

# CITY OF VERNON RESIDENT NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2020

## COVID-19 NEWS

### What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a highly contagious respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Its symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and may appear in as few as 2 days or as many as 14 days after exposure.

Residents of Vernon are encouraged to stay home as much as possible while only participating in essential activities, such as critical work functions and shopping for necessities. Social distancing will help to protect all in our community.

#### CITY WEBSITE IS A SOURCE FOR NEWS AND UPDATES

Vernon continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health to remain informed on the latest developments related to the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, as the situation continues to evolve. The City of Vernon is closely monitoring the situation.

The City has collected information that may be useful for you during this health crisis. We invite you to visit our website at [www.cityofvernon.org/covid19](http://www.cityofvernon.org/covid19) to learn about the following:

- What's New
- Do's and Don'ts
- Medical Evaluation/Testing
- Food Access/Grocery Supplies
- Housing
- Transportation
- Services/Assistance
- How Can You Help?
- Notices
- Press Releases
- Additional Resources

With the ever-evolving COVID-19 health crisis, access to information and education is critical. Please check the City's website regularly for the latest news and updates.



#### IMPORTANT CITY INFORMATION

City Hall non-essential services have been suspended until further notice and City Hall facilities remain closed to the public.

The City remains committed to supporting all residents and will continue to provide essential services.

For your convenience, a payment drop box has been installed on the exterior wall of the 1st floor entrance to City Hall (to the left of the double-door lobby entry). As an alternative, you may mail payments\* to:

City of Vernon  
4305 Santa Fe Avenue  
Vernon, CA 90058

\*Late fees and shut-offs will be suspended.

#### FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1

City of Vernon Hotline  
(323) 826-3648  
for non-emergency requests and inquiries

#### CLOTH FACE COVERINGS DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS

On April 2nd, cloth face coverings were delivered to Vernon residents. This proactive step is aligned with Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations to wear face coverings in public settings to slow the spread of the virus, particularly where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

[www.cityofvernon.org/covid19](http://www.cityofvernon.org/covid19)

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### Vernon Partners with AltaMed for COVID-19 Testing

On April 7th, the Vernon City Council approved a grant agreement with AltaMed Health Services, to support AltaMed's COVID-19 screening and testing operations in the Southeast Los Angeles Area (SELA).

This action followed the City's declaration of a local state of emergency on March 14, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The agreement with AltaMed is in line with the City's proclamation of a local emergency intended to facilitate a coordinated public health response to reduce transmission and illness severity, aid public safety and health providers, and mitigate the effects of this COVID-19 pandemic on the community.

During this unprecedented community health crisis, AltaMed has responded by launching outdoor assessment centers where the community, both patients and non-patients, can be evaluated for COVID-19 rapidly without risking exposure in waiting rooms. Screening/testing services through AltaMed's evaluation centers are available to all in the SELA region including those who live and work in Vernon.

Services are available regardless of ability to pay or a person's immigration status. Individuals are asked to contact AltaMed's Patient Service Center at (888)-499-9303 toll free or (562)205-4390 prior to visiting an evaluation center. Additional information on screening and testing services available through AltaMed are available at [www.altamed.org/coronavirus](http://www.altamed.org/coronavirus).



### MEAL DELIVERY AVAILABLE TO VERNON RESIDENTS

Through a coordinated effort among City staff and the YMCA, pre-packaged meal delivery is now available to Vernon residents at no cost to residents. YMCA staff members will deliver to individual households in Vernon on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week until resources are depleted.

In addition to pre-packaged meal delivery, seniors in Vernon have access to fresh grocery delivery as well. Please contact [dfigueroa@ci.vernon.ca.us](mailto:dfigueroa@ci.vernon.ca.us) with questions, or to sign up for either delivery option.

Vernon is committed to ensuring that our residents have access to critical resources during this health crisis.



[www.cityofvernon.org/covid19](http://www.cityofvernon.org/covid19)

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### THE 2020 CENSUS IS UNDERWAY



Your participation in the 2020 Census is key to shaping the future of the Vernon community. The census will be used to make important decisions that will affect you, your family, and this community for the next 10 years.

Here are some important facts about the census:

- It is very important that EVERYONE who lives with you is counted, including children, relatives, friends and roommates – regardless of citizenship status.
- Your privacy is protected. It is illegal to share your census information with anyone including the courts, IRS, police or immigration enforcement.
- The census helps decide how much money Vernon will get for important things like schools, affordable housing, and job programs.
- Each person counted in the census means more money will go to our community, allowing us to claim our fair share of federal dollars.

The census is easy to complete. Choose to use the web at [my2020census.gov/](http://my2020census.gov/) (with online code that you received in the mail), over the phone by calling 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish), or by returning your form via mail to the address noted on the physical form. Stand up and be counted!

## Vernon Municipal Election Reminder

The next regular election will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, to elect one Council Member and vote on two ballot measures:

- Measure U - a Charter amendment regarding selection of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem; and
- Measure V - a sales tax measure




This is an all-mail ballot election. Voted ballots must be returned by 8:00 p.m. on April 14, 2020. Those post marked on or before the day of the election will be accepted until mail delivery three days following Election Day.

The City is monitoring and tracking ballot submissions while City Hall is closed during the COVID-19 emergency. On election day, a ballot drop off location will be available at Vernon Village Park Apartments and at City Hall. Instructions on how the public may view the ballot canvassing process remotely via webinar will be provided as the election nears.



### Up-to-the-Minute News

Remember to follow our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts for all of the latest City related news and events:

-  @CityofVernonCA
-  @City\_of\_Vernon
-  @city\_of\_vernon



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

During these challenging times, Vernon would like to remind you that we are here for you. Recalling some of the amazing community events in 2019 allows us to reflect on the resiliency of the human spirit. As we continue to battle COVID-19 by staying in our homes, limiting contact with friends and family, and feeling the strains of a new way of life, we encourage our Vernon family to remain positive. COVID-19 is a hurdle that we will overcome!

The City's hope is to resume our community outreach events in the future, and we hope that you will join us so that we may celebrate our victory over the pandemic together!



## Vernon Joins Huntington Park for Annual Holiday Parade

For the third year running, the City of Vernon participated in Huntington Park's Annual Holiday Parade on December 14th. Thanks to all those who represented Vernon along the parade route and thanks to our neighbor, Huntington Park, for allowing us to join in on the festive event. This Huntington Park holiday tradition offers a means to engage our neighboring communities and connect with people in the southeast region. We hope to see you on the streets in December of 2020.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## OPERATION SANTA 2019 WAS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The City's third annual "Operation Santa" event held on December 19th was a huge success! In the spirit of the season of giving, the City partnered with Vernon business, Pabco Paper, to adopt several Vernon Elementary families and lavish them with toys and goods that were sure to brighten their holiday experience. Mayor Melissa Ybarra and Council Member Carol Menke were in attendance during the presentation of gifts to the families. Santa and Mrs. Claus were also present to add to the festive atmosphere of the evening.

Later that night, Vernon Police and Vernon Fire, along with Santa, hit the City streets in a caravan with sirens and lights ablaze to deliver toys to all Vernon kids.

Operation Santa is a great way for the City to connect with the community that it serves. We hope that everyone's holidays were merry and bright, and we wish everyone good health in 2020.





# VERNON GIVES BACK



## SOCCKER FOR ALL AT VERNON ELEMENTARY!

On December 10th, Vernon PD, coupled with City Council, visited our neighbors at Vernon Elementary for the second year in a row and delivered brand new soccer balls for every student! Our Vernon officers and Council Members brought along plenty of holiday spirit during the fun-filled trip and the kids' smiles were a great gift in return.





# VERNON GIVES BACK



## VERNON DONATES BOOKS TO VERNON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Vernon City Council and staff hand delivered new books to Vernon Elementary students on February 4th. This visit to the school is one of many, as offering support for the children who attend is always a top priority. The Star Wars themed book was a special gift from the City, and a great precursor to the school's upcoming Read Across America event that took place on March 2nd.



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## STAY CONNECTED

## USEFUL CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### Lease Renewals & Unit Transfers\*

*Are you currently on a month-to-month lease and wish to renew? Are you interested in transferring to a different unit? If you have questions about your lease options and/or the lottery procedures for unit transfers, please contact the Housing Hotline.*

**Maintenance requests,  
questions, or comments? Use our Housing Hotline!\***

**Please contact:  
323-826-1472 OR  
housing@ci.vernon.ca.us**

**After hours emergency  
requests?**

**Please contact:  
323-826-1465**

**We are here to serve you and strive to provide exceptional  
customer service!**

**NEXT VERNON HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING: JUNE 10, 2020 @  
6:00PM (REMOTE PARTICIPATION MAY BE REQUIRED)**

### Automatic Rent Payments\*

The City now offers a convenient method to pay your rent and avoid any late fees! Automatic payments are available! If interested, please contact 323.826-1472, or via e-mail at housing@ci.vernon.ca.us.

### \*Attention Residents at Vernon Village Park Apartments:

Please note that Solari Enterprises is available to assist you with matters related to your apartment unit. Please contact 323-771-0202 with any questions or concerns.

**www.cityofvernon.org**