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April 2024

ENSURING SUFFICIENT RATES TO FUND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Santa Barbara's water and wastewater systems represent some of the largest public infrastructure investments in our City. To implement a vital, long-term plan to replace the aging infrastructure for water and wastewater, and to ensure reliable, 24/7 service, the City is proposing annual rate adjustments over the next four years. This is based on the cost to provide services to ensure rates are sufficient to:



Water and sewer mains are some of the City's largest assets and are priority areas for this rate proposal.

- Cover costs needed to operate and maintain the City's extensive water and wastewater system which includes 320 miles of water mains, 256 miles of sewer pipes, along with other essential facilities.
- Invest in critical improvement projects, including replacing old pipes and infrastructure that have reached the end of their useful lives (with a priority on those installed from 1890 to 1930). Costs that the City is experiencing for this type of work have increased by 20% or more per year since 2020.
- Recover from inflationary increases that have far outpaced the costs rates were initially set to recover.

The City is currently conducting a rate study; more information on proposed rates will be sent to all utility account holders in April 2024. To learn more and get involved, attend or tune in to the City Council meeting on April 9, 2024. Updates will also be posted on the City's website at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/RateChanges.

ENTER THE 2024 WATERWISE GARDEN CONTEST



Enter the 2024 WaterWise Garden Contest by April 30th!

Do you have a beautiful, water wise front yard? The 2024 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. A City of Santa Barbara water customer will be selected for a winning garden, which will then be entered into the Countywide grand prize. For more info and to apply: WaterWiseSB.org/GardenContest.

THERAPY DOGS AT SANTA BARBARA AIRPORT

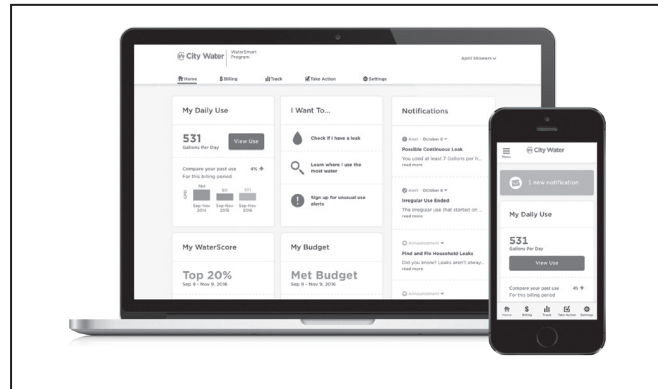


The presence of therapy dogs has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety, promote relaxation, and elevate moods.

After a great response from their special holiday visits, Santa Barbara Airport is excited to welcome back Therapy Dogs of Santa Barbara! Their team of trained therapy dogs will be visiting SBA on a regular basis to greet passengers and help ease the stress of travel. Keep an eye out for their purple gear for a chance to say hello! To learn more about the program, visit FlySBA.com/TherapyDogs.

WATERSMART – NEW ONLINE BILLING WEBSITE AND WATER USE TOOL

The City is excited to announce the launch of WaterSmart, a new online customer portal that gives water customers 24/7 access to online tools, hourly water use data, and information to help monitor and manage their water use, receive leak alerts, and a new location to pay their bill online.



WaterSmart provides hourly water use, leak alerts, & online bill payment.

Customers can register their account on the WaterSmart portal at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterSmart and enter their account number and service address zip code.

For additional information about this project, please visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/AMI or call (805) 564-5460.

DID YOU KNOW? STREET AND SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES



As we gear up for spring showers, it's essential for property owners to upkeep all vegetation between their property line and the street, with the exception of City-maintained trees. It is the private property owner's responsibility to maintain this City property; ensuring it is safe, does not block accessible passage on the sidewalk (if there is one), does not obstruct vehicle sight lines, and is not a fire hazard. This collaborative effort helps preserve the beauty and functionality of our City. Visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Streets to learn more.

Stay ahead of the weeds this season and keep your neighborhood looking its best!

 Parks & Recreation

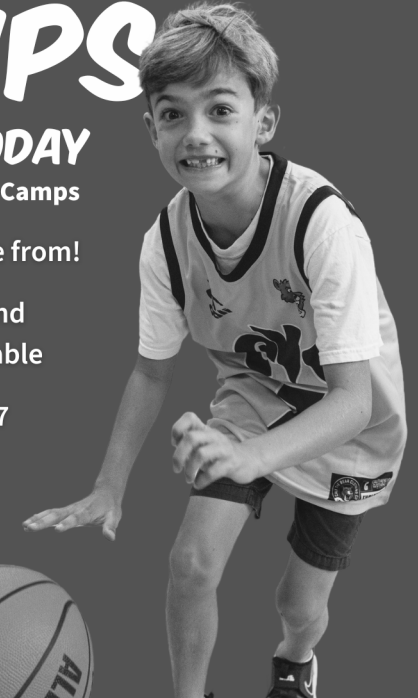
SUMMER CAMPS

REGISTER TODAY
SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Camps

15+ camps to choose from!

Part-day, full-day, and
extended care available

Options for ages 4-17



PUBLIC WORKS MEET AND GREET

You're invited to meet the equipment and the City staff behind the Public Works Department, learn about career opportunities, and more!

Tuesday, May 28 3:00-6:00 p.m.
In front of City Hall on E. De La Guerra St.
in between State St. and Anacapa St.