



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 at the Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara, 129 Castillo Street, April 2 at 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. [HERE](#). April 7, 14, 21, 28

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall. [HERE](#). April 9, 16

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. [HERE](#). April 8, 22

Architectural Board of Review

Alternate Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. [HERE](#). April 13, 27

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTIV20. 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 a.m. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor. The second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. April 7 (SB), 21 (SM)

County Planning Commission

Three Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. 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 1 (SB), 8 (SM), 29 (SB)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). April 13

News and Notes

By Cheri Rae

Established in 1972, the Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara is a unique part of our local heritage that houses a collection of horse-drawn vehicles, saddles & Western memorabilia. This hidden gem is located at 129 Castillo Street, tucked behind the ballfields of Pershing Park.

We are pleased to announce that the Kellam de Forest Speaker Series will be now hosted at this historic location. Attendees will appreciate the ease of parking and access to the wealth of exhibits—which now includes a showcase of memorabilia belonging to Pearl Chase. These items have been gifted to the Pearl Chase Society over the years, and we are delighted to have a designated place where the public has a chance to view them and learn more about her life and work.

Already on display are photos of her that reflect her interest as an equestrienne as well as her bespoke cowboy boots handmade in Tucson, one of her leather-bound guestbooks and the commemorative ribbon-badge that festooned her carriage when she served as Grand Marshal of the 1973 Old Spanish Days Fiesta parade. We are working collaboratively with Dylan Peterson, president of the museum (and board member of the Pearl Chase Society) to further curate this work-in-progress at this very special location.

Dylan will be presenting a talk about Dwight Murphy on April 24 at 6 p.m. at the Carriage Museum. See page 4 for more information about his special presentation in this special location. Please call (805) 961-3938 for reservations. As always, while attendance is free of charge, donations are cheerfully accepted to continue this ongoing series designed to educate the community about the people and events of Santa Barbara's past, how they affect the present, and the importance of preservation for the future.

We are pleased to announce the resumption of our Kellam de Forest Speaker Series for 2026.



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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Restoring Santa Barbara's Stone Pines a Small Victory for History, Community

By Richard Closson

Photos by Monie Photography

Note: This commentary was originally published in *Noozhawk* and is reprinted with permission.

Some 118 years ago, Teddy Roosevelt was president and Santa Barbara's East Anapamu Street was an earthen boulevard for horse-drawn carriages and early automobiles.

Two friends, immigrant Francesco Franceschi and Confederate army veteran Boyd Doremus, planted Italian stone pine trees along several blocks of the street at Doremus' home.

The trees flourished, even as infrastructure like sporadic sidewalks, sewers, homes and street paving filled in around them.

The trees, nicknamed "umbrella pines" for their mature canopy shape, ultimately created an allée that stretched from our historic El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District to the Depression-era Santa Barbara Bowl.

It became a favorite of residents and visitors, alike. The City Council designated the six blocks of the canopy an official landmark in 1997.

Unfortunately, infrastructure encroachment stressed the trees and their age took its toll. Their crowns became thinner and were severely pruned away from high voltage overhead wiring.

Their numbers declined from 79 trees at landmarking to 57 by August 2023.

In January 2025, the City Council granted an appeal that prevented them from being replaced by another tree species and required planting of new stone pines (*Pinus pinea*).

On March 10, the latest phase in that curative process took place as 40 juvenile stone pines were planted to fill gaps on the historic street.

In preparation, some street curbs and sidewalks had been modified, the location for each new tree had been cleared of prior growth and amended with healthy soil, special root barriers were installed to curtail disruptive growth that had buckled sidewalks and necessitated severe trimming.

It was a good day for the trees and for Santa Barbara.

The process is ongoing. Oversight of the beloved canopy is a joint responsibility of the city Parks & Recreation Department and the Historic Landmarks Commission.



Community volunteers help plant new Italian stone pine trees along East Anapamu Street near Santa Barbara High School.

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www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety



City urban forest superintendent Nathan Slack describes the planning and planting of new Italian stone pine trees along East Anapamu Street.

The blocks will need special signage to acknowledge their landmark status and inform the public of their important history.

Absence of prior signage may have contributed to their treatment as individual “street trees,” rather than parts of a consolidated cultural landmark.

The process began as a project of independent citizens, unaffiliated with any group and without official standing.

One is a botanist with an interest in preservation,



City workers begin taking care of a new landmark Italian stone pine tree.

the second is a prolific author on local history topics, and the third a retired clinical pharmacist.

None of us knowingly followed a later discovered quote from cultural anthropologist, Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Note: Dr. Richard Closson retired in 2013 after a 40-year career in academia and hospital practice as a clinical pharmacist. His current focus is historic preservation, especially Santa Barbara’s Franceschi House and its connection to Miami Beach’s Casa Casuarina, also known as the Versace Mansion. The opinions expressed are his own.



Pearl Chase Society President Christine Neuhauser (left) and Vice-President Emma Brinkman (right) were on hand to celebrate the festivities and to cheer on the beginning of the new forest.



These images of the Italian Stone Pines on East Anapamu Street show the changing conditions of their environment over time. It took nearly a half-century for them to form the iconic canopy so beloved by so many. Now the new plantings of 40 healthy saplings offers the great hope for the future urban forest and a guarantee that the designated historic landmark will continue in perpetuity. And that is a very good thing.



Save the Date: April 24 Meet our Speaker, Dylan Peterson

A true local, born and raised in Santa Barbara, Dylan Peterson is a graduate of Santa Barbara High School, SBCC and USCB, where he earned a Master’s in Biochemistry. His father, Tom, been involved with the Carriage Museum since 1994, and Dylan has followed his path, serving as a member of the board of directors since 2018, and president since 2023.

As Dylan notes, “I grew up around horses and have always been a collector so the museum is a great outlet for me. I am very interested in historical objects and their history and especially Santa Barbara local history.”

He adds, “I plan on talking about Dwight Murphy’s life history and his influence on Santa Barbara that include his achievements, contributions, civic activities and, of course, Fiesta and horsemanship.”

For a quick introduction to father, son and the museum, [HERE](#)



Dylan and his buddy Maisie. Unfortunately, Maisie will be unable to attend the presentation.



THE 4th Annual
KELLAM DE FOREST
SPEAKER SERIES



DWIGHT MURPHY:

A MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN of SANTA BARBARA

He’s been called the “The Man of the Century,” the “Patron of the Palominos,” and “Santa Barbara’s Renaissance Man.” But the visionary work and generosity of Dwight Murphy in creating today’s Santa Barbara has largely been lost to history.

Join us for this thoughtful presentation by

DYLAN PETERSON

President of the Carriage and Western Art Museum

who will address the life and times of this very colorful figure who helped shape Santa Barbara ~ from East Beach and the Breakwater to the creation of Old Spanish Days.



Carriage and Western
Art Museum
of Santa Barbara



FRIDAY, APRIL 24 at 6:00 P.M.

129 CASTILLO STREET

CARRIAGE and WESTERN ART MUSEUM

New Location!



The event is free,
contributions are
welcome.

Refreshments will be
served.

Call (805) 961-3938
for reservations.

Parking on the premises.

