



## Civic Engagement

Along with challenges around COVID-19, fires, air quality, and the personal obligations we must continue to meet, we add the Election. It is coming up fast. Fortunately, California is doing much to make voting easier in 2020, from early voting options in some counties, to multiple ways to cast our ballots. See the **Election 2020: It Takes a Village** article for details. And Vote!

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## From the Executive Director



*Charlotte*

Over Labor Day weekend I safely travelled to Humboldt County from the Bay Area. While there, I met with Pat Bitton, Board member of Redwood Coast Village. We wore masks and maintained physical distance in the outside seating area of a local winery. One of her many projects is contributing to the *September 22 Master Plan for Aging Legislative Roundtable* sponsored by the State Senator, Director of California Health and Human Services, and Director of the California Department of Aging. Village leadership will share their perspective on social isolation and transportation with these State

officials and other leaders in the community. This kind of civic engagement is a hallmark of the village movement. On top of keeping people connected through Zoom, making phone calls to check on members, and providing rides to essential medical services, villages make an effort to shape the policies and systems that contribute to older adults' quality of life.

One of the most important acts of civic engagement is voting. November 3 is just seven weeks away. Our Secretary of State, the California Legislature, and our Governor, are taking many measures to make sure each of us can exercise our vote safely. Read on to learn more specifics about voting by mail, early voting, ballot drop offs, ballot tracking.

As 501©3 organizations, neither Village Movement California nor its members can endorse specific candidates, but we can educate our members and volunteers about voting and emphasize its value to ourselves and our country. ##

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## Villages, Fires, and Emergency Preparedness

This fire season looks to be long and tragic. Please connect with [Listos California](#), the emergency preparedness program out of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and link up with your local first responders. Your life, and those in your villages, may depend on this.



See **Tales From the Village** below for how the Villages of Santa Cruz County helped members prepare for the CZU Lightening Complex fire and what they learned from evacuating.

Donate to a wildfire relief fund. The California Community Foundations have set up funds in [Northern](#) and [Southern California](#). ##

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## Diversity & Inclusion – National Hispanic Heritage Month Plus Leaders Invited!



A key task in the journey towards becoming a more diverse and inclusive movement is learning about the cultures and experiences of older adults in our communities. We are fortunate in this era to be able to access resources online.

September 15 – October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to recognize the history, contributions, and influence of Hispanic and Latinx Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. With its history as a territory of Spain and Mexico, California's roots are steeped in this culture, and the largest ethnic group in our state is now Hispanics and Latinx.

Curious about the use of Latinx? Look for a link on our website's [Diversity Equity and Inclusion page](#), and ask village members and volunteers who claim that identity to share their thoughts!

On another front, we are looking for four to six people interested in taking part in a series of workshops during the Winter and Spring of 2020 called [UNtraining White Liberal Racism](#). This training supports learning about conditioning as White people, examining the complex landscape of systemic racism, and openly talking about thoughts and feelings so that we can take action to create authentically diverse and inclusive organizations.

This kind of work is a necessary step towards opening up our movement to more of California's older adults. We submitted a grant to [Next50 Initiative](#) to support a cohort of leaders to participate in this training, along with several other activities, and will receive notification of funding in November. Please email Charlotte if you are curious about this opportunity! [charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org)##

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## Update: Master Plan for Aging

The Master Plan's Stakeholder Advisory Committee will submit its recommendations to the Governor on September 22. The Governor and his cabinet will incorporate the recommendations, add their own, and approve the final plan in December. The Master Plan's official website is [HERE](#).



Village Movement California members have diligently worked to secure recognition for villages as a best practice for building livable communities where older adults are socially and civically connected, and experience purpose and meaning in their lives. We are still working on getting villages listed as a best practice in the health and wellness section of the plan. Advocacy will continue through October.

The California Senior Legislature and Village Movement California are jointly holding a Village Caucus on **September 17** to explore how the state might support village growth and development once the Master Plan is adopted. To join the call, register [HERE](#).

We've come a long way since June 2019, when Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order calling for a Master Plan for Aging. Our coalition has achieved recognition of the village movement's value to older Californians. It's a start! Let's continue to put meat on the bones. ##

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# Tales From the Village

## Disaster Preparation Makes a Difference

By Carol Haig, Editor



On August 16, the CZU Lightening Complex fire threatened the members and volunteers of the [Village of Santa Cruz County](#). Mary Howe, village Board Chair, was trained as a trainer by [Listos](#) before COVID and began offering their preparedness training in Santa Cruz County, helping village members and residents make plans to respond to an emergency. Thanks to this program, village members were ready and able to evacuate when required.

The Village of Santa Cruz County serves 60 members in partnership with the [Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County](#). Because of the expansive area the village covers, members get together in one of four Community Circles to build relationships, share in activities of interest, and help each other when requested. Each Community Circle meets regularly, on Zoom these days, to socialize, in addition to weekly Zoom gatherings open to all members.

During the CZU fire, evacuation orders varied from *be prepared*, to *recommended*, to *mandatory* within the county. Five village members had to evacuate while six or seven others living in proximity to the most hard-hit area of the county left voluntarily. No village members lost their homes, although there is currently no power in the burned areas and the water is unsafe to drink or use in any form. Fresh water is being trucked into affected areas.

Members in the burned areas face much clean up: all refrigerated food has spoiled and in some cases refrigerators must be replaced because the smells cannot be removed.

Recently, the entire village was invited to attend a Zoom meeting to debrief the events of the fire and to discuss lessons learned. Here are highlights to help your village members be ready in an emergency of any kind:

- As part of your emergency preparations, make these lists
  - 1-Minute Notice: what to do/take if you only have 1 minute to evacuate (a go-bag should be packed and ready at all times but there might be last minute items to add, such as medications, etc.)
  - 1-Hour Notice: list of what to do/take if you have an hour to pack
  - 4-hour notice: what to do/take if you have four hours to evacuate
  - List of things to do after you have evacuated and are in a safe place (who to contact, appointments to cancel, etc.) – while evacuated it's easy to lose track of things
  - Think of the 6 P's: people, pets, prescriptions, phone, purse, personal
- Keep in touch with friends – it is very helpful emotionally to stay connected
- Pets
  - “My cats and their needed items took up half my car space—I didn't have room for any non-practical items”
  - If you know you may need to evacuate, secure your pets beforehand as they will probably get frightened in an evacuation and hide – don't count on them

acting in their normal way (normally they will come if called or you know their hiding places)

- Take pictures of rooms both for insurance and for your sentimental memories
- “I took my pillows, knowing how important good sleep would be in this stressful time”
- “During evacuation, I discovered how little one can exist on”
- Have an evacuation plan and know where you are going – write/memorize directions, street names
  - In the confusion and panic, you may forget directions you normally know
  - Know an alternate route you can take (safely) if the main roads are clogged
- When you are ordered to evacuate do it: I repeated to myself, “It’s time to go, this is just a house, my life is much more important”—if your home is lost (burned) look to the future
- The experience made everyone aware of how important Emergency Preparedness is—take the training before an emergency arises so you will be better prepared

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## CVV Generates Extra Revenue

By Carol Gray, Executive Director



Looking to generate some revenue for your village? Here’s how Clayton Valley Village uses their newsletter to promote local businesses through advertising while earning some extra money.

Village leadership thought local businesses would be interested in advertising because the village mailing list is composed of people who live in the immediate community and patronize them. However, because most are closed for now due to COVID-19, the village has not yet formally approached local businesses.

In the interim, the village invited members, volunteers, and interested local businesses to place a business card-sized ad. Carol Grey receives these graphics and edits them to fit the newsletter. If someone doesn’t have a graphic they can send the text of what they want the ad to say, and Carol will design it for them for an extra \$10. This happened with one of their first ads—a member was having an estate sale and Carol created the ad for her.

The ads are very reasonably priced compared to traditional advertising in local papers. Please contact Carol Gray at [claytonvalleyvillage.org](http://claytonvalleyvillage.org) for more information. ##

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# Election 2020: It Takes a Village!

By Rochelle Lefkowitz, Co-Chair, Ashby Village **ELDER ACTION**



Election Day is less than two months away. Ordinarily, you might volunteer to help register voters, drive voters to and from the polls, volunteer to be a poll worker, then wait in line at your polling place to vote on Election Day. But these are anything but ordinary times.

Due to COVID-19 and the Voters’ Choice Act, voting in California includes some significant changes since 2018. For instance, this fall, **every registered California voter will get an official ballot in the mail**. Some things about ourselves—like our address, hearing, or vision, may also have changed. Sometimes, it all looks too complicated to follow alone. So, this year, plan ahead! Rather than thinking *Election Day*, think of October as *Election Month*. **Create a Village Vote Team**. Then, make two plans—one for you and one for your Village!

At the invitation of Village Movement California, **Elder Action**, an interest group of close to 80 members of Ashby Village ([elderactionnow@gmail.com](mailto:elderactionnow@gmail.com)), has gathered some facts to equip your village to help your members register to vote, check their registration status, cast, then track their ballots, and get their questions answered in time for their votes to count.

Closed polling places and post offices, COVID-19 risks, even Election Day rain, may make us want to avoid Election Day lines despite new safety precautions now in place. Fortunately, there are other safe and easy choices. *No one has to choose between their health and their right to vote!*

### Key Election Dates

Early Voting	10/06/20 in some counties*
California’s Voter Registration Deadline	10/19/20
Vote by Mail Application Deadline	10/27/20
Vote by Mail Submission Deadline	11/03/20
Provisional Ballot Deadline	11/03/20
Election Day	11/03/20 7am – 8pm

\*Early Voting counties are: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne

### Registration Information

Go to [www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov) for registration information. A village leader or volunteer can get registration forms at many libraries, post offices, DMV field offices or your county Registrar of Voters office.

### Check Your Registration Status

To make sure you’re registered to vote, with the correct information about your current residence, etc., check your status [HERE](#).

## Track Your Mail-in Ballot

In California the integrity of mail-in ballots is secured by watermarks, unique bar codes (each ballot has one), and signature matching. The County will contact a voter if there is a question about the signature. Voters can sign up to receive text, email, and phone notification of their ballot's progress by signing up at [wheresmyballot.sos.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.gov).

## Early Voting

In counties participating in the *Voters' Choice Act* in 2020, all registered voters will receive their ballots 28 days before Election Day on October 6, 2020. You're free to cast your ballot in person until November 2, 2020, the day before Election Day, at any voter center in your county, which are all accessible to voters with disabilities. Open hours vary by county.

## Election Protection

A national partnership of nonprofit, non-partisan groups, including the ACLU, Common Cause, League of Women Voters, NAACP, SEIU and others, was formed to ensure all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. To report irregularities, if you're unable to reach the California Secretary of State's office at **(916) 657-5448**, call the partnership hotline at **866-OUR VOTE (866-687-8683)**, including on Election Day.

## Ballot Measures

This year, there are ballot measures 14-25 to vote on. Two sources provide information about each: our state's *Qualified Statewide Ballot Measure* you will get in the mail and the *League of Women Voters/CA* (916-442-7215; [lwvc@lwvc.org](mailto:lwvc@lwvc.org)).

## Five Things You Can Do

1. **Encourage your friends and family to register and vote.** Sometimes grandparents are the most effective messengers. Be creative. Offer to walk their dogs, pack their lunch, or drive them to the polls or ballot drop box on Election Day.
2. **Recruit poll workers.** Urge younger neighbors between jobs, village volunteers, or members of your *Next-Door.com* neighborhood to sign up to be poll workers on Election Day, November 3.
3. **Help get out the vote from home.** Send peer to peer texts or postcards, or make calls to turn out registered voters from the safety of your own home. Contact CARA, the *California Alliance of Retired Americans* ([cynthia.cara@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.cara@gmail.com) or [jreid.cara@gmail.com](mailto:jreid.cara@gmail.com) or 510-663-4086) or the *League of Women Voters* in your area for lists of elder voters and scripts.
4. **Create and update a Ballot Drop Box Chart** for your Village. For example, **ELDER ACTION** made [this chart](#) for Ashby Village communities: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Kensington, North Oakland and Richmond. Then organize a group of trusted Village volunteers to drop off ballots.
5. **Share the tips offered here** and your ideas with prospective village members and your contacts at grocery stores, hair salons, neighborhood cafes, houses of worship, book groups, or in your October village newsletter.

## Cast Your Ballot

Don't wait until Election Day. Vote early by mail by filling out your ballot and dropping it off at an ROV (Registrar of Voters) labeled Ballot Drop Box near you (See #4 above).

Ballot Drop Boxes may be a safer and more reliable way to cast ballots now rather than the U.S. mail. The Alameda County ROV says it plans to have its Drop Boxes emptied as Election Day approaches as many as 5 times each day. Your Village Vote Team can create and update its Ballot Drop Box list for your Village.

### Still Have Questions?

Contact the California Secretary of State's Voter Information online at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/> or call toll free: **800-345 VOTE (8683)**. There you can order large print Official Voter Information Guides or CDs with audio in 10 languages, or ask any other questions about voting,

**Election Day Returns.** Consider organizing a Zoom election watch party for your village. Even though we may still need to be apart, thanks to our villages, we need not be alone. ##

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## Senior Medicare Patrol



Micki Nozaki, the Director of Senior Medicare Patrol, presented these [slides](#) during the August 27 webinar, *COVID-19 and Medicare Fraud Update*. She also shared this [tip sheet](#) about Medicare Fraud protection, and this [flier](#) about the upcoming Medicare enrollment period.

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## We Are Hiring: Technology and Social Media Assistant

Looking for a short-term, absorbing work role in a vital organization? [Village Movement California](#) seeks a tech-savvy, creative, energetic, forward-thinking person to join our team.

As our Technology and Social Media Assistant, you will support our technology platforms such as: website, database, Survey Monkey, Zoom, Basecamp, YouTube, Mailchimp, Google analytics. Your responsibilities will include new projects as well as updating and maintaining existing procedures that run our technical infrastructure. For details, look [HERE](#). ##

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## Upcoming Events



**Weekly AARP Tele-Townhall Calls** continue with helpful information during COVID-19. Calls take place every Thursday. Find detailed information and topics [HERE](#). ##





## National Virtual Village Gathering – 20/20 Clear Vision for the Future

October 6, 13, and 20, 2020

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. ##



### Zoom Call on State Support for Villages

**September 17 1:00 – 2:30 pm:** The California Senior Legislature and Village Movement California will host a Zoom call to explore how we might advance state legislation to sustain and grow the village

movement. Speakers will address how villages can meet the goals of the Master Plan for Aging, and participants will reflect on specific needs legislation might address.

Register [HERE](#). ##



### Mission Minded Video-Sharing Workshop

**October 14, 1:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Learn best practices for sharing the village marketing video with a focus on social media. This workshop is for those villages that have made a matching contribution to the video. Information including a Zoom link will

be sent to participating villages. It's not too late to contribute! Contact Charlotte Dickson if you'd like to join this workshop and receive an official copy of the video:

[charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org](mailto:charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org), 510-900-6380. ##

## Special COVID-19 Resources

### Ask an Expert



A daily COVID-19 feature on the San Francisco Bay Area all-news radio station, KCBS, each Q&A session has a pandemic-related subject and compiles listener questions into a 20-minute discussion with a subject matter expert. All discussions are available in recorded and transcribed formats [here](#).

A recent program discussed [healthier indoor spaces](#), including what to look for in an indoor air purifier, an increasingly important topic as we add air quality concerns to shelter-in-place. ##

All newsletters are archived [HERE](#)

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3220 Fulton Street San Francisco, CA 94118

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