



City of **VERNON** CALIFORNIA

RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Vernon Welcomes New City Administrator Brian Saeki!



We are pleased to welcome Brian Saeki as Vernon's new City Administrator. With over 28 years of public sector experience (serving in Covina, San Fernando, Arcadia, Rosemead, and Downey) and a proven track record of leadership and innovation, Saeki brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role.

Since 2019, Brian served as the City Manager for Whittier where he was responsible for overseeing municipal operations, implementing Council policies, supervising city activities that addressed community issues and interests, and fostering a thriving local economy. His tenure was marked by significant accomplishments including the establishment of a homeless navigation center, renovation of the Whittier Library, extension of Whittier's Greenway Trail, and the development of a five-year strategic plan that prioritized public safety, fiscal sustainability, and overall quality of life.

"I am honored to join Vernon as its City Administrator," said Brian. "I look forward to collaborating with the City Council, staff, businesses and residents to build on the city's successes and work toward a vibrant and prosperous future for all."

Time to Vote! The Vernon Municipal Election is on April 8th

Materials and ballots should be received by mid-March for the Vernon Municipal Election on April 8, 2025. Visit www.cityofvernon.org/elections for details. In summary, voters will elect one Member of the City Council and consider two ballot measures:

- Measure Y - Council rotation changes so position of Mayor is filled by Council Member entering the fifth (last) year of a term, and Mayor Pro Tempore is filled by Council Member entering fourth year
- Measure Z - Updates City election canvass procedures and timeframes to ensure compliance with state elections laws



Up-to-the-Minute News

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Community News

Vernon Lends Support for Regional Wildfire Emergency

Vernon was ready to assist local agencies responding to the wildfires that ravaged areas of Los Angeles (LA) County in early January. Persistent fires and windstorm conditions destroyed thousands of homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure (like power lines and water tanks), caused widespread power outages, and resulted in many displaced families and pets throughout the region.

As part of mutual aid assistance agreements between cities, neighboring public agencies can call upon each other for necessary resources in the event of an emergency (costs incurred are reimbursable). During the recent wildfires, Vernon Public Utilities was first to respond with much needed crews and equipment to an emergency request from Pasadena Water and Power to support restoration efforts in affected areas of Altadena (pictured top right). The Vernon Police Department (VPD), along with other Area E Mutual Aid agencies, were activated on multiple occasions to help prevent residential burglaries and deter looting in communities affected by the Eaton Fire (pictured bottom right). Additionally, two VPD Officers who are members of the California National Guard were activated and deployed with their units to help battle the fires throughout LA County.

Our hearts go out to all those impacted by these catastrophic events, and we are grateful that we were able to offer assistance. Although Vernon was not directly impacted by the wildfires, the City is prepared to address issues when they arise. Please sign up to be alerted about emergencies and other urgent community news by visiting www.cityofvernon.org/notifications.



VCF Scholarships!

Did you know that the City of Vernon has a Scholarship Program?! Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on March 27, 2025. To learn more, visit www.cityofvernon.org/vernoncommunityfund.

LA Unified 2025: We Are One



The LA Unified 2025: We Are One campaign formalizes and amplifies Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) efforts to cultivate a welcoming learning environment for all students. LAUSD embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion within its vast education community.

LAUSD is a "sanctuary district" and safe zone for families regardless of their background or immigration status. The District offers comprehensive resources including information on family preparedness plans, wellness centers, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) guidance, community advocacy, and civil rights. Families may visit www.lausd.org/weareone to learn more about the We Are One campaign and discover a wide array of resources that are just a click away.

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City Events

The holiday season is always a fun time of year and December 2024 was filled with festive Vernon community events! We celebrated with our annual snow-filled Holiday Tree Lighting on December 5th, our Vernon Elementary Soccer Ball Giveaway and Operation Santa events on December 11th and joined our neighbors for the Huntington Park Holiday Parade on December 14th, happy to spread our Vernon cheer. More great events are planned for 2025. See you soon!

Tree Lighting
December 5



Attendees enjoy the wintery setting, playing in the snow and sledding!

Holiday Parade
December 14



Vernon cheers and waves along with the families lined up on Pacific.

Soccer Ball Delivery
December 11



Vernon PD, faculty, and students join in for a celebratory group photo.



Operation Santa
December 11



Santa and Mrs. Claus pause for a photo with a Vernon Elementary family.



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Calendar



Regular Vernon Housing Commission Meeting

March 12, 2025 @ 6:00 pm (Council Chamber and Online)

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

Vernon CommUNITY Fund Scholarship Deadline

March 27, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

High school seniors that live in Vernon are eligible to apply for Vernon's scholarship! Visit www.cityofvernon.org/communityfund for more info.

Spring Egg-Stravaganza

April 3, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Come out to the City Hall Lawn to enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt, free burgers (while supplies last), activities, and raffle giveaways!



City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Tuesdays Each Month @ 9:00 am (Council Chamber and Online)

Public meetings at City Hall where Council deliberates on City matters and policy. Meeting agendas are available at www.cityofvernon.org/publicmeetings.

Housing Info & Contacts

Vernon Village Park Residents:

Contact Solari Enterprises at (323) 771-0202

City-owned Housing Residents:

For maintenance requests, questions, or comments, use our Housing Hotline

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

All Residents:

For reporting electrical outages, internet problems, gas leaks, stray animals, or other urgent issues after business hours

Contact (323) 826-1461

Online Utility Bill Pay Available

Residential customers can pay their electric bill online. Once you receive your bill, visit www.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 or make updates to the lease for your rental? Are you interested in transferring to a different residential unit? Contact cityhousing@cityofvernon.org 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).