



MVCC NEWSLETTER

December 2010, Volume 13, Issue 11

Published Monthly Free by the Midtown Ventura Community Council

PO Box 1041, Ventura, CA 93002



Upgrade and Renovation Pacific View Mall. New Trader Joes, Bevmo, and more.

Photo: Kurt Preissler

Letter from the Chair

By David Ferrin

At our November general meeting Homeless & Poverty Awareness Month was recognized with an engaging speaker, Councilmember Neal Andrews, who shared eye-opening information and statistics on homelessness in Ventura, including new information from the recent census.

- The approximate number of homeless in Ventura is 601.
- 90% of them are US citizens and 85% are native to Ventura.
- In the last two years the number of people below the poverty line has doubled.
- About 16% of homeless are children, 33% women, 28% military veterans, and 24% are addicts and/or are involved in criminal activity.
- 80% of homeless people don't want to be, 50% are employed, and 30% are mentally ill or have substance abuse problems.

Neal discussed events taking place this month including the 3rd Annual One City, One Meal Thanksgiving celebration on Thursday, November 25th, where individuals and families are invited to share a free meal with homeless persons. Neal also addressed several issues such as the Safe Sleep program, State Senate Bill SB2 and the Homeless Prevention Fund. I commend Neal, John Jones, our Corresponding Secretary who is also chair of the Ventura Social Services Task Force, and all of those dedicated to solving the homelessness problem. Visit the Ventura Social Services Task Force website www.vsstf.org or Ventura County Homeless & Housing Coalition website www.vchhc.org for more information. Donations for the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund can be made online at www.vhpf.net.

Susan Everett representing the Mutt Mitt Program was present to show a Power-Point and to discuss the budget cut challenges the program has faced. The Mutt

Mitt program is important to our entire community as pet waste is a significant contributor to bacterial contamination in ocean water after a storm. The biodegradable bags that the stations provide encourage dog owners to pick-up after their dogs to keep our parks clean. Susan thanked the MVCC for being a Green Hero Mutt Mitt Station sponsor at Cemetery Park. If you would like to help keep our parks and oceans clean, please send a sponsorship donation check to MVCC at P.O. Box 1041, Ventura, CA 93002 and write "Mutt Mitt program" in the memo section of your check. We will compile what we collect and sponsor additional Midtown sites. In the event that we don't collect enough money for the \$600 Green Hero sponsorships, we will make a general donation of the total amount collected. Donations to the MVCC are tax deductible.

On Saturday, December 4, from 8-10 am the Midtown Ventura Community Council will be sponsoring a Midtown clean-up day. We will be meeting at the city parking lot on S. Katherine Drive (between Main Street & Thompson Blvd) behind the Pizza Hut on Thompson Boulevard. We are looking for volun-

TAKE PRIDE IN MIDTOWN

Our Mission: Preservation, enhancement and revitalization of Midtown Ventura



Seasons Greeting

Join us for a small bite and warm drink of our last meeting for the year.

Thursday December 9, 7:00 p.m. Cooper Hall at Grace Church, 65 South Mac Millan Avenue

Guest: Cynthia Thompson presenting:

"A Place for All Time, The History of the People at the Ivy Lawn Memorial Park"

teers to help clean-up the sidewalks, tree wells, and parking lots in the Five Points area. Clean-up tools and supplies will be provided by the city so volunteers need only bring themselves. Volunteers can contact me by phone or email for more information.

Please join us next month for our Holiday Gathering on Thursday, December 9 at our normal meeting place, Cooper Hall adjacent to Grace Church, at 65 MacMillan Avenue. The gathering will include free food from local Midtown restaurants, Dan Long's hot apple cider. Cynthia Thompson, one of the founding members of the San Buenaventura Conservancy, will be giving us an interest-

ing presentation called "A Place for All Time, The History of the People at the Ivy Lawn Memorial Park". Her PowerPoint presentation will cover the History of United States Cemeteries; Creation of Ivy Lawn Cemetery, its architecture, iconography and symbolism. She will also talk about the people interned there and how they shaped our history, present and future.

Green Tip for the Holidays:

Christine Wied,
Environmenta Services Specialist
City of Ventura

It is estimated that an extra million tons of waste each week is generated between Thanksgiving and New Years. With a little thought and planning, you can make your holidays a little "greener" and less wasteful.



- Instead of more "stuff" give gift certificates, tickets, memberships, services, or make a donation to a favorite charity in someone's name.
- Consider consumable gifts.
- How about a compost or worm bin for the garden enthusiast?
- Wrap gifts in reusable paper or cloth bags or be creative and use hand towels, napkins, maps, kraft paper, newspaper or old posters.
- Reusable cloth bags that fold into small packets to keep in the car or a purse make great stocking stuffers.
- When doing holiday shopping, take reusable bags with you. They are sturdier and less wasteful.
- Return plastic grocery bags to the store for recycling.
- Use LED holiday lights for safety and energy savings.
- For parties and large gatherings, rent dinnerware instead of using disposables. Remember paper plates and cups are NOT recyclable.
- Recycle aluminum, glass and plastic containers, metal cans, food boxes, cardboard, gift wrap (except foil or cellophane), gift boxes, greeting

Santa Visits help the Homeless

By Dan Long



With the Holiday Season already here and at a time when so many more people are struggling to get by and to try to keep a festive spirit this might be a great way to do both. For \$50 a professional Santa, who has been the Ventura Holiday Street Fair Santa for many years, will come to your house for a special visit. The photos you take will last a lifetime as well as making great Christmas cards to send to friends and family. The money raised will go to the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund, our nationally recognized program which provides a one time temporary assistance to help families from becoming homeless. This very successful program is now a model of what works in helping citizens in every community.

If you would like to schedule a visit, Dan Long is coordinating Santa's schedule and you can call him at 653-6573 or e-mail at sandmand@pacbell.net .

MVCC Contacts:

David Ferrin, Chair: 653-5088

Pamela Hazard, Vice Chair: 570-7423

Karen Flock, Treasurer: 407-2716

John Jones, Corresponding Secretary: 628-2520

Nora Paulson, Secretary: 677-7300

Dan Long, Historic Chair: 653-6573

Jerome Holt, Community Pride: 453-8513

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uring

Millian Avenue

Park"



cards (no musical ones) and catalogs. (No Styrofoam, shrink-wrap or plastic bags please.)

- Be sure to flatten boxes before putting them in your recycling container to maximize the space.
- Take boxes and packing material to local mail centers for reuse.
- Plan meals carefully to avoid excessive leftovers or send food packs home with your guests.
- Put out a recycling container next to the trash container for holiday parties for your guests to use.
- Recycle your Christmas tree in the yard waste cart after removing all decorations and the stand. Cut into four-foot sections to fit into the cart. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.

Have a Happy Green Holiday Season!

Report News, Developments

The MVCC Newsletter Committee would like to be informed of our community activities. We would like to hear stories about new businesses, construction projects and landscaping and general things people like yourself our doing to make our community better. Let everyone in the community have a chance to applaud your activities.

Please send information to:

Kurt Preissler,
263 South Pacific Avenue,
Ventura, CA 93001 or
kp@preissler.net

Holiday Clean-up

Help Clean-up Midtown for the Holiday Season



Saturday, December 4, 2010
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Nothing looks better than a clean house during Christmas & the Holidays.

The Holidays is the time of the year when we invite our best friends to our homes to share & celebrate the cheers of the seasons. Now why can't we clean our town the same way we clean our homes. The MVCC is taking the initiative to start cleaning house for the holidays and we are going to try keep it tidy for all other times thereafter.

On December 4 we will have our first house / street cleaning. We will clean a section of Midtown near 5 points.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with this initiative. We will clean between the hours of 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. So if you have time, pride and would like to help clean-up our town for the holidays, call: 643-5902.



MVCC

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Next Meeting:

**Thursday,
December 9, 2010,
7:00 p.m.**

Cooper Hall at Grace Church
65 South Mac Millian Avenue

TO:

Agenda:

Annual Holiday Gathering with free food from local Midtown restaurants & hot apple cider.

Guest: Cynthia Thompson presenting "A Place for All Time, The History of the People at the Ivy Lawn Memorial Park"



Join the Midtown Ventura Community Council Today

Members, Detach Form and Give to a Neighbor or Friend

Please print clearly and mail to address provided on right.

New Member Current Member

Resident Property Owner Home Owner

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I am interested in working with the following committees:

Community Pride Historical Newsletter



MVCC

PO Box 1041
Ventura, CA 93002

Joining the MVCC is free. A donation of \$10.00 is requested for the newsletter. You may also make a contribution to any committee or a walking tour brochure:

Newsletter	\$	10.00
Business Spotlight:		50.00
Committee Donation:		_____
Corporate Sponsor:		_____

Midtown Ventura Historic Walking Tour Brochure		5.00
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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

