



## Supervisor Vianey Lopez *Fifth District*

### Construction Underway at Rice Ave & Fifth Street Intersection



A February official groundbreaking marked the start of construction of the long-anticipated Rice Ave and Fifth Street grade separation project.



By 2029, a new six-lane bridge on Rice Avenue will separate traffic from the Fifth Street/State Route 34 intersection and Union Pacific railroad crossing. In addition to the bridge, the project includes connector road, traffic signals, improvements on Sturgis Road, bike lanes, sidewalks and other accessibility improvements.

I was proud to join the groundbreaking celebration with the many community leaders, elected officials, labor leaders, and hard-working staff who helped bring this \$134-million project to fruition. On behalf of the people in and around the Fifth District who travel through the intersection, I shared my gratitude for the many incredible city, county, state, and federal partners who came together to invest in the safety and security of Ventura County.

Visit the [City of Oxnard's website](#) to read more about this project and how you can receive updates. To sign up to receive major construction and traffic alerts, [Text 'RICEFIFTH' to \(888\) 302-6417](#).

### 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.

### Contact My Office

☎ (805) 654-2613

✉ [District5@ventura.org](mailto:District5@ventura.org)

## Proclaiming Black History Month In Ventura County



In recognition of Black History Month in Ventura County, I had the honor of leading the Board of Supervisors in presenting a proclamation to the Pinkard Youth Institute and the Ventura County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at our February 11th Board meeting. These two organizations have created a lasting positive impact for the African American Community in Ventura County. During the presentation of the proclamation, Delta Sigma Theta President Lekishia White recited Hey Black Child, a poem written by Useni Eugene Perkins during the Harlem Renaissance. The clip is shared on both of my social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

## Reel Guppy Outdoors Celebrates Anniversary and New County Grant



February marked the three-year anniversary of Reel Guppy Outdoors Dockside Learning & Multimedia Center at Channel Islands Harbor. [Reel Guppy Outdoors](#), founded by Kevin Brannon, known widely as “Community Kev,” aims to empower and inspire youth, families, and our community to be impactful in the world through education and personal development. Community Kev is well-known for his unwavering enthusiasm and desire to introduce youth and their families to his love of the ocean and fishing.

Also in February, I joined my fellow members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council in voting to support \$198,800 in new grant funds for Reel Guppy Outdoors to expand their “Oceans of

Opportunity” program. Teens and pre-teens referred to the Oceans of Opportunity program participate in multiple weekly activities over six weeks. They invite their families to join them for individualized, hands-on programming focused on life & leadership skills, career exploration, critical thinking and problem solving – all revolving around ocean, fishing, and the outdoors.

Learn more about [Reel Guppy Outdoors](#).



## District 5 Youth Council Engages with Guest Speakers



Including youth voices in the decision-making process is a vital part of keeping our youth engaged and our local public policy focused on an inclusive future. Last November, I launched the [District 5 Youth Advisory Council](#) to regularly meet with high-school students who live, work, or attend school in the Fifth District. These 24 students, ages 14-19, meet twice a month to advise me on matters related to the Fifth District and the County.

Guest speakers have presented to the Council to facilitate their understanding of local government jurisdictions and responsibilities -- including school districts, cities, and the county. Every Commissioner asked thoughtful and engaged questions of me and guest speakers, with many laser-focused on health, well-being and safety in our communities.

I share both my thanks and the thanks of the Youth Commissioners to the speakers who have presented before the Council already this year:

- Oxnard Mayor Pro Tem Gabe Teran
- Oxnard Councilmember Michaela Perez
- Oxnard Union High School District Trustee Elizabeth Botello
- Ventura County Behavioral Health
- Ventura County Youth Equity
- Ventura County Government Affairs

If you know a student interested in being part of the Youth Advisory Council, please have them send an email to my team at [district5@ventura.org](mailto:district5@ventura.org).



# Nate's Place Wellness and Recovery Center 2- Year Anniversary Celebration



Friends, family and a multitude of supporters gathered in February to celebrate the two-year anniversary of Nate's Place, a Wellness and Recovery Center that serves teens and young adults struggling with substance use and/or mental health challenges. Kevin Briggs, also known as the Guardian of the Golden Gate Bridge for his work preventing suicides there, spoke of his first-hand experience during the event.

In two short years, Nate's Place garnered a wide range of support from the local community and from County and City leaders who recognize the positive impact they have on Ventura County's teens and young adults. Their successful model of care includes a teen drop-in center and acknowledges it's not just about treatment, it's about connection, guidance and hope.

I have supported Nate's Place in their efforts to grow in our community – as services for youth and young adults are needed for the hundreds of young adults struggling or at risk of struggling with a substance use disorder.

Nate's Place, located at the Fisherman's Wharf in Oxnard, was created in memory of Nathan Elliot Rhoades (2001-2022) to provide guidance for teens and young adults seeking mental health and substance use disorder support.

## Thanking Those Who Serve on Boards, Committees, and Commissions

One of the ways the Board of Supervisors encourages community participation in local government is making appointments to various Boards, Commissions, and Committees. These boards, commissions, and committees focus on a number of local issues – from air pollution to animals to resource management to healthcare.

I am grateful to the members of our community who lend their time, experience, and expertise to actively participate. At recent board meetings, our Board of Supervisors has approved my recommendations of several appointments and reappointments for representatives of the Fifth District, including:

- Gary Blum, Cultural Heritage Board
- Bobby Jones, Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission
- Dr. Cesar Morales, Children & Families First Commission (First 5)
- Michael O’Malia, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Committee
- Harold Schneider, Parks Advisory Commission
- Neil Sexton, Aviation Advisory Commission
- Steven Tannehill, Aviation Advisory Commission
- Gabe Teran, Community Action of Ventura County
- Steven Weiss, Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee

You can learn more about the work of the various County [Boards, Committees and Commissions here.](#)

## Volunteer for the Ventura County Grand Jury

The Grand Jury is a crucial component of California’s justice system. The Grand Jury is composed of 19 individuals who volunteer to dedicate their time for a full calendar year to serve. These volunteers are not appointed by the Board, or other governing bodies; applications are reviewed by a committee of judges and sworn in by the presiding judge.

I am grateful to the members of the community who take the time to apply and volunteer on the Grand Jury. If you would like to learn more about how you can become a Grand Juror, visit their website [here.](#)

## UPCOMING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Tuesday, April 8, 2025  
8:30 AM

Tuesday, April 29, 2025  
8:30 AM

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/>