



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## *Falls Prevention Awareness Week*

*September 21 – 27, 2008*

*WHEREAS*, it is estimated that nearly 15 percent of Santa Barbara County citizens – over 64,922 people – are 60 years of age or older; and

*WHEREAS*, it is estimated that one-third of adults over the age of 60 and 50 percent of adults over the age of 80 will fall each year, with medical costs of each fall-related hospitalization estimated at \$35,000; and

*WHEREAS*, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 60, and the leading cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits; and

*WHEREAS*, in 2005, 1,027 older adults in Santa Barbara County suffered injuries from a fall great enough to result in hospitalization; and

*WHEREAS*, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to depression, isolation, diminished mobility, and loss of functional independence; and

*WHEREAS*, injuries from falls are a largely preventable community health problem; and

*WHEREAS*, the cause of falls is composed of multiple contributing factors including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of multiple medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe environments; and

*WHEREAS*, concentrated efforts are being made in Santa Barbara County by the Adult and Aging Network's Fall Prevention Task Force to reduce falls and fall related injuries by using multi-faceted interventions; and

*WHEREAS*, at the state level SCR 77 (D-Lowenthal) Fall Prevention Awareness Week, has passed the Senate and the Assembly; and

*WHEREAS*, at the federal level the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (S. 845) was passed in April. This bill calls for the expansion of public health programs, educational outreach, and research activities related to fall prevention; and

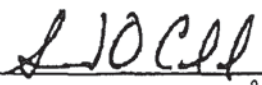
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the week of *September 21, 2008*, as "**FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK**" In Santa Barbara County and call upon our citizens and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

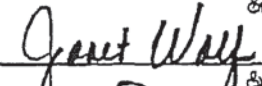



August 28, 2008

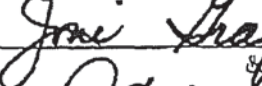
ATTEST:


  
Clerk of the Board

  
Supervisor - 1st District

  
Supervisor - 2nd District

  
Supervisor - 3rd District

  
Supervisor - 4th District

  
Supervisor - 5th District