

CITY OF VENTURA

NEWS RELEASE

501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001

For Immediate Release
December 20, 2017

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West Ventura Winter Warming Shelter Opens December 21st

The 2017-2018 West Ventura Winter Warming Shelter will open Thursday December 21, 2017 at the Ventura National Guard Armory located at 1270 Arundell Ave. The Winter Warming Shelter provides a safe place to sleep, a hot meal, and shower facilities for homeless persons seeking refuge during the winter months. Homeless persons can enter the Armory at 6:00p.m. every evening and may remain in the Armory up until 6:00a.m.

In order to provide around the clock sheltering during the winter months, Community Action of Ventura County, located at 621 Richmond Avenue in Oxnard, will extend its day shelter operations from 7:00a.m. until 5:00p.m. to accommodate homeless residents with equivalent daytime services. Bus passes and personal storage will be provided.

The Oxnard Housing Department and the City of Ventura Community Development Department, together with the office of the Ventura County CEO, are once again partnering with the non-profit Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO), which acts as the shelter's fiscal agent. The DVO has retained Advanced Tactical Training Institute to operate, manage, and provide security at the shelter.

The Winter Warming Shelter, which has been jointly operated by the cities of Ventura and Oxnard since 2001, provided accommodations to an average of 93 persons per night last winter at the Oxnard National Guard Armory, which has hosted the shelter in the past. Monetary donations to assist the shelter can be made on the DVO website (downtownventura.org) or by calling 805-641-1090.

The shelter was originally scheduled to open December 15, 2017. Due to the Thomas Fire, the opening was delayed when the armory facility became a staging center for military personnel days after the fire began.

On December 4, 2017, a fast moving active brush fire that started North of Santa Paula along Highway 150 and Bridge Road was pushed by strong east winds through the City of Ventura. There are more than 8,200 firefighters, over 1,000 engines, and fire departments from multiple states involved plus cooperating agencies and community partners. The fire is currently estimated at 271,500 acres. Over 500 structures have burned throughout the City.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov###