

# VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING



Ventura Townehouse  
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**January  
2026**

**January  
Holidays**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>  
New Year's  
Day**



**January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Luther  
King Day**



**January 26<sup>th</sup>  
Australia Day**



## **January at the Townehouse**

**Introducing our new resident council president  
Brenda Knight**



I'm happy to be your current president! Please join me in thanking Barbara Niles for her two years in this position and for remaining with us on the board.

I moved here in 2023. Prior to the Townehouse, I was the first female principal for the public junior high school in Ojai - where I was responsible for 70 faculty/staff, serving over 700 students and their parents. I'm proud to say we won "California Distinguished School" under my leadership.

There's so much great about the Townehouse, and I am privileged to have the opportunity to serve as your president. Open lines of communication between us as residents and the management/staff are incredibly important to me, with this in mind, I will make myself available in the front lobby every Wednesday between 3pm to 4pm. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, enjoy a cup of coffee and join me for an informal chat.

### **December 2025 Gratuity Fund**

We recently raised \$41K for the gratuity fund; thank you! Each full-time employee, who has been here over a year, received a check for \$312. This makes a real difference in the lives of our staff and how they feel about their jobs; everyone from housekeeping to maintenance and food service. I'll be writing about this more in the months ahead - it's such a privilege to live here and the gratuity fund is one way that we make it come alive.

Happy New Year!

Brenda Knight, Resident Board President

# TOWNEHOUSE NEWS

## A warm welcome to Lee Gotwals



My name is Leland Gotwals, but everyone calls me Lee. I am a long time California resident, born and raised in Burbank, and have lived in Ventura at the beach for over forty years.

Our family of five, my wife of fifty-three years and our three sons, lived in Japan in the late 70's and Alaska in the mid 80's before coming back to call California home.

My job at Lockheed as an electronic technician, working on airplanes, gave me the opportunity working with SOHIO in Anchorage and some cold winters working on the North Slope.

Our family has always loved road trips, camping and outdoor activities, so Alaska was a great spot to call home for four years. But it sure was nice to come home to California where a vacant beach lot in Ventura was waiting for me to build my dream house.

Architecture and woodworking projects with my dad were always a hobby, until I got the drafting table out and got to design our house in Ventura. The family and I have always loved Ventura, and in the new beach house we had so many fun memories on our small lane with the neighbors. After my wife and I retired, we explored the US and Canada in our motor home and went on many cruises with friends and had some wonderful years together until she passed in 2021.

You will see me walking my favorite girl "Patches" around the Townehouse property and usually wearing Tequilla a Allstar hat. I love watching the Dodgers, old westerns and action movies. I am addicted to chocolate chip cookies of any kind. I like a good happy hour drink and I'm easy going unless you take the last cookie! I enjoying connecting with new people and I look forward to meeting everyone.

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## Annual Tree Decorations

This year all the trees were spectacular! So much so it was difficult to pick a winner.

The decision was made that they are all winners! To celebrate we will have a pizza party for everyone in the Vista Room on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 12noon. Thank you to everyone for amazing creativity and neighborhood cooperation.

Lower Level

1st Floor

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

4<sup>th</sup> Floor

5<sup>th</sup> Floor

6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Penthouse



# TOWNEHOUSE NEWS

## A warm welcome to Patricia Handfinger



Patti was born in California and has lived within 50 miles of the Pacific coast her whole life. Fortunately for many years, the beach was walking distance from her home. She began drawing and painting as a young child and returned to her passion much later. Her work is currently on exhibit at the Santa Paula Art Museum where she is a docent and can also be found at the Santa Paula Train Depot cooperative gallery managed by the Santa Paula Society of the Arts. Her paintings depict the local landscape and seaside.

Patti's early career was in law, first as a paralegal in poverty law in Pacoima, then after law school, as an attorney in Beverly Hills. She became a mother of her first son at the same time as her brief was heard in the US Supreme Court. But she soon realized that she was dedicated to working with students rather than arguing in court.



She taught for many years in the Las Virgenes and Oak Park school districts. Her specialties included math, earth science and, of course, mock trial as well as staff development in math and mentoring student teachers. It was an exciting and fulfilling experience. She taught first grade through high school.

When Patti retired from teaching in 2012, she still had the determination to explore yet another field. She studied landscape architecture at UCLA and became a Master Gardener here in Ventura County. In the Master Gardener program, she not only grew plants but wonderful friendships. She then joined the board of directors for the Oceanaire federal credit union and was proud of its growth supporting first Oxnard, then Ventura and Simi Valley. For the past ten years a continuing source of inspiration is the OLLI program at Cal State University Channel Islands. Each term offers intriguing classes. Please ask her about attending these courses on Zoom.

Patti is delighted to join her Santa Paula friends here at the Townehouse as well as make new friends. She is especially excited about the fitness program including neuro fit. You can find Patti walking her two pups, Maggie and Mindy, and joining new creative companions in the art class.



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## Employee of the Month Congratulations Nora Monreal

My favorite part of working at the Townehouse is our residents, they are so kind and truly make my day. When I'm not at work, I love spending time with my three daughters, listening to Latin pop and mariachi, and enjoying life in Oxnard, which I've called home for over 25 years.



# Townehouse Management Team

Executive Director	Evan Granucci
Business Office Director	Daniel Adams
Marketing Director	Harvey Marasigan
Director of Resident Care	Yonatan Isaacs
Director of Social Events	Nancee Borgnine
Director of Memory Care	James Christensen
Director of Culinary Services/Executive Chef	Bryan Gross
Director of Housekeeping	Alejandra Hernandez
Director of Social Services	Kimmi Bryan
Chief Engineer	Steve Drake
Assistant Chief Engineer	Cliserio Meza
Lead Concierge	Susana Jacobs
Transportation	Ed Cardona
Fitness Director	Frank Jackson



## "Stuff Happens"

We've had a lifetime, or so it seems,  
To gather the things, we see in our dreams, it's all the  
possessions that fill the rooms, of our cottages, our  
castles, our homes.  
Stuff happens!

It's fun to buy, to collect, to search the mall, don't  
forget the shops, the yard sales, and all. What  
discoveries we make, what treasures we find to clutter  
our houses, our garages, our minds.  
Stuff happens!

No cobwebs gather, no dust can collect as we  
diligently care for, rearrange, display and protect All  
the many parts, that make up the whole of the life  
we've shared, the time spent to select.  
Stuff happens!

The mini storages that advertise with glee, Place some  
of your stuff here, you'll see That you won't need it, at  
least not for now. Keep it handy, safe and secure,  
more boxes we allow.  
Stuff happens!

But down the years as our interest wanes,  
And the things we have no longer pertain  
To the quality of life, we wish to attain.  
To have all this stuff seems so insane.

So, it's best to refrain  
And keep only the stuff that will remain  
Within our brain.  
Stuff happens!

Submitted by Maxine Snelgrove



Happy New  
Year!  
Ventura  
Townehouse