



August 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

August 7, 14, & 21: **City Council Meetings**, City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m. August 28th and September 4th meetings have been canceled due to the Labor Day holiday.

Community Events

August 10 & 24: City Offices closed due to Citywide 9/80 Schedule.

August 15: [Nite Moves, Run Santa Barbara](#), Leadbetter Beach, 6 p.m.

August 16 & 23: [Concerts in the Parks](#), Chase Palm Park.

August 25 & 26: [Santa Barbara County Triathlon](#), Cabrillo Bathhouse.

[Flags on State Street:](#)

July 30 - Aug. 6 City Flag/Fiesta

Aug. 6 – Aug. 17 Alzheimer's Association

Aug. 17 - Aug. 27 Heal the Ocean

Aug. 27 – Sept. 7 United Way

City Administrator

Public Information on Zaca Fire. The City is coordinating with the County of Santa Barbara and U.S. Forest Service to distribute information to the public regarding the Zaca Fire. There are several ways to follow the latest press releases, public notices, and maps on the Zaca Fire. The public can call (805) 961-5770 for information on the Zaca Fire or go online to www.inciweb.org, or www.countyofsb.org, or www.sbcfire.com. Updates from fire personnel will be taped on a daily basis and rebroadcast on City Channel 18, in addition to Channels 19 and 20. The television scroll is also updated on a regular basis. Large informational boards have been posted at two public locations in the City of Santa Barbara: 1) Santa Barbara Mission

(at the entrance) and 2) Santa Barbara City Hall (De La Guerra front steps). Radio listeners throughout Santa Barbara County can tune into the following stations for regular updates on the Zaca Fire: AM STATIONS: KTMS-AM 990, KZSB-AM 1290, KUHL-AM 1410, KINF-AM 1440. FM STATIONS: KCSB-FM 91.9, KSPE-FM (Spanish) 94.5, KSYV-FM (KMIX) 96.7, KTYD-FM 99.9, KSBL-FM 101.7, KRAZ-FM 105.9, KIST-FM 107.7

Possible Power Outages in Santa Barbara. As the Zaca Fire changed directions on August 3rd, Southern California Edison (SCE) began preparing for the possibility that the fire might intercept power lines that serve the Santa Barbara South Coast area. SCE staff is monitoring the situation closely. SCE has suggested these tips for your family's safety in the event of a power outage: 1) Always keep a flashlight and extra batteries handy. Never use candles in a power outage or other emergency. 2) If you or someone you care for is dependent on electrically operated medical equipment, make backup power arrangements in advance. 3) Turn off or disconnect any appliances or electronics you were using when the power went out. 4) Leave one light turned on so you'll know when your power returns. 5) Don't light a fire indoors. If you're cold, put on layers of warm clothing instead. Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors. 6) Leave the doors of your refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage.

For additional information regarding power outages, go to the [American Red Cross website](#).

City TV Airs Inside Santa Barbara. City TV Channel 18's newsmagazine show *Inside Santa Barbara* is a great way to learn about the important issues, projects, and events happening in the City. In August's episode of *Inside Santa Barbara*, viewers will learn about the City's stand-alone General Municipal Election in November, the sidewalk missing links project, the City's reduction of bottled water use, water conservation rebates, the 10th anniversary of the Douglas Family Preserve, and the 20th annual French Festival. This episode was filmed from Fiesta, an annual tradition that celebrates our City's Spanish heritage and draws thousands of people to Santa Barbara. [Inside Santa Barbara](#) premieres on Wednesday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Administrative Services

Police Officer – Entry Examination. The City is preparing to conduct the next examination process for Police Officer-Entry on Saturday, August 11th. The City is excited to see a greater number of applicants who have applied for this round of testing. This process consists of a written, physical agility and oral examination prior to being eligible for a Police Department interview.

The City has been working with Police Department staff to fill existing Police Officer vacancies. Currently, the City has five Entry Level Officers attending the academy. Since January 2007, we have successfully had six Entry Level Officers graduate from the academy, hired one Academy Graduate and one Lateral Officer.

Airport

Airport Website, FlySBA.com, Attracts Record Number of Visitors. June had the highest number of visits of any month in the 10-year history of this website. Total hits increased 23% over the same month last year. Nearly 33,000 visits were recorded or an average of 1,100 visits a day. The top viewed pages were the nonstop flight schedule and airline information. A popular link was the Airline Terminal Project with more than 26,000 hits. The most downloaded document was the Airport General Information Guide which was downloaded 1,500 times.

Airline Terminal Comment Card Program. During the second quarter of this year, 215 responses were collected from three locations in the Terminal; the two boarding gate areas, and the main lobby. The comment cards have proven to be an important instrument in handling customer service issues. In response to many repeated requests for beverages in the boarding gate areas, vending machines were installed. Some requests are not possible, such as additional restroom facilities, although it is the most frequently mentioned request. The program serves as an affirmation of the need to update the Airline Terminal. Comment card information is shared with the managers of Airline Terminal businesses and agencies in an effort to address all concerns and requests.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Update. The Planning Commission will meet on August 9th, 16th and 23rd. Some of the more interesting items include:

August 9th - The Commission will hold an Environmental Scoping Hearing on a proposed mixed-use project at 316-324 State/323 Anacapa Street. The project includes demolition of three warehouse structures, totaling 35,850 square feet, and construction of a new three and four-story building with 20,565 square feet of new commercial space, 33 condominiums (including four affordable units), and 89 underground parking spaces. At this meeting, the Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the Draft EIR for the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens Project, in order to provide comments to the County.

August 16th - The Commission will consider a proposal at the Airport (25 David Love Place) to consolidate the car rental facilities north of Hollister Avenue, including providing common car washing, repair and gasoline facilities. The Commission will also hold a concept review of a new proposal for the State Street Lofts at 3885-3887 State Street. This is a revised project that is proposed in response to the project's denial in 2006.

Plan Santa Barbara. On July 7th, Planning Division staff concluded the last of four public workshops to solicit input on the community's concerns and hopes for the future. A Community Input Summary document is now being produced that will include input from: the four Round I workshops; the smaller grassroots community presentations/meetings; the comment cards mailed to every household and business; and comments from our website www.YouPlanSB.org

In September, Planning Division staff will return to the Boards and Commission to present the Round I Community Input Summary document for their input. The next scheduled public events

will be a series of forums and speakers in the fall, produced both in-house and in partnership with interested community groups. The Round II workshops, to begin discussing future growth options, are tentatively scheduled to begin during the first few months of 2008.

Finance Department

June Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Up 2.1%. For the 2007 fiscal year, TOT grew 5.5%. This does not include additional revenue from TOT audits during the fiscal year. Even without adding the audit revenue, TOT revenue for fiscal year 2007 exceeded budget by just over \$30,000.

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%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%
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%	677,428	2.4%
Feb	703,493	14.1%	699,349	-0.6%	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%
Mar	782,652	11.0%	872,554	11.5%	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%
April	875,760	10.4%	941,281	7.5%	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%
May	895,378	9.6%	1,001,450	11.8%	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%
June	973,955	3.3%	1,157,985	18.9%	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,604	2.1%
FY Total	\$ 10,365,683	5.1%	\$ 11,081,490	6.9%	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 12,690,954	5.5%
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

Early and Busy Fire Season. Beginning with the Rancho Fire on June 30th, and then the Zaca Fire which began on July 4th, the Fire Department has been very active in responding via Mutual Aid to assist other fire agencies. Nearly two dozen City firefighters and employees were sent to the Zaca Fire. Some of the employees are serving in administrative positions at the fire by checking fire crews in and out and helping to map the fire, and others are serving in the field or as medics. The Fire Department also recently sent staffing to Idaho to assist in several fire operations occurring there. The expenses for all this mutual aid are recovered from the other agencies.

Helicopter Rescue. One City crew at the Zaca Fire, Engine #7, comprised of Captain Bill Taff, Engineer Hank Homburg, Firefighter Michael Mudgett and Firefighter George Martinez were assigned for fire and rescue protection at the Zaca Fire Figueroa Helibase. On July 8th, a “Skycrane” helicopter was preparing for takeoff when it suddenly tipped over. Engine #7 immediately responded to the incident. A foam line was laid to cover the spilled jet fuel. The pilot had been able to jump free, however the co-pilot was trapped in the wreckage. Engine

#7's crew tried to extricate the co-pilot, whose feet were trapped. Several attempts were made before the co-pilot was freed. The pilot and co-pilot were transported to Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital with moderate injuries. A few days later, the pilot and co-pilot were able to return to the crash site to view the destruction and meet the engine crew who had saved them. Engine #7 has been commended for their professional and heroic response to this incident.

Library Department

Literacy for Families Workshops Expand. The Library was awarded a \$25,000 grant in July from the California State Library to continue its programs under the Early Learning with Families initiative. Beginning in September, the parent/child workshop series "A Child's Imagination: Books to Grow With!" will be offered in English and Spanish at three branch libraries. This project is a collaboration between the Library's Youth Services and Adult Literacy Programs and Santa Barbara City College.

Computer Lab Awarded to Library. The Library System has been awarded a special grant of 20 laptop computers and a digital projector from the California State Library to equip a portable computer training lab. The lab will be used to host training workshops sponsored by the State Library-supported InfoPeople project, as well as staff training throughout the library system. This computer lab is supported by the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the California State Library.

Eastside Branch Library. The Eastside Branch has received a donation from Community Angels Network in the amount of \$1,200 to purchase puppets for children's performances and story-times. The staff is very excited about incorporating these new puppets into the weekly preschool storytimes.

The Eastside Branch now has Chess Night, Mondays from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Martin Luther King community meeting room. The Junior League of Santa Barbara donated two handsome wooden chessboards. Two volunteer young adults are on hand to help pair up players and get newcomers started.

Parks and Recreation Department

East Beach Invaded by Over 1,000 Junior Lifeguards. On July 22nd, the City hosted the California Regional State Junior Lifeguard Championships for the second year in a row. Thirty Junior Lifeguard teams, comprised of over 1,000 competitors, came from San Diego to Santa Cruz to participate. Santa Barbara finished the day with seven competitors recognized as State Champions.

Russ Morrison Golf Tournament. It's not too late to register for the annual Russ Morrison Memorial Golf Tournament at the Santa Barbara Golf Club on August 17th. Tournament proceeds benefit the Russ Morrison Junior Golf Program which provides all aspects of golf instruction to those between the ages of 7 to 17 for only \$60 a year. The tournament is a team scramble format and the cost is \$135 per player. Tee times begin at 10 a.m. Tournament entry also includes a player-only raffle, tri-tip sandwich lunch, hors d'oeuvres, prize party, and the opportunity to play with a junior golfer. Go to www.sbgolf.com or contact Matt Easterbrook, PGA

professional and Director of Instruction for the Junior Golf Program, at 687-7087 x 5, for more information and to register.

Free Summer Fun Program Off to a Great Start. The free Summer Fun Drop-in Program offered at Harding, Franklin and McKinley Elementary Schools started full-day operations on June 25th and will run every Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through August 17th. The new Ortega Park Summer Fun Drop-in Program began July 9th and will continue every weekday through August 24th. Activities include swimming, field trips to locations such as Zodos Bowling, Batty's batting cages, UCSB, and the beach, as well as arts and crafts, gardening, mad science and more. These programs are free for youth ages 6-14 or kids entering 1st through 8th grades. Summer Fun staff includes nineteen hourly employees, four youth apprentices, and two van drivers. The number of registered participants to date is as follows: Harding - 111; McKinley - 174; Franklin - 85; and Ortega Park 20.

Free Handball Instruction Gains Popularity. A free handball clinic for Eastside youth kicked off with an ice cream social at Franklin Elementary School and Eastside Park on July 10th. Ninety-one children showed up to learn the basics of handball and to watch a demonstration by professional handball players from the U.S. Handball Association. The U.S. Handball Association provided funding as well as safety eye goggles, handballs, and a coach certification clinic. A similar clinic and ice cream social was held on July 25th at the Westside Boys and Girls club. The community handball league officially started July 19th and runs every Wednesday and Friday evening from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Another free clinic at the Westside Boys and Girls Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. A tournament is scheduled for the week of August 13th to 17th. Recently, 12 handball players were selected from the evening league to attend the City of Venice Beach Handball Tournament.

Job Apprenticeship Program Attracts Local Youth. The Job Apprenticeship Program kicked into high gear with recent City funding. The program is targeting neighborhood youth for apprentice on-the-job opportunities within the Parks and Recreation Department. The program has hired two youth apprentices, Manny Morales and Wendy Uribe, to assist staff with peer outreach and recruitment. Wendy and Manny have been trained in all aspects of program coordination. Presentations have been made to youth in schools, boys and girls clubs, and sports clubs, as well as direct outreach at their local hangouts like parks and/or street corners. Over 150 youth throughout Santa Barbara have been provided with information on job apprenticeship opportunities. Currently the program has successfully recruited 40 youth between the ages of 14 and 18 to fill 37 job-identified opportunities within the Parks and Recreation Department. Opportunities in other City departments are being sought. For more information, please contact Community Services Supervisor, Antonio Velásquez, at 963-7567.

Ninety Plusers To Celebrate. The City will host the Ninety-Plus Party honoring Santa Barbara's eldest residents at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort on August 22nd. Department staff founded the Ninety Plus Club at the Carrillo Recreation Center two decades ago. Twenty-five members aged 90 or better graced the club's first list and an inaugural celebration took place in the spring of 1985. This traditional annual gathering has grown to nearly one hundred "90 Plusers" and includes a luncheon, live musical entertainment and a lively question and answer forum. Invitations for this year's event are available from the Carrillo Recreation Center. Call 897-2519 to have one sent to someone you know 90 years or older.

Police Department

Gang Homicide. On July 16th, at 10:40 p.m. 16 year-old Lorenzo Carachure was stabbed to death in a gang fight at 600 San Pascual Street. Carachure was with two friends who were also stabbed. The suspects were a larger group of rival gang members armed with knives and clubs. This was one of several large gang fights occurring over a few day period. No suspects have been arrested and charged with the homicide. However, in the course of investigating the homicide police have arrested approximately 40 people on a variety of charges, most of them gang members or associates.

Gang Hide-Out Cleared Out. Police Officers identified the creek running between Punta Gorda and Liberty Street as a magnet for: gang activity, drug users, trash dumping, and rats. Along with Public Works Department and SWAP workers, they cleaned out two tons of refuse. Several neighboring citizens commended the effort.

Auto Theft Case. On July 31st, at 2:30 a.m., a woman living on Conejo Road was awakened at the sound of her vehicle starting up and leaving her driveway. She called 911 to report the theft. Minutes later, an officer spotted the vehicle leaving the Riviera neighborhood. The vehicle did not yield to red lights and siren, prompting a pursuit. The chase meandered to the Amtrak Station. The two occupants bailed out of the moving vehicle and fled. The officer tackled the driver, subduing him after a brief struggle. The abandoned vehicle rolled into a planter and stopped. The second suspect escaped, along with the victim's purse (left in the vehicle along with the car keys). The 19-year-old local suspect was traced to an upper State Street hotel. More stolen property was recovered from that location. The suspect was arrested for auto theft, evading arrest, driving on a suspended license, and theft. Police again caution the public to never leave keys in their unattended vehicles.

Public Works Department

Sheffield Project Awarded for Excellence. The Sheffield Water Quality Project received the 2007 California Cities Helen Putnam Award for Excellence. The Project was the culmination of a ten-year effort by the City. The goal is to ensure that the City's drinking water is protected and can consistently comply with stringent federal regulations, while also providing a community resource. The project successfully balances the concerns and needs of many stakeholders. The result is two secured, 6.5 million gallon potable water reservoirs buried underneath a landscaped 20-acre public open space. The site includes recreational trails, training and staging areas for police and fire personnel, and celebrates the site's rich water history with informative plaques and historic structures.

It's Official, The Driest Year in Over a Century. Official City rainfall records show that the year ending June 30th was Santa Barbara's driest in over 100 years. Total rainfall of 5.97 inches measured at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant was the lowest amount since the 4.57 inches recorded in 1898. City officials are emphasizing two points: First, our water supply is planned to withstand several years of below average rainfall and water supplies remain adequate for all reasonable and efficient uses of water; and second, as always, water conservation is an important part of stretching our supplies in case dry weather continues. The City has a diverse water supply, including two surface water reservoirs, a number of

groundwater wells, State Water, and recycled water. The desalination facility remains a part of the water supply as well, and could be reactivated in the event of prolonged drought or other major supply interruption. Lake Cachuma, the primary water supply for the South Coast, provides five or more years of storage and is still about 80% full due to above average rainfall in two prior years. But an adequate water supply does not mean we can forget about conservation. The City's water supply is secure, in part because of the ongoing efforts of our customers to be efficient in their water use. Citizens are urged to continue to take advantage of the many water conservation services offered by the [City's Water Conservation Program](#) or by calling 564-5460.

El Estero News. Staff and contractors are wrapping up a number of projects at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. A new pump has been installed to provide more efficient pumping (less electrical use) and to provide an extra unit in case one of the old pumps should fail; a new pump station is in place to move solids into the digesters; the digesters have been rehabilitated with a new mixing system and are producing more gas which is then converted to electricity that provides power to run much of the plant; the basins used to settle solids have been rehabilitated to replace deteriorated components and to coat the concrete to preserve its integrity; and the basins used for the biological portion of the treatment plant have been reconfigured to improve process control. Several other projects are still in the pipeline. These include rehabilitation of the recycled water filters, upgrading the screening at the headworks of the plant, and replacing the tanks that hold the industrial strength bleach that is used to disinfect the treated wastewater.

Engineering Division Construction Section Reorganizes. The Construction Section of the Engineering Division has reorganized to emphasize service to their clients. With the addition of two new and very qualified Supervisors, the Construction Section will be offering a single source contact to help with your projects in scheduling/public outreach, cost estimating, right-of-way coordination and sustainability. In addition to their project management responsibilities Joshua Haggmark, Supervising Civil Engineer, is available to assist you in scheduling your project and planning your public outreach, Lawrence Jackson, Supervising Civil Engineer, can review budgets and estimates to ensure a successful project, Tim Gaasch, Supervising Engineer will coordinate enforcement of right-of-way issues and John Schoof, Principal Civil Engineer, is available to discuss LEED certification and sustainable concepts that might be incorporated into the projects. If you have any questions please call John Schoof at 564-5412.

Waterfront Department

Breakwater Flag Display Returns. On August 1st, a flag-raising ceremony took place in the Santa Barbara Harbor as part of the Fiesta week celebration. Mayor Marty Blum read a proclamation, granting the Santa Barbara Yacht Club official stewardship of the new flag program and acknowledged its contribution to the community. This marks an historical return of the colorful Breakwater flags. The original 26 flags gallantly flew along the Santa Barbara Breakwater from 1977 to 2004. The flags were taken down when long-time supporter Paul Mills, former director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, passed away in 2004. During the flags absence of more than three years, there have been many inquiries and a desire to restore the flags. In June 2006, Santa Barbara Yacht Club (SBYC) presented a proposal to the Harbor Commission to take on the responsibility of locating sponsors, installing new flags and

maintaining the day-to-day operations of a new “Breakwater Flag Display.” In May, the project was approved by the City Council.

Annual Santa Barbara to King Harbor Race. One hundred and twenty-five boats in a dozen sailing categories competed in this year’s 35th Annual Santa Barbara to King Harbor Race. Participants in the 82-mile chase are yacht club members recognized by US SAILING. The race began at noon on August 3rd, and took boaters on a course from Santa Barbara Harbor, around Anacapa Island, to King Harbor the next day. Trophies were awarded at the King Harbor Yacht Club.