# GSA Insider Great Service Always!



GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

### Inside this issue: Director's Message **Did You Know?** Coming & Going Welcome to GSA— Colin Weber GSA Spotlight—Public Service Interns 5-6 **Staff Compliments** 8-9 **New in Parks** Celebrating Graduates 10 **GSA Records Destruction** П Fleet—ACT Expo 12 Earth Day 13

GSA'S SUMMER LUNCHES ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



**2023** is just flying by! Can you believe it is almost summer already? With the May gray, we would never have known. GSA Facilities & Materials department is looking forward to hosting the upcoming Summer Lunches at the Service Building! Since GSA covers so many work locations, the Summer Lunches are one of the few times that all GSA departments gather together. Your ticket purchase comes with food, drinks, desserts, and entry in to the much-anticipated gift card raffle! We look forward to seeing you!



# From the Director

It's hard to believe that we're already at the midpoint of this calendar year, and soon it will be time to look ahead to planning new challenges for the coming one. Before we do, I'd like to take a moment to share with you what GSA has been up to in 2023 so far.

Take a look inside to meet our new Transportation Sustainability Administrator and our Public Service Interns. We also celebrate staff and family graduations with short articles highlighting their accomplishments.

You'll see other great stories about how GSA employees have been going the extra mile: Parks Department preparing our parks for summer, Business Support Services helping out HSA in the destruction of over 15,000 boxes, Fleet Services continuing to look for opportunities to reduce the County's carbon footprint with looking to the future of hydrogen and electric vehicles, and Special Services having their semi-annual ewaste event.

Our GSA team members have been busy all over the County—you've probably seen them operating behind the scenes!

Our employees excel at getting things done, and providing great service, always, every day.

Until next time,

David Sasek

# Did you know?...Maintenance processed 24,773 total work orders in FY21-22

Part of the GSA mission is to contribute to the quality of life in Ventura County by partnering with our customers to provide expertise and deliver cost effective service. GSA consistently asks how we can better serve our customers. Maintenance over the past year has diligently set aside time to revamp and upgrade their work order system to do just that.



GSA maintenance's goal is to now partner with our customers and transition to primarily online work orders. Of course, dispatch will always be available for emergency phone calls and for assistance.

Maintenance issues/Work Requests must now be submitted online at: http://venturagsa.maintstar.co/portal/.

Work requests as of June 1, 2023 will no longer be accepted through email GSA.maintenance@ventura.org and will need to be placed by the requestor through portal.

GSA is switching to this method and wants our customers to understand the shift and gratefully asks for your participation in the transition. The new system is robust and has access available to all customers and agencies to enter work requests, even if you are not a County employee. Placing an online request, inputting details

straight into the system, instead of emails will create greater efficiencies for both GSA dispatch, maintenance and for customers. This easy-to-use system will minimize the duplication of work effort, capture all notes provided by requestor, and allow requestors to track all requests online in real-time. Most importantly, having customers directly input their work request online affords maintenance a faster,

Benefits of web requests: Quick and easy access to placing a work request.

ms. My Requests © Refresh ₹ Filter Status Details Operation Tagged WR# Issued Closed Date WR00043130 0 05/10/2023 Open Open Facilities Concrete Repairs Ventura 09:45 AM WR00040743 01/19/2023 Closed Closed Facilities Electrical . Ventura Jan 24 09:01 AM WR00039678 11/23/2022 Closed Closed Facilities 11/28/2022 Keys/Locks , ventura

Instant customer access by reference number to track work order status. Ability for maintenance staff to quickly contact requestors.

Thank you for partnering with GSA to create a more efficient process and for choosing GSA to be your maintenance partners. If you have issues with this link, please try Google Chrome. If you need assistance registering or creating a request, please contact Tamarra Barbey at (805) 677-8744.

Always, for maintenance-related Emergencies, please call GSA Dispatch at (805) 654-3878.

# Movin' and Shakin' who's coming, who's going in GSA

## **New Hires/Transfers in**to GSA

- ♦ Ashleigh Butler, Student Worker III
- ♦ Alex Espinoza, Auto Mechanic II
- ♦ Sonia Castro, Park Services Ranger Trainee
- ♦ Matthew Kottak, Park **Services Ranger Trainee**
- **♦ Zachary Miller, Mainte**nance Worker II
- ♦ James Jordahl, Maintenance Worker II
- ♦ Clint Ellison, Park Services Ranger Trainee
- ♦ Jevin Chase, Park Services Ranger Trainee
- ♦ Jacob Zamora, Park Services Ranger Trainee
- Baldemar Cortez, Garage Promotions **Attendant**
- ♦ Ruben Galabiz, Grounds **Maintenance Worker II**
- ♦ Maggie Nguyen, Fleet Office Assistant III
- ♦ Reyleen Sandoval Dowler, **Special Services Manage**ment Assistant II
- ♦ Kyle Zufolo, Graphics Technician II
- ♦ Eduardo Reyes JR, Custodian II
- ♦ Timothy Wiggins, Custodian II

ing Center near Castaic, CA.

- ◆ David McCarthy, Parks, **Maintenance Staff** / Services Specialist II
- ♦ Lupe Roman, Management Assistant II

### Transfers from GSA

- ♦ Sarah Corona, Office Assistant III
- ♦ Crystal Zendejas, Office **Assistant IV**
- Hayden McPherson, Park Services Ranger II
- ♦ Andrew Leon, Garage **Attendant**
- ♦ Astrid Rodriguez Serrano, Office Assistant III
- ♦ Brad Wyatt, Office Systems Coordinator III

- ♦ Elmer Mayorga, Parks Services Ranger II
- ♦ Adrian Bonilla, Park Services Ranger I
- ♦ Devin Osalde, Heavy Equipment Mechanic I
- ♦ Beeta Lopez, Administrative Officer II
- ♦ Saul De La Rosa, Maintenance Engineer
- ♦ Caleb Newcomb, Maintenance Worker III

- ♦ Steven Kasten, **Heavy Equipment Mechan-**
- Melissa Lorenzen, Staff-**Services Specialist I**
- ◆ Lieba Butler, Program Administrator, Assistant

### Retirements

- ♦ Sam Jamshidi, Facility Project Specialist
- Cherri Francis, Staff-Services Specialist I
- ♦ Cyndy Taschman, Management Assistant II

# Resignations/Separations

- ♦ Jose Marin, Heavy Equipment Service Wkr
- ♦ Jade Alamillo, GSA **Maintenance Worker III**
- ♦ Gabriela Cervantes, Office **Assistant III**
- ♦ Fernando Naranjo, Public Work Maint. Worker Spec.
- ♦ Jacob Castro, Heavy Equipment Mechanic II
- ♦ Jacob Passantino, Maintenance Worker II
- ♦ Luis Ascencio Guzman, Courier II
- ♦ Carlos Montiel-Guzman, Student Worker III

- ♦ Baldemar Cortez, Garage **Attendant**
- Adrian Grimaldo, Management Assistant II
- ♦ Cesar Luna, Principal Accountant
- ♦ Christian Gonzalez, Maintenance Worker III



It was bittersweet for GSA Projects as Project Specialist, Sam Jamshidi retired after 32 years. His final day was April 15th, 2023.

Sam will be dearly missed.

May 5th marked Jade Alamillo's final day with GSA Grounds. Jade moved on to become a firefighter and follow in the footsteps of his father who was a firefighter for the City of Oxnard for 44 years.. Jade will become an LA County Fire Recruit, Class 170, where he begins 18 weeks of training at the Del Valle Regional Train-

Jade has spent the last 3 years on the GSA Grounds team and was recently promoted to GSA Maintenance Worker III.

Before working with GSA, Jade worked with the California Conservation Corps where he learned wildland firefighting. He also worked as an EMT with Lifeline Ambulance (now Gold Coast Ambulance). Jade attended Oxnard College's Fire Academy to lay the path towards accomplishing his goal.

Jade will remember his time with GSA Grounds fondly. He appreciated that GSA accepted him with open arms, let him try out new ideas and provided opportunities to learn new skills.

Best wishes and good luck in your new venture Jade!



Welcome Transportation Sustainability Administrator: Colin Weber

Fleet Services welcomes Colin Weber to the team. Colin Weber is a new hire to the Fleet Services management team and will be responsible for planning the transition of the County fleet to low emission or alternative fuel vehicles, be it battery electric, hydrogen, hybrid electric, etc. He has oversight of alternative fuel related projects and compliance.

Colin was hired to continue the already great work Fleet Services has been performing to meet alternative fuel goals and future zero emission vehicle requirements. Colin's main responsibilities include regulation review and reporting, and which will also aid our Fleet plan for vehicle retirement and subsequent procurement to meet regulations as well as applying for eligible grants and rebates. In combination with this, he will work on planning infrastructure upgrades with our ments for reduced emissions. partner agencies as needed. Additionally, Colin will assist on subsequent project review and ultimately project coordination on behalf of Fleet Services. To help keep Fleet Services as one of the top in the nation (40<sup>th</sup> top Green Fleet per NAFA), Colin will conduct technology analysis of vehicles and infrastructure while engaging with the rest of the Fleet team and our partner agencies. He will help our county as an alternative fuel subject matter expert and represent fleet in communications regarding this topic.

Colin brings invaluable experience and a





proven track record in product analysis, project management, rebate management, and technical analysis, all of which will be crucial to meet our county goals and state require-

Before accepting a role with the County of Ventura, Colin worked for Rexel Energy Solutions, a top distributor in electrification and energy efficiency equipment. His duties included managing EV charging station projects from initial equipment sale to project planning, and final implementation. He developed projects as a Quotations Specialist, utilizing technical analysis and product analysis to help their partners achieve their project goals. Before his roles at Rexel Energy Solutions, Colin worked at NextGen LED where he oversaw their engineering team in

their energy audit, project specification, project management, and rebate management efforts. Colin graduated from the University of Maryland first with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and then finished his Master of Engineering in Sustainable Energy Engineering.

Colin lives in Camarillo with his wife of two years. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, cooking, home improvement, reading, and going to the beach with their two doas.

# GSA Spotlight on... 2023 Public Service Interns—Aaron Wilson and Kevin Powell



Aaron Wilson was an intern with GSA's Human Resources team in administration. The County's Public Service Internship Program is aimed at providing currently enrolled and recent college graduates with meaningful work experiences while bringing awareness of what a career in public service has to offer.

Aaron holds a Bachelor's degree in philosophy from The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a Master's degree in American Indian Studies from UCLA, and a Juris Doctor degree from the Ventura College of Law.

On March 25, 2023 Aaron attended his law school commencement where he participated in a formal doctoral hooding ceremony at the Santa Barbara

Hilton.

Aaron is a husband and a proud father of two young children.

Aaron is scheduled to sit for the July 2023 California Bar Examination.

He is interested in using the skills and training from his educational background to take on roles within public service to be able to serve and positively impact our community.



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Kevin Powell was an intern in Facilities and Materials. Originally from a small Texas town, he never imagined living in Southern California. After high school Kevin joined the Navy, which eventually led him to California. Kevin spent four years onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln Aircraft Carrier. When his contract was complete, Kevin found a job as a military contractor in San Diego. While in San Diego, Kevin met his wife Janine, who originally is from Thousand Oaks. After living in San Diego for more than three years Kevin, had an opportunity to work as a military contractor on Port Hueneme. Because of Kevin's close relationship with his future father-in-law, Kevin became very interested in working for one of the local governments here in Ventura County. In 2016 Kevin and Janine



got married and moved to Ventura. With his sights still set on a government job, Kevin made the decision to leave his military contracting job to go back to college to finish up his bachelor's degree. From 2020-2023 attended night classes at CLU, while juggling a job as a part time facilities manager, running a party rental business, and raising three little kids who are ages 5 and under. When Kevin heard about the Public Service Internship Program with the County of Ventura he knew he had to apply. This was the opportunity he has been waiting for. Though it was tough to add another job to his already full plate, he could not pass on the opportunity.



The internship has been the best professional development decision Kevin has made thus far. Kevin has been working with a team to revise and update safety programs for the GSA such as Hazmat, Fall Protection, Lock-Out Tag-Out, and a few others. Alongside the safety project, Kevin would compile a master list of all properties owned by the county by comparing multiple list from different agencies. Each list had hundreds and some thousands of line items to navigate through. These projects have given Kevin the confidence he needed that proved to himself he is capable of working and being part of the county employee family. He is super grateful for this opportunity and loves working here for the county.

# **Staff Compliments**

Maintenance delivered a quick turnaround when District 2 Supervisor Gorell's office
requested repainting of the faded Oak Park
requested repainting of the faded PWA Real
sign. Chuck Alvarez, recently retired PWA Real
sign. Chuck Alvarez, recently retired PWA Real
restate Manager, authorized the project and
sign. Chuck Alvarez, recently retired PWA
retired PWA
Real
retired PWA

"Thank you so much for all the motor pool information Carol King. It is very helpful. Also, thank you for your excellent customer service. You were polite, friendly, and very informative. It was a pleasure talking to you."

Patty Booker [] CEO-HR

Thanks to everyone who assisted in making our Earth Day tour and electronic waste collection event a success. Adrian Grimaldo for coordination and scheduling, Lieba Butler for volunteer recruitment. Mike Duncan, Colin Weber and Jade Alamillo for presentations as part of the tour. Lorenzo Villa, Jade Alamillo, Sabino Benitez, Antonio Barajas, and Juan Rivera for site preparation and the tree planting demonstration. Peter Berry, Saul De La Rosa, Jill Siela, Colin Weber, Rebecca Moak and Dave Fishman for volunteering to assist with the e-waste collection. James Dorman and Ruben Silva for coordination and logistics of the electronic waste collection program.

Thanks to all for helping GSA Grounds showcase their role in Stewardship of our grounds and outdoor spaces.





"I wanted to take this opportunity to complement you and your staff for the exceptional customer service and reliability of courier service we have receive at Probation." Great job couriers: Ali Esquivel, Matthew Arve, Jerry Garcia, Lucia Martinez, Robyn Holland, Lance Finney, Beto Lopez, Luis Ascensio and Mo Reza

Aaron Perry at Probation

"Thank you so much for the beautiful posters Seen Robinson!!! They are gorgeous. So crisp and clear. The students will love them. I'll be sure to shoot you an email as we approach Public Works Day for you to come check out our booth. Your customer service is truly remarkable." Great work Seen!

Julie Taylor, PWA Water and Sanitation

"I just wanted to reach out to you to thank you for the service I received from Cinthya Santos, Jose Nunez, and Timothy Wiggins. When I got to my office this morning there they performed an enhanced cleaning last night. On top of What has been done. If possible, please let Cinthya, Jose and Customer Service from the Custodial team.

Nate Scanlan, Sheriff's Communications Supervisor

Melyssa Vicencio, Ryan Pimentel and Val Silva: I sincerely appreciate your consistently exceptional support. You are star performers from my experience. GSA is fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking people in your positions

Tony Dominguez CEO Risk-Management .

"I'm reaching out to commend Charlie Wilson for his superior customer service in our Public Health laboratory projects. It is a complex project with multiple moving parts; and time sensitive grant funding. Charlie, along with Terrance Greenlaw, are trusted business partners who work to identify solutions, speak frankly, and are committed to help us achieve our milestones and deadlines. Thanks!"

Katie McKinney, Assistant Public Health Director, Health Care Agency

# What's New in Parks?

# **Positive Partnerships**

For many years, Ventura County Parks and Ventura County Probation Agency have worked together to collaborate on implementation of maintenance projects throughout our parks. Over the last 6 months, County Parks has taken a key role in a new pilot program where Work Release participants report directly to a work location and are supervised by Park Staff. This pilot program was brought about by



Adrian Bonilla supervising Work Release Participants

detailed location maps for each meeting. As this pilot program continues to grow, Ventura County Parks looks forward to a continued positive relationship with the Probation Agency.

# **Pre-Summer Campground Maintenance**

The winter rains have brought May flowers along with lots of weeds this spring to campgrounds and parks. The Parks Maintenance Team has been working diligently to eradicate weeds, repair picnic tables, replace fire rings and BBQs, and provide general maintenance for the peak summer season. Intermittent closures have been facilitated at Oak Park, Steckel Park, Foster Red Mountain, Foster Residence and Camp Comfort Campgrounds.

changes to the transportation and supervision of work crews at their designated work location. Through this pilot program, Probation has provided a dedicated work crew weekly to the Parks Department and the availability of future work crews will increase through the program. To ensure success for all parties, County Parks created dedicated parking and check-in signs and established a protocol for scheduling work crews through the utilization of calendar invites along with the inclusion of



Orlando Martinez during Oak Park Work Day

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# Parks, Playgrounds and Projects...Oh My!

County Park has received several grants over the past two years and many of those projects are in the implementation stage. One project of significance is the replacement of the Warring Park Playground. With support from the Board of Supervisors, County CEOs Office, Parks Staff and a matching grant from California Parks and Recreation Society and GameTime, Warring Park will have a new inclusive playground featuring a custom bridge, saucer swing, zipline and shade by the end of 2023.



# **Upcoming Events**

- July is Recreation & Parks Month
- Coastal Clean-up Day Events September 23, 2023 Steckel Park and Rincon Beach

# **Contact Us**

If you have questions about park projects, please e-mail Jeri Cooper at Jeri.Cooper@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

Visit us on the web at: www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/parks-department.



On May 10, 11, and 12, 2023 the youngest daughter of Jesse Chavez, Maintenance Certified Engineer, Janai Chavez graduated from the University of Arizona. Janai graduated with a Bachelors in Arts in English And Creative Writing with honors distinction and Magna Cum Laude and an Associates degree in Social & Behavioral Sciences. Janai Completed the Disney College Program all while on the Deans list all 4 years. Janai

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



was also a University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni Scholar.

Janai plans to go on to Grand Canyon University to get her Masters in the fall of 2023.



Kate Malig is currently a Senior at Channel Islands High School. Kate started as one of the Summer at the County interns in the summer 2022 and has remained working with us since. Kate will be graduating on June 6th.

On Wednesday, May 24th Kate and her classmates were honored for their achievements. Kate received four awards: Top 10 Scholar, Mock Trial Award, California Scholarship Federation Life Member, and State Seal of Biliteracy.

In the fall, Kate plans on attending UC San Diego to major in Physical Science. Through her time in GSA Kate has been able to learn more about public service and the inner workings of the County. She was able to gain some exposure in working in a professional workplace and make new connections. Kate was able to work on numerous projects that gave her a better understanding of teamwork, communication, and working efficiently.

Through GSA, Kate was able to gain mentorship in the Engineering field, as well as seeing real world applications of it through site visits such as at the Todd Road Jail.



In the future, my goal is to pursue a career as an En-

aineer '

# **GSA Records Warehouse Destruction**

Conversations about addressing the large backlog of past due CALWin destructions began early 2018, but were continually stalled over the years. Then in June of 2022, Mable Ponce from Human Services Agency (HSA) stepped up and took a more direct role. Mable visited the records warehouse and audited some of the past due boxes for more information. With Mable's audits, the destruction event was then expanded further to include multiple other record types with containers that were past due.

GSA received approval to proceed in September 2022. In October Business Support brought in two temporary staff to assist in pulling the boxes, and began the destruction process.

In total, the workorders listed 15,332 boxes for approved for destruction.

A total of 10,892 boxes were located in GSA record storage. The remaining 4,440 boxes were housed with our vendor Iron Mountain. Iron





Mountain destroyed the ones they had at their facilities. GSA Records pulled and palletized the boxes in GSA Records Storage. GSA staff filled 273 Pallets of 40 boxes each. All pallets were picked up and shredded by Iron Mountain at their facilities.

In mid-December, the last of the boxes were pulled and sent to Iron Mountain.

GSA Records then moved to the final stages of the project. This included rearranging remaining boxes to consolidate storage space and creating open areas for new boxes arriving at Records Storage, and then inventorying the warehouses. After the contract ended for our temporary workers, our new Records employee took on the remaining portion of the inventory to bring the job to a close in February, 2023.

GSA Records Storage is again in talks with HSA to destroy up to 5000 additional boxes in the near future.

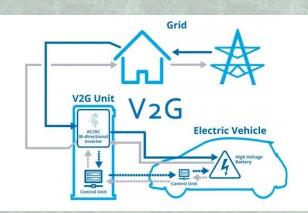
# Fleet Visits the ACT Expo

The week of May 1, 2023, GSA Fleet employee Colin Weber, Transportation Sustainability Administrator, attended the Advanced Clean Transportation Exposition (ACT Expo) in Anaheim, California. Fleet targeted this conference to help keep our county on the front lines of emerging technologies and regulations.

Colin attended a workshop focused on hydrogen fuel the first day. Hydrogen is a clean burning fuel that shows promise for heavy duty and long-range applications. For these use cases, lifecycle costs are expected to be lower than battery electric vehicles (EVs) within the next few years. There are significant infrastructure challenges that need to be overcome before implementing hydrogen vehicles since production is not widespread. But this technology looks to be a critical piece of the puzzle for decarbonization in the long term.



To look ahead at future cost concerns for the County, Colin attended seminars on vehicle to grid charging (V2G) and microgrids. V2G charging is an emerging EV technology that allows for a vehicle to send power back to the grid during an emergency or times of peak electricity cost. You can think of it as unlocking an EV to generate revenue when the vehicle is parked and plugged in. Pilots show that EVs can cover their own costs by shedding power to the grid



at peak electricity pricing and charging during off-peak electricity periods. Microgrids are a miniature version of the electricity grid that is used to power a circuit, building, or campus. These can be comprised of a power source like solar panels and an energy storage device like batteries. Microgrids can be used to mitigate several issues with EV charging. Large deployments of EVs can steeply increase demand charges from a utility during car charging. A microgrid can be used to replace the utility connection totally or to reduce demand charges by connecting to the grid and partially powering EV infrastructure. EV chargers sometimes can require large amounts of power at a site where

that may not be possible due to local utility capacity. A microgrid

can be used to speed up EV infrastructure deployments in this case without requiring utility infrastructure improvements.

On the last day, Colin was able to attend a showcase on medium duty vehicles (vehicles that weigh between 10,001 and 26,000 lbs.) to help target vehicle options that comply with upcoming regulations. This session focused on current capabilities of medium duty vehicles and future possibilities. The



medium duty sector is not receiving large investments from manufacturers but is the target of quickly upcoming fleet



requirements. It encompasses such varied vehicles as vans, passenger shuttles, and trucks. Fleet will use the information from this session to guide our planning for alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

The Advanced Clean Transportation Expo was a great opportunity to meet and learn from manufacturers, regulators, and other fleets. The information gained from the attended seminars and presentations will fuel our drive to lower emission vehicles for years to come.



GSA's Earth Day celebration activities spanned two days this year. On April 21st, GSA Grounds hosted a tour of the campus highlighting some of the County's initiatives undertaken to help protect our environment.

Topics included solar ener-

gy, environmental friendly plantings, electric vehicles, sustainable irrigation, pervious concrete, the District Attorney's efforts in prosecuting environmental polluters and details on the ocean friendly and pollinator gardens.

On April 24th GSA hosted and electronic recycling event, collecting 4 pallets of recycling and diverting over 2500 pounds of materials from the landfill. Additionally, a full pallet of light bulbs was collected and will be recycled through Public Works.



# **SPRING IS HERE**

Spring is upon us, and along with the blooms, longer days and warmer temperatures comes a less popular resurgence of rodents. One of the best ways to prevent rodents in the workplace is to be careful not to feed them. Food should be stored in a refrigerator or airtight container. Boxes and



Antonio Barajas trimming hedges at HOA.

bags are no deterrent to a hungry rodent. Placing food waste in a centralized kitchen container can also reduce the chance of an unwanted visitor in your office.

If you do notice rodent activity, please place a work order and GSA Housekeeping will address the issue.