

## **UPDATE: GOOD SHEPHERD CEMETERY**

In 2020, an application was made to the San Diego County Planning Dept. to create Good Shepherd Cemetery, in conjunction with St. Thomas More Church, at 1505 Buena Vista Drive and Keys Place.

Nothing much was heard about the project since then, but recently a new fence was installed.



Adam Kooienga of Hofman Planning Associates kindly provided this information:

Our client is currently having a fence installed along Buena Vista Drive. Per the County's Zoning Code, this fence is allowed by right in this zone as long as they adhere to the development standards set by the County. The fence is separate from the overall cemetery project (this kind of fence could be installed at this location by whoever was the property owner), but it will eventually be the fence for the cemetery.

The cemetery itself is still going through the review and approval process with the County. We are working on a few remaining items on it prior to being scheduled for a hearing. Once we've completed everything and have a tentative hearing date scheduled, we are planning to have another public meeting with neighbors, stakeholders, and other interested parties.

## **THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER** **City of Vista Action on E-bikes**

The use of e-bikes has increased dramatically in North County. Although many have applauded their increased use as "clean energy" convenient and affordable vehicles, a number of issues regarding safety and proper use have attracted close scrutiny by the City of Vista and by other nearby cities (Carlsbad, San Marcos, Oceanside, Encinitas). Many of our neighborhood residents are used to seeing e-bikers riding recklessly at inappropriate high speeds, doing circus-like maneuvers, carrying a piggy-back rider, or in tight clusters. A rise in e-bike thefts has been reported by the North Coastal Sheriff's station. Most of these have occurred in shopping stores with large retailers such as Walmart and Target. About 50% of stolen bikes were unlocked.

The increased use of e-bikes has increased the number of fires, at times deadly, from exploding lithium-ion batteries. Many e-bike batteries lack the ability to automatically shut off to prevent overheating and thermal runaways that lead to explosions and fires.

E-bike parking issues affecting neighborhoods include a) parking locations such bike racks, sidewalks, and designated parking areas (especially in parks and natural areas); b) parking restrictions to improve visibility and safety for all road users (no parking within 20 ft. of corners or crosswalks); c) parking enforcement rules similar to those applied to traditional bicycles.

The City of Vista has amended sections of the Municipal Code pertaining to bicycles, recently on 1/9/24. Vista has aimed to clarify the rules around the growing use of e-bikes, with the key focus on ensuring safe and

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## South Melrose Landscaping District: Look For Your Ballot in the Mail

Your vote will determine if the new special assessment shall be authorized to fund current tree trimming and landscape services.

South Melrose property owners may be surprised to learn that the maintenance of trees and landscaping on public streets, parkways, and medians is funded through an annual special financing district assessment established in 1989 in which property owners contribute as part of their annual property taxes.

As a property owner in South Melrose, your input is vital. You should be receiving a ballot in the mail with the proposed annual assessment amount for your consideration.

### Simple Things To Do to Prevent Irrigation Runoff

**INSPECT**  
Check irrigation system for broken lines/sprinkler heads, replace if necessary

**ADJUST SPRINKLERS**  
Adjust sprinklers to prevent over-spray onto sidewalks and streets

**COVER SLOPES**  
Cover slopes with plants or mulch to prevent dirt from eroding

**TAKE A SPRINKLER BREAK**  
Check frequency/duration of irrigation system to prevent overwatering

**STORE SAFELY**  
Store pesticides, fertilizers, other chemicals in a covered area

**MINIMIZE**  
Minimize use of pesticides, fertilizer, other chemicals

[CITYOFVISTA.COM/STORMWATER](http://CITYOFVISTA.COM/STORMWATER)

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont.)

considerate use of e-bikes and other mobility devices on the city's paths, trails, public spaces, and intercity path and trail connectors. Regulations require helmet use and clarify rules for riding or not on sidewalks, in front of businesses, and other designated areas when posted. Some ordinances require mobility device operators to obey all traffic laws and subject them to fines for unsafe riding or sending first time offenders to education programs.

There are three equal key components for a successful e-bike use program:

- 1-Clear rules easily accessible to the public so e-bike users may be fully aware of their responsibilities.
- 2-Appropriate and consistent enforcement of rules.
- 3-Implementation of ongoing e-bike safety training programs

On April 9, City of Vista introduced an E-Bike Safety Training & Rebate Program in partnership with the San Diego County Bike Coalition to conduct three virtual training sessions focused on *Cont.* →

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont.)

e-bike safety covering essential safety guidelines and best practices for e-bike riders. In addition, the City plans to offer a 3-hour in-person training course that includes hands-on, practical training on e-bike usage and safety. This was approved by the City Council. We congratulate the City in taking this well-timed important step.

In addition, as noted above, there are other issues to consider such as the risk of battery explosions and fire, and increased e-bike thefts. There are many rules related to e-bike use but they are dispersed throughout the municipal coding system and it is difficult for the general public to inform themselves (see key component #1). Rules are useless unless they are enforced (key component #2). It seems that we are lacking in that area. Finally, it is important that appropriate signage be used extensively for parking and visibility issues.

— Francis Dumler, President

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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

**Creek to Bay Cleanup**  
OUR ENVIRONMENT

**Saturday, April 20**  
9 AM - 12 PM

Buena Vista Trail, across from 1280 Hacienda Dr.  
Where the 3 trails intersect.

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Registration Opens April 1 at [CleanSD.org/CreekToBay](https://www.CleanSD.org/CreekToBay)