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Broad-based local support is essential to the Civic Alliance's success now and into the future. We thank each of our donors for your investment in building a better future for our region.



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Welcome message from Chair

Nancy Stehle



What would you like Ventura County to look like in 10 years, in 25 years? Will it still have a strong agricultural economy that gives us a feel of open space, or will it be houses from the ocean to the mountains? Will it be gridlock

on the freeway, or will we have access to commuter trains, bike paths and walkable communities? The Ventura County Civic Alliance is engaging the community to help create and implement an action agenda to develop a shared vision of Ventura County in the future through the Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County. We're also bringing the economic, social equity and environmental perspectives together to continually update our State of the Region Report, and we're collaborating with community leaders to work on an effective Workforce Education strategy.

We have been working hard to help you understand the issues in order to engage you in our planning efforts. Toward that end our February 27th Convening featured Mayor Tom Holden of Oxnard speaking on the subject of Sustainability in Ventura County and on March 6th the Limoneira Company hosted a celebration at their headquarters to thank our 20/20 Visionary sponsors and the Sponsors of our 2007 State of the Region Report. Quarterly, we publish an E-Newsletter highlighting projects throughout the County that up-hold one or more tenets of Livable Communities.

In 2008 we are focusing on building relationships, membership, and financial sustainability for the Civic Alliance and we're delighted to welcome the Limoneira Company as our latest 20/20 Visionary sponsor. Please join them in supporting and participating in the Ventura County Civic Alliance and our important projects.

Nancy Stehle
Chair, Ventura Co Civic Alliance

Ventura County Civic Alliance Recognized Sponsors of the 2007 State of the Region Report



On March 6, 2008 The Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) thanked the sponsors of the Ventura County Civic Alliance 2007 State of the Region Report and introduced information on VCCA plans for 2008. At the event held at Limoneira Company Headquarters in Santa Paula, Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long spoke to the group about the importance of community engagement and support in the County.

VCCA Recognized sponsors continued on page 2

Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County



The Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) and Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) with support from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) have been working toward a "Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County". The working group held a Compass Vision Workshop June 7, 2007 at California State University Channel Islands to discuss future planning for Ventura County. The workshop, attended by about 130 people from around the county, specifically discussed population growth and how economic development patterns, transportation, housing and alternative land use will help direct the future of Ventura County. Eventually, a region wide blueprint for the future that takes into account these important aspects of growth during the coming years will be developed. A team of consultants including Fregonese Calthorpe Associates and Solimar have identified common themes and direction for Ventura County based upon various scenarios developed in the workshop. They presented results during interactive public sessions on Oct. 24 at Ventura City Hall and Oct. 25 in Simi Valley.

A Compact Phase I final report was presented in March 2008 and is available in print and on our website at www.civicalliance.org.

Phase II of the project will include transportation planning as it relates to land use planning and has been proposed to SCAG for continued support to commence in the summer of 2008. The Compact Working Group is developing a presentation for local governments and community groups to increase public understanding and participation in this process moving forward.



VCCA Recognized Sponsors of the 2007 State of the Region Report ... Continued from page 1

Among the sponsors in attendance were:

- Friends of the Santa Clara River
- Building Industry Association, Greater Los Angeles/Ventura Chapter
- California State University Channel Islands
- Conejo Recreation & Park District
- William Kearney
- Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors
- Maron Computer Services
- SCAN Health Plan
- Workforce Investment Board of Ventura County
- Time Warner Cable
- Ventura County Health Care Agency
- Stacy A. Roscoe
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- United Way of Ventura County
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- UC Cooperative Extension/Hansen Trust
- Mayerson Marketing & Public Relations
- Ventura College-Center for Excellence
- Dyer Sheehan Group, Inc.
- Leavens Ranches
- Ventura County Community Foundation
- Weston-Benshoof



In 2008 we will continue to bring the Economic, Environmental, and Social Equity perspectives of our region together to update our State of the Region Report with new and relevant data; to create a workforce education strategy for ensuring a skilled workforce to support our local economy; to highlight current development projects that uphold the tenets of livable communities through the quarterly E-News-

letter, and continue to engage residents and elected officials in developing a Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County.

The Ventura County Civic Alliance, an initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation, is a coalition of civic leaders with a shared commitment to bringing the economic, environmental and social equity interests of the region together to address priority community issues, increase civic engagement, and build community leadership. The Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) is increasing efforts to engage the community in 2008. VCCA has updated its strategic plan and will focus on building relationships, building membership and building financial sustainability for VCCA this year.

For more information about The Ventura County Civic Alliance and sponsorship opportunities, contact Rebecca Evans, Director of the Civic Alliance, at 805-988-0196, ext. 130.

VENTURA COUNTY CIVIC ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to broad-based community support, a renewed approach to increasing civic engagement and building community leadership is being celebrated. Everyone is now welcome to participate in annual membership of the Civic Alliance through an annual contribution at any of the following levels.

Please visit www.CivicAlliance.org and select VCCA Support for membership options or contact us at Ventura County Civic Alliance 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 150 Camarillo, California 93010 805-988-0196 ext. 114 CivicAlliance@vccf.org

Student/Senior Membership	\$25
General Membership	\$50-99
Colleagues	\$100-249
Collaborators	\$250-499
Community Builders	\$500-999
Stewards	\$1,000-2,499
Community Leaders	\$2,500-4,999
Visionaries	\$5,000+

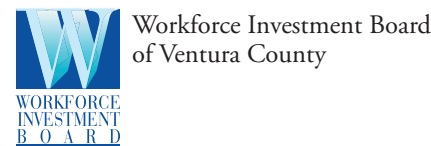
2007 State of the Region Report

The 2007 *State of the Region Report* strives to be a reliable source of objective, unbiased information about the economy and the quality of life in Ventura County. The Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) believes that accurate data about our region will assist residents, community organizations and elected officials in shaping regional identity. The VCCA released the report to the public on May 22, 2007 in the East County with a breakfast hosted by California Lutheran University's Center for Leadership and Values, Alma and Clifford Pearson Distinguished Speaker Series. The report was released in the West County on the evening of May 23 at California State University Channel Islands. Each launch included a presentation of current data on the 12 domains, as well as a presentation of public opinion data related to the indicators provided by Jon Sonstelie from UCSB Social Science Survey Center, and a panel discussion on the impact of the data and trends on Ventura's local environment, social equity and economic issues.



The Report continues to be well received and highly valued as a community resource. Audiences are appreciative of the work of the Community Foundation and Civic Alliance to provide the community with data on our quality of life, where there is room for improvement and what we want to sustain for the future. This data is useful in informing community priorities and funding decisions. VCCA has distributed over 4,000 of the reports throughout the county. Our next State of the Region report is in development and we will continue to work in partnership with the research team at California Lutheran University.

Special Thanks to our Title Sponsor:



Special Thanks to our Domain Sponsors:

- CLU
- CSUCI
- United Way
- First 5 Ventura County
- SCAN Health Plan
- Metropolitan Water District
- Gene Haas Foundation
- Procter and Gamble
- Santa Barbara Bank and Trust

VCCA Workforce Education Supported by Sage Publications

The Civic Alliance Workforce Education Working Group held a public meeting on November 14, 2007 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at Child Development Resources of Ventura County in Oxnard, CA. The event was attended by over 40 community leaders and examined the needs and trends of Workforce Education in Ventura County and feature existing programs that are working to address the issue with the goal of developing a strategy for workforce education long into the future. Panelists included Cheryl Moore of WIB; Hugh Ralston of VCCF; Kay Faulconer Boger, Ed.D. and Sharon Dwyer of Ventura College; Richard Duarte of the P-16 Council; Robert Wisman of ROP programs; and Captain David Fleisch and Mike Weaver presenting VCEDA – TRIAD.

In February 2008 the working group convened with Stephanie J. Powers, Project Director for the National Fund for Workforce Solutions at the Council on Foundations www.nfwsolutions.org, to learn more about a model for forming a local workforce collaborative with a focus on developing better paying career paths for lower wage earners.



Robert Wisman with the ROP program



VENTURA COUNTY CIVIC ALLIANCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Participants

- Nancy Stehle, Chair
- Jerry Beckerman
Segue Program for Career Literacy
- Ron Bofforff
Friends of the Santa Clara River
- Bill Buratto
Ventura County Economic Development Association
- Dao Doan
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United Way of Ventura County
- Claudia Harrison
First 5 Ventura County
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Ventura County Planning Department
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- Diane Karanda
CEO Boys & Girls Club of Ventura
- Mary Ann Krause
Retired Urban Planner
- Susan Lacey
Community Volunteer
- Florence LaManno
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- Charles Maxey
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- Nancy Mayerson
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- Sister M. Lisa Megaffin
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- Monique Myers
U.C. Extension
- Teresa Norris
Child Development, Inc.
- Bernardo Perez
Cabrillo Economic Development Corp.
- Hugh Ralston
Ventura County Community Foundation
- Carmen Ramirez
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- Stacy Roscoe
Community Volunteer
- Norman Rosenblum
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- Karen Schmidt
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- Mary Schwabauer
Ventura County Community Foundation
- Larry Segal
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- Mike Silacci
AT&T
- Dave Smith
United Way of Ventura County
- Sandy Smith
Weston Benshoof
- Margaret Travers
Ventura County Arts Council
- Chuck Watson
Watson, Community Commission of Ventura County
- Celina I. Zacarias
California State University Channel Islands
- Affiliations are listed for or identification only.

Staff

- Rebecca Evans
Executive Director
- Lindsay Smith
Program Assistant
- Kesa Ryono
Program Associate
- Effective April 1, 2008

Livable Communities

The Ventura County Civic Alliance Livable Communities Working Group launched a quarterly e-newsletter in February 2007. Each newsletter features an explanation of one of the 10 Tenets of Livable Communities and offers a feature story on a development project in the Ventura County region that exemplifies the Tenets of Livable Communities. So far we have featured projects from Port Hueneme, Fillmore, Ventura, Camarillo and Simi Valley. All issues of the newsletter can be viewed at www.CivicAlliance.org.

The VCCA Livable Communities Working Group offers presentations on the Tenets of Livable Communities for elected bodies and community groups. To schedule a presentation, please contact Marv King at 805-988-0196 ext. 114 or CivicAlliance@vccf.org.

Public Health and Land Use

On November 1, 2007 VCCA Livable Communities Working Group, participated in Building Bridges: Integrating the Publics Health into Land Use co-sponsored by the Ventura County Public Health – Obesity Prevention Task Force, the City/County Planning Association, Community Commission, and the Gold Coast Collaborative for Nutrition and Fitness. This event convened community leaders and elected officials to build momentum in the fight against childhood obesity through building livable communities and to create a dialogue and collaboration between key players who participate in planning healthy, livable communities in Ventura County.

Ventura County Civic AllianceLIVABLE COMMUNITIES
NEWSLETTER

2008 1st Quarter, Number 5
February 2008

Greetings!
Welcome to the fifth issue of our Newsletter published quarterly by the Livable Communities Working Group of the Ventura County Civic Alliance. This Newsletter is intended to provide updates on one of the Civic Alliance's major strategies, Livable Communities. We will discuss the 10 tenets of livable communities, and review projects throughout Ventura County that embody these principles. The City of Simi Valley is this quarter's featured city and we will review several aspects of Simi Valley's application of these principles. We will also highlight other news and stories of interest that relate to our quest for long term sustainability of our cities and neighborhoods.

In this Issue...