

Noticias en Español
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COMMUNITY ASKED TO TEST THEIR INTERNET ACCESS AND SPEED

The Broadband Alliance of Santa Barbara County (Alliance) has launched a countywide internet needs assessment survey and speed test campaign for the public to self-report their internet experience and speed at home, work, or wherever they connect. The campaign is part of Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) effort with the Alliance to develop a countywide Broadband Strategic Plan aimed to better understand internet availability county-wide and direct funding to projects that will increase affordable access to high-speed internet.

Data from the survey and speed test campaign will be mapped by GEO Software which is developed and licensed by Breaking Point Solutions, LLC and marketed by GEO Partners, LLC. The data will be used to identify areas in the county of low or no access to high-speed internet.

“The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light what many residents were already unnecessarily enduring, the lack of reliable and affordable access to internet,” said SBCAG Board of Directors Vice-Chair Jenelle Osborne, mayor of the City of Lompoc. “The broadband survey and speed test is vital to our efforts to advocate for fast, flexible, affordable, and reliable internet service for all residents and businesses in our county.”

The public is encouraged to go to www.sbcag.org/broadband to self-report their internet needs and take a speed test on a personal computer or laptop at home, work, or wherever they connect by May 31. Individuals can also identify areas with low or no service, or where access to



Results from a broadband needs assessment survey and speed test in Santa Barbara County will help identify opportunities to improve internet speed and cost.

the internet is unaffordable within this test. Those without internet access can call SBCAG at 1 (805) 961-8902 to report why they do not have internet access. The Broadband survey and speed test is available in English and Spanish. Privacy controls protect responses and anonymous participation is an option. Data collected will include the location, internet speed, and monthly internet cost.

The information collected will be used to seek funding to improve affordable access to high-performing internet countywide with a goal to work toward digital inclusion.

CRUISE SHIPS RETURN TO SANTA BARBARA



The Majestic Princess at anchor.

After two years of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cruise ships are returning to the City. The Waterfront Department established a Cruise Ship Program in 2002 and since that time, the City has hosted nearly 200 cruise ship calls. With COVID cases on the decline and readily accessible vaccines, the department got the go ahead with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.

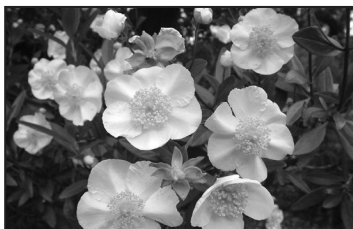
The Cruise Ship Program has a significant positive impact on the local economy. In a typical year, we host anywhere from 20 to 30 cruise ship visits. The Waterfront Department currently has 17 cruise ship calls on the schedule this spring. For Fiscal Year 2023 the Waterfront Department has budgeted \$500,000 in revenue from cruise lines passenger fees.



LUNCH & LEARN LANDSCAPING WEBINARS

Join us for free webinars this spring, held 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm on Zoom.
A link to join will be provided via email following registration:

- **April 27: Sprinkler Systems.** Get an overview of pop-up sprinkler system components and how to easily and inexpensively retrofit sprinkler systems to be more water efficient- no digging required!
- **May 4: Sprinkler Timers.** Learn how to set and maintain your sprinkler timer programs to water efficiently and avoid common mistakes with scheduling– take control of your controller!
- **May 10: Water Wise Native Plants.** Santa Barbara Botanic Garden staff will introduce you to beautiful native trees and plants recommended for Santa Barbara gardens.



For more information and to register for the webinars, please visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/GardenClasses.

Check the calendar on WaterWiseSB.org for additional Countywide classes and events.

ENTER THE 2022 WATERWISE GARDEN CONTEST



George Hopwood and Joseph Navarro, the Santa Barbara winners of the 2021 WaterWise Garden Contest.

Do you have a beautiful, water wise front yard? The 2022 WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest celebrates and recognizes beautiful, water efficient residential gardens throughout Santa Barbara County. These gardens serve as an example of what is possible when we design our landscapes to better use our most precious natural resource, water. Easily submit photos and an application online by April 30th to be entered into the contest. A winning garden

in each area will then be entered into the countywide grand prize. For more info and to enter, please visit www.WaterWiseSB.org/GardenContest

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS SUPPORT LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Last month, Santa Barbara City Council allocated \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the Library's collection budget, with an emphasis on digital content.

During the pandemic, the Library quickly pivoted to provide services virtually and by mail, while prioritizing public service and maintaining health and safety precautions. SBPL has seen a 57% increase in cardholders from February 2019 to February 2022, and continues to add on average, 500 new cardholders a month.



SBPL's professional Librarians continue to be the engine of innovation and creativity for the Library.

The Library has a team of professional and dedicated staff that in addition to managing the Library's digital and print collections, support community education in a multitude of ways. All of SBPL's Librarians have Masters in Library and Information Science degrees, and many have additional advanced degrees or specialized training, which they use to provide excellent service to the community.

ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING IS CHANGING



Organic Waste Recycling is Changing in California - Don't worry, the City has you covered!

Californians are now required to keep as much organic waste out of landfills as possible. When buried in landfills, organics such as food scraps, yard waste, and paper products release methane as they decompose. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and a major contributor to climate change. As a City resident, you live in the County of Santa Barbara's ReSource Center watershed, **so there's no change in how you need to manage your waste;** a watershed is the service area of a particular waste facility. The

new County of Santa Barbara ReSource Center (where we send our waste) recovers misplaced recyclables and all organic waste from the trash stream. Organics are then transformed into compost and clean energy.

If you backyard compost your organics at home, please don't stop! It's best to compost as locally as you can, plus you'll create a great soil amendment to use in your garden. The County sells compost bins at a discounted price locally at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station 4430 Calle Real.

As a reminder, your green bin should **only** contain yard waste like grass clippings, leaves, and branches. Please do not mix food scraps with your yard waste as it contaminates the mulch product.

For questions about what goes where and how our local waste is managed please call the City's Environmental Services Division at (805) 564-5631 or visit SBRecycles.org.