For the Love of Goleta

There is no doubt that things thrive when they are loved, and cities are no different. Last month, the City brought speaker and author, Peter Kageyama, to Goleta to talk about what makes cities lovable, what motivates citizens to do extraordinary things for their cities and how some communities use that energy to make a difference.

At the community workshop with over 125 attendees, Peter gave an overview of the lovable cities concept and engaged participants in several exercises to tease out what people love about Goleta and how the essence of Goleta might be represented in an image or t-shirt. He spoke about what other communities have done with their “love.” Then each table brainstormed what could be done with $500. A spokesperson from each table then shared their “$500 project” concept. The whole group voted for the best project and the top two were funded.

Goleta Earns Spot in 2013’s Top 100 Safest Cities

The City of Goleta has been recognized as one of the top 100 Safest Cities in America by Location Inc., owner of the NeighborhoodScout community data research service. Goleta was ranked the 95th safest city, one of 23 cities in California and the only city in Santa Barbara County to make the list.

“The City of Goleta has always placed a high priority on public safety and it is rewarding to see our efforts result in a ranking in the top 100 Safest Cities,” said Mayor Roger Aceves. “I would like to commend the efforts of our Goleta Police Department because their dedication and vigilance is instrumental in creating the safe community that we enjoy.”

This recognition validates the collaboration between the Goleta Police Department, our neighborhood watch, our business watch and our Nextdoor participants in keeping Goleta a safe place to live and work.

Each year, NeighborhoodScout publishes their top 100 Safest Cities in America list calculated on cities with a population of 25,000 or more and based on the total number of crimes per 1,000 residents. Crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, homicide, forcible rape, armed robbery and aggravated assault.

Since the City of Goleta incorporated in 2002, the City has contracted with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office for law enforcement services.

Learn more about Goleta’s crime statistics and the methodology used at www.neighborhoodscout.com/ca/goleta/crime.
Register Now for the Citizens’ Academy:  
Learn How Our Deputies Protect and Serve

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the different types of services provided by law enforcement? On April 24th, the South Coast Citizens’ Academy will kick off. The academy offers the opportunity to learn more about what the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office personnel do on a daily basis. Citizens will get an insider’s 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, K-9 unit, 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 begins Wednesday, April 24th at the Sheriff’s Office, 4400 Calle Real and will run every Wednesday evening from 6-9 p.m. through June 5th. Class locations will vary by topic. The final class will include a graduation BBQ on June 8th.

To take advantage of this exciting opportunity, please contact Senior Deputy Greg Sorenson at 968-3878, or drop by the Goleta Police Department’s sub-station 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!

Be in the Know—Connect with the City Today

The City offers a variety of ways to connect with us. Don’t miss out on information that is important to you.

Visit the City of Goleta’s website at www.CityofGoleta.org. You can sign up for email notices, emergency alerts, read meeting agendas and watch meetings, learn about employment opportunities and much, much more.

Learn more about the City’s capital improvement projects (CIP) and sign up for CIP email updates at www.ProjectGoleta.com.

Updates and information on the Ellwood Monarch Grove can be found at www.GoletaButterflyGrove.com.

If you live in Goleta, you can join our private, social network for neighborhoods called Nextdoor. Go to www.Nextdoor.com.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofgoleta.

Follow us on Twitter at @goletapio, Pinterest at CityofGoleta, Flickr – CityofGoleta, and YouTube – CityofGoleta1.
Restoring a Community Treasure

As spring envelopes our beautiful Rancho La Patera, we are reminded of the beauty and grandeur that this exquisite place has brought to the Goleta Valley. We are also reminded of the need for continued vigilance in preserving and restoring this jewel that has been, and continues to be, such an important part of our local history and tradition.

The arboretum is one of the best loved yet most endangered elements of Rancho La Patera. Each year, thousands of people stroll through the grounds, not realizing its significance as a rare surviving example of the late 19th/early 20th century picturesque style garden. A style characterized by specimen trees from around the world, gardens with winding paths and broad, expansive lawns. The arboretum, unfortunately, has not escaped the stress of time.

Established in 2010, the Arboretum Restoration Project was a direct result of the Historic Landscape Study commissioned during the GVHS Restoration Campaign. The project is designed to recreate the naturalistic landscape and beautiful gardens surrounding Stow House as they existed during the late 19th/early 20th century.

To stop further decline, the Arboretum Restoration Project will help restore the gardens, capture and preserve this important part of our California landscape history and ensure that Rancho La Patera will maintain the ambience and integrity of an early California ranch estate. Once restored, the gardens will be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for cultural landscape and will share this honor with Stow House.

The restored arboretum will continue to provide peace and tranquility, in addition to educational opportunities for visitors. Through the use of marked paths, botanical labels, educational materials and docent-led tours, visitors will learn the historical significance of the property as one of the last remaining late 19th/early 20th century California garden landscapes.

This phase of the project will be complete by June 1. As the Goleta Valley Historical Society raises the needed money, additional restoration will occur east of Stow House in the area known as Ida’s Garden.

For information on how to support this project, visit www.StowHouse.com.

Goleta is On the Move

The City continues to pursue its aggressive Capital Improvement Program to meet the goals of the City Council and the community. Listed below are several projects that are on the move:

The bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad at Los Carneros needs to be replaced, and the City expects to begin that work later this summer. The Los Carneros Bridge Replacement Project will take approximately 18 months to complete and will impact traffic as it will temporarily reduce the lanes from four lanes to two. Traffic will be shifted to one side of the bridge while the other side is torn down and rebuilt. Then traffic will be shifted to the newly-built side while the other half is torn down and rebuilt. People who work off of Los Carneros will be encouraged to use the Fairview or Glen Annie/Storke off-ramps to avoid the delays that come with construction. More detailed traffic information will be released as the project gets closer.

A new Class I bikeway on the south side of Hollister Avenue (between Pacific Oaks Road and Ellwood School) is under consideration. The City will be evaluating a number of design options to determine what is feasible and will be working with the community to see which best meets the needs of the area. Community engagement efforts are expected to commence in late spring/early summer. Visit www.ProjectGoleta.com for more.

City-owned tennis courts around Goleta will soon be resurfaced. Improvements have been in the works for quite some time but the funding has recently become available. The resurfacing of these courts is expected to start in late spring and take a month or so to complete.

Work on the San Jose Creek Project will begin again as the “rainy season” is considered over on May 15. The installation of the panel walls will be completed, and the articulated revetment will be placed along the channel bottom. Visit www.SanJoseCreekProject.com for further information.

New sidewalks are in store for Patterson Avenue between Hollister Avenue and Debbie Street. The City was awarded $50,000 through the Measure A Alternative Transportation Grant Program which will be used to fund this improvement. Other funding sources include Measure A Local Funds, Gas Tax and the City’s General Fund.

The City is working on final design of improvements to Old Town circulation with the Ekwill Fowler Road Extensions Project. This project proposes four roundabouts—two at the Highway 217 on- and off-ramps, one at Ekwill and one at Fowler to improve the flow of traffic and provide additional connections between Fairview and South Kellogg. To learn more and to sign up for email updates, visit www.ProjectGoleta.com.
You sit up in bed, look at the clock and quickly realize that the power is out. You quietly crawl out of bed and check on your family. Shards of glass cover the kitchen floor. Through the broken window you hear a neighbor screaming. You decide to go outside and see if you can help. Other neighbors join you. Some are in a daze while others are hysterical. One asks for help for her child who is trapped under a fallen shelf. You quickly realize that this is not just a simple power outage…

WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT? WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

Earthquakes, fires and other disasters can hit a community at any time. Knowing what to do and how to best help is the focus of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. CERT training covers topics such as medical operations, light search and rescue, and fire safety. The class typically meets once a week for nine weeks with the training culminating in a final drill and graduation. CERT volunteers are trained to assist victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at disaster sites. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of our community.

Contact Luz Reyes-Martin at 961-7558 or lreyesmartin@cityofgoleta.org to register and receive updates on future classes.

Don’t Drink and Drive—Safety Update with Sergeant Huddle

The safety of our community is one of our highest priorities. Through help from a $68,250 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), we will conduct 12 sobriety checkpoints throughout the City in 2013.

Why is the State of California spending this money on sobriety checkpoints when it can be argued that extra officers in cars are more effective in apprehending DUI drivers? Well, there are three proven-effective reasons for sobriety checkpoints:

1. Deterring potential DUI drivers from driving;
2. Apprehending DUI drivers that are driving; and
3. Educating the public as to safe driving, the need for a valid driver’s license and insurance, and the dangers associated with impaired driving.

The deterrent effect of DUI checkpoints is a proven resource in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol- or drug-involved crashes. Research shows that collisions involving alcohol drop by an average of 20% when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted on a more regular basis.

On average, we have between 600 and 1,200 cars travel through one of our sobriety checkpoints. This is a great way to educate large numbers of the motoring public by being personally contacted regarding impaired driving.

If you have never been through a sobriety checkpoint, here is what you can expect…

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment along with a proper driver's license. This initial contact is very brief in an effort to keep the delay of motorists at a minimum. If you should show signs of impairment, to any degree, you will be asked to pull to the side of the road where the deputy will conduct further investigation on the level of your impairment. Should you get arrested for driving impaired, you can expect jail time, license suspension, insurance increases, court fines/fees, DUI classes, vehicle impoundment and other expenses (which can exceed $10,000).

All too often, members of our community are senselessly injured or killed on local roadways by impaired drivers. In 2011, there were 24 DUI collisions claiming three lives and injuring 18 of our friends and neighbors in Goleta.

The Goleta Traffic Unit asks that you designate a sober, non-drinking driver. And please…drive safely on our roadways! One mistake not only changes your life, but it also changes the lives of other motorists who share the roadways with you.
An ice skating rink in Goleta is one step closer to becoming a reality with the City Council’s recent decision to reduce development fees for the Ice in Paradise project. This project is slated to be built on land donated by the Wymark Company on Storke Road adjacent to Girsh Park.

The Greater Santa Barbara Ice Skating Association (GSBISA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a goal of constructing and operating an affordable, public ice skating recreational facility for the enjoyment of our community. The ice rink will have one full NHL size rink, a smaller junior rink, a homework center and adaptive programs with accessibility for the mobility-impaired. Providing safe, supervised recreation year-round for the local youth, adults and families has been a top priority for GSBISA. They have formed partnerships with many organizations serving our youth and look forward to providing a place for healthy and fun exercise.

GSBISA’s “Ice in Paradise” fundraising campaign continues with hopes of the community being on the ice next to Girsh Park in 2013, but they are still in need of financial help. All donations are greatly appreciated. Naming opportunities are available.

Please call Ada Conner at 879-1552 or go to www.iceinparadise.com for more information.

Planning for the Next Two Years: Goleta’s Budget

The Goleta City Council establishes a two-year budget. This spring, the Council and staff will be working to create a budget package that represents the values and priorities identified by the City Council. Their priorities include a commitment to keeping Goleta safe, providing opportunities for economic development, protecting our natural resources and maintaining the quality of life our residents have come to enjoy.

Goleta’s finances are looking better than the previous two years for several reasons. The first is that hotel stays have increased, and this has generated additional revenue through the transient occupancy tax (TOT) collected. A new hotel is also contributing to an increase in the TOT. Second, the TOT rate increased from 10% to 12% on January 1, 2013. Finally, the City now retains 100% of the TOT collected. The City also receives a higher percentage of sales tax, although sales and property taxes continue to be shared with the County.

You can provide input to the Council on how the 2013-14 and 2014-15 budgets are shaped. The Council will hold a budget workshop on April 22nd and will continue to discuss it during its regularly scheduled meetings in April and May. Final adoption will occur by June 30th in order to meet state requirements.

Visit the City’s website for City Council meeting dates and agendas pertaining to the City’s budget.
Questions about Home Improvements? Ask Jason, Our Energy Coach!

Thinking about making some energy upgrades to your home? Don’t do it alone—get support from the “Energy Coach.” This new, free service is being offered by the County of Santa Barbara’s emPowerSBC program to help make local homes more efficient—saving power and reducing utility bills in the process.

Energy Coach Jason Scheurer, an award-winning former general contractor with more than 25 years of experience in the construction and energy efficiency industry, has joined the emPowerSBC team to provide single family homeowners with expert advice on home energy improvements. Jason can meet one-on-one with homeowners over the phone or even conduct a brief home visit to evaluate a home’s specific needs and recommend solutions.

For many homeowners, making improvements around the house such as adding solar panels, installing insulation, changing out windows or sealing ducts can be daunting tasks. Many don’t know where to start. Jason will be able to answer questions on a variety of home energy upgrades. He can also help homeowners learn how to take advantage of emPowerSBC incentives that make home energy upgrades more affordable.

“My mission is to help homeowners make smart decisions when considering energy efficiency improvements to their homes,” he said. “I’m excited to use my experience to help make local homes more comfortable, efficient and safe.”

Jason has more than 10 certifications in green building practices and built one of the first Net Zero Energy Homes in Orange County. He has worked with green product manufacturers, contractors, city officials, building inspectors, developers and homeowners to help them understand the importance of energy efficiency in creating healthier, safer and environmentally friendly communities.

To schedule an appointment today, contact emPowerSBC at 568-3514 or send an e-mail to emPowerSBC@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

The Monarch Press is Moving to Your Email

In an effort to provide more timely information in an environmentally sensitive way, the Monarch Press will be changing to a digital format starting in 2014. This will allow the City to provide you with the most updated information efficiently. In addition, it allows those who work in Goleta or visit to receive the information as well.

To continue to receive information on programs, events and initiatives of the City, please send your email address to: pio@cityofgoleta.org and put MONARCH PRESS in the subject line.

If you would like to receive a printed copy of the email newsletter, please contact us with your name and mailing address at 961-7500 or pio@cityofgoleta.org. We are exploring offering a Spanish version of the online Monarch Press as well. If you would be interested in receiving it in Spanish, please contact us at the phone number or email listed above.

Finally, the City will also be implementing a more comprehensive system to send email information on targeted topics. For example, if you’re interested in projects on the Ellwood Mesa, you might want to join that list or if you are interested in emergency preparedness, you could sign up for those emails. We are in the process of developing these “interest” lists that will supplement the Monarch Press mailings on an as-needed basis.

Don’t miss this opportunity to continue to receive information from the City of Goleta.
Por el Amor de Goleta

No hay duda de que las cosas prosperan cuando son amadas, y las ciudades no son diferentes. El mes pasado, la Ciudad trajo orador y autor, Peter Kageyama, a Goleta a hablar de lo que hace que las ciudades amables, lo que motiva a los residentes a hacer cosas extraordinarias para sus ciudades y cómo algunas comunidades utilizan esa energía para hacer la diferencia.

En el taller de la comunidad con más de 125 asistentes, Peter dio una visión general del concepto de ciudades adorables y los participantes se involucraron en varios ejercicios para extraer lo que la gente gusta de Goleta y cómo la esencia de Goleta podría estar representado en una imagen o una camiseta. Él habló acerca de lo que otras comunidades han hecho con su “amor”. Luego, cada mesa generó ideas sobre lo que se podría hacer con $500. Un representante de cada mesa compartió su “concepto de $500 para su proyecto.” Todo el grupo votaron por el mejor proyecto. Los dos proyectos con más votos fueron financiados. El proyecto con los más votos fue un patio “pop-up” que crearía un espacio temporal al aire libre donde uno pudiera comer, reunirse y disfrutar del Centro Antiguo. El segundo proyecto financiado fue un festival de arte con tiza para niños en Girsh Park. Las personas también expresaron un gran interés en un “Bienvenido a Goleta” signo, algo que está en el plan estratégico del Concejo Municipal. Un tercer proyecto de un mural en el Centro Antiguo era popular y terminó siendo financiado a través de un donante anónimo en el evento.


¿QUÉ HACE AHORA? ¿QUÉ DEBE HACER A CONTINUACIÓN?

Los terremotos, incendios y otros desastres pueden golpear una comunidad en cualquier momento. Sabiendo qué hacer y cómo ayudar mejor es el objetivo del Equipo de Respuesta a Emergencias de la Comunidad (CERT). El entrenamiento CERT cubre temas tales como operaciones médicas, búsqueda y rescate, y seguridad contra incendios. La clase se reúne normalmente una vez a la semana durante nueve semanas con la formación que culmina en un simulacro final y graduación. Voluntarios de CERT están capacitados para ayudar a las víctimas y organizar a los voluntarios espontáneos en zonas de desastre. Los miembros del CERT también pueden ayudar con los proyectos que no son de emergencia que ayuden a mejorar la seguridad de nuestra comunidad.

Más de 100 residentes de Goleta han participado en el entrenamiento de CERT en los últimos años (incluyendo la clase más reciente de habla hispana). Para obtener más información sobre las clases futuras, por favor póngase en contacto con el Departamento de Servicios a los Vecindarios al 961-7558 o por correo electrónico con Luz Martin-Reyes al ireyesmartin@cityofgoleta.org.

PAF. PIN–PAM–PUM.

Se sienta en la cama, mira el reloj y se da cuenta rápidamente de que no hay electricidad. Usted tranquilamente se arrastrar fuera de la cama y revisa cómo está su familia. Fragmentos de vidrio cubren el suelo de la cocina. A través de la ventana rota escuche un vecino gritando. Usted decide a salir a la calle y ver si usted puede ayudar. Otros vecinos se juntan. Algunos están en las nubes, mientras que otros están histéricos. Uno pide ayuda para su hijo que está atrapado debajo de un estante caído. Pronto se dan cuenta de que esto no es sólo un corte de luz simple ...
City Government Meetings

Broadcast on Channel 19/104.19 and streamed on www.CityofGoleta.org

City Council
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
Meets at 1:30 pm and 6 pm
April 2
April 16
May 7
May 21
June 4
June 18

Planning Commission
2nd and 4th Monday of the month
Meets at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers
April 8
April 22
May 13
May 27 cancelled*
June 10
June 24

Design Review Board
2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
Meets at 3 pm
April 9
April 23
May 14
May 28
June 11
June 25

*Meetings subject to cancellation. Please confirm dates on the City’s website.

Capturing the Goodland: Picturing the Beauty and History of the Goleta Valley

The Goleta Valley Historical Society is inviting photographers to submit their best works that capture the Goleta Valley. Historic buildings, landscapes, architectural elements, activities and other details are among the suggested subjects.

What do you LOVE, and how can you capture it in a photograph?

Adult photographers can enter their works through May 15th. Entry guidelines can be found on the Society’s website. The adult exhibit will open in mid-June and will be on display through November.

Youth photographers submitted their works earlier this year, and the exhibit opened last month. Those photographs will be on display at the Exhibit Hall at Rancho La Patera & Stow House through June.

Don’t miss these beautiful and unique Goleta works of art.
Visit goletahistory.org for more information.

Dig Into Reading

Watch for the Goleta Library’s annual Summer Reading Program “Dig Into Reading” coming Tuesday, June 11 and running through Wednesday, July 31.

To encourage reading throughout the summer, young readers visit the library, checkout materials to enjoy at home, and then return to the library to be rewarded for their progress. The reading program is free. Young readers simply come to the library to sign up, or go to sbplibrary.org.

There is also a separate, but similar reading program for teens at the library. Teens are also encouraged to earn volunteer hours over the summer.

The Goleta Library regularly holds special programs for adults, teens, and youngsters.

For more information or to register, visit sbplibrary.org.

State of the City

Thursday, May 30 • 11:30 am • Bacara Resort

Hear from City representatives about Goleta’s finances, budget and future.

Registration: www.GoletaValley.com

For viewing times and dates: www.cityofgoleta.org

For those unable to attend, the event will be taped and rebroadcast on Channel 19 and Channel 8.