



17575 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-4128
TEL: (408) 779-7271
FAX: (408) 779-3117
www.morganhill.ca.gov

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Contact:

Nichole Martin
Community Services Supervisor
nichole.martin@morganhill.ca.gov

Parks and Recreation Commission to Recognize Two Volunteer Groups Working to Cleanup Morgan Hill

Morgan Hill, CA *March 12, 2021* – The Parks and Recreation Commission will be recognizing two volunteer groups at the March 16, 2021 meeting. Over the last several months, the Morgan Hill Clean Up Project, led by Jeffrey Prickett, and the Orchard Valley Toros youth soccer organization have dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to picking up litter around parks, trails, and other public spaces in Morgan Hill.

Jeffrey Prickett is a Morgan Hill resident who was inspired to act as he spent more time outdoors in the Morgan Hill community while working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“In August last year, I bought a grabber, gloves and garbage bags at a local hardware store, and got started - one or two bags a week, putting in my own garbage receptacle,” said Jeffrey Prickett. “Since then, this has grown from my weekly solo efforts in my neighborhood, to participating in Coastal California Cleanup, to adopting a portion of Little Llagas Creek with Valley Water, and to organizing 2-3 group volunteer clean ups each month - targeting different parts of the city. By cleaning up different parts of the city, and working with the city and other groups, we hope to reduce littering and dumping in the short and long term, and to increase awareness of, and participation in our efforts. Our goal is to end littering and dumping in Morgan Hill by the end of 2021 and inspire the same in other communities. In the unique times we are all traversing, I believe that service, community and beauty may be more important than ever.”

The Orchard Valley Toros youth soccer organization is committed to providing South County area children with a fun and rewarding soccer experience and to teach them to love the game of soccer. The organization also works to build youth confidence and respect for their peers.

“The OV Toros youth soccer organization is supported significantly by families within the Morgan Hill community and surrounding areas. We felt that the best way to show our appreciation for the support we receive was to gather together and aid in keeping Morgan Hill beautiful,” said OV Toros president, Chris Winchester. “We’re looking forward to continuing to partner on future community events.”

“Parks are the heart of our community and places all of our residents should be able to be proud of. The dedication of these two groups has helped to ensure that our public parks are clean and safe for community members of all ages,” said Chris Ghione, Public Services Director for the City of Morgan Hill. “We can’t thank them enough for their efforts in making Morgan Hill a wonderful place to live and spend time outside.”

If you are interested in participating in a planned community clean up or getting involved with the City of Morgan Hill’s Adopt-A-Park program, please visit www.helpmorganhillparks.com. For more information about the Morgan Hill Parks and Recreation Commission, please visit www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/568/Parks-Recreation-Commission.

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