

Mayor
Problem

Mayor for a day.

Hello, my name is Josh Schulz and I am an 8th grader at the La Vernia Junior High. My parents told me there was going to be a "Mayor for a Day" contest and asked if I wanted to enter. I said yes because not everyone could say they were mayor for a day and I thought it would be cool. Living here my whole life, I've seen some problems that could be fixed. I have three ideas that I think will help make La Vernia a better place to live, work and play.

One of my suggestions is there are barely any sidewalks, crosswalks and walking signs. When I walk to the park after school me and other students have to walk in the grass and if it's muddy and wet, we have to walk on the road. I think that's dangerous because the road to the park is very narrow and makes us walk closer to cars. If we had sidewalks, we wouldn't have to worry about getting dirty or getting hit by a car. Maybe if there was a crosswalk Mr. Danny Santos would have died of natural causes. On September 14th, 2023, this 89-year-old man was just getting dinner for him and his wife from Sonic. While he was walking back to his house someone driving a truck hit and killed him. I think there should be more sidewalks and crosswalks so people can be safer while walking around La Vernia. I think a good start would be having someone monitor high traffic walking areas around town and tell the city where the best places would be to put sidewalks and crosswalks. Walking signs would also be a good way to let drivers know there might be people walking there. This would be good because it would lower the risk of someone getting hit. It could also encourage more people to get out and get more exercise. By adding these safety features, the people of La Vernia could walk around getting exercise and worry less about getting hit by a car.

Another suggestion is there is only one water fountain for people at the park that is located far away from the most used areas. There is a vending machine that sells water, but you have to pay for it. I play basketball with my friends at the park and when I get thirsty, I use my water bottle from school. I sometimes have to share with my friends because they don't have anything to drink. I've seen little kids drink from the spigots a few times because they were thirsty and didn't know where the water fountain is. I think it could be a health risk to drink out of the spigots because the spigots might contain unhealthy stuff. Having a water fountain where most people are, like by the playground, basketball courts and baseball fields, would be good so people would have clean drinking water and they don't have to worry about being dehydrated after working out at the park. Even though the water fountains have been vandalized before, which is why they were taken out, putting cameras in certain areas of the park could help prevent the vandalism and might make more people want to go.

My final suggestion would be to make it easier for National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members and other students that want to volunteer around La Vernia to be able to. Being a member of NJHS, I am required to get five hours of volunteer work done every nine weeks. Sometimes I find it difficult to find opportunities to get the needed hours. When I have trouble finding hours, I ask my NJHS teacher and she goes out of her way to find opportunities to get the hours in. My family and I have all volunteered to help pick up trash along the highway for adopt a highway in La Vernia. We have also all volunteered at the La Vernia food pantry. It was nice to have their company when I was getting my hours. I also volunteered in the concession stand at a school function. I think it would be nice if the city could reach out and find out which businesses could use volunteers and then give that information to the school. That way NJHS members and other kids would know where to go to volunteer.

In conclusion, while I've lived here, I have seen some areas that could use some improvement. The addition of sidewalks, crosswalks, and walking signs would make it safer for pedestrians to walk and promote a healthier lifestyle. Having more water fountains at the park would make it safer for people to exercise and not worry about having to get dehydrated. Adding a program for volunteer work would make it easier for students such as myself to find opportunities to get volunteer work done. I think doing these things would make La Vernia a better place to live, work and play.

Josh Schulz
13 revolutions around the sun
8th grade
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Mrs. Simpson
5th period

I give permission for my child Josh Schulz (please print) to participate in the City of La Vernia 2024 Mayor for a Day essay contest.

Josh Schulz Yvonne Schulz

(Print) Parent's name

[Signature] Yvonne Schulz 1/15/2024

Parent's signature

Date

jys.education@gmail.com