



UPPER EAST ASSOCIATION SANTA BARBARA

Upper East News

Fall 2024

<https://sbuppereast.org>

A Message from Board President Steve Forsell

Your Upper East Association Board has been busy and diligent over the past year regarding several important issues affecting our neighborhood. Updates on several of these matters are included in our year-end printed newsletter.

The UEA budget and membership remain strong. We are always aware of upcoming expenses and maintain a reserve in case of emergencies.

The annual UEA meeting is set for Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Center of the First Presbyterian Church at 21 East Constance Avenue. Light refreshments will be served and we are pleased to have Mayor Randy Rowse as our guest speaker. Please join your neighbors for a time of fellowship and information.

Your Board continues to monitor issues that affect our neighborhood and will provide input to elected officials as appropriate. If you have issues or ideas or would like to serve on the Board, you can contact us at sbuppereast.org/contact. Some of the current issues we are dealing with include the proposed multi-family housing at 505 East Los Olivos Street (The Hazard property), the State Street Master Plan and the 2025 Commemoration of the 1925 Earthquake.

Thanks to all our Board members and staff for their work this year. We hope everyone has a pleasant holiday season and a healthy new year. Meanwhile we look forward to seeing you November 2 at the annual meeting.

Please join us for the Upper East Association Annual Membership* Meeting

**Saturday, November 2, 2024
3-5pm**

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of State St. & E. Constance Ave.

**Featured speaker: Randy Rowse
Santa Barbara City Mayor**

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP by October 25 to:

board@sbuppereast.org

** New members may join at the door for \$35*

Current UEA Board and Staff

Steve Forsell, President
Rod Hersberger, Treasurer
Fred Sweeney, Secretary
Beth Perry, Annual Newsletter
Deb Trauntvein, Membership Communications
Ross Foti
Ryan Newell
Michael O'Connell
Pat Saley
Eric Torbet, Database/Website Consultant

Proposed 250-Unit Residential Project for 505 East Los Olivos Street

As you may know, there is a large housing project proposed behind the Santa Barbara Mission on a property known as Mission Hill or the Hazard Estate (see map below). As currently proposed, it would provide 250 units in two seven-story buildings on top of a three-level 400-plus-space parking garage. The garage would be dug into the base of the hill within about 25 feet of the Los Olivos St. property line.

The developers are proposing to get approval to build this project under a California law called "Builders Remedy." This law allows certain projects, submitted before the City of Santa Barbara completed its state-mandated Housing Element, to exceed certain zoning regulations and bypass most design and planning reviews. The project would still require environmental review to address important issues including public health and safety.

This project is complex, given its location along an evacuation route (Mission Canyon Road and East Los Olivos St.), its proximity to the Mission and other historic structures, and its location adjacent to Mission Creek. This summer the applicant submitted an application that was deemed incomplete by City staff. The applicant has until late 2024 to submit an updated application. For the record, the same applicant submitted a second application for approximately 250 additional units, but they did not meet the required time deadlines and that application has died.

Assuming the application is updated and submitted in a timely fashion, we will be vigilant in reviewing it and offering our opinions on behalf of the Upper East Association. We will keep you apprised on the status of the project and how you can provide timely input to City decision-makers.



Map showing the property at 505 East Los Olivos Street

State Street Status

After more than four years of discussion and many community and State Street Advisory Committee (SSAC) meetings, it appears the City Council has accepted a conceptual plan for State Street. Most of the Council was excited by this latest move, orchestrated by the new City Administrator, Kelly McAdoo.

The main element of the Council's direction is that much of the nine-block stretch of State Street (from Haley to Victoria Streets) will remain closed to vehicle traffic. There will be three districts: Entertainment on lower State St., Civic Center/de la Guerra St. and Arts near the Granada. With the exception of the Fiesta Parade, smaller parades are expected to return to State St. It is not clear how the City is going to manage the e-bike traffic, which currently dominates the center of the street. A formal acceptance and approval of a master plan will be the next step with funding and implementation expected to take several years to complete.

Commemoration of 100th Anniversary of 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake

One of the reasons Santa Barbara looks the way it does today is due to an earthquake that happened 100 years ago on June 29, 1925. The quake was major, estimated to be as much as 6.8 on the Richter Scale, and 13 lives were lost. Eighty-five percent of the downtown was destroyed and a few visionaries, including Bernard Hoffman and Pearl Chase, were successful in having the new and rebuilt buildings designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style so prevalent today.

A local Alliance has been formed, called EQ25, that is working together to commemorate the earthquake. There are many stories to tell and lessons to learn about the earthquake itself and how the community reacted and recovered. This commemoration is geared toward local residents and will feature an event on State St., near the Granada (which survived the quake), with a booth that tells stories about the earthquake, the community then and now, and

includes a look to the future. Watch the EQ25.org website for updates about the June 2025 earthquake-related events.

Join or Renew Your Membership

We live in one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the city of Santa Barbara. We invite you to become a new member* or to renew your membership in the Upper East Association, which serves three key roles in our neighborhood:

1. Monitor local government initiatives affecting the Upper East and keep our members informed.
2. Provide a coordinated voice for Upper East residents in communicating with local government officials.
3. Promote activities to beautify our neighborhood, celebrate our history and advocate for neighborhood issues.

***Membership is open to all property owners in the Upper East.**

Sign up here to join or renew:

sbuppereast.org/membership

Upper East Association Mission Statement
To preserve and enhance the spirit and essence of this historic neighborhood and its quality of life.



Garden Gates of the Upper East

