



FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS:

ALL ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS! Saturday, March 2nd 11 am - 12:30 pm

Join MVSD's District Biologist and Dr. Lisa Tell from the UC Davis Hummingbird Health and Conservation Program (HHCP) as we delve into the lives of California's smallest avian residents and migrants. The health and population dynamics of hummingbird species in the state are the primary focus of the HHCP. We will begin inside with a PowerPoint presentation and then head out to the Wildlife Garden to see how hummingbirds are trapped, handled, identified, and marked (banded). Bring your curiosity, patience, questions, and a camera! This program is appropriate for adults and children 12-years-old and up and the program will run rain or shine. Successful animal trapping is unpredictable and live hummingbirds are not guaranteed. Reservations are required and space is limited to 20 participants. Email Kelly at kdavidson@mvsd.org to sign up.

MCNABNEY MARSH EARTH DAY CLEANUP & BIRD WATCHING EVENT! Saturday, April 13th

Birding Field Trip:
7:00 am - 9:00 am

Cleanup at McNabney Marsh:
9:30 am - Noon

Celebrate Earth Day a little early! We will start the day with a birding field trip hosted by the Mount Diablo Audubon Society followed by a Marsh cleanup. We will be removing trash in and around McNabney Marsh along Waterfront Road in Martinez. We will provide water and snacks, you will provide the necessary leg work to cleanup this sensitive habitat. Children 10-years-old and up (supervised by an adult) are welcome to participate. **Reservations and signed liability forms are REQUIRED.** Please bring: **a reusable water bottle, work gloves, a hat, and sunscreen and wear long pants and closed-toed shoes.** For more info and to RSVP, contact Heidi Petty at: hpetty@ccrcd.org. Heavy Rain cancels.



MVSD and the California Voting Rights Act



The Mt. View Sanitary District (District) is aware of the recent focus on the California Voting Rights Act (Act) in Martinez. The Act is found in the California

Elections Code beginning at Section 14025. Election Code Section 14026 (d) defines the Act's applicability to minorities who are part of a protected class as follows: "Protected class" means a class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group, as this class is referenced and defined in the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Act has generally been used to conduct elections on a district basis rather than using at-large election of legislative officers in jurisdictions where pockets of minorities claim their voting rights are being diluted by at-large elections.

The District Board of Directors is elected at-large and the incumbent Directors often run unopposed. Given the developments

in Martinez, the District Board determined the most responsible action was to determine whether there is any legitimate concern with noncompliance of the Act. On October 11, 2018 the District conducted a Public Hearing to obtain input about Act compliance. The District published a Notice of Public Hearing in both Spanish and English in the Martinez Gazette so that public testimony could be heard. **No one attended the Public Hearing and consequently, no public testimony was received.** Following the Public Hearing the District Board decided to further investigate the issue by hiring a demographer to study the District in order to identify if voting rights may be diluted by at-large elections within its boundaries.

The District is concerned that should Board member elections be changed from at-large positions to district-specific positions, we may not find interested candidates to represent each district. Citizens are invited to comment by emailing Assistant District Manager, Lilia Corona, at licorona@mvsd.org.

Staff Updates: Jeff Greer Recently Received Important Certification

Jeff Greer, MVSD's Wastewater Operations Supervisor/Chief Plant Operator (CPO), recently received his Grade V Certification. This important certification allows him to meet the needs of MVSD should a plant re-classification occur to comply with new treatment guidelines set forth by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Jeff is only the second Grade V operator to work for MVSD in its nearly 100 year history, and stated that "The Grade V was a career goal I've had since day one in this industry."

Jeff achieved this career goal through hard work and by taking advantage of the training program offered by the Bay Area Consortium for Water and Wastewater Education (BACWWE). The BACWWE Program allows students to take an assessment test and if they pass receive free water/wastewater education through Solano Community College. MVSD and other sanitary districts in the region are big supporters of the BACWWE Program because they see the benefit of highly trained staff performing the tasks necessary to ensure that wastewater is treated to the highest standards. MVSD is proud of Jeff and this awesome accomplishment and look forward to his leadership in his role as MVSD's CPO.



Jeff Greer,
Wastewater
Operations
Supervisor/Chief
Plant Operator

SAVE THE DATE! MOORHEN MARSH GRAND RE-OPENING Saturday, May 11th

MVSD is thrilled to announce the substantial completion of the Moorhen Marsh Western Pond Turtle Habitat Enhancement Project.

Staff are busy planning a special event to celebrate the official re-opening of the 21-acre site, which has been closed to the public since May 2017 to accommodate construction of the new visitor amenities and habitat enhancements.

This exciting FREE event will include refreshments, marsh and treatment plant tours, special presentations by wildlife specialists and more. Please join us in celebrating the successful completion of this very special project; we can't wait to share the many site upgrades with our customers and friends!

Spring Garden Reminder



We know spring is coming and you're starting to think about gardening. Please remember to put proper storage and disposal of pesticides on your to-do list. Pesticides need to be disposed of properly to prevent accidents and protect the environment. Please buy and mix only what you need and keep pesticides in their original containers with labels attached. When transporting pesticides, keep them away from groceries and pet food. For more information on safe disposal, please visit: <http://mvsd.org/residents-and-businesses/household-hazardous-waste-collection-facility/>



MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT
3800 Arthur Road
PO Box 2757
Martinez, CA 94553
925-228-5635

Biotower Upgrades Saves in Energy Costs!

You may recall in a previous newsletter that MVSD recently completed an upgrade of our Biotower, a key component in the wastewater treatment system. This upgrade has resulted in lower energy costs for MVSD and is one more way that we are always working to be good stewards of public funds. Before the upgrade, the distribution arms were propelled by pumping water through the arms. The upgraded Biotower equipment includes a low horsepower motor that rotates the water distribution arms at a programmable rate. This results in a significant power savings because of less pumping needed to rotate the arms.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MARTINEZ, CA
PERMIT NO. 45



Photo by: Tim Hopwood



Photo by: Steve Baird

Did you know an Anna's hummingbird nest is slightly larger than a walnut?

Get to Know the Anna's Hummingbird!

With their iridescent emerald and fuchsia-colored feathers, the Anna's Hummingbird is a sight to behold. These tiny ping-pong ball-sized birds are common in urban and suburban settings, as well as in wild habitats. They are commonly found near eucalyptus, even though these trees were only introduced to California in the mid-nineteenth century.

Anna's Hummingbirds feed on nectar from many native flowering plants, as well as introduced species. They also eat insects and spiders that they glean from understory leaves and flowers, as well as rock crevices and buildings. Hummers can also take insects on the wing.

Hummingbird nests are amazing feats of engineering skill. The female takes about 7 days to construct the 1" tall by 1.5" diameter structure. She uses cattail, willow, thistle, and downy feathers to form the base. These fibers are bound together by spider silk or insect cocoons. In California, the breeding season begins in December and usually lasts through May or June.

Anna's Hummingbirds can be found around the MVSD Administration Building and the Wildlife Garden near the Interpretive Center year-round.



If you would like to receive an electronic version of the *Mt. View Monitor* in your e-mail, please visit www.mvsd.org to sign up.

For a sewer emergency 24/7:
Call (925)228-5635



Visit www.facebook.com/mtviewsd