



JEFF GORELL
Supervisor, 2nd District

ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ
Field Representative
Supervisor Jeff Gorell



**MEMBERS
OF THE BOARD**

- BRENDON GARCIA,
CHAIR
- DEBBIE HANNA
- SCOTT HORN
- ROB ALVIDREZ
- RICHARD GAZ

REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

April 10, 2025

6:00 PM

**Municipal Advisory Council
Casa Conejo, California**

**Walnut Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
581 Dena Drive
Newbury Park, CA 91320**

WEB ACCESS

At: ventura.org/casaconejomac
MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

Welcome to the meeting of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), an advisory council for the unincorporated area of Casa Conejo to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

LEGAL NOTICES

Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual, language, or other disability to review an agenda or to participate in a meeting of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation by calling (805) 214-2510 or e-mailing israel.rodriquez@ventura.org. Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's office at 2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Suite E, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: ventura.org/casaconejomac.

Documents including staff materials, comment emails and letters, photos, etc., distributed to the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council regarding any agenda item during an open session or after the meeting concluded, are posted online, and made available for public inspection at ventura.org/casaconejomac.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. Public comments by a member of the public at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total of five minutes at such meeting unless the time allotment is increased or decreased by the Chair depending on the number of speakers. The public comment period during the opening part of the meeting to address non-agenda items is limited to 30 minutes total for all speakers; this 30-minute limit does not apply to items on the agenda.

To maintain a public meeting environment conducive and welcoming to receiving public comments from all members of the public, the audience is discouraged from engaging in displays of support or opposition to staff reports or public comments, including clapping, yelling, booing, hissing or cheering, that may create a disruptive environment for members of the public wishing to participate. Any person who disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of a meeting will be instructed to cease the disruptive conduct. Failure to do so may result in that person being removed from the meeting.

Members of the public who would like to augment their comments with visual or audio presentations must submit their materials to the israel.rodriquez@ventura.org for review at least 48 hours before the meeting. The review will be conducted to determine only whether the materials are on matters within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Advisory Council, which would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, such as

identity theft. If it is determined that materials are about matters not within the Municipal Advisory Council's jurisdiction, or would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, use of County-provided equipment will not be allowed.

Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting

If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item by email or mail, please submit your comment by 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting. Indicate in the Subject Line the Agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your email or written comment will be distributed to the Municipal Advisory Council and placed on the item's record for the minutes of the meeting. Public Comments submitted in writing are public records and subject to disclosure. An unredacted version is made available when records are requested by a Public Records Act request. Please do not submit personal contact information if you do not want it to be made public. Please submit your comment to israel.rodriquez@ventura.org or mail to:

Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council
Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell
2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd Suite E
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

In-Person Public Comment

If you would like to provide a verbal comment **in person** during the meeting, upon arrival at the meeting location, check in with staff and complete a comment card. When your name is called for public comment, please proceed to the podium. If you do not wish to pre-register but would like to provide in-person comments at the meeting, you must check in with the staff prior to the agenda item being called.

OPENING

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council held on Thursday, January 23, 2025.
5. Agenda Review.
6. Approval of the Consent Agenda Items 10 through 12.

7. Public Comments – Citizen presentations regarding Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).
8. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.
9. Council Comments – Comments by Council members on matters they deem appropriate. A Council member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. A Council member may also provide a reference to staff or other resources for information, or request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter. The Council may also direct staff to place a matter of business on the future agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items are routine and non-controversial. Items are reviewed and approved together by the Council as recommended and without discussion unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board on the Regular Agenda. Consent items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

10. Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD)

REPORT(S) ARE PROVIDED AS PART OF THE FINAL AGENDA PACKET FOR REVIEW.

- MARCH 5TH VCFD SAFETY REPORT - SCOTT THOMSEN – 1 PAGE
- VCFD EMERGENCY BLOOD TRANSFUSION PROGRAM – 2 PAGES

11. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

REPORT IS PROVIDED AS PART OF THE FINAL AGENDA PACKET FOR REVIEW.

- MARCH 20TH CHP SAFETY REPORT – OFFICER RYAN ARYERS – 1 PAGE

12. Ventura Sheriff Department (VCSD)

REPORT(S) ARE PROVIDED AS PART OF THE FINAL AGENDA PACKET FOR REVIEW.

- APRIL 3RD VC SHERIFF SAFETY REPORT – SERGEANT TAYLOR - 2 PAGES
- MARCH 2025 PHONE/COMPUTER SCAMS NEWS RELEASE – DETECTIVE CASHMARK – 3 PAGES

REGULAR AGENDA

Regular Agenda items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

13. Report and Planning Session on the Casa Conejo Day Community Event on May 3rd, 2025.

MAC Members Brendon Garcia & Debbie Hanna will provide an update on the upcoming Casa Conejo Days Festival, scheduled for May 3, 2025. This community event will feature festival-style games, emergency response vehicles from Ventura County Fire & Sheriff, local vendors, food trucks, and a scenic nature creek walk through Arroyo Conejo. Community members are encouraged to attend the MAC meeting and participate in the event planning team to help make this a memorable celebration for the community.

14. Assignment of MAC Members to Sub-Committees and Initial Identification of Goals & Objectives for 2025

MAC Members to discuss which Casa Conejo Sub-Committees they would like to serve on.

- The sub-committees available to serve on are as follows:
 - **Public Health & Safety**
 - **Planning & Public Works**
 - **Community Relations**
- MAC Members will begin identifying goals and objectives for each of the sub-committees for the 2025 calendar year.
- The finalized list of goals and objectives from each sub-committee will be submitted for a vote and formal adoption for 2025.
- Proposals for the formation of Ad-Hoc Committees may also be presented to the MAC Board for approval during this session.

CLOSING

15. Adjournment of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting July 10th for 2025 at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park, CA 91320



JEFF GORELL
Supervisor, 2nd District

ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ
Field Representative
Supervisor Jeff Gorell



**MEMBERS
OF THE BOARD**

- BRENDON GARCIA,
CHAIR
- DEBBIE HANNA
- SCOTT HORN
- ROB ALVIDREZ
- RICHARD GAZ

**REGULAR
MEETING**

MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2025

6:00 PM

Municipal Advisory Council
Casa Conejo, California

Walnut Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
581 Dena Drive
Newbury Park, CA 91320

WEB ACCESS

At: ventura.org/casaconejomac
MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

OPENING

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Chair Debbie Hanna called the meeting to order at: 6:04 PM.
2. Roll Call.
 - a. Members Present: **Debbie Hannah, Scott Horn, Rob Alvidrez**
 - b. Members not Present: **Richard Gaz**
 - c. **Brendon Garcia** by Phone
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
4. Nomination and Election of Casa Conejo Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2025.
 - a. Nomination for Chair: **Debbie Hannah** nominated Brendon Garcia for Chair, Seconded, **Scott Horn**
 - i. Vote Count: Unanimous
 - b. Nomination for Vice Chair: **Brendon Garcia** nominated **Debbie Hannah** for Vice Chair, Seconded, **Scott Horn**
 - i. Vote Count: Unanimous
5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council held on Thursday, November 14, 2024.
 - a. Motion to Approve the minutes made by: **Brendon Garcia**, seconded by **Scott Horn**. Motion Passes
6. Agenda Review. No Changes
7. Consent Agenda Items 11 through 13.
 - a. Motion to Approve the Consent Items made by: **Scott Horn**, seconded by: **Debbie Hannah**. Motion Passes
8. Public Comments – Citizen presentations regarding Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).
 - a. Speakers:
 - i. Speaker: **Michael Weingarden** brought up concerns about losing power. Frustrated that some neighborhoods have power while others do not. Neighbors are buying generators, buying gasoline which can cause issues in case there is a fire. It feels that SCE is not transparent and should be more so.

9. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.

- **The County recently came to an agreement with the replacement of the watershed easement for Borchard Property.** Supervisor Gorell stated the new provisions are well balanced and better define the process of what is expected in the event a developer wants to develop the Borchard property. I believe this was reflected in the article by the Acorn Newspaper and was fair in their reporting on the situation.
- Recently introduced Board Letter Regarding Exploring the Development of a **Private Utility Company to gain energy independence.** The ongoing impact of PSPS Shut offs to my constituents is what led me to consider other options outside of SCE.
- We recently conducted a ribbon cutting for the **Angel City Football Club**, the most valued women's professional soccer team in the world. They recently opened up their new Performance Center and Headquarters in collaboration with CLU.
 - Angel City is a major inspiration for our youth and particularly girls who play soccer and I look forward to working with them in our community.

10. Council Comments – Comments by Council members on matters they deem appropriate.

- **Vice Chair Debbie Hannah:** Vice Chair Hanna asked about putting reflective lights on all the lights. My power bill went up for December even though usage was down.
- **Scott Horn:** He feels the new trash hauler and the transition seems to have worked well. Scott wants to make sure that content and reports that have been submitted in the past are still posted on the Casa Conejo website. **Field Representative, Israel Rodriguez** mentioned that the websites are going through a redesign and that the past content will be reposted once the project is completed.
- **Rob Alvidrez:** He mentioned that he has been out of power for the past 9 days. He is looking into generators for when PSPS events occur.

CONSENT AGENDA

11. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

REPORTS WERE PROVIDED AT THE MAC MEETING.

12. Ventura County Fire Department

REPORTS WERE PROVIDED AT THE MAC MEETING.

13. Ventura Sheriff Department

REPORTS WERE PROVIDED AT THE MAC MEETING.

REGULAR AGENDA

Regular Agenda items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

14. Review of Casa Conejo Firewise Certification

MAC Chair Brendon Garcia provided an update and report on the recent Firewise certification. As a result of the certification, they receive a grant to be used in educating the community and printing materials used to create greater participation in the hardening of their homes and the Casa Conejo community.

15. Report on Newsletter for Casa Conejo

MAC Member Debbie Hannah provided an update on the new Casa Conejo Newsletter. The newsletter will be an important part of the Mac in helping to keep residents informed on key issues, foster community spirit and help encourage residents to engage in their community.

16. Update to the Borchard Replacement Easement

MAC Member Scott Horn provided an update on the replacement of the Ventura County Watershed Easement, its impacts, and what it means to the future of Casa Conejo.

17. Assignment of MAC Members to Sub-Committees and Initial Identification of Goals & Objectives for 2025

While there was a brief discussion on the topic, due to the lack of time this item was tabled until the next MAC meeting on April 10th.

CLOSING

18. Adjournment of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting April 10th for 2025 at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park, CA 91320.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.



Website: **VCFD.org**
Twitter: **@VCFD**
Facebook: **@VenturaCountyFire**
Instagram: **@VenturaCountyFire**

Contact: Scott Thomsen
Director of Communications and Public Affairs
Phone: **(805) 914-8502**
Email: **scott.thomsen@ventura.org**

March 5, 2025

Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- The Ventura County Fire Department is scheduled to start carrying whole blood in its rescue ambulances in April. This program will allow paramedics to start transfusions for bleeding patients before they reach the hospital, increasing the chances of survival for seriously injured people.
- Firefighters are scheduled to start moving into new Fire Station 34 in Thousand Oaks on March 10. Some concrete work remains to be completed, but operations will be possible while that work continues. A grand opening celebration could take place sometime in May.
- VCFD has received four new Type III Brush Engines, which are now being outfitted with radios and other equipment. Engineers also will receive training on the new apparatus before they are deployed to the field. The new engines are 4-wheel-drive, enhancing the department's wildland firefighting capabilities. These four are the first in an 11-engine order. The rest are currently scheduled to arrive over the next 12-18 months.
- The VCFD Awards is scheduled April 24 at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, Scherr Forum Auditorium. In addition to firefighter of the year awards in each battalion and employee of the year awards for each bureau, the department will honor civilians and public safety personnel for lifesaving acts, meritorious service, and to four individuals, medals of honor – the highest honor the department bestows.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomsen
Director of Communications and Public Affairs
Ventura County Fire Department



Website: VCFD.org
Twitter: [@VCFD](https://twitter.com/VCFD)
Facebook: [@VenturaCountyFire](https://facebook.com/VenturaCountyFire)
Instagram: [@VenturaCountyFire](https://instagram.com/VenturaCountyFire)

Contact: Andrew Dowd or Andy VanSciver
Public Information Officers
Phone: (805) 389-9746
Email: PIOFire@ventura.org

Ventura County Fire Department Launches Emergency Blood Transfusion Program

THOUSAND OAKS, CA - The Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) has become one of the first fire departments in California to implement an emergency blood transfusion program—marking a significant advancement in prehospital emergency care. Based on case frequency estimates and an analysis of incidents from July 2017 to July 2024, it is projected that 3–7 trauma patients per month may have benefited from this programs prehospital blood transfusions.

“This program marks a groundbreaking advancement in emergency medicine,” said Chief Gardner. “By equipping our rescue ambulances with whole blood, our firefighter-paramedics can deliver life-saving transfusions at the scene—significantly improving patient outcomes when every second counts.”



This initiative began in October 2023, when VCFD Firefighter-Paramedic Edward Campana identified the critical benefits of whole blood transfusion at a medical conference. His vision ignited a collaborative effort among VCFD’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division, medical director Dr. Neil Canby, and vital agency partners—Ventura County Medical Center, the Ventura County EMS Agency, and Vitalant Blood Donation.

“Ventura County Medical Center is proud to be part of this multidisciplinary effort,” said Dr. Thomas Duncan, Trauma Medical Director. “Improving prehospital blood administration aligns with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma’s national goals to increase survival rates in trauma patients.”

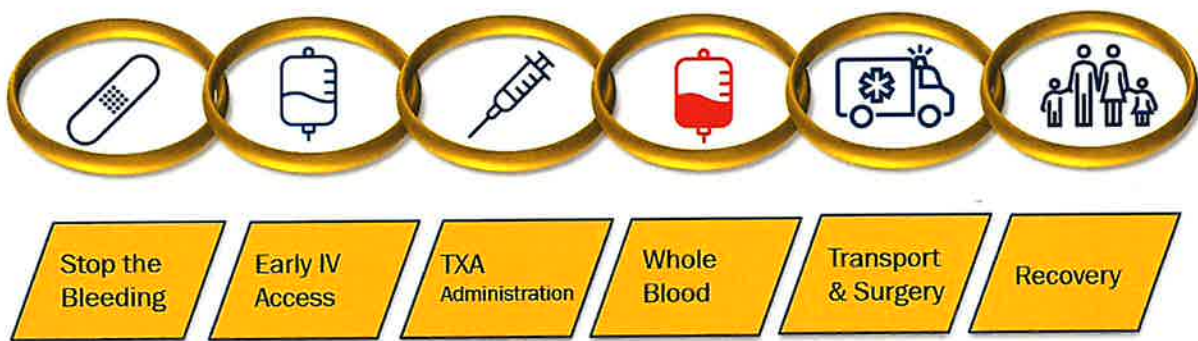
“The EMS system in Ventura County has long been recognized as a high-functioning, innovative system. This collaborative effort demonstrates our commitment to providing our patients with exceptional, cutting-edge care. The addition of whole blood to our treatment protocols further narrows the gap between critical interventions performed in the hospital versus in the field.” Said Dr. Daniel Shepherd, Medical Director, Ventura County EMS Agency. “Our goal is that this will result in improved outcomes for our sickest patients.”

The program ensures that whole blood is now available on VCFD rescue ambulances, enabling firefighter-paramedics to stabilize severely injured patients before hospital arrival.

“The speed of transfusion is crucial in trauma cases,” said Dr. Jonathan Hughes, Medical and Laboratory Director for Vitalant California. “This program is possible thanks to the generosity of volunteer blood donors, whose contributions are saving lives every day. We encourage all eligible individuals to donate and support our community’s blood supply.”

“Less than 2% of EMS agencies have implemented prehospital blood programs. Ventura County Fire Department and their partners have developed a high quality program that other agencies in California, and across the country, can follow to ensure widespread access to this lifesaving capability.” Randall Schaefer, DNP, RN. Schaefer is a Retired Army Nurse with multiple combat deployments and CEO of Schaefer Consulting, who has been assisting agencies across the country.

Launching this program required specialized paramedic training, new operational protocols, and coordination of a secure blood supply. Thanks to the commitment of all participating agencies, Ventura County now stands at the forefront of emergency medical innovation.



Graphic: Whole Blood added to the Trauma Chain of Survival.

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CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

601 N 7th St, Sacramento, CA 95811 | 800-735-2929 (TT/TDD) | 800-735-2922 (Voice)

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

To: The Casa Conejo MAC c/o Supervisor Gorell's office

CHP MOORPARK'S CASA CONEJO MAC TALKING POINTS: (3.20.25)

- As we continue to celebrate Women's History Month, The California Highway Patrol (CHP) Moorpark Area would like to welcome newly promoted Captain Heather Hoglund. Captain Hoglund brings over 22 years of dedicated service and experience to the Moorpark Area. Prior to joining the CHP as a cadet, Captain Hoglund was a resident of Moorpark and was living in the Campus Park neighborhood when she submitted her CHP application. Upon graduating from the CHP Academy, Captain Hoglund was assigned to the San Jose Area before transferring to the Central Los Angeles Area. Captain Hoglund has worked in three Divisions and five Area offices including West Valley (Woodland Hills), Moorpark and most recently the Conejo Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility as the Lieutenant Commander. Since 2016, Captain Hoglund has lent her extensive investigation skills to both the Southern Division and Coastal Division Critical Incident Investigation Teams (CIIT) and in 2022 became a member of Coastal Division's Special Response Team (SRT) which can be deployed throughout the Division or State for civil disturbance and other extreme events. She has been a Ventura County resident for a total of 23 years of her last 28 years making her uniquely familiar with the area and is also a huge supporter of engaging with the community. Captain Hoglund's spouse is also employed within Ventura County and her two sons attend a local high school in Simi Valley. We welcome Captain Hoglund to the Moorpark Area and look forward to both her experience and guidance in keeping the motoring public and our personnel safe.
- The California Highway Patrol will conduct a Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP) on April 1st and 2nd. The focus for this MEP will be distracted driving violations. This MEP coincides with the start of Distracted driving Awareness month, which spans all of April. Maximum Enforcement Periods have been a part of California Highway Patrol (CHP) policy for many years and have specific deployment and reporting procedures. During an MEP, field commands are required to deploy the maximum amount of uniformed personnel to address primary collision factor violations, impaired drivers, and assure a prompt response to any incident causing a hazard or traffic delay.
- The California Highway Patrol is hiring 1,000 new officers to help make California's roadways safer. If you or someone you know would like to join the CHP, visit www.betheCHP1000.com for more information and to speak with a local recruiter. Also, the CHP is hiring more than JUST officers. We are currently looking to fill 165 dispatcher vacancies across the state and are also looking for Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialists to inspect the growing number of commercial vehicles on California highways. The CHP will provide you with the training for all three of these positions. More details and applications can be found at www.chp.ca.gov.
- Follow CHP Moorpark on social media for traffic updates, sig alerts, evacuation notices, roadway closures, and general information on what the CHP is doing in your area.

Twitter: @CHPMoorpark
Facebook: @CHP-Moorpark
Instagram: @CHPMoorpark

Contact: **Officer Ryan Ayers**
Public Information Officer
Phone: **(805) 553-0800**
Email: **rayers@chp.ca.gov**

Safety, Service, and Security

CHP 49 (Rev. 2-24) OPI 076

805 553-0800
616 Spring Road Moorpark, CA 93021

AN INTERNATIONALLY
ACCREDITED AGENCY



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

M E M O R A N D U M



DATE: April 3, 2025
TO: Supervisor Gorell's Office and the Casa Conejo MAC
FROM: Sergeant Sean Taylor #3231
RE: April MAC Law Enforcement Report

This report will cover January and February reported crimes in the Casa Oaks community.

Deputies responded to 54 calls for service during the 2-month time frame. Deputies took 9 crime reports. Not all calls for service generate a report.

Fraud/Forgery crimes:

Victims contacted what they believed was their mortgage company about a home loan modification. They provided the suspect with personal information and were directed to start new bank account and deposit an amount of money in the account. The suspect then took the money out of the account. The victim later re-contacted their mortgage company and found out they fell prey to a financial scam. The case was investigated by the Financial Crimes Unit and no suspects were identified and the case was closed.

Throughout the county we are still seeing a pattern of phone and computer scams. Make sure you are calling your Leander, credit card company or bank on their official phone numbers. Use your bills to find the phone numbers. Scammers use search engines with false numbers to find victims. As previously stated, financial institutions and businesses will never ask you to provide them with gift cards or crypto currency for repayment of refunds. Be careful when responding to pop up ads. These are generally scammers trying to deceive you.

These are red flags and if you receive these calls hang up and call the Sheriff's Office.

Theft Crimes:

There was a theft of identity and grand theft where the victim's credit card was used to order more than \$950.00 in merchandise. The suspect met the delivery truck in the area of the victim's home and received the stolen merchandise. This case is still under investigation. There is suspect information to follow-up with.

A shop lift occurred at Target. The suspect was detained and arrested by patrol deputies. The case was filed with the DA's Office. No follow-up required by detectives.

Burglary:

There was a residential burglary in the month of February. Suspect(s) entered the home from the backyard and pried open the sliding glass door. They stole jewelry, and gold coins. The MO for this burglary is consisted with Trans-National Organized Theft Groups. This case is still under investigation by the Commercial / Residential Burglary Unit.

Newbury Park High School vandalism. The graffiti vandalism at Newbury Park High School is being investigated as a hate crime. At this time, we have not been able to establish an intended victim of the crime. There have been several suspects identified. The suspects are local and not members of a hate group or gang. The case is still under investigation by Major Crimes Unit.

Encourage your community members to check their security cameras to ensure they are properly working. This is one of the best tools for investigators to identify suspects.

Follow the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and the Thousand Oaks Police Department's social media pages for more information and upcoming events.



Ventura County SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org

Nature of Incident: Phone / Computer Scams - Using Couriers to Collect Cash from Victims

Location: Thousand Oaks

Date: March 2025

Unit(s) Responsible: East County Investigations Bureau

Narrative:

The Financial Crimes Unit in Thousand Oaks has become aware of a recent rash of theft by false pretenses targeting local residents with the use of a courier service. The scammers represented themselves as members of legitimate nationally known businesses. The following is an example of a reoccurring scam affecting innocent victims in the city of Thousand Oaks:

The scam will initially appear via an unsolicited email. The email would portray themselves as legitimate correspondence from companies such as PayPal, Geek Squad and eBay and advise the victim of a fraudulent purchase made on the victim's account. Additionally, the email would offer support to the victim in rectifying the charge. The victim would contact the "representative" via a provided phone number and speak with someone who claimed to be willing to assist them. The phone numbers used in the scam were internet phone numbers created by the scammer and canceled after the scam was completed.

During the commission of the scam, the fraudulent purchase would be processed as a reimbursement to the victim's bank account. As the reimbursement would take place, the scammer would claim they accidentally entered the wrong dollar amount (ex. \$15,000 instead of \$150.00) and would demand the victim return the overpayment back to the scammer.

In many cases, the scammer had been able to access the victim's bank account prior to the "reimbursement" and move the victim's money from within their own accounts so it would appear to the victim the accidental deposit had occurred. In some cases, the scammer had convinced the victim to download applications that would allow the scammer remote access to the victim's computer. By convincing the victim to provide sensitive personal identifying information (PII) such as user names, passwords, Social Security numbers, etc.) coupled with remote access, the scammer would have access to the victim's bank accounts.

The scammer would direct the victim to go to their banking institution and withdraw the overpayment in cash to return. Since the amount to be withdrawn would be large and raise suspicion from a bank teller, the scammer would advise the victim to tell the teller they needed the money to purchase a vehicle or make home improvements. After obtaining the cash, the victim would be told a "courier" would be arriving at their residence to collect the overpayment. The victim would be given a code word and instructed to ask the courier for the correct code word to confirm the legitimacy of the transaction.

Some scammers will utilize a courier with actual ties to the scam itself. In other cases, Uber and Lyft drivers will be unwittingly hired by the scammer to collect the package (money) from the victim.

Due to the voluntary withdrawal of the funds from their bank, the victims are rarely reimbursed the lost funds even though it was part of a scam.

The Sheriff's Office wants to warn the public of scammers representing themselves as members of legitimate, nationally known companies. No reputable company will make an error of overpayment and not have the ability to recall or fix the error. Furthermore, no legitimate company will request or require anyone to repay "funds in error" via a courier service.

Scammers prey on victims by creating a sense of urgency regarding monetary funds and potential lack of computer knowledge in hopes the victims will make rushed decisions before they have time to realize a scam may be occurring.

Tips to Protect Yourself Against Scams

- Recognize scam attempts and end all communication with the perpetrator.
- Never give unknown, unverified persons remote access to devices or accounts.
- Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls, mailings, and door-to-door service offers.
- Never give or send any personally identifiable information, money, jewelry, gift cards, checks, or wire information to unverified people or businesses.
- Resist the pressure to act quickly. Scammers create a sense of urgency to produce fear and lure victims into immediate action. Call the police immediately if you feel there is a danger to yourself or a loved one.
- Nationally known and legitimate businesses will not demand payment by cryptocurrency, prepaid cards, wire transfers, or overnight mailed cash, or courier services to collect any payments.
- Legitimate customer, security, or tech support companies will not initiate unsolicited contact with individuals, nor demand immediate payment or require payment via prepaid cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, mailed cash or use courier services.
- Legitimate lotteries and beneficiaries do not need to pay upfront taxes and fees to claim a prize or inheritance. Playing foreign lotteries in any form is a violation of federal law.
- Be careful what you download. Never open an email attachment from someone you do not know and be wary of email attachments forwarded to you.
- Take precautions to protect your identity if a criminal gains access to your device or account.
- Immediately contact your financial institutions to place protections on your accounts and monitor your accounts and personal information for suspicious activity.
- Make sure all computer anti-virus and security software and malware protections are up to date. Use reputable anti-virus software and firewalls. Disconnect from the internet and shut down your device if you see a pop-up message or locked screen. Pop-ups are regularly used by perpetrators to spread malicious software. Enable pop-up blockers to avoid accidentally clicking on a pop-up.

- Be careful what you post and make public online. Scammers can use details shared on social media and dating sites to better understand and target you.

If you receive a suspected scam call, text or email, we recommend citizens hang up, block the number (if possible), and do not send the scammers any money. If you are unsure or concerned you may be involved in a scam, you can contact your local police station using their official phone number and not the number provided by the suspected scammer. If you are a victim of a scam, please contact the Sheriff's Dispatch non-emergency number at 805-654-9511 to make a report. You can also file a complaint online with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov or the Federal Bureau of Investigation at www.ic3.gov.

Prepared by: Detective Jason Cashmark

News Release Date: 03/19/2025

Media Follow-Up Contact: Detective Jason Cashmark (805) 494-8211,
jason.cashmark@ventura.org

Approved by: Captain Albert Ramirez

YES ☐ NO ☐

Booking Photo Release:

Ventura County Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 reward for information, which leads to the arrest and criminal complaint against the person(s) responsible for this crime. The caller may remain anonymous. The call is not recorded. Call Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477).

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THE FIRST ANNUAL CASA CONEJO DAY

**MAY 3, 2025 11 AM - 3PM
WALNUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
581 DENA DR. NEWBURY PARK**

Join Supervisor Jeff Gorell, the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council and community partners for a day of community, connection and fun for all ages at the very first Casa Conejo Day!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Expert Guided Arroyo Conejo Nature Walk 12:30 pm

Live Music & Food

Emergency Vehicles & Touch a Truck

Community Booths and More!

Interested in hosting a booth?

Email - District2@Ventura.org

Ventura.org/JeffGorell



Casa Conejo MAC Goal Setting Worksheet:

Subcommittee _____ Goals Adopted by the MAC Board on _____

Goal	Will it Improve the community overall or just a section of the community?	Does it make my community safer or better?	What are some of the results of this goal being implemented?	What is the time frame for implementing? 1-3-5 years?

TOP 3-4 GOALS FOR THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IN 2025

Notes:

Ad-Hoc Committee Signup Sheet:

Ad-Hoc Committee Name: _____:

Sub-Committee it Reports to: _____:

MAC Members that Are on the Sub-Committee: Note (No More than two MAC Members can Serve on an Ad-Hoc Committee due to the Brown Act)

MAC Member Name: _____ MAC Member Name: _____

Purpose of the Ad-Hoc Committee: _____.

Specific Project under this ad-hoc committee: _____

Volunteers:

[illegible]

Notes: