



MVCC NEWSLETTER

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PO Box 1041, Ventura, CA 93002



New Fresh & Easy Food Store on East Thompson Blvd.

Photo: Kurt Preissler

Letter from the Chair

By David Ferrin

Happy 2011 to all of you as we kick-off a new year of appreciation for living/working in our much-loved Midtown community! I commend our volunteers that care for our community by engaging in ways to improve it and participate in the unique activities that living here affords us. On January 26 I attended the Volunteer Summit at City Hall and am amazed at how much volunteer energy we have in Ventura (city and county) and how much I still have to learn about being an effective volunteer. We also have some wonderful leadership in our city and regionally. All of the speakers at the event are local! I commend Mayor Fulton and city staff for recognizing the benefit of bringing volunteers

together to celebrate, educate and raise awareness of the benefits of volunteerism. At the summit a goal was set to add 200 volunteers citywide this year so, if you aren't already actively involved, I encourage you to look for opportunities to contribute to any group in positive, even small, ways that interest you. Please let me know if you do because we'd like to know! The city is asking for ideas of where, when and how to have a volunteer fair (or series) so if you have any thoughts about what would interest people, especially young people, let me know.

On December 9th we wrapped up the year with our annual Holiday Gathering featuring food from local Midtown restaurants and a great presentation by Cynthia Thompson called "A Place for All Time, The History of the People at the Ivy

Lawn Memorial Park". Cynthia was awarded 2010 "Volunteer of the Year" by the MVCC at the meeting. On December 4th we had a very successful Midtown clean-up day at the city parking lot on S. Katherine Drive between Main Street & Thompson Blvd.

The MVCC sponsored Green Hero Mutt Mitt Station at Cemetery Park should be installed around February 11. If you haven't heard, the Mutt Mitt Stations provide bio-degradable bags encourage dog owners to pick-up after their pets to keep our parks clean. Without use of the bags, pet waste is a significant contributor to bacterial contamination in ocean water after a storm. 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

Our Mission: Preservation, enhancement and revitalization of Midtown Ventura

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.

The Midtown Ventura Community Council (MVCC) will hold its annual elections at our next general meeting on Thursday, February 10, at 7 p.m. All members are asked to turn out to vote. Our annual election for officers includes Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. (Details of each office and membership can be found on our website). To be eligible to vote, or to run for an office, you must be a Midtown member and have attended at least one meeting in the previous year. Candidates may be nominated from the floor at the meeting and must be present to accept the nomination. The current slate of officers are willing to run but other Midtown members that are interested are encouraged to consider being nominated from the floor at the meeting.



Tidying-up Midtown, Saturday, December 4, 2010

Our first guest of the year features City Manager, Rick Cole. He'll speak on the state's budget crisis. We are also planning to get the update on the schedule/status of the street improvements above the high school.

Tidying-Up Midtown

by Kurt Preissler

A mission accomplished. Our first "Tidying-Up" Midtown event successfully cleaned the parking lot between Hartman Dr., S. Katherine Dr., E. Thompson Blvd. and E. Main Street on Saturday, December 4. We were not sure how many people would come out for this event or would be able to assist. In the beginning, we had commitments from 10 individuals on Thursday, December 2, within thirty minutes of our setup that number exploded to over 40.

We were assisted by the city which provided buckets, rakes, shovels, gloves, paper pickup sticks and a hand namely, City Councilmember Christy Weir; students trying to obtain civic points; and general town folk. We were amazed how much trash was sitting on the site. Our first

expectation, we envisioned it would be a "walk in the park." We expected to use only 4 to 6 large yard bags, and be wrap up within an hour. To our amazement, we collected over 30 bags of waste and used the entire two hours we had allocated for the clean-up. Most of the waste was camouflaged under leaf blankets and other natural debris.

Two volunteers assisted with providing large pick-up trucks to aid to remove car parts, large stems and palm leaves. Dr. Tracy Cook of Grace Baptist Church brought over 15 volunteers and then provided the entire group of volunteers brunch of delicious quiche, fruit and beverages at the church afterwards.

It might be said: Tidying up Midtown had two rewards: A cleaner Midtown and a great meal.

We look forward to continue these "Tidying-Up" events in the future. At this point of time, we plan another event to happen in the late spring after the rains. For additional information on how you may help or when the next event will occur, please contact Kurt Preissler: 643-5902.

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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Preissler Media Services

"Print states a few words, A picture a thousand; While a video provides millions... Let's expose your organization"

643-5902



www.midtownventura.org

A December to Remember

By Dan Long

Our get together in December was a real treat for the eyes, ears and palette. Cynthia Thompson, longtime board member of The San Buenaventura Conservancy, gave a very interesting presentation she calls, "A Place for All Time, the History of the People at the Ivy Lawn Memorial Park". She covered a lot of ground, literally. One fact was that in crowded cities around the turn of the century, cemeteries served as a place for families to gather, have picnics and spend time in the serenity of the landscaped areas around the cemetery. That helped launch a new movement of more green space at cemeteries throughout the country. Cynthia also spoke about the significance of the architecture, the iconography and symbolism of headstones, mausoleums and Ivy Lawn's important role in our local history. Of course so many of our early pioneer families are interned there whose names you see throughout the county on street signs parks and public buildings.

We surprised Cynthia with our Midtown citizen of the year award for her dedication and passion for our community. The plaque was inscribed with "Volunteer of the Year". I believe that, while we may not have as many 400 year old buildings as the East coast has, if we don't save the significant structures that still exist today, we will never have those cherished linkages to our ancestors. This has been Cynthia's cause for a long time and we thank her for it.

The night was also filled with great food from local Midtown restaurants. Tim Kilcoyne, Chef/Owner of the Sidecar Restaurant, made us a huge tray of some of the best Lasagna I've ever had made with grass feed beef from Ojai. He also made some wonderful Roast Beet Salad and I believe he charged us just for the ingredients, giving us a huge break. (NOTE: Tim has just opened The

Local Cafe where Cooke's Smokehouse was located in Midtown specializing in eat there or take home meals as well as wood fired gourmet pizzas). We also had Mai's delicious Spring Rolls that were a big hit and she too gave us a great deal. We ordered Chicken, Pork and Sweet Tamales from Casa de Soria that were fabulous and so fitting for the Holidays. We had very decadent chocolate Brownies from Shamsi's to top off the international menu along with our Hot Spiced Apple Cider. Grace Church's Cooper Hall was decorated for the evening with wonderful poinsettias from Ashwood on Main Florist, owner Gina giving us a great deal for our group. Needless to say it was a wonderful way to relax in the otherwise hectic season and if you missed this party, make a point to attend next year.

On another Holiday note; we will have heirloom poinsettia cuttings available for free with instructions how to plant at our March meeting. They are beautiful and start blooming in a short time and help us to live up to our historic San Buenaventura motto, "The Poinsettia City by the Sea".

Start 2011 a little lighteron the environment

by *Christine Wied*
Environmental Services Specialist
City of Ventura

Try the three R's to Live A More Environmentally Friendly Lifestyle

Reduce

- Set printers and copiers to print double-sided if possible. Think before you print.... can I keep this information electronically?
- Save money without spending a dime. Unplug electronic equipment when not in use; turn off lights; walk instead of drive; lower the thermostat and wear an extra sweater.

- Reduce your water usage by repairing any leaking faucets. Install low-flow shower-heads and faucets aerators. While waiting for your shower water to warm up, collect and use it to water plants.

Reuse

- One person's trash is another's treasure. Pass along items you no longer need to charitable organizations or www.freecycle.org for reuse. Reusing means less waste, less landfills use, and eventually less energy spent on the production of a lot of new stuff.
- Paper or plastic? Say "no thanks"; I've brought my own reusable bags!
- Start a compost or worm bin, and reuse those old food scraps to fertilize your garden. Contact the City of Ventura Environmental Services Office at 652-4525 for a discount coupon for a new bin.

Recycle

- Take your old electronic devices to Gold Coast Recycling, 5275 Colt Street (no charge but bring proof of residency.)
- Clean out the garage and cabinets and get rid of Household Hazardous Wastes at the City's HHW collection event (third Saturday each month.) Call 652-4525 to make an appointment.
- Buy products made with recycled material. Look for the highest percentage of "post consumer" content.

Know all the items that can be recycled in Ventura. For a list see the back of your Harrison bill or download a flyer from the City's Environmental Services webpage, www.cityofventura.net/pw/es/resrecycling.

Have a Happy "Green" New Year!



Midtown Ventura Community Council

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Ventura, CA 93002-1041

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Next Meeting:

**Thursday,
February 10, 2010,
7:00 p.m.**

Cooper Hall at Grace Church
65 South Mac Millian Avenue

TO:

Agenda:

Ventura City Manager Rick Cole
will speak about the state's budget
crisis.

MVCC Annual Officer Elections

City update on street improve-
ments above the high school



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 \$ _____

