



## Supervisor Vianey Lopez *Fifth District*

### Launch of Fifth District Youth Advisory Council



I am thrilled to announce the launch of the Fifth District Youth Advisory Council! Fifteen Youth Commissioners and eleven Youth Alternates attended their first meeting where they brainstormed a Code of Conduct and began introducing their issues of interest.



The Council will work collaboratively over the course of this school year to provide a youth perspective to me and my office – they'll share ideas, shape policy, and advise my work on County issues that impact youth. My office will support the Council by providing briefings and panels, booking experts for discussions, and helping Youth Commissioners understand the County's jurisdiction and my duties as a Supervisor.

Members of the Council are ages 14-19 and must live, work, or attend school in the Fifth District. If you or someone you know is interested in the Youth Advisory Council, [my website](#) has more information.

#### Communities Represented

Central and Southern portions of the City of Oxnard, City of Port Hueneme, Oxnard Plain, Oxnard Shores, Mandalay Bay, Silver Strand, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood by the Sea, Channel Islands Harbor, California State University Channel Islands, Naval Base Ventura County, California Air National Guard, Oxnard Airport, Ormond Beach Wetlands, and Channel Islands National Park.

#### Call Us

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-  [Supervisor.Lopez@ventura.org](mailto:Supervisor.Lopez@ventura.org)

# House Farm Workers Annual Forum Highlights Need for Agriculture Workforce Housing



Over 36,000 farmworkers call Ventura County home, but far too many find housing unaffordable in our communities.

At the [House Farm Workers!](#) Annual Forum on November 22nd, I spoke to forum attendees about the County's efforts to invest in affordable housing - \$18.06 million by the County in the last four years, with \$760k dedicated to farmworker housing. This demonstrates the Board of Supervisors' commitment to addressing the housing crisis and providing more affordable housing options for our county's agricultural workers.

But more needs to be done. In the panel discussion at the Forum, I centered my remarks on the impact of recent elections, potential policy changes, and budgets on the County's affordable housing efforts going forward. Over the past four years, the County has invested over \$68 million in federal funds towards affordable housing throughout Ventura County. The keynote speaker of the Forum, Mark Stivers, shared about the speculation of impacts on public housing eligibility as a result of a new federal administration.

I am grateful for the work of the House Farm Workers! organization for their continued commitment to farmworkers in Ventura County. The partnership between House Farm Workers!, Ventura County, all ten cities in the county, and the Ventura County Transportation Commission has led to the completion of Phase Three of the [Farm Worker Housing Study and Action Plan](#) - and the next phase is expected mid to late 2025.

## Coast Guard Air Station Ventura Commissioned



November 13th was a special day in the history of Naval Base Ventura County as a large crowd gathered to commemorate the long-awaited commissioning of the United States Coast Guard Air Station Ventura. Esteemed guests and military officials, including Rear Admiral Joseph Buzzella, Commander Thomas Mansell, and Commander Amanda Sardone of the new Air Station Ventura gathered to celebrate the commissioning.

The \$70 million investment brings a 48,000 square foot hangar and 12,000 square foot administrative building to Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) -- within Ventura County's Fifth District. But the Coast Guard's reach extends well beyond our shores -- Coast Guard Air Station Ventura County is responsible for the 350 nautical miles from Orange County to San Luis Obispo, where its missions include emergency response, search and rescue, law enforcement, and marine safety and environmental protection.

## County Awarded Funds for New VC HEAL Project

Ventura County Human Services Agency was awarded nearly [\\$7.5 million](#) this month to fund the new "VC HEAL" project. VC HEAL – the Ventura County Healthcare Employment Accelerator – will offer workforce training for 215 low- and medium-income county residents in healthcare occupations. The program will also work to restore healthcare infrastructure, create job opportunities, promote community well-being, strengthen disaster preparedness, and ultimately build a more resilient healthcare system and community. Earlier this year, I joined the Board in supporting the grant application.



## Airport Soil Stockpiles to be Removed



If you have driven down Ventura Rd., you may have seen stockpiles of soil across from the Oxnard Airport at Ventura Rd. and West Second St. Disposal of the unsightly piles will begin in mid-December and is expected to be completed within 60 days.

The Ventura County Department of Airports recently completed environmental testing of the soil and coordinated the removal process with the State Regional Water Quality Review Board. The stockpiles are associated with an airport construction project and a request from the Water Board to store and test the soil for PFAS contamination. Non-PFAS impacted soil will be going to the Chiquita Canyon or Simi Valley landfills while PFAS-impacted soil will go to Kern County. PFAS chemicals were recently determined by the federal government to be a chemical of concern. PFAS are included in many products, including FAA-mandated firefighting foam; no PFAS foam has been sprayed at Oxnard Airport since 2019.

## Dredging Project to Start at the Harbor



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is on schedule to start its dredging project at the Channel Islands Harbor on December 26th – weather permitting. It is estimated 1.6 million cubic yards of sand will be pumped from the harbor down to the beach at Port Hueneme, which erodes over time due to normal sand migration along the coast.

Dredging equipment will be staged at the Harbor's Hobie and Silver Strand beaches in early December. The hydraulic dredge will be conducting maintenance dredging of the Channel Islands Harbor entrance on a 24-hour basis. The dredging activity will be taking place in various locations in and around the harbor entrance and sand trap area.

The dredging project will wrap up in February 2025. The last time the harbor was dredged was October 2022 to February 2023.

## Graduation Day for MICOP's ÑUU NU CHIE – La Tierra Donde Sembramos Program



Graduates from the third cohort of Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project's (MICOP) 'La Tierra Donde Sembramos' program came together in celebration this month – I was honored to attend the ceremony and recognize the hard work and dedication of each of the graduates.

The La Tierra Donde Sembramos program is designed to empower our indigenous migrant community through a training and certification program, aiming to advance career building skills and increase wages. The program includes trainings in leadership, supervision, health and safety, and a 3-year certificate to operate a forklift machine.

This program was made possible by a grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. To learn more about MICOP and the different programs they provide, visit their website [here](#).

## Distributing Turkeys with Food Share



The rain on November 26th could not keep Food Share of Ventura County and its many volunteers from their mission of distributing almost two thousand turkeys along with produce and other goods to members of our community, just in time for Thanksgiving. I was grateful to be a part of this huge effort and undertaking.

Chatting and interacting with guests and other fellow volunteers gave us a chance to connect with our community during this special time of year. But, it also reminds us that Food Share works year-round to ensure that food is getting to people who need it.

Food Share's stats show that as many as one in four people live in a household that struggles with food insecurity. Most recipients are low-income working families, living paycheck to paycheck, and seniors existing on a small, fixed income. Food Share distributes thousands of pounds of food weekly at College Park in Oxnard and at other sites throughout our county.

## Veterans Honored on November 11th in the Cities of Port Hueneme and Oxnard



Ventura County and the Fifth District loves and appreciates our local Veterans - as evidenced by the turnout of community members, elected officials, and dignitaries who participated in local Veterans Day events this year.



The day started at Port Hueneme City Hall, where Guest of Honor Veteran and former Port Hueneme City Councilmember Orvene Carpenter was honored with a plaque recognizing him for his service to our country.

Later that morning, the community gathered at the site of the Oxnard Veterans Memorial at Plaza Park in Oxnard to honor and remember local veterans. As the County Supervisor representing Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), I would like to thank NBVC Commanding Officer Captain Daniel Brown for his remarks at the ceremony and the City of Oxnard for hosting this event every year; it has become a beloved tradition for our community.

To all Ventura County veterans – thank you for your service.

## Celebrating 5 Years of Affordable Housing for Veterans at the Ormond Beach Villas



Ormond Beach Villas in South Oxnard celebrated its 5-year anniversary this year; a great milestone for Ventura County's first permanent affordable housing specifically for homeless veterans and low-income veteran families.

Families and community members gathered on November 13th for an anniversary celebration to enjoy the community atmosphere that has developed at the Ormond Beach Villas. Kids got to bounce around in a jolly jumper and everyone was able to enjoy a BBQ lunch.

I had the honor of presenting a certificate of congratulations to Many Mansions, who was the key partner in developing the Villas, manages the property, and supports services on-site. Senator Monique Limón and Assemblymember Steve Bennett also attended and heralded the anniversary. This project is one example of Ventura County's investment in affordable housing and our veterans.

## [Mountain Fire Recovery Update](#)

For the latest incident information on Mountain Fire please visit: [vcemergency.com](https://vcemergency.com)

# Mountain Fire RECOVERY INFORMATION

GET INFO

The Board of Supervisors held two special meetings in November following the ignition of the Mountain Fire on November 6th. At these meetings, our Board received updates from representatives from the County's Fire Department, Sheriff, Sheriff's emergency management office, Environmental Health Division, Public Works Agency, Resource Management Agency, Human Resources, Animal Services, and our Human Services Agency director who ran the County's Local Assistance Center. This was a small representation of the many County staff who have been involved in addressing the response to the fire itself, and the recovery for those who suffered a loss from the fire.

The Board [approved](#) several actions to facilitate the County's response, including the ratification of the Sheriff's proclamation of a local emergency, proclaimed a local emergency, and ratified and extended the County Health Officer's declaration of a local health emergency. The Board also approved an urgency ordinance to establish and implement a fire debris removal program.

Mountain Fire recovery information will continue to be available at [venturacountyrecovers.org](https://venturacountyrecovers.org). This is the County of Ventura's official recovery portal, offering essential resources and guidance, where residents can find information on: rebuilding, tax relief, business support, debris removal, housing, health information, and more. Community resources are also available to connect with local aid, food distribution events, and counseling services.

# Oxnard Police Department Begins Outreach on Assembly Bill 413 'Daylighting'



CA ASSEMBLY BILL 413

A person shall not stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle whether attended or unattended...

...within 20 feet of the vehicle approach side of any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

...or within 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present.

On January 1, 2025, California State Law AB 413 or 'Daylighting' will take effect. This law prohibits us from parking or leaving standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, within 20 feet of any marked or unmarked crosswalk, or within 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present.



PEDESTRIAN IS NOT CLEARLY VISIBLE

PEDESTRIAN IS CLEARLY VISIBLE

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The purpose of this new law is to increase the visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists when entering the crosswalk. When a car is parked within 20 feet of a crosswalk, it can hinder the view of a motorist when a pedestrian enters the crosswalk, giving the driver less time to react to the pedestrian. California has a pedestrian fatality rate that is 25% higher than the national average.

This new law will address this issue and increase the visibility and safety of pedestrians when entering marked or unmarked crosswalks.

To learn more about AB 413, watch the Oxnard Police Department's presentation [here](#).

## UPCOMING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
8:30am

Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
8:30am



In-Person at the  
County Government Center  
800 S. Victoria Ave, Ventura, CA 93009

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