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VC Chamber President**

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The Valley Center Chamber of Commerce

A Letter From Our 2024 President

Hey VC!

Letting go. What a choice we have! Every day we have choices that could not only influence us individually, but also all those who love us. May we be conscious of the words we say to folks around us, remembering that we do not know what anyone is living through in the moment. We always go through rough times at some point in life, it is those trials that remind us of who is there when we need a hand to get up, and an ear to listen or a heart to love us.

Some folks talk about resolutions in the New Year, I suggest we make resolutions daily, to be better, to love deeper and to be considerate to all who are around us. The Valley Center Chamber of Commerce is comprised of some of the deepest loving, gregarious folks in our town. As we ended 2023 breaking bread together, we are walking into 2024 wanting to bring the community closer as a whole. Striving to know our members or the representatives within the businesses that strive to have involvement in our small town. Our Morning Mixers, monthly Sundowners and other organizations events have given us a great opportunity to meet folks on a personal level.

As the Chamber ran with “So You Think You Know VC”

through the town, the involvement we received was thrilling to us as your Chamber Board! We need to give credit where due; a local gal suggested this a few years back! Thank you! As we decided to bring weekly involvement with the Fire Department it has also spread to the Sheriff’s Station. The feedback of our town has made it an enjoyable weekly event for the Chamber. We have also had a greater involvement from the community with our outreach endeavors. The safety campaign was released and spread through the town, another local gal from years ago! Thank you! Drive Sober. Slow It Down. We Love Our Little Town.

Being the Chamber President, a local business owner and a past student of our amazing school district, I must say Thank You to this community. We will always have some disagreements, but we are truly VC Strong. May 2024 bring us new ventures that turn people toward one another, instead of against. The Chamber installation dinner is February 10th at Casino Pauma (Thank you Casino Pauma for the Venue)! We hope this brings an opportunity to all members and folks interested to come out and meet one another. Get involved.

May this year be better than the last for our town!

Kim Cucinella, 2024 VC Chamber of Commerce President

VALLEY CENTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

All Welcome
to all events!

SUNDOWNER

FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 5:30-7 PM, EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Location of event changes monthly

MORNING MIXER

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 8 - 9:30 AM, @ THE CHAMBER OFFICE

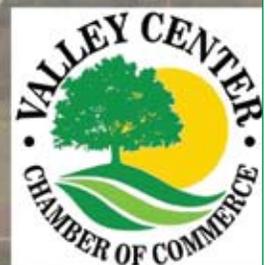
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STOP BY OUR LOCAL OFFICE LOCATED AT 29105 VALLEY CENTER RD STE 140



EVs: Putting the Cart Before the Horse

by Don R. Martin

Once again, our fearless leaders have led us down an uncertain path regarding the future of electric vehicles.

While listening to a recent radio segment on KPBS, the pro EV enthusiasts shared a lot of positive insights about mining, recycling, and charging, among other topics.

When asked about mining and how it differs from mining for other resources, all I heard was that it wasn't like traditional min-



ing. What does that mean? I'm not sure; perhaps I missed some details from the radio segment.

The Swedish carmaker Volvo recently announced that the carbon emissions required to produce its all-electric vehicle are 70% higher than its gasoline equivalent. Volvo says that its all-electric car would need to be driven up to 68,000 miles before it breaks even on carbon emissions. And you are back to square one if you have to replace a battery.

Furthermore, how will we handle the disposal or recycling of

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all this toxic waste at the end of its life? The lady on the radio mentioned that there are currently hundreds of companies working on addressing this issue.

I believe the price of these EVs will need to decrease significantly before they become affordable for most people. I don't consider \$50k affordable.

It does make sense that people who drive EVs are likely using them for commuting and plugging them in at home for the next day. But what about road trips?

Although I haven't delved into this topic extensively, I do wonder about the performance of these vehicles in extremely hot places like Phoenix, as well as their performance in extremely cold places like Minnesota during the winter.

Lithium-ion batteries utilize flammable materials that can result in fires or "thermal runaway," a chain reaction that may lead to fire or even catastrophic explosions. Can you drive them during a thunder storm?

During the radio segment, they discussed plans to install more charging stations at locations where people spend time, such as restaurants and grocery stores. Additionally, battery charging times are decreasing, which should reduce waiting times. This seems reasonable, but what about road trips?

Speaking of roads, these batteries are quite heavy. How will the additional weight impact our roads? California already

struggles with a crumbling road system.

As an automotive repair professional, I can't help but consider how the extra weight of these vehicles will affect components like wheel bearings, brakes, and all suspension parts. Moreover, the quality of car parts has declined, and it's not uncommon for me to replace a faulty part long before the warranty expires. While it's great that I get the new part for free, I still have to spend time replacing the defective one.

On average, an EV weighs 1,000 lbs more than its gasoline counterpart. Imagine adding that much weight to every car in California. The Highway Patrol estimates 1,500 accidents per day. When the majority of cars on the road are EVs, one can only imagine the kind of damage that an extra 1,000 lbs will cause. We can expect the impact force to be much greater, resulting in more severe damage to all vehicles involved.

Finally, here's my personal opinion regarding this EV push. I don't believe it will save us from climate change. Nothing can achieve that unless a giant comet alters our solar system's position within the Milky Way to where it was 1,000 years ago. The only outcome I foresee from EVs is further enriching the wealthy. I hope these concerns were thoroughly considered prior to the widespread production of EVs.

Let's save the planet even if it kills us!

*Don has been repairing vehicles since the early 80's.
Visit his Youtube channel Don's Garage in VC.*

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~Edith Lovejoy Pierce

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~Germany Kent

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~Paulo Coelho

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~Karen Kaiser Clark

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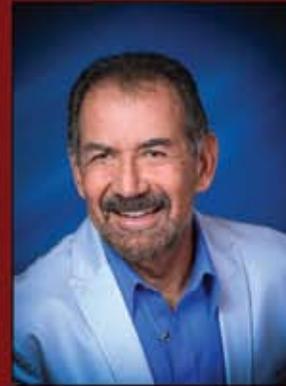
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