

ROTARY SPOKES

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ventura, est. May 1, 1919



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Mark Watkins, Ventura City Manager

Today's speaker is the recently hired Ventura City Manager, whom the Ventura City Council unanimously named on February 11, 2013. Watkins comes to the City with nearly thirty years of local government experience.

Mark brings a unique combination of education, professional experience and familiarity with issues facing Ventura. As a longtime resident he understands the community and local challenges.

"Mark is truly dedicated to improving city government through accountability and transparency. We have a lot of work to do and I look forward to working with him," said Mayor Mike Tracy.



Mr. Watkins was selected from a field of over 38 applicants through an open competitive recruitment process.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for me professionally. It's really a homecoming since I've lived in Ventura for 25 years and raised my family in town," said Watkins.

Mr. Watkins, has worked for the City of Thousand Oaks, CA since 2001. He served as the Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer for four years and Public Works Director for seven years. Prior to his position in Thousand Oaks, CA, he served as the Maintenance Services Manager for the City of Ventura and Civil Engineer for Kern County. Mr. Watkins holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Cal. State Univ., Northridge and a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal. State University, Chico.

The City of Ventura is a full-service Charter City with a Council-Manager form of government. The City Manager is appointed by the City Council and is responsible to the City Council for the administration of all City affairs



placed in his charge by or under the City Charter.

Under the Charter adopted by the citizens of Ventura in 1934, the City Manager is "the administrative head of the City government . . . responsible to the City Council for the administration of all City affairs" including hiring and firing department heads, preparing the annual budget and ensuring the effective implementation of the City Council's policies and priorities.

The City Manager advises Council on strategic direction for the City and responding to changing community needs. Most of all, the City Manager provides overall organizational leadership to ensure the effective daily delivery of services, projects and programs.

207 LIKES!



The bulletin is uploaded every week now to our Facebook page. Please 'like' us!

Meeting Recap of August 14

Christina Rust led off the meeting with an invocation and introductions. RoseAnn Hill and Clyde Reynolds joined her at the podium to lead us in "It's a Grand Old Flag."

Terry Schaeffer announced the upcoming club social set for Sunday September 15 at Foster Park at noon. There will be grilled meats provided and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite foods to share. Details and sign-up sheets will be rolling out in the next couple of weeks. This year's picnic will also be our social event with the District Governor Jack McClenahan who recently addressed our club.

Steve Doll announced details of the upcoming Ventura Marathon which features other events such as bicycle rides, a cross-country and a beach party. Steve is asking for Rotarians to volunteer as some of the proceeds will benefit the club's Dictionary project. Speaking of running, Mario de la Piedra announced that our club will be the main charitable organization that will benefit from the October 19 5K Color Run, a fun, casual event through the Downtown that features runners being doused with various colors along the route. Ideally we need to find 200 volunteers for this event.

President Irene thanked the club for the efforts in assembling backpacks. Almost 850 bags were stuffed with donated school supplies! Well done Rotarians!

Fining was covered by Greg Kincaid, who scored many hits with his questions on obscure trivia. Roger Case spoke eloquently in his Rotary Moment. He recounted a personal letter written by an (unnamed) respected Rotarian that he treasures to this day.

Program

Christina Rust introduced the two new members who were presenting their Craft Talks.

Sandra Burkhart has been a local resident since she was nine years old. She presented a Powerpoint of her advocacy on behalf of the Western States Petroleum Association. Oil production helps Ventura County, including some 7400 jobs locally, providing \$333 million in wages and salaries.

She covered the issue of hydraulic fracturing as a way

Today's Program *Ventura City Manager Mark Watkins*

Introductions:	Courtney Lindberg
Rotary Moment:	Mike Anderson
Fining:	Daniel Saltee

Future Programs

Aug. 28- The Aspire Program, with the Director
Sean Barjwal

of recovering more oil resources and discussed the facts and data supporting this methodology and to dispel misinformation that exists in the discussion.

Steve Dato is originally from La Mirada, but now resides in Ventura with his wife and two children. He has just celebrated his ninth anniversary. Steve is the Ventura Chamber of Commerce marketing committee chair.

Steve works for Axxess, which is a cutting edge program that markets services to the local community. The familiar booklet is one part of Axxess; it is also a marketing program for local businesses. Axxess has grown successfully over the last 15 years, having started in Santa Barbara. Fundraising using the booklet has netted \$25,000 locally, mainly for schools, this last year in only its second year.



Sandra Burkhart shared her advocacy for hydraulic fracturing.



Clyde Reynolds and RoseAnn Hill pump up the patriotic jam for the club.

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following is proposed for membership:

Sarah Abrams, proposed by Dale Jaedtke with classification of "Non Profit-Christian Community Service"

If you have any objection to membership of this individual in our club, please contact the President or Secretary in writing within seven days.



Christina Rust dishes out the dirt as she introduces the guest speakers.



Roger Case shares a special Rotary Moment as he recalls a club member who mentored him.



Steve Dato highlights his work that allows to be in the community and helping local non-profits.



Greg Kincaid fined on a veritable potpourri of all things trivial.

Ventura Rotary Social Event at Foster Park with the District Governor, Sept. 15



This is our annual picnic where you can bring your favorite picnic food to share in a potluck. This is a casual, family Sunday event. The fun starts at noon. You can contact Terry Schaeffer for more information.

Upcoming Events

District Governor Social
Sun., Sept 15, Noon
Foster Park

Ventura Marathon
Sun, Sept. 8, 7:00 am
Ventura Pier

The Color Run 5K
Sat., Oct. 19, 9:00 am
Ventura Fairgrounds

July Birthdays

Wayne Bruce, Aug 01
Kristin Taylor, Aug 05
Harald Wulff, Aug 15
Dave Wallace, Aug 16
Saurabh Bajaj, Aug 18
Dave Loe, Aug 19
Sylvia Cheatham, Aug 20
Eliane DeBlauw, Aug 21
Erik Feingold, Aug 23
Daniel Holmes, Aug 24
Andrew Soter, Aug 31

July Anniversaries

Ron Bamieh, Aug 13
Ron Calkins, Aug 14
Rosa Lee Measures, Aug 20
Eliane DeBlauw, Aug 21
John Williams, Aug 26
Terry Schaeffer, Aug 28



Rotary Club of Ventura
Club #691

Ron Burton
Rotary International
President

Jack McClenahan
District 5240 Governor

Irene Henry
Club President

venturarotary.org



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SPOKES

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