

GSA Insider

Great Service Always!

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From the Director...

Parks and the County PIO

Ventura County Parks received some well-deserved highlights on the County of Ventura’s Facebook page in recent months.

In May, Parks Maintenance Worker Fernando Naranjo applied his woodworking, painting, and building skills to handcraft a beautiful new sign for the Ojai Valley Trail. Fernando exemplified pride in his craft and stewardship of the trail. Now hik-



This issue of the *GSA Insider* brings our team firmly into the spotlight—showing once again how GSA provides great service always to our internal and external customers. You’ll see many great stories about how GSA employees have been going the extra mile.

You’ll also get a glimpse of some of the great exposure a few of our employees received on the County’s Facebook site as part of the County’s overall effort to highlight public outreach and let the public know about the diverse services we provide across the County.

Until next time,

David J. Sasek, P.E.

ers, bikers, runners, and walkers will see the quality craftsmanship in this new sign while they enjoy the scenic Ojai Valley Trail.

In July, our County Public Information Officer used the social media platform to highlight Shelf Road Trail in Ojai, one of the three trails managed by our Parks department and available to the public to enjoy in Summer and beyond.

Summertime brought warm weather and more hours of sunlight to enjoy the outdoors. However, increased outdoor exposure

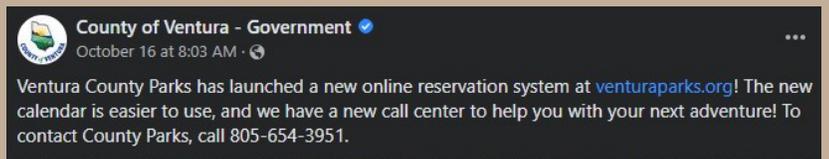
comes with safety concerns, specifically in the form of disease-harboring ticks, as highlighted by Park Ranger Vanessa

Varela in a video feature promoted in July. Vanessa offered up some practical and actionable tips to help avoid and deal with ticks.

September brought the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, where we partnered with the public to eliminate litter in some of our favorite outdoor places. This year, Foster, Rincon,

and Steckel Parks were highlighted as a few of the participating locations. This event serves as a good reminder that stewardship of our valuable resources is a communal effort.

A big change in Parks operations was implemented in October with the launch of the new online reservation system. Our PIO helped spread the word to the public about the easy-to-use calendar and call center for our customers to book a stay at one of our campgrounds.



WHAT'S NEW IN PARKS?

County Parks closed out the fiscal year with record numbers for camping once again. With a 16% increase over last year, County Parks ended the year with 111,653 camping nights. Due to the increased use, parks installing additional camp host sites at Steckel Park, Kenny Grove Park and Oak Park to help manage camping when maintenance and ranger staff cannot be onsite. The Host program is vital to helping parks keep all our campground and community centers clean & supervised.



Foster Park



Steckel Park

Contact Us

If you have questions about park projects, please e-mail Colter Chisum at colter.chisum@ventura.org. All other inquiries 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.



California Coastal Cleanup Day – Saturday, September 17th

With the help of the Ventura County Parks Advisory Committee, California Conservation Corps and local volunteers, County Parks hosted three locations for Coastal Cleanup Day; Rincon Parkway, Foster Park and Steckel Park. Be on the lookout for your personal email invitation to join a cleanup location next year!



Awards and Notable Mentions

Ventura County Takes Home Top CGSA Award



For the 4th year in a row, a member of the County of Ventura General Services Agency took home the top honor at the CGSA conference, earning first place in the association's Lieb and Kronberg Award for Excellence in Service.

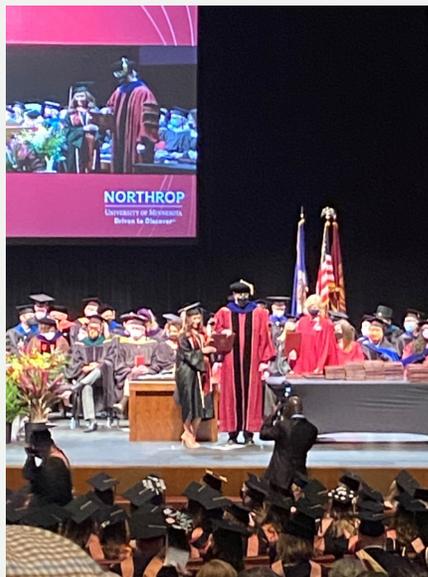
This award is given to an individual or team that best models the high standards that were set by the founders of CGSA, Duane Lieb and Dave Kronberg. In 2021, Fleet Staff Services Manager Robert Crawford took home first-place honors and a \$500 cash prize for his work building Fleet's vehicle utilization report — which has saved the County more than \$100,000— and counting.

Robert was surprised with his award in person so the presentation could be recorded and shown during the conference, while a full award presentation was conducted later in front of his peers in Fleet.

His first-place win leads a long line of Ventura County awards winners:

- 2020: Christopher Melton, Fleet, 1st place
- 2019: Rob Harris, Maintenance, 1st place
- 2018: Greg Bergman, Admin, 1st place
- 2017: Christopher Ramirez, BSS, 2nd place
- 2017: Fleet Operations, Team Award

Congratulations to Facilities and Materials Certified Maintenance Engineer, Jesse Chavez! Jesse's daughter, Alexis Chavez, graduated with her Master's in Public Health and Maternal and Child Care in May 2022 from the University of Minnesota. Alexis now plans to go on to become a doctor. But before she starts medical school, Alexis found out that she had made one of her childhood dreams come true, she made the Arizona Cardinals Cheer Squad. Congratulations to Alexis and Jesse!



MOVIN' & SHAKIN' -

WHO'S COMING, WHO'S GOING IN GSA



NEW HIRES

Administration:

*Kate Malig, Student Worker I

Business Support:

*Katie Barrett, Graphics Technician I
*Valerie Urias, Graphics Technician I

Facilities & Materials:

*Saul De La Rosa, Building Equipment Utility Worker
*Danny Infante, Custodian I
*Jaime Lemus Morales, Custodian II
*Monica Sanchez, Management Assistant II

Fiscal:

*Eric Alamillo, Accounting Assistant I
*Celeste Iyer, Accountant I
*Quynh Linton, Accountant II
*Shannon Takhar, Accounting Assistant II

Fleet:

*Samuel Garcia Villegas, Student Worker III
*Andrew Leon, Garage Attendant
*Joseph Ponce, Garage Attendant
*Astrid Rodriguez, Office Assistant III
*Cristian Torres, Heavy Equipment Service Worker
*Cristian Zaragoza, Student Worker III

Parks:

*Elmer Mayorga, Parks Services Ranger I
*Joshua Walker, Park Services Ranger II
*Nicolas Grandin, Park Services Ranger Trainee

Procurement:

*Samantha (Sam) Crostic, Purchasing Technician
*Jacquelyn (Jackie) Nunez, Buyer

PROMOTIONS

Business Support:

*Teri McLean, Graphics Technician I
*Seen Robinson, Graphics Technician IV
*Valerie Urias, Graphics Technician II

Facilities & Materials:

*Chastity Gaynor, Contract Support Specialist I
*Lorenzo Villa, Staff/Services Specialist I

Fiscal:

*Derek Fabiszak, Senior Accounting Technician
*Cesar Luna, Principal Accountant
*Jielei Robledo, Senior Accountant

Fleet:

*Miguel Chavez, Parts Specialist
*Victor Flandes, Auto Service Worker

*Devin Osalde, Heavy Equipment Service Worker

Parks:

*Fernando Naranjo, Parks Maintenance Worker Specialist
*Hayden McPherson, Park Services Ranger II
*Jared Rohlfing, Park Services Ranger II

Procurement:

*Ryan Stover, Buyer

RESIGNATIONS / SEPARATIONS / TRANSFERS

Admin:

Susan Torres, Management Assistant IV-C

Business Support:

*Erica Agnew, Senior Parts Specialist
*Kathryn Mason, Clerical Supervisor I
*Laura Onofre de la Cruz, Inventory Management Assistant III
*Telloria Roseman, Records Technician II
*Rogesh Raja Shanmugam Mohanraj, Staff/Services Manager III

Facilities & Materials:

*Daniel Arreola, Clerical Trainee
*Brian Harvan, Tile Setter
*Jerome Rabago, Custodian II
*Rafael Rodriguez, Custodian I

Fiscal:

*Charles Dixon, Principal Accountant
*Tara Nelson, Accountant II

Fleet:

*Conor Barry, Student Worker III

Parks:

*Jack Smith, Part Services Ranger Trainee
*Eduardo Sumaran, Student Worker I

Procurement:

*Cliff Chroust, Manager—Materials

RETIREMENTS

Facilities & Materials:

*Emmanuel Fogata, Custodian II— 9 years of service
*William (Bill) Lawrence, Certified Building Maintenance Engineer—25 years of service

Fleet:

*Julie Goodaker, Garage Attendant— 33 years of service

Parks:

*James (Jim) Martinez, Maintenance Supervisor—36 years of service



Retiring Employees



James Martinez, Maintenance Supervisor—Parks
Retirement Date: June 10, 2022
36 years of service

James “Jim” Martinez was a member of the County team for more than 36 years and was instrumental in the maintenance operations in parks. He guided staff through large and small projects including extensive cleanup of Dennison Park after the Thomas Fire, infrastructure renovations to reopen Foster Red Mountain Campground after a 10 year closure, performed significant tree replanting at Steckel and Oak Parks, replaced ¼ mile waterline at Soule Park, and installed all the current full hook up sites at Hobson Beach Park. His institutional knowledge and skills were an asset to the County.

Julie Goodaker, Garage Attendant—Fleet
Retirement Date: August 6, 2022
33 years of service



Julie began her career with the County in 1989. Before she became a Garage Attendant with GSA Fleet Services, she had worked as extra help for Parks, the Mail Room and Central Stores. She was also a runner for GSA Fleet Parts. Julie was part of Fleet when the Car Wash program began in 1997 and was located at the El Rio site. In 1998, GSA Fleet was asked to help Probation’s Work Release program crew put in hours of free community service. Julie supervised this crew to help her wash vehicles since that time. Over the last 22 years of supervising the car wash program, she has learned to work with and supervise people from all walks of life. She noted that it was an interesting experience to listen to the life stories of her staff. GSA Fleet will miss Julie but we are certain that she will be making the most of her retirement kayaking and spending time with her children & grandchildren.

Bill Lawrence, Certified Building Maintenance Engineer—Facilities & Materials
Retirement Date: June 9, 2022
25 years of service



William “Bill” Lawrence started his career with the County of Ventura in January 1997. Over his 25 years of service in GSA Maintenance, Bill responded to emergency calls, repairs and performed preventive maintenance in Probation & Sheriff’s detentions facilities, County owned & leased facilities in East and West County areas. Bill built a great rapport with his customers, co-workers & staff throughout the County. He was hardworking, pleasant, attentive to details, consistently communicated in a collaborative and professional manner. Bill was a great team player and always kept his supervisors & managers abreast of his ongoing work orders & building issues. At Nyeland Acres Boys & Girls Club in Oxnard, the kids’ gave him the nickname “Superman”. When the boys’ toilet was clogged, the boys thought they’d never be able to use the restroom again (you know 6 year olds). Then, one of the boys says, “No” and asked the staff to call superman. Bill was there to the rescue! He put on his cape and arrived in no time! Bill will be missed at GSA and we all wish him well on his new journey.

Emmanuel Fogata, Custodian II—Facilities & Materials
Retirement Date: August 31, 2022
9 years of service



Emmanuel started to work with GSA Housekeeping department on May 9, 2013. Over his 9 years of service in GSA housekeeping, Emmanuel worked as a Custodian II at HOA, HOJ, PTDF and outlying buildings. He received numerous compliments from our customers for his work. Emmanuel was an excellent team player, had a great interaction with customers, co-workers and supervisors. Always on time and ready to work. He will be missed and we all wish him well on the next step of his journey.

REMEMBERING KIRSTEN RANSOM



Kirsten Ransom, Courier II/III with GSA Business Support, passed away September 15th, 2022.

Kirsten worked with Business Support for over 11 years in the mailroom & media center. She was also a 19-year Postal employee & Supervisor and was her manager’s first official hire for GSA mail & courier services.

Kirsten could often be found manning the middle postal meter in the mail room, wearing her sweater & thermals. She was forever cold. We will miss her laugh and the

way Kirsten would roll her eyes whenever her Supervisors pulled out the postal letter tools to show new staff how to use it, or when anyone would give pointers about how to meter mail. She liked to say she was very sassy. On the weekends, she enjoyed Camping and watching her son Chris ride his dirt bikes. Her coworkers will miss not seeing her every day, drinking her Diet Dr. Pepper and eating her Skittles. She was an amazing employee and an even better person.

She is survived by her husband, Chuck, and her sons, Justin & Chris, their wives, Saki & Danielle, her grandsons, Lex & Levi, and her Mother, Jennifer.

Customer Service Shoutouts

Loise Alfieri, HOJ Clerical Supervisor wrote: "I just wanted to express my appreciation for **Cyndy Taschman** and how much she helped me get in contact with Fleet Services. I asked Cyndy for clarification of Fleet Services contacts, and she graciously provided me with every contact possible. I was contacted by Astrid Rodriguez who assisted my need for tow service. I appreciate her help in this stressful matter."

Tremendous customer service provided by Cyndy!

Shout-out to **Ben Skirvin** for his work this week automating Print2Mail workflows. The Ventura County Health Care Plan (VCHCP) approached Business Support to produce a new monthly mailing, which required a secure data file transfer—traditionally done by email. Ben wrote a script to trigger an automated process to receive the file, transferring the file securely within the county and moving into "lights-out" PDF production with a postal address block. This innovation eliminates the need for the customer to email or contact us to let us know a field ready for processing. This reduces the delay between file generation and production. Ben's efforts in this case are great examples of: **Stewardship**—saving county resources (labor and postage expense) through automation; **customer Service**—not just a passive "order taker," Ben used his experience & knowledge to guide, educate, and lead his customer to a process improvement; and **partnership**—VCHCP was open to test, develop, and adjust a workflow that fulfills all their requirements in a secure and efficient manner.

VC Parks was awarded a CalFire grant that will bring over \$500,000 in hazard tree mitigation and landscape improvements to Soule Park. **Jeri Cooper** single handedly found the grant and developed the lengthy application package. She went above and beyond by seeking out several letters of support from key stakeholder and had a very professionally arranged grant application that compelled the award of the grant. **Great work Jeri!**

GSA Fleet Customer Service is grateful for the back up that **Meighan Batinica** provides to our group. She is always willing to step up, step in and take over the in-take of our department customers dropping off their vehicles for service. Not only did Meighan learn her own new job as our MA III, she also learned the front office for Customer Service. We greatly rely on her to help us out when we need it, and she is more than happy to.

Thank you **Joey Carmona, Rick Bobosky & Projects Group** so much for your assistance approving and funding the replacement of the flooring in our Veterinary Hospital. The project was a bit challenging for the GSA projects team to execute, but it's a huge improvement and it helped to resolve our infectious disease concerns. The new flooring has been fantastic and the project came out better than the customer could have hoped for! They greatly appreciate your ongoing support and your assistance pushing this project forward! **Great example of our values of partnership, innovation and customer service!**

Antonio Barajas has worked hard to clean up the vegetation at the HOA fountain, and his efforts have paid off. The foliage is so healthy and bright green that it looks brand new. Whether the fountain is on or off, this is now quite a lovely sight to greet visitors to the Government Center, especially at the public entrance to the Hall of Administration. **Well done, Antonio!**

"I would also like to point out, we appreciate **Ellen Reclusado**. She is very thorough with cleaning & replacing supplies for our jurors. She is very attentive to our needs. Ellen cleans all the door knobs each day and that is helpful given the number of jurors we have every day. We know when Ellen is here, things will get done the right way. She is very helpful, and we know we can count on her."

~Eileen Rodela, Ventura County Superior Court Program Supervisor

Recycle the 'Write' Way

Ever wonder if those used pens can be recycled, instead of thrown in the trash? Well, they can!

TerraCycle has joined with BIC® to create the BIC® Stationery Recycling Program, and GSA Special Services is now a registered participant. This new recycling program has 19,309 participating locations, has recycled 798,078 pieces of waste so far, and has raised \$18,757.40 to date.

All brands of writing instruments (not just BIC®), such as pens (ink, gel, felt, etc.), pencils, and highlighters, as well as glue sticks, watercolor dispensers, paint sets, and flexible packaging for said items can be returned for recycling using a postage paid label. Please note that correction pens, such as Wite-Out® Brand, and free ink markers, such as whiteboard or dry erase, are not accepted. The instruments do not need to be clean, but they cannot be leaking.

As a registered participant, the County will earn 100 TerraCycle points per pound recycled.

These points can then be allocated towards non-profit charitable gifts, such as protecting the atmosphere, promoting environmental research, and fighting climate change through Carbonfund.org's carbon-reducing projects; supporting the Product Stewardship Institute in reducing waste, boosting reuse and recycling; protecting 36 square feet of wildlife land critical to the safety of bison, grizzly bears, gray wolves, and other wildlife through the National Wildlife Foundation; conserving nature and reducing threats to diversity of life through the World Wildlife Fund; and helping to feed the hungry through Feeding America. We also have the option of redeeming our points directly to a school or charitable organization of our choice.

If you would like to help save the environment and give back to others, please start recycling any of the items listed above. You may do this simply by sending your writing instruments & packaging over to Cyndy Taschman, L#3030, who will gather them together and send them in for recycling, further benefiting the planet.

As all of us use writing instruments of some sort, this is an easy way to do our best in helping to save the planet, without incurring any cost on the part of the County.



WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE:

Writing instruments and packaging

For more details, visit: www.terracycle.com/BIC



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