



# City Administrator's Report

February 2007

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**

- February 6, 13, 27:                               **City Council Meetings**, City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Council Chambers, 2p.m.
- February 15:                                       **Special Council Meeting/Budget**, City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Council Chambers, 1 p.m.
- February 20:                                       **Special Council Meeting/Planning**, City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Council Chambers, 9 a.m.

**Community Events**

- February 3:                                       **Eighth Annual Festival of Hearts**, Friendship Center, 89 Eucalyptus Lane, Montecito. Honorary Host Mayor Marty Blum, Noon to 3:30 p.m. Call (805) 969-0859 for more information.
- February 19:                                       **President’s Day**, City offices closed.

**Flags on State Street:** [www.santabarbaradowntown.com](http://www.santabarbaradowntown.com)

January 25 – February 5: Santa Barbara International Film Festival

February 5 – 6: Black History Month

February 16 – March 2: Santa Barbara Museum of Art Tamayo Exhibit

**City Administrator**

**Watch Inside Santa Barbara on City TV Channel 18.** City TV has been working hard on another episode of *Inside Santa Barbara*, a monthly newsmagazine show that informs citizens about City issues, events, and projects. February's episode was taped from TV Hill, with beautiful views of the Pacific Ocean and the City. In this episode, City TV takes a closer look at Measure D, an important source of transportation funding. The "History 101" series continues with a look back at the history of the Santa Barbara Bowl. Channel 18 visits Ca'Dario, where the chef prepares a romantic Valentine's Day meal during the show's "Cookin' with Christy" segment. We will also illuminate the City's new Solar Design Guidelines. Finally, City TV takes a trip to the Mesa Creek Restoration Project.

**Administrative Services**

**Standard Activity Tracking Application launched for Airport Patrol, Harbor Patrol, and Park Rangers.** On February 8th, a new City-wide standard Activity Tracking and Reporting System, Report Exec, goes into production supporting Airport Patrol, Harbor Patrol, and Park Rangers. In the past, these three divisions used a mixed set of applications to provide tracking and reporting of their activities and incidents. Information Systems worked in close coordination with all three areas, selected a single web-based application to provide these services, customized and installed it, and organized staff training. Report Exec is a web-based new technology database application, has flexible reporting and searching capabilities, keeps each division records separately, and is easy to use. This is one more example of Information Systems working closely with multiple departments to increase application effectiveness and reduce costs.

**Streaming Video Status Report and future plans.** City Council and some City-TV Channel 18 meetings and programs have been published "live" and "on demand" since July 2006 to provide both City staff and the public viewing of these important events online. Now that the technology and the demand have proven themselves, Information Systems is preparing to branch out and expand this service to the many other Boards and Commissions that film their meetings. In February, Information Systems will begin to meet with departments to review and plan for their inclusion in this valuable viewing technology. We expect to have all Commission meetings online by June 2008. Information Systems is providing assistance and support to the County of Santa Barbara who is also preparing to use this same technology for their Board of Supervisors meetings.

**Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) Annual Filing.** Each year, the Political Reform Act requires most state and local government officials, and employees to publicly disclose their personal assets and income. The deadline for filing Form 700s is April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The City Clerk's Office is currently preparing to distribute Form 700s to City officials and employees whose position is included in the City's Conflict of Interest Code. City officials, advisory group members, and employees must complete the Form 700 as required by the Fair Political Practices Commission. The City Clerk's Office will be working closely with department representatives and staff liaisons to ensure that Form 700s are filed in a timely manner.

Additional information related to the Conflict of Interest Code can be found on the City's website at <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Ordinances/Conflict/> and at the Fair Political Practices Commission's (FPPC) website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

## Airport

**Record Passenger Count in 2006:** 856,278 passengers arrived and departed at SBA last year; this is a 0.4% increase over 2005 and the highest passenger count in the Airport's history. The record is significant given that there were nighttime airfield closures for construction and unusual weather conditions in December that caused the cancellation of many flights. The non-stop jet flights to Dallas/Fort Worth aboard *American Eagle* and Denver aboard *United Express* had the heaviest average loads at 86% for the year. The second highest loads were aboard *Horizon Air* to Seattle for a 76% annualized average.

**Airport Submits Proposal to Frontier Airlines:** In October 2006, *Frontier Airlines* sent a new air service request for proposals to 65 U.S. airports with the intent to expand their network. Santa Barbara responded to the request with a detailed proposal for Denver service to augment *United's* existing service, which does not provide enough seat capacity to meet local demand. SBA's proposal included a community profile, traffic projections, and a route analysis for regional jet service. *Frontier* is a quality low cost carrier that would provide a viable option for local travelers wishing to reach the Denver hub or connect to 55 destinations in 29 states, Mexico and Canada. Airport proposals are currently under review and new cities are expected to be announced this summer.

## Community Development Department

**Architecture 2030.** A nationwide discussion has been building over the past year to slow the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and then reverse the trend over the next ten years. One effort has been called Architecture 2030, led by architect Edward Mazria, and the 2030 Challenge they are promoting. The 2030 Challenge has been focused on the built environment because, according to their analysis, buildings are the major source of demand for energy and materials that produce by-product greenhouse gases.

A local Architecture 2030 group has been formed, made up of representatives of the local American Institute of Architects (AIA), Community Environmental Council (CEC), building industry, and other environmental organizations. A presentation was made to Council at the January 30, 2007 meeting to encourage the City to take steps in meeting the 2030 challenge. Some of the group's requests and suggestions include adopting a Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standard for City buildings for all new construction, additions and major renovations; and the study of incentives to promote green building design, including accelerated development review process, priority permit processing, public recognition and awards, and reduction or deferral of planning and building permit fees.

**Planning Commission Update:** The Planning Commission will hold regular meetings on February 8th and 15th.

On February 8th, the Commission will hold a concept review of the proposed new Airline Terminal. The Commission will also hold an Environmental Impact Report Scoping Hearing on the proposed project at 3714-3748 State Street, the location of the Sandman Inn. The proposal includes demolition of the 113-room hotel and reconstruction of it in a two and three story configuration at the intersection of State Street and Hitchcock Avenue and the construction of 73 residential condominiums, all over underground parking. Finally, the Commission will hold further discussion of Solar Ordinance amendments related to installation of photo-voltaics on historic resources and other difficult locations.

On February 15th, the Commission will hear an appeal of the Staff Hearing Officer's denial of modifications for 128-138 E. Canon Perdido Street/825-833 Santa Barbara Street (home of Our Daily Bread and The Sojourner, among others). The modifications would allow the use of the existing garages for commercial and residential storage, resulting in no parking being provided on-site. The Commission will also hold a concept review of a project at 116 E. Yanonali Street, a mixed-use project that is the first to be considered under the new Ocean-Related Commercial (O-C) Zone. Finally, the Commission will hold its annual review of the Planning Commission and Staff Hearing Officer Menu of standard conditions. There will be a special focus on construction-related conditions.

On February 20th, the Planning Commission and City Council will hold its semi-annual joint meeting to discuss the Planning Division work program, with a special focus at this meeting on the new Staff Hearing Officer process and the work plan for the General Plan Update.

## Finance Department

**December Transient Occupancy Tax Revenue Declines 0.4%:** For the first time since last March, the City's TOT revenue declined from the same month of the prior year. Our year-to-date growth through the first half of the fiscal year was 6.6%. While we will have no problem meeting our \$12.6 million budget for this fiscal year, we are now running below our preliminary year-end estimated growth of 7.5%.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
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%	\$ 1,571,320	6.3%
Aug	1,349,990	1.6%	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%
Sept	887,095	4.5%	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%
Oct	863,919	4.1%	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%
Nov	696,742	1.7%	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%
Dec	553,094	4.4%	575,075	4.0%	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%
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%		YTD
<b>FY Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,365,683</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>\$ 11,081,490</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>\$ 12,032,372</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>\$ 6,967,481</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 10,273,900</b>		<b>\$ 10,684,900</b>		<b>\$ 11,504,200</b>		<b>\$ 12,630,600</b>	

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

## Fire Department

### **Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District – Road Clearance Update.**

The vegetation management contractors who are performing road clearance work throughout many streets in the high fire hazard area are approximately half way done. Thirteen of the twenty-seven streets selected to receive the clearance work have been completed. The clearance work involves removing vegetation that encroaches into the roadways, making narrow streets even narrower. In some areas the clearance created an additional foot and a half of roadway which greatly improves the conditions for emergency vehicle response and homeowner evacuation. The total mileage completed to date is 7.44 miles of the 14 mile project.

**Evacuation Drill.** The Fire Department is in the planning stages for an inter-agency cooperative evacuation drill that will take place on Saturday, April 28th, 8:00 a.m. to Noon. The drill will involve the evacuation of the upper Riviera/Robles area of the Benefit Assessment District. Residents will be encouraged to participate in this valuable learning event. More information about the drill will be sent out as the event nears.

## Library Department

**AmeriCorps Volunteers Join Adult Literacy Program.** For the fourth year in a row, the Library's Adult Literacy Program is hosting AmeriCorps members, who are assisting with tutoring and other programs. Santa Barbara is one of 31 public library systems across the state to participate in the 2007 California Library Literacy Services AmeriCorps Initiative. One full-time and one half-time volunteer each receives a living allowance from the Corporation for National

and Community Service, a federal agency. Over the past three years, AmeriCorps members have given 10,500 hours of service to the Library System.

***Reading is FUNdamental.*** The Library Youth Services Outreach program will distribute over 1,000 new books to second and third graders at seven area schools in February and March. The program is in partnership with Reading is Fundamental, a national organization primarily funded by the US Department of Education, that provides a wide variety of high-quality books for the students to choose from. Teachers are instructed to allow the children to freely choose a book they want to own. Choices include chapter books, advanced picture books, humor, non-fiction, Spanish and bilingual books.

***Volunteer Program Growing.*** The Library has enjoyed a good response to its stepped-up volunteer program. While the Adult Literacy program has long depended on dedicated reading tutors, and the Children's department has had VolunTeens and summer reading program volunteer assistants, other library units are now enlisting volunteers to perform a multitude of tasks that help keep the Library organized and attractive.

The Central Library has assigned a Volunteer Coordinator to recruit, screen and place community members in assisting staff in tasks from shelving books, mending materials, and designing displays to helping with public programs and hospitality. A book of volunteer opportunities lists the tasks prospective volunteers may choose from, and the requirements for each. In November the Library invited all volunteers and staff to come in before the library opened to "shelf read" – scan the books to correct any shelving errors and find books belonging to other libraries.

## **Parks and Recreation Department**

***Oak Park Bridge Replacement Celebrated.*** The recent replacement of the pedestrian bridge over Mission Creek in Oak Park was celebrated onsite with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 31<sup>st</sup>. City Parks and Recreation staff, Mayor Blum and other city officials will attend to commemorate the new bridge. The replacement bridge provides complete ADA-accessibility and creates a less restricted channel for Mission Creek. The current project was begun in 2003, cost an estimated \$550,000, and was funded through both the City's General Fund and the State "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000" Still to come will be a native plant restoration of the adjacent creek banks, performed by Parks Division staff. For more information, contact Keven Strasburg at 897-1906.

### ***Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Schedules Meetings.***

The City, County and the Los Padres National Forest Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force have begun meeting to address issues and possible solutions related to use and management of front country trails. The Task Force includes City Park and Recreation Commissioners Steve Forsell and Beebe Longstreet, two County Park Commissioners, and two National Forest representatives. At their first meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> the Task Force set a monthly meeting schedule and adopted a Statement of Purpose. Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month beginning March 7 at 5:30pm, in City Council Chambers. Due to significant public interest in this issue, all meetings will be televised. A work session is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Louise Lowry Davis Center,

1232 De la Vina Street, Santa Barbara. Staff from the three agencies will provide the Task Force with background information on jurisdictional boundaries, policies, practices, issues, and work previously conducted by the Front Country Trails Working Group (FCTWG) and the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA).

***Jill Zachary Appointed as Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation.***

Jill Zachary, currently the Manager for the City's Creeks Division, has been appointed as Assistant Director of the Parks and Recreation Department after a statewide recruitment effort. The position begins February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Since the inception of the Creeks Division in 2001, Jill Zachary has overseen the development of the City's innovative creeks restoration and water quality program. There will be a transition period while the Department recruits for a new manager for the Creeks program. It is anticipated that the recruitment will begin in February. In the meantime, Jill will continue to provide management oversight of the Creeks Division, including working with the City Council appointed Creeks Advisory Committee.

***Alcohol Regulations Changed at Oak Park.*** On January 9<sup>th</sup>, the City Council changed the alcohol designation at Oak Park from no permit required to alcohol permitted only with a permit. To accommodate the many special events and festivals that take place in this park, a less restrictive definition of beer garden was proposed and accepted. This new regulation allows alcohol to be consumed at such events within a perimeter defined by either fencing or signage. These changes were a result of numerous public meetings held with city officials and citizens who live in the Oak Park neighborhood who had concerns about unlimited alcohol use in the park environs.

***IPM Report Scheduled for Review.*** The City's third annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) report will be presented for approval to the Airport Commission on February 21, the Park and Recreation Commission on February 28 and City Council on March 6, 2007.

***Tournament of Champions Track Meet for Youth Registration Begins.*** The Parks and Recreation Department and Endowment for Youth Committee are co-sponsoring a Santa Barbara County-wide track meet for boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 on Sunday, March 4 at the Track and Field complex at Santa Barbara City College. Registration for this event begins Monday, February 5 and will conclude on Friday, February 23. Fee is \$15 per child. Only the first 700 participants to register will be allowed to compete. Registration locations are the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation main office at 620 Laguna Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or the Endowment for Youth office at 1136 E. Montecito Street from 2 to 6 p.m. In addition, registration forms can be obtained from [www.sbparcsandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparcsandrecreation.com) from the "Youth Activities" home page.

***Clean Water Business Certification Update.***

The Creeks Division is moving forward with the Clean Water Business Certification Program, an innovative program focusing on businesses that have the potential to contribute to storm water pollution. The goal is to raise awareness of water quality issues and achieve voluntary compliance with clean water regulations. The Creeks Division would like to congratulate the following restaurants for making the commitment to become a Clean Water Certified Business: *Aldos, Super Cucas (on Micheltorena), Shoreline Restaurant, Le Bon Café, Arigato, California Pizza Kitchen, Garrett's Whale Tail Deli, Mondial/Quantum, Left @ Albuquerque, Elements, Café Buenos Aires, and State and A.* The Division has also been working closely with automotive businesses, offering technical assistance and best management practices, and

would like to recognize the following Clean Water Certified Businesses: *Ayers Automotive Repairs, Blanquette Automotive, Bowman's Auto Repair, Clark Motors Inc., Lara Auto Repairs, Muller & Goss, Powell Garage, Schneider Authohaus, Smog It, and Swedemasters*. Please join the Creeks Division in acknowledging these businesses for their commitment to clean creeks and healthy beaches. Visit [www.sbcreeks.com](http://www.sbcreeks.com) or call 897-2658 to learn more.

## Police Department

***Suicidal Man Arrested.*** On January 5<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to the 400 block of East Pedregosa Street regarding a suicidal subject who had just stabbed himself in the stomach. Just prior to police arrival, a witness saw the victim drive away in a vehicle. He was bleeding from his abdomen. Police contacted area hospitals and searched for the victim. He was located an hour later with what turned out to be a fairly minor self-inflicted stab wound. The 52-year-old man was treated and released from Cottage Hospital. He was then arrested for a \$10,000 warrant stemming from a DUI case. Jail staff placed him on suicide watch and offered counseling assistance.

***Police Act Like Firemen.*** On January 8<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to 300 North Quarantina Street on a report of several shots heard. They arrived and found flames shooting up from the yard of a tree trimming business at 321 N. Quarantina Street. The fire threatened landscaping materials, some barrels of oil, and a parked truck. The officers used a garden hose to extinguish the flames. The fire was accidentally started by buried embers dumped from a barbecue that was last used on New Years Day.

***Fatal Industrial Accident.*** On January 20<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to Marborg Industries at 136 N. Quarantina Street for an industrial accident. A 28-year-old mechanic was pronounced dead at the scene from major head injuries. Just prior to the accident, the victim was on a 'creeper' working beneath a parked garbage truck. A second truck pulled up to park next to the stationary truck, nose to nose. For unknown reasons the victim got up and walked between the trucks. Just then, the driver's foot slipped off the brake and the truck lurched forward, pinning the victim between the two garbage trucks. The City offers its condolences to the victim's family and to MarBorg Industries.

## Public Works Department

***State Street Sidewalk Improvements.*** The final phase of the State Street sidewalk beautification project in the 400 and 500 blocks of State Street is now underway. The project will improve pedestrian circulation and safety as well as provide more amenities for pedestrian comfort and convenience. The design emphasizes building visibility by highlighting significant architectural features, and also enhances the landscape diversity. The construction includes removing all of the existing tile sidewalks and replacing them with brick pavers, the installation of new access ramps, new landscaping, and a holiday lighting system. This 16 week phase is the final of a 4-phase project that was begun in 1998. The demolition began with the removal and relocation of some existing trees. Fifty-one trees were removed, 27 trees are being kept in place or relocated elsewhere in the project area, and an additional 56 new trees will be installed. This is a gain of five trees to the two block area. The landscaping plan underwent full design review by several City Commissions and Committees, and it was determined that the removal

and the relocation of these trees was necessary due to such factors as over concentration, destructive root systems, and late lifecycle conditions of certain species. If there is any project uncertainty, one has only to look at the other completed phases of State Street to know the improvement value.

***New Pumps at El Estero.*** The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant currently has three large pumps that process incoming sewage. As part of the El Estero Upgrades Project currently under construction, the three influent pumps are to be replaced with four newer models that use less energy. An initial new pump was installed in 2006 to allow staff to evaluate its operation. The new pump is operationally sound, and City Council will be awarding a design contract for the remaining three new pumps, to be followed by a construction contract.

***Freezing Temperatures Trigger Water Main Breaks.*** The recent cold snap impacted the water distribution system with 32 water main breaks in one week. The major cold event began on the weekend of January 13<sup>th</sup>, including the Martin Luther King Holiday, when 19 main breaks were called in and repaired at an accelerated pace. Public Works staff carried out their duties competently and enthusiastically to restore water service. Such talent is indeed an asset to the Public Works Department. The events of a freeze occur about every 10 to 17 years, with the last one occurring in December 1990. In the month of the December 1990 freeze, the water distribution infrastructure was struck by 85 water main breaks. After the 1990 freeze, the Water Resources Division implemented the Water Main Replacement Program to replace 1% of the water system annually throughout the City. The program consists of the replacement of water mains, water valves, service connections, fire hydrant assemblies and all other appurtenances necessary to construct water mains completely, in place, and operable. Due to the water main replacement program, breaks went down from 85 in the last freeze to 32!

***Mason Street Pedestrian Bridge Project.*** Construction will begin in late February on the Mason Street Pedestrian Bridge. The new bridge will span Sycamore Creek at Mason Street between Salinas and Soledad Streets. The project consists of the construction of bridge abutments, cast-in-place piles and the installation of a prefabricated pedestrian bridge. The bridge abutments will be excavated outside the banks of the creek, minimizing disturbance to the creek banks. In addition, sidewalk "links" will be installed to complete the sidewalk to and from the bridge, as well as two pedestrian lights and creek bank landscaping.

## Waterfront Department

***Repeat Offender Steals His Meals and a Sweater.*** On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the Harbor Patrol responded to a reported theft of fresh Ahi tuna from the Santa Barbara Fish Market. The suspected thief and missing tuna were both located at the Leadbetter Beach BBQ area. The next day the same individual was arrested and cited after leaving Moby Dick restaurant on Stearns Wharf without paying for his meal. Then, on January 27<sup>th</sup>, an employee of Paddle Sports of Santa Barbara reported that a man had stolen a sweater from their sporting goods shop. A short time later, the employee called again to report that he had spotted the individual, now wearing the stolen sweater, walking on Harbor Way. As Harbor Patrol officers responded and detained the individual, the manager of the Breakwater Restaurant called to report that someone matching the sweater thief's description has just eaten and left without paying the bill. The suspect was again arrested for theft and "defrauding an innkeeper." As it turns out, the

suspect was on active parole for burglary, with prior convictions out of California, Oregon and Washington.

**Harbor Patrol Officer Earns First Place in Local Longboard Contest.** On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the first annual “SANTA BARBARA LONGBOARD CLASSIC” took place off Leadbetter Beach from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Santa Barbara City Firefighter Association, the fund-raising event helped support a scholarship to the Parks and Recreation Junior Lifeguard Program. Participating agencies included the Santa Barbara Fire Department, Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol, Santa Barbara Life Guard, Los Padres U.S. Forest Service, State Parks Life Guard, American Medical Response and Gold Coast Ambulance. Perfect weather and 203 foot west swells made for an enjoyable experience. Only four surfers remained after six demanding hours and 16 heats later. Harbor Patrol Officer Jan Martinez took honors and placed first among the many. Later that afternoon, a tri-tip BBQ and raffle prizes were offered to all participants. For more information about Santa Barbara City Fire-fighters Association visit [www.IAFF525.org](http://www.IAFF525.org)

Contest winners included:

1st	Jan Martinez	Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol
2nd	Al Fimlaid	State Lifeguards
3rd	Rich Griguoli	Santa Barbara Fire Department
4th	Sam Szczepanek	Santa Barbara County Fire

**Stearns Wharf Shoreward Finger Reconstruction Update.** Beginning Monday, February 12, the Stearns Wharf Shoreward Finger Reconstruction Project to replace pile caps, stringers and deck boards north of Ty Warner Sea Center will commence. Construction will take place Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sea Center and other wharf businesses will remain open during construction and public parking will not be impacted. This project is expected to wrap up in mid-March.