstice

Holidays:

June 14 ▪ Flag Day
June 20 ▪ Father's Day

Community Events:

June 5 ▪ Big Dog Parade and Canine Festival – Parade starts at 9:30 a.m. on State Street from De la Guerra Plaza to Old Chase Palm Park, where the festival runs 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., (805) 963-8727 x1398, www.bigdogs.com
June 12-13 ▪ Irish Festival – Earl Warren Show Grounds, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., (805) 687-4343
June 19 ▪ Caribbean Festival – Oak Park, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., (805) 687-4701

- June 26
- Summer Solstice Celebration – Parade starts at noon on State Street from Cota to Micheltorena Streets – Festival follows at Alameda Park, 12:30 - 8 p.m. (805) 965-3396
solstice@solsticeparade.com
- July 1
- Concerts in the Parks series, 6-8:30 p.m., Chase Palm Park (Cabrillo Blvd. at Calle Cesar Chavez), Brazilian Carnival, FREE, (805) 897-1946

City Administrator

Now accepting VISA and MasterCard

In a two-phase program, the City of Santa Barbara is expanding its acceptance of credit card payments. Currently, payment by credit card is accepted by Waterfront, Parks and Recreation, Airport Parking, Community Development, and Downtown Parking (except hourly). In Phase I of the expanded program, citywide acceptance of MasterCard and VISA is anticipated to begin by July 10, 2004. This will involve setting up additional merchant accounts for all departments with cashiering sites: City Hall, Police, and Library. With a \$10 minimum purchase, credit cards will be accepted for all payments except transient occupancy taxes. In Phase II, credit cards will be accepted via the Internet, with implementation dependent on project prioritization and funding. Departments will continue to absorb all fees charged by the credit card companies, for both the current and expanded programs.

City wins housing award

Mayor Blum will travel to Boston this month to accept a livability award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, for the city's Casa de las Fuentes housing project. This award is a tribute to Santa Barbara's commitment to taking positive action to create affordable housing within the city. The U.S. Conference staff will travel to Santa Barbara to create a video of the project and the city, to be shown during the awards luncheon on June 26th. Santa Barbara placed second, with Charleston, South Carolina taking the first place award.

City-TV wins 2004 STAR Awards

The California/Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors presented City-TV with a pair of STAR Awards for outstanding community television programming. During the association's annual conference in Santa Monica recently, City-TV received a second place award for "Inside Santa Barbara," and a second place award for a public service announcement titled "The Journey," produced in conjunction with the Creeks Division.

"Inside Santa Barbara" on City-TV Channel 18

The June edition airs from June 5th through July 7th, with the following program lineup: Community Indicators Project, The Funk Zone, Youth Enrichment Program, Shoreline Park Expansion Project, Bike Week, and Summer Swim Lessons. Weekly airtimes for "Inside Santa Barbara" are Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10:30 p.m.

Wayward shopping carts

Seen any abandoned shopping carts that need to be returned to a store location? Feel free to call the California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation toll-free at (800) 252-4613.

Airport Department**Passenger count jumps 20%**

Arriving and departing Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) passengers totaled 66,595 during April – a 20.4% increase over the same month last year. By comparison, the average national passenger count was up 10.2% for the month. Approximately 1,800 outbound seats were available from SBA in April, aboard 44 daily departures. Overall, the average load factor on SBA's nine, non-stop flights was 62.4%; a 2.2% increase over April 2003.

Viva Las Vegas

America West Express flights from Santa Barbara to Las Vegas have experienced the highest average passenger loads for many months – the average in April was 80.8%. Responding to increased demand, America West Express has scheduled another daily flight to Las Vegas beginning in June. In addition to the 1:50 p.m. departure, there will also be a flight at 9:05 p.m. Information is available at www.americawest.com.

Flying colors for annual FAA inspection

In April, Santa Barbara Airport landed positive results from its yearly, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certification Inspection. The FAA inspector found no discrepancies, and the airport achieved its P³ goal of 100% compliance for the annual inspection. P³ is a citywide management system that promotes long-term planning, leadership development, and organizational learning for city employees. Airport Patrol, Maintenance, and Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Divisions were commended for their daily efforts that resulted in the evaluation of SBA as a well maintained and safe airport.

Passenger cost

The cost-sensitive airline industry measures its airport costs (facility rent and landing fees) by enplaned passenger. Airports strive to keep their costs as low as possible, and benchmark with similar sized airports. The cost per enplaned passenger at Santa Barbara Airport is \$4.20 to the airlines serving Santa Barbara. SBA benchmarks airline costs per passenger with other similar-sized airports, with the average cost being \$6-\$7. In contrast, at a large airport such as San Francisco International Airport, the cost per enplaned passenger is currently \$15.

Noise compatibility

Santa Barbara Airport hosted its fourth public workshop last month for the Noise Compatibility Study. Area residents who participated viewed displays and expressed their concerns to Airport staff and consultants in an open house format. The Airport Noise Compatibility Study is scheduled for completion this fall. The study assesses the Airport's Noise Program, which promotes aircraft noise control and land use compatibility.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission projects

Another in a series of work sessions on the Cottage Hospital reconstruction project will be held this month. The Planning Commission also will consider a 61-unit efficiency project – the Santa Barbara City Housing Authority SRO – slated for West Carrillo Street downtown. This project is intended to provide very small units for very low income residents, with a particular focus on homeless people and downtown workers.

General Fund fees increase

To evaluate the fees it charges, the city recently hired the Public Resource Management Group (PRM) to conduct a citywide General Fund User Fee Study. Included in the study were the city's Police, Fire, Community Development, and Public Works Departments. PRM determined that Santa Barbara historically has set fees at substantially less than full cost recovery. In some cases, the General Fund subsidizes approximately 90% of the cost of services. To strike a balance between a reasonable recovery rate and equitable fees, the city will increase fees starting July 1, 2004 – if approved by City Council as part of the budget. Results of the study were presented to the Finance Committee in mid-April.

Finance Department

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

The table below shows April TOT up approximately 10% from the prior fiscal year. Our growth fiscal year-to-date is 4.8%, which is slightly ahead of budget. Since we were down the last few months of the previous fiscal year (FY 2003), we expected to see growth this year, but the revenues are coming in better than anticipated.

	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%	\$703,493	14.1%
Mar	\$769,047	5.6%	\$783,829	1.9%	\$704,942	-10.1%	\$782,652	11.0%
April	\$810,450	0.8%	\$822,209	1.5%	\$793,352	-3.5%	\$874,407	10.2%
Yr Total	\$8,316,333	-11.5%	\$7,968,706	-3.3%	\$8,104,458	0.3%	\$8,494,997	4.8%

City and state budget updates

We have now completed the department budget presentations to the Finance Committee, and will complete the presentations to the City Council on June 8th. Finance Committee has agreed to recommend to City Council a series of adjustments to the recommended budget, including restoration of \$130,000 to the library budget to avoid a reduction in the number of hours that the Central and Eastside branches are open to the public. Council will conclude their consideration of the budget on June 15th by giving final direction to staff on any adjustments to the recommended budget, including those already recommended by the Finance Committee. Budget adoption is scheduled for June 22nd.

The state budget situation remains the same, and it is too early to forecast what will happen. By statute, the budget should be adopted by the state before the June 30th fiscal year-end.

Fire Department

New to the crew

Congratulations to the city's new firefighters, who graduated the multi-agency training academy on May 7th: Brady Beck, Eric Fairbank, Bill Kavanaugh, George Martinez, and Brian Ricci. Santa Barbara County and Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Departments also graduated new firefighters from the academy.

Fire Inspectors honored

Fire Inspectors Joe Poire and Marty Van Dyke were honored with the H. Thomas Guerry Award for their instrumental work that lead to a conviction in the Martin Hartmann arson murder trial.

Wildland Fire Plan

The City Council has formally approved implementation of the Wildland Fire Plan, which identifies and recommends specific fuel modification efforts to mitigate the impacts of wildfire. The next step involves setting priorities and developing timelines for executing the plan.

Library Department

Children's literacy

The Santa Barbara Public Library System promotes early literacy and reading readiness for children by providing pre-school story times at all library branches. In addition, two bi-lingual story times are held each week at the Eastside branch. Community outreach includes monthly library staff visits to 20 Head Start and state pre-schools located from Carpinteria to Isla Vista, to present English and Spanish stories and library information.

County Probation says thanks

Senior Librarian for Youth Services Janice Rorick, will be honored on June 2nd with a Distinguished Service Award presented by the Santa Barbara County Probation Department. Janice has been the library staff person responsible for establishing book deposit collections at the county's two juvenile detention camps, and also for providing writing skills and literature classes to these incarcerated youth. According to Probation Department staff, the juveniles have been extremely receptive to both the classes and the new variety of books now available to them. Janice and other library staff will continue these outreach activities into the next fiscal year.

Parks and Recreation Department

Public forum on neighborhood safety

The Community Centers' Advisory Committees are hosting a neighborhood forum to address safety concerns in neighborhood parks and public facilities. The June 16th forum is set for 6 p.m. at the Franklin Neighborhood Center. Representatives from the Police and Parks and Recreation Departments will be there to provide information on recent incidents reported in the neighborhood, take input, and offer residents effective ways to deal with problems.

Recreation Fair

The Adapted Programs section of the Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a Recreation Fair last month at MacKenzie Park. The purpose was to bring together agencies that provide services to the disabled, and to invite the community to join their programs. More than 25 agencies attended the event, setting up booths and providing interactive sessions for the approximately 100 families who attended. This first-time event, organized by the Adapted Programs Advisory Committee, was a tremendous success and achieved the goal of including and informing the disabled and special needs community about the programs offered by recreation agencies in Santa Barbara.

Free concert series starts July 1st

Sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, some of the music featured at this year's concerts in the Park series includes contemporary jazz, swing, flamenco, Latin jazz, and Zydeco. Concerts are Thursday evenings 6 - 8:30 p.m. at Chase Palm Park, July 1st through August 26th; and Sunday afternoons 3 - 4:30 p.m. at Alameda Park, July 11th through August 1st. Everyone is invited to bring friends and family, along with lawn chairs, blankets, and a picnic lunch or dinner. To have a concert schedule sent to you, please call (805) 897-1982. Concerts are made possible through generous grants from community foundations, and local media sponsors.

Teens speak out on substance abuse

The Teen Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP) Coalition partnered with the Santa Barbara Youth Council to host a Teen Speak Out in April on alcohol and drug issues in Santa Barbara. More than 125 teens from Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Ynez, and Santa Maria discussed the legal consequences of underage drinking and how to help friends who drink or take drugs. Attendees enjoyed free pizza, over \$1,000 worth of free raffle prizes donated by local businesses, plus entertainment by KISS-FM radio disc jockey and city employee Cyrus Alexander and local rock band "The Rosewood Fall." ADAP conducted an alcohol and drug survey, and collected signatures for several support letters. The Teen Speak Out was a success both as a community collaboration and a forum for local youth to share their perspectives on substance abuse issues.

Honoring young leaders

Teen Programs will host the 3rd Annual Youth Leadership Awards on June 7th at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion. Local youth agencies have nominated 14 teens to be recognized as Youth Leaders, and 27 additional teens will receive community service awards from Mayor Blum and the City Council.

Police Department

Child molester arrested

Santa Barbara and Bakersfield Police detectives worked jointly in January on allegations of continual sexual abuse of a father against his daughter, now age 21. She reported that while growing up in Santa Barbara, she was molested from age seven years until recently, when her father moved to Bakersfield. In addition to her compelling story, the victim had borne a child by her own father when she was 13 years old. Fear of her father's threats caused her silence until now. The thorough investigation substantiated her allegations, and on May 21st, the 45-year old father was arrested in Bakersfield. Officer Jaycee Hunter obtained a full confession, booking the man on molestation charges with bail set at \$150,000.

Stabbing suspect arrested

Officers responding last month to a stabbing call in the 100 block of S. Hope Avenue found an 18-year old man with a stab wound to his back, resulting in a collapsed lung. With assistance from La Cumbre Security, a 16-year old male was arrested in the vicinity. The knife was later recovered at the assault scene – a popular meeting place for those involved in the illegal graffiti culture. Both the victim and suspect have a history of bad blood over competing graffiti styles and 'turf.' The suspect went to juvenile hall, and the victim was treated at Cottage Hospital.

10- and 11-year old burglars caught

On May 14th, Officers Claytor and Klacking contacted witnesses who interrupted a break-in to an apartment on San Pascual Street. The officers were surprised to learn the three suspects were a 10-year old and two 11-year old children who had stolen thousands of dollars in jewelry. A man said the youths tried selling him some of the loot at a nearby convenience store. The suspects' parents were located, and assisted in corralling the three children. More stolen property was found, and the boys confessed to upwards of twenty residential burglaries on the Westside and Mesa neighborhoods over six weeks.

Body found in towed vehicle

On May 20th, a security guard at the Vons Store on Coast Village Road called for removal of a truck with a camper shell that had been left in the lot for four days. The truck had Iowa license plates, and Santa Barbara Police Department officers verified that the truck was not reported stolen. The tow truck operator opened the cab portion of the truck, but could not gain access to the camper portion. After towing the vehicle to a lot on E. Yanonali Street, towing company personnel noticed a foul odor emitting from the camper and called police. Officer Dave Williams and Sgt. John Corre ordered the camper forced open, where they found the body of the vehicle's owner – a 57-year old Iowa man. He had been dead approximately seven days, since about the time the vehicle was first noticed at the Vons parking lot. There were no signs of foul play, and the coroner ruled the death as natural causes.

Broadmoor Plaza clean-up

Officer Chamberlain joined residents and landlords at the 1st Annual Broadmoor Plaza/Richland Drive Neighborhood Clean-up Day last month. Dumpsters were donated for trash and recycling, and Boy Scouts assisted elderly or disabled residents with donated shopping carts to transport the trash to a collection site. A Goodwill Industries truck collected charitable items. In addition to answering general questions, Officer Chamberlain provided safety brochures and home security checklists for all residents. All who participated hailed the event as a success.

Public Works Department

Micheltorena Bridge celebrated

The Caltrans, Micheltorena Bridge Replacement project is now complete. Improvements included widening on-bridge sidewalks from five to nine feet; narrowing the shoulder traffic lanes from 12 and eight feet to six feet; making provision for 12 new pedestrian lights; and widening off-bridge sidewalks from five to seven feet, north and south of the bridge. In celebration, Mayor Blum and the Caltrans district director held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 1st.

Cell phones for seniors

The City of Santa Barbara's Recycling Program and Carrillo Recreation Center have teamed up to donate working cell phones to senior citizens who need a phone for emergencies. Unwanted cell phones, along with battery chargers and accessories can be dropped off at the ABOP Recycling Center, 401 E. Yanonali Street on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., (805) 560-7505; or at the Carrillo Recreation Center, 100 E. Carrillo Street, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m.-noon, (805) 897-2519. No commercial phones please.

Students doing good in the neighborhood

A group of 300 Santa Barbara High School seniors led by Looking Good Santa Barbara tackled a campus and neighborhood clean-up effort in April. In two hours, the students covered 15 city blocks – retrieving abandoned shopping carts, picking up litter, and painting out graffiti. The students earned community service hours in exchange for their good work.

Anti-graffiti message to local schools

Graffiti in Tahiti by author Victoria Wilson-Meritt is the first and only children's book to tell a story that literally illustrates the problem of graffiti vandalism, offers solutions, and encourages volunteerism and community pride. Looking Good Santa Barbara (LGSB) and the Santa Barbara Police Department donated copies and provided guest readings of the book to local elementary schools during April and May. The program resumes in July, and a reading schedule is available from LGSB at (805) 386-2361.

Street-smart remedy

If you notice a couch, mattress, or other large item that appears to be abandoned or illegally dumped on a city street, sidewalk, or parkway, you can call the City Streets Division at 564-5413 to have it picked up. Please call with a street address near the abandoned item(s).

Sewer inspection program

The city continues a program begun last month of inspecting up to 50,000 feet of sanitary sewer pipeline. Pro Pipe, Inc. has been contracted to conduct internal pipeline inspection and evaluation of the city's wastewater system large-diameter pipeline infrastructure. Inspections are scheduled from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m., due to the high volume of flow during the day which adversely affects pipeline inspection procedures; and also to avoid disrupting traffic and businesses during the day.

Public meeting notice

A beautification project on Milpas Street, between Quinientos and Cannon Perdido Streets is being proposed by the city. Various improvements are being considered such as decorative crosswalks, better lighting, traffic medians, etc. Two public meetings are scheduled to receive public input: June 9th from 7:30 - 10 a.m. at the Cultural Arts Pavilion and June 15th from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library.

Waterfront Department

Cruise ship repeat visit

A Norwegian Cruise Lines ship, "The Pride of Aloha" will call on Santa Barbara twice during June – on June 9th and again on June 16th. The luxury liner accommodates 2,100 passengers and 800 crew members. For both visits, the ship arrives around 7:30 a.m. and departs by 6 p.m. The first cruise originates in San Francisco and concludes in San Diego. The second cruise begins in Los Angeles and ends in San Francisco. The final destination will be Hawaii, where the ship will make Honolulu her permanent port.