



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 27, 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.

Spring Fling Dinner Dance

The Adapted Recreation Program's Spring Fling Dinner Dance was held at the Westside Neighborhood Center on Saturday March 16, 2024, from 5:00pm – 7:00 pm. Approximately 75 community members with disabilities, their friends, family, and support staff were in attendance. The \$15 fee included dancing to music provided by DJ of Ability, Chris Benedict, and a delicious dinner sponsored by the Kiwanis Aktion Club which was catered by the Youth Chef Apprentice Program.

Hourly Staff Recruitment for Summer 2024

The Department initiated the recruiting process for all hourly staff to support summer programming and services ahead of peak season when the volume of staff-led community events, programs, and facility rentals surges. Open positions include camp counselors, lifeguards, swim instructors, inclusion specialists, and facility support staff.

The Department employed 218 hourly employees in 2023 and strives to be a top-choice employer for those early in their careers. Summer employment provides valuable work experience while supporting important community programs and services, and can often lead to year-round employment, and for some, a lifelong career.

Two reduced-cost lifeguard certification training courses will be offered this spring to improve the community's water safety and increase the pool of qualified candidates for aquatics positions requiring special certifications. Courses are scheduled for spring break and Memorial Day weekend to allow high school students to participate. Beach Lifeguard and Jr. Lifeguard tryouts will be held in April, followed by the Pool Lifeguard tryouts and academy in May and June.

Candidates can see all open positions at bit.ly/SBPRHourly. Candidates interested in aquatics positions can sign up for certification courses and try outs at SBParksAndRec.org.

Santa Barbara Youth Council 2024 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 intends to use the awarded funding to host the *2024 Youth Speak Out*, themed *Teens for Tomorrow*. This event is intended to continue building on past efforts to connect teens with local leaders.

The roundtable style discussion is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Palm Park Beach House from 11am to 1pm. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Participating students, ages 13 through 19, can receive up to 2 hours of community service. More information can be found on the event webpage SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SpeakOut. For up-to-date information about other Youth Council activities, follow @SantaBarbaraYouthCouncil on Instagram.

Chef Apprentice Graduation

The 2024 Chef Apprentice graduation will be held at 5pm on Saturday, April 13, at the Westside Neighborhood Center. There are 28 students participating this year, 10 from the Franklin Neighborhood Center and 18 from the Westside Neighborhood Center. This year's class had diverse representation from local schools, including Dos Pueblos High School, San Marcos High School, Santa Barbara High School, Bishop Diego High School, Carpinteria High School, Heartland Charter School, and Olive Grove Charter School.

With great excitement, the students will be preparing appetizers and a four-course meal for their parents, sponsors, and friends. In addition to distributing tickets, the students will be setting up the room, making table centerpieces, cooking, serving the meal, and cleaning up the kitchen and venue space. Guests will enjoy 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 vegetarian option), chocolate tiramisu, and an Italian soda bar with homemade syrups.

During the graduation ceremony, guests will view a looped slideshow featuring the students, chefs, and sponsors. The chefs praise each student as they receive a certificate of recognition, a group photo, a notebook filled with the numerous recipes used during the class, and a copy of the slide show. The graduation and fundraising event are expected to have 150 attendees. Funds raised this year will fund next year's program.

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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.

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