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Courier Ali Esquivel stops at VCMC on his daily mail delivery route.



# GSA Insider

*Great Service Always!*



GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

## From the Director



This issue of the *GSA Insider* finds us in a very changed state of business operations. I don't think a single one of us could have foreseen the many changes the County, state, country, and world have undergone over the past few months, but I could not be prouder of how our GSA

family has come together to meet them. It means

more than I can say to share with you all their stories as they continue to find ways to provide great service always to our County customers and the community at large.

In addition to the support GSA has been providing during the current pandemic shutdown, we have been busy ushering in a few changes in leadership. Due to recent staff retirements, we have been on an intensive search to find the right fit for our dynamic leadership team. I'm excited to announce that the search has ended, and to introduce you to Marina Verdian, our new Chief Deputy Director of Facilities and Materials, and Colter Chisum,

who is taking on the position of Deputy Director of the Parks Department. Be sure to welcome them to the County when you see them. You'll find out more about them both in this issue.

And, if all of that were not enough, there have been some exciting things percolating just under the surface in our Fleet Department—including the electrification of our Central Motorpool. The installation of 7 new dual-port electric charging stations is scheduled to be complete before summer, and represents the fulfillment of a longtime goal of both ours and the County's. We're excited to see what's next in our quest to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in these extraordinary times.

Until next time,

David Sasek

## GSA Employees Find New Ways to Support County During Crisis

Ask most people what they envision when you use the phrase "first responder," and you'll probably hear the following: fireman, police officer, paramedic, doctor, nurse. Hero. What most people don't know is that every County employee becomes a first responder in times of crises, such as the Thomas Fire, the Montecito mudslides, and during a pandemic. We hope that the role of first responder in an emergency can be fulfilled by those who are best trained to provide aid and support, but we are ready, prepared, and able to step in when called upon to do so.

All across GSA, employees have been answering the call to step up, and fill in where they are needed—quietly, competently, without complaint. They are fulfilling job tasks they've never performed before, and becoming valuable members of new teams, all to support the community during an unprecedented crisis. They are landscapers, maintenance engineers, mechanics, couriers, park ranger trainees, painters, technicians, drivers. Heroes. These are their stories.

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**Above:** Several GSA employees are assisting the VC Area Agency on Aging, including, left to right: Kenny Milton, Jorge Valladares, Sabino Benitez, and Antonio Barajas.

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## Supporting VCAAA

When the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) put out a call for assistance after seeing an increase in the need for food and essential items to be delivered to seniors Countywide, GSA's landscaping crew—Antonio Barajas-Trujillo, Sabino Benitez, and Jorge Valladares—stepped up to fill that need, showing the same dedication, hard work, and pride that they do when caring for the grounds here on campus. Prior to their arrival, meals were being delivered to approximately 14 people daily. On the day they joined the team, that number increased to 92, and one month later, it soared to 351. So, what stories do they have to share about their time at VCAAA?



Antonio Barajas-Trujillo (left) and Sabino Benitez (right) packaging meals at VCAAA.

Sabino is part of the delivery team, and is able to assist in translating for those residents who are not bilingual. He is happy, he says, to help, and his family is very proud of him. He has even become a family celebrity for appearing in a VCAAA video!

Antonio doesn't go out on deliveries, instead working onsite at VCAAA. He knows he is making a difference in people's lives, although the work is challenging and can be exhausting. His family is proud of him, he says, for doing what needs to be done.

Jorge feels very proud and pleased to be delivering both meals and joy to his customers, who are always happy and grateful to see him, not just the food. All three miss their team and friends at GSA, and hope that when you next see them, you'll stop and say hello.

The team at VCAAA is rounded out by JJ Vaivaio from GSA Projects (pictured left), who brings his cheerful outlook and steady presence each and every day, Kenny Milton from GSA Maintenance, and Kerry Crawford from GSA IT Group. Together, they load and unload

hundreds of pounds of shelf-stable food and fresh produce, manage inventory and proper storage, and handle quality control to ensure that no spoiled food is accidentally packaged for distribution. At the same time, they are handling incoming phone calls for onsite food box pick-ups. In addition to food items, the team ensures that those in need also receive personal care items, and, when needed, pet food. They organize, plan and ultimately deliver food shipments—packaging 28 meals, or 2 weeks' worth, of groceries at a time. Through it all, there is an underlying sense of community—so much so that VCAAA calls them the "Quarantine Cuisine Dream Team." GSA may find it hard to wrestle these guys away when the time comes!

*Every disaster service worker from GSA has been an essential addition to our scaled up Senior Pantry endeavor and are now and forevermore part of our team. They all have great attitudes! We are working long hours and engaging in arduous work, but the smiles never fade and camaraderie never wanes. Victoria [Jump] and I couldn't ask for anything more.*

*—Monique Nowlin, Deputy Director, VCAAA*



## Providing Support Behind the Scenes

Of course, when a disaster occurs, people can be asked to step up in new and unusual ways. Take Nacho Balderrama, for example. Nacho is the agency's expert when it comes to painting projects: whether it's a straightforward touch up, or something complex that has to be completed on time and within budget, Nacho is the man for the job. But during a pandemic, regular painting projects may not be in as high a demand as, say, organizing the County's storage bunker to efficiently distribute emergency medical supplies and ensure that these critical items are distributed timely to the facilities that need them most. So when the call came in for employees to fill these newly essential roles, Nacho stepped up—and was joined by some of his coworkers from the Facilities and Materials Division: John Riddle, Mark Flores, and Anthony DeAnda. Every day, the team loads trucks and stocks essential items such as gloves, hand sanitizer, face shields, and more, ensuring that they are prepped for delivery to hospitals and clinics around the County. The wide range of their skills—especially driving a forklift!—has been invaluable. Yet, when a recent act of on-campus



Nacho Balderrama (front), Anthony De Anda (back), and John Riddle (left, obscured) load boxes for EMS.



John Riddle lends a hand at the bunker.

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vandalism occurred, Nacho was on the scene before his regular shift, painting over the graffiti in the early-morning hours well before anyone was even aware that it was there, then heading over to the bunker for his shift.

Sometimes it's the day-to-day things that matter the most. Just ask the folks at the Sheriff's OES (Office of Emergency Services). When they needed help with their day-to-day operations, Fleet Services was there to fill in where needed. Even though all of GSA Fleet is working each day to keep the County Fleet running, ensuring no interruption of service for the County's critical services and first responders, Fleet recognized that they could do even more, and they were able to send Auto Systems Technician Jason James to work at the Emergency Operating Center: first to provide logistic support, then to provide field support. Jason now operates out of the Vagabond and Best Western hotels, delivering food, PPE, and other needed supplies. In addition, he fuels up the generators located throughout the County, from Ventura to Thousand Oaks, all in support of COVID-19 operations.

Jason James out in the field for Sheriff's OES.



Ruben Silva and Melyssa Vicencio unload PPE supplies.

## Meanwhile, GSA Redefines "Business as Usual"

From Day One, it's been "business as usual" for GSA: that is, if the usual business is to be extraordinary, on a daily basis. From the buyers in Procurement, to the team of couriers, to the custodial crew working behind the scenes—and overnight—to diligently and thoroughly clean and sanitize every workspace in the County, GSA has been a silent, steady partner in the County's efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. Here are just a few examples (see page 6 for even more):

servers and 1,230 security cameras

- Provided support for a 200% increase in the use of virtual meetings—which included training on how to connect, communicate, and listen to broadcasts

### GSA HR Team

- In addition to her daily HR duties, Luz Avitud worked behind the scenes and indirectly assisted VCAAA by remotely expediting the onboarding process for two Parks Service Ranger Trainees, who then immediately assumed temporary assignments with VCAAA.
- Alicia Francis has diligently assisted both employees and supervisors with questions related to timecards and payroll, and processed more than 46 pandemic-related attestations and leave-of-absence requests.

### GSA Fiscal

- Continues to meet regular deadlines, preparing and finalizing all 19 budget units' budgets for the coming FY
- Has been preparing and submitting AP09 Financial Status reports for all budget units to the CEO
- Has partnered with GSA HR to develop efficient ways to report COVID-19-related work hours and expenses to ensure maximum reimbursement later
- Is working with GSA Parks Department to ensure that camping reservations refunds resulting from park closures totaling more than \$500K are paid as timely as possible
- Reconciling, tracking, and documenting approximately \$450K in COVID-19-related expenses to date

### GSA Procurement

- Ensuring access to PPE inventory by enrolling 23 key County personnel in Amazon Business Government and Medical group.
- Issued a solicitation for FEMA grant-consulting services, supporting the CEO office's efforts to minimize the overall fiscal impact of the pandemic
- Transitioning to online solicitation and evaluation process; recently completed a virtual job walk-through
- Negotiated and drafted 4 month-to-month hotel agreements for the County's program to house at-risk homeless. These contracts became a template for other counties in California to follow.

### Business Support Services

- The inventory management team has processed a surge of pallets and supplies for OES, Sheriff, and other agencies with same-day efficiency. Since mid-March, more than 100 pallets have been received—more than is usually received annually.
- The mail courier team provides daily service across 5 courier routes and 249 stops, including daily VCMC pharmacy distributions.
- Assisting Public Health and Ambulatory Care in coordinating lab transport kits for non-County medical facilities; transported approximately 3,500 kits to date.

Much of GSA's administrative staff has been teleworking since mid-March, but that hasn't slowed them down for a second. Since the stay-at-home orders went into effect:

### Information Technology Group

- Set up VPN access for all of the agency's teleworking employees
- Processed door access schedule changes to 40 doors at various County buildings in the first 5-7 days of the stay-at-home order as employees adjusted to the new work environment
- Continues to provide ongoing desktop and network support, remotely and in person, as well as monitoring 53



## GSA Looks to the Future with New Leadership in Facilities & Materials, Parks Divisions

**M**arina Verdian, formerly of the Glide Foundation in San Francisco, joins GSA as the new Chief Deputy Director of Facilities and Materials. While with the Glide Foundation, Marina served as Director of Facilities, where she oversaw a large real estate and facilities portfolio that included capital and maintenance projects, vendor contracts, space planning and design, utilities and energy, mailing services, waste management, construction grants, emergency preparedness and business continuity. Throughout a long career in Facilities and Operations management, Marina successfully implemented strategic and master plans, worked in conjunction with public-private partnerships, and managed multi-million-dollar capital projects. She has held challenging leadership positions at USC, Stanford University, and UC Berkeley.



Marina holds a Master of Public Administration degree from USC and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from State Engineering University, Armenia. She also possesses professional certificates in Human Resources Management, Legal and Financial aspects of Real Estate, and Leadership from USC and UC Berkeley. She speaks Russian and Armenian, and is learning basic Spanish.

In her spare time Marina loves reading and watching movies, especially mystery novels and psychological thrillers. A self-taught amateur chef, Marina enjoys sharing her recipes with friends, family, and coworkers. She is also an avid climber who has been on top

of mounts Whitney and Shasta in California and many other high peaks throughout the world.

**J**. Colter Chisum joins the Parks Department team as Deputy Director following a diverse, rewarding 15-year career with the National Park Service, where he served the last six years as the Chief of Facilities for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Colter was born and raised in El Paso, TX, where he developed a love for sports and the outdoors. Following his passions, he pursued both urban and outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Colorado while earning a Civil Engineering Degree from Colorado State University. Colter went on to spend four years doing civil engineering consulting work in the Denver area, primarily focused on large residential site development. Looking for a greater connection to conservation and outdoor recreation, Colter joined Yosemite National Park as a civil engineer in 2005. He would go on to supervise Yosemite's Design and Engineering Branch, where his work ranged broadly from campground improvements to complex rehabilitations of the historic Emergency Services and Park Headquarters buildings. Colter's work locally includes securing \$30 million for post-Woolsey Fire reconstruction and many other park and trailhead improvement projects.



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In his free time, you can usually find Colter with his two young boys touring regional skateparks, exploring local trails, camping, adventure trail running, or coaching youth sports teams. He currently serves on the executive board for Newbury Park Pony Baseball, and is pursuing his Park and Recreation Executive Certification with the National Recreation and Parks Association.

"I believe," says Colter, "parks present cost-effective ways to attract people to communities, bring communities together, improve health and wellness, and provide places for self-expression and life skills development. I look forward to serving the visitors and communities of Ventura as the new County Parks Director."



## Longtime Managers Shine in Interim Roles

Recent months have seen significant changes in the Parks Department. Not only has the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we live and work, two longtime Parks employees—Operations Supervisor Pam Gallo and Deputy Director Ron Van Dyck—retired from County service on the same day. Both held key supervisory/leadership positions with heavy responsibility for maintaining the success of the department.

Parks Manager Theresa Lubin accepted the role of interim Deputy Director, knowing the challenges facing her in the midst of a pandemic. Not only has she led the department with strength and resilience, her sense of calm management prevailed. Theresa reorganized quickly, initiating the temporary promotions of Supervising Park Ranger Leslie Reed to interim Operations Supervisor, and Paul Lozano, PSRII, who

moved into the Supervising Park Ranger position.

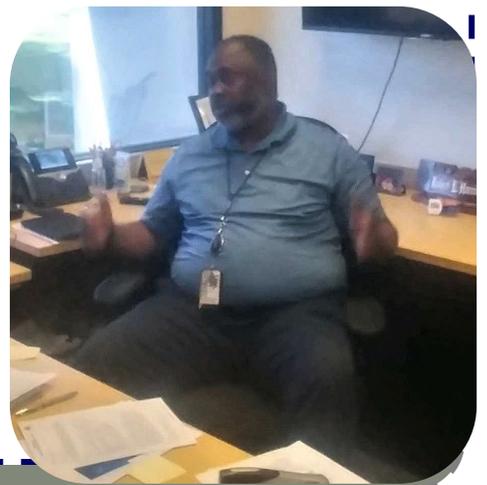
During the interim period, Theresa has been an integral part of the County's response to the COVID-19 emergency, closing parks, community centers, and campgrounds. She has worked closely with the Ventura County Sheriff, Cal Trans, California State Parks, and County Health Department, among other agencies, while maintaining

Parks' normal daily operations. Her wisdom and experience has been invaluable.

Over the last year, GSA F&M has come to depend on Rob Harris in all areas. In June 2019, Rob stepped in as the Interim Facility Projects Manager until the right candidate was brought on board. In January 2020, Rob became F&M's Interim Chief Deputy Director after longtime Chief Deputy Director Paul Young retired. Then in March 2020 came the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rob is the type of leader that is always calm, cool and collected. With everything changing so rapidly, Rob has been the team's constant. Knowledgeable and intelligent, he knows all of F&M's ins and outs. "Rob is," says Management Assistant Lieba Butler, "our group's Best Kept Secret. He took over all the duties of the Interim Chief Deputy Director while continuing to manage the Maintenance group. He's done an amazing job at keeping everything running smoothly through the COVID-19 pandemic."

Now, with a new Chief Deputy Director joining Facilities & Materials, Rob will turn over the reins while working side by side with her to continue to make F&M the best it can be.



# Employee Highlights

A big thanks to **Chris Ramirez**, Business Support Services, and **Nacho Balderrama**, Maintenance, for excellent team work and customer service! GSA had an urgent request to provide a forklift operator to EMS for mission-critical services. While in the midst of addressing business continuity, Chris provided forklift training, which enabled Nacho to assist EMS with forklift operator mission-critical services. **Way to go, team!**



I wanted to give KUDOS to James Weaver, he is such a nice guy and goes above and beyond to make sure we are satisfied with his work. Always with a smile, positive attitude, and respectful. Please recognize him for the hard work he does. We need more people like James.

- HCA Clinics

"Jeff (Chiarella), Matt (Kreiger): You ROCK, thank you. I appreciate very much your efforts. We all have to adapt to change with this Pandemic, and you certainly did! Ventura County voters will be well served by your efforts on May 12th!"

**Mark Lunn, County Clerk/Recorder**



Julie [Miller], I continually hear praise for your skills, effort and patience as we work through the tight timelines of purchasing fire equipment. I just wanted to formally acknowledge you, and thank you for all you do. You are appreciated! Your work ethic with attention to detail does not go unnoticed.... Thank you.

-Chad Cook, Asst. Fire Chief

Both Kate Mason and Anthony Santiago have gone above and beyond to assist me with Courier Services to the 1957-A Eastman facility. Kate has assisted in coordinating my ability to pick up mail and packages at the GSA Mail Center, and even provided her cell phone number should I need immediate assistance. During my first pick-up at the GSA Mail Center, Anthony greeted me...with an amazing, positive attitude, and checked multiple locations at the GSA Mail Center to ensure that I had everything.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -VC ITSD

I would like to thank **Brad Wyatt and the whole IT team**. I cannot imagine the number of requests they are getting with so many working from home. I, being one those requests, really want to say thank you!!"

**Brittany Stephens, Admin. Assistant II, GSA Fiscal**

A long over-due appreciation for **Jim Fitzgerald** from **GSA Projects Group**. No matter what the request is he always accommodates our needs. He has great ideas which meet our IT-related requests with little to almost no wait time on his part. His vast knowledge and assistance are much appreciated. It is always a pleasure working with Jim, a example of the meaning of Great Service Always!!

Great work **Dave Beatty, Martin Flores, Eddie Marquez, Ernie Marquez, Lee Ramer, Joseph Saffa, Nelson Salonga and Jim Vines**. During these trying times they are all out there supporting the Health Care clinics and two 24/7 mental health facilities. Due to the environment of these facilities, they put themselves at a higher risk of exposure to COVID19. They wear PPE and follow the "Stay Safe" guidelines, but like all of us they worry about their own health and their families' every day. This is a team that is prepared and willing to do what it takes to support HCA and our customers.

I would like to express my appreciation for all of the extra work GSA has been putting in, keeping the courts clean. The extra work has been noticed by staff and we are grateful. Additionally, thank you to Sandra Lopez for her work in Jury Services and Juan Esparza in Court Reporting Services. They make a difference in the workplace.

-**Nan Richardson, Courts Jury Services**

Just wanted to send a note of thanks for the good work your housekeeping staff is doing keeping things clean during this pandemic. In particular, I would like to commend Robert Windrem. Every morning when I arrive (between 7:30- 8am), Robert is diligently and thoroughly cleaning the Public Works area on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor: bathrooms, break areas, conference rooms. All are obviously cared for daily. Today, he was carefully cleaning the escalator hand rails. He is always pleasant and is very dedicated to his work. I hope all of your staff is as thorough as he is. We are fortunate to have such hard-working and dedicated employees.

-**David Fleisch, PWA Transportation Director**

I wanted to thank you for giving our office an enhanced cleaning last night. Pedro Baylon, and the other GSA Housekeeping crew, are the unsung heroes in keeping us healthy and safe here at the Government Center. So, thanks, and well done!

-**Joseph Randazzo, County Counsel**

# Movin' and Shakin' — who's coming,



# who's going in GSA

## New Hires

Jade Alamillo, Maint. Worker II

Matthew Arve, Courier II

Griselda Chavez, Custodian II

Colter Chisum, Deputy Director, Parks

Michael Dodge, Park Services Ranger Trainee

Lance Finney, Graphics Technician I

Devin Gonsalves, Park Services Ranger Trainee

Geraldine Johnson, Data Entry Op. III

Michael Lazarus, Staff Services Supv. II

Denise Mejia, Custodian II

Andrea Rios, Park Services Ranger Trainee

Jorge Valladares, Maint. Worker II, Grounds

Marina Verdian, Chief Deputy Director, Facilities & Materials



## Promotions

Ediber Aganinta, CBME

Ariana Ayala, Custodian II

Scott Broggie, Facility Operation Specialist II

Paul Hinton, CBME

Weston Miyasaki, Park Services Ranger Trainee

Lisa Ochoa, Facility Project Specialist

Ellen Reclusado, Custodian III

## Retirements

Pam Gallo, Parks Operations Supervisor, 36 years of service, April 2020

Josefina Perales, Custodian II, 22 years of service, April 1, 2020

Gary Key, Certified Maintenance Engineer, 20 years of service, April 31, 2020

Paul Young, Chief Deputy Director, Facilities & Materials, 29 years of service, February 22, 2020 (left)

Ron VanDyck, Deputy Director, Parks, 14 years of service, April 2020

## Transfers

Magali Rodriguez—Transfer to RMA

## Resignations/Separations

Erin Bridges, Purchasing Tech, May 16, 2020

Nathaniel Martinez, Courier II, January 11, 2020

Griselda Chavez, Custodian II, April 20, 2020

## GSA Fleet Services Sets the Bar

GSA Fleet Services Department, and Deputy Director Christopher Melton in particular, has been raking in accolades of late. Chris a 2020 NAFA Fleet Management Association's Fleet Excellence Award finalist. This award honors high-impact fleet professionals. With Chris's outstanding leadership, the Fleet Services Department is also among the top 100 Best Fleets in North America, coming in at #54 out of 38,000 other competing public and private fleets. In 2016, Fleet Services took home the top award, which can only be won once every 5 years, so they won't be eligible to bring it back to GSA until 2021 but they are already planning their winning strategy.

Although APWA's Leading Fleets award proved elusive this year, Fleet Services did make their Notable Fleets list once again. And, although the County General Services Association (CGSA) was unable to hold its annual conference this past spring citing concern for the safety of its members during the COVID-19 pandemic, it still awarded its annual Leib and Kronberg Award for Excellence in Service.



Ventura County took home first place for the third year in a row with Chris Melton's win this year, recognizing his outstanding leadership over the past year, and his efforts in customer service and innovation. CGSA president and GSA director David Sasek presented the award at a special outdoor ceremony at Fleet, observing appropriate social distance (as you can see in the photo, above) and Chris received a framed certificate to commemorate the occasion.

Congratulations to Fleet, and to Chris, on another outstanding year!

## Did You Know?

*Did you know...* Parks Department Service Rangers have shared 56 different real-time videos to date that feature high-visitation County parks' areas. These videos ensure understanding of use pressure and closure needs during the current pandemic.



*Did you know...* Maintenance set up social distancing markers at 17 public counters; screening stations at 9 county locations; and installed triage tents at 7 HCA locations?

*Did you know...* that in order to ensure that critical services are not interrupted due to vehicle service issues, Fleet Services has been completing an average of 36 work orders per day since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Did you know...* BSS has produced 230,000 mailings, flyers, cards, and signs in support of COVID-19 communication efforts for various County agencies? They have also picked up and delivered 1,938 test kits for Public Health and Ambulatory Care.



## HCA Clinics Maintenance Team Honored by Agency Leaders

**G**SA started overseeing the Health Care Agency's clinics in July 2018, and the Medical Examiner's office in 2019. The leadership in GSA Maintenance quickly realized that the scope of care needed to serve our new clients meant that a dedicated team would be needed, and today, that team is not only responsible for providing service to the clinics and ME's office, they do a lot more. On May 27, 2020 the nine members of the team were honored for their professionalism and dedication to customer service by leaders from both HCA and GSA.

Dr. Theresa Cho, Director of Ambulatory Care, presented the team with certificates of appreciation and Amazon gift cards from HCA, and HCA Director William Foley and Ambulatory Care Operations Manager Martin Hahn were also in attendance. GSA Director David Sasek presented the agency's Challenge Coin and award certificate, and members of both agencies' leadership teams described the exemplary work this team consistently performs. In less than two years,

they've saved the County more than \$100,000 by performing work in-house that would have otherwise been contracted out.

They also show extraordinary initiative in finding creative solutions to unique problems. They have developed, for example, a Medication Refrigerator Response Plan that is enacted in emergency situations—part of which is to monitor approximately 90 Medication TempAlert devices throughout the County. This past year, they responded to more than 190 TempAlert alarms and brought offsite generators to 20 County power outages. Their quick response helped prevent the loss of more than \$350,000 in vaccines and medications throughout the County.

The team, several of whom are pictured here with team supervisor Jill Siela at the gathering to receive their awards on May 27th, consists of Plumber Martin Flores; Electrician Nelson Salonga; HVAC Technician James Weaver; and Maintenance Engineers David Beatty, Eddie Marquez, Ernie Marquez, Lee Ramer, Joseph Saffa, and Jim Vines.



# What's New in Parks?

Although official pandemic-related directives required the closure of County parks, beaches, community centers, and related facilities from March 16 through most of May, GSA Parks Department did not remain idle. Here are just a few things our rangers and maintenance team were up to over the past couple of months:

- Five Parks employees worked with VCAAA, aiding in their effort to serve the County's senior population, including two newly hired ranger trainees, **Andrea Rios** and **Michael Dodge**, who joined VCAAA on their first day of

employment; the other Parks team members who stepped up as emergency disaster service workers were ranger trainees **Weston Miyasaki** and **Cameron Davis**, and Maintenance Worker II **Jared Rohlfing**

- Parks Maintenance continued with weed abatement and general facilities maintenance at

all parks, including Dennison, *pictured above*.

- Restroom cleaning is undergoing increased efforts due to new health requirements

Most interestingly, birds and animals returned to many of the County park areas due to the absence of the public presence. Deer have been seen at Soule and Toland parks, and at Camp Comfort, and a red-tailed hawk was spotted at Tapo Canyon Park. Staff at Foster and Steckel parks have seen Great Blue Heron like the one *pictured here*. A large wading bird with light slate-colored feathers and distinctive black and white streaking marks down the front and just above the eye, it is the largest heron found in North America.

With the reopening of the parks, be on the lookout for King snakes—seen at Toland Park—and other snakes in general. A young mountain lion has been roaming Foster Park as well.



## Contact Us

If you have questions about park projects, please e-mail Theresa Lubin at [theresa.lubin@ventura.org](mailto:theresa.lubin@ventura.org). All other inquires can be directed to the appropriate e-mail address or phone number listed below.

**Park Reservations Line:**  
(805) 654-3951

(to reserve group day-use areas and individual campsites)

**Park Ranger Desk:**  
(805) 672-2071

**Park Maintenance Desk:**  
(805) 672-2073

General Questions and Comments:

[county.parks@ventura.org](mailto:county.parks@ventura.org)

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/parks-department](http://www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/parks-department).



## GSA Projects—Victoria Well No. 1

Victoria Well No. 1, located between Webster and Thille streets on the west side of the County Government Center complex, was installed in 1982. Under normal conditions, groundwater extracted from this well provided up to 25% of the city's overall water needs, but maintenance and water quality issues plagued it for over a decade before the city deemed it no longer economically feasible to operate.

The city recently gave the now out-of-service city well to the County of Ventura to be used for landscape irrigation for the Government Center campus. A rehabilitation project was planned, spearheaded by GSA Projects and led by Facilities Project Specialist Sam Jamshidi (pictured, left). The well measured 490 feet below the vault ground floor. As part of the rehabilitation, a new 50 HP pump was installed, which can discharge 250 to 300 GPM with maximum set discharge point of 80 PSI.

Construction was completed in May 2020, and the well now provides landscape irrigation water to the entire Government Center, saving the County thousands of dollars per month.



## GSA's Central Motor Pool is Electrifying

GSA Fleet Services partnered with GSA Facilities Projects and Southern California Edison (SCE) to install 14 electric vehicle (EV) charging ports, as well as purchase 14 new electric vehicles (EVs). In July 2019, Fleet received approval from the County Board of Supervisors, which was the impetus for SCE to begin putting together the plan to provide the power infrastructure at no cost to the County.

Fast forward through the intervening months of drawings, plans, inspections and plan approvals to the start of construction on April 14, 2020. SCE brought in two contractors, Tidewell Excavating and MaxGen, to construct and install the infrastructure.

Tidewell Excavating was tasked with bringing the power supply from Hill Road, directly through Lot E up to a new power vault next

to the Hall of Justice. This required them to either excavate or bore through approximately 800 feet of parking lot and roadway to install conduits the entire length of the parking lot. MaxGen was tasked with installing the charging infrastructure from the newly installed power vault to the new parking locations for the EVs.

As of early May, both contractors have completed their work. In the coming weeks, SCE will be on site to run the electrical wiring from Hill Road to the new vault, and "commission" the final power supply. Once all site prep is complete, GSA Facilities and GSA Fleet Services will coordinate with ChargePoint—the charging station vendor—to install the new charging stations. The anticipated GO LIVE date for Central Motor Pool's new charging stations and addition of the 14 Chevrolet Bolt EVs to the CMP is July 1, 2020. Be sure to check them all out!

