



GSA insider

Great Service Always!

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



As we close out another remarkable season at GSA, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made, the people who make it possible, and the exciting direction we are headed together.

2025 has been a year of transformation, celebration, and continued excellence. I'll begin by offering both a warm welcome and a heartfelt farewell at our highest levels of leadership. I am grateful for the dedication and vision of our outgoing GSA Director, whose legacy of service has shaped the Agency in lasting ways. At the same time, as the new GSA Director, I intend to bring outstanding experience, a passion for public service, and a clear commitment to advancing GSA's mission.

I am also pleased to introduce two key leaders joining our executive team: our new Chief Procurement Officer and our new Chief Deputy Director. Their leadership, energy, and expertise will play an essen-

tial role as GSA continues to modernize, innovate, and elevate the services we provide throughout the County.

With this new chapter comes the launch of our GSA Strategic Plan, a roadmap that reinforces our core values while setting ambitious goals for the years ahead. This plan is the product of thoughtful collaboration across all departments, and its success depends on each of us. I am excited to see how the staff's creativity, dedication, and professionalism will bring this vision to life.

Throughout GSA, we continue to honor the people who make our work possible. In this issue, we take time to reflect on the careers and contributions of those retiring or transitioning, as well as those joining our team in the Who's Coming & Going section. We also highlight the many Staff Compliments we have received-affirmations of the extraordinary service you deliver every day.

Across our Agency, teams continue to drive meaningful impacts for the County. Facilities and Materials have been hard at work helping keep it cool, ensuring our buildings remain safe, reliable, and comfortable during temperature extremes. Business Support, Maintenance, and Fleet demonstrated exceptional preparation and precision in Inventory Management & Fiscal Year-End operations, helping the County close the fiscal year with strong audit results.

Meanwhile, our Fleet Services team continues to shine, literally and figuratively. Not only did they earn recognition in the National Fleet Rankings, but they also continue their outstanding partnership supporting the Naval Base Ventura County Federal Fire Fleet, keeping mission-critical emergency vehicles ready to respond when it matters most.

Parks has been equally busy, rolling out exciting updates in What's New in Parks, including facility improvements, enhanced user experiences, and innovative customer tools. Our Procurement team continues to distinguish itself as well, demonstrating excellence in service, compliance, and efficiency, once again proving that Procurement Does It Again.

This edition also features a Spotlight on staff members whose exceptional professionalism and teamwork embody the spirit of GSA. Their passion and dedication remind us of the extraordinary talent we have across the Agency.

Finally, we wrap up with Celebrating GSA Staff, acknowledging milestone achievements, special recognitions, and the everyday contributions that make GSA a strong, reliable, and deeply respected Agency.

Thank you to the staff for everything you do. Your work strengthens our operations, supports our partners, and enhances the lives of residents throughout Ventura County. I am honored to serve alongside you and excited for what we will achieve together in the months ahead.

Until next time,

Tom Hunt



GSA Says Farewell and Welcome a General Services Agency Director



After much reflection and discernment over the past several months, David Sasek made the difficult decision to retire. His last day with GSA was August 1, 2025. Dave told GSA staff, “Serving as GSA Director over the past nine years has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of my career. I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to lead such an incredible agency and to work alongside so many talented and dedicated professionals. One of the toughest parts of this decision is knowing that I will not be working every day with the outstanding GSA team — a group that takes immense pride in supporting County operations and serving our community with excellence.”

Please join us in celebrating Dave's accomplishments and in giving Thomas a warm welcome to GSA!

Following a nationwide recruitment, Thomas Hunt has been selected as the County of Ventura's new Director for the General Services Agency, effective September 3, 2025.

Thomas brings to the Director's position his extensive experience in the public and private sectors in facilities and engineering services, overseeing organizations responsible for the full spectrum of facilities management, including preventative/corrective maintenance, landscaping, custodial services, warehousing, mail delivery, work center, energy management, sustainability, space allocation, planning, design, and construction of capital improvement projects, deferred maintenance and capital renewal, business support services, and housing.

His experience also includes facilities and engineering leadership positions in higher educational institutions, with the Marine Corps, and the U.S. Navy. Thomas has served the County in the position of Chief Deputy Director for Facilities and Materials since May of this year.

Thomas is a veteran who served his country in the United States Army and Navy. He holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Texas and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Florida. He is a registered Professional Engineer, Certified Energy Manager, and Certified Educational Facilities Professional.

He and his wife have been blessed with five children.



**Join us in welcoming
Mr. Thomas Hunt as the new GSA Director!**

GSA Welcomes a New Chief Procurement Officer



Julie Miller has served in this role on an interim basis for four months and she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, stability, and professionalism during this transition period. Her selection reflects both her strong performance as interim CPO and her deep institutional knowledge of County procurement operations.

With more than 10 years of service to the County of Ventura, Julie represents a true example of internal growth and dedication. She has literally held every position in the Procurement Department and has advanced one promotion at a time through hard work, expertise, and a commitment to continuous improvement. Last year, she was recognized as GSA Manager of the Year, an honor that speaks to the respect she has earned across the agency.

Julie's success is also a reflection of the strength, professionalism, and dedication of the **Procurement team**. Please join

us in congratulating her on this well-earned achievement and in supporting her as she continues to lead this critical function for the County.

And Welcome GSA's New Facilities and Materials Chief Deputy Director

Kenney Johnson has more than 24 years of executive leadership in facilities management, construction, and capital planning across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Kenney's work in the public sector has blossomed as Director of Support Services for Lake Washington School District where his staff of 180 employees supports facility operations and projects for the second largest school district in the state of Washington (Lake Washington School District). Kenney was part of the Design and Build Team for Microsoft Corporation as Director of Development. Kenney led Microsoft's East Campus Modernization (2020–2023) in selecting 6 architects and 4 national General Contractors to deliver 16 new buildings, amenities, and a state-of-the-art all electric thermal energy center to power the newly modernized headquarter campus in Redmond Washington.





One GSA • One Team

GSA STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH

For the first time ever, the GSA team—nearly 300 staff members across five departments and countless work locations—came together in a powerful moment of unity, pride, and purpose. Coordinating this level of participation is no small feat, especially with teams operating 24/7 across multiple sites and responsibilities. But this effort mattered, and our people showed up.

The enthusiasm, ownership, and collaboration demonstrated throughout this process have ignited something truly special within GSA. The momentum we've created together is more than a single accomplishment—it's the beginning of a new chapter in how we connect, support one another, and carry out our mission. And the best part? We're just getting started.



Strategic Plan

2025 ▶ 2030

OUR VISION: TO BE THE TRUSTED STRATEGIC PARTNER KNOWN FOR OUR DEDICATED SERVICE INNOVATION AND EXPERTISE.

OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF COUNTY OPERATIONS.

Strategic Plan 2025 ▶ 2030

MISSION

To provide essential services in support of County operations.

VISION

To be the trusted strategic partner known for our dedicated service, innovation, and expertise.

VALUES

Integrity – Hold ourselves accountable to the highest ethical and professional standards.

Communication – Open, transparent, and close the loop.

Respect – Listen and treat all with equal dignity.

Safety – Psychological, workplace, and physical safety.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

One GSA, One Team – Our valued and committed workforce current and future.

- Customer Engagement** – Serving great people, who deliver great services.
- Sustainability of Resources and Assets** – Steward the longevity of our staff, customers, and resources.

Strategic Agency-wide Goals, Objectives and Action Items

GOAL

Create an inclusive work environment with opportunity and purpose for an empowered staff to thrive and succeed.

OBJECTIVES

Employee Enrichment – Attract, invest in, train and develop our staff

One GSA, One Team Branding – Collaborate around GSA services and brand by building business acumen, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and establishing cross agency synergy.

Teamwork and Agency Satisfaction – Inspire a culture of shared goals with teamwork, mentorship, staff appreciation and recognition to drive collective success.

Organizational Review – Internally evaluate work centers and workload structures to align resources to meet County requirements and expectations.

ACTION ITEMS

Learning and Development – Create GSA training and leadership academy for professional growth.

Classification and Benefits – Determine work centers service capacity, staff accordingly, and provide competitive compensation in accordance with County policies.

GSA Onboarding – Create a welcoming, inclusive GSA onboarding program from request-to-hire to completion of probation.

GOAL

Be the first-choice provider for superior solutions and service excellence.

OBJECTIVES

GSA Services Outreach and Promotion – Develop communication strategies to educate, align expectations, and advance relationships.

Cultivate Partnership – Elevate GSA professional services, increase level of customer engagement and improve processes.

ACTION ITEM

Customer Outreach – Elevate the understanding of GSA service capabilities by creating a GSA new orientation segment and starting or enhancing customer meetings.

GOAL

Support the County's resiliency goals to provide operational readiness.

OBJECTIVES

Codify Resilience – Document, analyze/exercise, and preserve institutional knowledge for current and future environments.

Future Proof – Infrastructure, technology, equipment and services, and natural resources.

Technology Implementation – Advance or automate to enhance interaction with customers and remove operational waste.

ACTION ITEMS

Fortright Role Responsibilities and Expectations – Understand and define primary expectations per GSA role and document workflow and work processes.

Optimize Website – Integrate GSA data for an accessible, easy to maneuver, comprehensive web platform for continuous employee and customer engagement.





One GSA • One Team



Honoring a Legacy of Service: GSA Celebrates Long-Term Employees

On **November 4, 2025**, GSA proudly recognized employees celebrating 10 or more years of service at the annual awards ceremony, held in the Lower Plaza Assembly Room at the Hall of Administration. More than 75 GSA and County employees gathered to honor eleven agency staff members whose dedication represents a combined 250 years of service. Among them was a particularly memorable milestone: Management Assistant Leslie Percy, who celebrated an extraordinary 45 years with the County.

The event was led by GSA Director Thomas Hunt, who welcomed attendees and expressed his gratitude for the honorees' outstanding commitment to public service. Administrative Services Director Greg Bergman, Interim Chief Deputy Director Colter Chisum, Interim Chief Procurement Officer Julie Miller, Fleet Deputy Director Chris Melton, and Interim Parks Deputy Director Jeri Cooper each took part in presenting the service awards along with a commemorative gift.

Guests enjoyed refreshments generously provided by local bakery *Nothing Bundt Cakes*, adding a warm and celebratory touch to the morning.

Congratulations to all who reached a milestone anniversary with the County and with GSA. Your dedication, professionalism, and years of service continue to strengthen our organization—and we wish each of you many more years of success!



Leslie Percy



Congratulations to those recognized for their service!

10 Years of Service

- Lieba Butler, Program Administrator I
- Brian Gietzen, Senior Auto Mechanic
- Terrance Greenlaw, Facility Project Specialist
- Scott Harris, Heavy Equip Mechanic II
- Vladislav Markovic, Body/Paint Mechanic
- Richard Medina, Automotive Systems Tech III
- Julie Miller, Administrative Officer II
- Martin Pech Rodriguez, Body/Paint Mechanic
- Brittany Stephens, Administrative Assistant IV

15 Years of Service

- Robert Crawford, Staff/Services Manager II
- Charlotte Cubitt-Serrano, Clerical Supervisor II
- Darren Downey, Certified Building Maint Eng

20 Years of Service

- Allyn Cahoon, Manager-Facilities Maintenance

25 Years of Service

- Jorge Bonilla, Fleet Operations Manager
- Martin Cortez, Senior Auto Mechanic
- David Fishman, FOS II

30 Years of Service

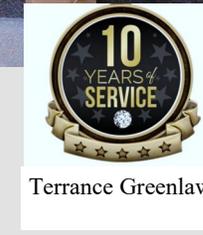
- Paul Rodriguez, Certified Building Maint Eng

45 Years of Service

- Leslie Percy, Management Assistant II



Jorge Bonilla



Terrance Greenlaw



MOVIN' & SHAKIN' - WHO'S COMING, WHO'S GOING IN GSA



NEW HIRES

Administration:

Mariel Escola-Accountant II
Rod Baltazar-Accountant II

Facilities & Materials:

Rozalynn DeAlba- Communications Operator III
Ian Limoli- Maintenance Plumber
Luis Renteria—Housekeeping
Zechariah Castro—Custodian
Adalia Popielak—Custodian
Hugo Lopez—Graphics Tech
Raquel Covarrubias-Jasso-Student Worker
Matthew Monajami-Construction Project Engineer
Tyler Ferdolage-Parts Specialist
Eduardo Amezcua-Maintenance Worker
Barry Batara—Building Equipment Utility Worker

Fleet:

Omar Juarez- Student Worker III
Savannah Cisneros- Office Assistant III
Herman Delgado-Garage Attendant

Parks:

Bladimir Bolanos-Maintenance Worker II
Will Seelos- MA III
Damian Wucetich-Snapp- Ranger I
Steven Arevalo-Student Worker
Ivan Jimenez-Student Worker
Victor Cuecuecha-Student Worker

Procurement:

Karla Navarro-Student Worker
Talisala Attao—Student Worker
Richard Ramirez-Buyer
Luisa Martinez-Buyer
Alan English-Purchasing Tech

PROMOTIONS

Administration:

Edward Palkovic- Senior Accountant
Alex Zarate-Accountant II
Thomas Hunt-Director

Facilities & Materials:

Vince Childs- Facility Operation Specialist I
Dave Fishman- Facility Operation Specialist I
Saul De La Rosa- Certified Building Maintenance Engineer
Kevin Monroy- Maintenance Engineer
Angel Rodriguez-Certified Building Maintenance Engineer
Kenny Milton-Maintenance Engineer
Anthony Morganstein-Maintenance Engineer

Fleet

Jose Galaviz-Auto Mechanic

Parks:

Giovanni Sabido Aguilar- Maintenance Worker II

Procurement:

Rory Aronsky- Senior Procurement Specialist
Irshad Ali-Principal Buyer
Robert Willis-Principal Buyer
Peter Berry- Buyer
Pannipa Pantutamangkul-Buyer

RESIGNATIONS / SEPARATIONS / TRANSFERS

Administration:

Chastity Gaynor-Senior Accountant

Facilities & Materials:

James Dollar- Staff/Services Manager II-NE
Jeanette Viveros-Contract Support Specialist I
Joseph Bergeon-Parts Specialist
David Beatty-Maintenance Engineer
Paul Almanza-Custodian
Zabri Torres—Custodian
James Szatkowski-Custodian
Kathleen Ross-Custodian
Efrain Leyva-Custodian

Fleet:

Nathaniel Cieslak- Garage Attendant
Naomi Bonilla- Student Worker III
Xochi Zambrano-Student Worker III
Jackson Thiesen-Student Worker
Jonathan Gonzalez-Student Worker

Parks

Timothy Lopez-Parks Services Ranger I
JonCarlo Guzman-Park Services Ranger I
Mason King-Park Services Ranger I
Adrian Bonilla, Parks Operations

Procurement:

Charles Erving-Student Worker III
Kallen Meyer-Purchasing Tech

RETIREMENTS

David Sasek- GSA Director, Administration
Scott Broggie, Facility Operations Specialist, Facilities & Materials
Doug Cooke, Facility Operations Specialist, Facilities & Materials
David Beatty, Maintenance Engineer, Facilities & Materials
John Jauregui-Auto Mechanic, Fleet
Linda Cruz-Management Assistant Parks



Staff Compliments

Once again, our Grounds staff: Lorenzo Villa, Carlos Nicasio, Antonio Barajas, Juan Rivera, Ruben Centeno and Sergio Garcia have stepped up to provide excellent service. Beyond their regular duties, the crew also installed the Carmen Ramirez Monument and prepared the rose garden and surrounding areas so they were primed for the dedication ceremony. They also provided additional attention to the Police Officer's Memorial in preparation for the Peace Officers' event this past week. Both areas were pristine and presented a great backdrop for the ceremonies. Thank you for your support and Customer Engagement with these important events!

A shout-out goes to **Reyleen Dowler, Jose Becerra, and Rory Aronsky** for arranging a specialized VCFMS and Procurement training for members of the F&M team. The training covered several topics, including but not limited to: defining the different document types, how to add a new vendor to the system, and reviewing common error codes and how to correct. Much appreciation to **Reyleen** for her initiative to seek out resources to assist fellow department staff with navigating a tricky financial system. **Jose** and **Rory** served as valuable subject matter experts and we are lucky to have them on our team! Together, this group took steps to advance several strategic plan goals, including employee enrichment, learning and development, One GSA-One Team, and cultivate partnership. You are all valuable and appreciated!

From Denise Santoyo, MA in Child Support Services: "**Seen Robinson, Matt Kreiger, Johnny Wong** and the whole team were a pleasure to work with the last several weeks, as Child Support put together our latest Strategic Plan Vision & Values Book and our 2025 Accomplishments report – which summarized and celebrated our department's achievements and progress from our last strategic plan. With a tight timeline to have both books printed and available for our departmentwide all-staff meeting, Seen was unfailingly professional and helped guide us toward a polished and professional finished product, answering our endless questions with patience and expertise. We are truly appreciative and so grateful that he and the graphics team not only met our deadline, they had our books printed and ready early, which helped me ensure that our meeting was a success. Thank you to Seen, Graphics, and GSA."

Steve Blair has commended the PTDF Maintenance Staff Members, Matthew Alamillo and Joseph Rodriguez for their recent efforts and ingenuity in cleaning and refurbishing components of the toilet flush system. As an alternative to replacing the components each time, this effort is likely to save GSA and the County money in the future. These spaces are often undesirable to work, and the diligence and attention to detail has greatly improved their condition. This is a great example of Sustainability of Resources and Assets!!

At the end of every working day, the GSA Mail Center exchanges county mail and packages to the USPS and other carriers. The Mail Center team, supervised by Ali Esquivel, has handled this pass-off without fail. Last Friday, however, Mark Martinez (Staff Services Manager) and Lance Finney (GSA Courier) worked later than scheduled due to a delay with the post office. After some communication with the USPS, GSA loaded a courier van and Mark delivered the mail to the post office directly – demonstrating problem solving and commitment. The USPS Supervisor was apologetic (due to some crossed-up logistical problems on their end), but Mark adapted and covered the partnership to ensure no service delay. Thank you Mark for your stewardship.

Kudos to Lonnie Washington and Joseph Macias from Housekeeping for providing great customer service! Derek Poon, Supervising Forensic Scientist, wrote in to say, "I just wanted to reach out to say that Lonnie and Joseph both demonstrated a meticulous attention to detail and an unwavering dedication to the job. They were efficient and genuinely a delight to work with. There have been many compliments saying that the floor is significantly better than days past. My thanks to them both for all their assistance on this particular issue and for their regular duties here at the Crime Lab Tuesdays and Thursdays, it is greatly appreciated."

The GSA Team has been diligently coordinating the closures of parking lots E and F to support the Government Center Solar Project. As part of this process, temporary ADA, Carpool, and Motor Pool spaces were relocated to adjacent lots to ensure continued compliance with ADA regulations and to maintain quality service for our customers. A special thank you to Kenny Milton for his outstanding efforts! Kenny proactively prepared pole buckets, attached signs, and placed them in the temporary parking spaces. His communication, keen attention to detail and forward-thinking approach made a significant positive impact, ensuring the lot closures were executed seamlessly. Great Service Always!

I received the following from Patrick Maynard, Director of OES: "Hello Dave & Greg, I wanted to share another kudos for the GSA team. Today, Larry Villa and Ethan Edmonds responded out to the old fire headquarters on Durley Avenue to assist us with integrating some new electronic door equipment with the 23 year old equipment on site. All be it the request was not routine, both Larry and Ethan rose to the occasion and tackled the job without a sweat. After an hour or so of trial and error, they were able to get everything functioning the way we envisioned it. We very much appreciate their quick response and their can-do attitude. Both employees deserve a high five! Thanks, Patrick" What an outstanding example of Customer Engagement!

Staff Compliments Cont.

The GSA Scan team hosts a digital mailroom serving HSA CalSAWS mail for Ventura County residents. This past week, staff from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the CalFresh Operations Bureau (COB) conducted an annual evaluation. Evaluators were impressed by both the equipment — especially the large high-speed scanners and the automatic mail opener, and by the knowledge and efficiency of the staff. The audit team shared a comparison with some other counties (which employ up to 20+ staff across multiple locations) — yet still face backlogs. In contrast, HSA's workflow has a 1-day turn and ensures that every upload is date-stamped for accuracy and accountability. This inspection confirms how the combination of technological implementation coupled with a capable, focused team can deliver strong results for the County of Ventura. Special thanks this week to Teri Mclean and Jesse Pacheco for sharing their expertise with our HSA partners.

Rangers and Maintenance from Parks jumped into action last week when a large tree branch fell on a travel trailer at Oak Park Campground. A HUGE thank you to Diane Grace, Giovanni Aguilar, Peter Acero, Peter Bellasario, Chad Bowie, Andrew Pettingill and Josh Walker for time, attention and detail when ensuring safe removal of the tree branch and providing the required guidance to the campers who were affected by this situation. Through their combined efforts, they collectively exhibited all four of the GSA Values (integrity, communication, respect and safety). Great job Parks Team!

Fabiola Daniel of the Sheriff's Forensic Services Bureau wrote in to "share a big thank you to everyone who played a part, directly or indirectly, in getting the Toxicology nitrogen generator room project successfully completed. This was a significant effort, and seeing it finished so well truly shows off your hard work, dedication, and fantastic teamwork. This project brought together various departments across our organization and even external companies. It was genuinely impressive to see everyone working together so smoothly and effectively. Despite all the complexities we faced, you all made sure the project was completed to the highest standards and, most importantly, met the grant deadline. The new nitrogen generator room will significantly improve our working environment, enhancing comfort and efficiency for staff, especially with summer approaching, and providing a better environment for our instruments, which are vital for reliable casework tests. We are all really looking forward to the positive impact this will have. Thank you once again for your outstanding commitment and for making this project such a remarkable achievement. Your professionalism and dedication are highly valued." Kudos to Project Manager Bruce Ward for a great job, great teamwork, for the excellent customer service and high quality of your work!

The County of Ventura has been recognized with a top honor from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO), receiving an Excellence in Public Information and Communications (EPIC) Award in the "Annual Reports" category for its 2023 Annual Report. Kudos to the Creative Services Team of Matt Kreiger, Seen Robinson, and Zulema Covarrubias for their outstanding work on the 2023 Annual Report, earning the prestigious CAPIO EPIC Award for Excellence in Public Information and Communications! Your dedication to crafting an engaging, informative, and visually compelling report has showcased Ventura County's commitment to transparency and community service, making us all proud. Outstanding Communication and Customer Engagement! Well done!

Maintenance Dispatch Technical Specialist Lauri Stevenson "wanted to give a shout out to Nacho Balderrama for his quick response. The dispatch office had switched out an old key box for a new and improved one, and the section on the wall where the old key box hung needed to be textured and painted. Nacho came into the dispatch office one day and I casually asked him if he could fix it. I was thinking it will probably be a couple of days before he got around to doing it since it was such low priority. Within a couple of hours he showed up ready to texture the area and then back again to paint it." Another demonstration of superior Customer Engagement.

A shout out from Peter Berry for Jose Becerra: "I just want to take a minute to say how great it is to work with Jose and what a welcomed addition to the team he has been. Earlier today he approached me asking if he could help me with some of my pending RQS's. Of course I said yes!!! But joking aside, this has been Jose since day one. He's always willing to help, always asking the right questions whether he's trying to understand or even when he's approving my documents and finding my errors! He's always doing his best to follow rules and procedures, and always doing it with the best attitude you can ask of a Procurement team member. Even when he's being challenged, I see him keep his calm cool demeanor. I can't say enough good things about Jose and I just thought you should know too." Great work Jose you're an excellent example of what ONE GSA, ONE TEAM truly means!

I was in a meeting with the District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and his staff and they mentioned to me how pleased they are with the communication and coordination taking place with the GSA Maintenance team during regular, recurring meetings that are held for the DA's office. I understand that those meetings are attended by Allyn Cahoon, Joey Carmona, Eric Urias, Carmela Gonzales, Nate Paul, Jill Siela and Dylan Wheeler. I thanked the DA's team for their kind words and wanted to recognize each of these GSA team members for the work they are doing.

GSA Helping HOA Agencies Keep Their Cool...

The Projects Team recently completed a building systems infrastructure upgrade valued at just over \$5 million, in partnership with MTM and EMCOR, to replace the original chillers in the Hall of Administration (HOA) building. This critical initiative aimed to modernize and enhance the efficiency of the facility's aging legacy equipment by installing state-of-the-art, high-performance systems. The new chillers were expertly sized and engineered to transition the existing setup from a series to a parallel configuration, dramatically increasing operational flexibility. This design improvement ensures the system can maintain continuous operation even if one chiller is taken offline for maintenance or repairs, thereby boosting overall reliability and minimizing downtime.

Key highlights of the installation included the integration of two high-capacity Multistack chillers, each rated at 425 tons, complemented by a 750-gallon buffer tank to optimize system stability and efficiency. The project also featured the installation of two chilled water pumps and two condenser water pumps, all mounted on inertia bases to reduce vibration and extend equipment longevity. Due to the conversion from a series to a parallel configuration, the majority of the welded piping required replacement. To further enhance system control and energy efficiency, new controls were seamlessly integrated into the Building Management System (BMS), alongside five Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) serving the four pumps and the exhaust fan. Additionally, a refrigerant leak alarm system was installed to uphold safety standards and protect both personnel and equipment. All new equipment and piping were thoroughly insulated, and the chiller room underwent significant upgrades, including new lighting installation, fresh painting, and an epoxy-coated floor to improve durability and aesthetics.

Completed on schedule, this project delivers a robust mechanical infrastructure poised for reliable, year-round operation well into the future. This success was made possible by the collaborative vision, expertise, and dedication of the design team at AE Group Mechanical Engineers (special thanks to Hugh McTernan), the EMCOR team (special thanks to James Chastain), the MTM crew (special thanks to Kevin Kim), the Ven Cal Coast Painting team, and the GSA Maintenance staff (special thanks to Steve Blair and Garrett Harmon).

Before



During:



After:



Excellence in Action: GSA's Inventory Management and Fiscal Year-End Success

Inventory management is a critical function within GSA. Broadly defined, inventory includes all goods and materials an organization holds for resale, production, or daily operations. This can range from raw materials and finished products to office supplies, equipment, and specialized goods. Conducting regular inventory audits ensures accurate tracking, safeguards assets, and strengthens operational efficiency. A well-managed warehouse helps prevent overstocking or shortages, reduces costs, and ensures items are available when needed.

Across GSA, the Business Support, Maintenance, and Fleet parts warehouses continue to set a high standard for careful inventory oversight—keeping our operations running smoothly, efficiently, and cost-effectively every single day.

Fiscal Year-End Inventory Audit: A Coordinated GSA Effort

On June 30th, the final day of the fiscal year, the GSA Accounting team deployed for the annual physical inventory audit. Thanks to the preparation and efficiency across all GSA departments, the audit proceeded smoothly and successfully. Operations teams demonstrated excellent readiness while maintaining exceptional customer service and continuing to complete their daily responsibilities.

GSA Leadership and the Accounting team extend their sincere appreciation to everyone who dedicated time to pre-counts and inventory preparation. Your commitment ensured a seamless close to the fiscal year.

The results speak for themselves: **Fiscal's audit confirmed nearly 97% accuracy across more than 3,000 line items.** This achievement reflects the diligence and expertise of GSA staff.



Spotlight on the GSA Warehouse Team

The GSA Warehouse is responsible for managing an extraordinarily diverse inventory—everything from custom-designed envelopes for HSA, equipment for ITSD, housekeeping supplies, and essential health items for HSA's WIC program. Handling **millions of dollars in products annually**, the warehouse operates with a remarkably small team of just **four dedicated members**.

Their ability to manage such an extensive and varied inventory is nothing short of impressive. This team exemplifies the resourcefulness and dedication that define GSA. Truly, our GSA team members are remarkable.

Partnership Is the Key to Success

The success of this year's inventory audits is a testament to the strong partnership between the GSA Fiscal Department and the many operations teams across the Agency. This collaboration allowed the process to be completed even faster than last year—an improvement made possible by outstanding teamwork, communication, and staff commitment.

It is this spirit of cooperation—both with our customers and within our own departments—that strengthens GSA and ensures we remain a reliable and effective agency serving the diverse needs of Ventura County.

Ventura County Fleet

Shines Bright in National Fleet Rankings



The County of Ventura Fleet has earned national recognition for its outstanding fleet management and operational excellence. Ventura County Fleet has been awarded 16th place in the prestigious Leading Fleets Award for the year 2025, presented annually by Government Fleet magazine in collaboration with the American Public Works Association (APWA). This award honors public-sector fleet operations that demonstrate innovation, leadership, and efficiency. Ventura County's ranking reflects its ongoing dedication to forward-thinking practices and delivering top-tier public service to the community.

In addition to this achievement, Ventura County was also named 25th among the 100 Best Fleets in the Americas for 2024 by the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA). This competitive program recognizes the highest-performing public and commercial fleets across

North, Central, and South America. Ventura County's placement highlights its commitment to continuous improvement, workforce development, and sustainable fleet management strategies. These prestigious honors underscore the fleet's leadership and its important role in keeping the community moving safely and efficiently.

Congratulations to the entire Ventura County Fleet team for their dedication, hard work, and pursuit of excellence. Their efforts continue to set a high standard for public-sector fleet operations nationwide."

GSA Fleet Services: Supporting Naval Base Ventura County's Federal Fire

Since 2018, the GSA Fleet Services Heavy Equipment Team has partnered closely with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and PWD Ventura Transportation Maintenance Teams to provide exceptional repair and maintenance services for 13 NBVC Federal Fire and Crash Trucks. Over this period, the team has completed 55 service work orders, generating \$309,988.93 in revenue and ensuring these critical emergency vehicles remain ready for service year-round.

The Heavy Equipment shop has handled a wide range of complex repairs, including routine oil changes, hydraulic system work, instrument panel calibration, welding, and custom fabrication. Thanks to the dedication and technical expertise of Alfredo Jauregui, Kevin Perry, Josh Foutch, Scott Harris, Maeco August, Steve Kasten, David Sanchez, Devin Osalde, Raul Avalos, Austin Martinez, and Jon Gonzalez, these essential pieces of equipment stay operational both during and outside of fire season, supporting emergency response efforts when the community needs them most.

During the Federal Government Purchase Credit Card (GPCC) freeze—which temporarily halted the purchase of repair



Pictured left to right:

Jonathan Gonzalez, Devin Osalde, Maeco August, David Sanchez, Steven Kasten, Raul Avalos, Austin Martinez & Alfredo Jauregui

NOT PICTURED:

Scott Harris, Kevin Perry, Alexis Anguiano, and Joshua Foutch

parts and petroleum products—the Fleet Team continued to meet the needs of Don Fuller, Transportation Superintendent, who expressed his deep appreciation for the consistent, high-quality service Ventura County provides to NBVC Federal Fire.

To commemorate this longstanding partnership, several team members gathered for a photo with one of the NBVC fire trucks—a powerful symbol of collaboration, readiness, and shared commitment to public safety.

Program Highlights

Year Started: 2018

Equipment Serviced: 13 Federal Fire and Crash Trucks

Work Orders Completed: 55

Total Revenue: \$309,988.93

This partnership continues to exemplify the skill, professionalism, and service excellence that define GSA Fleet Services.

GSA Uniquely Supports our County Agencies and the Community Everyday

WHAT'S NEW IN PARKS?

Responding to Winter Storm Damage: A Coordinated Effort Across Ventura County

The powerful storm surge that struck in December 2025 and January 2026 left a significant impact on several County parks and facilities, including **Soule Park Golf Course**, **Camp Comfort**, and **Foster Park**. Strong flows and saturated soils led to erosion, damaged infrastructure, and unstable areas that required immediate attention to prevent further deterioration.

At Soule Park Golf Course, in particular, rapid action was crucial. Thanks to a coordinated, team-based approach, GSA and partnering agencies moved quickly to assess conditions and begin the process of stabilizing the impacted areas. What could have been a lengthy approval process instead became an efficient, solutions-driven effort that allowed emergency work to begin without delay.

This progress was made possible through **multi-agency collaboration**, with **PWA Watershed** providing essential support throughout the emergency permit process. Their guidance and partnership ensured that all requirements were met promptly, enabling the necessary work to proceed safely and in compliance with environmental standards.

The combined efforts of these teams reflect the County's commitment to protecting public facilities, maintaining safe recreational spaces, and responding swiftly in times of need. This collaboration stands as a strong example of how unified action can lead to timely, effective results for the community.



Saticoy Park and Teen Center Project Reaches 50% Design Development

The Saticoy Park and Teen Center project has reached the **50% design development milestone**, marking a significant step forward in bringing this long-awaited community asset to life.

Last week, **Parks Deputy Director Jeri Cooper** met with the **Boys & Girls Club** to share the County's intent to transfer the building to them upon completion of construction. This early coordination helps ensure a smooth operational transition once the facility is ready to open its doors.

Project collaboration continues across multiple agencies. A meeting is scheduled next week to review the **relocation and re-design of the City of Ventura waterline**, which currently runs through the park. The County and City will work together to establish an agreement that maintains essential access to the waterline for future maintenance and repairs.



Additionally, the team is coordinating with **PWA Watershed** to explore a possible connection to the watershed storm drain system. Recent percolation tests indicate that the originally planned detention basin is not feasible, prompting the need for an updated stormwater management approach.

The project team will continue moving forward with design refinements and interagency coordination to support a successful project delivery for the Saticoy community.

Ventura County Parks Launches New Interactive Website and Reservation System Upgrade

Ventura County Parks has officially launched a new, dynamic website designed to give visitors an enhanced and informative experience. The updated site provides comprehensive details about parks, facilities, programs, and services, offering users more information than ever before. With features such as **virtual tours**, **short videos**, and **improved navigation**, visitors can enjoy an immersive preview of parks and amenities before even stepping foot onsite.

In addition to its visual enhancements, the website streamlines access to important information, automates permit processes, and makes it easier for the community to explore everything Ventura County Parks has to offer.

OUR PARKS
Use the search filter to narrow down the list to your desired park based on amenities and features.

SEARCH FILTER
SELECT THE PARK TYPE
Select...
SELECT THE AMENITIES
 Tent/DV
 Hook Ups
 BBQ-Fire Pit
 Showers
 Group Area Camping
 Camp Site
 Equestrian
 Walking Path
 Bike Path
 Dog Park
 Basketball
 Softball Field
 Playground
 Clubhouse
 Group Picnic
 Individual Picnic
 Snack Bar
 WiFi
 Restrooms
 Park Host

OUR PARKS

ISLAND PARKS Camp Comfort 3395 North Creek Road, CA	COMMUNITY CENTERS Cassitas Springs Community Center 8477 Cassitas Drive, Ventura	ISLAND PARKS Devolution Park 7150 Santa Paula/City Road, CA
BEACH FRONT PARKS Faris Beach Park 4350 Pacific Coast Hwy, Ventura	ISLAND PARKS Foster Park 438 Cassitas (Vero Road), Ventura	DAY USE PARKS Foster Park Day Use 59 Cassitas Vero Road, Ventura
ISLAND PARKS Foster Red Mountain Campground 207 Cassitas Vero Road, Ventura	ISLAND PARKS Foster Residence Campground 4289 Cassitas Vero Road, Ventura	TRAILS Happy Camp Canyon 15500 Broadway Road, Moorpark

COUNTY OF VENTURA Parks Department
(805) 654-3951
county.parks@ventura.org
GSA

COUNTY HOME HOME ABOUT PARKS RESOURCES CAMPING RESERVATION

ADVENTURE STARTS AT YOUR CAMPSITE!
Find your escape in Ventura County Parks—where nature feels like home.

QUICK LINKS

- RESERVATIONS Call (805-654-3951)
- USE FEES No surprise cost. See our lowest fee schedule.
- ADOPT A TRAIL Get involved in conserving our trails.
- ANNUAL PASS 12 months of Unlimited Day Use. Having a specific park?
- PARKS SYSTEM MAP Find a park close to you!
- SELF-BOOKING Use our online reservation system.

Pavilions & Picnic Areas
Friday, Feb 13 Facility

Begonias Lane Park
Facility details View map

Bouquet Canyon Park
Facility details View map

Canyon Country Park
Facility details View map

City of Santa Clarita Reservation System

At the same time, Parks has begun development of a **new reservation management system** in partnership with **Kaizen Labs**. This innovative platform will introduce a simple **two-click approach** to booking campgrounds, community centers, and day-use facilities—making the reservation process faster, easier, and more user-friendly. Pick a location, pick a date and reserve! It's that easy!

Together, these improvements represent a significant step forward in how Ventura County Parks connects with the public, supports visitors, and delivers exceptional service across all of its locations.

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



Procurement DOES IT AGAIN

For the **26th** consecutive year, GSA Procurement has been awarded the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) by the National Procurement Institute.

In 1995, the National Procurement Institute, Inc. (NPI) established the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) program, designed to recognize organizational excellence in public procurement. This prestigious annual award is earned by those organizations that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on criteria designed to measure innovation, professional, productivity, e-procurement, and leadership attributes of the procurement organization. AEP continues to be recognized as the premier award in the public procurement profession.

The application process is designed to encourage procurement professionals to go beyond the minimum requirements and to recognize innovative programs and solutions that exemplify outstanding achievements.

Procurement applied for 175 points in various categories related to procurement processes, 160 were awarded. This is a 14% increase compared to previous years. This demonstrates that Procurement is continuing to improve its processes and implement best practices.

2025 AEP Stats

- 216 Agencies awarded nationwide.
- County of Ventura has been awarded EVERY year we have applied.
- County of Ventura is the most awarded county in California

This is a TEAM effort. Every year, a procurement staff member volunteers to lead the application process for the AEP award – this year we had Irshad Ali and Charles Erving working together. As a Procurement Team we provide documents and support for categories that demonstrate our process and procedures, understanding new technologies and contributions to our customers.



Workforce Development's Public Service Fellowship Career Program



Left to right: Evander Mares, Jhared Vargas, Matthew Gonzales Del Valle, Ashley Abundis, Jasmine Duncan

As a sophomore in Ventura County College with a plan to transfer to a 4-year university to get her BA in Business Management. Ashley Abundis wants to pursue a career in the HR department because it's a big passion of hers to be a great resource for others so that not only the employees can rely on her but also the company.

Ashley writes, "it's been a great responsibility and huge accomplishment to be one of the first from the Public Service Fellowship Career Program to get hired at GSA. My experience at GSA has been so heart-warming with how welcoming and kind the administrative staff is here. Not only that but GSA has such an amazing HR team, making them the best mentors I could ever ask for! Naturally, I am an outgoing and curious person who likes to learn as much as I can about anything and everything. They have thoroughly explained to me what their roles are, educated me

on important documents and have shown me how to gather my resources. They have also given me hands-on experience with their projects, shown me what their daily tasks are like and have given me a project of my own."

Dr. Kallen Meyer – A Journey of Dedication and Musical Excellence

Kallen Meyer, Intermittent Purchasing Technician, began playing piano at the age of seven, discovering early on a passion that would shape his life and career. Before college, he studied under respected teachers Lily Starobinets and Mark Richman, laying a strong foundation for his future in music.

After earning his High School Diploma from Foothill Technology High School, Kallen attended Ventura College from 2013 to 2015, where he studied with Professor Fern Fay. He then transferred to California State University, Northridge (CSUN), completing his **Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance** in 2017.



Kallen continued at CSUN and earned his **Master's Degree in Piano Performance** in 2019. During his time there, he studied with Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov and worked closely with Dr. Kowalchyk, Professor Francis, and Professor Perry.

Following his master's program, Kallen was accepted into the **Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance** program at Claremont Graduate University (CGU), where he studied with Dr. Kim. In 2025, he successfully passed both his **Qualifying Written Exam** in February and his **Oral Exam** in May, completing his doctoral studies and achieving one of the highest academic distinctions in the field of music.

Today, Kallen teaches piano in Ventura and also instructs students at Moonlight Music Academy in Brea. With his doctoral studies completed,

his current plans include building his own music studio here in Ventura County while also pursuing opportunities to teach at the university level.

Kallen's dedication, discipline, and passion for music continue to inspire both his students and colleagues. We look forward to seeing where his remarkable talent takes him next.



Celebrating GSA Staff

GSA Solar Project Team Recognized for Excellence at November Leadership Council Meeting

During the November Leadership Council meeting, **Steve Blair, Dave Barley, Rebecca Moak, Dylan Wheeler, Patrick Squires, and Sean Payne** were honored for their outstanding professionalism, teamwork, and innovation in leading the **County Government Center Solar Energy Installation Project**—one of the largest renewable energy initiatives in Ventura County’s history.

Through exceptional collaboration, foresight, and technical expertise, the **GSA Solar Project Team** delivered a project that will generate **5.8 MW of renewable energy**, save taxpayers **over \$10.7 million** in electricity costs over the next 20 years, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come.

Despite construction occurring across six high-traffic parking lots, the team ensured that essential County operations continued without disruption. Their commitment to customer service, proactive communication, and effective cross-departmental coordination demonstrated the very best of public service.

The team’s achievements embody GSA’s values of **professionalism, leadership, and public stewardship**, leaving a lasting legacy of fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability, and community benefit.



Left to right: Steve Blair, Dave Barley, Rebecca Moak, Dylan Wheeler, Patrick Squires and Sean Payne

Leadership Excellence & Action Program For Managers



Dave Barley

Manager, Housekeeping, Grounds and Special Services,

Facilities and Materials

Congratulations “LEAP” Graduate!

GSA Joins 14th Annual CAN-Tree Event to Support FoodShare



On December 5, 2025, Ventura County FoodShare hosted its **14th Annual CAN-Tree Event**, where multiple County agencies joined in a spirited competition to build the most creative holiday trees out of canned goods—all in support of fighting hunger in Ventura County.



A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the team members who helped build and decorate the trees: Rebecca Moak, Chad Bowie, Tryna Huebner, Vanessa Trejo, Valerie Urias, Lieba Butler, Carmela Gonzales, Jonathan Hensley, Cameron Meisel, and Tom Hunt. Your hands-on effort, creativity, and willingness to jump in made the display a success and a point of pride for our agency.



Additional appreciation goes to Matt Kreiger and the Creative Services Team for developing the wonderful themes and bringing artistic vision to the project.

Their creativity added a distinctive and thoughtful touch that helped our trees stand out and reflect the spirit of giving that this event represents.

This year, County employees came together in a remarkable way, raising over \$19,000 to support Food Share and help feed local families facing food insecurity. Efforts like this demonstrate the power of collective action and the meaningful impact we can make when we work together. GSA's contribution played an important role in this countywide achievement, and we should all feel proud of what we accomplished as a team.

The beautifully crafted CAN-trees were showcased to the public throughout the weekend in downtown Ventura before being delivered to Food Share. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped spread holiday cheer while supporting a meaningful cause!



County Employees Hit a Home Run at the 7th Annual Wellness Program Softball Tournament



On Saturday, October 4, employees from 12 County agencies gathered at Kimball Community Park for the Wellness Program's 7th Annual Employee Softball Tournament. The event brought together coworkers, friends, and families for a day filled with camaraderie, competition, and community spirit.

The GSA team won their opener vs HCA but later fell to District Attorney. GSA showed solid teamwork and hustle throughout both games. Highlights include flashy glove work and error free execution from the left side infield by Dylan Wheeler and Joel Miller. Luz Avitud and Emma Caputo held strong at middle infield logging many put-outs as roving pitcher and second base, respectively. At the plate, Giovanni "Red Lightning" Aguilar batted leadoff and led the team in runs. Thank you and great work by the rest of the roster including Gabe Martinez, Cynthia Martinez, Nico Grandin, Ethan Edmonds, Patrick Farrell, Emilia Contreras, Chinna Nahabedian, and Marilyn Ruiz Sabido.

The tournament capped off with an exhilarating Championship Game between the District Attorney's Office and CEO/HR. After a hard-fought showdown, the District Attorney's Office claimed victory with an 8-6 win, earning the coveted first-place trophy.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the team captains, players, volunteers, and supporters who helped make this year's tournament a success.

