



- In this Issue:
- Community Plan Update
  - New Energy Manager
  - Reuse and Restore
  - Play Ball!
  - San Marcos Preserve

**Welcome** to my Second District "News & Views" Newsletter. I've designed this newsletter to update you periodically on issues, projects and events in the Second District and Countywide.

As I write this, we are experiencing the aftermath of the tragic Tea Fire, in which so many of our local residents lost their homes. The County is doing its part to make the rebuilding and recovery process as smooth as possible. The County's Ombudsperson can be reached with any questions or problems fire victims might encounter along the way. Please contact Tony Nisich at (805) 560-1098, or [tnisich@countyofsb.org](mailto:tnisich@countyofsb.org).

This summer the Gap Fire in the Second District threatened homes and property as well. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to our firefighters and emergency responders whose efforts are always heroic in the face of such emergencies. Now, however, we face a winter challenge. The burned hillsides above Goleta pose a significant risk of increased flooding this winter.

In September I co-hosted a community forum to help residents ready themselves for these potential winter floods. I encourage everyone downstream from the burn area to prepare their property for this possibility and educate themselves about everything



from sandbags to sump pumps.

Visit [http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/GAP\\_Fire\\_Public\\_Safety\\_Info.htm](http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/GAP_Fire_Public_Safety_Info.htm) to get the information you need.

Along with protecting ourselves and our property, we must continue our efforts to develop and embrace sustainable practices. Because I am committed to accelerating the County of Santa Barbara's efforts in this area, I successfully advocated for the position of a County Energy Manager this year. He will help the County lower our energy costs and reduce our carbon footprint.

I'm also excited to announce the newly-formed Goleta Valley Community Planning Advisory Committee that will work to update the 1993 Goleta Community Plan.

***Supervisor Wolf at the Gap Fire Community Forum with Santa Barbara County Fire Captain Eli Iskow and Janet Stanley, Executive Director of the American Red Cross Santa Barbara County Chapter***

The children in our community are also enjoying the recently renovated ball fields and facilities where Goleta Valley South Little League plays.

As we head into the winter season I hope you will all take the time to visit the newly opened San Marcos Foothills Preserve, another jewel in the Second District. And while you're out walking, take some time to see all that is happening at the old Foothill Landfill -- from revegetation to recycling to innovative energy projects.

I will continue to work to find ways to build a sustainable County of Santa Barbara where our citizens can live, work, and play in ways that respect the beauty and fragility of this environment in which we are fortunate to live.

Sincerely,  
Supervisor Janet Wolf  
<http://www.countyofsb.org/bos/wolf/>

\*\*\*\*\*

## Goleta Valley Community Planning Advisory Committee Convened



After years of visioning and planning, which included the 2006 Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley, the Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee (GVPAC) met for the first time on October 1, 2008. Pictured with Supervisor Wolf, GVPAC members are: (left to right) Kenneth Mineau, Ted Adams, Valerie Olson, Thomas Elliott, Kimberly True, Kenan Ezal, and Bonnie Freeman.

Composition of the GVPAC was based upon many factors, including geographic areas, professional affiliations, community segments, and other interest groups that are representative of the community.

The role of the GVPAC is to advise County staff during the update of the 1993 Goleta Community Plan. GVPAC members will receive community input, develop Community Plan goals, and review and comment on the Draft Goleta Valley Community Plan.

Meetings are held in the Planning Commission Hearing Room in the Santa Barbara County Building at 105 E. Anapamu St. For more information on agendas and meeting dates and times, go to:

<http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/goleta/gvpac.php>

\*\*\*\*\*

## Santa Barbara County's First Energy Manager



Saving energy, reducing costs and helping the environment is the charge of the new Santa Barbara County Energy Manager, Jerry McFerran. Recognizing the need for greater energy-efficiency in the County, Supervisor Janet Wolf strongly advocated for the hiring of the County's first Energy Manager. McFerran has twenty years experience managing energy conservation in large commercial buildings and in software engineering, bringing wide-ranging technical skills to Santa Barbara County.

McFerran says that energy consumption in the County could be reduced by 10 percent purely by raising awareness and educating occupants. A computer use policy, for instance, could save the County \$100,000 a year alone.

Facilities operation and maintenance is an area where McFerran will look for savings as well, since proper maintenance saves energy and reduces the total cost of ownership.

One of McFerran's first priorities is to implement an "energy accounting system." This system will provide a foundation upon which the County can quickly and efficiently monitor energy use and verify ongoing progress toward achieving our energy goals.

***County Energy Manager Jerry McFerran demonstrating the tools of the trade in an energy briefing with Supervisor Wolf.***

McFerran's goal is to make existing County buildings 30 percent more energy efficient over the next six years, and save the County more than a \$1,000,000 annually.

"McFerran's vision and expertise is exactly what the County needs," proclaimed Wolf after hearing details of his plans. "Not only can we reduce energy consumption and save money, we could choose to bank the dollars we save and invest them in renewable energy with the goal of someday making the County 'carbon neutral.'"

\*\*\*\*\*

## Reuse and Restore: The Sustainable Future of Foothill Landfill

Mark Schleich, the County's Public Works Department Deputy Director of the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, is always on the lookout for projects that provide mutual benefit. The old Foothill landfill, which closed down in 1966, is a perfect example of putting this philosophy into action. Not only is it now home to the local non-profits, Growing Solutions Restoration Education Institute and Heart's Adaptive Riding Program, but its trails are also open to the public to enjoy.

Restoring native plants and habitats on the old landfill is also a priority. The County's Open Space Revegetation Project is ongoing under the expert direction of County environmental planner Joddi Leipner and partner Growing Solutions. Visitors can learn about the project and the site through interpretive signs posted along the trails.

***Mark Schleich, Santa Barbara County Deputy Director of Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, discusses the restoration work at Foothill Landfill***

Another exciting project taking place at Foothill Landfill is run by local entrepreneur Russell Teal who had the idea of growing a plant indigenous to India called *Jatropha* in order to use oil from its seeds as the "bio" ingredient of bio-diesel.



Teal's concept is an inventive one, and if successful could potentially help fuel the County's entire fleet of cars and trucks. Because *Jatropha* is drought-tolerant and requires no fertilizer, it is cheap to grow right here in our own back yard. Localizing the production of fuel, like *Jatropha*, not only saves on shipping products to Santa Barbara for bio-diesel production, but uses less fuel and fewer chemicals up front to grow the crop.

Supervisor Wolf couldn't be happier that the Foothill landfill now contributes to the common good: "We've turned a dump into a place the community can enjoy and a space where we propagate native plants and experiment with environmentally sustainable projects," she said on a recent visit to the site.

***Oil from *Jatropha* seeds may someday help fuel the Santa Barbara County fleet of cars and trucks***

Become a "Friend of Foothill" and help restore this open space by showing up at the next Foothill Open Space planting day: Saturday, December 13, 2008 9 am - 12 pm. Call Joddi Leipner at 805-882-3614 for directions and details.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Play Ball! Goleta Valley South Little League Ball Fields Reopen with County Help

After securing \$130,000 from Santa Barbara County to help renovate the facilities for Goleta Valley South Little League, Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf attended the League's opening day this past April: "It's great to see these kids and their families out here enjoying the upgraded fields and facilities at this much-loved recreational site," Supervisor Wolf said.

The non-profit Goleta Valley South Little League provides a year-round youth baseball program for hundreds of children in the area. The fields were in need of repair and the facilities required upgrading to comply with the American Disabilities Act.



***Supervisor Wolf celebrating the Goleta Valley South Little League Opening Day 2008***

Wolf commended the partnership between the County of Santa Barbara, the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation and the in-kind services of architects, engineers and surveyors to make these needed upgrades: "This project once again shows how our community steps up to the plate to provide wonderful recreational opportunities for our children. I'm pleased the County can also do its part to sustain and nourish our community's children by providing them a clean, well-built place to go to play ball!"

For more information on the Goleta Valley South Little League programs, visit the GVSL website: <http://www.gvsl.com>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Blessing of San Marcos Foothills Preserve**

On a sublime fall evening in October atop a hill with sweeping views, Art Cisneros, from the Barbareno Chumash tribe, led community members in a blessing of the 200 acre San Marcos Foothills Preserve. The Preserve is now officially open to the public.



South County Deputy Director of Santa Barbara County Parks, Erik Axelson, is working with a stewardship committee of preservationists and neighbors to develop a long-term management plan for the Preserve which includes rolling hills, grasses, woodlands and wetlands.

Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf was on hand to offer thanks to those who made this Preserve a reality including the San Marcos Coalition, Former Second District Supervisor Susan Rose, the Trust for Public Land, Jeff Bermant and the County Parks Department. Wolf noted that San Marcos Foothills is a "passive preserve," a place for reflection, inspiration and contemplative walks along the diverse landscapes.

***Barbareno Chumash descendent Art Cisneros blessing the San Marcos Foothills Preserve***

***San Marcos Foothills Preserve is located at the end of Via Gaitero, just north of Santa Barbara. From the interchange of Foothill Road and CA Route 154, proceed west to the first right turn at Via Chaparral. Take the next right (Salvar Road) across the bridge over Rt. 154 and turn left onto Via Gaitero. Park along the shoulder and proceed to the gate at the top of the hill.***

Contact Information:  
Supervisor Janet Wolf  
105 E. Anapamu St., 4th Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Tel: (805) 568-2191  
Fax: (805) 568-2283  
<http://www.countyofsb.org/bos/wolf>

