



City Administrator's Report

July 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:

July 13, 20, 27 ▪ Santa Barbara City Council

Flags on State Street:

July 1 - 8 ▪ Independence Day (American Flags)

July 8 - 22 ▪ Santa Barbara Museum of Art

July 22 - 31 ▪ City Flag/Fiesta

Holidays:

July 4 ▪ Independence Day – City Hall closed on Monday, July 5

Free Concerts at Chase Palm Park, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

July 1	Lula & Afro-Brazil – Brazilian Carnival
July 8	Lao Tizer Band – Contemporary Jazz
July 15	Peter Feldmann and the Very Lonesome Boys – Bluegrass
July 22	Scott Martin Latin Jazz Band – Latin Jazz
July 29	Benise – Nouveau Flamenco

Free Concerts at Alameda Park, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

July 11	J.T. and the Zydeco Zippers – Cajun Creole
July 18	Kenny Blackwell & Dorian Michael – Acoustic Country Blues
July 25	Robert Thomas Band – Texas-Style Blues
August 1	Tom Buckner Band – Contemporary Jazz

Community Events:

- July 1 - 11
 - 67th Annual Semana Nautica Summer Sports Festival, www.semananautica.com, (805) 897-2680

- July 4
 - Spirit of '76 Independence Day Parade, State Street from Micheltorena to Cota, 1 p.m.

 - Santa Barbara Symphony Pops Concert, Courthouse Sunken Gardens, 4 p.m.

 - 4th of July Fireworks SPARKLE Beach Party, West Beach, 7-10 p.m., (805) 564-5418

 - Fireworks display, off of West Beach, 9 p.m.

- July 17
 - Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk, Chase Palm Park, (805) 563-0020

- July 17 - 18
 - Santa Barbara French Festival, Oak Park, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., www.frenchfestival.com, (805) 564-PARIS

- July 25
 - 12th Annual Black and Blue Ball to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Fess Parkers Doubletree Resort, 4 - 11 p.m., (805) 563-0456

- July 31 – August 1
 - Santa Barbara Greek Festival, Oak Park, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., (805) 683-4492

- August 4 – 8
 - Santa Barbara's Old Spanish Days Fiesta, www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org, (805) 962-8101

City Administrator

Budget update

The City Council on June 22nd adopted the city's fiscal year 2005 operating and capital budget of just over \$224 million. This concluded a 10-week public review process including seven public hearing dates and the review of each department budget by City Council and the Finance Committee.

The state budget situation is still unclear. As of this writing, the state still had not adopted a budget and it appears that, once again, the state will start a fiscal year without an adopted spending plan. Unfortunately, one major policy issue that is still under discussion between the governor and the legislative leadership is the governor's agreement with local governments. Under that agreement, local governments have agreed to contribute \$1.3 billion per year for the next two years to solve the state's budget deficit. In return, the governor has committed to seek legislative approval for a November statewide ballot initiative to protect local government revenues from future state raids.

Budget Update continued...

The governor has also committed to actively campaign for passage of the ballot initiative. Unfortunately, the governor is encountering some resistance from legislators who are reluctant to give up their control of local government finances. The League of California Cities continues to lobby for legislative approval of the agreement between the governor and local governments.

Employee update 2004

City Administrator Jim Armstrong is meeting with city employees to provide updates on changes, internal programs and activities, outside projects, the financial situation and an opportunity for questions and answers. He has met with more than 100 employees and plans to meet with a lot more in the remaining six meetings being held citywide. Attendance is voluntary and open to all regular employees.

Management Performance Plans for FY '04 and '05

Meetings are being scheduled to complete fiscal year 2004 and 2005 Management Performance Plans. The process begins this month and involves identifying and tracking specific performance objectives, evaluating progress on citywide objectives, evaluating management skills, and the proposed management plans for 2005.

P³ accountability

In April 2002, the City of Santa Barbara implemented the P³ management system to promote long-term planning, leadership development, and organizational learning for employees at all levels of the organization. Performance objectives are incorporated in the annual budget, monitored with quarterly status reports, and tied to management performance evaluations. P³ encourages teamwork and organization-wide participation, as management, supervisory, and line staff share ideas about organizational effectiveness and efficiency. Some 40 customer satisfaction surveys are being conducted to improve service quality.

The city's P³ program was presented at the 2004 Transforming Local Government Conference in Reno, Nevada. City Administrator Jim Armstrong, Assistant to the City Administrator Nina Johnson, and Wastewater Collection System Superintendent Manuel Romero worked with city officials from Tucson, Arizona to deliver a presentation on management systems that are changing the culture of our organizations.

Labor negotiations underway

All of the labor agreements with the city's bargaining units are up for renegotiation for the 2004 and 2005 fiscal year. Staff is actively negotiating with the police management, temporary employees, and firefighter bargaining units. Negotiations with the police, general, and treatment and patrol bargaining units are expected to begin this month.

Parks and Recreation Director recruitment

The selection process continues. An announcement is expected by the end of this month.

“Inside Santa Barbara” on City-TV Channel 18

The July edition airs from July 7th through August 7th, with the following program lineup: Wildfire Preparedness Plan, Sheffield Reservoir Update, Santa Barbara Sister City – Dingle, Ireland, Santa Barbara City Youth Council, and Eastside Neighborhood Improvement Projects. 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.

Airport Department

Lawsuit decision favors airfield safety project

The airport's Airfield Safety Project which includes extension of the safety overrun areas at each end of the main runway received the green light following a lawsuit by the City of Goleta. Superior Court Judge Bysshe issued a tentative decision last month in favor of the City of Santa Barbara and the State Coastal Commission. The Ventura court found the April 2004 Coastal Commission determination to be valid for the airfield project relative to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. Design of the project balances public safety with minimizing potential adverse impacts on sensitive wetlands.

Interim Airline Terminal improvements

Space issues related to passenger and baggage screening operations and an increase in passengers have caused flight delays. As reported in February 2004 to City Council, Airport Commission, Planning Commission, Architectural Board of Review and Historic Landmarks Commission, airport staff is proceeding with plans to make interim Airline Terminal facility improvements. A modular building will be installed immediately south of the terminal for relocating the American Eagle, Horizon Air, and America West Express ticketing. The south lobby will be converted to provide additional security hold-room space. These temporary measures will improve the efficiency of passenger security screening, increase hold-room seating, and help prevent flight delays caused by current screening constraints. The improvements are estimated to be complete by summer 2005.

Five-month year-to-date passenger count up 12.3%

During May, 68,354 passengers arrived at and departed from Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) – a 13.4% increase over the same month last year. There were 1,800 outbound seats available from SBA in May aboard 44 daily departures. The most popular flights were to Denver, averaging 81% full, followed by Las Vegas with an 80% load factor. The average passenger volume on SBA's nine non-stops was 66.8%; up 3% over May 2003.

Visitors via the airport bolster local economy

The most recent Airport Economic Impact Study concluded that hundreds of thousands of visitors pass through the airline terminal each year, spending over a half billion dollars and creating 14,000 jobs. Among leisure travelers using Santa Barbara Airport, nearly half stayed in hotels or motels thereby contributing to city general fund revenues. Leisure visitors stayed an average of 6.9 days, while business travelers stayed an average of three days.

Community Development Department

New housing “in the pipeline”

To date, there are 1,203 new units either pending approval (728 units), approved (380 units), or with a building permit per the City's PermitPlan tracking system (95 units). Of the total 1,203 in the pipeline, more than half (612) are affordable housing.

Single Family Design Guidelines/Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance update

Well over 600 attendees responded to the Neighborhood Visual Survey public workshop outreach effort held March through May as part of the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance (NPO) Update process. Participants viewed numerous single-family home photographs, rating their preferences. The outreach successfully engaged interested community members, apprised them of issues involved with the NPO Update, and generated solution-oriented discussions.

Steering Committee meetings scheduled for July have been shifted to begin August 20th. This is due to significant staffing changes within the Design Review section, and to allow time to review issue papers. Scheduled topics will include floor-to-area ratio, and lot coverage design review options.

Fire Department

Service award

Administrative Firefighter Alan Reitz was honored with an outstanding service award from the Los Prietos Boys Camp. The award recognized Alan's mentoring role with students performing volunteer jobs for the Fire Department.

Gaviota fire

The City of Santa Barbara sent 23 firefighters and three engines over six days to assist with Gaviota firefighting efforts. The fire consumed 7,500 acres overall, with an early cost estimate of \$3.7 million. At the high point of the fire, 2,000 firefighters were utilized to control the blaze.

Restaurant fire

The Fire Department responded to a fire at Carlito's restaurant, 1324 State Street at approximately 12:30 a.m. on June 4th, and arrived to find fire coming out of the roof. Employees were evacuated and the fire was contained to the kitchen area with smoke damage throughout the restaurant. The cause of the fire was electrical in nature.

Finance Department

Sales Tax

Sales tax revenue for the quarter ended March 31, 2004 is up 6.8% from the same quarter last year. Because the state pays us with a combination of estimates and clean-ups – that cross fiscal years – the table below is on a calendar-year basis, which is a lot easier to follow. On a fiscal-year basis and barring any technical adjustments from the state, we anticipate that we will end fiscal year 2004 with a modest 2.8% growth. We previously estimated \$17,947,000 for the fiscal year (2% growth), and we now expect \$18,087,000. So we will be about \$140,000 (.8%) over estimate.

Quarter Ended	2001	Change from Prior Year	2002	Change from Prior Year	2003	Change from Prior Year	2004	Change from Prior Year
Mar 31	\$4,018,983	-0.5%	\$3,915,141	-2.6%	\$4,016,831	2.6%	\$4,289,056	6.8%
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%	\$4,765,855	4.8%		
Totals	\$17,600,496	-0.3%	\$17,369,979	-1.3%	\$17,692,615	1.9%		

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

As shown on the table below, May TOT was up approximately 9.6% from May of last year. We now have four months of strong growth. This was somewhat expected, because we have been building on the negative months of last year during the Iraqi war. Particularly encouraging is that these last few months are above our highs in FY 2001. We have one more month in this fiscal year and expect to exceed budget and year-end estimates.

	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%	\$875,760	10.4%
May	\$841,975	3.3%	\$856,251	1.7%	\$817,047	-4.6%	\$895,220	9.6%
FY Total	\$9,158,308	8.3%	\$8,824,957	-3.6%	\$8,921,506	1.1%	\$9,391,570	5.3%

Library Department

Emergency response for medical assistance

On Wednesday, June 16, one of the regular customers of the Central Library collapsed in the lobby. Staff members Ken Warfield, Nona Holguin, and others moved quickly to assist. The library patron, Robert Scott, did not appear to have a pulse but Mr. Warfield administered CPR while waiting for the arrival of paramedics and Fire Department personnel, who came to the scene within a few minutes. After additional medical actions were taken in the ambulance and at Cottage Hospital, Mr. Scott's heart started beating without aid. Though Mr. Scott was in critical care for several days, he passed away on June 24th. Library staff and Ken Warfield in particular, are commended for their fast response in taking action which made it possible for Mr. Scott to be resuscitated and treated by medical staff.

Wireless fidelity "wi-fi" pilot project

To accommodate requests from library users wishing to use their own laptop computers at the library to access the Internet, the library catalog and databases, or to conduct personal business, the Santa Barbara Public Library System has installed wireless Internet access at the Solvang Branch Library. Staff will monitor this pilot project for usage patterns and security, with the intention of installing wireless service at other Santa Barbara Public Library System locations throughout the next year.

Parks and Recreation Department

Teen's summer night program starts July 7th

Trips to Magic Mountain, Hurricane Harbor, and Universal Studios, along with local Friday night dances, open gym, after-hours teen lounge, and special bonus trips are available for 12- to 18-years olds through the Summer Late Nights program at www.sbparksandrecreation.com/teens offers. The teen site has links to the Youth Council, the Teen Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention program, Alley Teen Lounge, and Skater's Point. There's also a calendar of local teen events. For more information, call (805) 897-2650.

Young leaders recognized

Teen Programs was host to the 3rd Annual Youth Leadership Awards last month at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion. Fourteen teenagers were recognized as youth leaders, and 27 additional teens received community service awards. Mayor Pro Tem Iya Falcone welcomed the nearly 200 guests. Awards were presented by the city, and by representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Lois Capps, Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson and Senator Tom McClintock. Each honoree also received a letter from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger congratulating them for their outstanding contributions to Santa Barbara.

Public forum on neighborhood safety

The Community Centers' Advisory Committees hosted a public neighborhood forum last month at Franklin Center, to address safety concerns in Eastside communities, parks, and public facilities. About 45 residents attended. Representatives from the Police, Library, and Parks and Recreation Departments were on hand with information on how to respond to neighborhood incidents involving drug/alcohol use, public nuisances, vagrancy, and noise or traffic affecting public facilities.

Off-leash plan set for Douglas Family Preserve

The City Council took final action last month on the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan and Dogs Off-Leash policies for the Preserve, Shoreline Beach Area, and Hale Park. Effective July 23, 2004, dogs will be allowed off-leash seven days a week between sun-up and 1/2 hour after sunset on the Preserve, on the beach between the Shoreline Park steps east to the eastern edge of the Arroyo Burro Estuary, and at Hale Park. The Parks and Recreation Department will begin implementing the approved plan and an on-leash-only buffer zone at the Preserve as directed by City Council. Construction begins this month on a new, alternate trail – to define the buffer zone – further into the property along the western boundaries adjacent to homes. The existing trail will be abandoned, and temporary fencing will be erected following construction of the new trail to redirect pedestrian traffic.

Sycamore Creek clean-up and Cacique Street planting

In collaboration with the Eastside Study Group, Santa Barbara Beautiful and Santa Barbara Police Officers, the Creeks Division began tackling the overgrown vegetation along Sycamore Creek at Cacique Street and Soledad last month. With 50 neighborhood volunteers, the creek clean-up and planting day took the first step toward improving and restoring the creek. Santa Barbara Beautiful provided a \$5,000 grant to purchase native plants. Many plants were installed, and a second clean-up and planting day will be held in early August.

\$40K grant for creek DNA study

The Creeks Division has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation to support a DNA study for Arroyo Burro and Mission Creeks. The Switzer Foundation provides grants of up to \$40,000 to organizations which develop collaborative projects with Switzer Fellows to address key environmental concerns through its Leadership Grant Program. The study will be undertaken with UCSB and Switzer Fellow Dr. Holden, to help determine whether DNA-based source tracking methods can discern the presence of human fecal material in Arroyo Burro and Mission Creeks. The study will also identify the presence of fecal material from dogs and seagulls. The 18-month study begins this month.

Police Department

Pursuit nets armed fugitive

While patrolling the Westside last month, members of the Youth Services Investigative team spotted a convicted criminal who had been deported to Mexico a few years ago because of his record. Now reportedly in Santa Barbara, the man was known to carry a loaded gun and bullet-proof vest at all times. A chase ensued as the man drove off. The detectives followed in an undercover vehicle, and radioed for uniform patrol officers to assist. After crashing into a

telephone pole on West Padre Street and attempting to flee on foot, the suspect was apprehended by detectives. A loaded 9mm handgun was found in the small of his back, and a bullet-proof vest disguised as an Oakland Raider jersey was in the wrecked vehicle. A male passenger in the crashed vehicle received a major arm laceration from the collision. Both men were admitted to Cottage Hospital for treatment. An armed police guard remained on site until doctors authorized the release and transfer to county jail of the original suspect – who is being charged with parole violation, a warrant for entering the U.S. after being criminally deported, a felon with a loaded handgun, evading arrest, causing injuries, and possession of methamphetamine for sales. He is being held without bail.

Drug dealers arrested at labor line

Undercover members of the Tactical Patrol Force conducted a surveillance and arrest operation last month targeting suspected drug dealers loitering at the labor line on East Yanonali Street. The labor line is an area for people waiting to be picked up for casual labor jobs. This police action followed numerous complaints of increased criminal activity ranging from drug dealing, fighting, theft, public drinking, and public urination. Much of the more serious crime is attributed to stepped-up drug activity, especially involving use of cocaine and methamphetamine. The police operation concluded with the arrest of five suspects for felony charges of drug possession, drug dealing, and parole violation. All were booked at county jail.

The Tactical Patrol Force is a specialty police unit designed to combat street crime activity. Their tactics include undercover work, bicycle patrol, surveillance operations, and gathering of street level intelligence.

Public Works Department

Milpas Street beautification

To gather input on public improvement options available for Milpas Street between Quinientos and Canon Perdido Streets, Public Works held two public meetings last month. Public comments were taken to help define the scope of the project while staying within the \$500,000 construction budget. The Public Works Department will present the proposed project scope at a public meeting set for early this month. Final design is anticipated to begin this summer with construction slated for spring 2005.

Sidewalk projects

Two sidewalk projects are set for construction this fall and winter. The annual Sidewalk Repair and Access Ramp Project will repair sidewalk damage on Upper State Street between De La Vina and Hitchcock Way. Alternate materials such as brick, asphalt, interlocking pavers, and rubber sidewalk are proposed for the repair work. Seventeen access ramps will also be installed.

The annual Sidewalk Infill Project will install new sidewalk in 16 locations around the city where no sidewalk currently exists. The project includes new access ramps, curbs, gutters, and planted parkways. Locations for sidewalk installation are ranked by the Transportation Planning Division to meet the goals within the Pedestrian Master Plan and Circulation Element, and Federal Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

New telecom system for El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant

The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant has completely upgraded its telecommunications system to include a new paging system and telephone switch, new telephones, and new phone numbers. The new, in-house city phone numbers will be 568-1000 thru 568-1099, and all numbers will be direct-dial. With the installation of the additional telephone lines, plant personnel will now be easier to reach.

City Hall to upgrade voicemail system

To alleviate high maintenance costs, the voicemail system at City Hall is scheduled for replacement. A new, NEC AD-120 Voicemail Server will be installed later this month to fully integrate with the city's Microsoft Outlook program. Staff will be able to check voicemail by phone or by computer. This system will affect only those departments and facilities currently connected to the City Hall's telephone switch, which includes the Harbor, Cabrillo Arts, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Engineering, Community Development, City Hall, El Estero, Water, Cater, Fire, Carrillo Recreation, Streets, Motor Pool, and Purchasing. Those not affected by the change are Police, Library, Airport, Downtown Parking, and city staff who do not have four-digit dialing.

Saving energy at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant

Work is scheduled to begin this month on two energy-related projects at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. First, a new, smaller blower critical to the treatment process will be installed. At half the size of the existing blower, the replacement is expected to significantly reduce energy demand at the plant. This project was partially funded with grant money from the California Public Utilities Commission.

In addition, a fuel cell will be installed to generate electricity and supply heat by using digester gas (methane) as the hydrogen fuel source. An estimated 50 percent of the plant's energy demand is expected to be met by electricity from the fuel cell. Alliance Monterey LLC owns and operates the fuel cell, and will sell electricity to the plant at a cost of 8.5 cents per kilowatt hour. This is less than the current cost for electricity purchased from Southern California Edison.

“Save Water, Save a Buck” commercial rebate program

Santa Barbara County businesses can save money and water by participating in the “Save Water, Save a Buck” program. Coordinated by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, the program offers rebates to commercial water customers who install water-efficient fixtures including toilets, urinals, and clothes washers. Participating water purveyors include: City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, City of Santa Maria, City of Lompoc, Carpinteria Valley Water District, and Montecito Water District. This program is funded by the California Department of Water Resources Proposition 13 Water Use Efficiency Grant Program and the partnering agencies. For more information, call (800) 215-7559, or go to www.sbwater.org.