



City Administrator's Report

April 2006

Dear Reader,

Each month, this 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:

- April 4, 11, 18, 25 ▪ City Council
- April 10 ▪ Advisory Group Workshop, 4:30 p.m. at the Faulkner Gallery
- April 13 ▪ Town Hall Meeting to address teen alcohol issues, 5:30 p.m. refreshments, 6 - 9 p.m. speaker panel, Cabrillo Arts Pavilion, (805) 897-2640 or (805) 963-1433, ext. 110

Community Events:

- April 8 ▪ Santa Barbara Fur Ball, benefits the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation, 6 p.m., Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort, 633 East Cabrillo Boulevard, (805) 260-2386, <http://www.sbcanimalcare.org/>
- April 22-23 ▪ Wheels and Waves, 8th Annual Classics & Hot Rod Car Show, State Street, www.wheelsandwaves.org, (805) 683-3869
- April 23 ▪ Earth Day Festival, Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., www.sbearthday.org, (805) 963-0583, ext. 109

- April 29
 - 2nd Annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet, Marina 3 parking lot, 8 a.m. - noon, (805) 564-5531.
- May 13
 - 4th Annual Salsa Festival Santa Barbara and Family Resource Fair, 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., De la Guerra Plaza. Salsa contest entries and table reservations are due May 5 by calling (805) 963-7605.

Flags on State Street:

- April 4-14
 - Child Abuse Listening & Mediation (CALM)
- April 14-24
 - Rape Crisis Center
- April 24-May 5
 - Girls, Inc.

City Administrator

Santa Barbara County mayors and commissioners launch 10-year plan to end homelessness: After a brief study revealed \$15.6 million in annual costs associated with homelessness, Santa Barbara City and County leaders joined together to create a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Santa Barbara County. “This is a time to come together to support our neighbors who are most in need - those who are living on the streets and may have been forgotten by some,” said Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum. “They have not been forgotten, and we are committed to redesigning our systems of care so that people no longer fall through the cracks, that people in our community who need help can access that help when they need it.” Leaders from the cities of Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria, joined with officials from Santa Barbara County to mark the start of the planning process on March 10.

City-TV completes 100th episode of Inside Santa Barbara! April’s milestone episode begins with a look at local traffic and transportation issues. Next, you’ll learn about the wetland restoration project currently underway on the Santa Barbara Airport property. You’ll also hear about a new record for the Airport’s passenger count. Then, put on your dancing shoes as we explore the variety of dance classes available at the Carrillo Recreation Center. Finally, celebrate our 100th episode with us as we look back at Inside Santa Barbara, from the very first episode in 1997 up to today. You’ll get highlights from previous episodes, as well as a history of this award-winning show.

The April edition of Inside Santa Barbara will premiere on Saturday, April 8 at 9 p.m. on City-TV, Channel 18. Replays air each week on 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.

Garden Wise Guys on Channel 18 City-TV present "Sustainable Design on a DEADline" In Episode 4 of the *Garden Wise Guys*, hosts Billy Goodnick and Owen Dell will guide you through the process of designing a beautiful, functional, and sustainable landscape. Using the style of classic *film noir* movies, this episode features dark alleyways, dangerous drinks, and a *femme fatale*. When their beloved rubber chicken is kidnapped, Owen and Billy are forced to design a landscape for Mr. X, a mobster who wants his own Butchart Gardens in

24 hours. Using water-wise plants and sustainable landscaping techniques, they'll demonstrate how to create a garden that not only looks like a million bucks, but also saves time, money, and resources. Treat yourself to an evening of mystery, entertainment, and education! This episode premieres Tuesday, April 18, at 8 p.m., and will be rebroadcast on Sundays at 9 p.m. on City-TV, Channel 18.

Airport

Airport Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study completed: Over the past four years, Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) conducted a voluntary study to evaluate existing conditions in the noise-affected areas around the airport and recommended noise abatement and land use management measures for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval. The proposed measures are intended to reduce the impacts of aircraft noise on current and future area residents. Many stakeholder groups worked on the noise update proposal to the FAA. All 15 land use updates were approved by the FAA and one of the five recommended noise abatement measures was approved. FAA, citing safety and lack of significant noise benefit, did not approve the remaining four proposed measures. The \$379,000 study was sponsored jointly by SBA and the FAA.

\$1.8 million security project funded by FAA: Replacing older technology, this new system is comprised of closed circuit TV cameras and access controlled doors that previously were utilized exclusively at the Airline Terminal building. Security coverage now encompasses virtually all access points leading into the airfield and is easier for system operators to use. Final acceptance tests for the new system took place last month.

Community outreach proposals solicited: In March, a request for proposals was sent to approximately 25 local public relations firms and individuals for an Airline Terminal Improvement Project. Selected consultants will be making presentations to Airport Department staff this month. The consultant will develop and implement comprehensive public information components necessary to keep the community informed about the Terminal Project as it progresses over the next four years.

Community Development Department

Upper State Street study will weigh project pros and cons: At the March 7 City Council meeting, Council directed staff to initiate a comprehensive planning study of the Upper State Street area. The purpose is to better understand the potential opportunities and constraints associated with the number of development projects now pending in the area. Issues of community concern include traffic and circulation, mixed-use residential density, affordability, urban design, open space, and view preservation. The Community Development Department is preparing a scope of work to address these issues and will return to the City Council on April 18 with a recommended course of action. For further information, contact Principal Planner John Ledbetter at (805) 564-5470.

Fire Department

One Step closer to implementing the Wildland Fire Plan: In March, the City Council reviewed the results of the recent public opinion survey that was sent to residents in the city's High Fire Hazard areas. The feedback received demonstrated an interest by residents in the Foothill and Extreme Foothill Zones to move forward on a Benefit Assessment District, utilizing an average rate of \$65 per year, per single family dwelling. The City Council will be asked on April 11 to consider approving several resolutions that will set in motion the mailing of ballots to property owners in the Foothill Zones. If more than 50% of the property owners in the area agree to the establishment of the Benefit Assessment District, then the Fire Department would prepare to deliver the following additional wildland fire suppression services to that area: 1) Expansion of the vegetation road clearance program to cover all public roads within the Foothill High Fire Hazard Zones (this will reduce flammable vegetation, enhance evacuation routes and decrease fire response times in the area); 2) Implementation of a defensible space/fire prevention inspection and assistance program for all properties within the Foothill Zones; and 3) Implementation of a vegetation management program within the Foothill Zones.

Subject to City Council approval, ballots for the Benefit Assessment District would be mailed out on May 5, with the results from the ballot initiative available for review by June 20. This effort is an exciting time for the Fire Department, as it represents the first opportunity to begin implementing the city's Wildland Fire Plan, which was adopted by the City Council on May 4, 2004.

Finance Department

Single-digit growth in sales tax: For the quarter ended December 31, 2005, sales tax grew 1.8% from the same quarter of the prior year. This growth was less than expected and substantially less than the previous quarter ended September 30, 2005. The table below shows 14.5% growth for the quarter ended September 30. However, there were delays by the state in processing many sales tax returns for the quarter ended June 30. After adjusting for this anomaly, we still were up about 12.5%. Thus, this last quarter's growth of 1.8% was a little disappointing.

Projections indicate that the city will exceed budget this fiscal year, and we are hopeful that revenues for the quarter ending March 31, 2006, will be stronger. Due to the lag-time in receiving data from the state, however, we will not have that information until late June.

| Quarter Ended | FY 2003 | Change from Prior Year | FY 2004 | Change from Prior Year | FY 2005 | Change from Prior Year | FY 2006 | Change from Prior Year |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Sept 30 | 4,556,500 | 3.4% | 4,536,571 | -0.4% | 4,512,083 | -0.5% | 5,164,138 | 14.5% |
| Dec 31 | 4,548,826 | -2.1% | 4,765,855 | 4.8% | 4,946,706 | 3.8% | 5,034,371 | 1.8% |
| Mar 31 | 4,016,831 | 2.6% | 4,289,056 | 6.8% | 4,367,907 | 1.8% | | |
| June 30 | 4,373,358 | 0.5% | 4,621,598 | 5.7% | 4,793,216 | 3.7% | | |
| Totals | \$ 17,495,515 | 1.0% | \$ 18,213,080 | 4.1% | \$ 18,619,912 | 2.2% | | |

Transient occupancy tax grows 5.6%: Revenue for February was up 5.6% from the prior February, and fiscal year-to-date growth is 11.7%. Based on year-to-date performance, the city expects to significantly exceed budget this fiscal year.

| TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 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% | 963,261 | 5.3% |
| Nov | 653,829 | -5.4% | 684,776 | 4.7% | 696,742 | 1.7% | 721,982 | 3.6% | 809,684 | 12.1% |
| Dec | 539,598 | -9.2% | 529,694 | -1.8% | 553,094 | 4.4% | 575,075 | 4.0% | 671,965 | 16.8% |
| Jan | 511,090 | -11.7% | 583,413 | 14.2% | 584,653 | 0.2% | 606,484 | 3.7% | 661,507 | 9.1% |
| Feb | 611,322 | -2.8% | 616,824 | 0.9% | 703,493 | 14.1% | 699,349 | -0.6% | 738,452 | 5.6% |
| 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% | \$ 7,936,675 | 11.7% |
| Budget | \$ 9,779,115 | | \$ 9,974,700 | | \$ 10,273,900 | | \$ 10,684,900 | | \$ 11,504,200 | |

This report includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).

Library Department

Getting ready for Friends of the Library Fun(d)raiser: On Friday, April 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library will host “Just Kidding Around,” a Spring fundraiser to benefit youth programming. Come to the Central Library for entertainment, wine, desserts, hors d’oeuvres, and lots of chocolate and help support the summer Library Department programming for children and teens. Admission is \$25 for members of the Friends and \$35 for non-members.

Solar power now drives the Bookmobile: To conserve energy, eliminate engine noise and fumes, the Santa Barbara Public Library Bookmobile has been retrofitted with solar panels and battery packs. Diligent and creative work by the city’s Motor Pool staff helped to locate a source for removing the diesel generator, installing solar battery packs, and attaching solar roof panels. With these changes, the Bookmobile lights, air conditioning, and computers are running quietly on power from the sun.

Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Recreation Department honored: The Community Gardens renovation project was the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) Award of Excellence winner in the category “Community Services: Neighborhood and Community Life.” The project involved the 2005 renovation of the three community organic gardens – Rancheria, Pilgrim Terrace, and Yanonali – resulting in a thriving and vibrant community resource for predominantly lower income neighborhoods. The award was presented in March at the CPRS Banquet in Ontario, California.

Summer camp registration begins Saturday, April 8: The Parks and Recreation Department offers two options for parents eager to register their children in the city’s popular

summer day camp and sports clinics programs. In-person registration is scheduled for Saturday, April 8 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Carrillo Recreation Center, 100 East Carrillo Street. The eRecreation option is available to anyone with Internet access and a pin number at www.sbparksandrecreation.com during the same hours as the in-person registration on Saturday. Again this year, 40% of camp spaces are reserved for online registration. Beginning Monday, April 10 at 8 a.m., remaining camp space may be reserved through a mail and fax-in form found in the *Spring & Summer 2006 Activity Guide*, in person at the Administrative Office at 620 Laguna Street (8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday), or online anytime.

Summerfun website offers youth activity information: Parents can access detailed information about Parks and Recreation's summer camps and sports clinics and other summer youth programs like swim and tennis lessons, art and dance classes and Teen Programs Summer Late Nights from the department's boutique web site: www.sbparksandrecreation/summerfun. In addition to information about the programs, directors and counselors, sample schedules, photos, complete bilingual registration information, forms, and Parent Handbooks are also readily available on the site.

Jr. Olympic Skills Competition seeks athletes and volunteers: The Parks and Recreation Department will be host to the first Jr. Olympic Skills Competition presented by the United States Olympic Committee and Kellogg's Frosted Flakes on Saturday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at San Marcos High School, 4750 Hollister Avenue. This free event is open to 8 to 13 year-olds. Pre-registration is not required. Skills competition participants can choose to compete in any or all of four events: basketball, soccer, rapid-rally tennis, or track and field. The male and female champion in each age group for each event will advance to the Regionals. Regional champions will have their scores ranked nationally and the top scores will advance to the National Finals at the Olympic training facility in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking energetic volunteers to help administer the skills challenge. Call the Youth Activities office at (805) 564-5495 or visit www.usolympicteam.com/joskills.

Applicants sought for Skaters Point Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee will be responsible for providing guidance to the Parks and Recreation Department on the operations of the Skaters Point Skate Park facility. Applicants are being sought for the following committee positions to serve as voting members: youth skater (13-17 years of age), parent of a skater, adult skater, local skate shop representative, and community at-large member. Applications are available at the Park and Recreation offices 620 Laguna Street, the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, 1118 East Cabrillo Boulevard, and online at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/home.htm. Call Judith Cook for more information at (805) 897-1982. The application process closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 14. Candidate interviews and appointments will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26.

4th Annual Salsa Festival needs volunteers, co-sponsors and participants: Novice salsa makers, arts and craft vendors, classic cars show entry participants, volunteers, and event co-sponsors are invited to contact the Community Services section of the Parks and Recreation Department and be part of this year's event. The 4th Annual Salsa Festival Santa Barbara and Family Resource Fair runs from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at De la Guerra Plaza. Emphasizing families and community services, the festival features live DJ music, a classic car show, food, community resource booths, and culminates in an exciting and "breathtaking" salsa contest judged by a panel known for their discriminating taste buds. The first, second, and third place winners of the contest will receive plaque awards and the

recognition of being Salsa Festival Santa Barbara's 2006 best tasting salsas. The public will also be able to taste for themselves and declare the "People's Choice" winner.

A limited number of booths are available for agencies and/or businesses to promote their services and products during the festival. Proceeds benefit the many valuable neighborhood services provided by Community Services, such as youth employment, community gardening, youth mentoring, and adult computer classes. The \$125 co-sponsorship includes a table to display agency information or products, a canopy for shade and two chairs. Agencies may also choose to sponsor a salsa contestant for \$25 or donate any amount to help defray event expenses.

Agencies interested in reserving a table for this event, or individuals wishing to enter the salsa contest may contact Assistant Community Services Supervisor Ricardo S. Venegas, at (805) 963-7605. Reservations are due by May 5.

Proposal for Front Country Trail Multi- Use Plan to be Presented at Public Meeting on Thursday, April 6: The City Park & Recreation Commission and County Park Commission held a joint meeting with USDA Forest Service participation on Thursday, April 6, to hear a proposal from an ad hoc advisory group to the USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest. The proposal is for a 2-year pilot program related to front country trail use by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. No actions will be taken at this meeting, and it is one of a series of public meetings that will address the proposal.

Santa Barbara's IPM Program presented to Oxnard: Members of the city's Parks and Recreation Department staff discussed the implementation and success of Santa Barbara's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program with the City of Oxnard's Parks Division and School District in March. More than 30 Oxnard staff heard the report and witnessed an impressive demonstration of the Aquacide Hot Water Steamer for killing weeds on contact.

Creeks Division to participate in Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 23: This one-day festival at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. is coordinated by the Community Environmental Council. The event features booths, music, entertainment, speakers, children's activities, and more. The Creeks Division will host a table with information and displays about creek restoration efforts and ways to improve creek and ocean water quality.

Police Department

Bank robbery botched: After a careless bank robber set a bomb device on the counter and fled with a bundle of cash, a hidden dye pack discolored the money and the bomb turned out to be fake. Investigators soon discovered that the novice criminal mistakenly left a pay-stub attached to his demand note. He was tracked down at a sober living house on Haley Street. The suspect told detectives that he tried laundering the stolen cash to remove the red dye and then treated the loot with green food coloring. Both attempts failed, and in frustration he threw all the money away. The wet cash was recovered from a dumpster and the suspect booked at jail.

Juveniles arrested for gang violence: Several local incidents have kept officers busy. On March 9, a gang fight was reported at 500 State Street where a 15-year-old male with gang ties was stabbed by a rival gang member. The incident followed an earlier schoolyard confrontation. Six juveniles with gang ties were arrested. On March 15, another gang clash occurred at 800 State Street when two opposing gangs began taunting each other. Bottles, rocks, and knives were wielded, a 16-year-old with gang ties was stabbed in the back. Eight juveniles were detained for fighting in public and were released to parents. Two more were booked for more serious charges. On March 17, a 13-year-old girl was taunted, assaulted, and threatened with a knife by a group mainly consisting of teenage girls with gang ties. Two females ages 14 and 15 were arrested for assault. A third female age 13 was arrested for challenging to fight.

Crimes and arrests escalate among homeless at De la Guerra Plaza: Although often a cause for complaints and minor enforcement action, recent weeks have witnessed increased aggressiveness in the homeless population frequenting the De la Guerra Plaza area. Complaints from once tolerant citizens have focused police attention on managing this unwelcome trend. On March 8, two men at the plaza were caught in the act of shooting up heroin. On March 17, six people were arrested for violations including parole violation, furnishing drugs to a minor, outstanding arrest warrants, for and interfering with police. Six others were cited for minor violations. Many others have been cited for drinking in public, marijuana use, and minor incidents of disturbing the peace.

Public Works Department

Program would require inspection of private sewer pipelines (laterals): There are an estimated 350 miles of private sewer pipelines, according to the city's wastewater staff. Additionally, the city owns and maintains approximately 260 miles of sewer pipelines. Roots and excess rainwater flow from private properties cause blockages and overflows in the city's sewer pipelines. The City Council Ordinance Committee has directed staff to develop an ordinance that addresses inspection requirements and, if needed, repair of private laterals. Staff is working with the City Attorney's office to draft an ordinance.

New computer model helps improve city's water system: Water Resources has developed a computer water model that will serve as a design tool for improving water quality and water delivery citywide. In January, staff conducted a study to assist with calibrating the computer model's water quality module. This was accomplished by increasing the chlorine dosage at the Cater Water Treatment Plant, and then measuring the chlorine levels at sample stations throughout the water distribution system. By analyzing the data collected at each water sample station, the age of the water in the distribution system was determined. Using this information, the water quality module can now be calibrated and used as a design tool by our Water Resources staff and engineers. This effort is anticipated to be complete by May.

Green Gardener class offered in Spanish: If resource conservation is important to you, send your gardener to the Green Gardener class beginning Tuesday, April 18, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Green Gardener Certification Program trains and certifies gardeners in resource efficient and pollution prevention landscape maintenance practices. This spring's 10-week class will be taught in Spanish at Casa de la Raza, 601 East Montecito Street. A list of current certified Green Gardeners and more information are available at www.greengardener.org, or by calling (805) 564-5460.

City and county partner to fund Westside Storm Drain Improvement Project:

Construction begins in mid-April and will continue for approximately eight months, weather permitting. The project includes new storm drain pipe and inlets along Chino Street between Micheltorena and Mission Streets, and new storm drain pipe and inlets along Gillespie Street between Mission and Portesuello Streets – with new access ramps within both project limits where none currently exist. Contact Project Engineer Anna Bosin at (805) 564-5383 for more information.

Punta Gorda-Voluntario Street improvement projects nearing completion: The project is providing new curbs and gutters, four new access ramps, new sidewalks, street overlays, and landscaping. The landscaping, which includes tree plantings and ground cover, is scheduled to be planted this month. Contact Project Engineer Anna Bosin at (805) 564-5383 for more information.

Roadway upgrades continue: Construction is well underway on both Chapala Street and Hollister Road. Ten of the 21 new access ramps have been poured and the remaining concrete work is scheduled to be completed in April. Work will then shift at the beginning of May to prepare for the roadway resurfacing portion of the project which is expected to be completed by mid-June.

Granada Parking Garage opens all six levels: Hours of operation are 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. The new North Paseo connecting Anacapa Street to State Street also is open. Construction continues on the new office space in anticipation of opening at the end of April. Work will commence on the pedestrian signal on Anapamu Street once the West Paseo is completed.

Second Annual Spirit of Service Program bestows awards: Looking Good Santa Barbara announced the honorees of the Second Annual Spirit of Service Program, who were acknowledged at an awards luncheon on March 30. The program honors individuals and entities for their outstanding ongoing efforts to keep Santa Barbara looking good by promoting effective recycling practices and eliminating visual pollution such as graffiti and litter. This year's winners are:

- Outstanding Neighbor, Graffiti & Litter Abatement - Jerry McFerran; Grace & Forrest Wilde (tie)
- Outstanding Business, Graffiti & Litter Abatement - Dreier Group LLC
- Outstanding Public Employee, Graffiti & Litter Abatement - Eliseo Campos; Beto Gonzales (tie)
- Outstanding Public Employee, Recycling - Martha Angel; Anna Bosin (tie)
- Outstanding Recycling Educator - Bill Palmisano
- Outstanding Police Officer, Graffiti Abatement - Officer Steven Robles
- Outstanding Media Coverage, Graffiti Abatement & Recycling - City TV - Channel 18
- Outstanding Business Recycling Program - Trader Joe's Store #183 (De La Vina)
- Recycler of the Year - Santa Barbara City College

Waterfront Department

Upgrades add safety and utility to travel lift pier: The travel lift pier enables boaters to haul and launch vessels of all sizes, for annual hull maintenance or the emergency removal of a sinking boat. After 30 years, structural upgrades have been made to enhance safety and increase the size of vessels that can be hauled and launched. The "fix" includes six new pilings, plus new pile caps, stringers and deck boards. Schock Construction Company made the necessary major improvements to the pier which should provide haul and launch services for decades to come.

Ready for business on the waterfront: The Stearns Wharf Parasailing concession is available for lease, and the Harbor Commission will soon select a new retail and/or tackle shop operator in the Harbor. Coastal Treasures has opened at 217-E Stearns Wharf, directly adjoining Stearns Wharf Vintners. This retail store specializes in jewelry, handcrafted glass, wood, metal-craft gifts and leather goods, with an emphasis on products made in the USA.

In the Harbor, EMK Products – a new commercial fish buyer/processor – will begin operating as soon as ocean conditions and fish availability permit. EMK Products was recently awarded the squid unloading concession on the city pier. The company intends to offload and ship anchovies, mackerel, and sardines. This so-called “wetfish” fishery will add another facet to the harbor’s diverse commercial fishing industry.

2nd Annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet set for Saturday, April 29: Enjoy free refreshments at the Harbor Nautical Swap Meet, courtesy of the event co-sponsors the Harbor Merchants Association, and the Waterfront Department. Shop for boat rigging, kayaks, anchors, outboard engines, and other marine hardware. Like last year, the event will take place in the Marina 3 parking lot from 8 a.m. to noon. There is space to accommodate 82 vendors and registration forms are available at the Harbormaster’s Office until Monday, April 21. For information, call (805) 564-5531.