



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

October 1, 2023

### COUNTY CEO SEVET JOHNSON

Sevet Johnson, Psy.D., gave a presentation at our meeting September 27, 2023. Dr. Johnson is the County Executive Officer where she oversees 27 departments and agencies, a budget of \$2.8 billion, and over 10,000 staff members. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Moorpark.

The County Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. Johnson as CEO in August 2022. It is an exciting time for county government, with three of the six elected department heads taking office this year and several new county supervisors.

County operations touch our lives daily (see box below). The county budget reflects our priorities, with emphasis on health and human safety and public safety. We have “rainy day” reserves of \$170 million, and enjoy the highest credit rating (Standard & Poor’s/Moody’s AAA).

Recent and ongoing initiatives include:

- A continuum for housing: from shelter to transitional housing to supportive housing
- Sustainability, including a scholarship program to train electricians for electric vehicles
- A new Accessibility Manager and Arts & Culture Manager



#### County Highlights

553 miles of roads	Animal services
158 bridges	Records, Licenses
200 drainage canals	Permits, Weddings
2,735 storm drains	Elections
50 Dams	Assessments
18 parks	13 libraries
12 campgrounds	2 airports
3 golf courses	Harbor
Community centers	Trails
262 miles water main pipes over 45,932 acres	

- A new facility for jail inmates with medical or mental health issues, two new sheriff’s mobile incident command posts, a new air & rescue helicopter, and a regional radio system
- Economic initiatives including training for home-based child care businesses and Business Forward web site to assist new businesses
- Same day hiring events
- Mental health including high school wellness centers, a rehabilitation center on Lewis Road, and \$3.7 million for Facing Down Fentanyl.

## MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

**Attendance:** 32 plus 2 via Zoom. Visiting Rotarian (and today's speaker) Dr. Sevet Johnson (Moorpark Rotary). Guests were Pat Moore, Jan Rodriguez, and Jim Dembowski. President Elect George Poulakos was present and was happy to report he obtained housing in Ventura.

**Lunch:** Lemon chicken, rice, vegetables and pita with humus, fruit, green salad. Apple slices with apple butter for dessert.

**Introductions/Flag salute/Inspirational message: Chrissy Stamegna.** "If you always put limit on everything you do, physical or anything else, it will spread into your work and into your life. There are no limits. There are only plateaus, and you must not stay there, you must go beyond them." (- Bruce Lee)

**Song: Bev Ward** led singing of "America the Beautiful."

### Announcements:

**Neal Lassila (1) The Beachside Bash** was a rousing success. The project proved how well the three clubs can work together. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors. A post-event evaluation will be conducted.

(2) Wine, tequila and beer left from the event are for sale.

(3) To participate in the City of Ventura **Evacuation Preparedness Survey**, go to [CityofVentura.ca.gov/OES](http://CityofVentura.ca.gov/OES).

**Madhu Bajaj: (1)** Thank you to Sandy Lassila for arranging for the club to meet with **Assemblymember Steve Bennett**, RoseAnn Hill for handling the RSVP's, and everyone who helped with the event.

(2) **District Governor Marta Golding Brown** will present at our meeting October 4. RSVP for the reception the evening of October 3 at the Portside Clubhouse.

(3) **Pacific High School Interact.** RSVP to meet with the students October 10.

**Saurabh Bajaj: (1) Forms to increase your donation** to the Rotary Foundation, Julius Gius Memorial Foundation, and Julius Gius Endowment were emailed October 10 (also attached to email for this newsletter).

(2) We received a thank you note from the **YMCA** for the **JGMRF grant** it received.

**Ken Leandro: Ventura High School Interact** is requesting donations of personal hygiene items and non-perishable food for its basic needs pantry.

**Happy Dollars.**

**Fining: Joslynn Skelton** quizzed us about general trivia items.

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS.** The Board of Directors meeting was Sept. 28 at the Crowne Plaza. Board members are reviewing amendments to the by-laws and continuing resolution. Planning is ongoing for a 1950s sock hop at the Crowne Plaza Tuesday, Oct. 24, as a Polio Plus fundraiser. The Westside Community Holiday Party will be Dec. 16, same location as last year (Arise Church). Planning for the Fireworks event is beginning; committee co-chairs needed. The club plans to participate in building the Rotary float for the Rose Parade.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Mike Montoya  
September 29

Joslynn Skelton  
September 30

## CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

George Poulakos  
September 28  
Ten years

Madhu Bajaj  
September 30  
Three years

## UPCOMING EVENTS

(For more complete and up-to-date information, check the ClubRunner app on your phone, or our website)



**Oct. 3: Reception for District Governor Marta Golding Brown,** Portside Clubhouse, 1196 Portside, Ventura, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. RSVP to Madhu.

**Oct. 4: Board members meet with District Governor,** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Cañada Larga Room, Poinsettia Pavilion.

**Oct. 4 lunch meeting: District Governor Marta Golding Brown.** Martha is top banana of District 5240, which includes almost 3,000 members in 69 Rotary Clubs in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Kern Counties. Martha joined Rotary in 2005, served two terms as president of Lancaster Sunrise Rotary, and joined the Rotary Club of Oxnard in 2015. She is Co-Founder and CEO of Smart Coast California and has had a long and successful career in housing and community development in California and Nevada. She lives in Ventura with her husband Forrest.

**Oct. 10: Pacific High School Interact,** 9:45 - 11:00 a.m., at the school. Students will tell us about their club and school and we will have small group discussions about leadership, service, and life. Bagels and donuts will be served. Contact Madhu with questions or to RSVP.

**Oct. 11 lunch meeting: Jamar Grooms: Diversity Equity, and Inclusion.**

**Oct. 18 lunch meeting: Jeff Lambert, CEO, City of San Buenaventura Housing Authority.**

**Oct. 25 lunch meeting: Perspectives on Peace and outside speaker on peace.**

*Next week's newsletter will include photos and a report from our September 28 meeting with Assemblymember Steve Bennett.*

# Rotary Club of Ventura – Vocational Corner



I specialize in Family Law, especially large, complex cases where my expertise in business, banking, and real estate is utilized. I also find that my B.S. in psychology is helpful in addressing child custody and visitation issues, and negotiations. My initial approach is always cooperative, but I have extensive litigation experience and can be as aggressive as the matter warrants. I prepare and review premarital, post-marital, and cohabitation agreements, and offer collaborative divorce and mediation services. I treat all my clients like family, and I like my family!

For fun I enjoy woodworking, fishing, shooting, golf, and DIY projects around the house.