



## Help Us Capture Time in a Capsule

There's one on the moon, one in Disneyland and in July Ventura City Hall will have three – time capsules – all designed to “backup” a lifetime of memories to share with future generations when these “dormant museums” are opened in 2066, 2076 and 2113.

Jim Croce sang “If I could save time in a bottle” and “If I had a box just for wishes” and that’s what we are asking our employees and residents. What should go in the vault for the new City Hall Centennial Time Capsule – an airtight 14” steel cube – when it joins the existing U.S. Bicentennial (1776-1976) and City of San Buenaventura Centennial (1866-1966) time capsules buried near the front steps of the landmark building to mark its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Time capsules typically contain objects and artifacts that represent slices of everyday life or snapshots of today’s culture and important issues, but also personal memories and messages. We are looking for your ideas and especially your donations! Time capsules – “arks of time” and “presents from the present to the future” – are the perfect way to write yourself and family into history and to make a connection with the future. Won’t you help us make our new time capsule memorable?

**We are looking for donations of:** personal messages (letters, essays and postcards) from our children, leaders, city employees and residents; scrapbooks, photo albums, personal biographies, class photographs, birth, military and wedding announcements, yearbooks, winning science projects, favorite coloring and children’s books and toys (ex. Lego), commemorative publications, favorite restaurant menus, popular games and magazines, handmade and one-of-a-kind items, postage stamps, medals, coins and paper money, sample business products, ticket stubs, ballots and buttons, art objects, music CDs, movie DVDs, new articles of clothing, catalogs of today's fashions (shoes, hairstyles and clothes), newspapers, family trees, baseball cards, lists of popular songs and jokes, flags, local history books, messages to the future.

Among the almost 200 items in the other two time capsules are publications (local newspapers, Playboy, Sears catalog and Mad magazine), memorabilia (bicentennial photos, postcards and Jimi Hendrix poster) and ephemera (false eyelashes, bikini panties, McDonald’s wrapper, and Coors beer can). While George Washington probably followed the Masonic ritual of placing memorabilia inside the U.S. Capitol cornerstone (never found), George Edward Pendray designed the first officially named “time capsule” for the 1939 New York World’s Fair, inspired by Thornwell Jacobs’ Crypt of Civilization (1936) to be opened in 8113 at Atlanta’s Oglethorpe University, home of the International Time Capsule Society that aims to maintain a global database of the world’s estimated 15,000 existing time capsules.

**Send your ideas and donations to:** Richard Newsham at [rnewsham@cityofventura.net](mailto:rnewsham@cityofventura.net) or POB 99-501 Poli St-Rm 206, Ventura CA 93002. **We are also looking for loans of 1913 memorabilia for display at City Hall during its Centennial Celebration in July.**