

ROTARY SPOKES

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Community Memorial Hospital on the Rise



Work continues on a \$273 million hospital that is one of Ventura's biggest construction projects ever. Work is beginning on the skeleton of the new Community Memorial Hospital, a 350,000-square-foot facility, a project that started in August 2011 and is scheduled for completion in March 2015.

The new building, driven in part by California's changing seismic standards for hospitals, will fill the construction site behind the existing hospital on Brent Street. The old building, erected in the 1960s, will remain, with officials saying the exact uses are still being planned. All patient care will be in the new facility.

The project is being financed through tax-exempt bonds issued with the help of the city of Ventura. The new facility has been labeled by city leaders as a catalyst for revitalizing midtown. "This new hospital facility is a big deal for Ventura," said Mayor Mike Tracy, noting that Community Memorial and nearby Ventura County Medical Center are important parts of the local economy. "We're hoping it will keep the jobs that are currently here and we're hoping it will grow the medical sector."

The first phase of construction focused on foundation work, replacing the 40-foot-deep bed of soil under the new building. Now workers will focus on the building's skeleton before spending most of 2014 and 2015 on the new hospital's innards and landscaping.

The new hospital is centered on the guiding principle that the facility will be designed to respect and support patient dignity, as well as create a healing environment that will integrate elements that focus on quality of life, as well as on the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Features include:

- All private rooms.
- Larger Emergency Department.
- Cutting-edge Operating Suites.
- Enhanced Mother-Baby services.
- Increased critical care capacity, including additional Heart Catheterization Labs and ICU beds.
- Expanded NICU and dedicated Pediatric unit.
- "Green" building elements & healing gardens.

(Portins reprinted from the Ventura County Star.)

Recap of July 24, 2013 Meeting

Ron Calkins led off with a prayer. RoseAnn Hill led us in 'America the Beautiful.' Among the guests was former club member Virginia Norris.

President Irene announced that we have volunteer auto transportation for the upcoming Ventura County Fair parade on August 3rd: Dick Hatcher and Larry Dawes will have convertibles. If you are interested, meet at the Sportsman Restaurant.

Dave Bianco took the dais and fined the club about 1939, which happened to be his birth year.

Doug Halter's Rotary Moment was all about finding kinship with fellow Rotarians in our common goal for creating community, for trying to leave the world a better place. He also recalled the great advice and effort of members in the legal profession, when Doug encountered some issues.

Indy Batra had some unfinished business from his year. He awarded Mark Kirwin with the New Rotarian of the Year. Along with that citation, Indy awarded Mark with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Additionally, 'Service above Self Award' was bestowed upon Bill Kearney.

Ed Campbell attended the 2013 Rotary International Convention in Lisbon Portugal, and officially represented our Club as a voting delegate. Ed shared images of his journey back to a place he last visited decades ago, even staying at the hotel he once frequented.

Program

The presentation featured three speakers who were outbound exchange students, meaning they were from this area and sponsored by our club for their year abroad.

Gillian Wenzel was an exchange student in 2011-12 and went to the small town of Gorizia, Italy. Gillian chose to recount her year in a series of poetic pieces. Through them, she shared experiences of learning a new language and the difficulties of being understood, her travels with her host family to Sicily. She even shared some problems she encountered as she feels that they helped her to grow into a better person. She says she learned to slow down and enjoy life. She begins her Freshman Year this Fall at Ithaca College in New York.

Today's Program *Community Memorial Hospital*

*featuring
Gary Wilde, President and CEO*

Future Programs

Aug 07 Ventura County Maritime Museum (Offsite visit)

Ella Svete had just completed her exchange year in Chile. She was delighted to have had three host sisters for her family about three hours south of Santiago. She felt very welcome at her Chilean school and got to travel with her school to Brazil. She was grateful for lots of support from other exchange students, with whom she travelled to Patagonia and Easter Island.

Jillian Lopez also travelled to Chile to the town of Rancagua. Jillian is an only child but, with her host family, she gained a 6 year old 'brother' which was 'interesting.' Like Ella, she travelled with other exchange students to Southern Chile. She attended an all-girls Catholic school, where the other girls were very welcoming.

All three young ladies thanked the Club for sponsoring them for their exchange year.



President Irene poses with three very impressive young exchange students.



Past President Indy Batra presents Mark Kirwin with his awards.



Cheryl Heitman shows off her pro-Ventura wardrobe.



Larry Emrich introduced Gillian Wenzel who spent her exchange year in northeastern Italy.



Ed Campbell recounts his trip to the Rotary convention in Portugal as Rob vanNieuwburg looks on.



Dave Bianco stumped many with his fining session based on his birth year.



Doug Halter used his Rotary Moment to stress our common need to build a better community.



This picture from 1996 shows Nelson Mandela administering the polio vaccine. In 1997, he received the Rotary Award for World Understanding, which was the highest Rotary honor back then.

Upcoming Events

August 7 Offsite Meeting
Noon
Channel Islands Yacht Club
4100 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Backpack Stuffing!
Saturday, August 10
9:00 am to noon
Ventura Unified School
District offices
255 West Stanley Avenue.



July Birthdays

Kathy Wertheim, Jul 01
Barbara Asbell, Jul 10
Ron Calkins, Jul 11
Rob van Nieuwburg, Jul 13
Jim Newton, Jul 14
Roger Case, Jul 20
Bob Donaldson, Jul 22
Michael Scar, Jul 23
Dave Bianco, Jul 25
Lucas Johnston, Jul 25

July Anniversaries

RoseAnn and David Hill, Jul 02
David and Rebekah Wellik, Jul 18
Michael and Annie Anderson, Jul 24
Sandra and Jordan Laby, Jul 24
John and Cherie Brant, Cherie, Jul 26
Norm and Joan Blacher, Jul 27



Rotary Club of Ventura
Club #691

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SPOKES

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