



Vandenberg Village Association

*“We are a volunteer organization
dedicated to the enhancement of our Community”*

Email: TheVVA@vandenbergvillage.org

Serving since 1976

Web: <http://www.vandenbergvillage.org>

Our 2024 End-of-Year Newsletter

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Larri Degarmoe

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Monika Bennett

Board Member

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Board Member

**Dr. Susan Bean-
Mandibles**

From the VVA Board President:

When COVID was active and folks were “self confining” and probably only conducting necessary activities, VVA’s board also declared an emergency and curtailed/postponed/suspended most activities including regular meetings. Major action items that were deferred included approval of our revised bylaws, elections of new board members, and arranging for a village wide Bulky Item Trash Drop-off Day.

With COVID concerns significantly lessened this past year, the VVA Board returned to addressing village matters. This newsletter will let members know what we have undertaken recently, besides discussing issues and taking comments from individuals and neighborhood groups.

Many thanks to current and past members for supporting various neighborhood projects. For those of you in the Village who aren’t members, please consider joining. To learn more about the VVA, please visit our website (<https://vandenbergvillage.org>) or join us at one of our monthly meetings.

On behalf of the VVA Board, we wish each of you a wonderful and prosperous 2025.

Ron

Ronald Stassi
President,
Vandenberg Village Association

Please Note: Starting in February, our meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. in the VVCSD conference room at 3745 Constellation Road. The agenda, and notices of rescheduled, canceled or postponed meetings will be posted on the VVA website no later than the day prior.

Our 2024 Accomplishments:

A: New Welcome Sign: The major project accomplish this past year was acquiring a replacement *Welcome to Vandenberg Village* sign. The original sign had deteriorated beyond cost effective repair. Our Sign Committee, (chaired by Board-member Monika Bennett), found **805 Signs** located in Buellton, who helped us with the design and the choice of a more durable material. The committee brought three wonderful designs for the full board to consider. After much discussion, and a slight modification we settled on the new sign. An interesting question arose during the project; *when did Vandenberg Village actually come into being?* With the help of the Community Service District’s General Manager, we discovered an answer. Based on copies of S. B. County Planning & Development documents that VVCSD had on hand, Vandenberg Village had to start sometime during 1959. Hence, it is indicated as “circa” 1959 on the sign.

B: Donations: The VVA made three donations this past year: We made two \$200.00 donations to the Lompoc Hospital Foundation - Colorthon fundraiser, and one also for \$200.00 to our local Boy Scout Troop - 394.

C: Highway Safety Improvement Effort: More than a year and a half ago, the VVA reached out to Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and other levels of government to make them fully aware of the serious safety issue at the intersection of Highway One and Santa Lucia Canyon Road. At first it focused on the Santa Lucia Canyon Road intersection, but unfortunately this year we have had to include what has become known as “Deadman’s Curve” - (the down hill curve between the Constellation Road overpass and the entrance to Allan Hancock College entrance). After each traffic accident we forwarded local News coverage (to include photos) of these accidents to SBCAG which includes Caltrans as a member. We have been assured that significant effort is being directed at these two locations by *District 5 Division Chief for Traffic, Peter Hendrix, PE*. Although we are all eager for an immediate fix, we will have to understand the solution that we all want will take time and significant resources. We have asked SBCAG and Caltrans for a Community Forum to take place in the new year with the purpose of bringing us up to date on their plans for our area.

D: Community Clean-up Effort: This past year the VVA cosponsored “*Operation Village Sparkle*” with *Vandenberg Village Lions Club* and *Calvary Baptist Church*. The community clean-up effort focused on what is referred to as the Village’s common areas, such as along both sides of Constellation Road, starting from underneath the highway overpass to the intersection of Burton Mesa Blvd, including the Apollo Way and Highway One off-ramps, as well as the strip of property across from Cabrillo High School. All volunteers have the prerogative of choosing their own location to affect a noticeable difference. Being there are more areas that could use a clean-up, we highly encourage any other social groups who would like to participate to form a team and join our effort. Operation Village Sparkle’s goal is to make this an annual Spring and Fall clean-up event. Its purpose is to draw attention to the need that as members of this community it is incumbent upon all us to take more pride in our community to ensure it remains a beautiful place for everyone.

E: Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway / S. B. County Roads: Thanks to Marell Brooks for another year of coordinating our volunteers for both the Adopt-A-Highway program and our local Burton Mesa Blvd and Harris Grade Road. Both volunteer groups deal with removing trash and other debris from our highways and county roads.

The **VVA Adopt-a-Highway Volunteers** go out every month on or near the 3rd Saturday. They clean a 3 mile area of this four lane highway that begins just south of Santa Lucia Canyon Road intersection and ends at the traffic lights at the Wye (Harris Grade, Highway One - Purisma Road intersection). The clean-up team consistently collects an average of 12 - 14 bags of trash each month along with multiple bulky items. This past year, due to the high number of vehicle mishaps along our section, the bulky items included large pieces of automobile parts that were left behind.

VVA Member Volunteers clean a stretch of Burton Mesa Boulevard and a portion of Harris Grade Road each month. Our friend at County Solid Waste picks up the bags monthly on or about the 2nd Tuesday.

It’s easy to become a Volunteer - and your help would be greatly appreciated: Local volunteer programs have been in existence for many years - The VVA’s volunteers have participated more than 10 years.

To prepare to be an Adopt-a-Highway volunteer, you will need to watch a safety training video and work with an experienced volunteer for a couple of outings. If you feel like you would like to give this a try, Please call Marell at 805-733-3462 or send an email to: TheVVA@vandenbergvillage.org **Trash-bags, pickup tools, safety vests, helmets and gloves are provided.**

F: Annual Bulky Waste Pickup Day: With Santa Barbara County's, Waste Management Division's award of the new Waste Management contract to MarBorg Industries, the *VVA's Annual Bulky Waste Pickup Day* is no longer needed. The new contract provides for *4 - Free bulky waste pickups (5 items maximum per pickup)* each year. Now all you have to do is *Call Marborg at 805-963-1852* to schedule your reservation.

G: Residential Zoning and Traffic Enforcement: Throughout the past year we fielded many calls and emails from our fellow Village residents asking for assistance on how to deal with residential and vehicle code violations. Unfortunately, getting enforcement of these violations by the appropriate authorities has been a long and arduous struggle – but we will continue to fight for enforcement for the sake of preventing further deterioration.

H: What's up for 2025?

1 - Considering Street Sweeping of our commercial district: Depending on the total number of memberships we have in the new year, the VVA board may consider hiring a private street sweeper to address our main commercial streets during one of our clean-ups. (Apollo Way, a portion of Constellation Road, and a portion of Burton Mesa Blvd will be considered). Hopefully seeing clean curb areas will encourage all residents to sweep their own curb areas.

2 - Refurbish Planter around our new Welcome sign: This enhancement project will be accomplished with cash on hand and membership renewals.

3 - Adoption of By-laws changes: This past year the VVA board made revisions to our by-laws. Now, our members need to approve or disapprove the changes. All changes are believed to be minor and more of an administrative nature by the current board. The proposed By-laws are available for download and review from our website at: www.vandenbergvillage.org/about-us. The download link is located at the bottom of the page. To facilitate Membership's ability to approve or disapprove this update, you will see on the Membership Renewal Form (page 8), check boxes to indicate your choice.

Support the Village Library!

We're open Tuesday thru Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What can you find at the Village Library these days?

For kids:

- **Preschool Story-time:** Wednesday mornings at 10:30am (before the library opens). Join us for stories, songs, crafts, and more!
- **Take & Makes:** These fun children's crafts are available at the beginning of the month, while supplies last!

For adults:

- **Book Club:** The last Thursday of the month (usually, unless it's a holiday!) at 6pm. Read and discuss a new book every month with other readers.

For all ages:

- **Seed Library:** Stop by during open hours and "checkout" seeds for your home garden. Please bring in any seeds to share with others.
- **Puzzle Table:** Help put together the latest puzzle on our community table. We have new puzzles regularly, depending on how fast everyone solves them!

For more information, call **805-733-3323** or visit us on-line at
<https://www.cityoflompoc.com/government/departments/library>.

Having a Village branch card helps support the funding of programs at our local branch.



Our Visible Treasure - The Burton Mesa Chaparral *by Dr. Charles Blair*

The word treasure often means something not only valuable, but also often hidden or hard to find. Lost mines or sunken ships laden with gold and jewels come to mind. Some of our greatest treasures such as the clean air we breathe or the pleasant communities we live in are so apparent, that we often take them for granted. One of this area's greatest treasures is something that many of us drive through almost daily: The Burton Mesa Chaparral (BMC). This area extends from San Antonio Creek to the La Purisima Mission and the bluffs above Lompoc. Vandenberg SFB and Vandenberg Village are built among the scrubby bushes and trees that are a unique collection of beautiful and interesting plants, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.

These plants are especially attractive when they start to bloom in early winter. Others come out later, so that we have flowers in bloom nearly year round. The manzanitas are bushes with medium sized green leaves and small white urn-like flowers. The ceanothus or wild lilacs have smaller dark green leaves and white, lavender, or dark blue flowers. Earlier in the spring, we see the brilliant pink of Prickly Phlox and the rich orange of Monkey Flowers and Wallflowers. Later we will see the small white trumpet-like blossoms of the pungent Black Sage. Underneath, we find the lacy green leaves and delicate white flowers of the Honeydew. Later still, we can enjoy the white and cream colored flowers of Chamise and the brilliant yellow of Golden Yarrow and even later, Mock Heather. Come the Fall and we have late blooming daises, a few spring bloomers out of season, and the small golden male flowers, and puffy white female flowers and seeds of the chartreuse green Coyote Brush.

The BMC is a prime example of some of Coastal California's most endangered plant communities, the Maritime Chaparrals. These are assemblages of plants growing on relatively isolated sandy areas, blending features of beach, sand dune, and more interior hillsides. The Nipomo Mesa, Morro Bay's Elfin Forest, and the Santa Cruz Sand Hills are other examples. Their past remoteness from major urban areas has left them relatively undisturbed, but current growth patterns threaten them by development and by invasion of exotic noxious weeds and insects. Pampas Grass, Ice Plant, and Veldt Grass are but a few of the more obvious examples

But you may ask, "What is chaparral, anyway?" The word comes from the Spanish Scrub Oak, the Chabaro, and its surrounding shrubby community, the Chaborral. Most California Chaparrals occur on the drier, rockier interior hillsides, such as around Gaviota Pass. Maritime Chaparrals occur on near-coastal sandy areas, and combine features of both sand dune and the denser soil shrubby plant communities.

Much of the BMC on Vandenberg AFB is in areas available from public roads. Access is also available from the county preserve behind Cabrillo High School and on the La Purisima Mission Property. The northern part of the Lompoc Campus of Allan Hancock College has a BMC Preserve with trails and labels.

For more information on area plants and other natural beauties, various trips and activities are planned by local groups. The Dunes Center in Guadalupe and The La Purisima Mission include plant walks among their interpretive activities.

The Lompoc Valley Botanic & Horticultural Society (LVBHS) and The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) have informative lectures and outings at various times throughout the year.

Actions that Residents can take that keep Vandenberg Village Looking Good.

Putting Away our Trash/Recycling/Green Waste Containers: This is one of those tasks that isn't difficult, yet collectively makes a noticeable difference in the overall appearance of our community. Following are the applicable Ordinances that all residents are obligated to follow.

Ordinances No. 4689 and No. 4188#2 of S. B. County Code: No container shall be placed adjacent to a street for collection service more than 24 hours prior to normal collection time and shall be removed from said location within 12 hours after collection. **Sec. 17-8 states that:** Containers should be maintained on the owner's property out of public view.

Keeping Street Gutters Clean: As we are all aware, we do not have street sweeping service in the Village. It has been discussed in the past, but it never received enough support to actually be implemented. The result is many of our streets become littered with debris, especially along the gutter and at intersections. Compounding this issue is the dirt originating from gophers that spills over into the street. Thankfully, some residents do a very good job of taking on the chore of maintaining the appearance along the street in front of their homes. However, due to the windy nature of our area, their efforts can be short lived, if their neighbors do not do the same. So, please take a moment now and then to give the gutter in front of your home a good sweeping. If you have a lawn service please ask them to include street gutter sweeping as part of their job.

Taking care of No-Man's Land: In front of most of our homes throughout Vandenberg Village you will see a long strip of land, approximately 48 inches wide between the street curb and the sidewalk. We understand that some residents feel this area doesn't really belong to them and it is someone else's job to maintain it. We have actually heard comments stating: - *"It's the County's job!"* Unfortunately, we believe these individuals are confusing "maintenance easements" with ownership. For example, our Community Service District has maintenance easements to access water and wastewater infrastructure throughout our community. PG&E has access easements, as does Southern California Gas, Verizon, Comcast/Xfinity, Frontier, etc. Associated with these easements are homeowner restrictions such as getting a permit before you dig across certain areas of your property to ensure you do not damage the underground utilities.

Sidewalk & Street Encroachment: S. B. County - Urban Forestry restricts a homeowner to just one tree to be planted in this "no man's" area and as the tree matures it must be trimmed to allow unimpeded pedestrian traffic along the sidewalk and emergency vehicle access on the street side. In addition, any other encroachment of landscaping features and vegetation onto a sidewalk or street from your property (regardless as to how nice it looks) is not allowed. While we're on the subject of sidewalk encroachment, be mindful of vehicles parked in your driveway. Are you able to pull in past the sidewalk to include those notorious shin knocking bumper-hitches? If not, your vehicle is in violation of the encroachment ordinance.

Along with Ownership comes Responsibilities: It's incumbent upon all Homeowners to maintain their property in a manner as to not cause a public health or safety issue. With an ounce more of effort it can also be aesthetically pleasing.

County Codes for the Village

While some residents belong to Home Owner Associations (HOA) that have their own enforceable rules, the majority of us must rely on the enforcement of residential codes by Santa Barbara County - Code Enforcement office.

Enforcement is complaint driven.

To Report Residential Zoning Violations:

Contact the S. B. County Zoning Enforcement Desk: 805-934-6251) or visit their website at: www.sbcountyplanning.org and click on ENFORCEMENT. You will be required to give your name/contact info, but it will be kept confidential.

The following are the most Common County Unincorporated Residential Zoning Violations:

- Piles of debris more than 100 sq. ft. or more stored in public view.
- Unregistered vehicles in the drive way or in public view.
- Vehicles/trailers parked on the lawn or in easements in public view.
- Paved area in front yard must be less than 50% of total frontage. (Only 50% or less can be used for parking to include driveways)
- Hard-landscaping cannot be used for parking.
- Side Easements cannot be used for RV/Trailer parking unless behind a solid side fence, and cannot extend beyond the most front part of the residence.
- **S. B. County Sign Code:**
 - Commercial signs are not allowed on residential property or in public easements. (*Commercial businesses have their own requirements*)
 - Public utility poles cannot be used to post signs. (*A more effective method to recover lost pets is through social media and having your pets micro-chipped*)
 - Political yard signs may be posted on residential property beginning 6 weeks before an election. They should be removed 48 hours after election. Commercial businesses are not permitted for political signs.
 - ***No signs at all (political or commercial) should be posted at public road intersections or in the public easements.***

Common Vehicle Code Violations:

- Public Street Parking:
 - 72 hour limit for all motorized vehicles.
 - 24 hour limit for detached trailers, campers
 - Blocking Sidewalk (Encroachment - *parking across a sidewalk is never permissible. If you can't pull completely into a driveway, you must park on the street.*)

For Enforcement: The CHP - Buellton Station have stated that requests for vehicle code enforcement will now be handled via emails: 755-traffic@chp.ca.gov These reports are confidential. Per policy you do not have to give your name unless you want a follow-up report.)

Santa Barbara County Ordinances

Sec 17-8 Waste Containers It is the duty of every responsible party to keep containers in good condition and in a suitable place readily accessible to the collector for removing and emptying the same. Excepting placement at the curbside pickup site on scheduled collection day, such containers shall be maintained on the property out of **public view** and not placed within the limits of any street, public right of way or other public place in the county or in such a place or manner as to constitute a nuisance. No container shall be placed adjacent to a street or public right of way for collection service more than 24 hours prior to the normal collection time, and shall be removed from said location within 12 hours after collection.

Ord. No 4188 *2; Ord. No. 4689 *

Sec. 23-13.1. - Parking for more than seventy-two consecutive hours—Prohibited.

No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle upon any street or highway within the county for a period of seventy-two or more consecutive hours.

Ord. No. 1691, § 1; Ord. No. 4842, § 1, 9-4-2012

Sec. 23-13.2. - Same—Removal of unlawfully parked vehicles.

Pursuant to Section 22651(k) of the California Vehicle Code, as it presently exists or may hereafter be amended or renumbered, any officer described in that section is hereby authorized to and may remove or cause to be removed any unattended vehicle from any street or highway to the nearest garage or other place of safety or to a garage designated or maintained by the governmental agency when such vehicle has been parked or left standing upon any street or highway for a period of seventy-two

or more consecutive hours. In the event of such removal as authorized herein such officer so removing such vehicle, or causing same to be removed, shall give notice as provided in Sections 22852 through 22854 of the California Vehicle Code, and the keeper of any garage in which such vehicle is stored may have a lien thereon for his compensation for towing and for caring for and keeping safe such vehicle and may satisfy such lien in compliance with and under the conditions stated in such Section 22851 of the Vehicle Code of the state.

Ord. No. 1691, § 2; Ord. No. 4842, § 1, 9-4-2012

Sec. 23-13.6. - Parking of vehicles for sale.

No person shall park, place or leave standing any vehicle on any public street, highway or alley at any time for the principal purpose of displaying such vehicle for sale.

(Local Example: parking near the intersection of Burton Mesa Blvd and Constellation) in front of CoastHills Credit Union.)

Ord. No. 3520, § 1

Sec. 23-13.9. - Parking of vehicles for overhaul, maintenance or repair.

No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle upon a public street, road or right-of-way for the purpose of overhaul, maintenance or repair of such vehicle except for emergency repairs requiring less than two hours to complete. Violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars for each day the violation continues. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Ord. No. 4394 § 1

Sec. 23-13.10. - Parking of detached trailers, fifth wheels and equipment for twenty-four or more consecutive hours—Prohibited.

No person shall park any trailer, fifth wheel or equipment that is transported by truck or trailer which has been detached from the tow vehicle upon any public street, highway or right-of-way within the county for a period of twenty-four or more consecutive hours.

Ord. No. 4469, § 1

Sec. 23-16. - Authority; purpose; definitions. (Article III. - Abandoned Vehicles)

In addition to and in accordance with the determination made and the authority granted by the state under section 22660 of the Vehicle Code to remove abandoned, wrecked,

dismantled or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof as public nuisances, the board of supervisors hereby makes the following findings and declarations:

The accumulation and storage of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof on private or public property, not including highways, is hereby found to create a condition tending to reduce the value of private property, to promote blight and deterioration, to invite plundering, to create fire hazards, to constitute an attractive nuisance creating a hazard to the health and safety of minors, to create a harborage for rodents and insects and to be injurious to the health, safety and general welfare. Therefore, the presence of an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicle or parts thereof, on private or public property not including highways, except as expressly hereinafter permitted, is hereby declared to constitute a public nuisance which may be abated as such in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Ord. No. 2534, § 1; Ord. No. 2653, § 1

Status of the Village Inn Remodel



The Village Inn owners have certainly had more than their fair share of set-backs and delays with the Village Inn renovation. Currently they are waiting on the delivery and installation of an exhaust-hood for their kitchen and connection to the natural gas line. There will be a “soft opening” where the owners and their employees will be taking several days to perform a top to bottom inspection of the whole facility to ensure everything is in working order. They are hoping for a Grand Opening the later part of February or first of March 2025.

Status of Vandenberg Village Annex - Lompoc Valley Medical Center

Vandenberg Village Annex of Lompoc Valley Medical Center has begun the inside design plans as we speak. As for what services that will be offered are still in the works. However, the Cardiac Care Clinic will definitely be included. Opening date is still towards the end of 2025.

Dear VVA Members and Residents of Vandenberg Village:

As we begin our Annual Membership Drive, here are a few reasons why we believe the Vandenberg Village Association is important to our community...

> The VVA gives our residents a voice at the County level to ensure we get the attention we need, be that stronger active enforcement of our land use codes or more library funding for our local branch.

>The VVA helps keep the Village a nice place to live, by encouraging, coordinating, and collaborating with other Community Service groups to implement volunteer community wide clean-up efforts.

>The VVA is an all-volunteer association and our financial overhead is kept to an absolute minimum.

Note: Our only administrative costs are website hosting, postage, printer supplies, etc. Any excess is given back to the community in the form of supporting neighborhood projects and donations to our local schools, Library, and non-profit organizations that enhance our community.

Follow the 3 steps below to renew your membership or be a first time member:

First step: Save this PDF to your computer. **Second step:** complete the fillable form below and **Save** again.

Third step: print this page only, include a **\$10.00** check and mail it to:

Vandenberg Village Association, 3745 Constellation Road - Vandenberg Village, CA 93436.

Or you may drop it off at the **Community Service District Office Drop Box.**

You can help us grow by sharing this eNewsletter with your neighbors and asking them to join us in our effort to enhance and maintain Village wide improvements.

2025 Vandenberg Village Association Membership Form

(Please complete this form to become a new member or renew your membership. **A fillable PDF is available on our website**)

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

"Providing your email address allows us to keep you informed in a timely manner. Your email address will not be shared with anyone."

Dues are **\$10.00** per year. Membership includes all members of household but allows for only **one vote**.

Check No.: _____ Check Amount: _____ Cash Amount _____ Date: _____

I have reviewed our updated Bylaws and I: _____ Approve _____ Disapprove

What else could be done to improve our community? Please take a moment to tell us what you would most like to see happen in Vandenberg Village by sending us an Email. TheVVA@vandenbergvillage.org

Mail completed form along with cash or check to:

Vandenberg Village Association, 3745 Constellation Road - Vandenberg Village - Lompoc, CA 93436