



City Administrator's Report

December 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.

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Key Meetings:

December 6, 13, 20 ▪ City Council

Holidays:

December 25 ▪ Christmas Holiday – City Hall closed on December 26

January 1 ▪ New Year's Day – City Hall closed on January 2

Community Events:

December 1-15 ▪ Toys for Tots toy drive – Collection boxes in City Hall and city departments. Collection day is December 15.

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 10 ▪ 54th Annual Old Time Milpas Street Holiday Parade & Car Show. Parade begins at 10 a.m., car show ends at 2 p.m. Parade Route: Milpas Street (from Cota to Mason Street), (805) 636-1995 or visit www.milpasassociation.org

- 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>
- December 17
- Tuba Christmas, Storke Placita, mid-700 block of State Street, 12-1 p.m., (805) 569-5008

Flags on State Street:

- December 1-5
- Unity Shoppe
- December 5-30
- Downtown Organization Holiday Flags and Décor

City Administrator

Neighborhood Improvement Program:

Illegal transient camp cleanup:

- November 10: The Parks Division, Park Rangers, and the Police Department cleaned up illegal transient camps throughout the Oak Park property, removing more than two tons of garbage. The Parks Division also pruned and removed vegetation in areas where transients could hide and illegally camp without being seen in Oak Park. These areas were on the hillside above the Sycamore picnic area, and an area nearest the Talliant Road Bridge.
- November 12: Parks Division and Park Rangers cleaned up an illegal transient camp at Las Positas/Arroyo Burro 6 acre parcel, removing more than one ton of garbage.
- November 13: Parks Division cleaned up an illegal transient camp on the Shoreline bluff. Assisted by the Police Department, they also cleaned up three illegal transient camps at East Beach, removing 300 pounds of garbage.

“Inside Santa Barbara” on City-TV Channel 18: The December edition airs December 7 through January 7. Feature segments include: Santa Barbara 2030 - General Plan Update; Focus on the Santa Barbara Police Department, Part II; Granada Garage Update; Kids World Refurbishment; Creek Planting Days; and Casa Esperanza One-Stop Services. “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.

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room gets audio system modifications: Three new speakers have been installed at the center of the room. They protrude down from the ceiling about four to five inches but not to worry, they look good. The new speakers, along with the feedback eliminator and the grounding modifications that electronic maintenance staff made, allow the audio volume in the room to be turned up at least 100 percent greater than before without causing feedback or receiving any unwanted interference from local AM radio stations. Staff will continue to make adjustments to zero in on the optimum settings for the room.

Airport

October passenger count was up: There was a 3.2% increase in passenger traffic at Santa Barbra Airport (SBA) over the same month in 2004. Close to 75,000 passengers arrived and departed in October, bringing the year-to-date total passenger count increase to 4.3%. The most heavily used routes were *American Eagle's* Dallas/Fort Worth service and *United Express* to Denver.

Tabletop Emergency Exercise on December 8: The Airport will conduct a tabletop exercise of the SBA Emergency Plan using a plausible scenario of an explosion on the Terminal ramp. All mutual aid agencies that would respond to an emergency incident at the airport have been invited to attend the exercise. Conducting regular emergency exercises is required by both the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration for all commercial service airports.

Airline Terminal Improvement Project progresses: Last month, the Airport Commission and the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) heard presentations and gave positive comment on the draft Program Criteria Document (PCD) which will serve as the foundation for the project design. Creation of the PCD was guided by the City Design sub-committee comprised of two representatives each from the Airport Commission, ABR, Historic Landmarks, and Planning Commission. Planning Commission and Historic Landmarks Commission are scheduled to hear a presentation and give comment this month, with the item on the City Council's December 13 agenda. The Airport Department received four competitive responses to a Request for Qualifications for a project design team. The teams will be interviewed later this month by a selection committee and the selected team will be brought before Council for approval early next year. The second public workshop for the project held on November 29 was a successful event with interested and diverse public attendance.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission update: Meetings are scheduled for December 1, 8, and 15, as follows:

- December 1: The Planning Commission considered a revised Veronica Meadows Project (900-1100 Las Positas Road) that includes relocating roads and lots further from Arroyo Burro Creek, a more detailed and extensive creek and habitat restoration plan – including a substantial increased restoration area – and other information in response to the Commission's questions.

- December 8: The commission will consider a revised State Street Lofts project (3885-3887 State Street) that includes reductions in square footage, setback modifications, and modest increases in the number of parking spaces.
- ~~December 15: CANCELLED~~

Finance Department

October Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) grows 5.3 percent from last October: While this is certainly a good growth rate, it is far below the level we experienced in the first quarter. Our fiscal year-to-date is now at 12.2%.

Month	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	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	\$ 1,171,041	-2.8%	\$ 1,183,951	1.1%	\$ 1,198,952	1.3%	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%
Aug	1,276,212	2.3%	1,328,278	4.1%	1,349,990	1.6%	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%
Sept	808,657	-15.1%	849,174	5.0%	887,095	4.5%	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%
Oct	790,919	-5.8%	830,054	4.9%	863,919	4.1%	914,718	5.9%	963,181	5.3%
Nov	653,829	-5.4%	684,776	4.7%	696,742	1.7%	721,982	3.6%		
Dec	539,598	-9.2%	529,694	-1.8%	553,094	4.4%	575,075	4.0%		
Jan	511,090	-11.7%	583,413	14.2%	584,653	0.2%	606,484	3.7%		
Feb	611,322	-2.8%	616,824	0.9%	703,493	14.1%	699,349	-0.6%		
Mar	783,829	1.9%	704,942	-10.1%	782,652	11.0%	872,554	11.5%		
April	822,209	1.5%	793,352	-3.5%	875,760	10.4%	941,281	7.5%		
May	856,251	1.7%	817,047	-4.6%	895,378	9.6%	1,001,450	11.8%		
June	1,012,905	0.0%	942,897	-6.9%	973,955	3.3%	1,157,985	18.9%		YTD
FY Total	\$ 9,837,862	-3.3%	\$ 9,864,403	0.3%	\$ 10,365,683	5.1%	\$ 11,081,490	6.9%	\$ 5,054,987	12.2%
Budget	\$ 9,779,115		\$ 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

Ventura Fire response: In the early morning hours of November 18, a wildland fire broke out in the hills behind the City of Ventura. As part of a mutual aid response, Santa Barbara sent two- to four-person engine companies to assist with the firefighting. Luckily, no homes were lost in the 4,000 acre fire. Our firefighters returned to Santa Barbara on Sunday.

Library Department

Lots of staff changes: The Library Department is experiencing quite a concentration of staff retirements from late November through December. In the days to come, a number of familiar faces will be gone from the public service desks – Pam Bury, supervising librarian at the Goleta Branch; Shirley Morrison, children’s services librarian at Central; and Olivia Flisher, Ethel (Eddie) Quimby and Ken Warfield, reference librarians at the Central Library. Combined, these experienced and dedicated professionals have served Santa Barbara Public Library System patrons for more than 111 years.

Parks and Recreation Department

Stevens Park renovations completed: The restroom at Stevens Park has been completely replaced with a handicap-accessible facility designed in the Santa Barbara style--tile roof, wood rafters, and stucco walls. The new building is now modern, safe, and easier to clean. Perhaps the most significant improvement is the new sewer connection, allowing the removal of the existing septic system located very close to the adjacent creek. Another "green" bonus is the installation of electric hand driers to reduce paper waste. In addition, a new irrigation system was recently installed to replace the existing 30-year old system, and will water .86 acres of newly-planted turf seed.

Cabrillo restroom re-opens: After undergoing a facelift, the public restroom at the entrance to Stearns Wharf (Cabrillo Boulevard and State Street) is now open. New fixtures, such as mirrors, electric hand driers, graffiti-proof partitions, a baby-changing station, and new tile have been installed. Building Maintenance oversaw the project; Lash was the contractor, and Redevelopment Agency funds paid for the project.

PARC Foundation chosen as SBNP Holiday Fund recipient: The *Santa Barbara News-Press* selected the PARC Foundation as one of the two beneficiaries for their Holiday Fund, sharing the honor with the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation. The Holiday Fund drive runs through New Year's Day. The primary purpose of the PARC Foundation is to acquire, maintain and improve parkland throughout the Santa Barbara area. Projects it has funded include Skater's Point, the Douglas Family Preserve, playground renovations, summer camp scholarships, teen activities, and improvements to lawn bowling facilities. PARC is currently involved in the rehabilitation of Franceschi House.

Winter break youth activities provide solution for busy parents: Here's a way to help keep Santa Barbara school children busy during the extended three-week break. Send them to one of the Parks and Recreation Department's winter camps. ***The Great Escape for Kids*** is a full-day camp for grades K-6 focusing on a variety of sports, arts and crafts, and day trips. ***The Winter Skateboarding Clinic*** runs mornings at Skater's Point, where exclusive access to this popular facility helps kids learn to skate like the pros. Two sessions are available: December 19-23 and January 3-6. For complete information and registration forms, go to www.sbparksandrecreation.com or call Youth Activities at (805) 564-5495.

Teen Programs holiday adventures: Teens looking for something to do over the holidays won't want to miss the Junior High Jump-Off Dance on December 9 at the Carrillo Recreation Center. Teen girls can spend an evening pampering themselves with facials and pedicures on December 23. All aboard for Disneyland on December 28; and wrap up the season cheering on the Lakers at the Staples Center on January 4. For complete information and to sign up for any of these events, call Teen Programs at (805) 897-2650.

Applications now available for Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Award: The Santa Barbara Downtown Organization will present the Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Award and a \$500 scholarship to an outstanding local teen who has demonstrated leadership skills and community service. This award is given in honor of former mayor Harriet Miller's contributions to local youth. Any high school senior who has remained actively involved in leadership and community service activities is encouraged to apply. Applications can be picked up in person at the Teen Programs office at 100 East Carrillo Street, or downloaded from their website at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/teens. The application deadline is January 6, 2006.

New winter programs brochure to be mailed after Christmas: As a supplement to the two biannual *Parks and Recreation Activity Guides*, a four-color brochure promoting recreation classes scheduled from January-March 2006 will be mailed to Santa Barbara city residents the week of December 26th. The brochure will include a coupon that individuals can bring to their first class or activity to be entered into a drawing to win \$100 towards Parks and Recreation Department classes or facility rentals.

Creeks Division awarded grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board: Last month, the California Wildlife Conservation Board approved an application for \$390,000 in grant funds by the Creeks Division for the restoration of Mesa Creek and the Arroyo Burro Estuary. Funds were awarded under the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program (CRHCP), whose goals are to protect, preserve, restore and enhance riparian habitat throughout California, and develop coordinated conservation efforts aimed at protecting and restoring the state's riparian ecosystems. The CRHCP grant award, in conjunction with the other grant funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, County of Santa Barbara and pending funds from the federal government, will provide a total of \$748,000 for the construction of the restoration project.

27th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at Cabrillo Arts Center: Organized by Adapted Programs, the event was attended by a record number of individuals with disabilities. A traditional Thanksgiving meal was served by volunteers to approximately 300 individuals. This year, each participant also received a small gift.

Police Department

Assault caught on video: Officers responded to a fight involving three men at the Santa Barbara Liquor Store, where one man sustained a critical stab wound to the chest and was admitted to Cottage Hospital. Two other individuals were detained at the scene. Investigation revealed that the victim and his friend had a minor argument with the suspect over his careless driving. Several minutes later a fight ensued and the victim was stabbed. The suspect claimed he was ganged up on and acted in self-defense. Defining who was most culpable was murky until the store's security video was obtained, which clearly showed the suspect was the aggressor. He was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.

Prolific tagger arrested: An off-duty officer was in his personal car when he saw a man spray painting the side of the Buena Tool building, called Dispatch, and coordinated a police response. Officers arrested the 19-year-old suspect a block away. Investigation revealed the suspect had completed a swath of graffiti from 800 North Milpas Street to Cota, Olive, and Haley Streets. There were 23 victims of graffiti including businesses, a school, and a church. The graffiti included swastikas and the 666 symbol. The suspect was booked at jail on charges of felony vandalism for causing damage in the thousands of dollars, and for vandalizing a house of worship.

Sweep targets gang members: Police conducted a dawn sweep at several Westside residences in connection with the November 9 gang assault at Bohnett Park, 1300 San Pascual Street. In the assault case, a 16-year-old Eastside gang affiliate drove to the Westside to vent his anger over his sister's car being broken into. He believed the suspects were affiliated with a Westside gang. Several Westside gang members were loitering in the area and challenged him to a fight. The 16-year-old got out of his vehicle, apparently intending to fight another youth one-on-one. Instead, he was surrounded by several club wielding gang members. The victim sustained multiple head injuries and lost several front teeth. He was admitted to Cottage Hospital, and has since been released. Many local residents were upset by the blatant gang violence in their neighborhood, and requested a strong police response. During the sweep, police seized numerous gang-related materials including photographs of gang members flashing gang signs, gang writing, and a replica handgun. Five suspects were arrested and a sixth suspect remains at large, ranging in age from 15 to 20 years.

Public Works Department

Granada Garage now open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.: Granada Garage opened on November 25 to kick off the holiday shopping season with 262 parking spaces available to the public. Shoppers were greeted with free parking over the Thanksgiving weekend as a welcome to the new garage, and a thank-you for enduring the construction of the garage. Access to the garage is through the entrance on Anacapa Street. The upper levels of the garage are still under construction, and the garage will be closed to the public during the evening hours until all work is completed in early February 2006.

New location for ABOP Recycling Facility, now open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Since November 2003, the city has operated the Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil and Paint (ABOP) Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility at the Annex Yard at 401 East Yanonali Street. The facility has had great success providing this service to city residents and collecting and recycling more than 90,000 pounds of hazardous waste!

To further improve this service, ABOP has moved to the MarBorg Recycling Drop-Off Facility on Nopalitos Way near the intersection between Nopalitos and Cacique Streets. The facility will continue to collect the following items: antifreeze, household and car batteries, oil and oil filters, latex or water-based paint, cell phones, CDs, videotapes, and fluorescent lights. If you have any questions, please call the ABOP hotline at (805) 560-7505.

For any items that are hazardous but cannot be accepted or processed at ABOP – such as pesticides or fertilizers – please take them to the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Facility on the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus, or call UCSB information at (805) 882-3602.

Second Annual Spirit of Service Awards Program is March 30, 2006: Sponsors are the Environmental Services section of the Public Works Department and Looking Good Santa Barbara (LGSB). The awards honor individuals and entities for outstanding ongoing efforts to keep Santa Barbara looking good through their work to promote effective recycling practices and/or eliminate visual pollution such as graffiti and litter. Beginning in January 2006, LGSB will open nominations to the public. Information and forms on community nominations can be accessed through the LGSB web page at www.lookinggoodsb.com, the LGSB link on the city web page, or requested through the LGSB hotline at (805) 897-2526 at the end of December. This is the perfect opportunity to recognize outstanding citizens, youth, or programs you know of through your job, or a co-worker who goes the extra mile to eliminate blight or create a sustainable Santa Barbara. For more information, call Lorraine Cruz Carpenter at (805) 386-2361.

Rodent abatement program avoids pesticides: Administered by the Environmental Services Vector Control section, the program has been in place for parts of State Street and Coast Village Road for the past 15 months. Due to the high volume of food-serving businesses in these areas, the rodent population has reached noticeable levels, prompting a public health concern and necessitating action. There are presently 72 rodent stations on State Street and 40 stations on Coast Village Road. Only mechanical traps are used. Over the past 15 months, 2,159 rodents have been removed from the right of way in these two streets.

Conejo Road now open: All residents and emergency agencies were notified when a small landslide caused the temporary closure of Conejo Road. The Streets Division staff received four phone calls over the past two months since notifying the residents of the closure, and two calls after the road was closed. Conejo Road has since re-opened, a little over a week earlier than expected.

Laguna Pump Station ready for rain: Streets Division staff met with local business owners for a pre-rainy season discussion of the city's storm readiness. About 85 percent of the streets staff is trained on the operations of the Laguna pump facility.

Graffiti abatement program continues: About a dozen phone calls are received daily by the Graffiti Hotline. Staff responds to calls, then identifies graffiti "hot spots" and drives to the affected areas of the city.

Neighborhood cleanups conducted: Streets Division personnel removed 38 yards of brush and vegetation from Shoreline Drive between Loma Alta and La Marina. Four tons of abandoned furniture and junk was removed from the public property in the 1400 block of Almond Avenue. A homeless camp on Castillo Street and the U.S. 101 north on-ramp was removed with the assistance of the Police Department. The area next to the preschool on 900 East Montecito Street was cleared of debris left by a group of homeless persons.

Waterfront Department

Storm Report: The season's first southeaster hit the Waterfront on November 9, grounding three boats on East Beach. Though one boat scraped pilings near the foot of Stearns Wharf on its way ashore, prompt response by Harbor Patrol Officers, who secured the boat away from the Wharf, prevented further damage. At this writing, salvage efforts on the other two boats were planned or underway. Meanwhile, progress on the East Beach Mooring Permit Program progresses steadily, with implementation expected in six to nine months. This program is intended to help reduce the number of vessel groundings, making anchoring and mooring off East Beach safer for boaters, beachgoers, and Harbor Patrol Officers alike – while benefiting the near-shore environment.

Annual Parade of Lights is December 11 at Santa Barbara Harbor: This year's parade theme is "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 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.