**Are You In the Neighborhood?**

All residents of Goleta now have access to a free, online social network specifically for their neighborhood called Nextdoor. This private network fosters communication between neighbors which leads to stronger neighborhoods and a safer community. Nextdoor sites are an easy way for residents to get to know their neighbors, exchange information and advice and ask questions. Topics of discussion range from local events and school activities, to contractor recommendations, disaster preparedness, recent crime activity and lost pets.

**1. How does Nextdoor work?**

Each of the City’s 22 neighborhoods has a private Nextdoor website that is accessible only to the residents of that neighborhood. Once neighbors verify their addresses and join their neighborhood website, they can find other neighbors in the resident directory, view a neighborhood map, ask for advice, exchange local recommendations and share neighborhood information with each other. Neighbors can choose to see and respond to updates via email or only on the website.

**2. What types of things do people do on Nextdoor?**

People in Goleta are already using their Nextdoor networks to find a great babysitter, alert fellow neighbors to local crimes, learn more about upcoming City construction projects and share an abundance of fruit from their own trees. However, the exchange of information is limitless.

**3. How is Nextdoor different from my neighborhood mailing list?**

Nextdoor is designed for the specific communication needs of a neighborhood. For example, Nextdoor websites include a neighborhood map and directory of residents, so it’s easy to know who you’re talking to. When a neighbor shares a recommendation for a favorite local service (e.g. gardener, cleaning service, tutor) it’s automatically cataloged so anyone can easily refer back to it at any time.

Unlike mailing lists and groups, Nextdoor makes it easy to stay informed without overwhelming people with too many emails. Members can choose to receive emails about each new post, see everything in a single daily digest, or turn off emails and check the website for new posts from...
Goleta Launches First Citizen’s Academy

Have you ever wanted to learn more about all of the different types of services our law enforcement personnel provide?

On April 18, the first annual Citizen’s Academy will kick off. The Academy offers you the opportunity to learn more about what the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office personnel do on a day-by-day basis. You’ll get an insider look at the various departments over the course of seven weeks. Topics will include: department history, how a deputy sheriff is trained, forensics, SWAT, narcotics, bomb squad, dive team and much more. The academy will also include a tour of the main jail, the Santa Barbara Courthouse and the Emergency Communications Center.

The academy will begin on Wednesday, April 18 at Goleta’s City Hall at 130 Cremona Drive, Goleta, and will run every Wednesday evening from 6-9 p.m. through May 30. Class locations will vary by topic. The final class includes a Graduation BBQ on Saturday, June 2.

To take advantage of this exciting opportunity, please contact Senior Deputy Greg Sorenson at 968-3878 or drop by the Goleta Police Department’s Substation at the Camino Real Marketplace for more information.

The class is restricted to 20 people and will fill quickly. Don’t wait to sign up!

Goleta Businesses Honored By Green Business Program

More Goleta businesses are going green! The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County recognized six Goleta businesses and 15 other businesses from the region at its annual Green Business Program Luncheon. This event recognizes businesses that go above and beyond required measures to serve as models of sustainability. Celebrating its fourth year with 45 certified businesses across the County, this multi-jurisdictional, voluntary incentive program provides support, and recognizes participants that implement good environmental management practices. A business achieving certification can save money by reducing the use of energy, water and other resources.

Participating businesses address waste reduction and recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy efficiency and conservation, water conservation, air pollution prevention and alternative transportation with a checklist tailored to their industry type. The program currently offers certification for a variety of businesses.

For more information about the Green Business Program and these businesses, visit www.GreenBizSBC.org.
Southern California Edison (SCE) has started installing smart electric meters in the Santa Barbara and Ventura areas as part of the Edison SmartConnect program. The technology will help SCE residential and small-business customers to better manage their electricity use and will introduce programs and services designed to help them save money.

Installations are occurring now and continue through July.

The new smart meters are digital, secure, two-way communicating devices that are replacing traditional mechanical meters as a key step in transforming the electric system to a smart grid. They will help SCE pinpoint outages and restore service faster and also enable remote service activation for customers.

The system communicates using radio frequency (RF) signals similar in strength or lower than RF signals from devices such as cell phones, Wi-Fi routers and cordless phones. This level of RF is well below the Federal Communications Commission’s safety guidelines.

The meters measure electricity usage in hourly increments for residential customers and, in the coming months, they will be able to view their energy usage from a computer through SCE.com.

Later this year, customers will be able to sign up for new Edison SmartConnect-enabled programs and services that will help them manage their services online.

SCE has contracted with Corix Utilities, Inc., to perform most of the installations. Corix installers carry identification indicating they are approved SCE contractors.

Residential customers who do not have a smart meter installed and wish to delay installation can request to be placed on a temporary delay list (800-810-2369) until the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) completes its regulatory process regarding opt-out procedures.

For more information, please go to www.sce.com/edisonsmartconnect. To view videos about Edison SmartConnect, go to sce.com/smartfuture or YouTube.com/SCE.
Goleta 10-Year Anniversary

On February 1, 2012, Goleta celebrated the 10th anniversary of incorporation.

Two special events marked this important milestone. The first was a City Council Meeting in which Goleta received special recognitions from other agencies. In addition, people who were instrumental in the City’s incorporation and early years shared their recollections. Just a few days later, a birthday party at the Goleta Valley Community Center included music, cake and activities for the whole family.

As part of the 10-year celebration, our online social media network for neighborhoods (Nextdoor.com) was launched.

Visit www.CityofGoleta.org and click on the logo in the middle of the page for continued celebration information.
To Call or Not to Call? THAT is the Question

People often get confused or are uncertain regarding whether to call the 9-1-1 emergency line or 692-5743, the Sheriff’s non-emergency dispatch number.

Here are some important things to know:

**Q: How do we know when TO call 9-1-1?**

**A:** It’s important to remember that 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. Call 9-1-1 if...someone is hurt, in danger, needs an ambulance, fire or immediate law enforcement assistance.

If you aren’t sure if the situation you observe is an emergency, err on the side of caution and call 9-1-1. Make sure to clarify with the dispatcher exactly what your observations are. The dispatchers are professionals, and they will know how to prioritize your call and what emergency services will be necessary for the situation.

**Q: How do we know when NOT to call 9-1-1?**

**A:** If NO ONE is hurt, in danger, or in need of an ambulance, fire or immediate law enforcement assistance, then most likely there is NO reason to call 9-1-1. However, feel free to use the non-emergency line at 692-5743. Why does it matter? The County Dispatch Center fields emergency calls for the Sheriff’s Office, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. The center also has a language line service, so any language represented in our community can be translated. In addition, the dispatch center has the capability to communicate via text servicing with hearing impaired individuals. All that being said, dispatch is a busy place. Covering unnecessary 9-1-1 calls takes away from true emergencies.

**Q: What if I DO have to call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number, 692-5743?**

**A:** If you DO have to call us, know where you are when placing the call. When you call from a landline (home phone) the dispatch center will know immediately the address from which you are calling. However, in today’s world, everyone has cell phones. If you call from a cell, the dispatch center will not know your location. With this in mind, be aware of your surroundings and make an effort to be as detailed as possible about your location.

**Q: Any other pointers or things to remember if we do have to call?**

**A:** Stay calm! And remember, when you are on the phone with the dispatch center, you are their eyes and ears. Stay relaxed. Be as clear and concise as possible so the dispatcher can quickly dispatch the appropriate services to the scene. Also, **NEVER** hang up when you are on the phone with 9-1-1 (until they tell you to). You may have called 9-1-1 by accident. If you do, do not hang up the phone. Explain to the dispatcher that it was an accident. If you hang up the phone, law enforcement will automatically be dispatched to the location to check if an emergency situation has/is occurring. This is a huge waste of time and resources. If you DO have to call us, know where you are when placing the call. When you call from a landline (home phone) the dispatch center will know the address from which you are calling. However, in today’s world, everyone has cell phones. If you call from a cell, the dispatch center will not know your location. With this in mind, be aware of your surroundings and make an effort to be as detailed as possible about your location. Also, **NEVER** hang up when you are on the phone with 9-1-1 (until they tell you to). You may have called 9-1-1 by accident. If you do, do not hang up the phone. Explain to the dispatcher that it was an accident. If you hang up the phone, law enforcement will automatically be dispatched to the location to check if an emergency situation has/is occurring. This is a huge waste of time and resources.

Stay calm! And remember, when you are on the phone with the dispatch center, you are their eyes and ears. Stay relaxed. Be as clear and concise as possible so the dispatcher can quickly dispatch the appropriate services to the scene. Also, **NEVER** hang up when you are on the phone with 9-1-1 (until they tell you to). You may have called 9-1-1 by accident. If you do, do not hang up the phone. Explain to the dispatcher that it was an accident. If you hang up the phone, law enforcement will automatically be dispatched to the location to check if an emergency situation has/is occurring. This is a huge waste of time and resources. If you DO have to call us, know where you are when placing the call. When you call from a landline (home phone) the dispatch center will know the address from which you are calling. However, in today’s world, everyone has cell phones. If you call from a cell, the dispatch center will not know your location. With this in mind, be aware of your surroundings and make an effort to be as detailed as possible about your location. Also, **NEVER** hang up when you are on the phone with 9-1-1 (until they tell you to). You may have called 9-1-1 by accident. If you do, do not hang up the phone. Explain to the dispatcher that it was an accident. If you hang up the phone, law enforcement will automatically be dispatched to the location to check if an emergency situation has/is occurring. This is a huge waste of time and resources.

RDA cont.

*CONT. FROM P. 1*

housing and creating and retaining jobs. California desperately needs to keep finding ways to create jobs and stimulate local economies—redevelopment agencies were once one of the best local tools to fulfill such laudable goals.

**What does this mean for Goleta?**

**Vyto:** The loss of redevelopment is a big blow to Goleta. Our agency was on the cusp of making significant improvements to our Old Town area. We will no longer receive about $3 million annually to fund projects to improve and enhance the RDA area. Although redevelopment as we know it goes forward because the funding for these projects come from different funding sources.

However, the funding for the new park may be more challenging due to the loss of redevelopment funding. Moreover, securing funding for Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement project will also continue to move forward because the funding for these projects come from different funding sources.

Moreover, securing funding for Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement project will also continue to move forward because the funding for these projects come from different funding sources. However, the San Jose Creek Project is not in jeopardy; the project is still secured with funds and is currently underway. The Ekwill and Fowler Road Projects, the design of a new park in Old Town (on Kellogg Avenue) and the Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement project will also continue to move forward because the funding for these projects come from different funding sources.

**Is the San Jose Creek Project in jeopardy?**

**Vyto:** No, the San Jose Creek Project is not in jeopardy as funds have been secured, contracts executed and construction is now underway. The Ekwill and Fowler Road Projects, the design of a new park in Old Town (on Kellogg Avenue) and the Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement project will also continue to move forward because the funding for these projects come from different funding sources.

**What programs and projects will this affect?**

**Vyto:** The City will no longer be able to offer housing rehabilitation or storefront facade improvement grants. RDAs once served as California’s 2nd largest source of funding for affordable housing after the federal government. Without this vital source of funds for affordable housing, the ability to meet the City’s housing goals—particularly in Old Town—becomes all-the-more difficult. Plans for Old Town beautification and projects, such as the Hollister Redesign, will be put on hold indefinitely or until an alternate funding source becomes available.

**What happens over the next few months?**

**Vyto:** In January 2012, the City assumed the role of Successor Agency both for housing and non-housing functions needed to wind down the affairs of the former Redevelopment Agency for the City of Goleta. Over the next several months, the Successor Agency will continue working with the County Auditor and the State to fully implement the functions of this new entity.
Goleta Homeowners Eligible for Affordable Home Energy Upgrades

For Goleta homeowners looking for a low-cost way to improve the health and comfort of their homes this spring, there is help! The County's new emPowerSBC offers low-cost, long-term loans, qualified contractors, high-dollar rebates and an easy-to-use, online process that will get your home upgrade project moving.

emPowerSBC was developed by the County of Santa Barbara to help homeowners achieve a more comfortable, healthier and energy-efficient home while lowering utility bills. Through a partnership with local lenders, emPowerSBC provides low-cost, long-term financing to assist homeowners in making their homes more energy-efficient. Along with attractive rates starting at 5.9% and flexible terms to help spread the cost of a project over a period of up to 15 years, homeowners can also qualify for up to $4,000 in utility rebates to reduce project cost and employ qualified contractors trained in the latest building performance techniques.

Whether you want to begin by improving the comfort and efficiency of your home with a basic package, or want to maximize your energy savings and rebates through advanced package options, emPowerSBC and their partners have the answer for you!

So what are you waiting for? Start your home energy upgrade plan today at emPowerSBC.org.

NextDoor cont.

neighbors. In addition, Nextdoor archives and organizes all recommendations for easy use across the neighborhood.

4. How do I get started?

Go to Nextdoor.com and put in your address to see if your neighborhood has a leader (also known as a founder). If so, continue the process and join your neighbors on Nextdoor. If your neighborhood has not yet been established with a leader, or if you have any questions, contact Valerie Kushnerov, Public Information Officer at the City of Goleta, at 961-7507 or vkushnerov@cityofgoleta.org.

Hint: Being the founder is easier than you might expect. The best founders are people who are willing to invite neighbors to the group through email, a conversation or a flyer dropped off on a doorstep. The time is minimal but the reward of serving your community is great.

A Brush with Kindness

Do you or a neighbor own your home but can’t afford to keep up with the exterior maintenance? A Brush with Kindness is a program that helps preserve homeownership by partnering with homeowners struggling to restore and maintain a safe and decent place to live. When basic expenses exceed income month after month, home maintenance is the usual casualty. Years of deferred maintenance can cause a downward spiral of home deterioration and unsafe living conditions.

Habitat for Humanity’s program, “A Brush with Kindness,” provides work that includes exterior painting, landscaping and completing minor fence repairs on homes of low-income homeowners.

TO BE ELIGIBLE:

- Family income must be under 80% of Santa Barbara County’s median income
- Homes must be owner-occupied
- Homeowners must be willing to partner with staff and volunteers
- Homeowners make an affordable re-payment to Habitat for Humanity for the cost of materials to complete the work

A Brush with Kindness is about connecting people and restoring homes through simple acts of kindness so that homeowners can once again live in a safe and decent home.

If you or someone you know needs this type of help, please contact 805-692-2226 or mail@sbbhabitat.org for an eligibility form.
¿Vive en el Vecindario?
Ahora todos los residentes de Goleta tienen acceso a una red social gratuita en Internet específicamente para su vecindario y se llama “Nextdoor”. Esta red privada ayuda a que los vecinos se comuniquen, lo cual promueve el objetivo de una comunidad más segura. “Nextdoor” es una forma fácil para que los vecinos se conozcan unos a otros, intercambien información y consejos y para que hagan preguntas. Los temas puede variar desde eventos locales y actividades escolares, hasta recomendaciones de contratistas, preparación en caso de desastres, actividad delictiva reciente y mascotas perdidas en el área.

1. ¿Cómo Funciona?
Cada vecindario tendrá un sitio de Internet privado al cual tendrán acceso los residentes de ese vecindario únicamente. Una vez que los vecinos verifiquen sus direcciones y se unan a este sitio de Internet, podrán encontrar a otros vecinos en el directorio de residentes, ver un mapa de su vecindario, pedir consejos, intercambiar información local y compartir la información de su vecindario entre residentes, así que es muy fácil saber con quién estás hablando. Cuando un vecino comparte una recomendación sobre un servicio local determinado (ej. Jardinero, servicio de limpieza, tutor, etc) automáticamente queda en el catálogo de servicios confiables y cualquiera puede utilizarlo en cualquier momento. A diferencia de las listas de vecinos, el “Nextdoor” facilita la información sin llenarlos de avisos a través de correos electrónicos. Los miembros pueden decidir si quieren recibir correos o si prefieren entrar al sitio de Internet y leer lo que los vecinos escriben día con día. El programa archiva y organiza todas las recomendaciones para que otros vecinos las puedan utilizar.

2. ¿Cuáles son las cosas que la gente hace en Nextdoor?
Las personas de Goleta ya han comenzado a utilizar estas redes para localizar a una buena niñera, para avisar a sus vecinos sobre los delitos que se cometen en el área, para aprender más sobre las construcciones que están llevando a cabo la ciudad y para compartir la fruta extra de sus propios árboles.

3. ¿Cuál es la diferencia entre Nextdoor y la lista de vecinos que tengo?
Este programa está diseñado para las necesidades específicas de comunicación en un vecindario. Por ejemplo, los sitios de Internet de “Nextdoor” incluyen un mapa y un directorio de todos los residentes, así que es muy fácil saber con quién estás hablando. Cuando un vecino comparte una recomendación sobre un servicio local determinado (ej. Jardinero, servicio de limpieza, tutor, etc) automáticamente queda en el catálogo de servicios confiables y cualquiera puede utilizarlo en cualquier momento. A diferencia de las listas de vecinos, el “Nextdoor” facilita la información sin llenarlos de avisos a través de correos electrónicos. Los miembros pueden decidir si quieren recibir correos o si prefieren entrar al sitio de Internet y leer lo que los vecinos escriben día con día. El programa archiva y organiza todas las recomendaciones para que otros vecinos las puedan utilizar.

4. ¿Cómo puedo comenzar?
Simplemente ve a Nextdoor.com y anota su dirección para ver si tu vecindario ya tiene un líder (a quien llamamos fundador). Si ya existe uno, continúa con el proceso y únete a través de “Nextdoor”. Si su vecindario todavía no tiene un líder o fundador, llama a la Ciudad al 961-7507. Actualmente Nextdoor sólo está disponible en Inglés. Hay planes en el futuro para incorporar una función para la traducción al Español.

¿Preguntas? Llame a City Hall 961.7500. Tenemos personal bilingüe. Queremos escuchar su opiniones.

Los Medidores Inteligentes Llegan a Goleta

Alistándote Para Tu Nuevo Medidor
Los clientes recibirán por correo avisos anticipados de SCE cuando se programe la instalación de los medidores en su vecindario. Los clientes no necesitan estar en la casa, pero deberán proporcionar acceso a sus medidores. El instalador dejará un papel en la puerta diciéndole si la instalación se hizo con éxito o si se requiere una cita para tener acceso al medidor y hacer dicha instalación.

Durante la típica instalación residencial, los clientes experimentarán un pequeño corte en la energía de menos de un minuto. Como una medida de protección se sugiere que las personas desconecten sus aparatos en contactos que protejan de las descargas de corriente. Regularmente, no es necesario interrumpir la corriente durante la instalación de los medidores inteligentes en los pequeños negocios.

La Compañía “Southern California Edison” (SCE) ha comenzado a instalar los medidores inteligentes eléctricos como parte del Programa Edison de Conexión Inteligente. La tecnología ayudará a manejar mejor su consumo de electricidad y les presentará programas y servicios diseñados para ayudarles a ahorrar dinero. Dichas instalaciones llegarán al área a mediados de Febrero y continuarán hasta Julio.


Los clientes que tienen equipos médicos eléctricos en sus casas o que tienen alguna preocupación por la posible interrupción de la energía pueden llamar a SCE al 1-800-973-2356.

www.CityofGoleta.org
Residents in Santa Barbara County can now place most types of plastic bags in their blue curbside recycling bins. From grocery bags to bread bags to bags once containing breakfast cereal, all clean plastics can go directly in the blue bin. Even bubble and cling wrap are blue bin approved. Residents can view a complete list of acceptable bags on the County of Santa Barbara’s regional recycling website, www.lessismore.org/plasticbags.

For more info about plastic bag recycling in Santa Barbara County: www.lessismore.org/plasticbags.

State of the City
Friday, May 18 • 11:30 am • Elks Lodge
Hear from City representatives about Goleta’s achievements and future initiatives.
For those unable to attend, the event will be taped and rebroadcast on Channel 19 and Channel 8.
Registration: www.GoletaValley.com
For times and dates: www.cityofgoleta.org

Shred Event
Bring your old papers and bills to a free community shredding event on April 18 from 5-7 p.m. at Camino Real Marketplace (in front of Santa Barbara Bank & Trust).

New In the Blue
Residents in Santa Barbara County can now place most types of plastic bags in their blue curbside recycling bins. From grocery bags to bread bags to bags once containing breakfast cereal, all clean plastics can go directly in the blue bin. Even bubble and cling wrap are blue bin approved. Residents can view a complete list of acceptable bags on the County of Santa Barbara’s regional recycling website, www.lessismore.org/plasticbags.

For more info about plastic bag recycling in Santa Barbara County: www.lessismore.org/plasticbags.

ProjectGoleta.com
ProjectGoleta.com is launching this month to give you quick and easy access to the myriad of capital improvement projects in the works within the City limits. Want to know the status of the improvements in Nectarine Park or the timing of the Los Carneros Roundabout? Visit ProjectGoleta.com for the updated information on the City’s major infrastructure projects.

Earth Day in Goleta
Grab your shovel and head on over to the City’s corporate yard on Sunday, April 22, to get some free mulch for your yard. Mulch is available on a first-come, first-served basis, to homeowners and residents.
The corporate yard is located at 6735 Hollister Avenue in Goleta (near the ReStore).

Public Works Week
Celebrate National Public Works Week May 20-26

Say hello to the City’s Public Works Crew. You may see them filling potholes, removing fallen tree limbs, removing items that have been dumped on the side of the road or repairing cracked or uplifted sidewalks. These are just a few of the many things they do every day to keep our City safe and beautiful.