



City Administrator's Report

October 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
564-5301

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

Key Meetings:

October 5, 12, 19, 26 • City Council

Community Events:

- October 1-3 • 1st Annual Harvest Draft Horse Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds, www.earlwarren.com
- October 2 • Heart & Sole AIDS Walk, Leadbetter Beach, runner registration at 7 a.m. & walker registration at 9 a.m. (805) 963-3636 ext. 107
• 3rd Annual Safety Fair, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. La Cumbre Plaza
• El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant Open House, 520 East Yanonali Street, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., (805) 897-2672, http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/departments/public_works/water_resources/
- October 8-10 • Santa Barbara Festival of Art & Jazz, Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens (805) 695-8686, or www.santabarbarafestival.com
- October 9 • Mental Health Arts Festival, De la Guerra Plaza, 2-8:30 p.m., (805) 898-0129
• Barbara Ireland Walk for the Cure for breast cancer, Chase Palm Park-Pavilion & Great Meadow, 8 a.m. (805) 509-4930
• Harbor and Seafood Festival, Waterfront Harbor, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., (805) 897-1962
- October 16 • MS Bike Tour & Fest, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Leadbetter Beach. Start times from 7-11 a.m. (805) 682-8783, or www.nationalmssociety.com
- October 27-30 • Sustainable Landscape Fair, Alameda Park (805) 564-5574
• Flamenco Arts Festival, various downtown venues, www.flamencoarts.org
- October 30 • Rotary Wheel Chair-ity Event, De la Guerra Plaza, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., (805) 963-3876
- October 31 • PEP Children's Costume Parade, Anapamu Street to De la Guerra Plaza, 11 a.m. (805) 687-8785

Flags on State Street:

October 1-7	Ensemble Theatre
October 7-21	Community Arts Music Association
October 21-31	Fighting Back – Santa Barbara Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

City Administrator

Proposition 1A: Proposition 1A is an initiative that will be on the November ballot that will prevent the State Legislature from taking and using funds originally committed to local government.

Prop 1A also requires the State to reimburse local governments for the cost of programs and services it mandates cities, counties and special districts to provide. If the State fails to provide reimbursement to local governments for state-mandated local programs, the mandate must be suspended, except for specified employee rights and benefits.

Prop. 1A allows for flexibility in the event of a future state fiscal emergency. The State may borrow local government funds, only if the governor declares a fiscal necessity and 2/3 of the legislature approve. All funds must be repaid within 3 years.

Over the past dozen years, in both good economic times and bad, the State Legislature has shifted more than \$40 billion in property taxes to the state from cities, counties, special districts and redevelopment agencies, in order to help pay for state responsibilities through fiscal year 2004. This shift has cost the City of Santa Barbara about 20 million. The amount diverted from local budgets keeps growing and now amounts to nearly \$5 billion annually, or \$3.7 million in the City of Santa Barbara this fiscal year.

Earlier this year Proposition 65 was put on the ballot by many of the same groups that are now supporting Proposition A. All of the official proponents of Prop 65 are now supporting Prop 1A, and opposing Prop 65.

The official ballot label for Prop 1A explains what Prop 1A does:

“Ensures local property tax and sales tax revenues remain with local government thereby safeguarding funding for public safety, health, libraries, parks, and other local services. Provisions can only be suspended if the Governor declares a fiscal necessity and two-thirds of the Legislature concur.”

If you would like more information on Prop 1A, the Secretary of State lists the following contact information for the proponents and opponents of the measure:

Proponents:
Yes on 1A Californians to Protect Local
Taxpayers and Public Safety
1121 L Street, Suite 803
Sacramento, CA 95814
(800) 827-9086

Opponents:
Carol Migden, Chairwoman
State Board of Equalization
601 Van Ness Avenue., #E3-611
San Francisco, CA 94102

info@yesonprop1a.com or www.yesonprop1a.com

Neighborhood Improvement Program

Fighting graffiti: Last month the Ordinance Committee received and endorsed a staff recommendation to establish an Ordinance and a program to combat the growing graffiti problem in our city. The program will be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration before presentation to Council. In coordination with the City, the County has launched a program to paint over graffiti on the flood control district channel which meanders through our city.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) surveys local merchants: The committee visited approximately 30 businesses on the eastside and completed a short survey with the employees. Response from the business community was very positive as were most of their written comments regarding police service. Another walk by the CAC is tentatively scheduled for sometime in October and will include the city's westside and north end.

Cleanup activities:

- The Police Department continues working with the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments in planning a large scale cleanup of the area around the railroad tracks and Los Patos Way.
- Officers engaged in a reconnaissance at TV Hill last month to assess the scope of illegal camping there and the potential fire hazard. This is part of an effort aimed at cleaning up the hillside. They were accompanied by a City-TV cameraman who documented the scene.
- Zoning is working with the Police and Public Works Departments to clean up Western Avenue and remove illegally parked commercial vehicles, inoperable vehicles, miscellaneous items, and illegal encampments. Orange Avenue and the alley behind Orange Avenue, adjacent to the railroad tracks, are also slated for cleanup.
- The Parks and Recreation Department removed illegal encampments on the beach directly across from the Chase Palm Park restroom, from behind the Oak Park dance floor, at Municipal Tennis Courts (Court 12), at the Ortega Park main picnic area, and at the southwest corner of Sunflower Park. They also pruned shrubs at the Main and Eastside libraries and at the corner of Cota and Laguna Streets, removing the illegal encampments from both locations.
- Las Positas clean up removes 18,000 pounds of debris: City streets maintenance staff, along with the Police Department and Union Pacific, removed trash and graffiti under the Las Positas Bridge at Highway 101. About 20 gallons of paint was used to cover graffiti on both sides of the underpass.

City-TV wins programming awards from National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA): At the annual NATOA conference in San Francisco last month, City-TV won first place in the Community Awareness category for *El Estero: Keeping Santa Barbara Clean and Healthy*, and third place in the Magazine Format category for *Inside Santa Barbara*.

"Inside Santa Barbara" on City-TV Channel 18 -- October edition airs October 9th through November 6th: Features include the Granada Garage Groundbreaking and Construction Update, St. Francis Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Plan

Demonstration Project, St. Vincent's Affordable Housing Project, Mental Health Association Housing Project, Job Smart, Community Environmental Council Swim Across the Channel, and a Neighborhood Improvement Program Update. Weekly airtimes 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.

VIP Library Service benefits city employees: Books, videos, and audio materials can be requested via the City's Intranet for delivery to employees' desks. It's more important than ever to stay on top of the latest work trends and be a "Very *Informed* Person." The City of Santa Barbara is dedicated to becoming a learning organization, and committed to continuous improvement and quality services. The VIP Library Service is a joint venture of the City of Santa Barbara's Learning for Excellence and Achievement Program, the county Employee's University, and the Santa Barbara Public Library System.

"Give a Little Bit...": This year's Charitable Giving Campaign's slogan is "Give a Little Bit..." Look for your Department's presentation and give if you can.

Airport Department

A record 80,263 passengers arrived at and departed from SBA in August: That's a 7.2% increase over the same month last year. The national average for domestic travel for the same time period was 3.3%. The United Express flights to Denver experienced the highest average loads at 93.2%, followed by Horizon Air flights to Seattle with 83%. SBA provides non-stop service to six of the top ten U.S. airports in passenger usage: Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Denver, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Seattle.

Full-scale emergency exercise planned for 15 local emergency agencies: To gain practice in working as a coordinated team, the agencies and the Airport will respond to a mock scenario on October 6th, simulating an aircraft crash at SBA with multiple injuries and fatalities. The exercise meets the FAA requirement for SBA to serve regularly scheduled commercial airlines.

WWII vintage airport hangars outfitted for continued use: After 62 years, these five large, wooden WWII hangars are still actively used for aircraft storage. A recent structural analysis recommended the installation of new timber beams on the sliding door openings. Hangar 3 was recently re-roofed in addition to the installation of cantilever beams to strengthen the support system for exterior walls and doors.

Community Development Department

Potential Redevelopment Project at Carrillo and Chapala on the horizon: The Redevelopment Agency Board will be considering a potential mixed-use, public-private partnership project on the westerly half-block bounded by Carrillo, Chapala, Figueroa, and State Streets. This is the current location of City Parking Lot 3, the Metropolitan Transit District's Transit Center, the Greyhound Bus Depot, and the Saks Fifth Avenue valet parking lot. The site is underutilized for its urban location, and some of the existing improvements are outdated and

rundown. This fall, the Redevelopment Agency and MTD boards and private property owners will be considering a jointly-funded planning process that could result in inviting mixed-use development proposals. The project could include structured parking, housing on top of a parking podium, and retail. On September 23rd, a joint work session of the City Council and the Planning Commission responded favorably to further exploring the project.

Planning Commission Update: Long-range staff will kick off the General Plan Update on October 14th. The Planning Commission also will hold a concept review of the Caltrans-proposed Highway 101 Operational Improvements between Milpas and Hot Springs Streets, tentatively proposed to be at the Planning Commission for a Coastal Development Permit by the end of this year.

On October 21st, the Planning Commission will consider the restoration and expansion of the Granada Theatre. The changes will result in a slight reduction in the number of seats (from 1,600 to 1,550 seats), but will significantly improve acoustics, the stage and sets area, and provide more and larger dressing rooms, rehearsal facilities, and other amenities. A basement level would be added to provide a lounge, restrooms, and dressing rooms for the performers. One of the existing ground floor storefronts adjacent to the theatre's entrance would be used as the ticketing area. Space in the Granada tower on the second floor would also be used for the theatre's second floor lobby area.

Also on October 21st, the Planning Commission will hold a hearing to take comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Veronica Meadows, a 26-unit housing project proposed in the Las Positas Valley, generally across from Elings Park. The comment period for the Draft EIR ends November 5th.

Fire Department

Training with Carpinteria-Summerland Fire District: Last month, and for the first time ever, the Santa Barbara Fire Department participated in training exercises with crews from the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire District – on rope rescue techniques. We hope this will be a first step towards more cooperative involvement in training exercises.

3rd annual Safety Fair set for October 2nd: La Cumbre Plaza will host the event in the parking lot between Sears and Vons, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local safety agencies will include Fire, Police, CHP, Harbor Patrol, and many more. Digital fingerprinting will be available for children, along with bicycle helmet giveaways and fittings, Fire Safety House tours, car seat check-ups, and much more! Demonstrations will include the CHP Rollover Simulator, Police K-9 Unit, and fire truck operations. A fun-filled day of safety information is planned for the whole family. Come join us!

Dramatic incident: On September 20th, Engine 4 and the Squad Rescue vehicle assisted the County Fire Department with an incident call on Glen Albyn Drive. A 50-foot eucalyptus tree had fallen on a vehicle, killing a passenger. Fire crews set up a cribbing and lifting system in conjunction with cutting the base of the tree to extricate the victim. County Fire sprayed foam on a swarm of bees from a hive that became dislodged during the recovery operation.

Finance Department

Sales Tax: Final sales tax numbers for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 show that we were up 5.7% from the same quarter of the previous year.

The table below is presented on an economic perspective, not on a budgetary basis. Because the state's sales tax reporting and payment procedures do not align exactly with the requirements of standard accounting and financial reporting practices, the table does not reflect the exact amount of revenue "booked" in fiscal year 2004. Nonetheless, it is an accurate representation of the underlying economic transactions.

Quarter Ended	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year
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%
Mar 31	\$3,915,141	-2.6%	\$4,016,831	2.6%	\$4,289,056	6.8%
June 30	\$4,349,512	-3.9%	\$4,373,358	0.5%	\$4,621,598	5.7%
Totals	\$17,318,903	-2.6%	\$17,495,515	1.0%	\$18,213,080	4.1%

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT): The table below shows August TOT was up only 0.1% from the prior fiscal year, and after two months our growth fiscal year 2005 year-to-date is 4.1%.

	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,171,041	-2.8%	\$ 1,183,951	1.1%	\$ 1,198,952	1.3%	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%
Aug	1,276,212	2.3%	1,328,278	4.1%	1,349,990	1.6%	1,350,700	0.1%
FY Total	\$ 2,447,254	-0.2%	\$ 2,512,229	2.7%	\$ 2,548,942	1.5%	\$ 2,652,352	4.1%
Budget	\$ 9,779,115		\$ 9,974,700		\$ 10,273,900		\$ 10,684,900	

Library Department

Santa Barbara joins the state-wide "Cities That Read" campaign: The program encourages city and county governments to adopt literacy as a local priority by promoting reading skills, comprehension, and providing communities with an entry into the state and national dialogue on our nation's increasing, low-literacy adult population. In our own community, the Santa Barbara Public Library's Adult Literacy Program recruits adult learners and tutors, and has a very successful record of assisting learners to reach their goals for improved reading skills.

Reading is Fundamental: Throughout October, Santa Barbara Public Library youth services staff will be visiting local second-and-third graders to talk about reading and using the school and public libraries. These visits are part of the library's "Reading is Fundamental" program, which takes place three times this year at Franklin, Cleveland, and Washington schools in Santa Barbara, at Isla Vista Elementary, and at Main, Alisos, and Canalino schools in Carpinteria. To encourage the reading habit at school and at home, each student receives a new book to keep. Judging from the children's' comments, these books are treasured gifts.

Parks and Recreation Department

Los Baños swimming pool closes October 1st at 2 p.m. through October 18th for maintenance: This is the longest closure of the pool since the 1988 completion of the locker room. Staff will be replacing the expansion line in the pool, evaluating the condition of the pool plaster, and cleaning the facility.

Creek Week is October 2nd through October 10th: During this annual series of events, the community can learn more about our creeks and watersheds, and the many ways to enjoy and protect them. Jointly hosted by the Santa Barbara Creeks Program, the county, and several community environmental organizations, this year's events include tours of restoration projects, water quality monitoring activities, and surveys of local creeks. The week concludes with a fun filled Creek Fest at Arroyo Burro Beach on October 10th. This family-oriented event offers puppet shows, up-close activities with creek wildlife, a Chumash storyteller, games, and prizes. Check local newspapers for a complete list of events, or call (805) 897-2658.

Kid's World closes for maintenance from October 25th through November 24th: The popular playground at Alameda Park will be open for Thanksgiving weekend, with the wooden structure fenced off to prevent access to the playground. Work will include replacing worn out parts and safety surfacing, and sealing the entire wooden structure.

Police Department

Spanish Academy "road trip:" Last month, the first session of a Spanish language Citizen's Academy was held at 322 Ladera Street. Chief Sanchez greeted and thanked the group for participating. This is the first time a Citizen's Academy class was taken 'on the road.'

Crosswalk safety operation: In response to many complaints from residents and business owners, a pedestrian crosswalk safety operation was held at 1100 Coast Village Road. Several inconsiderate motorists were cited, and hundreds more were reminded to drive responsibly.

Skateboarding crook caught: A 20-year-old riding his skateboard on the sidewalk at 1300 State Street in violation of the City's Municipal Code ignored a police officer's orders to stop. Two local electricians observed the chase and tackled the man to the ground until the officer arrived and applied handcuffs. Two ounces of high grade marijuana, scales, evidence of drug sales, and \$400 in small bills were found in the skateboarder's backpack. He was booked for possession of marijuana for sale, drug paraphernalia, and resisting arrest.

Fleeing suspects caught in Mission Creek: When officers visited the De la Vina Street residence of a wanted fugitive, both the suspect and a second fugitive ran out the back door, jumped a neighbor's fence, and slid down a 16-foot retaining wall to the stagnant waist-deep Mission Creek. They slogged through 100 feet of mud and reeds before surrendering to a ring of waiting officers. A summoned Fire Department ladder enabled them to climb the embankment. Officers found baggies of methamphetamine discarded by one suspect floating near their furthest point of attempted escape. The 26-year-old man was arrested for parole

violation, drug possession, and resisting arrest. The 24-year-old woman was arrested for probation violation and resisting arrest.

Dating scam con man arrested: In September 2003, a local 56-year-old businesswoman met a 49-year-old man advertising his romantic availability through an online dating service. The man – a British citizen – purported himself to be a wealthy engineer involved in secret UK security operations. Romantic phone conversations and e-mails led to the woman providing housing for him at her residence, buying him a new, \$70,000 Porsche, and giving him \$70,000 cash toward a property investment in England. In February 2004, the man arrived in Santa Barbara accompanied by his American wife, claiming that she was his personal assistant assigned by a British intelligence organization. The relationship scam included the husband and wife taking the Porsche cross country and returning to England. Discovering she'd been duped, the suspect contacted police, who traced and recovered the car in Georgia. Police also tracked the man's movement in England and his plans to return to the U.S. The two suspects were arrested at Miami International Airport on September 1st and returned to Santa Barbara under armed guard. Evidence was recovered showing that the man communicated with hundreds of lonely women. Further investigation will determine if there are additional victims.

Public Works Department

Street sweeping expansion: Residential street sweeping on the east and west sides is scheduled to begin on October 4th. Those neighborhoods that will have parking restrictions for street sweeping will have the month of October as a grace period. Beginning November 1st, parking enforcement officers will issue tickets to cars violating the parking restrictions.

Granada Garage construction underway: McCarthy Construction Company has completed the demolition on Lot 6 in preparation for the construction of the Granada Garage. The new structure will provide 572 parking spaces, downtown parking offices, a mid-block traffic signal leading to the Library, public restrooms, Paseo improvements and a bike station. The new parking facility will open to the public by November 2005, with the remaining projects to be completed in February 2006.

Alternate parking during construction is now available: Approximately 50 temporary parking spaces have been installed on the 00 blocks of Victoria Street. These spaces are in addition to the other temporary spaces along Anapamu Street, for a total of 210 spaces. This will offset the loss of parking with the closing of City Parking Lot 6, when construction of the Granada Garage begins. Access to these parking spaces is from Chapala and Anacapa Streets.

Anapamu traffic circle trial comes to successful completion: The trial installation of the traffic circle on Anapamu Street and Alta Vista Road ended on September 27, 2004. The purpose of the trial installation was to evaluate the behavior of motorists at the intersection to see if they understand that they must yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk, must yield to vehicles in the traffic circle and should yield to vehicles on their right if they reach the traffic circle at the same time. Staff was able to successfully evaluate this traffic calming device and made adjustments based on motorist behavior. Now that this trial has been concluded, staff will investigate other traffic calming devices for this intersection.

Transportation staff will implement a trial installation of traffic calming at four other intersections identified in the Council approved St. Francis Neighborhood Area Mobility Plan. This trial installation will take place during mid October and will remain in place for one to two weeks. The purpose of these trial installations is to permit staff the opportunity to adjust the installations to suit the behavior of motorist.

Santa Barbara Car Free recognition: The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District – lead agency for Santa Barbara Car Free – recently honored and thanked the project's partners for their outstanding volunteer service and contributions. The Transportation Division of the Public Works Department was among those honored at the August ceremony.

The Santa Barbara Car Free project has received an Environmental Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9. The project also received a 2004 Marketing Excellence Award for "Best Niche Marketing: Eco-Tourism" from the California Travel and Tourism Commission at the annual California Tourism Conference in March.

Promoting cleaner air, the project encourages car free, carefree transportation to and around Santa Barbara. The program has received federal transportation grant funds, is currently using existing promotional tools, and developing new ones to help tourists and residents "take a vacation from their cars."

City's water resources technician takes water conservation to classrooms: Each year, Water Resources staff provides presentations to students throughout Santa Barbara about how the city protects its water resources. For more information on the water education program, contact Elise Stephens at (805) 897-2672.

Waterfront Department

Sea Center remodel update: Last month, the Sea Center took delivery on its principal exhibit features – the new aquariums – which include a 24-foot long tide pool tank, complete with wave surge to reproduce the inter-tidal zone environment. The tank also features a clear acrylic "tunnel," allowing visitors to view tide pool life from the inside without getting wet.

On September 30th, the Sea Center's famous life-sized gray whale replica returned to the Wharf from its temporary home at the Museum of Natural History.

The project continues to be on schedule, with construction expected to be complete by early February 2005.

Diamond Princess visits: On September 24th, 2,600 passengers from the largest cruise ship in the Pacific visited Santa Barbara. Mayor Pro Tempore Iya Falcone participated in a plaque exchange ceremony aboard the ship, joined by city staff members Joan Kent, Marcelo Lopez, John Bridley, and Mick Kronman.

Eager cruise ship passengers were tendered ashore at Sea Landing and met by hospitality staff volunteers from the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, Conference and Visitors Bureau, Downtown Organization, and Harbor Merchants Association. The visitors took scheduled bus

and trolley tours of local Santa Barbara sites and some of the region's fine wineries. Returning to the ship, passengers filled out a survey about what they saw, bought, and liked most about Santa Barbara. Although results have yet to be reported, general comments about the visit were positive.

A voluntary environmental agreement between the city and Princess Cruise Lines prohibited the Diamond Princess from dumping or incinerating any waste within 12 miles of Santa Barbara, a distance well beyond the legal three-mile limit.

2004 Harbor & Seafood Festival is October 9th: Sponsored by the Page Youth Center, the event attracts nearly 15,000 people annually. This year's steering committee has planned a variety of activities for the whole family. Local fishermen will provide fresh seafood including albacore, shrimp, crab, and lobster. As always, there will be boat rides, bands, diver demonstrations, Maritime Museum tours, craft booths, and raffles. The public will be able to purchase seafood directly from commercial fishing boats at the City Pier and have their "catch" cooked on the spot.