CACC Meeting Notes – April 24, 2019

GENERAL MEETING – Start time: 7:05pm

Police Report – Ashley Bautista, VPD Community Liaison

- Community Academy began on April 10. It is a 10-week program that runs through June 12. [https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1324/Community-Academy](https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1324/Community-Academy). Attendees meet one night per week for the 10 weeks and learn how the police force operates. Candidates must go through a criminal background check due to the nature of the course. There are 52 participants in this 10-week session.
- College area report included: 0 commercial burglaries, 4 residential burglaries, 2 vehicle burglaries, 3 larcenies (thefts), 12 thefts from unlocked vehicles, 0 robberies, 3 stolen vehicles.
  - Our most prevalent crime problem continues to be thefts from vehicles.
  - Remove your valuables and lock your cars.
  - 2 garage door openers were stolen & homes were later burglarized via access through the garage.
  - Report thefts so police can increase patrols in your neighborhood.
  - We have 12 police cars drive around the city patrolling our neighborhoods.
- A message from the traffic units: “Stay off the phone. Watch for pedestrians & bicycles.”
- RING Doorbells are very useful to deter crime and/or capture criminals. RING has a [FREE app](https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1244/Video-Camera-Registration) so that you can see footage captured by your neighbors. You can stay informed without investing in the RING system.
- The RING system costs $199. The videos are very helpful to VPD. If you install the system, register your camera with VPD. [https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1244/Video-Camera-Registration](https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1244/Video-Camera-Registration)
- Last year 3 rings of criminals were engaged in fumigation burglaries. They entered homes being fumigated wearing masks.
- POLICE EVENTS:
  - **Taco Tuesday**: Tacos with the Cops on Friday, **May 3 from 5:00 – 7:00pm** at Restore Garden, 572 No. Ventura Ave.
  - **Tip a Cop Event**: The Ventura Police Department will be sponsoring the Special Olympics “Tip-A-Cop” event on **Thursday, May 9, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**, at California Pizza Kitchen, 3301 E. Main St. in Ventura.
- Discussion:
  - Question: There seem to be more crimes. Who is committing them?
    - Mental health & drug abuse is a problem, but they may not be the ones committing crimes.
Now that there is a $950 threshold for a misdemeanor theft, criminals who used to be arrested are now cited and put back on the street.

- Question: Homeless problem. What can we do?
  - Report concerns in your neighborhood, but remember that it is not illegal to park in a public place.
  - Homelessness is a big problem. Community Intervention Court has been instrumental in helping people get the treatment they need.

- Police non-emergency number is 650-8010.

Ventura College Report – Sue Royer, College Services Supervisor
  - Thank you to all who have given to the VC food pantry.
    - Remember that YOU CAN BRING DONATIONS TO CACC MEETINGS! Sue will deliver any donations to the pantry.
    - If you’re a Ventura College Student, staff, or community member interested in volunteering or donating to the pantry please contact ASVC (805-289-6487) or the Basic Needs Department (805-289-6583).
    - Hours of Operation (Located within the Campus Student Center…old Cafeteria) Monday – Thursday 9am – 4pm; Friday from 9am – 12pm.
  - The College is working on a website redesign and has gathered input from students & the community to aid in the effort.
  - Graduation is May 17 at 10:00 am. Beware of traffic around the college.
  - The College has partnered with Mission Avocado to plant 100 avocado trees for the college agriculture program. The existing trees must be removed since they are diseased. Some avocados will go to the college.
  - Events: https://www.venturacollege.edu/about-ventura-college/college-events/arts-and-events
  - VC Calendar of events: https://www.venturacollege.edu/calendar-node-field-date
  - Discussion:
    - Why are practice fields locked? Ans: The college started locking the north side gates because it has been having trouble with thefts from the storage sheds and issues with the dugouts.

Annual Elections 2019 - Managed by Carol Lindberg
  - Carol called for nominations for Chair first. Marv Dixon nominated Bob Schilken. Carol called for additional nominations that there were none. Bob was elected by acclamation.
  - Carol called for nominations for Vice-Chair. She noted that Rob Corley was willing to serve if there were no other nominations (Rob was not present for the election). Pam Dixon nominated Rob Corley. Carol called for additional nominations that there were none. Rob was elected by acclamation.
  - Carol called for nominations for Secretary. Kathy Thomson nominated Kathy Bremer. Carol called for additional nominations but there were none. Kathy was elected by acclamation.
City of Ventura Recreational Programs (w/ a focus on Aquatics) – Stacey Zarazua & Rebecca Ellis

- Stacey managed the Aquatic Center for 14 years and is now the Recreation Manager, taking over from Judy Devine who retired last year.
- Rebecca has taken on the management of the Aquatic Center.
- The Aquatic Center has activities for people of all ages:
  - Adults: Lap swim, Open swim, Water polo, Water exercise, Masters swim, Water safety, swimming lessons, stroke improvement, Ventura College classes & teams
  - Youth: Swimming lessons, aquatic camps, open swim hours, toddler time, novice teams, family float nights, adaptive lessons, water polo, kayaking, surfing, diving, synchronized swimming. Summer programs in fitness, teams & triathlon training
- Over 2,000 people participate annually in 'learn to swim'
- Over 100 people get certified annually in CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard training
- Free programs: after school learn to swim, swim passes, 2 annual family float nights, water safety Wednesdays
- Funders of Scholarships: Kaiser, LA84 Foundation, Harry Lyons Foundation, Ventura Community Partnerships
- Other sources of income (partners): Ventura College, Foothill Tech, Buenaventura Swim Club, Gold Coast Water Polo
- Swimming promotes health & wellness for people of all ages.
- The Center hosts events that bring tourists to Ventura: College meets, Youth swim meets, adult meets, Junior Olympics, Foothill Tech meets, Water Polo events
- 75 Summer Staff get 60+ hours of training & many become future staff. Once a month refreshers keep skills current.
- A second entrance will be opened at Ramelli in 2020 to improve traffic flow.
- Discussion:
  - Some Measure O funds should be used for parks. This measure was a general tax with a 50% threshold vote to pass, not a restricted tax that can only be used for the reason identified on the ballot (66.6% threshold). This funding cannot be restricted. It can only be prioritized. Parks must be recipients of some of the funding since they were used to sell this tax to the public.
  - Stacey urged us to speak up at Council in support of parks.

Programs for Kids & Families on the Westside – Gerardo Gallegos, Restore Ventura

- Gerardo started Restore Ventura in 2013 (501c3) to beautify the Westside & engage youth in outdoor activities. [https://www.restoreourcity.com/ventura](https://www.restoreourcity.com/ventura)
- Restore has a “Kids Garden Brigade” or KGB at which kids learn gardening skills, how to plant, care for and grow their own food.
  - The KGB meets on **Mondays at 3:30p** at Restore Garden at 572 No. Ventura Ave. The program operates on a schedule of 2 months on and 1 month off.
  - See: [www.restoreventura.com](http://www.restoreventura.com)
• Pollinator Garden with 25 fruit trees
• Avenida Surf Club teaches kids to surf
  o Junior high youth earn 1 hour of lessons for each hour of community service
  o The lessons are held south of Solimar beach
  o Youth get 4 lessons for free and donated surf board & wet suit
  o Surfboards & wet suits can be donated by dropping them off at the Bike Hub, 490 No. Ventura Ave.
  o Instructors are all donating their time.
• Creative Play for Kids
  o An after-school program in partnership with the Avenue library
  o Held every Wednesday at Restore Garden at 3:30pm
• Music Lessons for Youth
  o This program is starting soon to teach kids how to read & play music.
• Free Farmers’ Market on Sundays at 3pm at Restore Garden from produce donated by the Channel Islands Farmers’ Market.
  o Over 12,000 lbs. of produce have been distributed.
  o This program started after the Thomas Fire when power was out for 3 days and has continued since.
• Mural Installations
  o Funds were raised for a mural, ‘Stay Golden’ based upon Endless Summer, installed at Simpson & the Avenue
  o Gerardo offered to hold funds for CACC if we were interested in fund raising for a mural.
• Tree Planting
  o Restore Ventura has planted 100 trees in partnership with the city & Westside Community Council.
  o Fruit trees require a $75 donation
  o Parkway/sidewalk trees require a $175 donation
• Campaign for a swimming pool on the Westside
  o “Let my people swim” group meets the second Wednesday of each month at Restore Garden at 6pm.
  o 90% of the youth on the Westside do not know how to swim.
• We need volunteers to expand programs to serve more youth.
• Water savings workshop in partnership with the city will be held on Saturday, May 18.
• Other Events:
  o “Tacos with a Cop” fundraiser on Friday, May 3 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Restore Garden
  o May 3, 6:00 – 9:00pm - First Fridays on the Avenue feature the work of local artists on Ventura Avenue. These open houses occur the first Friday of every month. A good starting point for first-time visitors is Bell Arts Factory, 432 No. Ventura Ave.
  o Restore Ventura will be hosting a Makers Market on 1st Friday's starting in June.

Inclusive Playground at Arroyo Verde Park – Q&A with Stacey Zarazua
• Kathy played the concept animation from Pacific Coast Land Design (so wasn’t taking notes, therefore notes from Tom Martin’s presentation from February are
included here that answer most questions posed by attendees.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR6CX_Ls68c

• This new playground will replace the 5-12 playground destroyed in the Thomas Fire. It will be appropriate for ages 2 – 12 years.
• An inclusive playground allows all children, without regard to disability, to play together in a single playground. Design incorporates:
  o Universal design
  o Simple & Equitable use
  o Easily accessible to wheelchairs
  o Improved safety
  o Promotes interaction between all children regardless of ability
• Arroyo Verde is a regional park enjoyed by locals and others from elsewhere in our county & beyond
• The nearest inclusive playground is in Calabasas.
• Ventura will be the first in our county to offer inclusive play to all children regardless of ability.
• We can recreate the playground with an updated fort theme recalling the original playground when the park was created in the 1960s.
• A location has been selected at the rear of the park where the swings are currently since this is closest to the ADA bathroom as well as this area is less subject to flooding than the prior playground location.
• Timeline:
  o December 4, 2017 - Thomas Fire destroyed the Arroyo Verde Playground for children ages 5-12.
  o December 13, 2018 - site planning sub-committee meeting
  o January 30, 2019 - Community charrette led by Pacific Coast Land Design, Inc. attended by 70 members of the public
  o March 20, 2019 - Parks & Rec Commission meeting – design refinement
  o Spring 2019 - Plan to come before City Council for approval, then go out to bid.
• You can DONATE to the fund to help pay for this playground:
  o The Ventura Community Partners Foundation is raising funds for the playground.
  o You can donate to the new playground: https://venturafoundation.org/projects/arroyo-verde-park/
  o For more information Katrina Maksimuk
  o kmaksimuk@cityofventura.ca.gov
  o (805) 658-4775
• Questions:
  o Re fitness equipment. No adult fitness equipment is part of this playground design. For those interested in fitness stations, Kellogg Park at Kellogg & Ventura Avenue has fitness stations installed.
  o Can adults who are wheelchair-bound access the play area? Yes, & they can join in play with their children using some of the play structures.

Discussions, Announcements and Other Issues
• VUSD wants support for a Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance
  o A study by Ventura County Public Health showed that 20%+ of retail tobacco outlets are selling to under age buyers.
- A licensing fee would help pay for enforcement.
- Violators could find their license revoked.
- Guidelines for how near schools vaping paraphernalia could be sold.
- Restricting vape fluid flavors that target children
- VUSD wants community support. Attendees recommended a vote on this issue at our May CACC meeting.

### Issues at City Hall
- Management openings in 6 departments
- 60-70 staff positions open
- Ongoing Thomas Fire Recovery
- Huge water projects with tight timelines

### Library News – Kathy Thomson, Treasurer, Friends of the Library (FOL)
- On May 7 at 1:30pm, the mobile library will be unveiled at the Government Center, like the Bookmobiles of yore, but with updated services like DVDs, 3D printing & more. [https://www.vencolibrary.org/locations/mobile-library](https://www.vencolibrary.org/locations/mobile-library)
- FOL Events: [https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org/?page_id=9](https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org/?page_id=9)
- Ventura Friends of the Library [https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org)

### College Area Businesses – Kathy B. (update from Rob Corley)
- Old Santa Barbara Bank & Trust Building on Mills Road - remodel is halted for now. No update on when it will resume.
- 24-hour fitness in the old Barker Brothers furniture store at the top of the mall is now open.
- Mound Guest Home has changed owners & has installed new fencing and other improvements

### City Water Update – Mike Johnson
- Casitas is at 45% capacity. It is now calculated to run dry in 2022.
- We use about 15K acre feet per year.
- Projects in EIR stage. The comment periods recently closed for both the hook-up to state water through Calleguas & Potable reuse.
- An article appeared in the Breeze that was factually incorrect.
  - We get 25-30% of our water from Mound Basin. We DO NOT own the basin.
  - The potable reuse project is estimated to cost $200 million, NOT $500 million. We have staff who are frugal & bring projects in under budget.
  - No state regulations are in place for Direct Potable Reuse, but there will be by 2023.
  - We are under a consent decree regarding dumping treated water into the Santa Clara River Estuary. A 5-year extension on the potable reuse project WILL NOT happen. Other parties are poised to sue us if we fail to meet our obligations under the consent decree.
- Drought monitor: (beware the depiction that we are “not in drought” since by next winter we may have drought conditions return depending upon how the rainy season goes. We MUST continue to conserve. Water will be scarce in California now & into the future. [https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA)
• Announcements & Discussion:
  ▪ No additional items discussed.

Adjournment approximately 9:05 pm

Next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at the Wright Events Center on the Ventura College Campus.