

**GSA Wishes Denise Santoyo a Fond Farewell**



After serving for six years as the Management Assistant to the Director, Denise Santoyo has transferred to the Department of Child Support Services. During her time with GSA, Denise contributed to so many of our Agency's successes, it is hard to narrow down to a few examples. Her hand was behind many of our outreach and recognition programs. She played a key role in many of our strategic initiatives and other agency wide efforts. She was also well known for her chef-like cooking which she brought to the numerous potlucks over the years. She'll be greatly missed, but we wish her the best of success in her new role.

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# GSA Insider

*Great Service Always!*



GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Can you believe that it is already 2022? And, May at that! It has been some time since our last newsletter and, as you can imagine, a lot has happened. We have welcomed some new faces to GSA and said goodbye to some familiar ones. I am excited to introduce the new Chief Deputy Director of Facilities & Materials — Craig Clutts (you can read about him on page 5). And, many of you might have already met my new Management Assistant, Susan Torres. She came on board in February. In addition to the new hires, transfers & retirements, many employees have promoted to well-deserved positions in our Agency and have helped us continue in our mission to deliver **Great Service Always**. This is evident as you read about our 2021 Employees of the Year and the Staff Compliments section. We recognized employees through STAR Awards & Challenge Coins. But, that's not all! Parks made some amazing strides in moving towards bringing concepts for local parks to life by acquiring funding. And, over in F&M, Special Services was quite busy being environmentally friendly with the Bike Locker program and the annual Earth Day & E-Waste events.

Until next time,

David J. Sasek

### **2021 GSA Employee of the Year Contest was Tight with an Outstanding List of Nominees**

While facing another year of uncertainty, it is absolutely certain that GSA employees are resilient and provide not just great service, but exemplary service! GSA staff go to great lengths to support our customers demonstrating their character and tenacity. For those who were nominated, it's these qualities and more that set them apart and made this year's contest for Employee of the Year a difficult one to decide. With a superior list of contenders, GSA's senior leadership team faced a challenging decision determining the finalists from the nominees:



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**In the category of Administration, the nominees were:**

- ◆ Geraldine Johnson, Purchasing Technician, Procurement
- ◆ Esme Squires, Staff Services Specialist, Business Support
- ◆ Andrew Smith, Accountant II, Fiscal
- ◆ Brad Wyatt, Office Systems Coordinator III, GSA IT Group

**In the category of Line/Field staff, the nominees were:**

- ◆ Warren Falk, Automotive Systems Technician III, Fleet
- ◆ Alfonso Gonzalez, Senior Auto Mechanic, Fleet
- ◆ Bill Lawrence, Certified Maintenance Engineer, Maintenance
- ◆ Fernando Naranjo, Maintenance Worker III, Parks
- ◆ Eric Ostrom, Certified Maintenance Engineer, Maintenance

**In the category of Supervision/Management, the nominees were:**

- ◆ Rick Bobosky, Facilities Manager, Maintenance
- ◆ Scott Broggie, Facility Operations Specialist II, Maintenance
- ◆ Doug Cooke, Facilities Operations Manager, Maintenance
- ◆ Robert Crawford, Staff Services Manager II, Fleet
- ◆ Ali Esquivel, Mailroom Supervisor, Business Support
- ◆ Cherri Francis, Staff Services Specialist, Fleet
- ◆ Josh Gannon, Staff Services Specialist, Business Support
- ◆ Leslie Reed, Parks Operations Manager, Parks

**Congratulations to the employees of the year for 2021:**

Warren Falk, Automotive Systems Technician III; Geraldine Johnson, Purchasing Technician; and Robert Crawford, Staff Services Manager II. Their nominating team members and fellow coworkers had plenty to say about the great work these folks do every day.

**Warren Falk, 2021 Employee of the Year, Line/Field Staff:**

Warren Falk's work as an Automotive Systems Technician III in the Upfit Shop is actually well-known across the County for his continued excellence in providing the highest quality work for customers with his technical abilities to install lighting and electronic equipment in vehicles. Warren is part of the reason the Upfit Shop at Fleet has its prominent reputation for delivering quality builds, both within and outside of the County. Warren was instrumental in outfitting a mobile command traffic investigation vehicle for Camarillo P.D. with a 360-degree exterior view camera system for safety and TV monitor and wireless network that can be accessed remotely. He outfitted the EMS command with 2 separate onboard computer systems, multiple 2-way radios and scanners, and fully programmable emergency lighting. He is always humble about his achievements, ensuring that his customers' needs come first and that he meets their expectations. With a strong work ethic and complete dedication to his craft, Warren has made positive, significant contributions to the success of the Fleet department and the Agency.



**Geraldine Johnson, 2021 Employee of the Year, Administration:**

As a new Purchasing Technician, Geraldine Johnson has thrived in GSA Procurement. She has enjoyed working for several buyers, building her skills, and increasing her proficiency with numerous VCFMS documents and codes of public purchasing, to where she now assists in training new staff. Geraldine rolled up her sleeves to learn new tasks, and during the pandemic monitored the Procurement phone lines and became the backup for the reception desk, for mail processing, for parking citations, for Director Sasek's phone lines, and a variety of extra in-office duties always with a smile. Geraldine excels in customer service treating customers on the phone or in the office with respect, with kindness, and has a developed a technical expertise to answer and address their concerns. Geraldine treats people with compassion and good will and is a true benefit to this Agency.



**Robert Crawford, 2021 Employee of the Year, Supervision/Management:**

Robert Crawford, Administration Fleet Manager, demonstrated leadership skills above and beyond overseeing two highly visible GSA projects: underutilized vehicle reductions and electric vehicle onboarding bringing positive exposure to Fleet and increasing GSA's professional reputation Countywide. Robert created the tool GSA currently uses to measure vehicle utilization. A complicated spreadsheet with data from multiple sources is organized so anyone can easily understand both vehicle usage and costs. Fleet cannot reiterate the importance of this tool, to date this tool allows leaders to make data-driven fact-based decisions, including reduction of 24 vehicles at an annual savings of \$113,440 (and growing). Robert also led a team who applied and received \$949,549 in grant funding to replace 18 aging remote motor pool (RMP) vehicles and install 9 solar charging stations across 3 RMP facilities. They reduced the underutilized vehicle count more in 12 months than in the previous 10 years combined, and more than doubled the Fleet EV count. Yet, he still makes time to joke with coworkers, inspire those around him to strive for more, and pass on a few excel tricks on Friday in his Hawaiian shirt.



# MOVIN' & SHAKIN' – WHO'S COMING,



## Remembering David Moya



David Moya, Maintenance Engineer with GSA Facilities & Materials, passed away on May 10, 2022. He started his 21 year career with the County in March 2001. David was a valued member of the Todd Road Jail Maintenance team.

David loved classic cars. He had a beautiful 1958 black impala that he restored from the ground up. He enjoyed participating in the classic car shows with his ride and was the president of the "Intruders Ventura County Chapter" car club. He lived in Oxnard with his aunt & his furry Chihuahua best friend. Dave was a full time caregiver for his aunt &

mother and loved spending time with his niece. He also looked forward to and enjoyed his annual trip to Las Vegas. David was a dedicated man to his family and will be greatly missed.

## WHO'S GOING IN GSA

### Fiscal:

- \*Jennifer Cadoff, Accounting Assistant II
- \*Magdalena Cervantes, Accounting Assistant II

### Parks:

- \*Fernando Naranjo, Maintenance Worker II

### Procurement:

- \*Rory Aronsky, Buyer
- \*Melissa Lorenzen, Principal Buyer
- \*Pannipa Pantutamangkul, Buyer
- \*Bettina Vicencio, Principal Buyer

## RESIGNATIONS / SEPARATIONS / TRANSFERS

### Administration:

- \*Denise Santoyo, Management Assistant IV-C

### Business Support:

- \*Harold Muliadi, Graphic Technician I
- \*Veronica Villalobos, Courier II

### Facilities & Materials:

- \*Patrick Browne, Building Equipment Utility Worker
- \*Ronald Casas, Custodian II
- \*Howie Freedman, Contract Support Specialist
- \*Diana Maldonado, Management Assistant II
- \*Jose Olvera, Staff/Services Specialist I
- \*Enrique Reily, Custodian II
- \*Juan Rivera, Maintenance Worker II
- \*Jorge Valladares Fernandez, Technical Specialist IV

### Fleet:

- \*Eileen Ozawa, Technical Specialist IV
- \*Federico Ramos, Heavy Equipment Service Worker
- \*Daniel Torres, Student Worker III

### Parks:

- \*Natalie Everton, Park Services Ranger Trainee
- \*Miranda Myers, Park Services Ranger I
- \*Todd Rainville, Park Services Ranger I
- \*Brian Sarff, Park Services Ranger II
- \*Marc Zavala, Park Services Ranger I

### Procurement:

- \*Curtis Heath, Senior Buyer

## RETIREMENTS

### Fiscal:

- \*Judy Downard, Senior Accountant —18 years of service

### Parks:

- \*Richard Cobb, Public Work Maintenance Worker Specialist — 32 years of services
- \*Joseph Peery, Maintenance Worker II —14 years of service

### Procurement:

- \*Jody Howard, Principal Buyer —30 years of service

## NEW HIRES

### Administration:

- \*Beeta Lopez, Assistant HR Manager
- \*Susan Torres, Management Assistant IV-C

### Business Support:

- \*Barbara Alvarez, Graphics Technician II
- \*Armando Garcia Jimenez, Courier II
- \*Robyn Holland, Courier II

### Facilities & Materials:

- \*Daniel Arreola, Public Service Intern
- \*David Barley, Facilities Manager—Security, Special Services, Housekeeping/Grounds
- \*Craig Clutts, Chief Deputy Director
- \*Dwayne Conary, Facility Projects Specialist
- \*Christopher Cruz, Custodian II
- \*Vidal Fuentes, Tile Setter
- \*Henry Rangel, Custodian II
- \*Jason Straiten, Office Systems Coordinator III

### Fleet:

- \*Victor Flandes, Student Worker III
- \*Devin Osalde, Garage Attendant
- \*Miguel Sanchez, Student Worker III

### Parks:

- \*Elmer Mayorga, Park Services Ranger Trainee
- \*Caleb Newcomb, Maintenance Worker II
- \*Joseph Riedmiller, Park Services Ranger Trainee
- \*Jared Rohlfing, Maintenance Worker II

### Procurement:

- \*Andrew Becker, Buyer
- \*Priscilla Cerda, Student Worker III
- \*Ryan Stover, Purchasing Technician

## PROMOTIONS

### Facilities & Materials:

- \*Nathaniel Dixon, Certified Building Maintenance Engineer

## GSA Spotlight On... Retiring Employees

**Jody Howard, Principal Buyer—Procurement**

**Retirement Date: March 4, 2022**

**30 Years of Service**



Jody Howard began her career with the County of Ventura in September 1982 at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office as a Fiscal Assistant II, and in May 1985 left to have her children. She then returned to the County in September 1989. Jody found her final work home at the General Services Agency/Procurement Services in November 2000 as a Purchasing Technician for 6 years, promoted to Buyer for 6 years, then Senior Buyer for 1.5 years, and promoted to her final position as a Principal Buyer (supervisor) on February 2, 2014. Jody will be missed!! She was an exceptional employee who made a tremendous contribution to the County, GSA Procurement, and all of her customers. She continuously looked for opportunities to reduce costs without cutting corners, taking great pride in her work and practicing Lean 6 Sigma thought processes throughout her Procurement career.

Jody has been an integral part of many important projects along her Procurement journey, too many to list, but Job Order Contracting (JOC), being a big one. She embodied all the positive characteristics that one looks for in a role model, and was particularly known for getting the job done, being high energy, her morale-boosting social activities and events in the office, and was a pro at organizing and prioritizing her workload. Jody was a great public-relations person who was praised by everyone she encountered.

**Judy Downard, Senior Accountant—Fiscal**

**Retirement Date: April 2, 2022**

**18 Years of Service**



Having worked for the County of Ventura for over 17 years, Judy was a wealth of experience & knowledge. She maintained good working relationships with her team members through her reliability & trustworthiness. As a matter of fact, Judy's coworkers would describe her as "an absolute pleasure to work with". Her positive and helpful demeanor were a valuable addition to the Fiscal team and she will be missed.

**Richard Cobb, Public Works Maintenance Worker Specialist- Parks**

**Retirement Date: February 26, 2022**

**32 years of Service**



Richard "Rick" Cobb work for the County of Ventura for 32 years and was instrumental in the maintenance and project management of parks. Over his years of service, there were multiple notable projects that Rick was involved in including replacing 2600' of waterline at Soule Park from the entrance of the park to the maintenance yard, creation and installation of horseshoe and cornhole pits throughout County Parks, large tree planting project at Oak Park and the development of RV Camping at Hobson and Steckel Parks.

**Joseph Peery, Maintenance Worker II**

**Retirement Date: January 31, 2022**

**14 years of Service**



Joseph "Joe" Peery was an energetic and vocal member of the Parks Maintenance team, lending his knowledge and skills to maintenance throughout Ventura County Parks. Joe's main assignments included maintenance at the beach parks and mowing at local parks. Many good ideas and feedback came from Joe's participation at Park Staff meetings.

## GSA Welcomes a New Chief Deputy Director of Facilities & Materials



Craig Clutts joins GSA as the new Chief Deputy Director of Facilities & Materials. He previously served for 23 years as a naval officer with proven expertise in facilities & construction management. Craig led Sailors at sea for 4 years as a Surface Warfare Officer and then transferred to the Civil Engineer Corps, where he directed Seabees in 3 operational tours. Preceding retirement, Craig was the Executive Officer of Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center in Port Hueneme, supporting 1,275 personnel in the research and development, in-service engineering, and acquisition of shore facilities, ocean infrastructure, and expeditionary equipment worldwide.

*"In my 23 years as a naval officer, I was honored to lead in 5 operational tours and 6 shore commands.*

*During my first division officer tour, I served onboard USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42), homeported in Sasebo, Japan. While sailing home from Australia, we were tasked to be the largest ship to make a port visit to Palau, Federated States of Micronesia. I was selected to be the conning officer (ship driver, providing commands to the helmsman). After completing my navigation brief to the khaki the night prior, the commanding officer walked up in front, slammed his hands on the table and said he was scared to pull into Palau... but if we have to, then Clutts is driving. The jury is still out as to whether this was a testimony to his trust in me or the fact that Ensigns are expendable.*

*During my first operational Civil Engineer Corps tour, I led a detail of 83 Seabees in Al Taqaddum, Iraq to complete 35 general officer prioritized projects which included the full repair of a 13,000 ft runway. It's never fun to leave your wife and baby boy home for 7 months while deployed into harm's way. No doubt Alicia (wife of 19yrs) had the harder assignment during our separation, but I like to think we were connected by the fact that while I was leading the "Runway Project", she was also watching "Project Runway" at home.*

*Our son, CT, is soon to be a new driver and a talented rock musician. Our daughter, Bella, has recently transitioned from more than a decade of gymnastics to softball and cheer. My favorite hobby of family was most displayed in our 4 years stationed in DC. We used our home in Woodbridge, VA as a base camp for family trips all along the east coast as far north as Boston and Plymouth, as far south as St. Augustine and Fort Lauderdale, and as far west as Memphis. We visited historical locations, battlefields and enjoyed the diverse foods across our great nation! I have led engineering efforts and operated utilities plants at sea and ashore, and I am excited about having an opportunity to turn my service of country into service of county. Hopefully, the simple dropping of 1 letter makes transition to civilian life easier."*

**~Craig Clutts**





# STAR AWARD

## SPECIAL THOUGHT AND ACTION RECEIVES RECOGNITION

The intent of the award program is to encourage individual employees to develop suggestions that will save money, increase effectiveness, increase revenue, improve safety and generally improve County operations.

**SURPRISE!** Nathan Paul and Brad Wyatt were each awarded the STAR award for their innovative suggestions to increase GSA effectiveness.

*“Thank you so much to Doug, my supervisor, for helping me make it happen!”*

**-Nathan Paul**



Nathan did not settle for the status quo but stepped forward with extra effort and research to procure a new Picote machine, to produce a new preferred process for staff, extraordinary savings for GSA, and superior results for our customers. His technical expertise to rehabilitate rather than replace sewer main lines using the Picote, at the current rate, is achieving \$47,000 hard savings annually to the maintenance budget – which results in ultimate savings for our customers.

Brad’s initiative to collaborate enabled GSA IT Group to utilize an existing State of California agreement’s pricing structure for upgrading Microsoft core processor licenses. What started as just a phone call, became a creative alternative and partnership which will save GSA nearly \$1,000,000 over the 3-year term. Thank you, Brad, for your phenomenal actions & commitment to public service and increasing effective County operations.



**This new process has proven itself beyond expectations. It has also put an end to growing frustration over drain issues for staff and especially GSA Customers.**

**- Doug Cooke**

**“I was shocked—I really thought this was a meeting. I can’t believe I won something like this! Thank you!”**

**- Brad Wyatt**



## MAINTENANCE AT TODD ROAD JAIL EARN DIRECTOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE CHALLENGE COIN

Supervisor Scott Broggie demonstrated initiative and leadership to create an opportunity for staff empowerment and to combat increasing replacement parts expenses. He engaged all staff and encouraged their unique skills and strengths creating the opportunity for staff development, innovative teamwork, creative problem solving, a chance to change the culture and bottom-line budget savings which became the Todd Road Jail Maintenance Parts Rebuild Stations.

The crew took it upon themselves to construct a work station to rebuild these critical parts rather than fill up landfills and purchase new expensive parts. The team located a work table that was to be discarded, purchased bins for stock parts, John Riddle fabricated a shelf to hold the bins above the worktable, and placed an Ultrasonic cleaner to remove the hard water scale off the assemblies. Christian Acuna led the team to develop new procedures and trained everyone on the disassembly, cleaning and reassembly using a test station to verify the rebuilt servomotors work properly.

This team's dedication and technical expertise, in only 6 months, contributed to over \$14,000 in savings and will continue to achieve savings, every time an assembly is repaired, not purchased. TRJ maintenance team takes great pride in their skills, their work to keep GSA costs low, and to provide superior customer service getting equipment back into operation quickly.



Dave Sasek, John Riddle, Matt MacLaren, Vince Childs, Eddie Aganinta, Jeff Ellis, Eric George, Scott Broggie, Clint McGauley, Christian Acuna, Rob Harris, Steve McLaughlin. Not pictured: David Moya, Martin Marquez



For example about 25 Acorn Black Controller assemblies for vacuum toilets are installed. Susceptible to failure, sometimes as high as 5 per month, replacement costs were \$237.60 each or up to \$1,188 monthly. On average rebuilding 2 controllers/hour, TRJ achieved a savings of nearly \$184/unit or over \$7,300 a year in hard savings.

**Continuous Improvement:** Once staff rebuilt one part, they looked for others to refurbish at their new rebuild stations. In 6 months, staff also repaired 20 Acorn Mastertrol Valve Actuator Assembly saving \$5,380.20 and 80 Acorn Servomotors have been refurbished for a hard savings of \$5,438. Kudos!

## Fleet & The Crown Jewel of the Sheriff's Department



Pictured: Chris Melton takes a photo with Sheriff Bill Ayub who was driving the refurbished Crown Vic in Ventura's Saint Patrick's Day parade.

In 1992, the Ventura County Sheriff's Department began using the Ford Crown Victoria sedan to replace the Dodge Diplomat as the vehicle of choice for the Sheriff's Department's patrol duties. The Crown Vic, as it became known, quickly became the top choice for patrol needs for the Sheriff, as well as law enforcement agencies across the nation. This vehicle was reliable, and had specially designed features and modifications that bolstered the engine, charging, and cooling capacity to withstand the severe use to which it was put. It also had the internal space that made its use comfortable for the deputies, as well as plenty of trunk space for their gear, and room for one to three "passengers" in the rear seat. Some have said that

by bolstering and modifying the Crown Vic, it became one of the most dependable and durable workhorse law enforcement vehicles of the modern era.

The Crown Vic's last production year was 2011, and the Sheriff's Department began transitioning their patrol duties to the Chevy Tahoe. As the Tahoes came online, the Crown Vics were retired from the fleet and sold at auction. Today there are only a few remaining within Sheriff. The Sheriff's Department approached Fleet Services requesting that one of the final Crown Vics in service be retired, but then refurbished to "like-new" patrol condition. This included paint and body work, and communications equipment and lights be refurbished to period-specific condition. The Sheriff's Department's objective was to have a working example of a platform that had served them so well for so long, and to be as close to automotive museum quality as possible for a long-term display item at the Sheriff's Academy. Fleet completed the restoration and delivered it to the Sheriff's Office on September 21, 2021. This final Crown Vic will become a visible reminder of the history of this vehicle and its use by the Sheriff's Department.



# Staff Compliments

“Thank you, **JJ Vaivao**, for moving the safe in such a timely manner, you did an amazing job!”

– Jennifer Weiler,  
Sr. Deputy Probation Officer

Shout out to the entire **Parks Team**. Easter weekend is one of the busiest days of the year and that didn't stop the **VC Parks Staff** or **GSA Security** personnel from going above and beyond to ensure that the residents of Ventura have an amazing day. Each park reached max. capacity by 12:30pm and was shut down to traffic but staff worked diligently to ensure that parking rules were followed, guests were set up property in their picnic area & that people were celebrating in a safe way. VC Parks staff made sure that customer service and safety were a priority this holiday.

“On March 23rd at 11:00 pm there were two call outs. The first was regarding a lab freezer going down. **Anthony DeAnda** responded immediately. There was an access issue, but Anthony waited and took care of the issue. At the same time, the Ultralow unit was not reporting its temperature at the South Oxnard location (SOX). There were 500 doses of vaccine in the unit so someone needed to respond to confirm the unit temp was in range. Anthony once again was awesome. He took care of Lab and then headed over to SOX to meet Erik from EMS.

– Bev Hansen, Health Care Agency

“Thank you to the GSA team for the handling of a large scheduled surplus pick-up & furniture work. **Ruben Silva, Joel Landin & Ryan Pimentel** were very accommodating during the surplus pick up; and during this time, the customer wanted standing furniture re-configured and **JJ Vaivao** showed up & completed the work. All four worked together to help complete the job, collaborating between **Business Support & Projects**. They were quick, quiet, avoided any disruptions to our daily business and were courteous and professional.”

–David Hansen,  
RMA Building & Safety

“In late 2021, the Sheriff’s Office was notified that 24 of our tracking devices needed upgrade because they were older technology and would be taken offline in February 2022. We immediately began the procurement process and authorized a purchase of over \$20,000 in new equipment. This was time sensitive to keep the equipment & service up to date. Melissa Schulte and **Bettina Vicencio** worked on the project together and were able to complete the project prior to the deadline. All new trackers were delivered and placed into service before the old trackers was discontinued. This extra work provided a saving to the Sheriff’s Office in excess of \$10,000 and aligned most of the service plans on the same timeline.”

–Captain Brian Slominski,  
Ventura County Sheriff’s Office

“Thank You **Kelly Stewart! Patrick Squires**, Your **Staff** are Amazing! They are the Grease that keeps the County Machine moving.”

– Tom Wadsworth, HSA  
re: gaining access to their server room

Big shout to **Jorge Bonilla** for helping the Sheriff out with a last minute issue they were experiencing. When the Sheriff’s new command post was delivered to Ontario, the Sheriff did not have anyone available with the required endorsements to drive it to Ventura. Jorge volunteered to help them bring it home, so Assistant Sheriff Chris Dunn gave Jorge a ride to Ontario and Jorge drove the new rig to its new home! He said it’s “big, really big” and that it has plenty of power from its Detroit Diesel engine. Thanks Jorge for jumping in to help Fleet’s largest customer at the last minute!

# WHAT'S NEW IN PARKS?



Lewis Road Conceptual Plan

## Contact Us

If you have questions about park projects, please e-mail Colter Chisum at [Colter.Chisum@ventura.org](mailto:Colter.Chisum@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

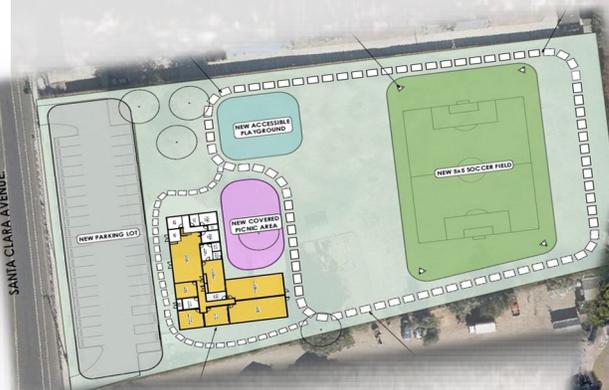
General Questions and Comments:

[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).

**VC Parks was approved for \$10.3 million in American Rescue Plan Acts (ARPA) Projects!** On April 26th, 2022, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved three significant projects that will improve Ventura County parks for some of our underserved communities. The three parks that received these funds are:

- ◆ Saticoy Park & Community Center
- ◆ Nyeland Acres Community Center
- ◆ The new Lewis Road Park



Nyeland Acres Park & Community Center Development



Saticoy Park Concept



## Bike Locker Program Expands

With the return of warm weather, what better time is there to sign up for the County Bike Locker program? Bike lockers are available free of charge to County employees who frequently ride their bike to work, furnishing them with a safe place to store their bicycle during the workday.

Little by little, GSA Security & Special Services has begun replacing the existing, personal-lock bike lockers with new Bluetooth lockers, which require no external lock, and are therefore much safer and tamper-resistant. Access is via app on the user's smart phone, and the user must be approved by GSA Security & Special Services in order to be given access to their specific assigned bike locker. The new bike lockers can be seen at the Government Center in the R Lot and in the H Lot, or at 1911 Williams in Oxnard. We also have them on order for the E Lot and for the Telephone Road Building, with anticipated delivery by mid-June.

The growing popularity of the bike locker program has encouraged us to repurpose the older, replaced bike lockers to new locations who have not had bike lockers in the past. The latest recipients of the bike lockers are 855 Partridge and the Family Justice Center on Loma Vista.

With the increasing cost of gas, why not do your health AND your wallet a favor, and start biking to work?



To sign up for a bike locker, please visit <https://www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/security-forms/> and select **Bike Locker Permit**.

## Earth Day & E-Waste Score Two Home Runs

To celebrate Earth Day 2022, GSA Special Services/Grounds held their annual Earth Day Tour of the Government Center on April 22, with over 140 people registered and 100 in attendance. The tour has grown and expanded over the years, and this year included presentations from employees in the CEO/Sustainability Division, speaking about the tree canopy, going green in the home, and electric vehicles. Also included were the usual presentations by PWA/IWMD and PWA Watershed Protection, speaking about composting, pervious concrete, and the ocean friendly garden. The highlight of the tour was at the start, when for the first time on our tour, District Attorney Erik Nasarenko spoke of the accolades received by the DA's Environmental Protection Unit as they work hard to safeguard our environment.

Simultaneously, GSA Special Services/Housekeeping held their semi-annual E-Waste Collection event at the Service Building on April 21 and April 22. This time, the amount collected was enormous: 18 pallets and 11,225 pounds – triple the weight of the collection last November. The event was open to public as well as County employees, and it seemed as if everyone had been saving their e-waste for years! Thanks to Meighan Batinica, Cyndy Taschman, Crystal Zendejas, Patrick Squires, Susan Torres, Bruce Ward, Jielei Robledo, Jennifer Cadoff, Jeri Cooper, Geraldine Johnson, Alicia Ibarra, Rebecca Moak, & Boyd Donavon for volunteering their time to assist with the collection.

The next E-Waste Collection event will be held November 14-15, 2022, in celebration of America Recycles Day. Let's see if we can surpass our latest numbers!

