

THE CAPITAL

"Preserving Santa Barbara's historic sites of enduring community value"

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APRIL MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: April 4, 2024 at the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, 316 Castillo Street, 3:30 p.m.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City meetings are broadcast live on City TV channel 18 and streamed live [HERE](#), where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

City Council

Tuesdays at 2 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: April 9, 16, 23, 30

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: April 4, 11, 18

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: April 10, 24

Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets April 2, 15, 29

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTV20. They are also streamed live [HERE](#) where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

County Board of Supervisors

Three Tuesdays of the month at 9 am. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 East Anapamu St., 4th Floor. The second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. April 2 (SB), 23 (SM)

County Planning Commission

Three Wednesdays of the month at 9 am. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17, and the second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. April 3 (SB), 10 (SM), 24 (SB)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 am at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). April 8

News and Notes: The Return of the Kellam de Forest Speaker Series

By Cheri Rae

We are pleased to announce a full schedule of special presentations by noted community members who will inform, entertain, and inspire audiences. It's a line-up that would surely meet with Kellam de Forest's approval, as we continue to honor his example of an engaged citizen-steward, deeply committed to the preservation of Santa Barbara's natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Each event will take place at the historic Alhecama Theatre, and guests are encouraged to enjoy the convivial atmosphere and conversation with complimentary refreshments following the presentation. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:



Thursday April 18, 2024, 5:30 pm: *Historic Preservation in Santa Barbara*

Since 2012, Nicole Hernandez has served as the Architectural Historian of Santa Barbara. Her work entails managing the historic preservation work program and oversight of alterations to the City's historic resources. She will be speaking about the unique and diverse historic architecture of Santa Barbara and recent historic designations that will preserve and protect these distinctive community treasures.

Friday June 7, 2024, 5:30 pm: *A Path to Preserving Tradition*

Architect Cass Ensberg, who serves on the Historic Landmarks Commission and Architect Leslie Colasse, former Chair of the Single Family Design Review Board will team up to present a thoughtful discussion and share their perspectives about preserving Santa Barbara's public and residential architecture.

Thursday, September 5, 2024, 5:30 pm: *The Importance of Franceschi House*

Longtime Pearl Chase Society member, Rick Closson, will speak about one of Kellam's prime interests: Franceschi House. There likely will not be any news on the City's reimagining project, so don't expect that. The general topic will be the intrinsic historic value of the House and Park from one who has deep respect for the property and knowledge of the subject.

Friday November 8, 2024, 5:30 p.m.: *Happy Birthday, Pearl Chase*

Historian Erin Graffy will offer a lighthearted look at the accomplishments of Pearl Chase in a clever and entertaining evening that includes a formidable cast of characters and a reprise of her memorable sing-along, "Spanish Revival." It will be a celebratory night to remember and honor our forebears.

The Alhecama Theatre is located at 215 A East Canon Perdido Street.

There is no charge; donations are welcome to support the series.

SEATING IS LIMITED: Please call (805) 961-3938 for your reservation.

Want to get involved, or have submissions for The Capital? Email us at PCS@pearlchasesociety.org.

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NewsletterCheri Rae, *editor*Lisa DeSpain, *graphics*

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PRESERVATION WATCH

Continuing in the tradition established by Kellam de Forest, a monthly round-up of information about notable projects and developments of historic and/or great community significance.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING, MARCH 14, 2024**531 East Ortega Street - Campus for Providence School**

The site is currently developed with a one-story main building, a gymnasium, and a surface parking lot. Historically, the site was owned and occupied by Girls Inc., and in 2022, Providence School acquired the property. The single-story main building was designed in 1964 by Robert Ingle Hoyt FAIA in the Mid-Century Modern style.

A Historic Resources/Sites Report concluded that the building is eligible for listing as a City of Santa Barbara Structure of Merit, and the HLC accepted the reports which concluded that the proposed redevelopment of the site meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The project consists of redevelopment of the existing site to accommodate a Junior/High School (grades 6-12) campus for Providence School. The project involves additions and alterations to the existing single-story main building; demolition of the existing gymnasium and construction of a new gymnasium; a new two-story building comprised of a theatre, library, and chapel; and a new two-story building comprised of additional classroom and office administration space. The project includes alterations to the existing surface parking lot to accommodate 40 uncovered vehicle spaces and 56 bicycle parking spaces, as well as grading and landscape/hardscape improvements throughout the site.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, March 19, 2024

The Board of Supervisors met to hear presentations from an array of developers who want to build thousands of new housing units across the county. Developers presented their housing projects intended to help the county meet state demands for new housing:

*The number one project on the county's list of potential rezones is the 64 acres at Hollister and Ward Memorial Drive which could potentially house 1,200 units. Glen Annie Golf Club project proposed more than a thousand units to replace the golf course, another proposed 182-unit project on Bailard Avenue in the Carpinteria Valley.

*The Tatum property in the Goleta Valley proposes 545 units with 110 of those affordable.

*Developers from San Marcos Growers propose to build 796 units called San Marcos Ranch at 5050 Hollister Avenue.

Several other developers proposed projects.

Note: Although the supervisors want more below market-rate housing, the developers appear to have most of the power right now.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION, MARCH 27, 2024**The Telephone Building, 101 West Canon Perdido Street.**

Located in El Pueblo Viejo, the distinctive building was built in 1927 in the Spanish Renaissance Plateresque style by Maston and Hurd Architects. The Chapala Street elevation entrance was installed in 1958 designed by Chester Carjola, a noted architect in Santa Barbara who specialized in public buildings from the early 1930s until the mid-1960s.

On October 25, 2023, the HLC found the entrance is not historically significant. The proposal for a new vertical wheelchair lift and handrails at the Chapala Street entrance, new driveway gates at De La Vina Street and Chapala Street, and new gate at Canon Perdido Street entrance. The project includes landscaping changes. Final Approval is requested.

The Montecito Club, 920 Summit Road

The Montecito Club's clubhouse is a designated Structure of Merit, designed in 1918 by the celebrated Bertram Goodhue in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and remodeled in the 1920s by George Washington Smith, the master of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Goodhue is also credited with the design of El Fureidis and Val Verde.

The proposal is to extend the existing pool deck to accommodate a new spa and cold plunge pool at the existing pool complex of the Montecito Club. Final Approval is requested.

Structure of Merit Designation, 2010 Garden Street

Two-story stucco building in the Mission Revival style. This large residence features a low-pitched terra-cotta tile roof with large overhanging eaves, and giant Mission parapets placed on the edges of the roof. The building retains most of its original features, with only minor changes.

In 1887, San Francisco resident William H. Crocker, the son of Charles Crocker, purchased land in the Upper East to build five speculative houses as "exclusive rentals for affluent winter visitors." In 1894, Crocker commissioned the noted San Francisco architect Arthur Page Brown to design and build five houses in the 2000 block of Garden Street. They are known as "Crocker Row."

Note: The house at 2010 Garden Street is also eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Places.

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The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring

By Cheri Rae

Wildflowers inspire poets and songwriters, photographers and artists, nature lovers and preservationists alike. There's something about their singular beauty assembled in an astonishing carpet of color that stirs the imagination. We attribute characteristics of persistence, determination, and freedom to the flowers that bloom wild—in our gardens or in parks, preserves and special places where they are given space to flourish.

Many of us enjoy traveling a distance to witness the Earth laugh in flowers, as suggested by the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson. And it has long been so. In April of 1920, *The Morning Press* reported: "Mattei's Tavern at Los Olivos is popular with Santa Barbarans at all seasons of the year, and particularly now, when mountain trout is served there every morning for breakfast. Another attraction is the wealth of wildflowers just now blooming in the neighborhood of the inn, and on the way there. Among those who visited the tavern during the past week were: Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Luton, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Thomson, Miss Pearl Chase and H. G. Chase."

Writing for *Survey Graphic Magazine* in 1941, author Katherine Glover began a story about Pearl Chase's environmental and conservation work by lauding her for her leadership with the California Conservation Council. She described California's springtime beauty as "The fields are blue with lupin and the hills flung with the gold of poppies; then, too, the desert breaks into blossom. It is the perfect time to rouse conservationists to carry on throughout the year."

Weather experts and botanical enthusiasts predict Southern California may be about ready for a spectacular springtime wildflower display. Thanks to soaking winter rains followed by mild, sunny days, conditions are right for a superbloom this year—that is, when wildflowers make their presence known in huge numbers.



Poppy Field in Southern California.



A collection of vintage postcards celebrating California poppies back when picking wildflowers was considered proper. Credits: Wikicommons, top right and bottom left; Library of Congress, center.

You likely know the local places where you can expect to see wildflowers in bloom; they include the [Santa Barbara Botanic Garden](#), [Figueroa Mountain](#) and the [Carrizo Plain](#).

Take a Drive
Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve—Located in Lancaster, a great place for a day trip to a natural place that becomes magical when the poppies are in bloom.

Monitor the bloom on their [live feed](#).
Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park—Enjoy the combination of Joshua and juniper woodland and wildflowers in bloom at this 560-acre preserve. Free [HERE](#)

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park—The pink desert verbena carpets the ground here on peak years, joined by creamy white desert lilies and evening primrose.

Download a map [HERE](#).
 Get updates on the wildflower bloom [HERE](#).



Tips for Travelers:

Use your "Outdoor Good Manners," as Pearl Chase would say! Always stay on trails and do not crush, pick, or otherwise disturb the wildflowers.

Schedule your trip during the week, if possible, to avoid the weekend traffic jams when flowers are in full bloom. Note that poppies unfurl in the sun and tend to close up in cloudy weather.

Be sure to check in advance to make sure the flowers are in bloom. A sudden heat wave or very windy weather can seriously affect the fragile flowers.

The Wildflower Man of Southern California: Theodore Payne in Santa Barbara

By Cheri Rae

Los Angeles-based horticulturalist, nurseryman, and conservationist Theodore Payne was a frequent visitor to Santa Barbara. His knowledge of native and cultivated plants was highly valued, as he offered lectures, served as a consultant, and generally applied his knowledge to add to the local botanical beauty. In 1916, he spoke at the annual meeting of the California Association of Nurserymen, held at the Recreation Center. His topic was "California Native Plants in Our Parks and Gardens." He enhanced his presentation with more than a hundred hand-colored autochrome plates.

As *The Morning Press* reported, "Mr. Payne is a big seedsman of the southern metropolis, and he makes a specialty of the wild flowers of California. In cultivation, these flowers come true to form, color and parentage, with the difference that the colors are more vivid and the flowers larger than in the wild state."

When he returned in 1917, the paper reported, "He believes that Santa Barbara is the most promising place in all California for the planting of wild gardens, and is enthusiastic on the subject of what can be done at little cost with vacant lots and in the town gardens and those of Montecito."

City leaders who were planning the huge community Fourth of July celebration of 1919, invited him to put his idea of cultivating wildflowers into action. He was joined by a group of locals, including A. Boyd Doremus, who planted wildflower seeds in vacant lots throughout Santa Barbara. Sites included the Oak Park area, near Boyland (now known as Samarkand); a vacant lot at the corner of Victoria and Santa Barbara streets, and West Alameda Plaza.

He believed such efforts were necessary, as he noted, "Because of the vandalism of a commercial civilization the wild flowers that once spread their glory of color over field and hill are well nigh extinct." He recommended people plant a variety of seeds, including phacelia or wild Canterbury bell, Blazing Star, California phlox, Farewell-to-Spring, Thistle sage and the California poppy.

In 1926, Payne once again contributed his expertise in native plants locally as he provided plantings and ideas to the Blaksley Botanic Garden, the forerunner to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. He also helped create several other Southland gardens devoted to California's native plants, including the California Botanic Garden in Claremont, and Descanso Garden in La Cañada.

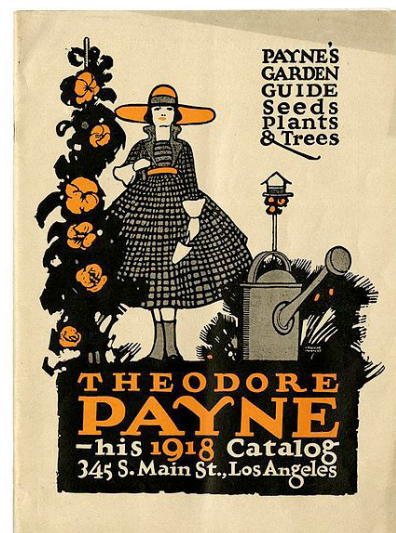
Pearl Chase, who regularly tucked small packets of California Golden Poppy seeds in her correspondence, was a longtime friend of Payne's. When he founded the Theodore Payne Foundation in 1960 to continue his life's work after his retirement, she became a member and supported it annually.

The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants is located in Sun Valley, and for native plant and wildflower enthusiasts, is well-worth the trip. The 22-acre property includes a wildflower hill, various demonstration gardens, a retail shop and nursery; the organization hosts numerous events and educational opportunities all year, and each spring maintains the regularly updated Wildflower Hotline at (818) 768-1802 ext. 7 <https://theodorepayne.org/>

View an array of videos at the Theodore Payne Foundation YouTube Channel [HERE](#)



Theodore Payne, circa 1894, From his book, *Life on the Modjeska Ranch in the Gay Nineties*.



California in bloom: Lupine and poppies, circa 1919.