



MVCC NEWSLETTER

October 2011, Volume 14, Issue 9

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PO Box 1041, Ventura, CA 93002

2011 CANDIDATE FORUM

OCTOBER 13TH, 7 P.M.

COOPER HALL, GRACE CHURCH
65 SOUTH MACMILLAN AVENUE
VENTURA

The Midtown Ventura and the College Area Community Councils invite you to come and hear the 2011 Ventura City Council candidates express their views on how Ventura should be managed and guided. Learn more about each of the candidates' backgrounds and interests. Observe them in a public setting.

Letter from the Chair

by David Ferrin

At our September general meeting Elaine Preston of the City Clerks' office discussed the upcoming November 8 City Council election. There are eleven candidates seeking three council seats including two incumbents. Ten of the candidates have made written statements that can be viewed on the city's website.

The Midtown Ventura Community Council and the College Area Community Council would like to invite you to our Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 13 at 7pm, Cooper Hall at Grace Church, 65 South Macmillan Avenue. Each city council candidate will have 5 minutes to speak about whatever they wish. There will be no questions from the audience during the

forum. Each community council has asked the candidates to answer two questions in writing in advance of the event.

MVCC Questions:

1. Do you agree with the type and density goals set forth in the Housing Element submitted to the state as it applies to development along Midtown's main corridors?
2. If you could change one City Council decision involving funding, what is it and what would you have proposed as an alternate solution including the funding source?

College Area Community Council Questions:

1. Ventura spends \$17 per capita annually on the library services, the least of any city

in the county. What is your opinion of the Library Strategic Plan and the results of the city-sponsored survey, and if you believe Ventura should increase financial support for its libraries, how would you raise the funds?

2. Given that the city has already made major reductions in its budget, staffing and pensions and would probably face further spending cuts, please specifically state the first, second, and third areas you would cut and why?

Any answers we receive from the candidates will be posted to our website after the Forum.

The candidates for City Council are:

Edmund M. Alamillo
Martin A. Armstrong
Melody J. Baker
Carla J. Bonney

Our Mission: Preservation, enhancement and revitalization of Midtown Ventura

Daniel E. Carrillo
 Kenneth M. Cozzens
 Cheryl Heitmann
 William M. Knox
 Carl E. Morehouse
 Brian Lee Rencher
 Christy A. Weir

The MVCC respectfully requests of the candidates that temporary election signs not be placed in the curbside parkways of our community and that all other signs be removed by the end of the day after the election.

The second topic covered at our September meeting was the Ventura Water Efficiency Program and the Pending Santa Clara River Estuary Settlement, presented by Ventura Water General Manager Shana Epstein. Ventura Water and public interest groups are protecting the Santa Clara River Estuary with a pending settlement that includes:
 * a goal to divert at least 50 percent and up to 100 percent of tertiary treated water from direct discharge to the Estuary to reclaimed water uses and to send all tertiary treated water not reclaimed through a treatment wetland designed to further treat the effluent.
 * creation of a process and schedule to determine how much tertiary treated water can be diverted to reclaimed uses and

how much can be discharged through the treatment wetland.
 * creation of a technical process and schedule to select a preferred infrastructure alternative(s) to divert more water to reclaimed uses and treatment wetlands.
 * commitment to design, environmental review, permit and construct the diversion infrastructure by 2025, commitments to establish a budget and obtain funding sources to implement the diversion infrastructure by 2025, and to create a more solid and integrated working relationship amongst the environmental community and Ventura Water.

Components of the Water Efficiency Plan examine changes that improve operational management practices, address the water and usage of all customers including residential, commercial, industrial and institutional, retention of storm water, raising public awareness and expanded use of recycled water. Ventura Water encourages low-impact development that includes capturing rainwater for on-site use, permeable surfaces to keep as much rainwater as possible on each property, and reduced outdoor usage.

On a third topic we previewed a new three story mixed-use project at 2170 Main Street that features three residential units on the upper two levels and commercial space on the first floor. This is the old "Café Scoop" site where a previous design of similar height covered the full length of the Main Street Frontage. The proposed project occupies only the west corner of the block and is to be expanded to the east in phases over time. The MVCC members in attendance completed the MVCC Environmental Design Checklist and submitted the results to the applicant and city planning for their use.

On the morning of Saturday November 5th a Neighborhood Summit will take place to bring together all of Ventura's community groups to share ideas and to learn methods of being more effective and expanding their influence. Some of the topics that will be covered are strategies for engaging neighborhood residents and business owners, how to find and apply for grant funding opportunities, organizing for emergency preparedness, and methods for creating a vision for your neighborhood. All residents and business owners desiring to have a voice and affect positive change in their communities are encouraged to attend. The exact time and location will soon be announced.

MVCC Goals for Ventura's 150th Anniversary

Create a new Midtown community park

In September members of the MVCC met with the city staff including City Engineer Joe McDermott and Ray Olsen of the Environmental Services Division at the Midtown Commons Park site to discuss the possibility of using grant funds designated for a "Green Streets" demonstration project on both streets bordering the city parking lot, S. Katherine Drive and Hartman Drive. The Green Streets project would involve beautification of the parkways bordering the sidewalks and the parking lanes by incorporating plants and introducing permeable paving that allows storm water to percolate into the ground rather than into storm drainage system that sends polluted water directly to the ocean. The MVCC is in the process of reaching out to the neighbors and businesses in the area to get feedback on both the Green Streets project and the landscape improvements to the existing parking lot. Look for new design updates on our website and/or Facebook page in the coming months.

Make improvements to at least one Midtown school per year

Our Blanche Reynolds School improvements are nearly complete. As the final details such as repairing the playground chimes and repainting the Chumash figures are being worked-out, we are looking for another Midtown school in need of our help next year. We are still accepting donations to help pay for our next project. If you are able to contribute, even small amounts make a difference.

Midtown clean-up event

Our next cleanup event is on Saturday December 3rd from 9 to 11 am. We will meet on Main Street at Five Points and head west down main street toward Seaward Ave. Supplies will be provided by the City of Ventura. Please join us in tidying up a portion of Midtown!

If you can provide your time, expertise, leadership or donations in support of any of the above goals please contact any MVCC board member, and tell a friend or neighbor about what we are doing to improve the community. The 150th anniversary of the City of Ventura's incorporation is on April 2, 2016.

MVCC Contacts:

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 Pamela Hazard, Vice Chair: 570-7423
 Karen Flock, Treasurer: 407-2716
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 Nora Paulson, Secretary: 677-7300
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 Jerome Holt, Community Pride: 453-8513

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643-5902



www.midtownventura.org



Recent Midtown Developments: Dragonchuk Security has renovated and moved into the old Puretec Water Building at 2171 Thompson Blvd.

Photo:
Kurt Preissler

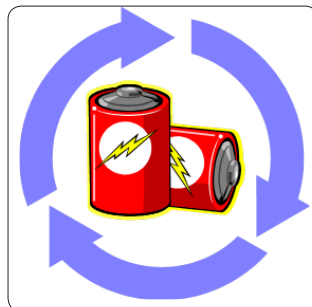
Green Tip For October 2011

Although batteries, both single use and rechargeable have been banned from landfills in California since February 8, 2006, there are still some people who do not realize or who have forgotten that they cannot go in the trash. Batteries are considered hazardous because of the metals and/or other toxic and corrosive materials they contain. The ban is for **all** batteries including AAA through D, button batteries that are used in such things as watches, hearing aids, and calculators as well as car batteries. Although it is tempting to just toss those two AA's in the trash basket, we hope people will remember to handle this material responsibly. If everyone threw away just one battery a year, with the three billion that are purchased annually in America, the potential for land and groundwater pollution is very high. The good news is that batteries can be safely disposed and ultimately will be recycled if placed in one of the battery tubes at City Hall, the lobby at the Maintenance Facility at 336 Sanjon Road, the front lobby of the Police/Fire Headquarters on Dowell or taken to Gold Coast Recycling 5275 Colt Street.

On the third Saturday of the month, the

City sponsors a [Hazardous Waste Collection Event](http://www.cityofventura.net/HHW), (see www.cityofventura.net/HHW) held at Gold Coast Recycling. It is free for all City of Ventura residents. Batteries are accepted at the event along with aerosol cans, pesticides, paint, motor oil and filters as well as other automotive fluids, household cleaners, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs. Call the City of Ventura's Environmental Sustainability Division at 652-4525 Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to make an appointment. It's fast and easy to do. So please for your health and safety and that of our community, please keep all batteries out of the trash.

Christine Wied, Environmental Specialist, cwied@ci.ventura.ca.us



A MISSION STATEMENT!

Historic San Buenaventura Mission District Architectural Tour

Step into the never before seen Rectory at the rear of the Mission Garden is a untouched example of 1920's Spanish revival architecture with stenciled beams and inlaid tiles around the fireplaces, designed by famed architect Harrold Burkett, the rectory is a must see. In contrast we're re-opening the most popular site on the 2009 Upstairs Downtown Tour – the Washington Hotel next to the Mission. Frozen in the 1930's with 20 bedrooms and only two small bathrooms down the hall, this working-class Hotel was boarded up fifty years ago and forgotten as dusty storage... Some of the other historic spaces include the Holy Cross Schoolhouse with original classrooms, auditorium and gym, plus newly restored and exhibited sacred spaces in the chapel.



Midtown Ventura Community Council

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Ventura, CA 93002-1041

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Next Meeting:

October 13, 7:00 p.m.

Cooper Hall at Grace Church
65 South Macmillan Avenue

Agenda:

**Ventura City Council
Candidate Forum**

Presented by the MVCC and
College Area Community
Council.

TO:



Midtown Ventura Community Council
is now on Facebook.



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 \$ _____