



# City Administrator's Report

November 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

November 13 and 20:           **City Council Meetings**, City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

## Community Events

November 6:                   **City of Santa Barbara General Municipal Election.** For more information, go to [www.SBCityVote.org](http://www.SBCityVote.org)

November 22:                 **Thanksgiving Holiday.** City Offices will be closed November 22 and 23 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

November 5 to 12:             Veterans Day  
November 12 to 19:            Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care  
November 19 to December 3:   Unity Shoppe

## City Administrator

**What’s Going on Inside Santa Barbara?** *Inside Santa Barbara* is a monthly, award-winning newsmagazine show that focuses on City issues, projects, and events. In November’s episode, City TV hits the road to explore street safety. Learn about the rules of the road to become a better and safer driver, bicyclist, and pedestrian. Do you enjoy going to the beach, strolling on Stearns Wharf or jogging along the harbor? In this episode, City TV previews a project at West Beach that will improve the pedestrian experience. Also in this episode, City TV continues its focus on youth by looking at how local teens are coming together to make a difference in the community. *Inside Santa Barbara* also introduces City TV’s all-new show on

sustainability and all things green. Coming this fall, the show premieres by educating viewers about the power of the sun by visiting local solar projects like City Fire Station No. 2.

Don't miss this exciting episode of *Inside Santa Barbara*! The show premieres on Saturday, November 10th at 9 p.m. It is rebroadcast on Mondays at 8 and 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 and 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10 and 10:30 p.m. You can also watch the show on City TV's website.

If you have story ideas for the show, contact City TV at 564-5311.

## Administrative Services

**Phase Two of Council Agenda Report Automation Goes Live.** Since May 2007, department submission of Council Agenda Reports has been "paperless" and had the benefits of electronic workflow tracking and notification. Phase Two of this project was implemented on October 2nd. It now directly interacts with the agenda item authors to inform them of the progress, status, and comments of their agenda items as they work through the approval process. This project eliminates phone calls and paper use of the previous system.

**Streaming Video of Ordinance Committee Proceedings Now Available.** The Ordinance Committee proceedings, previously filmed and rebroadcast on City TV Channel 18 are now available live during the meeting and on demand after the meeting via the City's website. Over the next eight months, the remaining televised meetings are scheduled to be converted to Streaming Video, which will complete this project.

## Airport

**Airport Prepares for a Disaster.** A full-scale disaster exercise of the Santa Barbara Airport Emergency Plan took place on October 30th. The purpose of the exercise was for local emergency organizations to gain practice for a mutual aid response in the event of a major aircraft disaster on Airport property. The emergency plan must be tested via a simulated incident every three years. Approximately 30 agencies participated in this year's drill in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration requirements.

**New Noise System Takes Flight at Airport.** A new Noise Monitoring/Flight Tracking System manufactured by ERA Corporation, an international leader in the industry, was installed at the Airport last month. The new system correlates noise complaints with flight tracks including aircraft type and aircraft operator. Aircraft flight tracks can be replayed in real time with the accompanying Federal Aviation Administration Control Tower radio communication. This enables staff to better evaluate whether a particular aircraft could have complied with the Airport's voluntary noise abate procedures.

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## Community Development Department

***Improved Pedestrian Access to West Beach.*** Following an extensive study of the West Beach area and meetings with stakeholders and City departments, The Conceptual Motion Company has developed a design to address pedestrian circulation in the West Beach area. In response to community needs, The Redevelopment Agency is providing \$3.25 million for improvements to the area in order to enhance the pedestrian linkage between Stearns Wharf and the Harbor.

The primary goals of the project are to 1) increase the safety and ease with which pedestrians cross Cabrillo Boulevard, and 2) facilitate pedestrian travel between Stearns Wharf and the Harbor by enhancing the interest and aesthetics of the West Beach promenade and clarifying walkways through the Harbor parking lot.

The primary components of the project include 1) installation of signaled crosswalks at intersections along Cabrillo Boulevard; 2) repair and enhancement of the beach-side sidewalk of Cabrillo Boulevard; 3) construction of viewing plazas that will open to the beach and provide ADA access; 4) development of opportunities for public art display that honor the history of the Waterfront; 5) various improvements to the Sea Landing area to generate a sense of place and entry; and 6) development of way-finding signals between Cabrillo Boulevard and the Harbor through enhanced lighting, landscaping and signage. Construction is expected to begin late in 2008.

***Preparing for New Building and Fire Codes.*** The State of California Building Standards Commission adopted the new International Building Code and the Fire Code, which were published in July, 2007. Local jurisdictions and counties in California have 180 days to review these codes and make local amendments based on climatic, topographical and geological conditions, along with findings. The amendments must be approved by the local agency prior to January 1, 2008, when the new codes take effect.

The ordinance adopting these new codes went to the Ordinance Committee on October 30<sup>th</sup>, and then will go to Council in November, for formal adoption. The new codes are a complete change from the current Uniform Building and Fire Codes. Significant training will be required for Community Development and Fire Department's personnel, as well as local architects, contractors and developers. Plans have been made to hold joint training sessions on these new codes in order to implement them by the effective date.

For more information, contact George Estrella at 564-5553 or Chief Building Official or Joe Poire, Acting Fire Marshal at 564-5502.

## Finance Department

***September Transient Occupancy Tax Up (TOT) 1.8%.*** September was another disappointing month for TOT growth. It has now been over six months since TOT showed a year-over-year growth rate of more than 5%. Through the first three months of the fiscal year, TOT has grown 3%. This remains well below the 7% growth needed to meet the fiscal year 2008 TOT revenue budget.

Month	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%
Aug	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%
Sept	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,527	1.8%
Oct	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%		
Nov	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%		
Dec	575,075	4.0%	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%		
Jan	606,484	3.7%	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%		
Feb	699,349	-0.6%	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%		
Mar	872,554	11.5%	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%		
April	941,281	7.5%	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%		
May	1,001,438	11.8%	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%		
June	1,158,018	18.9%	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%		
<b>FY Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,081,510</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>\$ 12,032,372</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>\$ 12,691,167</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>\$ 4,477,374</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 10,684,900</b>		<b>\$ 11,504,200</b>		<b>\$ 12,630,600</b>		<b>\$ 13,581,500</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

**Local Firefighters Battle Southern California Fire Storms.** To date, over half of the 25 City firefighters and staff members that responded to the disastrous fire storms in southern California have returned home. With a majority of those fires now contained, City fire crews still on the scene are primarily focused on the Santiago Fire in Orange County. These wind-driven fires burned over 2,000 homes and damaged or destroyed over 1,000 other structures. The order of magnitude of these fire storms is truly staggering, with many acres burned and hundreds of thousands of residents evacuated. As the days pass, it seems many Santa Barbara residents have been directly or indirectly touched by this tragedy, by knowing friends, relatives or acquaintances who were evacuated and/or lost all their possessions in the blazes. This fire season has been a dramatic reminder of how vulnerable we are to disasters here in Santa Barbara and throughout California.

**Fun and Safety a Great Mix.** The Santa Barbara City Fire Department hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Fair on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Families decked out in Halloween costumes entered De La Guerra Street for the Safety Fair after they attended the 9th Annual Costume Parade on State Street hosted by Postpartum Education for Parents (PEP). Three dozen safety organizations greeted them at their booths and distributed safety literature and information. Following the City’s sustainable practices, this was a “green” event, with recycling and composting bins available for use. The City was well represented with the following departments participating: Police, Parks and Recreation, Lifeguards, Airport, Animal Control, and Harbor Patrol.

**Fire Department Proudly Receives Award.** The Fire Department has been awarded the 2007 Branch of the Year by the Save A Life Foundation (SALF). The Save A Life Foundation is a national not-for-profit organization with the mission to provide vital first aid skills to our nation’s youth. Those skills can then be used to help in an emergency prior to the arrival of emergency medical services. To accomplish its goal, SALF utilizes local emergency medical service professionals as instructors. Founded in 1993, SALF has successfully taught more than two million children CPR and first aid skills. Fire Captain Gary Pitney coordinates the Fire

Department program, scheduling firefighters to conduct the training at schools. In fiscal year 2007, 30 presentations were given to over 800 local youth.

## Library Department

***Santa Barbara Reads Mountains Beyond Mountains.*** The fall Santa Barbara Reads community reading program focused on a book by Tracy Kidder, Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World, about an indefatigable, infectious disease doctor known for his work in Haiti, Rwanda, and other poor areas of the world. Five of the libraries held community conversations, with guest discussion leaders from Santa Barbara City College, UC Santa Barbara, Direct Relief International, Carpinteria High School, Medecins du Monde, Rio Beni Health Project, and SEE International. About 84 participants joined the discussions. The program benefited by partnering with UCSB Arts and Lectures and the Gevirtz School of Education, who arranged to bring Dr. Farmer to the Arlington Theatre for a free public lecture on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. A full house welcomed the hero of the Santa Barbara Reads book, an engaging and personable speaker who autographed a “mountain of books” after the lecture.

***Literacy: Spanish Language Programs.*** The Santa Barbara Public Library System has begun the second series of workshops in the Early Learning with Families initiative. The Goleta Library is hosting Spanish-language parent-child programs on Saturday mornings through November. Library staffers Maria Lopez and Albert Rios recently appeared on Telemundo and in various radio PSA spots, including Radio Bronco, promoting the programs in Spanish. Four more series are planned.

The Adult Literacy Program is currently recruiting AmeriCorps members for its fifth year of participation in a statewide initiative through California Library Literacy Services. Members give a year of service to the library and are paid a living allowance and receive an education award.

## Parks and Recreation Department

***Work Session Scheduled for Trails Task Force.*** The Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force will hold a work session on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. until noon, at the Louise Lowry Davis Center. The six-member Task Force includes representatives from the City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara and US Forest Service. The Task Force will receive a presentation from staff and discuss draft recommendations for the management of the Santa Barbara front country trail system. Recommendation topic areas include administration and organization, community outreach and education, and trail management and maintenance. The Task Force will also receive a presentation from National Park Service staff regarding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Trail user groups and the general public are invited to attend and provide comments.

***Thanksgiving Luncheon for People with Disabilities.*** The traditional Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Santa Barbara Kiwanis Club and the Parks and Recreation's Adapted Programs will be served to all those with developmental and physical disabilities on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at noon at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, 1118 East Cabrillo

Boulevard. The Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara and Adapted Programs has organized this event for the past 29 years; it has grown from serving 50 dinners to over 200. Other sponsors this year include Classic Party Rentals, the Berryman, Tri-Counties Regional Center, UCP Work Inc, and the Wood-Claeysens Foundation. Anyone wishing to attend the luncheon must RSVP with their name and phone number by November 16th to 564-5421.

**Senior Expo Features Services and Products for Older Adults.** The Parks and Recreation Department is one of 14 agencies coordinating the 19th annual Senior Expo to be held on Wednesday, November 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Earl Warren Showgrounds. The admission fee of \$5 includes a flu shot, parking, lunch, fitness testing, live music and information from 90 exhibitors providing products and services for older adults. Call the Active Adults and Classes office at 897-2519 for more information.

**Proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Parks Yard.** At their November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission will discuss a proposal by Ridge Communications to install a Verizon cell tower in the Parks yard adjacent to the Municipal Tennis Courts. Similar to other cell telecommunication facilities installed on City property, a multi-year lease would provide income to the City. These funds would be dedicated to maintenance and improvements at the Municipal Tennis Court facility. Residents and businesses within 450 feet of the proposed location will be notified about the proposed installation and meeting.

**Records Set in Club West Track and Field Meet.** Two records were set in the Club West Track and Field (USAFT) meet co-sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Terry Cannon, age 70, from Springfield Oregon, set a new U.S. Pole Vault record for his age group at 10' 6", and 65-year old Nadine O'Connor from Del Mar, California, set a new World Record, Wind-Aided, in the 80 meter hurdles with a time of 13.89 seconds. At the track and field meet, 113 athletes ranging in age from 16 to 82 competed in their choice of eight field and 16 track events, organized by five-year age groups. This USAFT sanctioned meet was sponsored by Club West, the City's Parks and Recreation Department, Northern Trust, Pane E Vino Trattoria and the Santa Barbara Athletic Association.

**Volunteer Recognition.** For their dedicated service as announcers for the Children's Fiesta Parade, volunteer recognition certificates were given to Carol Saucedo, Christine Le Bon, Dan Tingle, Elvira Arvina, Gina Morelli, Janis Johnsen, Jessica Haro, Paul McCaffrey, and Ron Guilbault. In addition, Roger Hand, Executive Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), was recognized for his role in placing and supporting volunteers leading senior citizen programs at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, Carrillo Recreation Center and both lawn bowls clubs. Roger also personally assists with the department's Ninety-Plus luncheon.

## Police Department

**Major Accident at State and Carrillo Streets.** On October 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:11 p.m. a Silver KIA Optima was traveling eastbound on Carrillo Street when it struck three pedestrians crossing Carrillo Street in the State Street crosswalk. The driver, 65-year old Patricia Blatt, stopped at the scene. All three pedestrians were transported to Cottage Hospital. The pedestrians were a mother, Mrs. Asknenazi and her two sons: 15-year old Ilan Ashkenazi and 18-year old Jarone Ashkenazi. Jarone is a freshman at UCSB and his family was up visiting him from Los Angeles. Mrs. Ashkenazi received serious injuries, but was released after a few days in the hospital.

Jarone received minor injuries and was released the next day. Ilan remains in extremely critical condition with severe head injuries. He has been taken to UCLA Medical Center. The investigation determined that Patricia Blatt ran the red light and struck the pedestrians in the crosswalk. She was not drinking and had no signs of being impaired.

**9-Year Old Girl Critically Injured by Brother.** On October 4<sup>th</sup> at about 6:50 p.m., a 15-year old boy living in a small apartment complex at 400 Bath Street took the keys to the family mini-van, started it up, and began maneuvering the vehicle down the driveway towards the street. The boy's father (also unlicensed) was watching with apparent approval. The boy was jockeying the vehicle close to a tree, prompting his 9-year old sister to rush over and warn him. Just then, the boy hit the gas pedal instead of the brake. The mini-van lurched forward, pinning the girl between the vehicle and the tree. The family took her to Cottage Hospital where she was diagnosed as having several crushed vertebrae and a strong possibility of permanent paralysis. Because the incident occurred on private property, there was no legal requirement for the boy to be licensed.

**Intoxicated Woman Killed by Drunk Driver.** On October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:10 p.m., Ann Napier, age 23, was walking home with a male companion at 700 Cliff Drive. They had just left an Oktoberfest celebration at the Brewhouse, at 229 W. Montecito Street. For unknown reasons, Napier stepped off the curb into the street. She was struck by a Volvo being driven by Robert Anderson, age 59. Napier was transported to Cottage Hospital with major head injuries and pronounced dead. Napier's companion was about 20 feet behind her on the sidewalk and was not struck nor injured. Anderson was arrested for drunk driving. His blood alcohol level was .14. Napier's blood alcohol level was .28. The legal limit for driving under the influence of alcohol is .08. Traffic investigators continue working to determine the causes of the collision; however, a primary cause was a pedestrian (Napier) being in the roadway.

**Oxnard Gang Member Shot.** On October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 a.m., a 19-year old Oxnard gang member arrived at Cottage Hospital with a gunshot wound to his leg. He was accompanied by his brother and a friend, both of whom are also Oxnard gang members. The victim gave an unlikely story that they were walking downtown on State Street, minding their own business, when four Asian males drove up in a car and shot him. State Street was checked and witnesses contacted, but no one could corroborate that a shooting took place. Detectives believe the shooting took place elsewhere, and the victim was shot elsewhere and brought to Santa Barbara to throw off law enforcement. Other law enforcement were contacted, but had no information to help shed light on the circumstances.

## Public Works Department

**Going Underground Leads to a Brighter Cliff Drive.** Existing overhead utilities along the Cliff Drive corridor are scheduled for relocation underground from Lighthouse Road to Mesa Lane. Designed and constructed by Southern California Edison, this \$4.5 million project is funded from a portion of utility ratepayer taxes paid by City residents and businesses. As an added project improvement, on October 9<sup>th</sup>, City Council approved staff's recommendation to add approximately \$500,000 of City-funded streetlight improvements to the project. The result will be additional, decorative City streetlights, and improved City-owned electrical circuits along the project corridor. The proposed improvements will enhance pedestrian views, as well as the

use of alternative modes of transportation along the project corridor. Contact John Ewasiuk, Principal Civil Engineer with any questions at 564-5373.

**Getting Control of Mission Creek.** For many years, the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project has been a joint effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the County Flood Control District, and the City of Santa Barbara. From Mission Creek at Canon Perdido Street down to Cabrillo Boulevard, this project will widen the creek channel to increase flood flow capacity in order to reduce flooding and property damage to the surrounding areas. In addition, widening the channel will involve replacement of old concrete walls and replacement of non-native invasive plants with native species along the banks of Mission Creek. Natural creek bed improvements will be made to enhance the endangered species habitat for the Southern Steelhead Trout and the Tidewater Goby. Due to a lack of funding in the past few years, the Corps has been unable to complete design efforts; however, in spring 2007, the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County and will share the cost to update project cost estimates and conduct preliminary design. The County awarded the work to Penfield & Smith. The Contractor, the County, and the City met monthly to coordinate and review the activities included in the preliminary design, which is now nearing completion. The cost estimate for the project now reflects current construction costs. The Contractor's scope of work also included outlining construction phases in an effort to create affordable increments of work that could be funded by a combination of local and grant funds. A progress update and more information from the County about funding and grant options will be presented in the near future.

**Easy Strolling on Carrillo Hill: Sidewalk Project Awarded.** On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Council awarded a contract for the construction of access ramps and approximately 1,000 ft. of sidewalk along the north side of Carrillo Street, between Miramonte Drive and Kenwood Road. This project should make pedestrian access up and down the steep hill of Carrillo Street easier. The Public Works Department staff was successful in obtaining grant funding for this project and worked with Flowers & Associates, a local consulting firm, on the design. The contractor, Nye & Nelson, is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in January 2008, and the improvements will take approximately three months to complete.

**Zaca Fire's Impact on Gibraltar Reservoir's Watershed.** City residents receive approximately 35% of their water from City-owned Gibraltar Reservoir, via Mission Tunnel. In the recent Zaca Fire, it is estimated that 60% of Gibraltar Reservoir's 220 square mile watershed was severely burned. Erosion and debris flows from heavy winter rains could significantly fill in the reservoir with silt and negatively impact water quality. Staff is currently working on projects to preserve existing water storage capacity and water quality at Gibraltar. Because of the fire, the reservoir is eligible for State assistance. Staff has submitted \$4.3 Million in State Disaster Survey Reports; and they have met with State Office of Emergency Services representatives to review proposed projects. Additionally, MNS Engineers have been hired to perform a bathymetric survey of the reservoir to determine the current storage capacity. If the coming winter brings heavy rains, a second survey will be conducted in the spring to determine any change in storage capacity.

## Waterfront Department

**Lottery Determines Mooring Sites.** Acting in accordance with City Resolution No. 07-040, the Harbor Commission conducted a General Lottery on October 18<sup>th</sup> to rank applicants for

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available mooring sites. The Lottery was triggered when the total number of Mooring Permits assigned in the Santa Barbara Mooring Area dropped below thirty. Staff advertised a General Lottery to occupy 17 mooring sites and provided a one-month window which ended October 3<sup>rd</sup> to submit lottery participation requests. A total of 92 valid lottery participation requests were received by the deadline.

Harbor Commission Chair Frank Kelly randomly drew the requests, one by one, and ranked them for potential assignment of Mooring Permits. Staff is now in the process of mailing permit applications to the first 17 ranked individuals, who will have 14 days to return the applications or lose the opportunity to qualify for a Mooring Permit. When the applications are returned, staff will discuss with each applicant the possible location of proposed moorings, beginning with the person ranked first.

Once offered a Mooring Permit, a prospective permittee will have 90 days to place an approved vessel on the Mooring Site, provide vessel ownership documentation, pay all fees due and prove compliance with minimum ground tackle specifications. The names of all ranked lottery participants who return permit applications in a timely fashion will be held until prospective permittees have chosen all available sites. If all sites are assigned before the list is exhausted, the names of remaining (ranked) individuals will be discarded. Staff is optimistic that with the completion of the General Lottery and subsequent Mooring Site assignments, the Santa Barbara Mooring Area will be fully occupied by early 2008.