



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** June 24, 2009

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

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

**SUBJECT:** Update on Upcoming Summer Special Events

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission hear a presentation about upcoming summer special events.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Summer has begun and so has the countdown to three anticipated special events of the summer – the Concerts in the Parks program, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, and the Children's Fiesta Parade. Parks and Recreation staff has been working closely with community volunteers, other City Department staff, and event sponsors to insure that these annual events meet the public's high expectations.

#### Concerts in the Parks

The City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department's Concerts in the Parks program will kick-off another exciting summer of free concerts with opening night, Thursday, July 2, 2009. The Chase Palm Park series opener will feature the Soul City Survivors, one of Santa Barbara's most popular dance bands. Over 40,000 people attended last year's concert season.

This summer's schedule includes five concerts held on Thursday nights from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Chase Palm Park. Due to budget cuts, Chase Palm Park's concert series has been reduced by three concerts, and the series at Alameda Park will not be offered this summer. Additional donors and corporate sponsors are being sought to return the series back to its former size and scope next summer.

This summer's program was made possible by sponsors KLITE, KTYD, Santa Barbara Independent, XL5 Productions, SBParent.com, and Santa Barbara Family Life Magazine and a generous grant from the Towbes Foundation. Staff would like to recognize, and thank them for their generous support.

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

City staff from the Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, Waterfront, Harbor Patrol, and Public Works Departments in collaboration with volunteers from SPARKLE have been busy planning this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration slated for Saturday, July 4th. SPARKLE's 2009 Freedom Celebration will begin at 7:00 p.m. at West Beach and will feature patriotic and family-friendly entertainment from the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest. During the intermission scheduled approximately for 8:00 p.m., Santa Barbara's own Dave Gonzales will take the microphone to perform a song or two. Following the musical entertainment will be the City's fireworks display. It will take place off of West Beach at 9:00 p.m. with a 22-minute show by Pyro Spectaculars. The public is encouraged to come down to the waterfront early in the day and enjoy the food and beverage vendors along Cabrillo Blvd starting at 12:00 noon.

City staff reminds all those in the area that certain regulations apply from 12:01 a.m. to 12 midnight on July 4<sup>th</sup> in order to make this a safe and fun event for everyone. These include no fireworks, no alcohol, no glass, no pit digging, no open fires, no dogs on the beach, and no parking adjacent to the railroad tracks. The public is encouraged to utilize the MTD bus and shuttle services to get down to the waterfront. Information and schedules can be found on the MTD website at [www.sbmtd.com](http://www.sbmtd.com).

Additional events going on in the City on the holiday include the Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts Show that will also be held on that Saturday starting at 10:00 a.m. to dusk along Cabrillo Blvd., the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade down State Street starting at 1:00 p.m., and the Santa Barbara Symphony and Santa Barbara Choral Society concert beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Sunken Gardens.

### Children's Fiesta Parade

On Saturday, August 8, 2009, 2,500 children dressed in costume will parade down State Street as part of the Children's Fiesta Parade. This 79<sup>th</sup> annual parade is held during Old Spanish Days Fiesta week. The parade is organized by Parks and Recreation staff and staffed by City Employees and community volunteers on parade day. Applications are now available for parade participants. Community volunteers are also being sought to work the parade day. To sign up to participate in the parade or get more information about volunteering for the parade, the public is urged to call the Parks and Recreation Department at 897-1982.

Parks and Recreation Department staff invites the public to come out and enjoy these special events held in Santa Barbara's beautiful beaches and parks this summer!

**ATTACHMENT:** 2009 Concert Schedule

**SUBMITTED BY:** Judith McCaffrey, Recreation Programs Manager

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