



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** April 24, 2024  
**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Director's Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of various Parks and Recreation Department (Department) initiatives and activities.

Second Community Workshop Reimagining Franceschi House

A second community workshop will be held on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Riviera Ridge School from 10 a.m. to noon. Four concept designs will be presented, and feedback will be sought to select a preferred option. The four designs were developed based on community feedback received from the online survey and the first community workshop. A second community survey will also go live after the workshop to allow those unable to attend to rank their preferred concept design. These efforts will help the project team narrow the focus to a preferred design that will be further developed before beginning the entitlement process with a "concept review" by the City's Historic Landmarks Commission. Project materials, FAQ's, and the upcoming survey can be accessed from the project webpage at: <https://sbparksandrec.santabarbaraca.gov/projects/reimagining-franceschi-house>.

Chef Apprentice Graduation

The 2024 Chef Apprentice graduation was held at 5pm on Saturday, April 13, at the Westside Neighborhood Center. Twenty-three participating students prepared appetizers and a four-course meal for their parents, sponsors, friends, and other invited guests: 73 total attendees. The students made the festive decorative centerpieces, completed the place settings, served the meal, and cleaned up the kitchen and venue space. Guests enjoyed multiple appetizers, an Italian mixed green salad with a light lemon dressing, main entrée (meat marinara lasagna with homemade noodles, ricotta, sauce and sausage or a vegetarian option), chocolate tiramisu for dessert, and an Italian soda bar with 5 homemade syrups to choose from.

During the graduation ceremony, guests viewed a looped slideshow featuring the students, chefs, and sponsors. The chefs praised each student as they received a

certificate of recognition, a group photo and a notebook filled with the numerous recipes used during the class. At the event's conclusion, each student received an engraved rolling pin as a graduation gift.

This Department program is co-sponsored by Jolly Brothers Catering Company and coordinated by Chef Donald Hardin and Anita Dominocielo-Ho. Troy Peters, a local chef and graduate of the SBCC Culinary Arts Class, is also instrumental to the success of the program.

### Youth Speak Out

The Fund for Santa Barbara recently announced Santa Barbara Youth Council as one of six organizations to receive the South County Youth Making Change Grant, a grant awarded annually to support youth-led projects impacting young people in Santa Barbara County. The Youth Council used award funding to host the *2024 Youth Speak Out*, themed *Teens for Tomorrow*. This event brought together local leaders, including Councilmember Mike Jordan, Chief of Police Kelly Gordon, Environmental Specialist Hillary Allen, Founder and Executive Director of the Gwendolyn Strong Foundation Victoria Strong, and Chief of Community Engagement for the County Behavioral Wellness Department, Suzanne Grimmesey.

The roundtable style discussion was hosted on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Palm Park Beach House from 11am to 1pm. Despite the wet weather, 40 teens attended to listen to their leaders and peers discuss the topics they care about such as mental health, diversity and inclusion, community engagement, and much more. The workshop included a light lunch and refreshments. Participating students, ages 13 through 19, earned up to 2 hours of community service. For up-to-date information about other Youth Council activities, follow @SantaBarbaraYouthCouncil on Instagram.

**APPROVED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director