



Whole Foods and Vernon Celebrate Grand Opening of New Distribution Center



Vernon Quarterly

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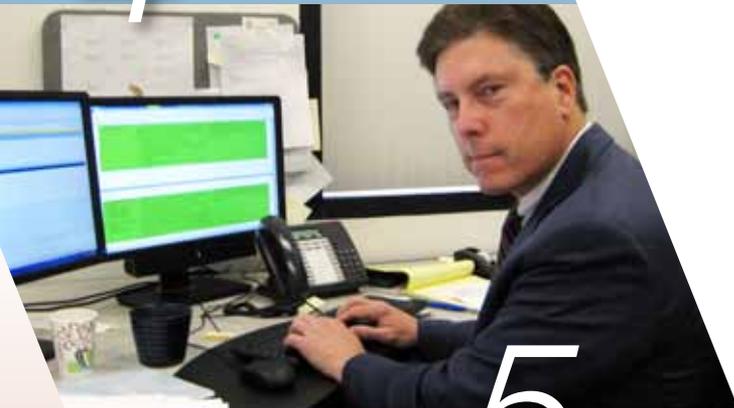
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Whole Foods Executives, Vernon City Leaders “Break Bread” at New High-Tech Distribution Center

Vernon City Council members joined Whole Foods Market’s executives and team members for grand opening festivities of their company’s new 128,000-square-foot Southern Pacific Region Distribution Center at 5000 Pacific Boulevard. Whole Foods Market has maintained a more than 30-year business presence in Vernon. As is traditional for Whole Foods, a “breaking bread” ceremony kicked off the grand opening event.

Whole Foods Market, one of the nation’s fastest-growing premium natural and organic food retail chains, opened its first store in downtown Los Angeles on Grand Avenue near 8th Street.

The high-tech distribution center serves 56 stores in California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. The center ships and receives 1.2 million cases of perishable

products each month, including meat, poultry, cheese, produce, seafood, floral and bakery items. A special base-isolated racking system has been installed to prevent the racks from toppling in an earthquake, protecting team members and products.

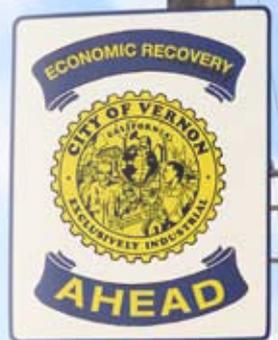
State-of-the-art docks were constructed with straight lines from dock doors to warehouse floors for efficient loading and unloading of products. Ammonia refrigeration handles cooling for more energy efficiency in the center’s 50,000-square-foot freezer. Rooftop solar panels heat the center’s hot water.

The center features a sustainability building for recycling and compost materials collected from each store in the company’s Southern Pacific region. The center’s warehouse has motion-sensor LED lighting that only illuminates

when team members enter work areas to save energy and lower utility costs. Break room furniture is made from recycled materials.

Rooms in the warehouse can be set at different temperatures for distinct types of products, but the new Whole Foods distribution center’s dry rooms and loading area are both maintained at 34 degrees, so there’s no need for walls separating the two areas. The center has 1,950 pack slots. Whole Foods team members pack an average of 140 cases per hour and receive 350 cases per hour on average.

Whole Foods employs 96 full-time team members in Vernon. The company’s new Pacific Boulevard center replaces its older and smaller 86,000-square-foot food distribution facility on 48th Street in Vernon.



LiveSafe® Mobile Security App Bolsters Vernon's Public Safety



Vernon's top public safety leaders have recommended LiveSafe—a comprehensive, crowd-sourced mobile safety system that enables agencies to communicate and stay connected with the public on safety- and security-related issues—to serve as a complement to the city's 911 police and fire emergency dispatch systems.

Vernon Fire Chief Michael Wilson said, "The LiveSafe app will enable safety and city officials to share and receive anonymous texts, photos, audio and video—tagged with geo-location data—directly from citizens about crimes, harassment, sexual assault, city repairs, hazmat concerns and other pertinent public safety issues, preventing serious incidents before they occur." Chief Wilson said five mobile security firms, including LiveSafe, were evaluated.

When formally launched, LiveSafe's web-based mobile application will provide a discreet, two-way communication between the city's fire and police personnel and Vernon's residents and businesses. Through the LiveSafe smartphone app, residents, businesses and city employees will be able to report location-based safety concerns directly to police and fire officials in real time. Safety reports will be received and monitored on the city's LiveSafe Command Dashboard.

Major U.S. colleges and universities, such as USC and Arizona State University, use LiveSafe's mobile safety technology to safeguard students and staff.



LiveSafe's representatives claim their mobile public safety app empowers individuals in four important ways:

- 1 Report Information:** Submit reports for maintenance requests, suspicious activity and more with picture, video or audio attachments. Send anonymously if you choose.
- 2 Access Safety Information:** Have fast access to important building resources, such as phone numbers and emergency plans.
- 3 SafeWalk:** Individuals invite others to "virtually escort" and monitor their location on a real-time map. Simultaneously, SafeWalkers can chat with one another to help ensure safe arrival.
- 4 Emergency Help:** Use location tracking with safety officials in an emergency situation, allowing faster response times.

LiveSafe's representatives say their system's Command Dashboard aids police and fire officials by enabling them to quickly communicate real-time public safety notifications directly to residents and businesses through LiveSafe mobile app's technology:

- 1 Report Workflow:** Receive reports in real time on a live feed and use live chat for immediate interaction with people who submit tips.
- 2 Send Geo-Targeted Broadcast Messages:** Create geofences to mark boundaries as you control sending broadcast messages to employees based on location. Send messages using push notification, e-mail and text messaging.
- 3 Usage Reports:** Analyze trends in downloads, types of reports submitted, times reports are most often sent and other important statistics.

For more information on LiveSafe and what it can mean for greater public safety and security in Vernon, go to www.livesafemobile.com.



LiveSafe

Are You Ready for “The Big One”?

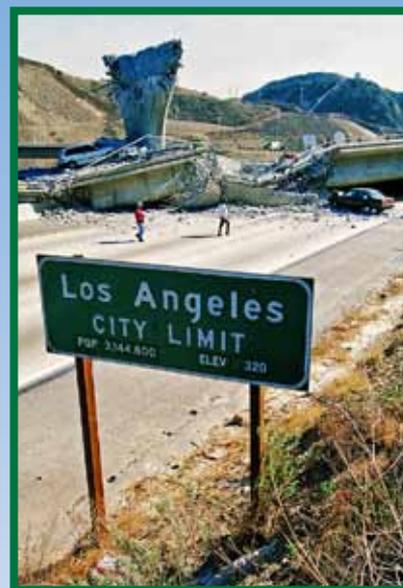
Experts with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) say the chance of an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.0 or greater within the next 30 years has increased. Earthquakes are part of life in California. Earthquake preparedness saves lives. Here’s what you need to know and do before “The Big One” strikes:

Before an Earthquake

- Look around the places where you spend time. Identify safe places, such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall in your home, office or school so that when the shaking starts, you can **Drop** to the ground, **Cover** your head and neck with your arms and if a safer place is nearby, crawl to it and **Hold On!**
- Practice how to **“Drop, Cover and Hold On!”** To react quickly, you must practice this drill often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake.



- Before an earthquake occurs, secure items that could fall and cause serious injuries (e.g., bookshelves, mirrors, light fixtures).
- Store critical supplies (e.g., water, medication) and documents.
- Store a three-day supply of nonperishable food (including juice, canned food items, snacks and infant formula).
- Store emergency supplies, such as flashlights, a radio with extra batteries, heavy gloves, trash bags and tools.
- Plan how you will communicate with family members, including multiple methods, by making a family emergency communication plan.
- Assess and determine the emergency escape routes that exist where you live and work that you might need to access when an earthquake strikes.



For more information on being quake-safe during and after a major earthquake, go to www.ready.gov/earthquakes.

City Finance Director Wraps Up Successful Electric System Bond Refinancing

July 2015, Vernon successfully sold \$111.7 million in 2015 Series A Taxable Electric System Revenue Bonds. Vernon Finance Director William Fox said, “The bond sale provided funds to refund a portion of the city’s outstanding 2009 Series A Electric System Revenue Bonds. The transaction also helped to finance the costs of terminating two existing interest rate swap agreements, fund a deposit to the Debt Service Reserve Fund and pay the cost of issuing new 2015 Series A Taxable Electric System Revenue Bonds.”



The city’s previous bond obligations placed a substantial burden on the city’s finances. Mr. Fox said the successful bond refinancing has lightened the load. “The fortuitous timing of the sale enabled Vernon to secure this new bond debt at an attractive average

coupon rate of 4.58 percent,” he explained. “The financial impact of the bond financing is a reduction in cash outflow over the next seven years of \$12.5 million annually, with some fluctuations depending on the level of debt service each year.”

Mr. Fox said the city’s bond financial obligations are now more manageable. “After seven years, the new refunded debt service, over an additional five-year period, will increase approximately \$21.8 million per year,” he said. “After that, there will be lower debt service payments. The net impact of the financing is \$9.1 million additional debt and interest costs over the next 27-year period. The new debt structure provides a smooth transition to stabilizing customer electric rates, so that future increases can be lower and more predictable. The retirement of the two interest rate swap agreements eliminates the market rate volatility and financial burden that existed in the city’s financial structure.”



CR Laurence

Company Finalizes Billion-Dollar Merger, Continues Growth in Vernon

Vernon-based CR Laurence is the leading supplier and manufacturer of products to the glass and glazing industry. In August 2015, Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope® (OBE), a CRH Group company, agreed to acquire CR Laurence Co., Inc. (CRL), North America's largest manufacturer and distributor of custom hardware and glazing products to the glass and glazing industry. CRL will continue to be independently managed and operated as a subsidiary of OBE and will retain all existing management structures and personnel.

CRL designs, engineers and manufactures a wide range of architectural hardware, including commercial and residential architectural railings, hardware for "all-glass" commercial entrances, transaction hardware and frameless shower door hardware. CRL's U.S. Aluminum Division manufactures and supplies a complete range of products for commercial, institutional, retail and government buildings.

CRL's extensive product range includes storefronts, entrance doors, windows, window walls, curtain walls and sun control systems. The company also manufactures a selection of quality windows for trucks and vans. More than 1 million square feet of commercial space is dedicated to CRL's manufacturing and supply operations in Vernon. In the past few decades, CRL has grown from its single Los Angeles area location to 43 service centers throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark.

California Senator Ricardo Lara honored CRL as "Business of the Year" in his 33rd Senate District. Vernon City Council members presented CRL executives with a proclamation honoring the company's 40-year commitment to Vernon.



Lloyd Talbert, President (L), Arty Feles, CFO (R)



GPS Technology Helps Vernon Police Crack Down on **Thefts**

“Once the battery was stolen from the parked commercial truck, the GPS tracking device was activated, sending an alert directly to the Vernon Police Department’s Communications Center and the assigned detective’s cellular smartphone.”

With the reduction in sworn personnel in recent years, the Vernon Police Department (VPD) has been exploring alternatives to traditional policing methods to combat recent spikes in property-related crimes. Police Chief Daniel Calleros said, “Property crimes and thefts have not only plagued Vernon, but they have also affected the entire Southeast region.”

Chief Calleros said VPD’s leaner police force decided to work smarter, not just harder, to crack down on property thefts. “Using an effective and affordable GPS tracking device, the department deploys ‘bait’ devices around the city in areas where thefts have been reported. The GPS tracking devices are relatively small with the capability of being deployed for several months without a recharge.”

“The use of GPS tracking devices has been a great tool for law enforcement and has been a successful instrument in the apprehension of criminals,” Chief Calleros said. “Recently, a ‘bait’ truck battery was deployed at a business in the west sector of the city.”

“Once the battery was stolen from the parked commercial truck, the GPS tracking device was activated, sending an alert directly to the VPD’s Communications Center and the assigned detective’s cellular smartphone,” he added. “Police dispatchers were quickly able to guide responding officers

to the suspect’s location, and within a few minutes, officers arrested the suspect and recovered the stolen bait battery.”

The GPS tracker can be attached to a number of items, including safes, ATM devices, cash registers, laptop computers, truck tires or any valuable piece of equipment that might be a target.

The VPD is currently deploying as many as four GPS tracking devices in areas of the city where recent truck battery thefts have occurred. The tracking devices were purchased using asset forfeiture funds. For questions on the VPD’s use of this technology, contact Detective Alexy Escobedo at (323) 587-5171, ext. 123 or aescobedo@covpd.org.

Anyone with information regarding a crime or suspicious activity is asked to contact the Vernon Police Communications Center at (323) 587-5171. Anonymous tips can be provided by calling WE-Tip at (800) 782-7463 or using the WeTip website at www.wetip.com. WeTip has live bilingual operators 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



**Certain non-emergency crimes may be reported using the
Vernon Police Department’s Online reporting system at:**

www.cityofvernon.org/departments/police-department/308-online-police-reporting.



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Vernon Gas & Electric Offers City Residents the Lowest Electricity Costs in Southern California

* Electricity Costs for Homeowners/ Renters - Southern California Public Power Authority (July 2015)



Utility Rates*	1,000 kW/h	500 kW/h	200 kW/h
	\$97.98	\$50.56	\$22.11
	\$167.56	\$78.88	\$29.87
	\$180.74	\$83.59	\$37.25
	\$195.99	\$88.04	\$33.78
	\$255.06	\$97.34	\$30.63