



GOLETA CHAMBER NEWS & EVENTS

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A PUBLICATION OF THE GOLETA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber seeks bond funds, new housing plans, and local job park

\$200 Million Sought for Hwy 101

Our region has a chance to receive part of the \$20 billion state bond money that was approved by voters in November, for much-needed widening of the 101 Freeway, between Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. In a historic and unprecedented show of cooperation, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties' transportation agencies are submitting a joint proposal for \$200 million that will go directly towards the highway-widening project.



KRISTEN AMYX
President & CEO

Assemblymember Pedro Nava is chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee, and Senator McClintock is vice-chairman of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. Therefore, it is vital that our Chamber and our fellow members have their voices heard by the representatives who hold key positions regarding transportation. Our region can easily be overlooked when competing with big cities for funds, even though we as tax-paying citizens will be paying back the bond money.

Many of you have already sent letters and made phone calls on our behalf. Assemblyman Nava's response so far is that he is interested in our input but is still analyzing the information before taking a position. Please let him know we don't want to lose this opportunity to gain much needed State funds for infrastructure improvements in our area.

Goleta Valley Vision Document Updated

The Goleta Valley Vision Task Force is meeting again to update the Chamber's 2004 information synthesis and policy recommendations for the Goleta General Plan. In anticipation that the city-wide 20-year planning document may be revised in 2007, the Chamber is preparing current information regarding our recommendations for housing, transportation and the local economy to submit to the new Goleta City Council members.

One of the key items to be reviewed by the task force is an updated inclusionary housing policy. Our previously submitted 25% model, that requires a homebuilder to offer 25% of the homes built to be restricted to lower-income buyers, has never been adopted and will be re-analyzed by the committee. Also regarding housing will be a new-and-improved local preference policy. Much has been learned in the past two years about municipalities' ability to

require a percentage of new housing be targeted towards the local workforce.

The task force will also look into new transportation policies aimed at relieving congestion and providing improved circulation in the future.

A transportation task force is currently working with the Regional Legislative Alliance on similar goals. The group hopes to announce an updated vision document within one to two months.

Cabrillo Business Park

Progress has been made in the City of Goleta regarding the Cabrillo Business Park (CBP). In December the City Council began the final phase of approving the renovation and expansion of the business park, located at Hollister and Los Carneros, which is known as the former Delco site.

The Business Park is the only significant site in Goleta that is zoned for new jobs. The Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the CBP project repeatedly for this reason, and the fact that the proposed new facilities would alleviate the severe lack of commercial/industrial space throughout the county. Also, the project is a beautiful, well-planned business park, which will be completed in multiple phases over the next ten years. We congratulate both the Sares-Regis Group, and the City of Goleta, for the progress on this plan.

ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Gearing up for 2007, the Issue & Policy Roundtable will initiate a new schedule starting January 25. Due to popular demand IPRs will be held on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month, allowing for a wider variety of speakers, and a efficacious change for those who are unable to attend the meetings on Tuesdays.

Barring this change, the monthly luncheon and meeting in one will continue to host both a variety of guests and vital issues concerning the Goleta Valley, and an enjoyable catered lunch.

2007 will be another year of hot topics at the IPR, featuring speakers on globalization and international business, air quality control, revitalization of Old Town, renovation of the airport, the future of commercial business in Goleta, in-county health efforts, and a copious amount of other important topics.

To stay up-to-date on topics, be sure to check calendar listings in the GVCoc Newsletter, IPR One-Sheets (given out at the luncheon), and various email reminders.

ONTHE SIDE SAVE THE DATES

State of the City 2007 Luncheon

When: Wednesday, January 17th 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Where: Holiday Inn 5650 Calle Real

Cost: \$25 Members \$35 Non-Members

The Goleta City Council and Mayor Jean Blois will meet with us to outline the goals each has for the upcoming year, and will answer questions. Please RSVP by calling (805) 967.2500, or by faxing the included form to 967.4615

2007 GVCoc Annual Meeting

When: Wednesday, February 14th 11:30am - 1:30pm

Where: Holiday Inn 5650 Calle Real

Cost: \$35 Members \$45 Non-Members

An elegant, professional luncheon provided each year for our members to acknowledge our achievements, and endorse our goals for 2007. Please RSVP before February 9th.

Goleta's Finest 2007 Nominations

If you know of someone within our community deserving special recognition for their activities, this is your chance to nominate them for a prestigious Goleta's Finest 2007 award. A nomination form has been included with this month's newsletter, and more may be obtained by calling the Chamber or in our online bulletins.



Regional Legislative Alliance 2007 Update

With the New Year upon us there are many changes currently underway which will affect business. Compiled below is an updated summary for the 2007 laws that directly relate to business, retrieved from the CA Chamber of Commerce's website.

Discrimination

SB 1441 - Adds sexual orientation to existing classifications protected from discrimination by recipients of state funds and expands the definition of discrimination to include the perception that the victim is a member of a protected class.

Employment

AB 546 - Outlaws the use of state-owned or state-leased computers by government officials or employees to access obscene materials.
SB 1759 - Establishes requirements for background checks of certain administrators, executives and employees in the health care industry, and a process for transmission of fingerprint images.

Health and Safety

AB 2067 - Extends and clarifies the prohibition on smoking in the workplace.
AB 409 - Immediately authorizes suspension of the license of a cosmetologist, barber, estheticians, manicurist, and electrologist if required to protect the public health and safety. Provides a means for temporary stay and appeal of the suspension.
AB 881 - Requires all roofing contractors to have workers' compensation insurance, whether or not having current employees.
SB 1613 - Effective July 1, 2008, limits the use of cell phones while driving to those having hands-free operation except for contacts with law enforcement and public safety agencies and certain commercial vehicles for whom the effective date is July 1, 2011.

Sexual Harassment

AB 2095 - Limits mandated sexual harassment training to supervisors located in California.

State Government

AB 3058 - Directs development of a web-based small business handbook on emergency preparedness.
AB 1302 - Amends the process by which state government agencies can create and impose emergency regulations and the duration of the period during which emergency regulations can remain in effect.
SB 1436 - Requires state agencies to improve their communication regarding regulations and assistance with the business community, with an emphasis on small business.

SB 1827 - Permits registered domestic partners to file joint state income tax and have their earnings treated as community property on a par with married couples.

SB 1428 - Permits payroll services companies in the motion picture industry to be treated as the employer for purposes of unemployment tax filings and responsibility.

AB 2293 - Penalizes an educational employer that submits willfully false statements about a worker's employment or termination to the Employment Development Department.

Wages

AB 2613 - Establishes conditions for a state overtime exemption for teachers in private educational institutions.

SB 1468 - This law extends the repeal date of the Car Wash Industry compliance program from January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2010.

SB 1719 - Permits employers and unions in the entertainment industry to establish conditions for payment of final paychecks by collective bargaining.

AB 1835 - Increases California's minimum wage and exempt salary standards for all California employers. This law increases the California minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour on January 1, 2007, and to \$8 per hour on January 1, 2008.

AB 2095 - Permits reporting of overtime hours on the same payroll date as the hours are paid when overtime is paid in the payroll period subsequent to the one in which it is earned.

Wage Deductions

AB 2440 - Imposes a penalty on an employer that assists an employee or contractor with child support obligations evade meeting those obligations, including failure to file reports upon hiring.

Workers' Compensation

AB 1368 - Excludes public safety employees from the presumption that medical apportionment applied to certain specified job-related illnesses or injuries.

AB 2068 - Permits pre-designation of a medical group as the primary treating physician and extends the sunset date of the right of pre-designation.

AB 2292 - Provides for payment of workers' compensation death benefits to the estate of the deceased worker. Labor Code Section 4706.5 requires workers' compensation death benefits to be paid to the California State Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) if the employee does not leave surviving any person entitled to a dependency death benefit.

ONTHE SIDE

Goodstein Elected to Join Sansum Diabetes Research Institute Board of Trustees

Ellen M. Goodstein has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Sansum Diabetes Research Institute it was announced by James Sloan, Chairman of the Board.

Founded in 1944 by Dr. William D. Sansum, the first American physician to administer life-saving insulin to people with diabetes, Sansum Diabetes Research Institute has carried on Dr. Sansum's mission to prevent, cure, and improve treatment for diabetes for over 60 years. For additional information on Sansum Diabetes Research Institute call (805) 682-7638 x210.

2007 SANTA BARBARA CAR FREE EXPERIENCE DISCOUNT PACKAGE "Take a Vacation from Your Car & Spare the Air!"

The Santa Barbara Car Free Project announced its 2007 Car Free Experience Discount Package valid now through December 31, 2007, featuring savings up to 50% at 20 hotels, 6 restaurants and 15 activity and transportation alternatives. Visitors are encouraged to come car free via plane, bike, boat, bus or train and enjoy discounts. Vehicles are a major source of smog-forming pollution, and of greenhouse gases contributing to global climate change.

To get complete information on the 2007 Santa Barbara Car Free Experience Package (and hundreds of car free options); visitors may sign up to receive a special map, coupons and full details by registering online at SantaBarbaraCarFree.org by calling 805-696-1100 and leave a message with your full name and address, or send a postcard with your full name and address to Box 60436, Santa Barbara, CA 93160.

ON THE CHAMBER CALENDAR

January

- 8 - Ambassadors Meeting**
Chamber Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:00pm
- 9 - Issue & Policy Roundtable**
Chamber Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm
- 11 - Lemon Festival Meeting**
Chamber Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
8:00am - 9:00am
- 17 - State of the City Luncheon**
Holiday Inn
5650 Calle Real
12:00pm - 1:30pm

- 23 - Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:30pm
- 25 - Issue & Policy Roundtable**
Chamber Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm
- 31 - Business After Hours**
Computers for Families
401 N. Fairview
5:00 - 7:00pm

February

- 1 - Board Meeting**
Chamber Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
8:00am - 9:30am

- 5 - Ambassadors Meeting**
Chamber Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:00pm

- 14 - Annual Membership Meeting**
Holiday Inn
5650 Calle Real
11:30am - 1:30pm

New Schedule

- IPRs are held on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month
- Ambassador Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month
- Board Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month
- Business After Hours Mixers are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month