



For more information on events, or if you would like to help plan or host these and other events, contact CPA

Call the office at 805-966-3979 or email citizensplanningsb@gmail.com

Be sure to visit CPA online at: www.citizensplanning.org

Congratulations to the 2011-12 Board of Directors and Officers!

President	Steve Dunn
Executive Vice President	David Bernal
North County Vice President	Carol Nash
South County Vice President	Paul Hernadi
Treasurer	Michael Gray
Secretary	Mary Louise Days

Check out CPA's Newly Designed Website and Download:

- CPA's 2011 Annual Report
- Past CPA Newsletters
- Advocacy Documents/Statements

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**Promoting responsible
land-use planning &
environmental
protection in Santa
Barbara County**

CPA Board of Directors

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South County Vice President
- Carol Nash
North County Vice President
- Michael Gray
Treasurer
- Mary Louise Days
Secretary
- Arelhy Arroyo
- Pam Brandon
- LeeAnne French
- Lee Moldaver
- Else Wolff

Staff
Dominique Blocker
Communications Coordinator

Linda Davis (Accountability
Plus) *Bookkeeper*

*Above photo: Santa Barbara
City Council Candidates
answer the community's
questions at CPA
co-sponsored forum*



Santa Barbara Independent

Citizens Planning Association Co-Sponsors a 21st Century City Council Forum

Santa Barbara residents were invited to experience a truly 21st Century political debate when candidates for Santa Barbara City Council took part in "The People's Forum." The live, interactive event was video streamed from a studio over the Internet and onto computers everywhere.

This was all-access, nonpartisan, participatory democracy at its purest, as approximately 200 citizens watched online and were able to ask questions directly to the candidates via a chat board. 60 people actively commented and asked questions on the live chat board!

This was a perfect debate for those unable or too busy to make it to a forum in-person, and perhaps the best chance for some Santa Barbarans to ask direct questions to those vying to become the city's next leaders.

The forum success was apparent it attracted a far greater number of citizens than any of the more than one dozen traditional in-person candidate debates that occurred for this year's election.

The event was produced by California Streamin, a Santa Barbara-based live Internet streaming company and co-sponsored by Citizens Planning

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Association and The Santa Barbara Independent. Pam Brandon, CPA board member, initiated the concept and was one of the forum producers. The forum was moderated by Catherine Remak, the popular morning show host at KLITE. The chat room moderators were Matt Kettmann, Senior Editor at The Santa Barbara Independent, and Dominique Blocker, Communications Coordinator for Citizens Planning Association.

One major goal of Citizens Planning Association is to educate citizens and encourage them to get involved in the direction of their community. This forum was an excellent example of one way CPA enabled education and involvement this year.

Citizens Planning Association also benefited by receiving some good PR as The Santa Barbara Independent and the morning show hosts at KLITE advertised and talked about the event including CPA as the co-sponsor.

The success of the forum was expressed by comments from people on the chat board: "This kind of forum is intense from this side, and revelatory." "This is a really fine way to help us voter folk at home." "Thanks for a good job. Tough crowd. Democracy rules."

Comprehensive Land Use and Water Committee In Action

By Lee Moldaver

If you've missed our recent fall Monday meetings, you may have missed the insider updates on:

1. The latest changes to the County's Regional Transportation Plan, which now includes [for the first time] the connection among land use, transportation, traffic congestion and climate change [SB 375 and AB32]. Former city councilman GREGG HART represented the SB Association of Governments in an informative presentation on the six-month "public outreach and input" process [endorsed at their November board meeting] to build the next Regional Plan. CPA will be involved from the start. To participate, please contact Dominique at 966.3979; email contact info to CPA at CitizensPlanningSB@gmail.com

gmail.com; or sign up at the SBCAG WEB site to receive mailings.

2. The ongoing cooperative regional application process for CA Water bonds to fund area conservation, infrastructure, planning improvements. JANE GRAY [Dudek] reviewed the often-cumbersome series of hoops and legal requirements area water agencies must go through to be eligible. Maps and handouts demonstrated the history of the process, and the applicants and pending projects. CPA has been a process stakeholder for four years now.

3. More effective written and oral presentations to the Planning Commission were reviewed by Chair JOHN JOSTES. He encouraged participants to really focus, make specific, topic-appropriate sug-

gestions, employ no more than three suggestions in the 2-3 minute allocated time ["that's often just 45 seconds per topic"], and direct all suggestions to the Commission [not the audience or the staff]. He also shared insight on how the Commission "worked", what the role of agency staff is, and how members of the public can meet with both before noticed hearings, to make sure their ideas are being considered. John's distinctive perspective [former City staffer, former owner of an environmental/land-use consulting firm, two-term Commissioner] evoked a lively conversation among attendees.

4. Santa Barbara Planning staff's hot-off-the-presses update and review for Plan Santa Barbara's Final Staff Report Recommendations. They encompass final improve-

ments that evolved over the summer from the City's Special Plan SB Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommendations. CPA has been actively involved with the General Plan update process for 6 years now.

ALL 2012 meetings are scheduled for the THIRD MONDAY of each month, at the Carrillo-Hill Adobe on the first block of east Carrillo Street, downtown SB. CPA members and guests are always welcome.

Interested in joining the Planning and Water Committee? To be added to the meeting notification and mailing list, please send Dominique your preferred contact information, or leave it on the sign-in sheet at the next meeting you attend.

NO meeting in December. Happy Holidays, one and all!

Pat Gebhard: 1916-2011

Patricia Gebhard, a longtime member of Citizens Planning Association, died at her Santa Barbara home on October 29 at the age of 85. Mrs. Gebhard was the widow of David Gebhard, Ph.D., internationally

known architectural historian at UCSB. Dr. Gebhard served on the CPA board of directors for several years and was president in the mid 1970s. Patricia Gebhard held degrees in art history and library sci-

ence, and worked at UCSB as a librarian. She wrote a book on George Washington Smith and co-authored an important book on the Santa Barbara County Courthouse. We extend condolences to her family.



Established in 1960, Citizens Planning Association (CPA) is one of California's first grassroots environmental organizations. We have been promoting responsible land-use planning and environmental protection in Santa Barbara County for over 50 years!

Our membership consists of any resident who elects to be responsible for what happens in our country, to our land, our environment, and our way of life.

There are no quick or easy fixes to our land-use problems, but CPA offers a unifying voice, a chance for citizens to work together and assure Santa Barbara County's unique qualities are not given away to special interests!

Please help CPA continue the tradition by renewing your membership or joining CPA as our newest member today.

Call us at 805-966-3979, or join on line at our website: www.citizensplanning.org

CPA is a 501(c)3 non-profit and all donations and membership dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Citizens Planning Welcomes New Communications Coordinator!

Santa Barbara resident Dominique Blocker took on the role of Communications Coordinator in August and is excited to put her media skills and local knowledge to work for Citizens Planning Association. An avid believer in neighborhood involvement and educating residents so they can be proactive members of their community, Dominique is proud to assist our organization with its outreach and membership coordination. Her background working at two of our government television stations will also serve as

a help to members looking to understand the local decision-making process.

Dominique has bachelor degrees in Communications and Theatre from the University of Southern California and has worked in both Los Angeles and New York City in the media field. Since coming to Santa Barbara nearly 5 years ago to work for Santa Barbara's City TV - 18 she has not only become an active member of the community in many volunteer organizations but also feel in love with the Santa Barbara County lifestyle. You just might

see her running along the beach or biking throughout the County or hiking one of the many trails in our mountainside. She looks forward to meeting our members!



Our Bess Christensen: 1916-2011 By Carol Nash, North County Vice President

When Bess and husband Hal chose to retire in Lompoc Valley in the mid-1970s, people asked, "Who is the dignified and articulate woman who could be seen in the library, City Hall, Lompoc Museum, La Purisima Mission - everywhere around town?" Bess was to become a significant benefit to not only our local community but to our county, state, and country.

Bess was a researcher and an avid reader. These talents served her during her work for Random House, selecting new words for their dictionary and of course as the quintessential concerned citizen.

Bess served on Citizens

Planning Association Board, our Water Committee, and the Lompoc Valley Land Use Committee. She worked to clarify issues so they could be more easily understood. She helped us to twice defeat the State Water Project. The three water purveyors in the Lompoc Valley do not subscribe to water from SWP. She also helped to twice defeat the SB County Split. Her gracious manner confounded wrong-headed opponents.

A prolific writer, Bess wrote letters to government entities, articles for newspapers and local organizations. She authored several short histories of Lompoc, including Acres of Loveliness - about

the flower seed industry. Bess was the founder of the Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society, which still puts out an eight-page newsletter. She knew flowers. She could name and site the locations for specific wildflowers in our valley - some she cultivated in her yard.

Bess served on many government and citizen boards, and testified regularly at public hearings. As a member of the City Water Commission, she regularly corrected misinformation that made its way into forums. Bess was on the Lompoc Library Foundation Board, Lompoc Museum Board, and was an active member of American Association of

University Women.

In 1995, the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce named Bess "Woman of the Year". In 2006, Bess was Grand Marshall of the Lompoc Flower Festival Parade.

Rest Well - our dear friend.



Santa Maria Times

President's Letter

Our non-profit Association of county residents concludes an exciting, productive year.

CPA was very engaged with bringing Plan Santa Barbara (the City of SB's General Plan update process) to a positive conclusion. Our working group has supported improving sections to: protect neighborhoods; historic districts; public health from pollution along the 101 corridor; living within our resources, and the zoning that takes; extending Measure E safeguards to address changing needs; crafting strong controls in defined areas, where experiments

with affordable and workforce housing can take place, then be carefully evaluated. These helped lead to a 7-0 City Council December 1st approval.

At a special board retreat, a trained facilitator helped us walk through not only why we exist and where we came from, but also what the community needs, and which of those services we can still provide with high degrees of excellence and cost-effectiveness. We're still weighing top suggestions and will share them with you as soon as they are ready.

As someone who's been trying for three years to rebuild the family home we lost in the Tea Fire, it's been a tough haul at times. But each time I walk the foothills, and see the scorched land slowly going green again, or view boats as they go up the Channel, there's no denying that protecting these lands from poor planning or exploitation is the way we must go. That's why CPA was formed, and why I'm still so involved.

Thank you again for your encouragement and support. Best wishes for the Holidays. Steve Dunn