



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** March 27, 2013

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Eggstravaganzas at Chase Palm Park and Parque de los Niños

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive a report on Eggstravaganza 2013.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Through the efforts of Neighborhood and Outreach Services and Youth Activities, two fun-filled free community Egg Hunts take place on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am in our City. The larger Eggstravaganza takes place in the Great Meadow at Chase Palm Park, and a more neighborhood Eggstravaganza at Parque de los Niños. Both Eggstravaganzas take place simultaneously on the Saturday prior to Easter and serve hundreds of children: approximately 400 at Chase Palm Park and 150 at Parque de los Niños. Both events are made possible thanks the Fire Fighters (FFA) and Police Officers Associations (POA), each of which contribute equally to offset the cost for as many as 90,000 chocolate eggs and candy that will be distributed between the two events. In addition, many volunteers assist staff with bringing families and friends together to experience our parks, celebrate spring, and hunt for chocolate eggs and other surprises.

#### **Eggstravaganza at Chase Palm Park**

Since April 1999, the first year the Eggstravaganza took place at the newly expanded Chase Palm Park, this annual event has hosted as many as 400 children (from toddlers to 8 year olds) in four separate hunt areas. The hunts take place in the Great Meadow where eager gatherers with keen eyes wait for the signal to start. This year, Councilmember Frank Hotchkiss will provide the countdown, and Officer Mike McGrew revs up his motorcycle and thrills the children with his blaring siren signaling the start of the mad dash. With music playing in the background, children scramble over the berm to a sea of colored eggs and chocolate. The FFA and POA have provided significant support to this event. The POA brings barricades and equipment for the event set-up and the FFA each year kindly brings a fire engine, allowing children to climb inside the cab for pictures with the bunny. Fire hats for gathering eggs and both police and fire fighter badges are handed out to the children.

**Eggstravaganza at Parque de los Niños**

This grassroots Eggstravaganza began in 1990 at the former Lower Westside Community Center and in 1995, was moved to the newly opened Parque de Los Niños. This annual event serves up to 150 children from toddlers to 8 year olds. This year, a member of the Neighborhood Advisory Council will provide the countdown. Children will also have an opportunity for pictures with the bunny throughout the event, and find special golden eggs concealing special prizes for the lucky few.

A special recognition for this effort goes to Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer. Over the last few years he has personally assisted with fundraising that is directly used for the Parque de Los Niños event.

**PREPARED BY:** Terry Brown, Youth Activities Supervisor  
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Senior Supervisor

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

**APPROVED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director