MOORPARK

Magazine



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SPRING 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Welcome!



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Happy Spring! In the spirit of renewal and fresh beginnings, I am excited to share the newly reimagined City Newsletter and Recreation Guide. Last year, the City Council identified strengthening the City's branding and marketing efforts as a key goal, and staff embraced the opportunity to revisit the purpose and presentation of this publication.

The newsletter cover has been transformed into Moorpark Magazine while the back cover is the Recreation Guide, which continues to serve as a comprehensive resource for recreation classes, activities, and events. The redesigned newsletter focuses on storytelling and serves as a marketing and educational tool to invite residents and visitors alike to explore and celebrate Moorpark's amenities, businesses, industries, people, and rich history.

Even after living in Moorpark for the past six years, I am continually surprised by how much there is still to (re)discover. In this and future editions of Moorpark Magazine, you will find stories that highlight what truly makes our community special. Moorpark's foundation is built on the contributions of both longtime and newer residents, organizations, and businesses, all of whom are essential to our shared history and future.

In this inaugural edition, we will explore the importance of economic development and our efforts to revitalize downtown, highlight the Ruben Castro Human Services Center as one of the community's key assets, and showcase two of Moorpark's most notable attractions—the Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College and the High Street Arts Center.

Let's take this journey together and (Re)Discover Moorpark!



Connect with Us!



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Moorpark, CA 93021
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City Council

Chris Enegren, Mayor
Renee Delgado, Councilmember, District 1
Chris Barrett, Councilmember, District 2
Tom Means, Councilmember, District 3
Dr. Antonio Castro, Councilmember, District 4

Email City Council: *citycouncil@moorparkca.gov*

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INVESTING IN MOORPARK'S FUTURE

How local entrepreneurs and resident investors strengthen services, programs, and quality of life.



Moorpark Advantage

- High Household Incomes
- Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Strong Civic Pride
- Dine and Shop Local Commitment

"ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS THE CREATION OF WEALTH FROM WHICH COMMUNITY BENEFITS ARE REALIZED"

Q What is Economic Development ?

The California Association of Local Economic Development defines economic development as the "creation of wealth from which community benefits are realized." When investments are made in the local economy, they generate prosperity and enhance the quality of life for the entire community. This translates into businesses that create jobs, generate sales tax revenue, and support essential city services such as public safety and infrastructure maintenance/improvements.

Q Why does Moorpark have a unique local advantage?

With one of the highest household incomes in Ventura County, Moorpark is home to many entrepreneurs, business owners, and professionals who have the experience and financial capacity to start new ventures or invest locally. These residents are a tremendous asset to the City's economic health. The challenge, however, lies in identifying and engaging them in meaningful ways that connect their interests with community needs.

Q How can residents invest locally?

When local entrepreneurs choose to start businesses in Moorpark, they help keep dollars circulating within the community and contribute to a vibrant and resilient local economy. Others invest by sponsoring community events and activities or by supporting local nonprofit and community-based organizations. These contributions strengthen community connections, expand services, and foster a strong sense of civic pride.

Whether by opening a business, mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs, or supporting community initiatives, resident investors and entrepreneurs are essential partners in Moorpark's continued growth.

If you see yourself in this group, we encourage you to schedule a meeting with the City Manager or the Economic Development Division to learn how we can support your business and how you can get involved in community events and programs.

INTERESTED IN INVESTING LOCALLY? LET'S TALK!

SCAN ME!



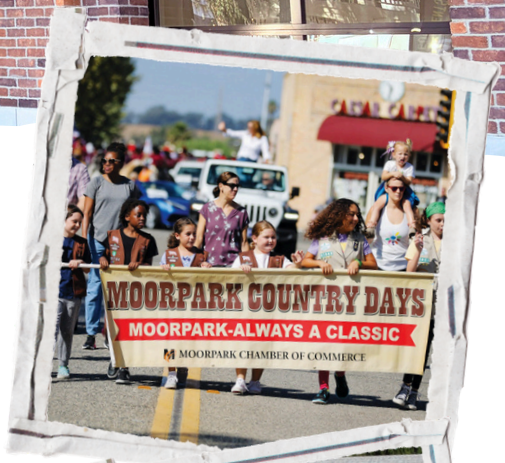
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REVITALIZING DOWNTOWN

Building a Vibrant Heart of the City





The City is actively working to revitalize High Street and transform it into a more vibrant, walkable, and welcoming downtown destination for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. These efforts are focused on strengthening the local economy while preserving the small-town character that makes Moorpark unique and special.

City leaders are partnering with property owners, local businesses, and developers to support existing businesses, attract new restaurants and retailers, and create gathering spaces that activate downtown throughout the day and into the evening. Public investments in streetscape improvements, enhanced lighting, landscaping, and pedestrian amenities are helping create an environment where people want to linger, shop, dine, and connect. At the same time, the City has streamlined processes and offers support to entrepreneurs who see downtown as the ideal place to launch or expand their businesses.

Revitalization is about more than buildings, it's about community. Downtown events, pop-up activities, and programming are being used to bring energy to the area, support small businesses, and foster a sense of pride and identity. These initiatives help turn downtown into Moorpark's living room: a place where families gather, neighbors meet, and memories are made. With strong partnerships and a shared vision, the City is laying the groundwork for a downtown that not only supports economic growth but also enhances quality of life for everyone who calls Moorpark home.

The City is currently updating its Downtown Specific Plan. Community involvement is a vital part of this process, and we encourage residents and business and property owners to attend workshops and public meetings, share ideas, and provide feedback on proposed concepts and priorities. Your input will help shape a downtown vision that reflects Moorpark's character and creates a vibrant, welcoming place for the entire community. For more information, including the project schedule and ways to participate, visit moorparkca.gov/DTSP.

LEARN MORE



A WILD TIME AT THE TEACHING ZOO

The "Pride" of Moorpark



If you're looking for an unforgettable and wildly fun experience right here in Moorpark, look no further than the Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College—a local treasure where wildlife, education, and community come together!

Founded in 1975, the Teaching Zoo and its Animal Care and Training Program is only one of two zoos in the nation that is fully integrated into a college campus and its curriculum, which gives students hands-on experience in zoology, animal care, and conservation. That means when you visit, you don't just see amazing animals—you're supporting real students training to become the next generation of wildlife professionals.

From exotic birds and playful primates to reptiles, big cats, and more, the five-acre campus is home to more than 100 fascinating animal species cared for with passion and expertise. Fun and educational keeper talks give visitors a peek behind the scenes, while special events and animal encounters add an extra layer of excitement for families, school groups, and animal lovers of all ages.

Beyond being a fantastic place to visit, the Teaching Zoo champions wildlife conservation and inspires curiosity about the natural world. It's perfect for a weekend outing, a field trip, or even a memorable date. Its picnic areas and classrooms have also been used for children's birthday parties and special gatherings and events.

In recent years, the Teaching Zoo has undergone a modernization effort, including the creation of "Rajah's Retreat," a state-of-the-art tiger habitat that recently earned a national Animal Exhibit Award of Excellence from the Zoological Association of America. The moderate size of the campus and mostly flat terrain make it highly walkable and especially well-suited for strollers, wheelchairs, and individuals with mobility or other accessibility needs.

So whether you're stopping by to see your favorite animal or discovering a new one, the Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College offers a fun, one-of-a-kind adventure that celebrates learning, wildlife, and community pride right in our own backyard.

LEARN MORE

Zoo tickets are affordably priced at $10-$12 (children under 2 years old are free) and is open to the public on weekends from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, go to zoo.moorparkcollege.edu.

Ruben Castro Human Services Center: A Hub for Community Support and Compassion

The Ruben Castro Human Services Center stands as a cornerstone of community care in Moorpark and serves residents with dignity, compassion, and a wide range of essential services. Named in honor of Ruben Castro, a lifelong Moorpark resident and dedicated advocate for social services, the Center embodies Moorpark's commitment to ensuring that all residents have access to the support and resources they need to thrive.

Designed as a welcoming, centralized location for human services, the Center brings together multiple programs that address the diverse needs of our community under one roof.

The Center is home to nonprofit organizations such as Moorpark Pantry Plus, Aspiranet Mental Health Therapy Clinic, and First 5 Ventura County. The site also includes the Ventura County Human Services Agency and the Ventura County Health Care Agency's Moorpark Family Medical Clinic.

These collaborations expand the scope of available services and deepen the impact on families, seniors, veterans, the vulnerable populations. The Center also provides space for workshops and educational programming that build skills and foster resilience.

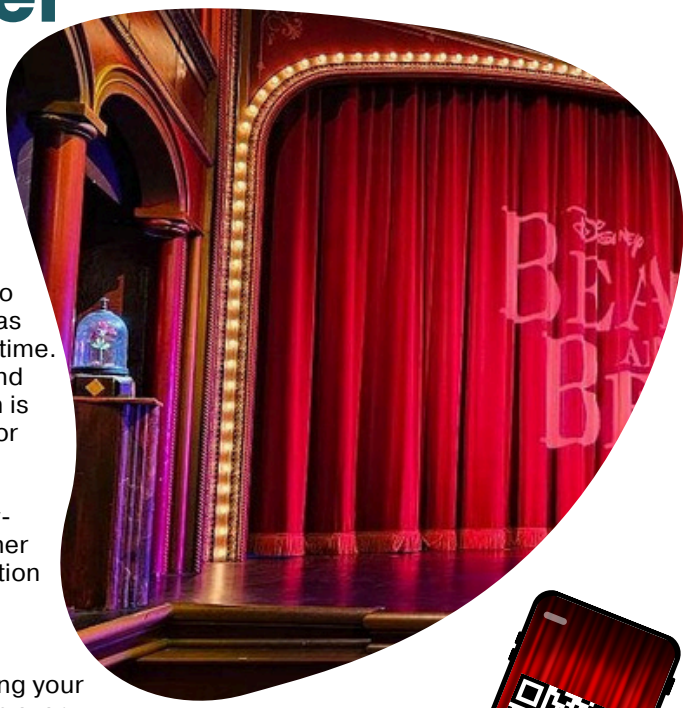


Ruben Castro Human Services Center: Located at 612 Spring Rd, Moorpark, CA 93021

As Moorpark continues to grow, the Ruben Castro Human Services Center will remain an essential resource in strengthening the social safety net and enhancing quality of life for residents throughout the community.

High Street Arts Center

Moorpark's Creative Heartbeat



If you haven't experienced the magic of the High Street Arts Center, you're missing one of Moorpark's most vibrant and joyful community gems! Tucked in the heart of downtown and nearly 100 years old, this lively arts hub is where creativity comes alive.

The High Street Arts Center isn't your typical theater—it's a place where imagination and community connect and attracts approximately 25,000 to 30,000 visitors annually. Originally opened in 1927 as the El Rancho, it was one of the only "talking" movie theaters in eastern Ventura County at the time. It later became the Magnificent Moorpark Melodrama & Vaudeville Co. and was purchased by the City of Moorpark in 2005. The 266-seat auditorium is currently operated by the nonprofit organization, Moorpark Foundation for the Arts.

From energetic musicals and comedy shows to lively concerts and family-friendly performances, there's always something exciting on stage whether you are a long-time patron of the arts or someone just looking for inspiration and fun. Every production is infused with passion, talent, and heart, reflecting the spirit of Moorpark and the people who bring it to life.

So if you're planning a night out, looking for a fun family activity, or seeking your next creative outlet, make your first stop the High Street Arts Center. With every show and every smile, it's clear this is where Moorpark comes to celebrate the arts and have a great time doing it!

For more information about the High Street Arts Center, go to highstreetartscenter.com.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



LEONARDO MENDEZ

Public Works Supervisor

I started with the City as a maintenance worker in 1996 and worked my way up to my current role—almost 30 years later! My job is to keep Moorpark safe, clean, and beautiful. We handle everything from emergency response and traffic accidents to graffiti removal, street repairs, sidewalk replacements, trash cleanup, and weed abatement. If it helps the City run smoothly, we're on it.

Over the years, I've had some unforgettable moments. In October 2003, wildfires surrounded Moorpark. I helped the Fire Department with traffic control, closing streets and keeping people safe while smoke filled the air and even railroad ties burned. In January 2005, heavy rains caused flooding when a channel got blocked. Water rushed down Campus Park Drive like a river, carrying rocks and branches. We worked hard to block streets and assist residents; it was incredible to see the power of nature.

Recent Project:
Over the holiday break, our team stayed ready for storm-related issues. We cleared debris from gutters, monitored sandbag stations at College View Park and Leta Yancy Park, and removed sediment from hillside areas near Princeton Avenue to keep drainage flowing.

Best Part of the Job:
I love taking care of Moorpark because this is home. I was born and raised here, and so was my family. My kids grew up here, went to school here, and my roots run deep—my dad worked for one of Moorpark's original families, and my mom graduated from the old high school. I take pride in making this City a great place for everyone. Moorpark feels like one big family, whether it's my coworkers or the residents. Walking into City Hall, the City Yard or anywhere in town feels like home, and that's what makes this job so special.

Congratulations to our Annual Apricot Award Winner!



Kathy Priestly, Administrative Assistant II in the Community Development Department, celebrated her 20-year work anniversary with the City of Moorpark and was also recently honored with the 2026 Apricot Award, which is the City's equivalent to the Employee of the Year Award based on nominations from City staff.

Congratulations Kathy and thank you for all that you do for the Moorpark community!

Building the Next Chapter: New Moorpark City Library Takes Shape



After nearly two decades of planning, redesigns, and community input, the City of Moorpark broke ground on the new Moorpark City Library on January 27, 2026. The new 17,500-square-foot facility—more than double the size of the current 7,900-square-foot library built in 1980—will add much-needed space for learning and connection, including individual study rooms, a large public conference room, dedicated adult and teen areas, and a reservable sound booth (partially supported by a $20,000 California Emerging Technology Fund grant). Construction is estimated at about $34 million, which includes demolition of the existing building once the new library is open. The City secured additional project support through $1.6 million in federal Community Project Funding and $4.6 million from the California State Library Infrastructure Grant. The new library is anticipated to open in fall 2027.

Current library hours (open during construction): Mon–Thu 10 am–8 pm; Fri–Sat 10 am–5 pm; Sun 1–5 pm. More information at *moorparkca.gov/355/Library*