

# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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March 21 – April 3, 2012

## Proposed downtown redesign gets preview

by Tim Pompey

In the mid 1960s, the completion of Highway 101 divided downtown Ventura in half. The result was a hodgepodge of dead-end streets, railroad trestles, and beach fronts that were cut off from the rest of downtown.

Now the city is hopeful that downtown Ventura can be reunited and revamped. The plan for that was unveiled at a large open house on February 28 at 60 California Street. Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects (RNT), Van Atta Associates, and the city's Community Development Department invited residents to get their first peek at what's been called the "freeway cap."

With the relocation of existing beachside parking to new on-street parking, plus the extension of several streets through downtown Ventura and to the beach, the potential for redevelopment along the beachfront could improve dramatically. According to RNT, the plan is to open up downtown Ventura "from the foothills to the shore" and to capitalize on "opportunities to improve connections with the natural environment."

Here are some of the ideas that have been proposed:

- Harbor Boulevard would be rerouted (including a freeway "cap" over 101) starting at Ash Street and extending

*Continued on page 4*



A potentially new downtown Ventura landscape was unveiled during an open house. RNT Architects, Van Atta Landscaping, and the City of Ventura allowed the public to preview their proposed ideas and provide public comment.

**While hiking the Appalachian Trail you can always catch up with the Breeze at [venturabreeze.com](http://venturabreeze.com)**



Steve Miceh, Leah Miceh, and Eli Juric, students at Balboa Middle School, earn Social Studies community service credits while keeping the city clean. Pitching in were Assistant Police Chief, Quinn Fenwick and Deputy Mayor Cheryl Heitmann. Photo by Richard Lieberman

## Volunteer cleanup of Seaward Garden and South Seaward Avenue

by Richard Lieberman

Volunteers worked enthusiastically to spruce up the South Seaward Garden and South Seaward Avenue area in Ventura on Saturday, March 10. Sponsored by the city of Ventura and coordinated by Christopher King, the South Seaward Gardens coordinator, of Kurtwood Corporation, a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving the South Seaward Avenue project supported by local groups of volunteers from various walks of life

Volunteers were individuals and groups including middle school students earning Social Studies credit, a crew from the local Starbucks, Assistant Police Chief, Quinn Fenwick, Deputy Mayor Cheryl Heitmann, and Council member Christy Weir. They picked up trash, removed debris, spread mulch and generally beautified planting areas. Deputy Mayor Heitmann said, "Amazing such a broad range of people came out to help keep our

streets and gardens safe and clean, this is really important."

City Volunteer Coordinator, Rosie Ornelias, Giselle Partida, Cultural Specialist, and Gary Glenn, Community Partnerships Supervisor, managed the sign-in booth along with volunteer, Alex Uribe.

As they registered volunteer participants, they were amazed at the "tremendous response from throughout the city".

Steve Miceh, Leah Miceh, and Eli Juric, students at Balboa Middle School, participated in the cleanup earning Community Service hours for their Social Studies class along with help from their dad. Steve and Leah helped clean up, weed, pick up trash and haul it away to a central trash pickup point.

As large as a roadside billboard on the North side of the garden stood a recently painted, and still uncompleted, mural, painted and donated by artist Delilah

of Art by Deoro. Home Depot and Behr paints donated the lumber and the paint. King, the South Seaward Gardens coordinator, commented, "This is great; any attention to Seaward cleanup is great."

Ray Kalbouch, an ardent volunteer for community events and services, at 84 years old volunteers and spends most of his days supporting and aiding in community volunteer projects. Ray retired at 64 and is still a vibrant, active community supporter who cares about his community and gladly serves in almost any capacity needed. Ray also volunteers to tutor in-need children at our local libraries.

After weeding, trash pickup, and debris removal, wheel barrel after wheel barrel of mulch was deposited around the street and garden. Volunteers spread the mulch around existing plants enhancing survival for the variety of flowers, plants and shrubs.

The work progressed on the garden, the islands (middle of the street), the street itself, sidewalks, lots and curbs (which were treated by newly painted red zones) as Assistant Chief Fenwick commented, "It's really an important thing to do as a community, keeping our streets clean and safe."



The young kids were wonderful and had all in attendance clapping to their wonderful Irish dancing.

## The Breeze presents *The World Within Our City*

Continuing with our collaboration with Star Soto, Children's Librarian at the E.P. Foster Library, the Ventura Breeze is presenting "The World Within Our City" during the "Storytimes" featured at the library. On Tuesday, March 7 to help celebrate St. Pats day the Breeze

*Continued on page 4*

## VC Fair poster contest deadline

The deadline for entries in the Ventura County Fair poster contest is Saturday, March 31. Entries can be brought to the Fairgrounds Monday through Friday from 8 AM until 5 PM prior to entry day. Entries will be accepted from 8AM until 5 PM on Saturday, March 31.

The contest is open to young artists in grades 5 - 12 who reside in Ventura County.

The theme of the 2012 Fair, "Rides, Ribbons & Rodeos" is the only guideline to the designs. Artwork may be created in any style and medium, but may not be 3 dimensional or include glitter.

Prizes in the amount of \$500 (1st

Prize), \$250 (2nd Prize), and \$100 (3rd Prize) will be awarded. Two Fair admission tickets will be awarded for every valid entry. All contest participants will be invited to ride on the Junior Fair Board float in the Ventura County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 4.

Winning images will be used for the official 2012 Ventura County Fair collectable art poster and for the 2012 Ventura County Fair marketing poster as well as in other marketing materials.

"Rides, Ribbons & Rodeos", the Ventura County Fair begins on Wednesday August 1. The Fair continues through Sunday, August 12.

For more information about the poster contest, please call the Ventura County Fairgrounds at 648-3376 or visit [www.venturacountyfair.org](http://www.venturacountyfair.org).

**This issue's Face of Ventura by Johanna Spinks is on page 10.**



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**Saturday, March 24th-25th**

RailFest 2012 - Central Park, Fillmore

**Sunday, March 25th**

Ocean Friendly Garden, Hands-on Workshop with the Ventura Surfrider Foundation

**Tuesday, March 27th**

Toddler Tuesdays - Storytime at Barnes and Noble

**Saturday, March 31st**

Cottontail Day at Ventura Harbor Village - Don't miss the Scavenger Hunt sponsored by ParentClick.com!

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## City News



Don't let the noise scare you, it will all be worth it

### Rip rap repair at the Ventura Harbor Village

Cushman Contracting Corporation (CCC) is nearing completion of a \$647,000.00 revetment repair (rip rap) project at Ventura Harbor Village. Utilizing a barge and crane to transport the rock to the rip rap, and a spider crane to put it in place, they are repairing approximately 1000 feet of slope.

The rip rap is designed to be a 2 to 1 slope. In many places it is 1 to 1, which is known as a cliff. Parts of the Promenade are slipping and was cracking and lifting. The repair will stabilize the situation for many years to come.

CCC was awarded the contract as the low bidder after a competitive bidding

process. After several members of the Board of Port Commissioners toured the area, the Board saw the need to protect the infrastructure and awarded the contract using the District's General Fund.

Approximately 70% of the work is completed, however the barge and crane cannot reach the corner of the rip rap, so the spider crane will need to place each rock individually. This will take a few weeks.

Tenants have been very understanding, and the public has been watching as the spider crane operator maneuvers the unique piece of equipment around on the steep slope.

### Plug me in!

New electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Downtown area are putting Ventura on the map as a destination point for EV drivers, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean transportation. Residents and visitors to Ventura can now "fuel" their EV's at three convenient locations.

A total of ten electric vehicle charging stations have been installed at 3 locations: the Beachfront Parking Structure at 550 Harbor Boulevard, the Downtown Parking Structure at 555 Santa Clara Street and at City Hall, 501 Poli Street. Drivers can find and reserve unoccupied stations in Ventura and anywhere in the United States on the Chargepoint America website, [www.chargepointamerica.com](http://www.chargepointamerica.com). Users of the stations will be charged \$.50 per hour to recoup the cost of the electricity used to charge the vehicles.

The charging stations were acquired and installed at no cost to the City through the ChargePoint America program that offers stations for public use through a \$15 million dollar grant funded by the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Level 2 charging stations work with any electric vehicle on the market that has the standard J1772 connector.

### City of Ventura hires New City Clerk

Ventura City Manager Rick Cole has announced that Cynthia Rodriguez has been hired as the new City Clerk. Rodriguez served as City Clerk for the City of Santa Barbara since 2005 where she was responsible for taking over responsibilities from the County for conducting municipal elections.

In 2003, Rodriguez began her career as a municipal clerk at the then brand-new City of Goleta. She is a former Ventura staff member that has worked in public service for nearly 27 years.

"The role of the City Clerk is unique in local government," stated City Manager Rick Cole. "The person must not only have unquestioned integrity and impartiality in conducting elections and safeguarding open government, they need to be at the forefront of evolving technology to ensure transparency and efficiency. In Cyndi Rodriguez, we've brought back an experienced public servant with an unmatched track record for fulfilling the high expectations of our City Council and community."

Rodriguez started her new position on February 27 and replaces Mabi Plisky who held the position for nearly seven years before serving as Deputy City Manager for one year prior to retiring last month.

#### The world within our city

*Continued from page 1*  
invited (with a big help from council member Brian Brennan) the Claddagh Dance Company who entertained with the excitement and fun of Irish dancing. Claddagh is located at 672-0167 and will give your kids the confidence to stand up and dance for all to see.

Other "The World Within Our City" event that will be coming up will be:

April 4: Greece

May 2: Mexico

June 6: Italy

The E.P. Foster Library is located at 651 E. Main and there is plenty of free parking right in back of the library with direct access to the second floor children's library. And they even have real books there to read.

#### Proposed downtown redesign

*Continued from page 1*

through downtown Ventura.

- Ash Street would extend to Harbor Boulevard, Fir Street would extend across Harbor to the pier, and Front Street would extend to California.

- Parking at the boardwalk and pier would be moved north of the freeway.

- The area southeast of the pier would be landscaped into an area referred to as a "dune garden."

- A proposed 3,500 seat amphitheater would be built between Fir and Ash Street.

- A new train station would be built next to the trestle off of Harbor.

- A new bus station would be built on top of Highway 101 near Fir.

- A proposed pedestrian park and linkage would run from Chestnut at Plaza Park to the beach.

- New landscaping would be installed on a triangular piece of open land between the redesigned Chestnut and Fir intersections.

The plan is ambitious and extensive, but the end goal according to Van Atta landscape architect Bill Wildenberg is to return Ventura to its former beach town status. "We're trying to extend as many streets as possible down to the beach," he said, "ala Ventura pre 1966."

The project proposal was paid for by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). "They have provided this analysis through a grant," said City Council member Carl Morehouse. "We have put it out to the public to look at, and then, if there's a collective consensus, we go to the next step, beyond the conceptual."

According to RNT architect Peter Brandenburg, the plans are part of SCAG's mission to work with cities in Southern California "We are funding this as part of our compass blueprint program," he said, "to assist local governments in Southern California to do innovative land use and transportation planning."

For Community Development Director Jeff Lambert, the grant money is the first step in gathering important community feedback. "This is the first unveiling of some big ideas for the freeway cap," he said. "We're trying to connect the town to the beach and this is an opportunity to bring stakeholders to the table and get their reaction."

The drawings are only the beginning. After the open house, the architects, landscapers, and community planners will gather to analyze feedback and tweak the proposal. And the most important question still remains: Who will pay for the redesign?

Still, for Lilly Okamura, Associate Planner for the Community Development Department, she thinks the designs will receive a positive reception. "We hope to generate enthusiasm for the project," she said.

#### A Special Notice For Our Neighbors

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- Ventura Spaghetti Company
- Wok 'N' South Mongolian BBQ — The Feast
- Yolanda's Mexican Café
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# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

The Ventura Breeze is your free local community newspaper published every other Wednesday and circulated throughout Ventura and to many locations in Ojai and the Channel Islands Harbor located in Oxnard.

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## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher

■ On Saturday, March 10 volunteers worked to clean up the S. Seaward Ave. area (See article in this issue). I would like to personally thank our 2 “lady” city council members Christy Weir and Cheryl Heitmann for rolling up their sleeves and pitching in on this clean up effort (so where were the “boys”?).

In other news in the Pierpont area the city council has decided to start spending the taxes collected from vacation rentals in the area to help programs for Pierpont.

The owners are required to pay 10% of collected rents to the city. About \$150,000 has been collected with some being spent in Pierpont.

The city is not actually legally required to spend the money in Pierpont but it certainly will be nice if the money could stay in the Pierpont community which has been neglected for a long time.

■ I shall stay on my “soap box” regarding the red hands on street lights that are supposed to stop pedestrians from crossing the street even though the light is red.

They are universally ignored and cause more trouble and confusion than they are worth.

Recently I legally made a right turn and a “gentleman” crossing illegally was sure to tell me (and show me) that I had done something wrong and I saw someone slightly hit a bike who was in the wrong in crossing across the “red hand”.

Who is at fault? The driver or the pedestrian? They must go!

■ A judge has dismissed the lawsuit brought by Robert and Linda Freeny against 5 members of the Ventura City Council and a few neighbors. The suit was brought because the Freenys believed that they had been misled in obtaining approvals for a proposed senior unit project when the city council upheld an appeal brought to them

to reject the Freeny’s preliminary drawings. The appeal was presented to the council by some neighbors.

Superior Court Judge Rebecca Riley issued her ruling because she decided that the suit was filed prematurely before the Freenys brought to the council the revised plans that the council said that they would consider and she also ruled that under state code that council members are immune from being sued over the denial of a permit.

This is even though their project had been approved by all of the other city agencies (design review, city planning)



Recently I was the guest speaker at the Rotary South Meeting luncheon held at the Wedgewood Banquet & Wedding Center. I enthralled them with the exciting story of how and why the Ventura Breeze was started. Next year they will need to hear the same story all over again so I hope that there are some new members and the existing ones forget that I was there.

and they believed that they had been approved to proceed with the required plans and permits.

Even though the city council was (obviously) within their legal rights I strongly think that our system of approval must change. The Freenys (and many others before them) spend hundreds of thousand of dollars and many-many years going through the process of developing their land to finally have their projects rejected on appeal.

We must have a system where they know

exactly what the city council will approve before going through this sometimes horrible procedure (a few city council members agree with me and the Freenys).

■ A major music concert has been proposed for the parking lot above city hall that would be presented this summer.

If approved it could be a venue for up to 1,900 attendees and 12 concerts. And the music fans would certainly use the downtown restaurants and merchants before and after the concerts. A great boost for their revenue and local hotels.

The city council unanimously approved the concept with the stipulation that concerns regarding public safety (especially fire concerns being next to the hills) and parking and that the type of acts booked would not create problems for neighbors must be considered and brought back to the council for further review.

If the concerts proceed they would help to raise money for the proposed Ventura Botanical Gardens to be located in the hills right above the parking lots.

Local business owner (and concert producer) Mark Hartley stated “There are a lot of people from this community who would get jobs out of this.” He would be one of the producers of this concert series that would present major musical performers.

■ In a budget cut decision Ventura College (and others) will close their cafeteria at the end of this semester. Add this to many classes being cut and the laying off of workers and the feeling of despair is very apparent at Ventura College.

■ The next time that you read of all of the “reasons” that gas is heading to \$5 per gallon consider this.

Profits at oil giants Occidental and Conoco Phillips have increased 35% and 70% in their 4th quarter. A net income of \$1.6 billion and \$6 billion respectively.

You may not be happy spending \$5, but their stock holders certainly are.

## Mailbox

medical decisions and politicians no where near my physical well-being!

Sincerely,  
M. Fidele  
Ventura

Dear Sheldon Brown, Editor,

I love your paper and read every issue from cover to cover! Thank you so much for all the hard work it must take to bring it to the people of Ventura!!

In the February 22- March 6, 2012 edition I was reading the Editorial page when my eye scanned down to the bottom of the page to the quote there: “Women and cats will do what pleases them, dogs and men should relax and get used to the idea.” –Robert Heinlein.

I was thrilled! Robert Heinlein is my favorite author!! I have all of his 40+ books and read them over and over. I nearly always have one in progress on my end table. One of those books, *The Notebooks of Lazarus Long*, that is a collection of various quotes of one of his most famous characters, and it is great reading.

Thank you again for “The Breeze” and for citing Mr. Heinlein!

Sincerely,  
Susan Wallace

Pierpont neighbors:

According to the minutes of the last PCC (Pierpont Community Council) meeting, dated February 21st, 2,000 notices were mailed out to residents

and homeowners in the Pierpont area regarding a special meeting to give out information about the plans for the project (sand removal). Only 23 people attended the meeting. Considering the major disruption the sand removal project will require, only 1% of Pierpont residents attended. If one does not read the papers, look at notices in the mail or attend local community meetings there will be great consternation over this project.

Removing the sand from the streets, stairs and walls of beachfront homes will be a vast improvement over existing conditions. Please learn about the project and try to be accommodating to those working to make our beach friendly and safe, for residents and for visitors.

Sincerely,  
Carmel Whitman  
Ventura

Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you for your recent article regarding the use of Cemetery Park on Main Street in Ventura. I’m writing in response to that article since several of us, as concerned citizens, are interested in the decisions that will affect the

future use of the Park.

We are the pet owners and the parents of children who gratefully use the Park on a daily basis. The location offers a beautiful park-like setting for our families and provides us a local venue for our community enjoyment. We are all very cognizant of the historic importance of the burial sites and respect the quiet beauty and serenity of the graves. All of us clean up after our pets and most of us even bring our own doggie bags and don’t expect the City to supply them at taxpayers’ expense. After all, we are taxpayers too as well as local homeowners and registered voters.

In defense of our presence there, we bring no harm to the park, only joy and fun, and we feel that we can blend peacefully with the former generations buried there.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
Charlotte Rossler  
Ventura

Dear Sheldon:

Thank you for another outstanding presentation at today’s Rotary South  
*Continued on page 15*

**The ultimate beginner’s mind is that of the child. Children learn so rapidly because they are neither afraid of not knowing nor convinced that they already know what they don’t.**

– Author unknown



## News and Notes

### The leading cause of poisoning related deaths

by Kris McDonald

Fire Captain, Ventura City Fire Department

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of poisoning related deaths in the nation. Approximately 2,000 deaths and 10,000 injuries occur nationwide from CO exposure every year. These injuries and deaths can occur rapidly, or over several hours, depending on the levels of CO present and the intensity of the exposure.

CO is a natural bi-product of combustion. It can originate from any gas appliance in your home, fixed or portable, if not operating properly or vented correctly. CO can also enter your home from a BBQ or vehicle exhaust placed in close proximity to door and window openings. A blocked chimney can accumulate CO in your home very quickly. Service your appliances and your chimney regularly to ensure that they function safely and correctly.

Due to its chemical properties, CO is referred to as the "silent killer." CO is an odorless, colorless gas and is virtually unnoticeable. Modern CO detectors alert residents with an audible alarm when even small levels are present. They operate on batteries, household electricity, or both. Most units plug into a wall outlet, have a battery back-up, and are designed to alert you when the battery is in need of replacement. They have a "test" button, and need the same regular attention as your smoke detectors. Change the battery every six

months, and test regularly. While they are very similar in appearance, and some combination smoke/CO detecting units do exist, care should be taken not to confuse the two. A smoke detector will not protect you from CO.

One detector placed on each level of the home, preferably in a common area near the bedrooms, is generally sufficient. CO is nearly the same density as air and therefore it is not critical that the detector be installed at any certain height. CO detectors have a limited lifespan, which can range from 2 to 10 years, depending on the manufacturer. You should always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and maintenance of your CO detector. If you are in doubt as to the exact age of your detector you should replace it.

Symptoms of exposure to CO are very similar to the common flu, but without the fever. They include dizziness, weakness, headache, vomiting, difficulty breathing, sleepiness, and confusion. CO poisoning has these effects due to its tenacious ability to displace oxygen in your blood. Once these symptoms are recognized, moving to fresh air may not be sufficient to correct the problem; extended oxygen therapy may be necessary. Pregnant women, young children, senior citizens and people with heart or respiratory problems are especially vulnerable and are at the highest risk for death or serious injury from CO poisoning.

If you have a CO detector that is in the alert mode, or if you feel the symptoms of CO poisoning, leave the immediate area and call 9-1-1 right away.

Visit us online at [facebook.com/venturacityfire](https://www.facebook.com/venturacityfire), [youtube.com/VenturaCityFD](https://www.youtube.com/VenturaCityFD), and [cityofventura.net/emergencyprep](http://cityofventura.net/emergencyprep)

### The WAV revisited—part two

(Part one was in the March 7 Breeze – you can read it at [www.venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com))

by Venturans for Responsible and Efficient Government

(Bob McCord & Bob Alviani)

First there is the \$2,000,000 referenced above (part 1). One-half of that money came from the RDA; however the other \$1,000,000 was taken from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Water Department, transferred to the Public Art Fund then loaned to the RDA to make up the \$2,000,000 loan. That promissory note says – "Holder (the City) does not currently need the funds which are unencumbered. The Loan proceeds will be used by the Borrower (RDA) to help facilitate the construction of the Working Artists Ventura ("WAV") development in the City of Ventura".

The City Council approved this loan on February 4, 2008. The loan was to have been repaid and placed back in the Water Department funds on January 26, 2010. That did not happen. What the Council did do however is extend the due date twice with the result that the loan is not due to be paid back until March 1, 2016.

This was a major mistake. The folks on the City Council are the same people that act as the RDA. This transaction was not arm's length and drips of conflict of interest. Who was watching out for the interests of all of the citizens of this community in making the loan and/or obtaining payment of this loan? It certainly wasn't the City Council because they, acting as the RDA wanted to claim fame and create their dream public housing (art?) project. Now it is too late to obtain payment. The RDA has no money, it is defunct and all we can do now is list this loan on a long list of other RDA loans that the State of California may or may not pay someday. Just remember this transaction when the City Council asks to increase your water rates claiming that "we" do not have enough money.

Another twist in this Byzantine financing scheme centers on the Planning Department and Building and Safety. When a builder or homeowner wants to build anything they must obtain permits, which are only issued after scheduled fees are paid for the project. These permit fees are used to pay for the salaries and benefits of the personnel in these two departments, and are a major budget line item. In the case of the WAV however the City Council, on August 2, 2007, voted to defer payment of \$1,581,858 in permit fees to be paid over a period of 55 years bearing interest of 3%. Having foolishly given public funds to accomplish their pet project it is little wonder that the City Council found it necessary in the last four years to impose greater and greater planning fees and costs on anyone who wants to develop or build in this City.

Venturans for Responsible and Efficient Government (VREG) was founded in 2007 to assist the citizens of this community in better understanding their city government's fiscal management and the policy decisions that lead to the expenditure of our tax dollars. We advocate open government, freedom of information, constructive dialog and

efficient use of resources. To view historical editions go to [www.vregventura.org](http://www.vregventura.org). We are an all-volunteer organization so hope you will share this with others.



March weather at the Ventura Harbor is perfect for live aboards. Photo by Barbie Lange

### Live-aboards

by Esther Cole

Have you dreamed about getting on a boat and sailing away? Sans itinerary. No maps, no clocks.

Thousands of seamen and seamen and seachildren and seapets dwell in boats in Ventura Harbor sharing that dream.

Liz, an alumna live-aboard, and her husband Mark were among those dreamers. They lived in their 41-foot ketch Cumara for 20 years. Cumara was seaworthy and considered a big boat as sailboats go. Forty-one feet long and 13-1/2 feet abeam multiplies roughly into 550 square feet of living space. Yes, it was considered a big boat.

Floating homes in our Harbor come in all sizes from pocket cruisers to floating mansions. The economic status ranges from just above homeless to the one percent. The near homeless have no other place to live. They eke out a living by doing odd jobs on land or work for other residents at the harbor. The 1% have multiple landed mansions in various countries.

This is a huge economic disparity that is found nowhere on land. The very rich mingling with the very poor in a confined neighborhood. And they get along.

(Without a Homeowners Association to tell them what to do. – This is a no-charge editorial comment.)

Liz illustrates her observations with real-life stories. One night she and Mark, her 70-something husband, were strolling near the piers. Another stroller yelled to them that a dog was drowning. A big St. Bernard was trying to climb onto the pier, but couldn't. It was heaving and puffing and looked like it would sink. Mark climbed the fence, opened the gate and the other strollers rushed onto the pier, grabbed hands full of fur and hoisted the huge, half-drowned animal out of the water.

The dog's owner was found. She had been asleep and wasn't aware the dog had fallen into the bay.

This had a happy ending. Some stories, not so much. Liz says there is constant danger of falling. The greatest danger when boats leave the harbor. She has known families to lose pets, children, spouses. The happy sailor is not always a responsible or knowledgeable sailor. Even experienced sailors make mistakes.

Her other stories are funny. One of the great levelers at the harbor is the barbeque party. Dozens of people gather at the edge of a pier, along with the chefs and the cooks. Food has been prepared. The guests stand by with watering mouths. If they're lucky, they get to enjoy a great meal.

But wait. Sometimes the live-aboards get aced out of their party platters

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## News and Notes

because the seagulls swoop down like attacking kamikaze pirates and steal the hamburgers, the chickens, the buns, right off the grills. Never thought of seagulls as gourmets? Rethink.

Imagine falling asleep each night being gently rocked by the waves beneath you. Imagine finding an exotic tropical island. Imagine being a live-aboard.

## Neal Andrews awarded national honor

On March 10 Ventura Councilman Neal Andrews, at the Congress of Cities Conference in Washington, DC was among 10 elected officials across the nation to be awarded the National Leadership Training Institute Gold Certificate as a Leadership Ambassador among American local elected municipal officials. To achieve this level of recognition by his peers among municipal elected officials Councilman Andrews was required to complete 50 practicum seminar educational units over many years encompassing five areas of essential competency skills ranging from communication to leadership capabilities to practical governance.

While Councilman Andrews received a Masters Degree in Political Science and Public Policy Administration from the University of Pennsylvania years ago and completed many additional units of graduate and postgraduate university level education in public policy, public administration, public law, and management from other prestigious universities, this current recognition reflects practical working knowledge and achievements, more than academic learning.

"I am extraordinarily proud and appreciative of my colleagues across the United States who have today honored me with this recognition," Andrews noted.

Mr. Andrews is currently a candidate for the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in District 1 (along with another City Council member Christy Weir) and has served three terms on the Ventura City Council, as well as having achieved notable success in the business world before entering local political endeavors.

As one of the local municipal leaders across the country to have achieved outstanding leadership recognition, he was recently invited to the White House to meet with President Obama and senior members of the White House staff and the Obama Administration. His proposal for a municipal economic development investment insurance program is currently under evaluation by the President's Council of Economic Advisors and the National Council of Economic Advisors.

## Conservancy to host film festival

The Ventura Hillside Conservancy will again host the only Ventura County stop of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival national tour, having won a grant for the third year running from the South Yuba River Citizens League, the festival producer. Wild & Scenic features independent short and

feature films highlighting human outdoor adventure and interactions with Earth's natural places.

The festival will be held at Ventura's Poinsettia Pavilion on two evenings: Friday and Saturday, March 23rd and 24th from 7 to 10 pm. Fifteen films will be screened, 7 on Friday and 8 on Saturday. The films range from one to 30 minutes in length. All of the films were drawn from the 2012 national tour and uniquely selected by the Conservancy for this program.

In addition to providing engaging cinema, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival doubles as the Ventura-based land trust's annual membership drive. Festivalgoers who join the Conservancy with a minimum \$35 membership receive two free film festival tickets. A \$50 or greater membership yields four free tickets. Students with a valid ID can join for \$20 and receive a free ticket. And finally, current members can receive free tickets through the "Bring a Friend" campaign by purchasing gift memberships from the website, [www.venturahillsides.org](http://www.venturahillsides.org). The entire program is listed there as well.

"We are thrilled and honored to have been selected for a third year to present Wild & Scenic at the Poinsettia Pavilion," said Melina Watts, Executive Director of the land trust.

The event will involve a number of community partners, including Patagonia, the Ventura Film Society, the Ventura Breeze, and the City of Ventura Environmental Sustainability Department. Filmgoers can purchase tickets from the Conservancy's website at [www.venturahillsides.org](http://www.venturahillsides.org). Tickets are also available at: the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau at 101 South California Street; Great Pacific Iron Works at 259 West Santa Clara Street; and Simone's Coffee & Tea at 7818 Telegraph Road.

## Religion



*Jim Duran loves his new role as Lead Pastor of The River Community Church*

## "Fresh Beginnings" for Ventura local

After seven years as the Executive Director of Cypress Place Senior Living, the 2010 California Assisted Living Executive Director of the Year, Jim Duran, has stepped into his role as Lead Pastor of The River Community Church in Ventura. Jim Duran, his wife Pam and a team of ten others planted The River Community Church back in January of 2004 and it is one of the fastest growing churches in the county of Ventura.

After Jim Duran received the

**The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura is currently accepting applications for its Non-Profit, Income Restricted Units: Encanto Del Mar, Chapel Lane Senior Apartments, Soho Apartments and Triad Properties.**

**The Developments are located in the City of San Buenaventura. If you are interested in applying to live in any of these developments, you may get on the waitlist by picking up an application at 11122 Snapdragon St. Ventura, CA 93004 or 995 Riverside St. Ventura, CA 93001 or visit [www.hacityventura.org](http://www.hacityventura.org). Direct questions to Diane V. Lopez at 805-648-5008 ext 2229 or Julia Terry at 805-647-5990 ext 3235.**



"Hometown Hero" award in December 2010 from the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, he stated, "My goal was not to win this award; my goal has been to do what God has called me to do and that is to serve the people of Ventura."

Pastor Jim is the chair elect of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and the Ventura Family YMCA, he is the Vice President of the Ventura Buccaneer Youth Football Organization, and just recently joined the board of directors at Project Understanding while serving on other boards and committees. Jim coaches youth sports, mentors youth and adults and is committed to assisting people in reaching their full potential. Jim has been married to Pam for over 23 years raising six beautiful children; James 20, David 18, John 16, Paul 12, Grace 10 and Isabella Precious 6.

Jim Duran graduated with an Associates of Arts degree in Biblical Studies, a Bachelors of Arts degree in Ministry and is currently working on his Masters degree in Theology at Channel Islands Bible College & Seminary. Jim is also an Ordained Minister of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and attends The King's University in Van Nuys, CA.

The River Community Church meets every Sunday at 4:30 PM for a complimentary dinner followed by a worship service at 5:30 PM. The meeting location is 3100 Preble Ave. in Ventura. Childcare is provided for infants through toddlers and children from first through seventh grade have their own class. Middle school and high school students also have their own space to grow spiritually.

The River Community also known as TRC, is well known for serving the county of Ventura. You will find

members of TRC offering rides to people at 2 AM that are too intoxicated to drive themselves home. Others pass out lunches at the local motels in order to assist those going through hard times. Currently, TRC is putting together backpacks with school supplies for families that need assistance.

Would you like to be part of a warm, caring extended family? Then you'll love The River Community Church, where you'll enjoy encouraging music, friendly faces and messages that will have a positive impact on your week. Pastor Jim says, "And don't worry, we won't make you say, sign or give anything. Come on over and check us out—we look forward to meeting you!"

The River Community Church is known for being "Your partners in life." For more information about The River Community Church, please visit their website at [www.TheRiverCommunity.org](http://www.TheRiverCommunity.org) or call the church office at 212-8240.

## College scholarships

The Assistance League of Ventura County will be awarding six \$2,500 scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year. Students transferring from a community college to a four-year college are eligible. Awards will be based on application, recommendations and essay. Applications are available at the Foundation Office of the Community Colleges and can also be downloaded from their web-site at [www.assistanceleagueventura.org](http://www.assistanceleagueventura.org), under "Academic Scholarships." For any questions please call Assistance League Chapter House at 643-2458.



# Taste of the Taft

Fabulous Gardens ♦ Art ♦ Music ♦ Food ♦ Wine

Sunday March 25, 2012

1—5 p.m.



A rare opportunity to explore the Taft Ojai Botanical Gardens in support of the Ventura Botanical Gardens

Please join us for this one-time event, enjoy a unique combination of music, art, fabulous food and wine as you explore the exotic Taft Ojai Botanic Gardens

Purchase tickets on-line at [VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://VenturaBotanicalGardens.com) or call (805) 279-0234

## What's Happening

The Ventura Botanical Gardens is a public / private partnership formed to create and maintain a botanical gardens at Grant Park. You can show your support by becoming a member today! Email us at [info@VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](mailto:info@VenturaBotanicalGardens.com), visit us on Facebook, enjoy the Taste of the Taft and join in the following upcoming events.

**Mar 25<sup>th</sup> TASTE OF THE TAFT** 1 pm - 5 pm

A unique experience of music, art, gourmet food, and wine is yours to discover with a rare opportunity to explore the beautiful Taft Ojai Botanic Gardens.

**Apr 21<sup>st</sup> GARDEN FESTIVAL** 10 am - 4 pm

Enjoy the California native wildflowers in full bloom. A reward for our work in January is celebrated with this Garden Festival of events in Grant Park. Visit [VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://VenturaBotanicalGardens.com).

**May 5<sup>th</sup> SPRING GARDEN TOUR** 9:30 am - 4 pm

Our 4th annual self-guided tour of exceptional and very private gardens in the City of Ventura. Visit [VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://VenturaBotanicalGardens.com).

**4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of the month WALK GRANT PARK** 10 am - 12 pm

Join the VBG for exercise, exploration, spectacular views, and learn about the Master Vision Plan for the Gardens. (December excepted)

Meet upper parking lot behind City Hall.



VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS



Ventura Botanical Gardens, Inc. P.O. Box 3127, Ventura, CA 93006, a 501(c)(3) Public Benefit Corporation, Tax ID #20-8416864

## Community Events

### Ventura events

by Ana Baker



Members of the National Charity League Juniors of Ventura County hope to see you on March 24 as they host an "Evening d'Elegance". And be sure to say hello to writer Linda Sackett when you are there.

### National Charity League Juniors prepare for Fundraiser Gala

by Linda Sackett

Imagine curing a teenager with lymphoma who grows up to be a cancer researcher, or providing a successful bone marrow transplant to an infant with sickle cell disease. That's why I joined National Charity League (NCL) Juniors of Ventura County as I wanted to give back to our community.

Four years ago local cancer treatment for children did not exist until the joint project between Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and the Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) began. This project is dedicated to bringing quality care and treatment to Ventura County children who become ill with cancer or blood diseases. Before that kids had no choice but to undergo the long and often agonizing journey to Los Angeles to get optimal care. Local care is important as statistics prove that children with life threatening diseases have a far better chance of recovery when cared for close to home.

The program includes a fulltime pediatric hematologist-oncologist physician, Dr. Francisco Bracho (number 24 in the Face Of Ventura portrait series), and two full-time hematology-oncology nurses. Local community support is necessary for the ongoing integrity of this program and its ability to grow and meet the hematology-oncology needs of children and teens. This is the only hospital facility in Ventura County that provides chemotherapy, medicine, and blood transfusions for children with cancer, blood, and bone disorders.

NCL Juniors has raised over \$600,000 for this worthy charity over the past several years. Fundraising efforts will continue this year at their annual gala on Saturday, March 24 as they host "Evening d'Elegance" at the renowned Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard. Guests will experience the ambiance of the Art Deco era especially the exceptional French automotive collection, and take part in silent auction shopping, enjoy a gourmet dinner, bid on exciting live auction items and dance to live music. This year's event promises to be an exciting and memorable evening.

The generosity in our community has made a difference to these families. Please support us at [www.ncljuniorsventura.org](http://www.ncljuniorsventura.org) for more information or [info@ncljuniorsventura.org](mailto:info@ncljuniorsventura.org) to inquire about sponsorship opportunities or auction donations.

National Charity League Juniors of Ventura County is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in the State of California. Donations are tax deductible. Federal Tax ID #952505646.

**Mar. 22:** The Friendship Connection, a group of retired ladies, will hold their annual membership drive on Thursday, at 11:30 a.m. at C Street at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. David Holifield, a website designer from Interfuel, will discuss Evernote and Gmail for computer users. The cost of lunch is \$15.34. Please call 659-0724 or 659-3460 for further information.

**Mar. 21 & 22:** Gift shop sales and book sale in the Community Memorial Hospital lobby

**Mar. 24:** The docents at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park on 4200 Olivas Park Dr., will showcase beautiful old and new, traditional and modern handmade and machine pieced quilts at their fourth annual quilt show on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the first time they will also display tatted, smocked, embroidered, and crocheted items. Admission is free but donations are thankfully accepted. This show brings together quilting enthusiasts from around Ventura County. See [www.olivasadobe.org](http://www.olivasadobe.org)

**Mar. 24 & 25: The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society (SCRVRHS),** will present its eighteenth annual Santa Clara River Valley Railfest 2012. This year's Railfest theme is "Fillmore Steam Railfest". The Railfest has become a regional event.

This year Railfest 2012 will be featuring Fillmore & Western Railways fully operating & restored Baldwin 1913 "Consolidation" type steam locomotive #14. This locomotive, a 2-8-0, will be powering the "Railfest Special Event" train and diesels will be pulling a Scenic Excursion train to Santa Paula.

Railfest 2012 hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Admission and parking are free; however, there is a charge for the train rides.

**Mar. 25: Compassionate Eating, Genetically Modified Food & You!** Talk & Art Show with Bianca Martinez. Ventura artist and author and Breeze contributing writer Bianca Martinez will take us on an illustrated journey towards more conscious eating and how we can make a difference with every bite we take. Topics include the dangers of industrialized agriculture, GMOs, Factory Farming and how we can protect ourselves from disease with Food Medicine. Join us at EP Foster Library at 3pm in the Topping Room. For more info you can contact Bianca at 320-5265 or email [whitedragon9@gmail.com](mailto:whitedragon9@gmail.com). Please also visit <http://compassionateeating.wordpress.com>

**Mar. 27: The Ventura Travel Club** is having their monthly meeting at the Pirates Grub and Grog Restaurant at 450 South Victoria Ave., Oxnard at 6:00p.m. The Ventura Travel Club meets every 4th Tuesday of the month to discuss travel in the local area, nationwide and overseas travel. Everyone is invited to attend. Go early for introductions and further information. This month's guest speaker will be Club Med's Graeme Laudenslager to discuss travel itineraries and points of interest. Contact Phyllis Brown at 984-1277 for more information and suggestions on other vacations.

**Mar. 29:** Community Memorial Hospital will present their **Spring Fling Boutique** (Auxiliary baked goods and hand made crafts with additional booths). Attend to buy wonderful gifts and to support the hospital.



# Community Events

**Mar. 31:** The San Buenaventura Friends of the Library will have their **Spring Book Sale** at the Pacific View mall from 10a.m. to 3p.m. Sale will be held indoors in the center court area. Selling affordable, quality used books and a super selection of non-fiction, large print, music, movies, puzzles, books on tape, hard cover, paperback fiction, art, classics and children's books.

**April 1:** A Nov. 2, 1943 broadcast of the Burns & Allen Show and 1903 to 1908 recordings of bass Pol Plançon will be featured in the Dudley House historic recording series during the **Dudley House open house**. The house will be open from 1p.m. to 4p.m. The Dudley Docents will give tours of the history of the house with its Dudley family furniture. Admission is free. The Dudley House is located at the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista. Anyone interested in working on the docent tours of the house, call Steve Cummings at 644-3286.

**April 2 and 16: The Ventura County Philatelic Society** meets Mondays 7:30p.m. to 9p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Road. Admission and parking are free.

Stamp dealer will be present. Come for a great evening.

Contact: vcpsforyou@lycos.com or 320-1601

**April 3: Mended Hearts of Ventura.** Tuesday 7p.m. to 9p.m. Come share if you have had heart surgery or stent implant. Group meets the first Tuesday each month at the Community Memorial Hospital - 8th floor. They have excellent speakers - leading cardiologists, nutritionists, dietitians, etc. from our area.

Contact Richard Hatcher 644-2733.

**April 4: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN)** is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, bridge, dining, wine outings, reading, mah jong, cooking etc.

For more information, please attend monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. Meetings are held at the Greek Restaurant located in the Harbor. No charge for meeting. Guest Speaker: Maria Schonder, Owner: Harmony Nutrition in Santa Barbara. Subject: Forget Willpower: Instigate positive nutrition

## Ojai events

Well Red, an annual **"Lit Crawl"** event highlighting local authors will be held on Friday, **Mar. 30**, 7-10 pm, at the Ojai Women's Club, a lovely downtown craftsman home located at 441 E. Ojai Ave. The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend.

The Ventura County Writers Club, Well Red's sponsor again this year, is pleased to have many new and established writers reading and selling their books. None of the books is more than five months in release so people attending this free event will have fresh new books to discover. There will be wine and refreshments available.

The Ventura Breeze's own Sheli Ellsworth will read from her newest book, *Sometimes I Pee When I Laugh*. According to Sheli, "I do a lot of serious writing. Sometimes I find myself combing through legal battles if I am working on an article about pollution or a trial at the courthouse. I write about the funny side of life so I don't forget and take myself too seriously. Someday I may outgrow it. Until then, its great to have people say that I make them laugh."

Another local author, Andy Killion, owner of Anchors Way Marinas, will share some of his noteworthy advice from his book, *How to Fail in Business (While trying really hard)*. "I wanted to be the one in charge, making the important decisions," comments Andy. For more information, visit [www.ojaiwordfest.com](http://www.ojaiwordfest.com) or call 524-6970.

**First Sunday Music** on Sunday **April 1** from 1-2pm at the Ojai Library; 111 E. Ojai Ave.

Robbie Sheppard began singing at Ojai Valley School in the 1950's. In the 80's she became a songwriter when she started her family, and discovered her husband's abandoned guitar under the bed. She has lately developed a fuller sound with the addition of John Wilson and his bass.

**"Welcome to Fabulous Villanova"** is the theme for the **Mar. 31** Casino Night Auction to be held at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai. Enjoy an evening of table games, great food and music! Over 300 auction items including vacation rentals, local art, spa treatments and golf outings will be offered to the highest bidder.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. in the Clark Gymnasium which is being transformed into Villanova Casino for the night. Guests will partake of cocktails and luscious hors d'oeuvres while they peruse an array of silent auction opportunities.

Tickets for the event are \$55 and available for purchase online at [www.villanovaprep.org](http://www.villanovaprep.org) or at the Villanova Main Office.

Proceeds from the auction will provide needed funds to complete the renovation of the gymnasium ventilation system and to purchase SMART boards for several classrooms.

For additional information, please call the Villanova Prep Development Office at 646-1464 or email [parents-guild@villanovaprep.org](mailto:parents-guild@villanovaprep.org).

In conjunction with the current exhibition, *American Glass Works*, the Ojai Valley Museum will hold a sale of additional glass pieces produced by the regional, exhibiting artists in the show. **The Glass Bazaar** will be on Sunday, **Mar. 25**, between noon and 4 p.m. The museum invites you to come see, shop, and collect glass art and utilitarian objects. This very special sale includes vessels, sculpture, wall reliefs, jewelry, and more. This is a unique opportunity to shop these artist's works under one roof and all at the same time! The museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Ave. 640-1390, ext. 203, for additional information.

Fresh Roasted Concerts will present acclaimed singer-songwriter, **David Wilcox** on Sat. **Mar. 31** @ 7:30 pm at the Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Rd., Ojai. David Wilcox has been writing songs for 30 years, has released 17 albums and sold over 750,000 albums. In 2008, he was honored with a silver award in Acoustic Guitar's singer/songwriter category. Tickets are \$26 for seniors (65+), \$28 for adults, and \$35 for VIP seating in the first 7 rows. Tickets are available at Ojai Coffee Roasting, online at [ptgo.org](http://ptgo.org) or by phone at 646-8907. The VIP tickets are only available by phone. Tickets at the door are \$2 more.

SENGA Classic Stage Company presents *Women of Troy* adapted and directed by Francisca Beach with music composed by John Biggs. Musical director, Jaye Hersh.

Played in the round, this timely  
*Continued on page 15*

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7:30 am		7:30 am BODYPUMP		7:30 am BODYPUMP			
8:30 am			8:30 - 9 am TURBO Express		8:30 AM ZUMBA	8:30 am BODYSCLPT	
9 am	9-9:30 AM BODYATTACK	FLIRTY GIRL DANCE	9 - 9:30 am STEP Express	BODY WORKS	9:30 AM 20/20/20	9:30 -10 am CORE-LATES	9am BODYPUMP
10 am	9:30 -10 AM CARDIOSCLPT	YOGA STRETCH	9:30 am BOOTY-CAMP	GENTLE STRETCH		10 am ZUMBA	10 am Intro-2- BODYATTACK
	10-10:30 AM ARMS & ABS				10:30 AM PILATES STRETCH		11 am YOGA 12 noon ZUMBA

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# The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



## Sheryl Kitchen

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Sheryl Kitchen is truly a face in Ventura and of Ventura. She was not born here and first came to California in 1969 when her father was doing a tour in the Vietnam war. Sheryl has lived in Spain, Nebraska and Virginia, just to name a few of the many countries that she has called home.

Her Grandmother Hazel Francis was a teacher in Santa Paula. Sheryl attended Isabella Middle School for a short time, then moved on to a new country Hawaii. Sheryl returned to California in 1977 where her first job was at the Pierpont Inn in here in Ventura.

Sheryl has one daughter, named Elizabeth and two wonderful Granddaughters, Cheyenne who will be 4 years old in May and Kaya, she will be 2 years old in July.

Sheryl has been known as the "The Key Lady" in Ventura for over 20 years and is a delightful person to know. Working from her now closed famous key kiosk. But she didn't go far and now has a new location right across the street at 2674 E. Main.

*We asked her what she likes most about Ventura?*

I enjoy being part of the local community. I have a very strong faith in God and when asked what she likes most about Ventura, she says "the weather". She feels blessed to live at the beach and all of its wonderful surroundings. "I love taking my granddaughters to all the beautiful parks and being in business for myself," said Sheryl. I also love my Ventura customers for being so supportive and friendly. Another wonderful reason to love Ventura

*How was the experience having your portrait painted by Johanna?*

I couldn't believe it when Sheldon Brown called me to be one of the faces of the Face Of Ventura and that Johanna Spinks would like to paint a portrait of me. I feel much honored to be part of this project. Johanna is a very special person. I felt at ease while sitting for the portrait and the 2 hours seemed like 15 minutes. We talked about our children and life. Her talent is impressive. Thank you for thinking of me.



Cheryl Heitmann

**Readers are invited to nominate a special person for the series.**

"The Face of Ventura  
By Johanna Spinks":

Images Copyright Johanna Spinks.



Debbie Cowell

Email: [johanna@johannaspinks.com](mailto:johanna@johannaspinks.com) Website: [www.johannaspinks.com](http://www.johannaspinks.com)

The Breeze is proud to present "The Face of Ventura by Johanna Spinks", an on-going art project by award-winning portraitist Spinks to paint 55 worthy Venturans, **each in a single sitting**, painted directly from life at this artist's Bell Arts Factory studio in around two hours - and each captured by The Breeze. **No photos are used**, the direct interaction with the sitter, hearing and painting their story, is the purpose of the challenge, along with the artist's wish to showcase the relevant world of painterly portraiture today.

This feature will run in the Breeze over the next two years.

On the Lyn Fairly show, "Lyn Fairly & Friends", heard every Saturday from noon to 1pm on News Talk KVTA 1520 AM you can hear one of "The Face Of Ventura By Johanna Spinks" portrait sitters interviewed. So listen in to find out what their experience sitting for this ongoing art project was like.



*This Thursday, March 22 Johanna Spinks will be painting one of the Face Of Ventura portraits live, and in person at the Ventura Executive Suites, 701 E Santa Clara St. at their monthly business-social gathering. She will start at about 5pm so join us and watch her create her magic and also enjoy some wine and snacks.*

# COTTONTAIL DAY

Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> • 10 AM - 3 PM  
Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn

**BRING A BASKET!**  
\$2 Egg Hunt 11 AM - 2 PM  
(Ages 1-7, while supplies last)

**\$1 Petting Zoo**  
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## Ventura Harbor Events

Hop on over to the Ventura Harbor Village, Saturday, March 31 from 10am - 3pm for Cottontail Day at the Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn. Cottontail Day is a family fun community event featuring egg hunts, petting zoo, kid's crafts, entertainment and more!

Come celebrate spring with friends and family! The Cottontail Bunny can be spotted hopping around giving children a chance to take a photo or grab a hug. For children ages 1 - 7 bring your baskets and join in the \$2 Egg Hunt held every 30 minutes from 11 AM - 2 PM (free coloring book, while supplies last). Find a "Golden Egg" and bounce to the Costco booth for a prize! Take part in the Village Scavenger Hunt, beginning at the ParentClick.com booth, to find clues that will lead you to a "hoppy" surprise! Excite imaginations with a variety of free children's crafts provided by Harbor Village Gallery, Lakeshore Learning Store, and MacaroniKid.com. Additional family fun activities include the Animal World Petting Zoo, face painting, New York Life free child ID, live children's entertainment, and much more! Parking and admission to the event are free.

Come early and enjoy breakfast or lunch at one of the many harbor-view restaurants, and shop the Village stores for last minute unique holiday gift items and spring break style necessities. Stop by the Village Arcade and play a fun family game or explore sea-life on a Harbor cruise with the family. Need an extra treat for the baskets? Take home delicious homemade fudge or waffle cone gift certificates.

The Ventura Harbor would like to thank the 2012 Cottontail Day sponsors: Costco, Oxnard, and City Corps, Ventura, The Greek at the Harbor, Ventura County

Star, Ventura Breeze, and Cumulus Broadcasting. Crafts provided by Harbor Village Gallery & Artisan Store, Lakeshore Learning Store, and MacaroniKid.com, Village scavenger hunt sponsored by ParentClick.com.

On Sunday, April 8 the Harbor will be hopping with Easter brunches, Cottontail Bunny from Noon to 3 PM, free kids' crafts, and live music on the Carousel Stage from 1 - 4 PM. The Ventura Harbor Village is located at 1583 Spinnaker Dr. For more information visit [www.VenturaHarborVillage.com](http://www.VenturaHarborVillage.com) or call 477-0470.

## Celebrating Moms! special exhibit

A special *Celebrating Moms!* exhibit will be at the Harbor Village Gallery from April 4 - April 30, 2012. All works will be priced at \$100 and under for a special someone to purchase for their mom...or maybe even a mom to purchase for herself! Works will include original works of art as well as jewelry framed and ready to be wrapped. A special reception will be Sunday, April 8, from 1 - 4 p.m. with every mom receiving a rose!

Follow us on Twitter at [buenaventuraart](https://twitter.com/buenaventuraart) for special discounts!

The Harbor Village Gallery is located at 1591 Spinnaker Dr. Suite 117C in the Ventura Harbor Village. Open everyday except Tuesday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information, call the gallery at 805-644-2750 or visit [www.BuenaventuraGallery.org](http://www.BuenaventuraGallery.org) for more information.

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- Learn About The Newest Technology
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## Help is on the way

"The Help" is available to pick up your medications from the pharmacy and deliver them to your door. Julie Gilbert, a former Department of Defense contractor, is licensed and bonded and reaching out to make your life easier. She is an independent small business, not associated with any pharmacy. If you can't get to the pharmacy call "The Help" and they will pick up and deliver your medications. Regular delivery hours are M-F 9:00am to 5:00pm but exceptions will be made. First time delivery charge is only \$15 and a reduced price of \$10 for subsequent deliveries. She delivers to Ventura, Oxnard and Camarillo. Please see her business card on the back page of the Breeze.

## Prepare for the final chapter

Livingston Memorial VNA & Hospice and the Ventura Towne House are sponsoring a free documentary film, "Consider the Conversation". This powerful film reminds us that talking about life's final chapter well in advance can help prevent unnecessary physical, emotional, spiritual and social suffering. A discussion will follow featuring Lanyard K. Dial, MD, Livingston's President/CEO and Medical Director. The date is March 26th, from 1:30 – 3:00 pm @ The Towne House, 4900 Telegraph Rd. RSVP to 642-0239 ext 708.

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## Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

### Please help me, I'm falling

by Nanci Cone

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) wants to get the word out on what seniors can do to prevent falls. The VCAAA has information offering advice on fall prevention efforts in the community and how seniors can be proactive regarding this issue. The goal is to capitalize on existing fall prevention resources and expertise by making them available to seniors county-wide. Their mission is to prevent falls among the elderly through the application of available resources.

#### Fall Facts:

Every hour an older adult dies as the result of a fall.

Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths.

More than 1/3 of adults age 65 and older fall each year.

Falls among older adults cause over 90% of broken hips; less than 50% of those who break their hip will get around as they did before and up to 20% will die within the year.

Risk factors include: being over 65, poor gait and balance, taking 3 or more prescription medications, vision problems, and environmental hazards.

#### Services:

Information, resources, and referrals. Education.

Workshops and presentations.

Training for caregivers and professionals.

Community demonstrations and events.

Advocacy.

#### What you can do to prevent falls:

Call the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging at 477-7300

#### Medication Management:

Know the effects of medications, diet and lifestyle.

Have regular eye exams.

#### Balance & Mobility:

Engage in regular exercise and strength building activities to improve balance. Always complete exercises as instructed by your physical therapist.

Always use your prescribed cane or walker. Ask for instructions on how to use it or other assistive devices!

#### Home Safety:

A safety assessment can help you identify and correct many potential hazards in your home.

Consider a Medical Alert System in the event that you do fall.

Senior Nutrition Program Manager Susan White Wood says, "It's really important to take exercise classes and to be concerned about what you eat since an improper diet can cause so many problems in the elderly. You can always call the Area Agency on Aging to schedule a free appointment for a nutrition consultation. Also, I highly recommend that you view *The Falling Monologues* (<http://youtu.be/BSR6NCaxvMI>), a series of stories reflecting the thoughts, emotions, and lessons learned by some older adults after they've fallen. Written and directed by Marilyn Faber, the performances are accompanied by commentary from Emily Nabors and Anna Nguyen of the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence and Fall Prevention Coalition – Los Angeles (FPC-LA). We highly recommend these stories and also suggest you speak to your physician if you have any concerns about balance."

Here are the links to view each film separately:

**Introduction (2:53)** - <http://youtu.be/inWOLnOP56M>

**The Ladder (7:28)** - [http://youtu.be/dN1EoRV\\_Tc](http://youtu.be/dN1EoRV_Tc)

**The Bus (7:31)** - [http://youtu.be/pB58ls\\_4OrE](http://youtu.be/pB58ls_4OrE)

**The Sidewalk (6:28)** - <http://youtu.be/r1MZ4Xi9x98>

**Scatter Rug (5:15)** - <http://youtu.be/mcZfiRuQy-4>

**Don't Ask (7:45)** - [http://youtu.be/uNAoAdk\\_vjM](http://youtu.be/uNAoAdk_vjM)

To learn more about fall prevention and what you can do to stay safe, visit our website at [www.portal.countyofventura.org/portal/page/portal/VCAAA](http://www.portal.countyofventura.org/portal/page/portal/VCAAA).



Ken May, Ventura branch manager for Swift Chip Inc., assists attendees at a previous "Seniors Gone Wired" educational event at Cypress Place

## Helping seniors get hip

Dubbed, "Seniors Gone Wired", this half day tech event at Cypress will offer a broad range of topics and interactive workshops in an atmosphere set up exclusively for seniors.

This year's event will be held on Wednesday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Throughout the event, seniors of all ages and degrees of computer literacy will be able to find the information they are looking for. Computer stations and technician support, hosted by Swift Chip, will be available to teach seniors tips on using a computer, finding information online, using email, and the latest technological innovations.

"People were just ecstatic about all the things they learned last year," said Ken May, Ventura branch manager for Swift Chip Inc. "We hope to help even more people this year."

This year's event will also include a special section for questions dealing specifically with cell phones. Representatives from the local offices of Verizon Wireless and MetroPCS will be on hand to teach seniors how to master their cell phone.

Students from the Ventura High School computer program will also be on hand to assist with one on one sessions regarding computers, cell phones, and technology.

In addition to the one on one sessions, workshops will be offered throughout the day by guest speakers David Lantrip of Life Event Networks Inc., and Steve Zasio, co-founder of Sitelligence Inc. Other workshops covered everything from how to tour a museum online half way around the world, to how to send and receive pictures and video of kids and grandkids across the country.

And this year, Cypress Place will be collecting unwanted cell phones to be donated to our men and women in the armed forces to help them stay connected with their loved ones back home.

The event is free and open to the public. Chefs at Cypress Place will provide a free gourmet lunch for attendees.

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. For more information or to RSVP please call 650-8000.

# Health



Ramsey C. Ulrich, M.D welcomes all women over 40 to receive a screening mammography in West Ventura. Photo by Bernie Goldstein

## Mobile Mammography now available

by Nanci Cone

Screening mammography is now available on-site at West Ventura Medical Clinic through Ventura County Health-care Agency's Mobile Mammography Van. A virtual radiology suite on wheels for breast cancer screening, this unique service is available twice a month at West Ventura Medical Clinic (WVMC) located at 133 W. Santa Clara Street, according to Medical Director, Ramsey C. Ulrich, M.D.

"Eligibility for screening mammography is females 40 years of age or older on an annual basis", states Dr. Ulrich. A screening mammogram is an X-ray of the breast used to detect breast cancer at an early stage. Dr. Ulrich adds, "One in eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer at some point in their lives. If we catch it early through mammography, we can treat it aggressively and offer a much greater chance of survival. This program provides early detection coupled with patient convenience."

He added, "This service is not intended for evaluation of recently discovered breast lumps, follow-ups for women with a history of breast cancer, women with breast implants, or those who have had mammograms within the previous 11 months. Instead, the mobile unit is aimed at providing routine screening for women."

WVMC accepts most insurance for this important service. In addition, if patients are uninsured, WVMC offers a program called the Cancer Detection Program (CDP) which provides breast exam and mammogram at no cost to eligible patients. The CDP is administered through the California Department of Public Health and offers breast cancer screenings for women living in Ventura County who are forty or more years of age, low income, un-insured or have extremely high insurance deductibles. Dr. Ulrich notes, "The Cancer Detection Program offers this vital service to eligible women at no cost. This is timely given our down economy where many lack health insurance due to unemployment, sky-rocking premiums, or employers canceling insurance coverage." The CDP also covers an office visit for a breast exam by a health care provider, which is an important part of breast cancer screening. In addition, CDP covers cervical cancer screening including pelvic exam and PAP smears for eligible women 21 or more years of age.

"The mobile mammography program is going amazingly well since we started it here at the West Ventura Medical Clinic", says media contact Ellie Richman. "We've had a number of cases of women who have had their breast cancer and cervical cancers caught in the early stages. Early detection in these women is important because otherwise they would go without care and their

chances of survival would likely be less."

The mission of the West Ventura Medical Clinic, in association with Ventura County Medical Center, is to provide top-quality medical care in a compassionate, efficient and culturally-sensitive manner. In addition to accepting most insurances, WVMC offers numerous discount health programs for the uninsured like the CDP program. Information can be found on their website at [www.vchca.org](http://www.vchca.org) or on their Facebook page at West Ventura Medical Clinic. Mobile mammography is offered the first Thursday and Friday of every month with the next screening set for April 5th. To schedule an appointment, please call 641-5600.



The featured speaker at the Turning Point Foundation annual Community Building Breakfast was author and actor Tom Roberts.

## Turning Point sponsors community breakfast

by Tim Pompey

Turning Point Foundation, together with Janssen Pharmaceuticals and McCarthy Construction, sponsored their annual free Community Building Breakfast on Wednesday, February 22 at the Courtyard Marriott in Oxnard.

For Turning Point, this is their chance to invite members of the community to come and learn about the organization's philosophy and mission. "The Community Building Breakfast provides an opportunity for members of the community to learn about mental illness by hearing persons share their stories of recovery, learn how Turning Point Foundation supports others in their recovery and how to personally support our organization's work financially," said Executive Director Clyde Reynolds.

During the breakfast, a current Turning Point client told his personal story. Daniel Rivera, a resident at Stephenson Place, one of Turning Point's housing units, had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and had been in jail and on the streets before being referred to Turning Point. After his referral, he went through AA treatment and has now finished an Alcohol and Drug Therapy program. He's since reconnected with his children. "I am planning on being at my daughter's wedding," he said.

The featured speaker was actor and author Tom Roberts, whose presentation was titled "Chewing through the Straps—Living with Mental Illness."

Roberts began his presentation with a frank confession. "I tell my story," he said, "because I want to put a face and name on mental illness. I have bipolar disorder."

He described his own journey through his various cycles of bipolar

*Continued on page 15*

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# Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)

Professor Scamp  
Ph.D

■ National Puppy Day is a special day, recognized on March 23rd annually, to celebrate the magic and unconditional love that puppies bring to our lives. But more importantly, it's a day to help save orphaned puppies across the globe and educate the public about the horrors of puppy mills.

National Puppy Day was founded in 2006 by Pet Lifestyle Expert, Animal Behaviorist and Author, Colleen Paige, who is also the founder of National Dog Day and National Cat Day (okay for Savana). This holiday, as well as others, are part of Colleen Paige's Animal Miracle Foundation & Network, a non-profit organization which offers financial assistance and educational programs ranging from pet cancer to fire safety and travel safety for kids and pets alike. AMF also hosts many wonderful holiday festivals and trade shows throughout each year and brings local shelter pets to these events hoping to find them a forever home.

■ The weather has been to beautiful (okay so the weekend wasn't so great for paradise) that I know a lot of you are gardening but you should be aware that you should choose your plants carefully if you have pets.

The leaves, seeds and berries of some

common plants can be poisonous to pets.

Many flowers, such as hyacinth, oleander and hydrangea, can cause stomach irritation when ingested by your cat or dog. Wisteria, lily of the valley, morning glory and narcissus are other common plants that have parts that could be poisonous such as seeds, pods, roots, bulbs and flowers and should be avoided when landscaping your yard.

Vegetable and fruit gardens should also be treated with caution. The leaves of rhubarb, shoots of potatoes and seeds of apples can be poisonous to dogs and cats. Instead, try planting beets, honeydew melon or zucchini squash, none of which will pose a threat to your precious pets.

In the spring, be sure not to plant azaleas, primroses or geraniums, which are entirely poisonous to dogs and cats. Consider planting impatiens, sunflowers or petunias instead, as they are all safe and will add color and beauty to your outdoor space.

Cats and dogs should stay away from holly and mistletoe because they contain poisonous berries. I, especially want to stay away from mistletoe so that Savana doesn't get the wrong idea and try to kiss me.

This is just a partial list so for more information about plants that are hazardous to your pets visit [www.Petside.com/plants](http://www.Petside.com/plants) and speak with your vet if you aren't sure.



Located in the Ventura Harbor is Cory Tile Art "Custom Tiles" (your pictures on their tiles to create your own personal tile art and gifts). Bring (or email) them your treasured photos and they will help you create your own magic on ceramic tile for magnets, coasters, trivets, mugs, murals, photo tiles etc. Either from your photos or their large selection of photos or in

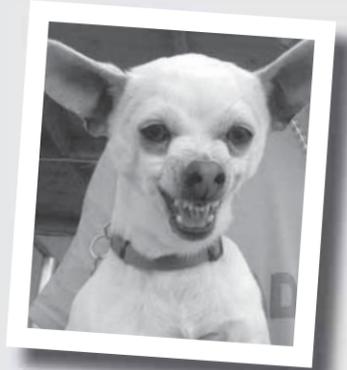
## Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Dora a female 2 year old active Terrier / Lhasa Apso mix. I was found as a stray, but no one came to claim me. I'm good with cats and other small dogs. I'm waiting for my forever family to come and take me home. I just hope I don't have to wait too long. Stop by to meet me, I'll be waiting.

The Canine Adoption & Rescue League,  
Sam's Place,  
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644-7387 [www.carlvorg](http://www.carlvorg)

Hi I'm FROSTY. I was rescued on New Year's Eve from the VC Animal Shelter. I am a very sweet chihuahua mix, about a year old, looking for my forever home. I'm very athletic. I love other dogs and playing with and retrieving toys. I am neutered, microchipped and UTD on my shots. I am at Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding for Dogs @ 4692 Ventura Ave. CALL 805 643-3647 to "BRING ME HOME"



## Scamp Club



Hi: I'm Henri and some people call me a "mutt" which must mean a wonderful cute dog. I was on my way to the pound in San Francisco and some really cool kid rescued me. I'm 2 years old (more or less) and full of energy and have become an integral part of the family. My favorite things are chasing the ball and chasing the cat (Scamp and I both have our pet cats). I love to go on long walks to and around the harbor, meeting and greeting other dogs. I

also love to chase anyone riding a bike, skateboarding or any other form of mechanical transportation and not sure what I would do if I caught them. I hope that I get to have lunch with Scamp very soon.

## Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the ScampClub. Email me your picture and a little about yourself, including your address, to [Scampclub@venturabreeze.com](mailto:Scampclub@venturabreeze.com). You will be in the Breeze and become world famous.

person (like I did to have them take my picture) and they can put you on a motorcycle, or a surf board, or lots of other fun things and settings. And because they are on ceramic tile you can put it outside, like I did or even adorn

your shower with "people's best friend" (I'm so PC). They are open every day from 11am-6pm and can be reached at [corytileart@gmail.com](mailto:corytileart@gmail.com) or 654-0158 and you can see all of their wonderful things at [www.corytileart.com](http://www.corytileart.com).

## Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Police reports are provided to us by the Ventura Police Department and are not the opinions of the Ventura Breeze. All suspects mentioned are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### Deaths by Overdose

Between March 2nd and March 3rd, the VPD has investigated 3 apparent overdose deaths that have involved a combination of opiate drugs and alcohol. The victims in the 3 deaths were from 22-34 years in age, all were males, and all had several drug related arrests in their past. In 2 of the deaths, officers located hypodermic needles/syringes.

### DUI Arrest

On Thursday, March 8th, at 1:11 a.m., the VPD received a call of a vehicle hitting a residence in the 5500 Block of

Lafayette Street. The vehicle had left the roadway and gone over a curb, across the front yard of a residence. The vehicle narrowly missed colliding with the occupied home and came to rest against a brick wall along the side yard. The collision caused minor damage to the wall. Officers contacted the driver of the vehicle, Gerardo Ruiz, and determined he was under the influence of alcohol. Ruiz's vehicle had also collided with a parked vehicle in the 5600 block of Larkin Avenue.

### Felony Hit and Run

On Friday, March 9th, at 10:30 a.m., members of the Street Crimes Unit were working in the area of Crescent and Johnson when they saw David Dyar driving in the area. He was currently on probation and parole, and officers attempted to stop him. He did not yield as required, and the officers pursued him. The pursuit continued

onto the southbound 101 freeway and was terminated on the 101 freeway at Las Posas due to the suspect's erratic driving. During the pursuit, Dyar and the passenger, Monica Ramos, threw items out of their vehicle. These items included methamphetamine and narcotics paraphernalia.

As Dyar attempted to exit the freeway at Carmen Drive in Camarillo, he rear-ended a vehicle stopped for a red light. Dyar and Ramos ran from the scene. The detectives chased after them and both were taken into custody.

Two occupants of the stopped vehicle were transported by ambulance due to complaints of pain. Both suspects were also transported to VCMC where they were treated and released for complaints of pain from the collision.

Dyar was booked into VC Jail. Ramos was charged with resisting arrest and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

### Robbery

On Friday, March 9th, at 6:50 a.m., Richard Ellis was in his motel room with his door ajar, at the White Caps Motel, located on the 1600 block of East Thompson Boulevard. Two male subjects entered the room. One suspect held Ellis down and began punching him in the head. The other subject ransacked Ellis's room and took an undisclosed amount of cash. Both suspects fled the area on bicycles they stole from Ellis's room. Ellis sustained minor injuries to his head that required no medical treatment.

Officers were able to identify one of the suspects as Arturo Gonzalez. On March 10th, officers located Gonzalez and took him into custody. The second suspect is still outstanding at this time. Gonzalez was later booked at VC Jail.

### Armed Robbery

On Saturday, March 10th, at 6:45 p.m., officers responded to an armed

# Police Reports

robbery that had occurred at Game Stop, located on 4020 East Main Street.

The suspect, a Hispanic male in his twenties, entered the store and confronted the lone clerk. He demanded money from the register and the clerk refused. The suspect then removed a handgun from his waistband. The clerk complied with the suspect's demands and surrendered an undisclosed amount of cash.

Officers searched the surrounding area but were unable to locate the suspect. The clerk was not injured during the commission of this crime.

### Sex Offender Compliance Sweep

On Friday, March 9th, the VPD conducted a Sex Offender Compliance Sweep. The purpose of a compliance check is to verify registered sex offenders' addresses, vehicles and employment information provided during mandated law enforcement registration.

Out of the 25 verified registrants, 19 were compliant, 6 could not be verified, and 1 was arrested for a warrant related to an indecent exposure.

### Resisting Arrest

On Wednesday, March 14th, at 2:00 a.m., officers responded to a reported fight and brandishing of a knife in front of businesses in the 500 block of East Main Street. One of the subjects was detained and the other involved fled from officers but was apprehended a short distance away.

Officers learned that Brandon and Calvin Beasley and the victim got into a verbal argument. During the altercation, the suspects removed knives from their persons and brandished them at the victim.

Brandon and Calvin Beasley were arrested without incident and booked at VC Jail.

### Robbery

On Wednesday, March 14th, at 2:11 p.m., officers responded to a call of a robbery at Wells Fargo inside the Vons supermarket, on 115 West Main Street. Maria Almanza, 67 years old, withdrew money and exited the store. While walking through the parking lot, two Hispanic males approached her from behind and stuck a hard object against Almanza's back. One of the Hispanic males demanded money from Almanza and she gave him an undisclosed amount of money.

The Hispanic males fled the area on foot in an unknown direction. Officers were unable to locate any subjects matching the description. The investigation is ongoing.

### Turning Point

*Continued from page 13*

mood swings and how it took him many years to come to grips with mental illness. In reference to his long recovery, he quoted Patty Duke: "My recovery has been an evolution."

Roberts revealed his purpose for speaking by saying that "I want to do whatever I can do to break down the wall of stigma that keeps people from seeking help."

He referred to the mission of Turning Point as providing a "culture of recovery where individuals matter."

The breakfast was attended by approximately 230 people from all ends of the county. Jane Lax, Turning Point's Fund Development Director, said that she was "thrilled with the

response from the community."

Turning Point Foundation was established in 1988 and is governed by a board of directors drawn from the Ventura County community. It serves more than 500 clients each year through its shelter, supported housing, and rehabilitation programs. Currently, it's the only nonprofit agency in Ventura County that addresses the critical community support needs of mentally ill adults.

You can find more information about Turning Point Foundation at [www.turningpointfoundation.org](http://www.turningpointfoundation.org), or by calling 652-0000.

### Ojai events

*Continued from page 9*

and, at times, slyly humorous adaptation of Euripides' play incorporates text from survivors of Hiroshima and the Holocaust in a study of the universal themes of war and the enduring capacity of women to survive and carry on in its devastating wake.

**April 6 through April 29** Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. (except Sat. April 7 at 2 p.m. only) Sundays at 2 p.m.

Ojai Valley Grange, 381 Cruzero St. Tickets \$15, \$12 (Seniors & Students) (Group rates available) Reservations 646-4885. [www.franciscaeach.com](http://www.franciscaeach.com)

### Mailbox

*Continued from page 5*

Meeting. Your information, candor and passion for The Breeze is an inspiration. You did a great job of fielding questions and sharing contact details. Hopefully you'll have some new advertising subscribers out of that group of dentists, attorneys, etc.

Kudos for sharing what a great community resource you've created. Thank you also for all your time and generosity to the kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura.

Congratulations on the well-deserved honor of receiving the 2011 Poinsettia Award from the Chamber of Commerce.

Yours in Rotary,  
Nancy Gregg-Keller  
Program Chair

### Breeze

Living on Greenock and looking at the progress (removing of the sand) in the evening, it looks as though they are getting their groove. There is a pretty good learning curve since the parameters are many and it is sand. Although I wasn't very satisfied the first few days, I didn't want to say anything until they had some time. It looks as though it will be okay and maybe with their delay and starting out at the South end, Shaw (contractor) and all got some "practice time" in and it will help all as it moves North.

Jim McCaslin  
Ventura

## FINANCIAL STRESS?

- **Foreclosure Pending?** Payments too high? Owe more than value? Frustrated loan modification?
- **Overwhelming Bills?** Unreasonable collection calls? Threats/harassment? Taxes? Student loans?
- **Lawsuits?** Eviction demand? Wages garnished? Bank account levied? Served summons?
- **Business Struggling?** Behind on the lease? Negative ca\$h flow? **Protect yourself!**

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## SCRAMBLERS

*solution*

1. Reveal; 2. Refuse;
3. Careen; 4. Raise

*Today's Word:*

**SCREENSAVER**

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	7	5	8	9	1	2	3	6
8	3	6	2	4	5	9	1	7
1	2	9	7	6	3	8	4	5
6	9	4	5	3	7	1	8	2
3	1	7	4	8	2	5	6	9
5	8	2	9	1	6	4	7	3
7	4	1	6	2	9	3	5	8
9	6	3	1	5	8	7	2	4
2	5	8	3	7	4	6	9	1

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	B	I	B	A	I	T	A	L	M	A	
C	O	S	U	N	D	O	L	E	A	R	
C	O	L	A	N	D	E	R	L	I	L	O
A	C	K	A	C	C	U	S	E	D		
W	I	N	T	E	R	H	O	D			
E	N	D	R	U	G	G	E	O	D	E	
E	K	E	D	M	O	W	S	L	U	G	
P	Y	R	E	X	D	A	D	E	T	O	
S	I	R	R	E	P	A	Y	S			
S	P	E	C	I	E	S	B	U	N		
W	I	D	E	S	Q	U	A	N	D	E	R
A	K	I	N	A	M	P	S	E	M	O	
N	E	E	D	W	I	N	E	R	U	B	



## Show Time

Where The Music Flows

### More Garbage

by Michael Kohli

**New album from Garbage on the way?**

Hmm, not sure what is more thrilling at the moment. The fact that Garbage has a new single, or the fact that the new song is titled, "Blood For Poppies." Even though Garbage is known for their dark grunge-ish style from their debut album, the new single is very head boppy and dance heavy. Elements of the song have a Laura Branigan type feel. But, still you could feel the raw edgy emotion behind the lyrics.

Garbage fans, like me, have waited for 7 years for a full new Garbage album.

Since the band took a break, we've seen Shirley Manson on TV, in the short lived: Terminator: Sarah Connor Chronicles. Butch Vig produced more albums for AFI, Green Day, and many more. Along with the recent 20 year anniversary reissue of the Butch Vig produced Nirvana album, "Nevermind."

Fans though have been anxious this year to hear the new music. On May 15, there will be two editions of the album released. One will be a deluxe version with quite a few extra tracks. The band just completed a new music video shoot in Malibu. A new tour is also on the horizon. Garbage fans are thrilled. Are you? What is your favorite Garbage song? "Only Happy When It Rains", "Temptation Waits", "#1 Crush", "Milk", "Bleed Like Me", or "Shut Your Mouth?" email me a note with your favorite Garbage song.

**In local Ventura news: VenAustin Tour**

As of this writing, members of 8Stops7, Jeff Hershey & The Heartbeats, New Liberty & Aaron Orbit are touring in Austin, Texas for the SXSW multimedia festival. These bands together on tour offer si mych variety in music. Of course with 8Stops7, you have heavy rock. Then, with Jeff Hershey, you've got a retro-soul music type feel. New Liberty, you've got kick-ass party rock music (they should be opening for Motley Crue). Then you have solo inspired acoustic and rock music from Aaron Orbit. Together, they are good friends and should have a blast together on tour. Spread some Ventura love to the Austin world.

They kicked off the tour on March 9 at Bombay Bar & Grill to a very supportive and dance active crowd. Money for the tour was donated by fans through their PledgeMusic webpage. It was fun seeing so many people supporting the same music cause. I love when Ventura bonds together with music. You can't get that home feeling in Hollywood, Seattle, or even New York. We have a scene that bridges people together. We rock, we laugh, we drink, and it's always a good time. Thank you, again, Ventura. And, thank you to our VenAustin music heroes.

Michael Kohli  
Kohlismusicpit.com

## One night only in Ventura

On Saturday, April 14th, the LA-based and world-renowned Waddy Wachtel Band will, for the first time ever, be performing in Ventura at the Poinsettia Pavilion. Waddy Wachtel is a well-known and well-loved band

comprised of various back-up singers and musicians from globally known artists such as Stevie Nicks, Neil Young, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, and many more.

For the April 14th show, the band will comprise of: Waddy Wachtel himself, the back-up singer for Stevie Nicks, Brett Tuggle, Bernard Fowler, Al Ortiz, Jamie Savko, and Jimmy Paxson who come together to bring the audience classic rock favorites in an out-of-this-speaker experience. The band has been performing together since 2000 in the Los Angeles area and now will be performing right here in Ventura's backyard.

This fantastic, first-time experience is being hosted by Trimurti Enterprises, a Ventura-native company that specializes in music development and event production. Lucinda Welsh, the owner and head of Trimurti, has worked with various behind-the-scenes creators from all over the globe, making Trimurti her dream and driving passion. After April's show, Lucinda plans to put on a festival at the end of this year, and hopes to create a staple festival for Ventura that residents can look forward to every year.

The event itself will be held Saturday night with the doors opening at 7pm and the performances lasting until 12pm. Tickets will be \$50 at the door and \$45 presale. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Performance Theatre For Young Arts which supports and provides education, training and experience to the young artists of Ventura County by offering workshops, year 'round community theater and other performance activities. The tickets are on sale now at <http://waddyinventura.webs.com/>. This event will be 21+ with three separate bar locations on the premises and light food provided before the show. Make sure to attend the show and plan accordingly to have a good, safe time.

**Two on the Aisle**

## Ventura's Laughing Place

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

There's a place in downtown Ventura where laughter, lightheartedness and song always prevail. It's located mere steps off Main Street near the old Mission and it's been around for over two decades. Yet, some feel it is still one of Ventura's greatest cultural secrets. It is the Ventura Improv Company (VIC).

For twenty-three years the VIC (formerly known as Ventura Area TheatreSports) has been presenting live, two-hour improvisational comedy shows in a theater setting every Friday and Saturday night at a cost far less than the price of a movie ticket.

The shows' formats vary. Some pit one randomly formed team against another as they improvise comedy scenes based on audience suggestions. Others feature spontaneously created musical comedies, again, grounded on audience input. Another form uses a last-improviser-standing approach. Whatever the format, the comedic quality of this PG rated entertainment remains hilariously high and consistent.

There are several reasons the VIC's product remains predictably extraordinary. First, being improvised, it is always fresh, topical and vital. Second, there is consistency in the artistic leadership. Co-artistic directors Tom Mueller and Gary Best, along with Judy Gottlieb, have been involved from the start.

## VFS@420EAST

### The Fast Runner

Reviewed by Gerald Zwiers

The Ventura Film Society

*The Fast Runner* (Tuesday April 3 @ 7:15pm) is a delicious mixture of adventure and survival, love and passion, mythology and snow. Set in the beautiful frozen land of the Inuit people of the Canadian Arctic, this highly acclaimed film tells the timeless story of a young Inuit, Atanarjuat, and his heroic journey. Wrapped in the harsh daily life of a small group of nomadic people is a great darkness, the result of a shaman's curse. Gradually, passion, envy, mistrust and revenge creep into their lives. Ultimately,

The VIC's workshop and outreach programs are at the core of its continuing success. As the leadership explains, all the workshops are designed for fun or performance. If you just want to loosen up, hone your spontaneous social skills or possibly become a performer, then one of the VIC's workshops may be for you. They are conducted in a secure, non-threatening atmosphere where humor and success are the keys to sharing the skills that work equally well in daily life or on stage. If you get bitten by the performing bug, you can move to performance level activities. The workshops for adults are currently held on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

In addition, teen workshops are currently offered on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. Geared for middle and high school age students, the workshops focus on teamwork as well as individual growth, communication and free expression. In addition to being "teaching" avenues, the participants learn to let loose and just have fun.

On top of the weekly improvised shows, the VIC has teams of A-level improvisers that are available to entertain at private or public functions, such as fund raisers, club programs and the like. Or, the troupe can be rented to customize a performance for a special event such as a birthday or anniversary.

Several times a year VIC hosts tournaments, inviting improvisation groups from all over. These special events are often sold out as teams compete from Friday to Sunday in elimination rounds. The biggest tourney takes place over the Labor Day weekend and often boasts participants from as far away as Canada.

Ventura Improv Company, 34 N. Palm St., old town Ventura. Friday & Saturday-8 p.m. \$10/Seniors & Students \$8. Group rates available. Information and reservations. (805) 643-5701. [www.venturaimprov.com](http://www.venturaimprov.com).

## Music Calendar 3/21 to 4/3

For more events go to [Fun-in-Ventura.com](http://Fun-in-Ventura.com)

**Andre's Wine Bar**

1575 Spinnaker Dr., 805-642-9463  
Live Music every Tues, Thur & Fri

**Blackbeards Seaside BBQ**

1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115, 805-650-7773  
Open Mic/Jam Night with "Shure Thing" every Mon 6-9pm  
Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm  
Blue Grass Jam featuring: The Bottom Feeders every Thur 6-9pm  
Live Bands every Fri, Sat, Sun  
Wed 3/21 - Addicts Attic 7-11pm  
Sat 3/24 - Masters of the Past 6-10pm  
Sun 3/25 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

in this powerful blend of ancient legend and modern day people, the redemption of the community falls to Atanarjuat and his escape across the ice and snow. He returns to his people with a deeper wisdom and understanding that will change everything. An authentic glimpse into the majestic culture and spirit of the Inuit people.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to screen *The Fast Runner* as the 5th of 21 feature films running on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays through December 4 at 420 E. Santa Clara Street (@ Oak Street) in Downtown Ventura. Screening, Membership & Advance Ticket Information - [www.venturafilmsociety.com](http://www.venturafilmsociety.com) / 628-2299 / [venturafilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:venturafilmsociety@gmail.com).

Fri 3/30 - Fish Fry 7-11pm

Sat 3/31 - Loose Cannons 6-11pm

Sun 4/1 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

**Bombay's Bar & Grill**

143 S. California St., 805-643-4404  
All Star Blues Hosted by Tommy Marsh every Wed

Local Live Music every Thur, Fri & Sat  
Afternoon Concerts every Sun 4pm  
Thur 3/22 - HipHop Show with Slymer  
Fri 3/23 - Matt Zeltzer, ADAM  
Sat 3/24 - The Shoemaker Brothers, The Reall Deall Band  
Sun 3/25 - The R&B Bombers  
Thur 3/29 - Emy Reynolds and Dion  
Fri 3/30 - Shakin Feelin, Brion Shearer, Jamhon Soul

**Cafe Fiore**

66 California St., 805-653-1266

Live Bands every Tue thru Sat  
DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat  
Wed 3/21 - Big Adventure  
Thur 3/22 - Bill Rotella, Dakota  
Fri 3/23 - ADD  
Sat 3/24 - ADD  
Tue 3/27 - Bill Rotella  
Thur 3/29 - Bongo Town  
Fri 3/30 - ADD  
Sat 3/31 - Scott Carter  
Tue 4/3 - Bernie Meisinger

**GiGi's Coctail Lounge**

2493 Grand Ave., 805-642-2411

Karaoke with Steve Luke every Sun & Wed 7pm- 12am  
Live Bands every Fri & Sat 9pm

**It's All Good Bar & Grill**

533 E. Main St., 805-641-9951

Open Mike Night every Wed

**Majestic Theater**

26 S. Chestnut St., 805-653-0721

Thur 3/22 - White Chapel, Miss May I, After The Burial, The Plot in You, Structures  
Sun 3/25 - Tyga, YG  
Thur 3/29 - Kathleen Edwards  
Sat 3/31 - Bone Thugs N Harmony, Bizzy Bone, Lazy Bone, Flesh Bone

**Tutti's Off Main**

34 N. Palm Ave., 805-643-0880

Every Fri - Chris Wooley (guitar) 6:30-9:30pm  
Every Sat - Steve Williams (guitar) 12-3pm, 6:30-9:30pm  
Every Sun - Frank Barajas (guitar) 12-3pm

**Watermark On Main**

598 E. Main St., 805-643-6800

Intimate Acoustic with Dano every Tue  
Jazz at the Mark every Wed

**W2O Rooftop Lounge**

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)

805-643-6800

Friday Dance Party every Fri 9pm

Thur 3/22 - TBA

Continued on page 18

# The Lighter Breeze

## Mother Goose and Grimm



## Beetle Bailey



## Curtis



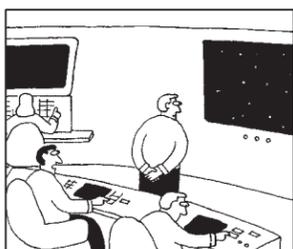
## Arctic Circle



## Moose and Molly



Solutions on page 15



### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Disclose  
**LEAVER** \_ \_ \_

Deny  
**FURSEE** \_ \_ \_

Sway  
**ARENCE** \_ \_ \_

Lift  
**AIRES** \_ \_

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_

"Sir, we're not actually moving through space. That's just the \_\_\_\_\_."

Solutions on page 15

4	7			1	3	
8			4		1	7
	9	7	6		8	
	9	5		1		2
	7		8	2		6
5	8			6	4	
	1			9	3	8
	6		1	5		4
2	8	3				9

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 15

## King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
		18			19		20			
21	22			23		24				
25			26		27		28	29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36	
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52	53				54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	

**ACROSS**

1 Feds' org.  
4 Cheese in a mousetrap  
8 - mater  
12 Romaine  
13 Loosen  
14 Shakespear-ean king  
15 Kitchen strainer  
17 Movie pal of Stitch  
18 Charlie Brown: "Good grief" :: Cathy: -  
19 Defendant  
21 Cold spell  
24 Scuttle  
25 Conclude  
26 Carpet  
28 Crystal-lined rock  
32 - out (supplemented)  
34 Do lawn work  
36 Phony coin  
37 Heat-resistant glass  
39 Father  
41 Ike's command  
42 Round Table address  
44 Settles a debt  
46 Genus sub-group  
50 Chignon  
51 Broad  
52 Waste

56 Related  
57 Rock band's gear  
58 Comic Philips  
59 Require work  
60 Sommelier's suggestion  
61 Massage

**DOWN**

1 Radio watchdog grp.  
2 Greet the villain  
3 Crusoe, e.g.  
4 Sand trap  
5 Moreover  
6 Concept  
7 Liberty's prop

8 Refers (to) called it "hell"  
9 Luau wreaths  
10 Guy  
11 Yankee nick name from 2004  
16 Performance  
20 Gear tooth  
21 Cry  
22 Black  
23 Pirates' potato  
27 Deity  
29 Ornamental dogbane  
30 Responsibility  
31 Hollywood clashers  
33 Drop  
35 Sherman

38 Noon, in a way  
40 Adulterate  
43 Cut smaller boards  
45 Piece of wordplay  
46 Graceful bird  
47 Toll road, for short  
48 Adams or Falco  
49 640 acres (Abbr.)  
53 Bygone TV channel  
54 Flightless bird  
55 Plagiarize

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Put your restlessness to good use by indulging the Arian love of exploring new places and seeking new challenges. There also could be a new romance waiting to be "discovered."

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A surprise message from someone in your past could lead to a long-awaited reunion with a once-close friend. Also, look for a workplace problem to be resolved in your favor.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Your self-confidence is rising, and that should be a significant factor in helping you adjust to a new social situation, as well as adjusting to a series of changes in the workplace.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Turnabout could be lots of fun when someone who previously accepted your tender, loving care without question now suggests that he or she wants to start taking care of you.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Put the lessons you learned from past disappointments to work in planning your future. The way ahead opens to opportunities "purrfectly" suited to the adventurous Lion.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to renew contacts with family members and/or old friends who somehow slipped off your personal viewing screen in recent

years. Travel also is favored.  
**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Most problems surrounding that recent personal situation have been resolved, and that means you should move on to other things that are important to you.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Spend this weekend recharging your physical and spiritual energies. When you return to your workaday world, you'll be ready to take on that new project.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Be careful how you advise a troubled friend. Even your wise counsel could be misunderstood. Better to suggest that he or she seek professional help.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Family problems once again dominate and, once again, everyone seeks your guidance in these matters. Later, you can indulge in some much-needed relaxation.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Some mixed signals create confusion in the workplace. Best advice: Ask for explanations before you attempt to deal with any of these matters on your own.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A patch of roiling water in the workplace could be threatening, but stay the course and you'll soon be clear of it. Then go out and have a great time with loved ones.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your extraordinary leadership qualities mark you as someone people can turn to for guidance in difficult situations.

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"MOSA"

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[www.cabodogz.com](http://www.cabodogz.com)

**(805) 643-3647**

**CALL TODAY!!**



## Hello! My Baby to premier at the Rubicon

Rubicon Theatre Company continues its 2011-2012 Season of "Magic, Mystery and Music" with the World Premiere of *Hello! My Baby*, a Tin-Pantastic new tuner from the pen of Cheri Steinkellner, the Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning writer of "Cheers" and a Tony nominee for *Sister Act: The Musical*.

Set in the early part of the last century on the sidewalks of New York, the story follows Mickey McKee, King of the Song-Pluggers, who dreams of writing the next Tin Pan Alley million-selling hit song. Only problem is Mickey

can't write a note – until he meets Nelly Gold, a factory worker with a talent for tunes and moxie to spare. Mickey and Nelly make beautiful music together until she puts on the trousers she once sewed, calls herself Ned, and becomes the new King of the Pluggers and Mickey's arch-rival. These mismatched young lovers and their unlikely friends sing, dance, bicker, and coo from *Debutante Balls to Delancey Street*, confronting class struggles, social reform, gender-swapping, street-thugs, and a whole lot of ukuleles, as they sell the songs we're still humming a hundred years later.

Dubbed a "new-fashioned musical romance," *Hello! My Baby* both embraces and gently satirizes Broadway and movie musicals, rebooting the songs of Berlin, Gershwin, Kern, and a score of others, smartly weaving these updated hits into

## Youth



Jonathan Dominguez and Ryan Hoyt care about our political future and are doing something about it

## Keeping themselves informed with today's politics

by Brooke Demchuk

It is no secret that Ventura High School is known for having a wide array of clubs, but recently, the school has added an especially impressive one to its long list- VPAC. VPAC stands for Ventura Political Action Club, and was helped to be founded by two junior students, Jonathan Dominguez and Ryan Hoyt. Created with the intent of informing students about the current political issues going on in today's world, this remarkable club has managed to create an accepting atmosphere that ensures that anyone, no matter his or her beliefs, will be able to comfortably participate in discussions and debates while managing to get involved in politics on both a local and national level.

VPAC meets every other Friday during lunch. During these meetings, the club members discuss international current events, recent decisions made in American politics, as well as plans for their latest activities. Towards the end of each meeting, they wrap up with a relevant clip from one of the latest political satire television shows, including *The Colbert Report* and *The Daily Show*.

When asked what the general goal of the club is, Hoyt and Dominguez both unanimously agree that it is to teach teens about the importance of educating oneself about democracy and our country's politics, and how we must always remain as active as possible. As Dominguez states, "Indifference will lead to the death of a democratic society." Hoyt also adds that, "We live in a country where the people's voices determine how this country works, and we can't afford to be silent." Because of this, Dominguez and Hoyt have both been working tirelessly to get teens involved in the running of our country. VPAC even has its own student committee for the Occupy Ventura movement, and members were present at several of the local protests.

The next event on VPAC's agenda will be to register voters for the local elections soon

to take place in Ventura, and to work the polls. Individuals over the age of 16 are able to volunteer, so a significant portion of the club will be participating. While contributing their time and learning more about how the elections work, the VPAC members are also hoping to teach others about the importance of voting, and why everyone who can legally do so, should. According to Dominguez, "We have the ability to speak and use our voices to express our ideas and opinions, we just don't take advantage of it anymore now that it's there." Additionally, VPAC is also trying to encourage other local high schools to begin their own political clubs as well; they wish for more than just Ventura High School students to be active and informed.

Dominguez and Hoyt also state that all of the activities and discussions that VPAC takes part in all boil down to one main objective: enabling teens to make their own opinions, and ensuring that they have the proper information to make educated ones. Dominguez states that, "Too many kids simply listen to their parents' opinions and follow them blindly. More kids need to follow their own paths and form their own beliefs." Hoyt adds that, "We [VPAC] don't just encourage moderate views, we don't want people to just take the middle road; we accept everything. We accept all views, and we highly encourage different and unique ones."

### Music calendar

*Continued from page 16*

Fri 3/23 - Soulamente

Sat 3/24 - Mini Driver

Sun 3/25 - 50 Sticks of Dynamite

Thur 3/29 - Shawn Jones

Fri 3/30 - Soul Machine

Sat 3/31 - The Bomb

### Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment

138 W. Main St., 805-816-9663

Top Notch Musicians and Bands every Fri 8pm

Fri 3/23 - Teresa James

Fri 3/30 - Rob Rio & the Revolvers

### Zoey's Café

185 E. Santa Clara St., 805-652-1137

Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm

Wed 3/21 - The Rubberneck Lions Residency 8pm

Thur 3/22 - Paul Starling and Bearkat 8pm

Fri 3/23 - Jesse Rhodes & Nena Anderson 8pm

Sat 3/24 - Benefit for Harmony Project featuring Chris Pierce 8pm

Tue 3/27 - Blue Grass Jam 8pm

Wed 3/28 - The Rubberneck Lions Residency 8pm

Thur 3/29 - Eugene Ruffolo, Doug Ingoldsby & Jenai Huff 7:30pm

Fri 3/30 - Brothers From Another Mother Tour -Chris Pierce, Shane Alexander 9pm



On March 15 a chalk festival was held on the front sidewalk at Ventura High School to raise money for the visual arts. The event is inspired by the street artists who traveled Italy in the 16-17 centuries creating images of the Madonna.

This group of students from Foothill High School included Mackenzie Lowry, Jane Kufta, Alyssa Chayasing, Arabelle Warren, Isabel Reeder and Madeline Angiano.

And Ventura High Students Jacob Larson and Aleah Feuerborn also applied their artistic skills.

Photo by John Ferrito.

# Art Scene



VUSD student artists from Ventura and Foothill High Schools and their instructors recently took a day off to volunteer their talents to “reset” the drab look of a well-used picnic table outside the Barranca Vista Imagination Center for the arts by repainting it with colorful designs of their own creation. Wheelchair students, parents, picnickers, tutors and students doing homework frequent the table close by the park playground and the center’s dance room.



Her muse is a stickler for accuracy, says Ventura artist Gail Faulkner, which is why her upcoming solo show at the Buenaventura Gallery is titled “Every Little Detail.”

Faulkner paints crisp watercolor still life that she composes from the fruits of nature and her own eclectic collection of baskets and other containers. Examples of her meticulous work will be on display March 27-April 21 at the downtown Ventura gallery. An opening reception will be 4-7 p.m. March 31. Capturing minute details and rendering light and shadow are favorite parts of her creative process. Buenaventura Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara St. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, visit their website at [www.Buenaventura-Gallery.org](http://www.Buenaventura-Gallery.org).



Artists Union Gallery presents *Guerillas on the Edge*, a multi-media exhibit from March 24 through April 29.

As artists we observe the world around us and communicate to others so that we can do our part to make a better world.

Tuesday Night Poetry every Tuesday at 7:30pm hosted by Phil Taggart. Gallery hours: Fri. & Sat. 12-8pm & Sun. 12 to 6pm.

Artists Union Gallery, 330 South California Street Plaza. [www.VenturaArtistsUnion.org](http://www.VenturaArtistsUnion.org)



## Wild Whimsical World of pottery

Ceramic artists Kim Clarke and Cecile Evanthis have in common a sense of whimsy in their work. Kim creates a world of figures which morph from tiny people to animals to birds who are all engaged in a myriad of activities which tell their stories. Cecile creates a world of masks expressing beauty and disguise. Each artist explores color and texture incorporating whatever inspires them from flowers to snakes, to boats, to feathers. Observing their work, you can imagine your own story of what’s going on as the image is trapped in time.

The Ventura County Potter’s Guild Gallery features Kim and Cecile in their show entitled Wild Whimsical World through May 6 with a special reception for the artists on April 7 from 3 to 6 PM at the Ventura County Potter’s Guild Gallery in the Ventura Harbor Village at 1583 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105 across from the Carousel.

Both Kim and Cecile find the most rewarding part of their creativity is seeing their patrons interact with their art, creating their own stories. So join us at the reception April 7 to see where your imagination can lead!

For more information, call 985-5038.

## Art scholarships

Red Brick Art Scholarships represents Red Brick Gallery’s newest project to give back to the community with art scholarships for underprivileged kids and teens. A portion of the proceeds from each artist reception will go to providing supplies for a series of free art classes for kids 7-17, bringing art to kids who truly need an avenue to express themselves. The first group of students is from the Kingdom Center, classes will start this month for them, and Red Brick Gallery is reaching out to all underprivileged children and young adults who might not have access to other art programs with these free classes.

Red Brick is providing several beginning classes to younger kids teaching them the fundamentals of art in a variety of mediums. The older students who already have some art experience are able to hone their skills with direction by professional artists.

The girls at Red Brick Gallery are asking for others to share in the magic of bringing art to local children in need. Art is powerful, healing and it helps all children in so many ways. This small contribution to their lives will help make their world a nicer place today and will help them to create a brighter future for themselves by empowering them through their artistic expression.

This will make Ventura a better place for all, if you know someone who would be a good candidate for this program or if you

would like to help with supply fees or other aspects of the project please contact Jen and Phyllis at Red Brick Gallery 643-6400 or [info@redbrickart.com](mailto:info@redbrickart.com).

## New services available

Looking for affordable health insurance? Thinking about legal liability? Want to learn new skills to advance your organization? Fractured Atlas is an arts service organization in New York with a national reach that provides access to health insurance, liability insurance, online courses, an events calendar, and special offers and discounts to artists and arts organizations. Because the California Arts Council is now partnering with Fractured Atlas, California artists, arts organizations and their staffs have access to an array of free and discounted services to help make their personal and professional lives easier...and maybe cheaper! Sign up is free. Do it by March 31 at [www.fracturedatlas.org/caarts](http://www.fracturedatlas.org/caarts) to become a California member under the auspices of the Arts Council.

Beside the benefits listed above, outside of this offer Fractured Atlas can serve as a fiscal sponsor as well. See more info about all the benefits at [www.fracturedatlas.org](http://www.fracturedatlas.org)

## Call for entries

Buenaventura Art Association and Community Memorial Hospital Exhibits announce a “Call for Entries” for an exhibit at Community Memorial Hospital lobby. The exhibit will run from April 1 – June 10. The awards ceremony will be on Tuesday, April 3 from 5 – 7 p.m. Cash award of \$100 for 1st place in each category (i.e. middle school, high school, etc.) as well as art classes from Vita Art Center, Maribel Hernandez, Michele Foster and memberships from Buenaventura Art Association. In addition, a special exhibit from Focus on the Masters Learning to See Program will feature Shibori banners from elementary school children.

Entry is free and online only. Go to Buenaventura Art Association’s website at [www.BuenaventuraGallery.org](http://www.BuenaventuraGallery.org) and look under call for entries. Deadline Wednesday, March 28 at midnight. Due to safety reasons, all work must be framed and wired for hanging (no saw-tooth hangers). A limited number of free frames are available at the Harbor Village Gallery (in the Ventura Harbor Village), the Buenaventura Gallery (700 E Santa Clara St. in Ventura) and Vita Art Center (in the Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave.).

This event is sponsored by Buenaventura Art Association, Vita Art Center, and Community Memorial Hospital.



## Unfolding art of 12 women

For the past seven seasons art has been an integral component of the Ventura Music Festival. Artists are selected each year to create works for display in local venues preceding the spring concert season. The works are then auctioned at the spring fundraiser. Proceeds assist the Festival’s mission to bring the world’s best music to our community and promote music education in area schools and youth organizations.

This year’s art exhibition “Visions on Screen: Unfolding Art of 12 Women,” features twelve original works of art, each crafted by a local female artist on a 3-paneled, 5 ½ foot canvas or silk screen. This distinct and beautiful collection will be on display in local venues until the collection is auctioned at “An Evening of Note”, the Festival’s spring fundraiser, to be held on March 31st at the Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor.

An extraordinary fact is that these twelve women have generously donated their talent and work in support of the Festival.

The attire is chic and sassy; flapper duds and fedoras optional.

Cocktails and hors d’ourves at 5:30 p.m. followed by gourmet dinner at 7:00 p.m. Coda, a jazz trio, will play throughout the evening.

For display locations of the works of art until the auction: <http://www.venturamusicfestival.org/art.html>

Bidding may be done at the event or by absentee or by proxy until March 29 by filling out the form at this link [http://www.venturamusicfestival.org/images/art\\_Absentee\\_Proxy\\_Bid\\_Form.pdf](http://www.venturamusicfestival.org/images/art_Absentee_Proxy_Bid_Form.pdf)

RSVP by March 23 at 648-3146 or click on the link: <http://www.venturamusicfestival.org/eveningnote.html>.

# Youth Boys & Girls Club of Ventura events

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura will hold their 7th Annual "Power of One" breakfast, Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 AM at the Wedgewood Wedding and Banquet Center, 5880 Olivas Park Dr. Benefactor sponsors are Fashion Forms, Sheeler Moving & Storage and E. J. Harrison & Sons, Inc. CAPS-TV and crew will be on location to videotape the event.

Stanley Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools, will be the Master of Ceremonies and moderate a panel of Club teens.

The "Power of One" breakfast is a yearly event held during National Boys & Girls Clubs week. During this week over 4,000 Boys & Girls Clubs with millions of members are recognized for their vital contributions to helping build strong local communities.

The Board and the professional staff at the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's five centers in Ventura, Oak View and Saticoy are dedicated to providing a safe, positive after-school and summertime place for the community's youth (6-18 years of age).

A recent study by California

Lutheran University confirmed for every \$1 spent by the Club \$11.72 of positive economic impact is generated in the community (a 1072% ROI). The study measured the money saved by investing in children early so they will become the healthy, well-balanced adults and leaders of the future.

It costs \$70,000 a year to incarcerate a prisoner and \$600 a year to keep a young person safe, encouraged and surrounded by positive opportunities at the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura.

Please attend the "Power of One" breakfast, meet the teens and restore your faith in the leaders of tomorrow. For additional information, to register for the breakfast or to make a donation call 641-5585 or contact Leilani Schlick at leilani@bgclubventura.org. Check their website at www.bgclubventura.org for on-going Club activities and updates.

Also the Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. is hosting a benefit for the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura, March 31, 2011 7:00 PM at the Ventura Harbor Comedy Club.

The ticket price is \$20.00 and only 200 seats are available for the "Night of Comedy" performance. 50% of the ticket sales will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura. You must be 21 or older to attend the performance. The doors open at 6:15 PM and it is advised to arrive early. To purchase tickets contact Julie Foster (DFA) jfoster@dfamilk.com between 1-4 PM or leave a message after 5:00 PM at 628-1504.

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