



TENTATIVE JUNE MEETING

► **May Meeting & Events Were Cancelled** ◀

► **Wednesday, June 17th, 2020** ◀

Meeting @7:30pm ~ Late Arrivals Okay! ☺

Vista Park Community Room - 475 Hyde Park Drive

► **Everyone is welcome. Invite a neighbor, or two!** ◀

NOTICE: If the "Shelter in Place" order is extended, the June Meeting will be changed to an online Virtual Presentation, and VEPCA's Business Meeting will be postponed until autumn. Please watch your Email for VEPCA Updates!

TENTATIVE AGENDA

☆ **Meet D10 Councilmember Elect** ☆

with Matt Mahan

District 10, City of San Jose – Effective January 2021

☆ **Information & Updates: City of San Jose** ☆
from the Office of District 10 Councilmember Khamis

☆ **VEP Business Meeting** ☆

2020 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Awards will be presented to the winning High School Seniors!

VEPCA OFFICER ELECTION

Members in attendance will be asked to vote to approve the Slate of Officers to serve on the VEPCA Board of Directors:

SLATE: Cindy Bosworth, Lisa Sanchez & Greg West
More Officers May Still Be Added before the Voting!

☆ **Your Concerns and Ideas** ☆

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.

~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

(All Community Events & Meetings are Cancelled until Further Notice. Please watch for updates!)

After June 17th, VEPCA will be on "Summer Break" through the month of August. VEPCA business and meetings will resume in September 2020.

Please be sure to watch your email for summer updates and announcements during the "Summer Break."

★ **2020 is VEPCA's 51st Year!** ★

May and June VEP Community Meetings

By VEP News Staff

Our May membership meeting is cancelled due, again, to the shelter-in-place order. Our next meeting is planned for **Wednesday, June 17th with our District 10 Councilmember-Elect, Matt Mahan**, scheduled, provided that the shelter-in-place is lifted by then. VEPCA will also present the **2020 Community Service Awards** to local high school seniors. We are meeting on Wednesday in June so as not to conflict with the evening City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 16th (we want our councilmember-elect fully up to speed when he officially takes office in January 2021).

If the "Shelter In Place" is extended, the June 17th meeting will be converted to a presentation over "Zoom," or something similar, and VEPCA's "business" portion of the meeting will be postponed. Please keep an eye on your email inbox for any updates from VEP!

However, if you've been jonesin' for a community meeting before the June VEPCA meeting, please make note of the **Valley Water virtual meeting** announcement, below, and register to attend on-line.

Join Valley Water for an upcoming virtual presentation!

"Water Works: Lunch and Learn Webinar Series: Learn about how Valley Water provides Safe, Clean Water & Natural Flood Protection for all." They will share what Valley Water is doing to provide safe, clean drinking water and natural flood protection, protect our waterways and environment, and maintain and upgrade our infrastructure to ensure we have enough water for the future.

Thursday, June 4, 12:00 noon to 12:45 p.m.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/103566552346>



Take the "Valley Water Survey"

Valley Water is also encouraging everyone to give input on their "Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection" priorities. They hope you will take a short, two-minute survey at this link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/safecleanwater

Your answers help guide Valley Water as they set Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program priorities.

VEPCA "Community Service Award" Winners

By Laura McGeever

The VEP Community Association has a 50-year tradition of community service for the Blossom Valley neighborhoods of San Jose. In order to encourage community service and volunteerism in the next generation, VEP honors deserving high school seniors with a monetary award for their post-secondary education of their choice.

This year, VEP has selected from the "Class of 2020" the following honorees:

- **Joshua Garcia** from Gunderson High School
- **Isaac Star** from Andrew P. Hill High School

The winners will receive an award of \$1000 each in honor of their quality and quantity of community service they performed in high school. Each winner will be part of their high school's Senior Award Ceremony.

VEP NEWS

The **VEP News** is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent homeowners in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. Now, in 2020, this has grown to encompass more than 2,800 homes. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to active involvement in civic affairs. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to schools and government officials serving our membership area.

VEP News is published each month annually, with the exception of a "Summer Break" from June through August. We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Board of Directors, attempt to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community. Persons, schools, or organizations who are interested in submitting articles, letters, or information to be included in the **VEP News** are encouraged to contact the Editor, Rachel Witmeyer. Business entities interested in advertising with the VEP News are encouraged to contact the Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez. (See Below for contact information.)

VEP Community Association Membership

Persons who would like to join the VEP Community Association may send their name, address, and \$20 yearly dues to:

VEP Community Association
P.O. BOX 18037; SAN JOSE, CA; 95158.

Please, do not send cash. Make checks payable to "VEP."

VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

President: Greg West - GREG.WEST@EARTHLINK.NET - 408-829-4686

Vice President: Cindy Bosworth - BOZ555@MSN.COM

Secretary: Laura McGeever - LJMCGEEVER@ME.COM

Treasurer: Lisa Sanchez - LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM

Director: Robert Supencheck - ROBERTSUPENCHECK@GMAIL.COM

Director & VEP News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - VEPEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

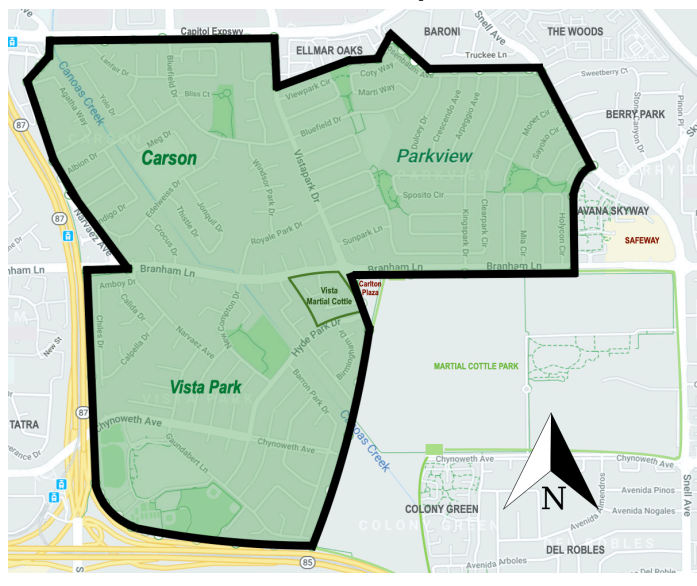
Director: POSITION VACANT

WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

EMAIL: VEP@VEPCA.NET

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group! -

VEP Membership Area



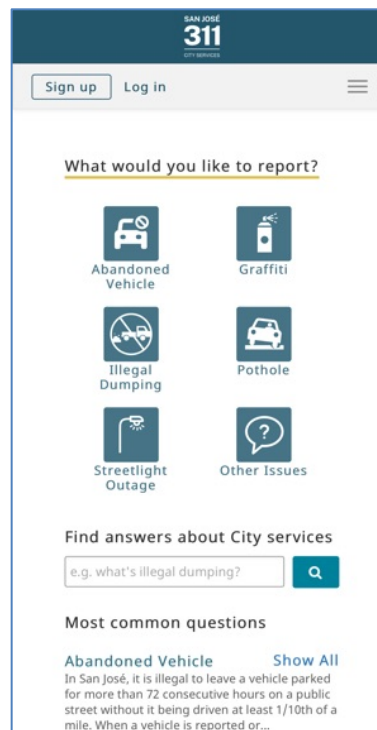
President's Corner

By Greg West

Again, I hope we find you all well and safe. Once again, we've had to cancel this month's meeting because of the shelter-in-place order. Hopefully, the order will be lifted at the end of this month so that we can meet in June. We've been patiently waiting to hear from our council member-elect, Matt Mahan, in person.

VEPCA has also been forced to cancel several community events over the last couple of months including the Community Garage Sale and the Spring Clean-up Day. In addition, County Parks has cancelled the Martial Cottle Park Spring Celebration. We will keep an ear out for if, or when, this will be rescheduled.

Please note, that the "My San Jose" app is no longer called that. It's now the "San Jose 311" app and is still available for free from your favorite app store. I have nothing but good things to say about this service, especially for graffiti abatement. As you may know, Chynoweth Avenue under Hwy 87 gets tagged frequently. When I see any tags, I take a picture and report it on the San Jose 311 app. The app says that the city will respond within three working days, but, the response is typically much quicker than that. I reported 3 instances of graffiti on May 11th; on one of the highway support columns, on the sidewalk just to the east of the freeway, and up on the wall just underneath the freeway. I caught one guy in the act for this one -- see photograph, below! And on May 13th, I had received a response from the City that all three instances had already been abated (and they had). And that is their typical outstanding service!



"San Jose 311" can also be used for many other helpful tasks, like reporting illegal dumping, potholes, abandoned vehicles, and streetlight outages. Response times vary, but most requests are addressed within one week. Give it a try to help keep your street and our neighborhoods clean and safe!

Finally, we are coming up on the end of term of office for our current officers. We have an outstanding group of folks that have been serving the VEP community well for the past couple of years, including our newsletter editor, Rachel Witmeyer, who is retiring from this job after doing an outstanding job for 7 years. I have committed to take over as VEP News Editor, but, we need some new folks to help with leadership. If you are

interested, please contact me or any of the other officers. We usually hold elections this month, but we will put elections off until the June meeting. Hopefully, we will have a full slate!

A Letter from the Editor

By Rachel Witmeyer

I have truly enjoyed my service as a Director for VEPCA and "Editor" of the VEP News for the past seven years, but it is time for me to step down and focus on my family. My husband, Robert, and I are expecting our first child in early October and I know I will need all the extra time I can muster!

I appreciate the occasional notes from VEP members who enjoy and value this publication as well as the work that goes into producing it. I also appreciate the support from our dedicated VEP volunteers that help get the physical newsletters mailed. That team has varied over the years, including folks like Bob & Barb Aquino, Adina Pierce, Debra Suydam, and most recently, Greg West and Chris & Andy Gray. Without their work to print and affix mailing labels and handle the actual mailing process at the Main Post Office, the newsletters would never "go" anywhere.

Our current VEPCA President, Greg West, is stepping into the Editor role and that leaves a big vacancy on the Board. We are also in need of a new (Recording) Secretary and two more Directors. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who would like to get more involved to step-in and help fill these four vacant positions.

VEPCA does a lot more than produce this newsletter. VEPCA is in its 51st year and now represents and serves more homes and families than ever before (2,800!!!). We need just a few people to step up and help lead VEPCA into the next year, and into the future. Because without strong leadership, VEPCA cannot continue offering the same level of local advocacy and community events.

It takes "many hands" to coordinate events like neighborhood beautification days and "Santa in the Park" each year. If you and your family appreciate having someone to help you advocate for our neighborhoods at the city and county level, someone to help keep our neighborhood parks and streets beautiful, and if you enjoy the opportunity to join together with neighbors for "Santa Photos" and the May "Community-Wide Garage Sale," then please consider volunteering today!

Even though I am stepping down from my current role, I plan to continue serving as a VEP volunteer whenever possible. I know I may have to wait until our baby is more grown, but I look forward to continuing my service as a "flyer walker" in the neighborhoods, putting in some real work on beautification days, and lending a hand at "Santa in the Park." I hope to see you all around the community and at future VEPCA events.

VEP Needs YOU



Officers Needed!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP VEPCA EFFECTIVE!

Several Positions Open after May 2020:

- VEPCA President - VEPCA Secretary
- 2 Directors on the VEPCA Board of Directors

Help VEPCA Stay Strong and Effective!

Contact VEP's President, Greg West:
Greg.West@earthlink.net / 408-829-4686

Adopt A Park

By Bob Bosworth

The City of San Jose has many opportunities to volunteer. There's the library system and community centers, but most are in local city parks and they allow community groups a chance to clean up a nearby park or several parks at once. VEP has been involved in many of these over the years.

One way to get directly involved and show pride in your neighborhood is the **Adopt-A-Park program**. San Jose has over 200 local parks that include about 60 miles of trails.

Parks are maintained by parks maintenance crews that are, in reality, stretched pretty thin. Those crews generally mow the lawns, empty trash and perform yearly foliage trims. They also respond to citizen reports of maintenance problems. The Adopt-A-Park program offers willing citizens an opportunity to volunteer directly in a park of their choosing and perform simple maintenance. This can include litter removal, weeding, leaf raking, graffiti abatement, making sure amenities are clean and in good working order, simple cleanup and reporting problems to the Parks Department.



The program wants volunteers to work about two hours a week and they can set their own schedule. A commitment of one year is required. Basic tools like trash grabber, gloves, cleanup supplies and a volunteer vest are all provided after an orientation class.

My family adopted Parkview Park III about a year ago and I am generally out there either Monday or Tuesday mornings (except for the last 6 or so weeks). It gets me outside and I am able to meet some very nice people.

According to the city's website, Parkview I and II, Meadows Park and Vista Park (all in VEP's area) are all open for adoption now! Please consider adopting one of our neighborhood parks to help keep them clean and beautiful for all our families!

Mollie Tobias is in charge of the program and she can be contacted at: ParkVolunteer@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 535-3483.

Your Neighborhood Property Manager



Andrea Vernerova
(408) 621-4921
andrea@cmpmi.com



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Contact VEP Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez:
LisaS.VEP@gmail.com



Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis
District 10 - City of San Jose

Public Safety Updates

There's mostly good news to report on the crime front based upon SJPD Chief Eddie Garcia's most recent report to the City Council during the weekly COVID-19 Updates portion of the City Council meeting (item 3.1 on the agenda). Most serious crimes - violent crimes and property crimes - are down year-to-year. The exceptions are in domestic rape, school burglaries, and commercial burglaries. The domestic rapes number, while fairly small, is concerning, given that we've been sheltered in place for several weeks and it may be exacerbating existing conflicts or violence within the home. Elsewhere in this newsletter is information on resources available if you or someone you know needs to talk through anger issues and find an appropriate outlet for them, and, as always, if you feel threatened in your living situation – call 9-1-1. If you feel unsafe calling, send a text to "911" (no dashes or spaces) from your mobile device.

COMPARISON OF PART I CRIMES, BY WEEK

TIME PERIOD: 3.15.2019 - 4.25.2019 vs. 3.15.2020 - 4.25.2020

Categories	Week of: 3/15-4/25			
	Year: 2019	2020	Change	% Change
VIOLENT CRIMES	505	396	-109	-21.6%
HOMICIDE	4	2	-2	-50.0%
RAPE	68	57	-11	-16.2%
Domestic Rape	3	8	5	166.7%
ROBBERY	183	135	-48	-26.2%
Domestic Robbery	0	5	5	N/A
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	250	202	-48	-19.2%
Domestic Violence	35	35	0	0.0%
273 DA PC Child Abuse Agg Inj	12	13	1	8.3%
PROPERTY CRIMES	3024	2298	-726	-24.0%
BURGLARY	481	451	-30	-6.2%
Commercial Burglary	258	275	17	6.6%
Residential Burglary	219	158	-61	-27.9%
School Burglary	4	18	14	350.0%
LARCENY-THEFT	1738	1130	-608	-35.0%
AUTO THEFT	805	717	-88	-10.9%
TOTALS:	3529	2694	-835	-23.7%

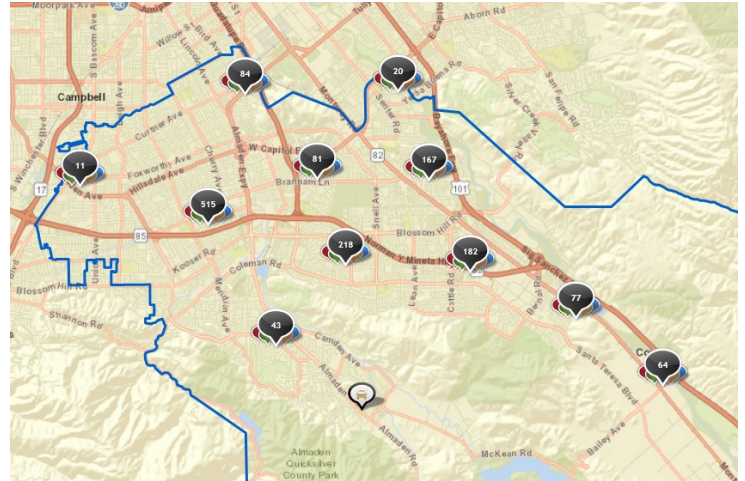
Also concerning, but not unexpected, is that while home burglaries are down, with most of us home 24-7 of late, business and school break-ins are happening more frequently. In response, SJPD officers have stepped up their patrols and have captured several burglars, but the courts have been releasing them almost immediately, without bail, because they are considered non-violent.

The SJPD has also stepped up traffic enforcement, with our Southern Division Police Captain, Elle Washburn, personally making a stop of a vehicle that was clearly speeding near Santa Teresa Boulevard & Blossom Hill Road. Captain Washburn reports that over the past three months, there were 1,392 total incidents where officers cited either hazardous or non-hazardous citations in the Southern Division.

These were mostly generated by officer-initiated activity. Some were reported by residents. Of the 1,392 incidents, 693 were considered hazardous or "Moving Violations". The police helicopter has been getting dispatched to help put a stop to dangerous drag racing, as well, so if you hear the helicopter operating in the neighborhood, they're likely after the night racers that you've been

reporting! For more information and statistics, or to report crimes online, visit the San Jose Police Department website at www.sjpd.org.

INCIDENT MAP



I am grateful to Captain Washburn and her officers – and all of the men and women of the SJPD. Captain Washburn and her team is very responsive to our constituents and we appreciate their efforts to keep us safe and catch those who do our community harm.

Contact the Office of D10 Councilmember Khamis

Office Phone: 408-535-4910 Website: sjd10.com



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VEPCA Wants to Know:

What do you want to know?

What are your current concerns?

What would you like to learn about?

Which local leaders would you like to meet?

How can VEPCA help YOUR neighborhood?

Please send your ideas to VEPCA President West!

Your input will be used to help plan future community meetings for you and your neighbors!

Call or Email President West Today!

GREG.WEST@EARTHLINK.NET / 408-829-4686



COUNTY SUPERVISOR MIKE WASSERMAN

May 2020 County Update

When my wife Kim and I chose to buy our home in Santa Clara County after both graduating from USC in 1980, little did we know what our future held. We were just a couple of kids stretching to buy our first house. We didn't know then that we would raise our two children here, make lifelong friends, start businesses, volunteer, coach sports and become heavily involved in civic life. But our first house turned out to be our home. And this became our community. In the 40 years that Kim and I have lived here, we have witnessed everything from tragedy and loss with the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake to triumph and growth of Silicon Valley.

While the deep and lasting effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic have come to define lives across the world, I have been heartened by what I have seen in our community during this crisis. Neighbors helping neighbors, residents rallying behind businesses to keep them afloat and genuine kindness in countless areas. The County, City of San Jose, faith-based organizations, service clubs, schools and many other groups were quick to provide resources for individuals, families and businesses during the crisis. Residents immediately switched onto "help mode" to support our community. Everywhere I turn there are groups offering assistance with food, clothing, rent, meals for school age children, mental health counseling, checking in on Seniors, unemployment filings and even free dog walking.

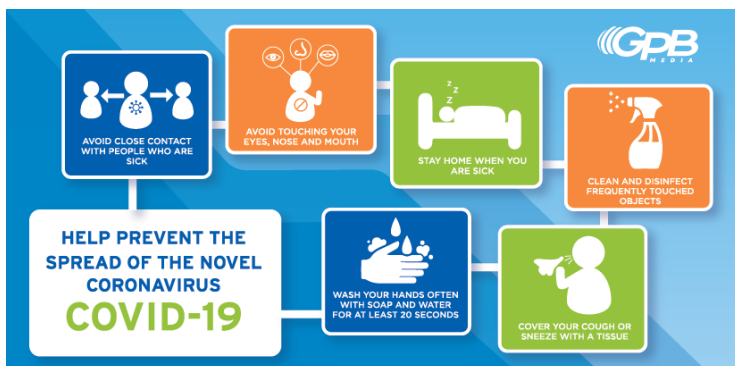
As your County Supervisor, my COVID-19 days and nights include hundreds of emails, phone calls, conference calls, and ZOOM meetings that start early and only end when Kim insists I turn off the laptop and get some sleep. Our three dogs do their part by asking for a walk each day.

I cannot begin to express my heartache for the suffering in our community as a result of this crisis. Some people contact me with tax questions. Some ask for help with older family members and others are desperately trying to hang on to their health, homes and livelihood. While I hope never to see a health and economic crisis like COVID-19 again, my goal going forward is to help our community and our County recover and come back stronger than before.

I know that San Jose is a community that cares. It has been said that true character is revealed during times of crisis. I believe that this applies to communities as well. San Jose: you are rock-solid, and I am proud of you.

Stay strong,
Mike Wasserman, Vice President
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

www.supervisorwasserman.org



A Message About Face-Masks, from a Hearing-Impaired VEP Member

By Lynne Kinsey

This is the message I wish all people with normal hearing would read and understand. Please share it with those you want to understand why you don't understand them.

WANING FEELINGS ABOUT FACE-MASKS

Don't get me wrong. I fully understand that face-masks are absolutely necessary when I venture out into the world of people. I, also, expect others to do the same, even though I see many that do not. I am impressed and amazed at the variety and creativity of the style and appearance of face-masks. Many are homemade or are purchased, some are temporarily tied in place. The important thing is that you are protecting yourself and you are protecting others from the things that you breathe out.

My differing feelings have little to do with the protective quality of face-masks. The reason is that I have a profound hearing loss and wear two cochlear implant processors, which look similar to behind-the-ear hearing aids. If the mask has behind-the-ear elastic, it may or may not fit well or be comfortable with my hearing device and my eyeglasses arms. When putting the mask on and off, I may accidentally knock my hearing device off. Some people have lost their expensive hearing device and not notice it happening. Others may need to stop and re-arrange everything to fit well. Some find it uncomfortable to wear so many things behind their ears. Masks that tie cause some of the same problems.

Then there are the functionality problems of face-masks for me. Sometimes when I exhale the breath escapes from the top of my mask and steams up my eyeglasses, making it impossible for me to see. That is an accident waiting to happen. The masks reduce the amount of sound emitted when someone talks. Because of my hearing loss, I depend heavily on lip-reading. With mouths covered I cannot see the mouths of others and lip-reading is impossible. With less volume and no lip-reading my ability to understand others, especially when there is other background noise, is greatly reduced. When the cashier at the supermarket has to repeat comments, questions, or instructions to me, he gets frustrated and other shoppers get annoyed at the delay. In social conversations some people get irritated at having to repeat things they just said. How do I know if what I did not hear was important and should be repeated?

Hence, I have a love and hate relationship with face-masks. Yes, I can make or have-made masks with clear panels covering the mouth. That may help others understand me, but what about the whole sea of people we are trying to understand.

Continue to wear masks when we are able to be out and about, but be aware that some people may not be able to understand you. Be patient when they do not respond appropriately or at all.

Communicating when wearing a mask

- Speak slowly, clearly and at a normal volume.
- Make sure hearing aid users have them on.
- Rephrase remarks when not understood.
- Keep background noise in the room to a minimum.
- Take turns when speaking.
- Face each other (at a safe distance).

Healthy Turkey Chili

Shared by *Laura McGeever*

SOURCE: <https://www.wellplated.com/healthy-turkey-chili/>

All text and images © ERIN CLARKE / WELL PLATED.



yield: 8 SERVINGS (16 CUPS OF VERY THICK CHILI)

prep time: 20 MINS

cook time: 55 MINS

total time: 1 HR 15 MINS

The BEST turkey chili! A thick, rich healthy turkey chili with just the right amount of spice. Award winning recipe that will be your new favorite!

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE HEALTHY TURKEY CHILI:

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic — minced
- 2 medium onions — diced
- 2 bell peppers — any color, cored and chopped
- 2 large carrots — peeled and diced

- 2 stalks celery — diced
- 1 medium sweet potato — peeled and cubed (optional—I added it!) 2 pounds ground turkey — I used 93% lean*
- 1 1/2-2 cups water — more as needed
- 1 can tomato sauce — (15 ounces)
- 1 can diced tomatoes in their juices — (14.5 ounces)
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon kosher sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Pinch red pepper flakes

OPTIONAL TOPPINGS:

- Sliced fresh avocado
- Thinly sliced jalapeño
- Shredded cheese
- Plain non-fat Greek yogurt — or sour cream
- Freshly chopped cilantro

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the oil in a Dutch oven or large soup pot over medium heat. Add the garlic, onions, bell peppers, carrots, celery, and sweet potato. Sauté for 5 to 7 minutes, until soft.
2. Add the turkey and cook until browned, 5 to 7 minutes, stirring often to break up the chunks.
3. Once the meat is browned, add 1 1/2 cups water, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes in their juices, chili powder, cumin, paprika, cayenne, salt, black pepper, and red pepper flakes. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a moderate bubble. Let cook, uncovered, until the chili thickens, about 45 minutes, stirring every so often so that the chili does not stick to the bottom. If the chili becomes too thick, add a little water to reach your desired consistency.
4. Toward the end of the cooking time, taste and adjust the seasonings as desired. Add more cayenne pepper for an extra kick and more salt and pepper as needed. Serve hot with desired toppings.

RECIPE NOTES

Lexi's original version of the chili calls for slowly simmering it (in lieu of my "moderate bubble") on the stove for 3 hours, adding more water as needed. Since I started cooking the chili later in the day (ahem, I was running late), I cooked it more quickly, which you will see reflected in the recipe directions.

Want to add beans? Lexi suggests adding 1 (15-ounce) can black beans and/or 1 (15-ounce) can kidney beans.

Store leftover chili in the refrigerator for up to 1 week or freeze for 3 months.

NUTRITION INFORMATION


Amount per serving (1 of 8), about 2 cups) — Calories: **227**, Fat: **10g**, Saturated Fat: **2g**, Cholesterol: **91mg**, Sodium: **741mg**, Carbohydrates: **14g**, Fiber: **4g**, Sugar: **4g**, Protein: **24g**

VERONICA "RONI" CASTRO | Account Executive



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Contact VEP Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez: LisaS.VEP@gmail.com