



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive
Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

March 28, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Receive and File an Update on the County of Ventura's 150th Anniversary Celebration Including the Many Events, Ways for the Community to Get Involved, and a Dedicated Website Providing Information and Updates.

BACKGROUND:

2023 marks the 150th anniversary of Ventura County's establishment. In collaboration with the Museum of Ventura County (MVC) and other community partners, the County has planned a series of events, activities, and programs to educate, unite, and celebrate this milestone. This update provides an overview of the planned events, opportunities for community involvement, and a dedicated website for information and updates.

DISCUSSION:

Ventura County's 150th Anniversary Celebration offers a unique opportunity to engage the community, showcase our cultural diversity, and honor our rich history. Partnering with MVC and community organizations ensures a diverse, inclusive, and high-quality celebration for all residents. The variety of events, involvement opportunities, and the dedicated website provide numerous ways for the community to participate and stay informed.

EVENTS:

A range of events and activities is planned, including historical exhibits, cultural performances, community gatherings, and photo archive projects. Some of the main events include:

1. Museum Special Exhibit – The exhibit, in the Finch Gallery at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula, will open on October 19, 2023. It will compare past and present county stories, highlighting each city and key factors that shaped our county.
2. Community Event – On October 21, 2023, the opening weekend of the anniversary exhibit in Santa Paula will feature a family-friendly celebration with games, crafts, food trucks, performances, and more.
3. Local Community Celebrations – Four additional versions of the main history exhibit will be installed in Districts One, Two, Four, and Five. Each community

will participate in a celebration reflecting its unique identity. Dates are to be determined.

4. Kickoff Event – The official 150th-anniversary party will take place at the MVC in Ventura, featuring the opening of three new exhibits, speakers, regional musicians, performances, and more.
5. State of the County 2023 – The 150th Anniversary Celebration will be the theme of this year's State of the County event, planned for November 2 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum.
6. Library Events – Author talks, local history speakers, film screenings, and live performances are planned, including a talk by author Carina Forsythe at Fillmore Library on April 23, 2023, and a history of surfing presentation in Port Hueneme on May 23, 2023. Other events are being confirmed.

Additional events will be announced on the anniversary website.

PROGRAMS:

1. VC Memories – A community-driven photo archive project aiming to celebrate and preserve cherished memories of Ventura County residents. Photos will be displayed and archived at the MVC.
2. Interviews with Innovators – A film series featuring personal stories of local leaders who have impacted our lives.
3. Feast or Flop TV – A show uncovering unique regional recipes in partnership with local chefs.
4. Oral Histories Come to Life – Selected MVC oral histories will be made available online, accompanied by a guide on how to capture personal oral histories.
5. Commemorative Photo Book – A magazine-style publication by Pacific Coast Business Times showcasing Ventura County's history and future through diverse contributions.

DEDICATED WEBSITE:

The website www.VenturaCounty150.com provides information and updates on the 150th Anniversary Celebration, including event details, volunteer opportunities, event organizer resources, and instructions for the VC 150 Memories

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

We encourage community members and organizations to actively participate in the 150th Anniversary Celebration by:

1. Contributing personal memories and stories to the VC 150 Memories project, celebrating our shared history.

2. Attending various events and activities organized throughout the year, fostering unity and connection.
3. Hosting or supporting complementary community events that celebrate Ventura County's vibrant culture and heritage.

Ventura County's 150th Anniversary Celebration is a milestone event that brings together our diverse community to commemorate our collective achievements and history. This once-in-a-lifetime occasion offers a chance for reflection on our rich past and anticipation of a bright future, inspiring pride and unity among Ventura County residents.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Martinez, Economic Vitality Manager at 805-654-2272.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gloria" and last name "Martinez" clearly distinguishable.

Gloria E. Martinez
Economic Vitality Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, appearing to read "Sevet Johnson".

Dr. Sevet Johnson
County Executive Officer