



RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Changes Are Coming to Vernon

In our August Resident Newsletter, we reported on the approval of mixed-use zoning in certain areas in the City to support residential, live/work, standalone retail, and restaurant/entertainment developments, and to position the City to grow its population in the next few years. In addition to the zoning updates, transformation can also be seen in the demolition of the old Farmer John facility (photo top right) and construction of the City's first data center operation on Santa Fe Ave. (photo bottom right). This recent activity highlights the changes coming to Vernon.

The City is encouraging developments that offer traditional amenities for residents like retail and open space, and we welcome "clean commerce" businesses that have a limited impact on traffic congestion and pollution in the City. We will continue to ensure that our residents are informed about the latest projects underway!



Up-to-the-Minute News

Follow us on social media!
Scan here!

Vernon Health + Wellness is a Priority!



Vernon's Council has prioritized the development of a community-based health and wellness program designed to serve the diverse community of workers and residents in Vernon and its neighboring cities. The Center will offer convenient access to primary care services like medical screenings, medications, vaccinations, family planning, mental health, substance use treatment, and patient education. The Center will open its doors soon to patients in the area regardless of insurance or immigration status. Outreach continues and you may receive visits from City staff or Vernon's partner organization, the Wellness Equity Alliance (WEA), who can offer detailed information. To learn more, please contact 323-973-0652.

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Community News

Los Angeles County New Bail Schedule

Los Angeles County's new set of bail schedules (effective October 1, 2023) are intended to address economic biases identified within the criminal justice system. For suspects arrested in non-violent felonies and misdemeanor crimes (like petty theft, vehicle code violations, and vandalism offenses), law enforcement must Cite and Release or Book and Release. Instead of assigning bail amounts in such cases, certain arrestees will be released at the location of the arrest, or booked and released, pending a future court date. The Vernon Police Department agrees with the intent of these newly established protocols but will work with Los Angeles County officials to improve the implementation of these processes to ensure the continuous safety and security of the community.

Composting Services are Coming to Town

Check out the Composting Flyer!



New state mandates require the diversion of food waste from landfills and the City's Health Department has implemented a pilot residential food waste collection program for Vernon households. The goal is to establish one community compost site to process food waste in a manner that is sustainable. The City has begun its outreach by providing one composting food waste container (like that pictured) to each Vernon Village Park apartment. In the New Year, the program will be expanded to all City households along with educational sessions on best practices. We've included info to get you started!

Free Tutoring Services in Vernon

Did you know that Vernon-based non-profit, Southeast Community Foundation (SECF) offers free tutoring? The SECF free Enrichment Tutoring Academy (ETA) Program is an academic enrichment program that provides intense, structured one-on-one or small group instruction in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics for all youth, grades K-12, at no cost. Enrollment is based on a first-come, first-served basis. The ETA is open year-round, with separate sessions in winter, spring, summer, and fall.

SECF is dedicated to advancing the education of promising students and preparing them for the future. Please visit www.secfoundation.org to learn more.



Vernon Scholarships

Vernon's COMMUNITY Fund grants scholarships to high school seniors attending school or living in the Vernon area who are planning to pursue higher education after graduation. Last year, two Vernon high-schoolers received awards! Applications will be accessible online beginning January 1, 2024, with a due date of March 28, 2024. Please visit www.vernoncommunityfund.org for more information.

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City Events

We enjoy connecting with our community! On October 18, the City hosted its annual Career Day to educate high-schoolers on public sector careers. Vernon's popular Halloween Spooktacular followed in late October and, in November, our Fall Harvest gave away 650 turkeys to local non-profits and neighboring residents, and gift cards to Vernon residents. We are thankful for all of our participating partners, students, and families!

Career Day October 18



About 40 students attended and learned about public sector career paths.



Council visited all Vernon residents to deliver \$100 Kroger gift cards!



Fall Harvest November 14



Fall Harvest provided 250 turkeys to local non-profits and 400 to the community.

Halloween Event October 26



Senator Durazo joined us! Here, she poses with Council and staff for a photo.



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Calendar



Special Vernon Housing Commission Meeting

December 6, 2023 @ 6:00pm (In-person and online)

Meets quarterly to discuss all matters related to City-owned housing stock and public is welcome to participate. The December meeting agenda is available at www.CityofVernon.org/publicmeetings.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 7, 2023 @ 5:00 pm

Come out to the City Hall Lawn to enjoy a "winter wonderland" with real snow, sweet treats, and a tree-lighting countdown!



Operation Santa

December 13, 2023 @ 6:00 pm (Drive-thru)

Drive-thru the City's holiday toy giveaway for the little ones in your Vernon household.

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Tuesdays Monthly @ 9:00 am (In-person and online)

Public meetings where City Council deliberates on matters pertaining to Vernon and provides policy direction to City staff. Meetings for December 19 and January 2, 2024 have been cancelled. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2024.

Housing Info & Contacts

Vernon Village Park Resident requests?

**Call Solari Enterprises at
(323) 771-0202**

City-owned housing maintenance requests, questions, or comments? Use our Housing Hotline!

**Call (323) 826-1472 OR
cityhousing@cityofvernon.org**

After hours urgent requests? To report electrical outages, internet issues, or immediate City-owned housing tenant needs...

Call (323) 826-1465

Online Utility Bill Pay Available!

Residential customers can now go online to pay their electric bill. Once you receive your bill, visit cityofvernon.org/payonline to make a payment with a credit card, Paypal, or Venmo.

City-owned Housing Automatic Rent Payments

The City offers a convenient method to pay your rent and avoid any late fees. Automatic monthly payments are available! To enroll in auto-pay, contact the Housing Hotline.

City-owned Housing Lease Updates & Unit Transfers

Do you want to renew the lease for your rental, or add someone as an authorized occupant? Are you interested in transferring to a different residential unit? Contact the Housing Hotline for info.

Payment Drop Box

The City offers a payment drop box for your convenience. Submit payments at any time in our secure drop box located just outside the first floor entrance to City Hall (near the Police Department).