

ROTARY SPOKES

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



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What's Happening on the Westside

Today's speaker is Curtis Cormane, who will be updating the club on some exciting developments happening in Westside Ventura, including the new park for the heart of the community and a major health grant. Curtis serves as Executive Director of the Westside Community Development Corporation, a non-profit seeking to improve the built environment of the Westside.

A Brief History

Westside Ventura was originally settled by the Chumash and these tribes lived undisturbed in the fertile valley for many years. In the late 1700's, the Spanish missionaries traveling along the coast led by Junipero Serra settled and established the Buenaventura Mission. These Spanish missionaries converted the Chumash to Christianity and then used them as laborers for construction of the mission and the aqueduct running from the North end of our study area into what is now modern day downtown Ventura. Remnants of the aqueduct still exist in the Westside.

Economic development in Ventura was hindered by the inaccessibility of the valley. Traveling to Ventura required that travelers either came inland over the mountains or cross the beach during low tide. The addition of a port and rail station by 1870 began to catalyze Ventura's development.

In 1885, the first oil was discovered. Soon after, in the early 1900's, the first oil field on the Westside, known as the Ventura Avenue Oil Field, was created. This oil field began the oil boom which had the greatest impact on the economics and development of this area. Circa 1920, there were 113 oil wells, which produced roughly 57,000 barrels and 213 cubic feet of natural gas per day. In 1930, the population on the Westside had risen to approximately 10,000. The southern portion of Westside Ventura was densely developed with workforce housing during this period. These homes still represent a majority of housing in the area.

The oil boom resulted in the establishment of other



The future site of a park now hosts a Wednesday Farmer's Market at Ventura Avenue and Kellogg Street.

support industries, such as wire yards and machine shops. The industrial development of the Westside during this period was extremely influential in shaping the community's character. In the 1970s, oil production rates began to decline, taking much of the employment base out of the area. Almost all heavy industries were taken over by lighter industrial uses, but the community has not yet recovered from the resulting economic slump.

Many homes and building in the area have remained unchanged for 25 to 50 years and need some significant improvement. The North Avenue has seen the most new residential construction north of Stanley Avenue. But the vital heart of the community remains in the southern portion.

The last two decades have seen a slow improvement and reinvestment both by the City and private interests. Young people, outdoorsy folk and artists have discovered the area and the Westside remains a vital culturally and economically diverse neighborhood.

Recap of September 18 Meeting

Lynda Girtsman led off with an invocation and introductions. 'God Bless America' was the patriotic song choice with RoseAnn Hill and guest vocalist Sonny Shah.

Lynda Girtsman then explained in more detail how we will benefit from the upcoming Color Run on October 18. The bottom line is we need volunteers to show up that day to help. Please make every effort to do so!

Laurie Rozet was welcomed back by Kristin Taylor, who was up at the dais to report on the first meeting for Coats for Kids. Although the actual drive runs from 11/1 to 12/30, all the preparation is underway now to prepare. Please help in any way you can in this immensely successful project. Christina Rust offered to assist those needing to fill out forms for the October 1 start of the Affordable Care Act registrations. Jim Newton conducted his fining on medical terms used for non-medical events.

Terry Schaeffer rose to thank Sally Crain, Greg Kincaid, Greg Abrams (husband of the newly inducted Sarah Abrams). Sheila Fatarelli, Ellyn Dembowski and Lynda Girtsman for help setting up and cooking for the Foster Park picnic. The food was fantastic, the weather gorgeous and the company wonderful. Betsy Chess' Rotary Moment came from the picnic event: she suffered a wasp sting at the park, and an army of Rotarians descended on her to help!

Program

Mark Sauer introduced. The speakers which included his own wife, Karen. Karen had started as a nurse in the emergency room and eventually became a patient case manager. She spoke to us of home healthcare, which is her current vocation.

Home Health is a rapidly growing need. It is a Medicare benefit, 100% covered under Part B. Medical home health is different from basic home care as it uses registered nurses and therapists as providers strictly for medical services. Qualifications for these services include the need for confinement to home and the need must be prescribed by a physician who provided consistent doctor care.

Jodi Anderson was the second speaker and she is a consultant for Vitas, a for-profit Hospice care provider. Hospice differs from home healthcare as it is a service

Today's Program *What's Happening on the Westside*

Introductions:
Rotary Moment:
Fining:

Indy Batra
Ron Calkins
Gary Young

for those deemed to have a terminal illness. Hospice organizes a plan of care, keeping patients as comfortable as possible in a home environment. Hospice providers can include nurses, doctors, home health aide and a chaplain. Medicare pays for it.



Karen Sauer explained the role of medical home health care to recovering patients.



Jodi Anderson spoke of the benefits of hospice care to deal with end-of-life issues..



Sonny Shah and RoseAnn Hill belt out a patriotic song as Lynda Girtsman looks on.

It's Back!

Volunteer to help in this year's coat drive!

The project runs Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, but organizational meetings are happening now.

Check with Kristin Taylor, project coordinator.



Mark Sauer had the joy of introducing his wife among the speakers today.



Jim Newton fined on puzzling and humorous medical terms applied to everyday life.

We need 200 volunteers to raise money for our projects! Please sign up and get others to sign up as volunteers and show up at the event ready to have some fun! But we really need YOUR help!



Rotary International WORLD POLIO DAY: MAKING HISTORY

Join Rotary's Livestream Event

THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER, 5:30 P.M., CST



#endpolio | endpolionow.org

Where are we in the fight to end polio? What have we accomplished? How can we make history together? Find out on World Polio Day. To mark World Polio Day on October 24, Rotary and Northwestern University's Center for Global Health will host a live-streamed status update on the fight to end polio, featuring invited guests including Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, celebrity ambassadors, polio survivors and Rotary members

Upcoming Events

District 5240 Conference

October 18-20
9:00 am to noon
Embassy Suites Hotel
San Luis Obispo

Fireside Chat

Thurs., Sep. 26
Cheatham Residence

The Color Run 5K

Sat., Oct. 19, 9:00 am
Ventura Fairgrounds

September Birthdays

Norm Blacher, Sep 04
Christina Rust, Sep 08
Indy Batra, Sep 09
Sherry Scott, Sep 12
Mike Anderson, Sep 13
Fred Bysshe, Sep 16
John McConica II, Sep 17
Melody Namikas, Sep 19
Steve Bradvica, Sep 22
Larry Dawes, Sep 23
Larry Rasmussen, Sep 24
Joe Richards, Sep 25

September Anniversaries

William J. Kearney, Sep 10
Albert McCartney, Sep 12
Ed McCombs, Sep 12
Sherry Scott, Sep 12
Michael Scar, Sep 29



MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK 3 TIMES AS HARD



Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are extending their partnership during the critical endgame phase of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Find out how your donation can triple your impact!

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MAKE HISTORY TODAY
➔ ROTARY.ORG/CONTRIBUTE



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