



## New Residents Usher in New Era to Vernon's City Life



# Vernon Quarterly

HOME EDITION 2015

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Report **Suspicious Activities** Using a



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*Vernon Quarterly* is a newsletter for the residents, businesses and other community stakeholders in this city that "means business."

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# Vernon Village Park Welcomes New Families to City's "Exclusively Industrial" Environs



**I**t's summertime and the livin' is easy at Vernon Village Park, the city's newest affordable apartment development. Housing developer Meta Housing Corporation and Solari Enterprises, its property manager, have finished construction and completed leasing of the development's 45 units. Vernon newest families have taken up residence in the complex's new units in the 4600 block of East 52<sup>nd</sup> Drive.

Vernon Mayor W. Michael McCormick said, "Vernon Village Park is the fulfillment of Vernon's most significant good governance reform: Increasing our city's residents and its voting population. Vernon Village Park is a momentous event in the life of a city that has proudly called itself 'Exclusively Industrial.' A decade ago, few people would have thought of Vernon as a 'Live/Work' community. Times change. Vernon has changed. We are proud of what we have achieved."

Vernon Council Member Luz Martinez said, "We pledged to double our city's population and we followed through on that pledge. I look forward to meeting our city's new families. To every resident who now lives close to where they work in Vernon, every parent who has a brand-new apartment to share with their child and every family in an affordable apartment in one of the safest communities in L.A. County, our city's leaders send you a heartfelt message: Welcome home."



"Vernon Village Park is a momentous event in the life of a city that has proudly called itself 'Exclusively Industrial.'"  
-W. Michael McCormick, Vernon Mayor



Mayor Pro Tem "Bill" Davis, Councilmember Luz Martinez, Councilmember Melissa Ybarra, Councilmember Yvette Woodruff-Perez, Mayor Michael McCormick

# Public Safety Services With Community Feel Remain “True” Hallmark of Vernon Life

## POLICE INFORMATION



The fictional city depicted in HBO’s police drama “True Detective” may use actual Vernon locales as a backdrop in its storytelling, but the fact is clear: Looking like and being like is the difference between make-believe and reality.



Daniel Calleros, Vernon Police Chief

Vernon Police Department’s (VPD) real detectives and patrol officers are on a first name basis with many of the city’s residents and 1,800 business owners.

Vernon Police Chief Daniel Calleros said, “Despite our police department’s size, we maintain a fairly high profile throughout

Vernon. Our community-policing model enables our staff to provide the level of public safety our residents and businesses expect.”

“Vernon residents act as our officers’ eyes and ears in the community. They help us to prevent crimes. We have a good relationship with our residents and business leaders. They are true-to-life crime-stoppers in our city. Their efforts help our officers keep Vernon’s crime rate among the lowest of any city in L.A. County,” he said.

Recent major crime statistics show Vernon’s police have performed very well in keeping crime rates low in a city that is workplace home to more than 50,000 private sector employees. Since 2010, major crimes have declined each year, along with declines in burglaries and vehicle thefts. In 2014, Vernon police officers responded to calls for service in an average time of 3 minutes, 55 seconds.

Chief Calleros said, “The mission of the Vernon Police Department is to provide swift, skillful and responsive law enforcement services to the people and businesses of our community through the application of proactive problem-solving strategies, and the development of equal partnerships with the people we serve. We are dedicated to maintaining the highest degree of professionalism and ethical standards in our pursuit of our mission; ever mindful of the need to safeguard the individual liberties of members of our community.”

“Despite our police department’s size, we maintain a fairly high profile throughout Vernon.

Our community-policing model enables our staff to provide the level of public safety our residents and businesses expect.”

—Daniel Calleros, Vernon Police Chief

# Report Suspicious Activities

# Using a

# or Tablet Smartphone

**Vernon Police Department (VPD):**  
4305 Santa Fe Ave  
Vernon, CA 90058

**New Off-Site Office: Vernon Village Park Apartments (Adjacent to Community Center) 4675 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Drive, Vernon, CA 90058**

**Calling the Vernon Police Department:**  
Please dial 911 for any calls that are LIFE-THREATENING or CRIMES IN PROGRESS. For non-emergencies (24/7), please call (323) 587-5171.

Vernon residents and business employees have an immediate online tool to combat crime and report suspicious activity to Vernon police officers. Vernon Police Department’s (VPD) Online Police Reporting System is available seven-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day through the city’s website ([www.cityofvernon.org/departments/police-department/308-online-police-reporting](http://www.cityofvernon.org/departments/police-department/308-online-police-reporting)) and it’s accessible from a computer, smartphone or tablet device. The online crime reporting system is easy to use, but it’s not intended for use in emergency situations where immediate police response is needed. VPD urges victims or persons witnessing a crime-in-progress to call **911** for emergency response.



## Vernon's Quick-Acting Fire Service Brings the Right Tools and Trained Personnel to Every Emergency Response Incident



Michael Wilson, Vernon Fire Chief

The Vernon Fire Department (VFD) is a full-service ISO Rated Class #1 Fire Department that serves the city's unique community of small homes, apartments and large-scale commercial and industrial companies, logistics businesses and food processors. VFD firefighters stand watch to protect more than 114 miles of rail track serving 1,800 businesses and a daily population of more than 50,000 workers.

The VFP provides unique and specialized public safety services to city residents and businesses and Vernon's surrounding communities. VFD's Special Operations Division oversees two critical emergency response services: the Hazardous Materials Response Program and Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Program.

Vernon Fire Chief Michael Wilson said, "VFD takes pride in working closely with local communities to raise contributions for the annual 'Spark of Love Toy Drive.' The Vernon Firefighter Association (VFA) Local 2312 has worked in collaboration with the Muscular Dystrophy Association through its 'Fill the Boot' fundraising campaign for several years. In addition, VFA members, in collaboration with local Vernon businesses, support the L.A. Children's Hospital blood drives, St. Baldrick's Cancer Foundation and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation."

- » **CPR Training** – CPR Training is offered to residents and business employees. A \$100 fee per participant covers course materials.
- » **Fire Extinguisher Training** – To enhance the safety and well being of city residents, businesses, customers and suppliers, VFD encourages fire extinguisher use and training in the proper use of fire extinguishers. \$50 fee per participant.
- » **Blood Pressure Screening** – Paramedic personnel provide free blood pressure at any of the fire stations. No appointment is necessary.
- » **Home Fire Safety Inspections** – Inspections are performed upon request to assist residents in locating potential problems and preparing for emergencies.
- » **Fire Station Tours** – Station tours for residents and school groups can be requested by submitting the Fire Station Tour/Visit Our School form. Requests must be submitted at least one month prior to the desired date of the event.

- » **Safe Surrender Program** – Vernon Fire Department strongly supports the Safe Surrender Program to protect newborn infants at risk for abandonment. We encourage parents or persons with lawful custody to safely surrender an infant within 72 hours of birth, with no questions asked. All Vernon Fire Stations have been designated as Safe Surrender facilities.
- » **Vernon Fire Department – Administration**  
4305 Santa Fe Avenue  
Vernon, CA 90058  
(323) 583-8811, ext. 281
- » **Vernon Fire Department – Station Facilities**  
**Station No. 1** – 3375 Fruitland Avenue – (323) 583-8811, ext. 510  
**Station No. 2** – 4301 Santa Fe Avenue – (323) 583-8811, ext. 520  
**Station No. 2** – 2800 Soto Street – (323) 583-8811, ext. 530  
**Station No. 4** – 4530 Bandini Boulevard – (323) 583-8811, ext. 540

## Vernon's Guardians of Health and Environmental Health Protect City Residents, Businesses and Planet Earth From Harm



Environmental protection and safeguarding the health of Vernon residents, workers, visitors and neighboring communities are the prime directives of Vernon's Health & Environmental Control Department. Vernon Health & Environmental Control staff provide comprehensive services to enforce environmental laws, ensure compliance with health standards and meet the needs of the city's substantial industrial sector.



Leonard Grossberg, Vernon Health Director, Dave LeDuff, Chief Deputy Director of Vernon Health & Environmental Control Department

Vernon Health & Environmental Control Department Director Leonard Grossberg said, "We use art and science to protect residents and workers against environmental factors that may adversely impact human health or upset the ecological balances essential to long-term human health and environmental quality—whether in the natural or human-made environment."

**E-Waste Recycling** – Every spring (April-May), the Health & Environmental Control Department conducts a no cost e-waste recycling event at VFD Fire Station No. 1 to enable residents or businesses to recycle old or unused electronic items or devices that are not environmentally safe for trash disposal.

**Household Hazardous Waste** – In cooperation with Los Angeles County, Vernon's Health & Environmental Control Department sponsors free household hazardous waste collection events. These events enable residents to properly dispose of everyday household chemical items from beneath sinks, in garages or in medicine cabinets that should not be disposed in the trash.

**Used Oil Recycling** – Vernon Health & Environmental Control Department uses grant funds from CalRecycle to educate residents on the proper disposal of used oil and promote safe recycling of used oil. The city's annual "Used Oil Calendar Contest" in sponsorship with Vernon Elementary School enables 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to use their artistic talents to promote the environmental protection benefits of recycling used oil. The contest is highly competitive and students are awarded prizes contributed by Vernon businesses that sponsor the yearly art competition.

**Sustainability Open House** – Vernon Health & Environmental Control Department holds several events each year in Vernon to promote and educate residents, businesses and employees on how to Recycle, Reduce and Reuse items to help further protect our local environment and reduce Vernon's carbon footprint.

## Are You Prepared for a Major Earthquake, Accident or Catastrophe?



VFD is pleased to provide community disaster preparedness training for residents and business groups. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is a disaster preparedness course designed for residents, businesses and community organizations in the City of Vernon. This program is the Nationally Accepted Federal Standard for community response team training.

For CERT program enrollment information and other VFD training programs for residents and businesses, contact Yesenia Barajas at (323) 583-8811, ext. 281 or e-mail Ms. Barajas at ybarajas@ci.vernon.us.

# Vernon's City Clerk Encourages "Live/Work" Community to Become Active "Live/Vote" Residents



Maria Ayala, City Clerk, Debbie Juarez, Records Management Assistant, Sandra Dolson, Administrative Assistant

Vernon's Office of the City Clerk administers and conducts city elections to ensure the integrity of the city's democratic voting process for all registered voters and provides these important services with efficiency, utmost professionalism and a commitment to open and transparent governance.

Vernon City Clerk Maria Ayala conducts general and municipal elections, provides campaign disclosures and voter registration information, processes Public Records Act requests, serving as the official filing officer as prescribed by the Fair Political Practices Commission and pursuant to the City's conflict of interest code, certifies and maintains the legislative history of the City of Vernon and acts as custodian of the city seal, prepares and

posts agendas for legislative city meetings, records resolutions, ordinances and the minutes of legislative city meetings, manages official city records and oversees the city's formal bid processes.

## ►Elections

Vernon holds a General Municipal Election on the second Tuesday of every April for the purpose of electing one member to the City Council. Nominations for public office are typically held in the months of December and January and are announced in the *Vernon Sun* newspaper. For information on current or upcoming elections, please go to [www.cityofvernon.org/election](http://www.cityofvernon.org/election).

## ►Voter Registration

Register to vote or RE-REGISTER to vote! Registering as a Vernon voter provides residents an opportunity to make their vote count on important issues and to support or oppose candidates in municipal elections.

The City Clerk's office distributes voter registration forms at its public counter in Vernon City Hall. Already registered? You may want to consider: 1) Re-registering to update your voter registration signature or 2) re-registering to provide your new, correct residence address on file with the L.A. County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk's Office.

If you haven't registered to vote, you can register online today. Go to: [lavote.net/home/voting-elections/voter-registration/register-to-vote/register](http://lavote.net/home/voting-elections/voter-registration/register-to-vote/register)

## cityofvernon.org

Your Instant Access to  
Government Services  
and Information

Vernon's online portal to city services was designed with you in mind. Use the city's website "I Want To" feature to interact with city departments. Use Quick Links to find useful and important information. Go to [cityofvernon.org](http://cityofvernon.org) to learn why "Vernon Means Business."

