



City Administrator's Report

November 2005

Dear Reader,

This monthly report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us.

James L. Armstrong
jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5301

Marcelo A. López
mlopez@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5304

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Key Meetings:

November 1, 8, 15, 22 ▪ City Council meets at 2 p.m. Depending on duration, an evening session at 6 p.m. may follow.

Holidays:

November 11 Veterans' Day

November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Holidays (City Hall closed)

Community Events:

November 5 ▪ Breast Resource Center's 7th Annual Holiday Boutique, 525 West Pueblo Street, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., (805) 569-9693, <http://www.bcrsb.org/>

November 6 ▪ 8th Annual Empty Bowls lunch to benefit the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, Rockwood Women's Club, (805) 967-5741, ext. 104, <http://www.foodbanksbc.org/events.eb.shtml>

November 8 ▪ Election Day

- November 19 & 20
 - Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Annual Nature Holiday Marketplace, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, 10 a.m – 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (805) 682-4726, www.sbbg.org
- December 2
 - 53rd Annual Downtown Holiday Parade, State Street, Sola to Cota Streets. For more information, call (805) 962-2098 ext. 22, <http://www.santabarbaradowntown.com>
- December 11
 - 20th Annual Santa Barbara Parade of Lights, Santa Barbara Harbor and Stearns Wharf, Santa Claus arrives at 3 p.m., parade starts at 5:30 p.m. and fireworks follow, (805) 897-1962, <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Visitor/Things/Waterfront/POL.htm>

Flags on State Street:

- November 4 - 14
 - Veteran's Day
- November 14 - 21
 - Planned Parenthood
- November 21 - 30
 - Downtown Organization Holiday Flags and Decor

City Administrator

"Inside Santa Barbara" on City-TV Channel 18: The November edition airs November 5th through December 7th. Feature segments include: the proposed new downtown parking rates; focus on the Police Department; Sea Center; Granada Theater improvements; and Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. "Inside Santa Barbara" weekly air times 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

September passenger traffic surpasses last year's by 2.9 percent: More than 72,000 passengers arrived and departed in September, bringing the year-to-date increase to 4.4%. The most heavily used routes were American Eagle's Dallas/Fort Worth service and United Express to Denver.

Airline Terminal Improvement Project RFQ underway: Statements of Qualification (SOQs) are being solicited from experienced architectural/engineering (A/E) firms to perform planning, design and construction support services for the Airline Terminal Improvement Project. A/E teams are being asked to include local architectural experience, historic preservation experience, and LEED accredited professionals. The new Terminal facility will measure approximately 60,000 square feet and provide all contemporary terminal services, including check-in, security screening, holdroom, bag claim, ATO, security operations center, meet-and-greet spaces, and concessions. Included in the Terminal scope of work is the relocation and rehabilitation of the original portions (approximately 7,000 square feet) of the existing terminal facility, constructed in 1942. The deadline for SOQ submittal to the city is 5 p.m. on November

21st. The RFQ is downloadable at <http://flysba.com>. Supervising Engineer Owen Thomas is the contact for additional information at (805) 692-6018.

Holiday travel tips: Thanksgiving week is the busiest flying time of the year. Passengers need to be prepared by arriving early (one-and-a-half to two hours before flight departure time), and packing sensibly. Before leaving home, travelers are advised to carefully look through the contents of their carry-ons, and place non-allowed items into their checked baggage. Additional travel tip information is available at the Transportation Security Administration website <http://www.tsa.dot.gov/public/display?theme=183>. Medications should be labeled, all baggage is subject to hand-search, and valuables and items that passengers will need immediately upon arrival are best stowed in carry-ons. Long Term Parking Lot 2, located off Hollister Avenue near Fairview Avenue, likely will be utilized for overflow parking. Drivers should drop off passengers then park and take the continuous van shuttle back to the Terminal. Due to security measures, the three-minute loading and unloading at Terminal curbside is strictly enforced by Airport Patrol.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Update:

November 3rd – The Planning Commission held a concept review of the project at 3885-3887 State Street that was considered at the October 20th meeting. Also at their October 20th meeting, the Commission requested that the applicant increase the setback from State Street and soften the design and architecture of the proposed mixed use project. The project presently proposes about 9,500 square feet of commercial space and 55 condominium units, of which 17 would be affordable.

November 10th – The Planning Commission will make recommendations to City Council on the proposed relinquishment of State Route 225 (Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive) by Cal Trans to the city. This would also include annexation of those parts of the road presently in the county, along with a number of parcels that are adjacent to the road in Las Positas Valley.

November 17th – The Planning Commission will provide comments to the Community Development director on a possible substantial conformance determination for a project at 6100 Hollister Avenue, near the airport.

Proposals sought from eligible applicants for fiscal year 2006-2007 CDBG and Human Service program: The city makes an annual application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds. These funds are made available to the city to undertake specific eligible projects and programs that develop a viable urban community by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment. In particular, these funds are required to be used for programs that principally benefit low- to moderate-income persons.

Applications will be released on November 4th and may be obtained at the Community Development Department, 630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara; or downloaded from the city's website at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov. A proposal workshop takes place on November 15th at 10 a.m. in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Applications are due

January 4, 2006 by 3 p.m. Interviews will be held on February 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th and 21st. Funding decisions will be made in late March 2006.

Finance Department

September TOT Up 19.1 percent: September was another very strong month for transient occupancy tax (TOT). Revenues for September were up 19.1% from the prior September. For the first quarter of fiscal year 2006, we are up 14%.

Month	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,183,951	1.1%	\$ 1,198,952	1.3%	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,898	13.5%
Aug	1,328,278	4.1%	1,349,990	1.6%	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%
Sept	849,174	5.0%	887,095	4.5%	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%
Oct	830,054	4.9%	863,919	4.1%	914,718	5.9%		
Nov	684,776	4.7%	696,742	1.7%	721,982	3.6%		
Dec	529,694	-1.8%	553,094	4.4%	575,075	4.0%		
Jan	583,413	14.2%	584,653	0.2%	606,484	3.7%		
Feb	616,824	0.9%	703,493	14.1%	699,349	-0.6%		
Mar	704,942	-10.1%	782,652	11.0%	872,554	11.5%		
April	793,352	-3.5%	875,760	10.4%	941,281	7.5%		
May	817,047	-4.6%	895,378	9.6%	1,001,450	11.8%		
June	942,897	-6.9%	973,955	3.3%	1,157,985	18.9%		YTD
FY Total	\$ 9,864,403	0.3%	\$ 10,365,683	5.1%	\$ 11,081,490	6.9%	\$ 4,091,915	14.0%
Budget	\$ 9,974,700		\$ 10,273,900		\$ 10,684,900		\$ 11,504,200	

Note: This report includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creek Restoration and Water Quality Improvement (Measure B).

Fire Department

“Teaming up for Safety: The fourth annual safety fair was held in De la Guerra Plaza on October 30th. This year’s event was held in collaboration with the Postpartum Education for Parents, 6th Annual Costume Parade, and the Downtown Organization’s “Trick or Treat” event.

After the parade, the costumed participants were able to visit booths staffed by emergency service providers, where they received important safety information and literature, along with candy! Participating city departments included Police, Fire, Waterfront, and Airport.

Contract awarded to upgrade fire station: A design contract was awarded to Kruger Bensen Ziemer Architects, Inc. (KBZ) for the preliminary design of renovations of Fire Station #1. The facility will be brought up to current performance and health standards, including seismic retrofit on the building. Constructed in 1959, the building has only undergone some crew-interior space modifications. The renovation is part of the Redevelopment Agency’s 2003 Allocation Bond Issuance at a funding level of \$3.3 million.

Library Department

Children's Book Week is November 14th-20th: The Santa Barbara Public Library System will be celebrating the 86th annual observance of Children's Book Week. This year's theme is "IMAGINE...where a book can take you." Bring the whole family to your library for storytelling and to share the joys of reading.

Resource guide for teachers: The Santa Barbara Public Library System (SBPL) has distributed copies of "Community Library and Resource Information Guide for Teachers K-12" to all schools within the library service area. The directory was produced by the Gold Coast Library Network, of which SBPL is a member, and lists organizations within the tri-counties that offer teachers curriculum-related materials, programs, and services. Included are organizations available for educational partnerships, sources for ecological, environmental and historical information, museums, newspapers and, of course, libraries.

Parks and Recreation Department

Construction begins in November on Arroyo Burro and Mission Creek urban runoff water treatment projects: Funded by a Clean Beaches Initiative grant from the California Water Resources Control Board and Measure B, the projects will divert polluted urban runoff from the Hope Avenue and Haley Street Storm drains to improve summer water quality in Arroyo Burro and Mission Creek. Construction at the Haley Street site begins on November 28th and will be completed by the end of December.

The diversions will take urban runoff from city storm drains to the sanitary sewer system for treatment at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Facility. Both locations are known to have high levels of indicator bacteria that contribute to poor creek water quality and beach warnings at Arroyo Burro and East Beaches. The project is designed for dry weather flows and both sites will operate from April 1st to October 31st each year, pending the end and start of the winter rains.

Mission Creek Stewards Project nearing completion: The Creeks Division, in collaboration with residents along Mission Creek at Vernon Road, will be wrapping up a three-month creek steward project with a planting day and neighborhood celebration on November 5th. The work involved removing overgrown non-native trees and shrubs, trimming trees and vegetation, and replanting locally grown native species. The goals of the project are to beautify the creek, reduce illicit activities including dumping and litter, and to enhance the riparian canopy. For more information about the neighborhood celebration, contact the Creeks Division at (805) 897-2658.

Thanksgiving feasts hosted by Parks and Recreation Department: The Active Adults section will celebrate its annual holiday dinner for seniors with a bus trip north to Cayucos for a Thanksgiving Day feast at Hoppe's Garden Bistro, an old-fashioned lodge with an English Cottage-style garden, and known for its delectable and elegant menus and vast wine selection. Hosted by Ralph and Marie Holmes, the tour departs from the Davis Center at 11:30 a.m. and returns around 6:30 p.m. Call Jason at (805) 897-2519 for information and reservations.

Also, Adapted Programs celebrates Thanksgiving for its participants at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center on Wednesday, November 23rd from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event, offered for more than 20 years, serves about 250 people, and is very popular among both participants and volunteers. RSVP required to (805) 564-5421.

Kids World scheduled for annual maintenance: Kids World in Alameda Park is scheduled for closure from Tuesday, November 1st to Wednesday, November 23rd for routine maintenance and annual staining of the play structure. The area will reopen in time for Thanksgiving.

Police Department

Guilty plea on eve of murder trial: Back in June 2000, 17-year-old Anita Lara went to Santa Barbara High School but never returned home. Her family reported her missing, and Santa Barbara Police Department (SBPD) investigated the case, but did not uncover an explanation for her disappearance. In February 2001, detectives received a phone tip from a jail inmate whose former cell mate had provided second-hand information that Anita Lara had been murdered. Detectives learned that a former acquaintance of the victim told three friends that he had killed Anita during a sexual encounter. The three 'witnesses' to the confession were contacted one-by-one. All three individuals related the same story about the same suspect claiming responsibility for killing Anita. Three days after receiving the tip, the suspect was arrested and charged with homicide. He confessed that he and the victim were having sex when he strangled her, and then disposed of her body in a nearby dumpster. The body apparently went to the Tajiguas Landfill, and by then was unrecoverable. His trial was postponed four years due to a judge's ruling on jury selection. On October 12th, the day before his trial was set to begin, the suspect pled guilty to second-degree murder. He faces 15 years to life in prison. Anita's family was satisfied with the conclusion, and believes they can finally move on in life.

Funny money ticket to jail: Last month, SBPD joined forces with the Secret Service to resolve a counterfeiting case that began when a local woman passed five counterfeit twenty-dollar bills at a downtown nightclub. A search warrant was served at her Cliff Drive apartment the following day, where detectives found several hundred dollars in phony money. They seized computers, printers, and false identification. In addition to the woman, police arrested three young men who masterminded the scheme. All were booked for various counterfeiting charges.

A day in the life: While contacting a witness on lower Milpas Street, an SBPD officer was approached by a 53-year-old local transient woman. She threw a half eaten orange at his patrol car. To avoid a confrontation, the officer drove a short distance away but the woman followed, throwing rocks at his vehicle. When the officer got out to contact her, she completely disrobed and wandered toward an approaching passenger train. Assisted by additional officers, the woman was safely detained and held for psychiatric evaluation. Events like this are just "a day in the life" of a patrol officer.

Public Works Department

Granada Garage parking structure to open on Thanksgiving weekend: Starting Wednesday, November 23rd, parking will be available only on the ground level and two basement levels for approximately 280 cars. The full 572 parking spaces are not anticipated to be available until January 2006 due to delays in the construction of the elevators. The Granada Garage Office Building that fronts Anacapa is on schedule for completion in March 2006.

Alternative sidewalk materials for Upper State Street: Completion of the Sidewalk Repair and Access Ramp Project is anticipated for early November. The project entails approximately 8,500 square feet of sidewalk repair and five new access ramps installed along State Street between De la Vina Street and Hitchcock Way, in addition to eight new access ramps at various other locations. The project used a combination of alternate construction materials at 19 chosen sites around Ficus trees as a trial to prolong sidewalk life around invasive tree roots. The alternate construction materials include rubber sidewalk, permeable concrete, concrete pavers, bio barrier, enlarged tree planters, and steel plate curbs. These alternate materials will be assessed and compared over the coming years to conventional sidewalk to determine if they could be used in future projects. Public Works staff invites you to walk the project and try out the innovative sidewalk materials.

El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant rehabilitation update: Several construction projects are underway to upgrade aged equipment and improve efficiency at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. Many of the improvements involve critical treatment processes that must continue operating during construction, making the projects even more challenging. The current projects include:

Project Name	Project Description	Project Cost	Percent Complete
Equipment Upgrades	Digester mixing system overhaul, new influent pump, new building to house sludge pump station, and landscape improvements	\$5.4 M	50%
Secondary Clarifier Improvements	Improvement and reconditioning of mechanical equipment that aids in clarifying the treated water.	\$3.5 M	60%
Belt Press Replacement	New belt press to dewater sludge and programmable logic control	\$490 K	33%
Primary, Secondary, and Aeration Project	Improvements to mechanical processes, and reconfiguration of biological reactors.	\$3.0 M	5%

Waterfront Department

Harbor Patrol Officer saves a life: On October 12th, Harbor Patrol Officer Larry Nufer responded to Brophy Brothers' downstairs clam bar, on a telephone report that an individual was choking. Displaying his training and calm professional demeanor, Officer Nufer applied the Heimlich maneuver to the victim, who was blue and whom other persons had tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate prior to his prompt arrival. After several vigorous applications of the maneuver, an airway was established and the victim, who had choked on a piece of gum, was revived. Without doubt, Officer Nufer saved the victim's life. Staff salutes his exemplary efforts, which reflect a first-response capability that is central to the Harbor Patrol's mission.

Harbor and Seafood Festival recap: Thanks to great weather, a great turnout and productive partnerships between the Waterfront Department, Harbor tenants and the Page Youth Center, the 2005 Harbor Festival was a smashing success. A bounty of lobster, shrimp, crab, albacore, and oysters complemented a dizzying array of activities that included tall-ship tours, free boat rides and seafood cooking demonstrations. Page Center volunteers, plus Waterfront staff, commercial fishermen, and volunteers from the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary worked elbow-to-elbow in food booths, including the famous albacore-and-crab booth where 1,200 meals were served. Staff thanks all those who participated in and attended the Festival. The 2006 Harbor and Seafood Festival is scheduled for October 14th.

AB 716—Abandoned Vessels: On September 26th, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law AB 716, a bill that helps discourage vessel abandonment and helps local agencies dispose of abandoned craft. Key provisions of the law, effective January 1, 2006, include:

- Reducing the time local law enforcement agencies must hold an abandoned vessel before lien-sale, from 90 days to 60 days;
- Allowing law enforcement agencies to remove from public waterways any vessel whose registration has been expired for more than one year; and
- Doubling the maximum fine for abandoning a vessel on public waterways from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

AB 716 resulted from recommendations of an Abandoned Vessel Advisory Committee appointed by the director of the California Department of Boating and Waterways. Santa Barbara's Waterfront staff participated on that committee.

Santa Barbara Parade of Lights: Santa Barbara celebrates this year's 20th Annual Parade of Lights on December 11th at the Santa Barbara Harbor with the theme, "The Roaring Twenties." The parade route takes participating boats westward from the Harbor, past the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Each boat entry competes for a grand, mystery prize, and there is no entry fee. Boat applications are available beginning November 4th at the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol Office, 132-A Harbor Way. For more information on this family-friendly event that includes fireworks, Santa's Village, 12 tons of snow, Santa, and more, call (805) 564-5532.