



## A Message from Board Co-Presidents Steve Forsell & Rod Hersberger

In the last six months or so, we have adapted to living with the coronavirus. Progress toward curtailing this plague sometimes seems like one step forward and two steps back. We hope all our friends and neighbors are following the protocols and are staying safe.

Given the uncertainty of the virus's prevalence this fall, the Board has cancelled the annual meeting scheduled for November 8. We will try to hold a virtual meeting with a webinar or something similar to satisfy the Association's tax status requirements.

The Board continues to monitor and deal with issues like Average Unit Density, Accessory Dwelling Units, traffic and speeding on streets in our neighborhood, the transformation of State Street and various historical status proposals.

If you have input or questions, please email us at [board@sbuppereast.org](mailto:board@sbuppereast.org)

Steve Forsell & Rod Hersberger  
Co-Presidents

## Welcome New Board Member Tom Walsh & Returning Board Member Beth Perry

Tom Walsh and his wife Lee have lived in the Santa Barbara area for nearly 20 years and in the Upper East for the past seven years. Tom is a retired business executive and former rancher and grower in the Santa Rita Hills. He is a freelance writer and author. Tom has also been involved with several local boards and non-profit organizations. Tom and Lee are Chicago natives and lived in the Milwaukee area for many years.

Beth Perry previously served on the UEA Board assisting in member communications. Beth took charge of organizing our UEA annual meetings, where we have traditionally met other neighbors over wine and appetizers in a beautiful setting. Living on Constance Lane with her husband, Bob, now retired after a long career in the medical device industry, Beth graciously agreed to rejoin the UEA Board.

### 2020 Board Members

Steve Forsell, Co-President  
Rod Hersberger, Co-President, Interim Treasurer  
Fred Sweeney, Secretary  
Lisa Burns, Member Communications  
Greg Brown, Annual Newsletter  
Barbara Harley  
Frank Paolino  
Beth Perry  
Tom Walsh

Database consultant: Eric Torbet

## Additional Board Members Sought

The Board recently modified the Association's by-laws to set the number of Board members between nine and 13. There are currently nine serving members. There is room, then, for additional neighbors to join us in achieving the Association's goals of coordinating and facilitating neighborhood preservation and protection. Send an email to [board@sbuppereast.org](mailto:board@sbuppereast.org) to learn more or to receive a Zoom invitation to our monthly Board meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Join us September 8 as we speak with Jason Harris, Santa Barbara's Economic Development Manager, about State Street reimaged.

## Attempted Burglary Foiled by Silent Alarm

A late-night break-in near Constance and Santa Barbara Streets triggered a silent alarm when residents heard noises downstairs. A call to 911 had police dispatched to the scene. While this attempt was foiled, it's a reminder that home protection devices can provide additional protection. These include motion operated exterior lights, trimmed hedges so drive-by patrols can see property, and wireless cameras and security devices or services. For non-urgent policing concerns, our Beat Patrol Officer Craig Burleigh's police desk line is (805) 897-2490. The police dispatch line for urgent calls is 911 (state your location if calling on a cell phone). For non-urgent general matters, call (805) 897-2300. Calls are prioritized based on risk to life being the most urgent. Response to non-urgent nuisances, like noise, has lower priority. If you install security alarms, police recommend they be registered with the City of Santa Barbara Police Department at <https://alarms.sbpd.com/>

## Emergency Preparedness Update

Fire season is here, and the long-range weather forecast from the UC Cooperative Extension indicates drought conditions through the rest of the year. The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department issued a draft [Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) (CWPP) which the public will have an opportunity to comment on after the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) is completed. Properties within the boundaries of the Upper East Association, mainly those located 1000 feet from Mission Creek due to vegetation issues, will be designated as being in High Fire Areas.

## Average Unit Density Update

As of September 3, the first phase of the Average Unit Density (AUD) program will become an ordinance. This means that the city will allow for an expedited process to build housing units in the downtown business district. The buildings will have the ability to be designed and built 60 feet high. Currently there are two large housing projects being

proposed for the mountain side of State Street in the 700 and 400 blocks. Those buildings will have portions that will be as high as 52 feet.

The city staff will now begin the second phase of an AUD ordinance revision that will take in all other areas of the city zoned for multi-family housing including both sides of State Street from Arrellaga to Mission Streets. If you are interested, you might want to monitor the City's [AUD website](#).

## State Street Closure

The closing of State Street may be helping resurrect some of the downtown retail businesses, particularly the restaurants. The City Council has appointed a sub-committee led by Councilmember Meagan Harmon, with the participation of Councilmembers Kristen Sneddon and Oscar Gutierrez, to analyze short-term solutions to extend the closure date beyond the end of September 2020. They will be dealing with topics like setting aside pedestrian only areas, allowing for outside dining, and providing for safe emergency transportation, among other issues. Councilmember Sneddon, who represents the Sixth District that includes the Upper East neighborhood, encourages you to provide her your comments and ideas at [KSneddon@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:KSneddon@SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## City Considers Disbanding the Single-Family Design Review Board

On August 19, 2020, the City of Santa Barbara released its consultant's report prepared by the Novak Group from Cincinnati, Ohio. Within that document there is a recommendation by the city's Community Development planning staff to disband the Single-Family Design Review Board (SFDB) and all public or neighborhood access to address single family residential projects in the neighborhood. The ultimate decision to do away with this review board will rest with the city council. Meetings on this issue have not been well noticed, but we will attempt to alert you if you are interested in this subject.