



My name is Michael T. Bennett and for over 30 years I have lived and worked in the Goleta Valley. My passion for "Goleta The Goodland" and a heart for community service have inspired me to run for Goleta City Council on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2006. I am honored to ask you for your vote on this very important date.



Goleta is my home and, if elected, I will do everything I can to protect, preserve and provide for the residents and future generations of our community.

I am married and have two adult children and two grandchildren. My 88-year-old mother, our two dogs and two cats live with my wife and me. Recently, I retired from the Santa Barbara County Fire Department as a Fire Battalion Chief after 36 years of service to the community. My last 21 years were in management positions.

When Goleta incorporated 5 years ago, I fully supported the current City Council Members. Unfortunately, to many Goletans' dismay, the council made numerous decisions that will have many negative repercussions to our community for years to come. My vision was a vibrant, economically viable city whose leaders listened to and treated with respect the very residents and business owners who initially supported them; that we would respect **slow growth** with a **General Plan** that would meet all state and legal requirements. However, with the current City Council going forward with the flawed **General Plan**, we can expect legal challenges tying up our tax monies and distracting the council for years to come. These hard earned taxpayer dollars should be going to a city parks and recreation program and bringing back our law enforcement foot patrol in "Old Town", which was cut because the city council said we didn't have the money to fund it any longer.

The City of Goleta needs leadership to maintain the community we so much enjoy. We need to protect the Gaviota Coast and study the possibilities of transferring development rights within the City boundaries.

The City of Santa Barbara and the County are willing to study options that might benefit our community, but when presented to the current Goleta City Council they said **No!** City boundaries exist to keep development within those boundaries. Please let's work on preserving the Gaviota Coast together.

I am not new to public service or giving back to the community I love. Currently I serve on the Board of Directors of the Goleta Valley Historical Society, Goleta Valley Beautiful, and am a member of the Goleta Capital Campaigns for Girls Inc.; I have also been a member of the Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime since 1990 and served as President 1996-97. Because of my community service, Rotary honored me with a Paul Harris Fellow. In 2006, I was named Goleta's Man of the Year and was also co-chair of this year's 4th of July Goleta Fireworks Festival.

Past community service activities include serving on the Salvation Army capital campaign for the rebuild of the Chapala Street facility; the county Affirmative Action Commission; and board member of The Terri Toon Memorial Fund. I have been a member of the Goleta Chamber of Commerce since 1990. Additionally, I was elected Goleta Mayor in 1993 during a campaign for Cityhood. I had worked for Goleta Cityhood since attending my first public meeting in 1972 prior to our city formation in 2001.

Please feel free to call me anytime at 967-0374 or drop me an e-mail at: [electmichael@michaeltbennett.us](mailto:electmichael@michaeltbennett.us)

I look forward to **your support** and **your vote** on Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Sincerely,

*Michael T. Bennett*

<http://www.michaeltbennett.us>

Santa Barbara County Fire Department as a Fire Battalion Chief – 36 years  
Goleta resident – 30+ years  
Goleta Valley Beautiful  
Goleta Capital Campaigns for Girls Inc.  
Salvation Army Capital Campaign for the Rebuild of the Chapala Street Facility  
Affirmative Action Commission  
Board of Directors of the Goleta Valley Historical Society  
Board member of The Terri Toon Memorial Fund  
Goleta Chamber of Commerce since 1990  
Rotary Club of Goleta - Paul Harris Fellow  
Goleta's "Man of the Year" 2006  
Co-chair "4th of July Goleta Fireworks Festival" 2006  
Elected Goleta Mayor in 1993 during a campaign for Cityhood