

NOVEMBER 2023  
SUPERVISOR

**Matt LaVere**

**Ventura County Supervisor District 1**



## Welcome to the District One Newsletter

On November 2nd the County held our 150th anniversary and State of the County event at the beautiful Reagan Presidential Library. It was an honor to join County CEO Dr. Sevet Johnson in providing remarks to a sold-out room.

Our presentation touched on the future of the County of Ventura and the current strategic priorities of the Board of Supervisors. Some of the highlights include:

- The County is fiscally healthy, has strong financial reserves and our retirement system is 97% funded (among the highest in the State).
- We are the safest large county in California, and we are continuing to invest in our public safety departments.
- Ventura County is ranked high in innovation and has diverse industries creating quality, high-paying jobs.
- We are prioritizing economic development initiatives to foster more business growth and job expansion.
- Despite the hard work of so many, homelessness continues to be a challenge and we are focused on new initiatives to house these individuals and provide necessary services, clean up encampments, and reduce vagrancy.
- Fentanyl is creating devastating impacts in Ventura County and we are working closely with law enforcement, education leaders, public health, and behavioral health to address it. We are also about to launch the first inpatient medical detox program in the entire county at VCMC.

Visit <https://stateofthecounty.ventura.org/> to view the State of the County presentation.



## County of Ventura Medical Center PICU Celebrates Halloween



It was a special morning at VCMC as superheroes descended from the roof to bring Halloween cheer to children at the hospital's pediatric unit and pediatric intensive care unit.

A huge thanks to the firefighters from Ventura County, the City of Ventura, the City of Oxnard, and the Ventura County Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team who donned costumes, rappelled from the roof, and visited with pediatric patients and their parents while handing out coloring books, play packs and small gifts for the children. Our first responder heroes really brought some smiles to the faces of these incredibly brave kids and their families.

## Upcoming Community Meetings:

Ojai Valley  
Municipal Advisory Council  
Monday, November 27, 2023  
- 7:00pm  
Oak View Community Center  
- Kunkle Room  
18 Valley Rd., Oak View

Sign up for meeting agenda notifications:  
[ovmac@ventura.org](mailto:ovmac@ventura.org)

Oak View  
Advisory Commission  
DARK in December, 2023  
Oak View Community Center  
- Kunkle Room  
18 Valley Rd., Oak View

Sign up for meeting agenda notifications:  
[oakviewadvisorycommission@ventura.org](mailto:oakviewadvisorycommission@ventura.org)

Saticoy  
Municipal Advisory Council  
DARK in December, 2023  
Jose Flores Community Center,  
11168 Violeta St., Ventura

Sign up for meeting agenda notifications:  
[saticoymac@ventura.org](mailto:saticoymac@ventura.org)

# District 1 Updates

## Ventura County Receives Critical Funding to Address Public Safety Issues

The Board of Supervisors is committed to keeping Ventura County the safest large county in California. Through our strong partnerships with District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and Sheriff Jim Fryhoff, the County recently received the following funding to address critical public safety issues:

- \$18 million to fund 11 new positions in the District Attorney's and Sheriff's office to investigate, prosecute and prevent organized retail thefts.
- \$2.5 million (in addition to the \$2.5 million we already received) to support our Ventura County Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. The funding will help us reduce the backlog of untested sexual assault kits and re-test old kits using the latest technology. This will help us arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of these awful crimes.
- \$385,000 to hire a fixed-term forensic scientist, thereby reducing the number of items awaiting analysis. This will ultimately help us solve crimes and thereby help to increase public safety. The objective is to decrease the backlog and the turnaround time for processing, recording, screening, and analyzing controlled substance evidence. This is especially helpful as we are fully committed to prosecuting those bringing and selling fentanyl in Ventura County.



## Fallen Firefighters Remembered at Ventura County Government Center Memorial

The County hosted the annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial remembrance on November 14th. This ceremony remembers and recognizes all firefighters who died in the line of duty, whether from traumatic injury or job-related illness.

The memorial represents all seven fire agencies serving the County, including Ventura County, Oxnard City, Ventura City, Federal Fire, Fillmore City, CAL FIRE, and the U.S. Forest Service. Unveiled in 2004, the Ventura County Fallen Firefighter Memorial features a 7-foot granite statue and memorial wall on which the names of fallen firefighters are engraved.

There are now 52 names engraved on the Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the Government Center in Ventura. This year's ceremony was especially difficult for me as we remembered City of Ventura Firefighter Matthew Clapsaddle, and added his name to the roll call of the fallen.

Matt passed away on August 20, 2022, and served the Ventura City Fire Department for 28 years. Matt was beloved by everyone who knew him and I was honored to share a few words at the ceremony about his dedication and honorable service to the residents of Ventura County.





# District 1 Updates Continued

## 2023 County Sock Donation Drive

As the holiday season approaches, I wanted to share the following opportunity with you to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our local community members. I along with District 5 Supervisor Lopez are organizing our "2023 Sock Donation Drive".

**When:** November 27th - December 15th

**Where:** Board of Supervisors' Lobby  
Hall of Administration Building - 4th Floor  
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura

Supervisor Lopez and I have partnered with the Westminster Free Clinic, County One-Stop, Help of Ojai, Ventura and Oxnard Family Justice Centers, and the City Center to collect new warm socks for those in need. Socks are one of the most requested but often overlooked items at shelters and support centers. Socks can make a world of difference in keeping someone warm and comfortable during the cold winter months.

Participating in the Sock Donation Drive is simple! You can contribute by donating new, unused socks. These socks will go directly to individuals and families in our community who are facing challenging times and could use a little extra warmth and comfort during this holiday season.

You can drop off your sock donations in the Board of Supervisors Lobby on the 4th floor of the Hall of Administration between November 27th and December 15th.



## Veterans Day - November 11, 2023



On November 7th, the Board and I were able to honor the men and women of our country's armed forces for Veteran's Day as our *Moment of Inspiration*. This year, the County honored our military veterans through *Operation Greenlight*, a week-long nationwide initiative bringing our communities together to support our veterans.

You may have seen the Veteran's Memorial at the Government Center illuminated in green for the week leading up to Veteran's Day. This is to let veterans know they are seen, appreciated, and supported. Their service and sacrifice are a source of pride for us all, and they remind us of the strength and resilience of the American spirit. Let us also remember the importance of supporting and caring for those who have returned home from their service. It is our duty to ensure they have access to the resources and support they need to transition to civilian life successfully.

**Thanksgiving is all about gratitude, and as we approach the holiday I want everyone to know how grateful and honored I am to serve as your County Supervisor. My best wishes to each of you for a Happy Thanksgiving and all the blessings of the holiday season.**

**Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. Please don't ever hesitate to contact my office if you have County-related questions or if I can assist you in any way.**

## Board of Supervisors Meetings

Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
8:30 am

Tuesday, December 19, 2023  
8:30 am

In-Person at the  
County Government Center  
800 S. Victoria Ave, Ventura

Online at:  
<https://www.ventura.org/board-of-supervisors/agendas-documents-and-broadcasts/>