



City Administrator's Report

September 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 send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

September 12, 19, 26

City Council Meetings, Council Chambers in City Hall, 2 p.m.

Community Events

September 4

Labor Day Holiday. City offices closed.

September 11

9-11 Remembrance Concert, 15 E. De la Guerra, 5:30 p.m. Free admission.

September 16 **United Way Day of Caring**, Page Youth Center, 4540 Hollister Road in Goleta, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.unitedwaysb.org/>

September 16 **International Coastal Cleanup Day**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For a list of local participating beaches, visit www.lessismore.org or call local coordinator Jody Rundle at (805) 882-3602.

Flags on State Street: www.santabarbaradowntown.com

Aug. 28 – Sept. 8	United Way
Sept. 8 – Sept. 18	September 11 th Tribute (American Flags)
Sept. 18 - Oct. 2	U.C.S.B.

City Administrator

City TV's "Inside Santa Barbara." City TV-Channel 18 has produced another episode of their award-winning show "Inside Santa Barbara." In this month's episode, the show covers the Wildland Fire Assessment District, composting and gardening, State of the Art, and energy independence. Also, viewers will get the chance to see new features of the show which include "History 101" and "Cooking with Christy." The September episode will premiere on September 9th at 9 p.m. Log onto www.citytv18.com for rebroadcast times.

Administrative Services

City Expands Use of Fiber for Network Communications. Part of the recent Granada Garage construction project included installation of city-owned fiber from the Garage to City Hall, and to all city facilities in between. The new fiber now provides high-speed data communications and allows the City paying for its communication services. Recent additions to this high speed network also include the Main Library, Fire Station 1, and the Carrillo Recreation Center. Staff at each of those facilities are now connected via gigabit fiber network links, and are very happy with the performance improvements. In the near future, telephone calls between the sites will also be converted to fiber as well as future Parking Garage control systems. This is another cost savings for City infrastructure services.

Airport

Airline Terminal Project Update. The Airline Terminal Project design is now in the program review phase. The \$63 million project includes construction of a new Terminal building, refurbishing the 1942 Terminal, and road, parking and aircraft parking ramp improvements. The project design team includes primary architects HNTB and the local firm Phillips Metsch Sweeney Moore. The team is currently verifying Terminal building spaces/functions, building systems, landside and airside planning, code and zoning, security, communications and construction costs.

Through HNTB's verification of the cost estimate they found that construction costs have increase significantly over the past six months due to inflation, cost premium on local building trades, and a non- competitive local bidding environment.

Cost saving alternatives include building simplification, systems modifications, alternative building location on site, and/or eliminate the temporary terminal. Eliminating the need for a temporary terminal was the only way to maintain project costs within the budget. HNTB proposed a concept design alternative that does not require a temporary terminal for a savings of approximately \$7 million.

HNTB's proposed design alternative is consistent with the Council-approved Project policies: the Santa Barbara Airport experience, building massing, passenger loading, Green Building, shifting the historic structure, alternative transportation, and accessibility.

Staff's response to the proposed concept design has been very positive. During the next 45 days, Airport staff and Project consultants will review the design alternative with the Project's Design Sub-Committee, the design review Boards & Commissions, Airport Commission, and City Council.

T-Hangar Construction On Schedule for Fall. The Airport Department will construct and operate 24 T-hangars for storage of small privately owned aircraft. The \$3.1 million project will be funded by Airport revenues, a FAA grant, and a loan from the California Airport Loan Program. The state loan requires that the Airport demonstrate T-hangar demand with aircraft owner applications and deposits. The application period ended August 18 with receipt of 60 applications. Airport Commission will conduct a lottery to select 24 of the applicants to enter into a T-hangar license agreement with the City. The next steps will be for the Airport to bid the project and begin construction this fall.

Noteworthy Passenger Traffic Increase. In July, 75,752 passengers arrived and departed at SBA aboard approximately 86 flights per day for a 1.1% increase over the same month last year. This monthly passenger growth is significant since there were four fewer daily flights than July 2005. Overall the average passenger loads for the five commercial carriers that serve SBA was nearly 80%. Horizon Air's Portland service and American Eagle's Dallas/Fort Worth service were the fullest flights with 92% average load factors.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Update. The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on September 7th, 14th, and 21st. Important items in September include the following:

On September 7th, the Planning Commission will consider an amendment to the Airline Terminal Project Criteria Document (PCD). The PCD changes are proposed to meet budget constraints resulting in the fast increase in construction costs.

On September 14th, the Planning Commission will hear a report on the status of Casa Esperanza, the homeless shelter on Cacique Street, and the semi-annual report on the status of Measure E square footage allocation. Also on September 14th, the Planning Commission will consider the Cottage Workforce Housing Project, a proposal to demolish the existing Saint Francis Medical Center buildings and construct 115 condos. 81 of the units would be available to Cottage Hospital employees at affordable rates, and the proposed Final Environmental Impact Report for the project.

On September 19th, from 9 a.m. to Noon, in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room at 630 Garden Street, the Planning Commission and City Council will also hold their semi-annual joint work session. The focus of this work session will be on Housing Policies and Programs.

Finance Department

July Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Grows 5.8%. Revenues for the month of July were up 5.8% from July 2005. Because the fiscal year 2007 budget is based on an assumed 5% growth rate for TOT, we are on track after the first month of the fiscal year.

Month	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,198,952	1.3%	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,563,957	5.8%
Aug	1,349,990	1.6%	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%		
Sept	887,095	4.5%	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%		
Oct	863,919	4.1%	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%		
Nov	696,742	1.7%	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%		
Dec	553,094	4.4%	575,075	4.0%	671,965	16.8%		
Jan	584,653	0.2%	606,484	3.7%	661,507	9.1%		
Feb	703,493	14.1%	699,349	-0.6%	738,532	5.6%		
Mar	782,652	11.0%	872,554	11.5%	855,597	-1.9%		
April	875,760	10.4%	941,281	7.5%	1,000,696	6.3%		
May	895,378	9.6%	1,001,450	11.8%	1,015,349	1.4%		
June	973,955	3.3%	1,157,985	18.9%	1,223,974	5.7%		
FY Total	\$ 10,365,683	5.1%	\$ 11,081,490	6.9%	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 1,563,957	
Budget	\$ 10,273,900		\$ 10,684,900		\$ 11,504,200		\$ 12,630,600	

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

Fire Department

Mutual Aid to the U.S. Forest Service. During this past month, city firefighters have provided aid to the Forest Service throughout the west. Responses in Oregon, Nevada, and around California have kept several of our Operations staff very busy as they continue to gain valuable insights into the management of larger scale wildland fire incidents. All indications are that this will continue to be a long and active fire season.

Recruitment for Wildland Specialist Position. As a direct result of the approval of the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District last month, the City is now preparing to recruit for a new position within the Fire Prevention Bureau. This position will be responsible for carrying out the various tasks outlined within the Engineer report for the new district (e.g. the management of contracts for roadway vegetation clearance and fuels reduction programs, as well as performing defensible space and inspection assistance for homeowners).

Sycamore Canyon Road Emergency Access. Caltrans has recently cleared a 12' wide road section for emergency situations on Sycamore Canyon Road which has been closed to thru traffic due to landslides. Locked gates have been placed on either side of the slide to only permit emergency access by the City or Montecito Fire Departments. Operational procedures are currently being developed that would allow the opening of the gates for egress from the area in the event of an evacuation. Caltrans will begin designing a permanent solution for the road but the process will take approximately 2 years to complete.

2006 Day of Caring. Lend a hand, build a community! "You and I...helping local people as no one person or organization can!" Fire Chief Ron Prince is the City's Chair for the 2006 Day of Caring, taking place on Saturday, September 16, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. The day will begin with a Kick-Off Breakfast and rally at the Page Youth Center, and then we head out to our assigned volunteer work sites. Volunteer activities often include such things as gardening, painting, cleaning, sorting, etc. Employees may sign up to participate through their Department's Executive Assistant. Look for an email that will be sent out to all employees with more information on the event. Please join us for this fun and worthwhile cause!

Library Department

Children's Book Giveaway. The Santa Barbara Public Library System has been granted a distribution of more than 3,800 children's books from The First Book National Book Bank. These are new books and will be given to youngsters from low and middle income families through the Library's Reach Out and Read program and Pre-School Outreach efforts. The First Book National Book Bank distributes quality donations from children's book publishers and service donors. The Library Department Youth Services program expects to give away three or four books to each of the children participating in the programs.

Live Homework Help Coming Soon. The Santa Barbara Public Library System has been awarded a grant of \$28,600 to be used to offer online and real-time homework help to students in grades three through twelve. The program, expected to be in place on the Library website (www.sbplibrary.org) in October, will allow students to connect with a trained teacher to get

assistance with school assignments in English, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Communicating online in real time, the teacher will help explain homework assignments, offer suggestions for resources, and add background on the school subject.

Library Director Carol Keator Retires. After 34 years of service, Carol Keator retired on September 1st. Irene Macias, Library Services Manager, has been appointed acting Library Director. The City Administrator's Office will determine the selection process to select a new Library Director.

Parks and Recreation Department

Oak Park Bridge Replacement Begins. The long-awaited replacement of the pedestrian bridge at Oak Park will begin on September 4th and is expected to be completed by the end of October. The new wider, flatter bridge will provide handicap access between the main area of the park and the dance floor section of the park. The existing abutments will be replaced as well, requiring extensive work along the banks. Upon completion of the construction, Parks staff will replant the affected creek banks with native riparian plants to complete the project.

Free Classes Available at Carrillo Recreation Center (CRC). The popular Open House Week at the CRC is offering free beginning classes to the public starting Monday, September 11th, through Friday, September 14th. This Open House Week is an opportunity for kids, teens and adults-- to try out the many dance, fitness and cultural arts classes at before signing up for the new fall sessions. Participants who fill out a survey at the event have a chance to win \$100 towards classes, swim or tennis passes or facility rentals. For a complete list of the free classes offered, see the *Fall & Winter Activity Guide* or go to www.sbparksandrecreation.com/openhouse.

Parks and Recreation Initiates Handball Tournament for Eastside Youth. As part of the expansion of summer recreation programs to children living on Santa Barbara's Eastside, Parks & Recreation hosted a handball tournament at Franklin Elementary School to help attract children to outdoor physical activities. Handball is a fast growing, low-cost sport that has gained popularity among the Hispanic community. 34 participants competed in the tournament, held from August 21st through August 24th. The event was open to all Santa Barbara County residents with cash prizes (donated by the PARC Foundation) for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in six divisions. Ages of participants ranged from 9 years to 21 years of age. In addition to the handball tournament, the Summer Fun Program at Franklin School was extended an additional week. The hours of operation were extended from half-day to full day. James Coronado, Summer Fun Director, who is also a professional, nationally-ranked handball player and nine-year veteran employee of the Parks and Recreation Department, oversaw all aspects of the handball tournament as well as the expansion of the Franklin Summer Fun program.

Santa Barbara Golf Club Acquires Two SoloRider Cars for Mobility-Impaired Players. Scott Jorgensen, Santa Barbara Golf Club Superintendent, has announced that the municipal course has added two new SoloRider golf cars to improve accessibility and enjoyment for seniors and those with limited mobility. The new carts were debuted on August 31st when representatives from SoloRider demonstrated the cars' features and how to use them

to golf club staff. The SoloRider single-passenger golf car features a turf-friendly design that makes it safe to approach close to tees and greens, reducing the amount of walking required and giving players more access to the course. Features include ergonomically designed controls; strong hill-climbing ability; all-course access; a maximum speed of 14 mph – same as a standard golf car; a regenerative braking system; and meets or exceeds all applicable ANSI safety standards. A new, lighter frame that reduces the car's overall weight for less ground pressure and increased range is among a long list of enhancements to the 2006 model year SoloRider golf car. The two cars replace one older model that the Club has been using for the past five years.

Creeks Division Wraps Up Summer Creek Clean-Ups. On August 12th, the Creeks Division wrapped up its summer creek clean-up program at Oak Park on Mission Creek. Other clean-ups were held on Sycamore Creek in the Eastside neighborhood, Laguna Creek at East Beach and Arroyo Burro Beach. These were held on Saturday mornings and implemented with assistance from the Community Environmental Council. Over 90 volunteers participated in the clean-ups. The volunteers collected 640 pounds of trash, filling twenty garbage bags with non-native weeds.

Bohnett Park Clean-up. On August 17th, the Creeks and Parks Divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Streets Division of the Public Works Department partnered with neighborhood residents to remove trash and graffiti from Bohnett Park. Within two hours, more than a dozen bags of trash had been collected, graffiti was removed from benches, rocks and trees, and many parts of the restoration area of Old Mission Creek had been mulched.

Community Gardens Benefit from Vons Compost Donation. About 75 gardeners, City staff and Vons employees were present on Saturday morning, August 19th, when a huge truck delivered 24 tons of organic compost, courtesy of Vons to Yanonali Community Garden. A gift from Vons' recycling program, the high-grade compost will be used in the three community gardens. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, the event included presentations by Nancy Rapp, Department Director, Councilmember Helene Schneider, Public Works Recycling Coordinator Ed France and Vons Recycling and Refuse Manager Curt Smith. Parks Supervisor Ken Brown gave a highly entertaining and informative planting and composting demonstration at one of the family plots. This fall, children from the Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) will use two of the plots at Yanonali to learn about organic gardening and recycling.

Youth Leadership Summit Planned for September 24th The Teen Programs' Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP) Coalition is partnering with the local Friday Night Live chapters to present a "Youth Leadership Summit" at Westmont College on Sunday, September 24th from 10 am to 3 pm, with registration at 9:30 am. Babatunde Fodayemi, Youth Advocate and former Executive Director of the Pro-Youth Coalition, will be the Keynote Speaker. The second annual Summit will feature workshops on Public Speaking, Environmental Prevention Strategies, Working with Adults in Authority, "How to be a Leader Without being Bossy," Event Planning and Communication & Mediation. This event will target high school-aged youth who are already involved in a Leadership group at school, church or in their community. Lunch and registration is included, as well as a tour of the Westmont College Campus. For more information or to register, contact Roberta Payan, ADAP Coordinator at 897-2547 or e-mail rpayan@santabarbaraca.gov or Sarah Burton, FNL Coordinator at 963-1433 or sburton@cadasb.org.

Teen Programs Suicide Prevention Forum. In partnership with the Glendon Association, Teen Programs will present the Twelfth Annual Santa Barbara Suicide Prevention Forum will be held on Wednesday, September 27th at 6:30 p.m. at San Marcos High School Auditorium, 4750 Hollister Avenue. The free community forum will focus on youth and elder suicide, warning signs, community resources, and survivor support groups. It will feature a live presentation by John Kevin Hines, a survivor of a suicide attempt off the Golden Gate Bridge, and a screening of the award-winning documentary *Faces of Suicide*. For more information, please call Teen Programs at 897-2560 or The Glendon Association at 681-0415.

Police Department

Fatal Bicycle Accident. On August 1st at 7:25 p.m., a 52-year-old woman crashed her bicycle at the State Street Underpass. She was in the process of passing another cyclist when she made contact, fell to her left, and struck her head on the pavement. She was not wearing a helmet. She was admitted to Cottage Hospital in extremely critical condition. She died two days later from massive head injuries. This was one of several recent bicycle accidents where wearing a protective helmet would have minimized resulting injuries.

Fatal Traffic Accident. On August 6th at 1:40 a.m., police officers responded to a major traffic accident on Hwy. 154 between Foothill Rd. and Calle Real. A Ford Focus had crossed over the solid-double line and crashed head-on into a Lexus sedan. The high-speed impact destroyed both vehicles. The 24-year-old passenger in the Focus was dead at the scene. It took fire crews 30 minutes to remove his body from the vehicle. The investigation determined that the 22-year-old woman driving the Focus was both driving under the influence of alcohol, and without wearing prescription eyewear. She suffered a broken leg. The Lexus driver was not at fault. Charges including vehicular manslaughter and felony drunk driving were levied against the driver of the Ford Focus.

Two Fatal Train Accidents. On August 20th at 4:55 a.m., a 30-year-old local woman was struck and killed as she loitered on the railroad track. The engineer reported seeing the woman sitting on a rail on a remote, darkened stretch. He sounded the horn and the woman stood as though to move to safety. For unknown reasons, the woman remained close enough to be side-swiped by the passing locomotive. Three unopened beers, presumably belonging to the victim, were found at the scene.

Three days later, on August 23rd at 9:18 a.m., a 51-year-old local man was killed by a freight train near the Amtrak Station. According to eyewitnesses, as the train approached the victim walked around the lighted State Street signal-arm barrier. He stood midway between the rails and faced the train head-on. Both witnesses said the act of stepping onto the tracks appeared intentional. The victim has a lengthy history of mental illness and suicidal tendencies. Just the day before he was released from the County psychiatric facility. Several children waiting for a pending passenger train witnessed the gruesome spectacle.

Public Works Department

Sheffield Water Quality Project is Complete. Staff will go to City Council on Sept 12th with the recommendation that Council approve the project's Notice of Completion. This \$22 million project was funded through a US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) State Revolving Fund loan. Recently, the State Department of Health Services contacted the City's Water Resources staff to announce that the Sheffield Water Quality Project had been chosen as the USEPA's State Revolving Fund project of the year for California.

Where the Rubber Meets the Road. The Local Road Rehabilitation Project recycled approximately 7,500 used tires in the rubberized asphalt mix to overlay Hollister Avenue, between Aero Camino; the bridge over San Pedro Creek near Fairview Avenue; and Chapala Street, between Mission Street and East Constance Avenue. In addition to being environmentally friendly and saving landfill space, rubberized asphalt increases the life of the roads and lowers driving noise. The project also constructed five new access ramps along Hollister Road, 16 new access ramps along Chapala Street, new storm water drainage inlets, driveway, sidewalk, curb and gutter improvements.

Originally scheduled to begin in the winter of 2005, project start-up was delayed until April 2006, taking advantage of warmer weather, which is best for the placement of rubberized asphalt. The project was finished in June 2006 at a construction cost of \$1,319,669.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind. City Council has just approved a major "Utility Undergrounding Project" (placing overhead utilities underground and removing the poles) to take place on Cliff Drive, from Fire Station #6 west to Mesa Lane. This will cost approximately \$4 - \$5 million, the design will take about 2 years by SCE, and construction should be completed in 2009.

Neighborhood undergrounding project locations are called "Assessment Districts" since the property owners pay a portion of the costs. There are three neighborhoods that have sufficient interest and organization at this time to become future Assessment Districts: portions of Ferrelo Rd., Roble Lane, and Eucalyptus Hill Rd.

Be Water Wise Media Campaign. The city's Water Conservation Program is once again partnering with other Santa Barbara County water providers with the Annual "Be Water Wise Media Campaign." Radio and television ads will be airing from August to October throughout the county. The media campaign emphasizes using water wisely when watering your garden. Visit the newly revamped www.sbwater.org for helpful tips on saving water.

Fall Green Gardener Classes. Green Gardener training begins on September 13th. Classes will be held in English at 12:30 p.m. and Spanish at 2:45 p.m. at the Schott Center at 310 West Padre Street. A list of current certified Green Gardeners is available at www.greengardener.org or call 564-5460.

Mosquito Abatement Update. This summer saw quite an increase in mosquito populations at the Andre Clark Bird Refuge (Refuge) - numbers not seen in years. As a matter of fact, during the first and second week of July, the Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District (SBCVCD) trapped approximately 750,000 mosquitoes. This sample was sent to the California Department of Health for testing and, fortunately, the results were **100% negative** for West Nile Virus.

The type of mosquito that bloomed at the Refuge is known as the “tule” mosquito (*Culex Erythrothorax*), which had been affecting area residents as well as Zoo and Refuge users and is active during the day. According to SBCVCD biologist, Kenneth Learned, 99% of the mosquitoes breeding in this area were the “tule” mosquito. The larvae of this mosquito breed in tules, cattails and grasses.

Mosquito abatement for the Refuge is the responsibility of the City’s Environmental Services Section, now recording greatly decreased numbers in the mosquito population. City Vector Control Staff will continue to monitor the situation and will take appropriate action as needed. A big “thank you” to both the Parks and Recreation Department and the SBCVCD for their assistance.

West Nile Virus in California update. On August 4, 2006, West Nile Virus (WNV) infected mosquitoes at the Devereux Lagoon at the University of California, Santa Barbara, were discovered. While there is potential for this virus to spread to humans in our area, the issue is presently not as great as is reported by the media. It would seem pertinent to pass on some of the actual statistics.

The following California WNV statistics are from the California Department of Health Services and the Mosquito and Vector Control Assoc of CA.

In 2005, there were 174 reported human WNV cases and 19 WNV-related human fatalities. In 2006 so far there have been 49 reported WNV human cases and no fatalities and we are right now at the peak of the season. In comparison, the yearly average for car related fatalities in CA is 4,100. It is much more dangerous to get in your car everyday, yet the media focuses on non-epidemic issues such as WNV. You can and will contract the disease if bitten by a WNV infected mosquito, but 80% of the infected population will show no signs of illness, while roughly 18% will have only flu like symptoms. After this you are immune to the disease. In individuals with immunity deficiencies it can go beyond the flu like symptoms to include paralysis or worse. The positive note is that looking at the above information, as more people are infected and become immune, than reports of infection lessen. This year is less than last year so far. Therefore, the next year will be even less as we have seen with other states as this virus has moved west across the nation. It appears the peak year for WNV in CA was last year and while it will not leave, it should lessen in the following years.

If you are at risk and are in areas where you see mosquito activity, use Deet (recommended mosquito repellent), wear long sleeves and pants, stay inside at dawn and dusk, and keep house mosquito tight by keeping screens closed.