

DECEMBER 2023  
SUPERVISOR

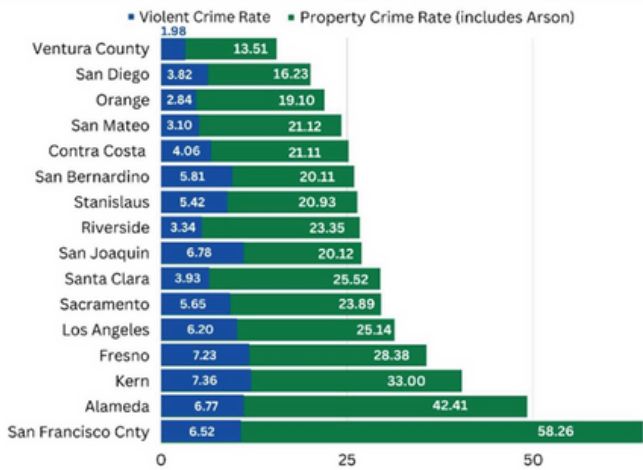
# Matt LaVere

## Ventura County Supervisor District 1



## Welcome to the District One Newsletter

### VENTURA COUNTY NAMED SAFEST LARGE COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA



Crime rate in California's most populated counties  
Number of crimes per 1,000 population (2022)

This month the Ventura County Civic Alliance released a report that names Ventura County as the safest large county in California. The report shows that Ventura County had the lowest rates of reported crimes amongst the 16 largest counties in California in 2022.

While many large counties in the state saw a rise in crime between 2020 and 2022, metrics show Ventura County's crime rates decreased. The 2023 State of the Region Report also shows Ventura County's crime rate in 2022 ranked lowest in our county's modern history. While the overall crime rate in 1994 was 37.52 crimes per 1,000 population, it dropped to 15.49 crimes per 1,000 population in 2022, a 59% decrease.

I'm very thankful for all of the men and women in our local law enforcement agencies and our District Attorney's office who work so hard to help keep Ventura County safe.

## 2023 Holiday Sock Drive a Huge Success!

As we enter the cold and rainy season, we learned from local nonprofits that there is a desperate need for new, warm socks. So, the District 1 team, in partnership with Supervisor Vianey Lopez's team, hosted our first annual Holiday Sock Drive campaign, which ran from November 27 through December 15, 2023.

Thanks to the generosity of so many in our community, we collected over 2,200 pairs of new socks. The last few days we've been able to deliver these socks to the Westminster Clinic in Oxnard, County One-Stop, Help of Ojai, Rescue Mission, Family Justice Centers of Ventura and Oxnard, the City Center, and other shelters and community organizations.

It is always rewarding to support local nonprofits doing incredible work in Ventura County, especially during the holiday season, and this was the perfect opportunity to do so. The custom-wrapped moving boxes used to collect new sock donations here on the fourth floor of the Hall of Administration had to be emptied daily, showing the success of our first sock drive. It was an amazing campaign that addressed a basic need most of us take for granted. I can't thank my team and Supervisor Lopez's team enough for all of their hard work to help those in need in our community. Plans are already underway to make 2024's sock campaign even better!



## Upcoming Community Meetings:

Ojai Valley  
Municipal Advisory Council

January 22, 2024  
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

January 8, 2024  
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

January 8, 2024  
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 Saticoy Boys and Girls Club Receives \$1 Million in State Funding for a New Teen Center!

On November 27th, I joined Senator Monique Limón, Assemblymember Steve Bennett, David Harrison - President of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Ventura, and members of the Saticoy Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) to present a check for \$1 Million Dollars in State funding to design and construct a new Teen Center at the EJ Harrison Boys and Girls Club campus at Saticoy Park.

This project is estimated to cost \$6 million dollars. The \$1 million dollars dedicated by Senator Limón will support the \$5 million dollars already committed by the County of Ventura to help build this critically important community asset.

After my office hosted several meetings with the Saticoy MAC to learn more about community needs, we came to understand there was a real desire by residents of Saticoy to improve Saticoy Park. The County then began a public input process for potential improvements to the park. One of the primary takeaways from this process was that the community really wanted a dedicated Teen Center to support the already amazing work being done at the Saticoy Boys and Girls Club, as well as suggestions to improve existing park structures, picnic areas, provide space for a Farmer's Market, and new restrooms. With that input, the County has selected an architect and has commenced working on the conceptual design for these upgrades.

The County Parks Department in partnership with the Saticoy MAC will have further public outreach efforts to discuss the proposed Teen Center and other improvements to the park as we work on the project design. Please sign up for Saticoy MAC agendas to stay informed as this project progresses - [saticoymac@ventura.org](mailto:saticoymac@ventura.org).



## Funding Secured from State Budget for new Meiners Oaks Park

A couple years ago, a group of residents in Meiners Oaks approached my office with a vision of a new park in their community. An existing County-owned property that once housed a car wash was identified as a possible site. Knowing that a necessary first step was cleaning up the dilapidated property, my office was successful in securing the funding needed to clean up the site. This enabled the dedicated community members to form a non-profit and pursue a potential community park in partnership with the County.

Over the past year, the Meiners Oaks Park non-profit engaged the public for input on the design concept via online surveys, pop-up tablings at local businesses, farmers' markets, and other community events. The current design concept features native vegetation, interpretive hands-on experiences for children, walking path, and social gathering areas. Thanks to the leadership of Assemblymember Bennett and Senator Limon, we are one step closer to making this community park a reality.

Assemblymember Bennett and Senator Limón recently secured \$500,000 from the State Budget to support the creation of a community park in Meiners Oaks. The 2-acre property is located at 312 E. El Roblar Drive and is in the beginning stages of design for a botanical park. Stay tuned for an official check presentation in early 2024 and for more news on how my office intends to further support the creation of this park.

Please visit <https://imaginemopark.wixsite.com/mo-park/> for more information.



# District 1 Updates Continued

## County to Amend Ordinance to Help Diminish the Growth of Unlawful Street Food Vendors and Provide Permit Path

On December 5th, our Board approved new rules and regulations to address the ever-growing concerns with unauthorized street vendor operations in the unincorporated areas of the county and its surrounding cities. The recently adopted regulations will make the County's ordinance consistent with new State legislation.

Amending this ordinance supports our efforts to address the concerns we have heard from many local business owners and members of the public regarding the unlawful operation of unpermitted street vendors (many of which we understand are part of a syndicate out of Los Angeles which transports individuals and equipment to Ventura County for these operations), while also providing a path forward for local residents who want to do things the right way by becoming a fully permitted vendor through our Environmental Health Division.

This recent action by the Board of Supervisors will ensure that such street vending operations obtain the necessary permits to operate safely as it relates to public health, safety, and welfare. This topic will be back to our Board in early 2024 for further updates on public outreach and steps we intend to take towards aggressive enforcement against the illegal operators.

## County of Ventura Food Share Can-Tree Event



The County of Ventura Family, along with over 100 businesses, groups and community organizations, came together once again for the 12th Annual Food Share Can-Tree Drive to help build festive trees out of canned goods at Figueroa Plaza in Downtown Ventura.

Every year this event brings a lot of people together to share holiday cheer, comradery, and awareness of the need to help feed those experiencing food shortages during this holiday season. It's always a fun activity and a way to build unity across many government agencies, departments, and organizations across Ventura County.

## Supervisors Approve Additional Land Conservation Contracts to further preserve Agricultural and Open Space!

The California Land Conservation Act (LCA) Program, also known as the "Williamson Act," is a voluntary land conservation program adopted by the California Legislature in 1965. These contracts are intended to help preserve the limited and diminishing supply of agricultural land in the county.

LCA contracts encourage agricultural land to remain in active agricultural production. They also help discourage premature conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural land uses, while also helping sustain and promote the county's commercial agricultural industry.

Following very productive meetings with local farmers and ranchers to discuss ways we can improve the LCA program in Ventura County, at our Board meeting on December 5th the Board of Supervisors approved changes to our LCA ordinance to now allow agricultural operations on land zoned "open space" to also qualify for LCA contracts.

There are approximately 1,118 LCA contracts in the County's LCA Program. Our recent approval of five new LCA contracts added 371.88 acres of LCA contracted land, for a total of 7,426.73 acres of agricultural land and open space land that are protected. To learn more or access more information about LCA contracts, please visit <https://vcrma.org/en/land-conservation-act-lca-program>.

*Happy Holidays! I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and is able to spend quality time with family, friends and loved ones. The holiday season is a great time to slow down and recognize the blessings in our lives. For me, I feel incredibly fortunate to have a loving family by my side, an amazing District 1 team supporting all of the work we are doing in the community and of course I feel so privileged to serve as your District 1 County Supervisor.*

*I'm truly looking forward to 2024 and know there is a lot of great work to be done and goals we hope to achieve.*

*Wishing all of you a joyful and prosperous New Year ahead!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt LaV.".

## Board of Supervisors Meetings

Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
8:30 am

Tuesday, January 23, 2024  
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/>