

THE SIGNAL

San Buenaventura Conservancy

Volume 03. Number 02 / April through December 2007

2007 In Review

Focusing On Policy, Processes And CEQA

BY STAFF

Many have commented on the absence of the Ventura Architecture Weekend of past. As we all love this event, the SBC's focus these past two years has been directing our energy and resources to establish, and implement current preservation practices in accordance with State and National guidelines. This is a time consuming and arduous process that requires consistent, constant attendance and review of our city government. Without this vigilance and successful progress, there may not be any 'historic resources' to celebrate in a venue such as VAW. That said, here are some of the 2007 highlights:

- **Completion of the Downtown Historic Resource Survey Update** is a major accomplishment. 18+ years overdue, the survey was completed in April 2007, and is currently in the 'public commenting' period before final adoption by city council, which should be Spring 2008. This survey is available at the city's planning counter if you'd like to make public comment, and/or if you're a downtown property owner, this should be part of your library.

In a larger scenario, the completion of this survey as part of the implementation of the Downtown Specific Plan, is the ideal model of the planning template outlined in the 2005 General Plan (GP). The GP specifically states that each area of the city

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Project Encore

Creating And Revitalizing A Downtown Historic Theatre | Cultural Arts District

BY STAFF

For 80 years, a soaring performance space with stained glass windows and a grand sweeping staircase has remained hidden three stories above Main Street. The third floor of the Elks Lodge is magnificent and, now that the Elks have relocated, the developer is considering his options for the re-use of the space. Like other historic building owners with large spaces that could be used for cultural programming, he wants to make it a public venue. But the economics don't work. It's costly to renovate and retrofit such buildings and most arts groups struggle to stay afloat. Build-



The Elks Lodge setting up for an event on October 25, 2003.

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Did you know...

President's Notes

CITY OF VENTURA

- **Historic Preservation Committee (HPC)** meets every 4th Monday of the month at 4 p.m., Santa Cruz Room/City Hall.
- **Planning Commission** meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., Council Chambers/City Hall.
- **Design Review Committee (DRC)** meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m., Council Chambers/City Hall.
- **City Council** meets every Monday at 7 p.m., Council Chambers/City Hall. www.ci.ventura.ca.us for agendas and minutes.

VENTURA COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- **Westside Community Council** – for meeting times and locations, please visit website at: www.wcventura.org.
- **Downtown Ventura Organization** please visit website for meeting times. www.downtownventura.org.
- **Midtown Community Council** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., Cooper Hall/65 S. MacMillan Ave. www.midtownventura.org.
- **East Ventura Community Council** meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., 1st Assembly of God Church/346 N. Kimball Road, Room E-3. More info – 647-5422.

CITY OF CAMARILLO

- **City Council** meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at City Hall. www.ci.camarillo.ca.us.

CITY OF FILLMORE

- **City Council** meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., City Hall. www.fillmoreca.com.

CITY OF OXNARD

- **City Council** meets generally 3 Tuesdays per month at 5:30 p.m., please visit their website for exact dates. www.ci.oxnard.ca.us.

CITY OF SANTA PAULA

- **City Council** meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., City Hall. www.ci.santa-paula.ca.us.

• Mums The Word

I know you've noticed that we've been a bit silent/kept a low profile since April, and with good reason. As was published in the Ventura County Star June 28, 2007, the SBC filed a lawsuit against the city to prevent demolition of the Willett Ranch Farm complex located off the Ventura Avenue (Westside). Its been a long and interesting process, and the SBC is currently in negotiations. When the process has concluded, we will inform you of the results in the newsletter. Until then, 'Mums The Word.'

• Annual Membership Meeting

SBC Annual Membership Meeting will be on January 10th at the Foster Library downtown, Ventura (see ad on page 3). The meeting will highlight the accomplishments of the year, outlined goals, and will conclude with the election of Board Members for 2008. For your entertainment, Schaf will be presenting his most recent "Then and Now Historical" slide show of San Buenaventura. Also, Glenda J. Jackson, author and living history educator, will be joining us to illuminate and instruct on the process of finding archival photography based on her recent Arcadia books "Ventura | Postcard History Series," and "Images of America, Ventura". Hope to see you there.

• Upcoming 2008 Midtown Green Home and Garden Tour

The Midtown Ventura Community Council is hosting a 'Green Home and Garden Tour' slated for April 19, 2008. MVCC always throws a fabulous tour...as we don't need to remind you of how great this years' Mid-Century tour (April 21) was. As you know, being 'Green' is historically responsible – as there is nothing more green than an existing building.

The tour will start at the City of Ventura's Maintenance yard located at Sanjon and Thompson Boulevard. A vendor faire will kick-off the event featuring products and services that practice environmental sustainability. The faire is free to all. The home and garden tour portion of the event, will be a nominal \$10 per person. To date, they have secured four homes and one garden, and are open to enlisting more. For additional details, please contact Dan Long at 653-6573.

• 2008 Ventura Historic Architecture Calendar



This years calendar is now in local stores (such as Ventura Visitors Bureau, The Wharf, College Pharmacy, Lautzenhizers Hallmark) for your holiday gift needs and personal enjoyment. Remember, 5% of the proceeds benefit the SBC.

• Preserve America City Designation for Ventura

Ventura has joined the communities of special designation as a 'Preserve America Community'. Preserve America recognizes communities that: protect and celebrate their heritage; use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization; and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

Most importantly with this designation, Ventura may now apply for grants that advance these goals (i.e. historic surveys, cultural tourism programs, etc).

For more information about Preserve America and Ventura, please visit their website: www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html ☺☺☺

...now you do!

Get involved!

Encore

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ing owners must consider other, more profitable alternatives such as dividing the space for offices or retail tenants who can pay the rent.



Ventura stands at an important crossroads. Either we, as a community, work together to save these spaces as public venues or risk losing them forever. "Project Encore" was founded to help make these venues viable and help close the economic gap for both arts organizations and building owners. The first step is to create a collaborative that could collectively manage, promote, book and ticket the various Ventura venues. Building owners would share the costs and get professional management at a fraction of what they would have to pay individually. They could also keep their buildings active by hosting paid receptions, corporate events and other activities.

The second step is to create a hub for the cultural district by re-imagining the E.P. Foster Library. Many cities around the country have made their libraries active cultural venues with diverse programming and events. Our downtown library is an incredible building with incredible potential to become a true center of learning.

There are many details to be worked out, but the SBC believes that this is a step in the right direction and the board has endorsed "Project Encore". ❧

Attention!

Annual Membership Meeting

- January 10, 2008
- Wednesday, 7 to 9 pm.
- Elizabeth R. Topping Room
Foster Library
651 East Main Street
Downtown, Ventura.
- Hope to see you there!

2007

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will be crafted with a community plan that addresses that area's specific need. Taking an inventory of the resources of each area of the city is mandated in policy 9D called "Our Creative Community". Once the resources have been assessed (both historic and non-historic), the planning process is succinct.

But of greater importance in this community/specific plan process, is that a resource inventory makes it CEQA compliant. You cannot plan a community without assessing your resources first. Community plans that include historic resource surveys, should be the city's first priority. In each area of the city, all planning energy needs to be refocused on identifying and listing resources rather than evaluating each structure and parcel on a piece meal basis.

• **San Buenaventura Mission Garden Wall Foundation Stones unearthed,** as expected during the CEQA required archeological excavation of the current Olsen project located at Santa



During the archeological dig of the mission foundation stones at the Olsen Project.

Clara & Junipero Streets. These foundation stones have not seen the light of day in over 200 years. By a fluke, it was discovered during the course of conversations, that these stones were headed for the landfill! In the 11th hour, SBC board member Dave Armstrong negotiated with those involved to rescue and relocate the foundation stones to their new home at the Museum of Ventura County. They will be integrated into the expansion of the museum. The museum broke ground this year on October 11th.

Here's to a much anticipated great 2008. A happy new year to you and your family and friends. ❧

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Dan Long

Membership Chair

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Newsletter Editor | sherry@west.net

Stephen Schafer

Archivist | schaf@west.net

2008 Town Calendar

- 01/10 · SBC General Meeting
- 01/14 · County Historic Board Meeting
- 01/28 · Historic Preservation Committee Meeting
- 02/11 · County Historic Board Meeting
- 02/13 · SBC Board Meeting
- 02/25 · Historic Preservation Committee Meeting
- 03/10 · County Historic Board Meeting
- 03/12 · SBC Board Meeting
- 03/24 · Historic Preservation Committee Meeting
- 04/09 · SBC Board Meeting
- 04/14 · County Historic Board Meeting
- 04/19 · MVCC Green Home and Garden Tour
- 04/28 · Historic Preservation Committee Meeting

Mission Statement

The San Buenaventura Conservancy is a non-profit membership organization that works through advocacy and outreach to recognize, preserve and revitalize the irreplaceable historic, architectural and cultural resources of San Buenaventura and surrounding areas. We seek to increase public awareness of, and participation in, local preservation issues, and disseminate information useful in the preservation of the structures and neighborhoods of San Buenaventura.

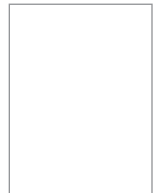


Post Office Box 23263

Ventura, California 93002

www.sbconservancy.org

800.701.7237



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