



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

**AGENDA DATE:** January 26, 2022

**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.

**DISCUSSION:**

A.C. Postel Rose Garden Annual Pruning

On Saturday, January 8, 2022, the Department hosted the annual rose garden pruning at the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden in Mission Historical Park. A record number of community members came out to volunteer, with 105 people participating. Community volunteers, members of the Santa Barbara Rose Society, and six Parks Division staff took part in the event. Located in Mission Historical Park, the Rose Garden has 1,600 rose bushes and over 200 varieties. Volunteers have assisted Parks Division staff in pruning the Rose Garden for over 40 years. Each year, the Department provides gloves, disinfectant for cleaning tools, sharpeners for clippers, and tarps to collect clippings. The Santa Barbara Rose Society provides refreshments. Rosarian Dan Bifano provided pruning demonstrations, showing volunteers how to prune roses correctly to obtain a proper shape and to produce maximum blooms throughout the year.

Los Baños Pool Repairs

Los Baños Pool, an outdoor seven lane 50 meter pool located at 401 Shoreline Drive, is the City's only year round public pool. It has been an indispensable part of Santa Barbara's aquatic community since it was built in 1939. To help maintain its safety and functionality, the pool is maintained daily by Department trained aquatic employees. Larger, more complex maintenance and repair projects are undertaken with the help of commercial aquatic companies during the annual holiday closure, when participation from Santa Barbara Swim Club, Santa Barbara Masters, and Santa Barbara City College historically decreases.

Prior to the scheduled holiday closure (December 24 – January 2), on December 3, the pool's circulation system encountered an unforeseen pressure spike during the regular filter backwash procedure. The sudden pressure increase damaged one of the filter's lateral lines, causing large amounts of filter sand to be deposited in the pool and rendering the variable speed operating system inoperable. This system is required to achieve energy savings by reducing electrical demand on the pool pumps when the facility is closed to the public. To immediately address this failure, staff implemented manual operational procedures until the filter laterals and a new automated variable speed operating system can be installed.

Addressing the filter repairs extended the holiday closure by one-week, however all of the previously scheduled work and the emergency repairs were successfully completed, including the replacement of one of two 30 horsepower pool pumps, tile and grout replacement in the locker rooms, pool deck repairs, removal of damaged on-deck shade structures, pool heater maintenance, in-pool lighting replacements, surge pit repairs and balancing, filter sand removal, disposal, and replacement, along with new laterals and air lines for the three filter tanks, and a professional deep cleaning for the locker rooms, weight room, and staff offices.

In addition to 135 hours of staff time, the total cost for all of the maintenance and repairs was \$82,659, however the replacement of the automated variable speed operating system for the pool pumps ensures the City continues to achieve reduced energy use and cost savings estimated to be \$13,669 annually.

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