

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

October 2012

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
► **October 23, 2012** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ ELECTION FORUM ★

District 10 Council Candidates

Robert Braunstein

and

Johnny Khamis

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Approval of VEP 2012-2013
Annual Budget

Updates/Announcements

Neighborhood Cleanup Days
Santa in the Park
Christmas Decoration Contest

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

VEP's October Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

October's general membership meeting:

► **Election Forum – District 10 Council Candidates: Robert Braunstein and Johnny Khamis.** The election forum will highlight the two candidates for San Jose City Council District 10. The format will include several questions asked of each candidate, followed by timed responses. Questions will also be taken from audience participants.

► **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.** Members will be asked to approve the 2012-2013 Annual Budget. Upcoming announcements and updates for the months Novem-

ber and December will be included.

► **Your Concerns and Ideas** – We want to hear from you! Together we can work toward positive resolution. This approach continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy, and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, at the **October 23rd** meeting. Please join us!

VEP's September Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

On September 25th, to a "standing-room only" crowd, President Marilyn Rodgers thanked everyone for coming and briefly reviewed the agenda which included three presentations. Prior to introducing the first speaker, she also introduced Councilmember Nancy Pyle, who was in attendance. The first speaker, Lynn Rogers, Project Manager for San Jose City Cultural Affairs – Public Art Program, provided an overview and status of the Vista Park Gates project. The project is on track for completion by the end of the year. Ms. Rogers reinforced the request from artist/designer/builder Bill Gould for input/feedback from community members on words and symbols that reflect the community's values as well as those of historical significance. Some of these words and symbols will be incorporated into the gates. Participants were encouraged to fill out the questionnaire included in the September VEP Newsletter.

Members asked several questions, and voiced interest and enthusiasm for the gates. One member voiced significant concern regarding the maintenance of the gates – with specific questions as to how damage, i.e. graffiti, would be managed. Ms. Rogers stated that the city has not had problems anywhere with public art projects being damaged and/or targeted with graffiti.

Nancy Pyle spoke in support of the Vista Park Gate project, and stated she looks forward to its completion and dedication. Nancy then acknowledged Dave Fadness for his dedication and many, many hours of volunteer activities. She presented Dave with a plaque from the San Jose Parks and Recreation Department as an "outstanding volunteer", and thanked him specifically for his work caring for and maintaining Vista Park.

James Reber, Executive Director of San Jose City Parks Foundation provided a brief presentation on the Foundation, the partnership between VEP and the Foundation, and the process for VEP members and friends to donate to the Parks Foundation. As a result of the \$1,000.00 donation VEP previously made to the Parks Foundation, Mr. Reber announced that VEP would be a "lifetime member" of the Foundation. Mr. Reber provided a sheet with directions as to how to donate online to the Foundation. Donations can be made to the **VEP Parks Fund**, by going

2012 is VEP's 43rd year!

online to sanjoseparks.org. (50% of all donations to SJPF through VEP will go directly to VEP) All donations are tax-deductible.

The third, and highly anticipated presentation, was done by VEP member Don Ferguson. Don provided an overview of types and costs of video cameras that homeowners can purchase and easily install themselves to monitor and protect their homes, yards, and vehicles. Mr. Ferguson has had several years of personal experience in monitoring his own home and yard. Attendees asked several questions. Interest was particularly high in this information with the recent spike in vehicle break-ins and thefts on several streets/neighborhoods within the VEP area.

Ms. Rodgers provided additional brief information on websites that members can use to monitor illegal activity in the VEP area, as well as contact information for those that are interested in initiating a Neighborhood Watch program for their street.

VEP 2012-2013 Goals and Objectives were approved by the membership. Approval of the annual budget was deferred until the October meeting.

The next meeting, October 23rd will be an Election Forum – plan to attend!

“Don’t Forget to Vote – Tuesday, November 6th!!

Forgot to Register to Vote?

Any eligible Californian can now register to vote online - If you have access to the Internet, and a California drivers license or ID signature on file with the DMV, you [can now register to vote whenever and wherever it is convenient.](http://rtv.sos.ca.gov/elections/register-to-vote/)

or
<https://rtv.sos.ca.gov/elections/register-to-vote/>

Online voter registration makes it possible to increase the number of registered voters and facilitate updates of voter registration for people who have moved or changed their name or political party by allowing them to complete the process online.



Register to vote before October 21st!

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VEP Board of Directors Appoints Peggy Golden

by Marilyn Rodgers

At their October meeting, the VEP Board of Directors appointed long time VEP member Peggy Golden to the Board. Peggy and her husband Bill have lived in the VEP neighborhood for 20 years, in the area east of Vistapark Drive, and north of Branham Lane. Prior to moving to the VEP area, Peggy was a single mother. Peggy has three adult children, and four grandchildren. She has been very involved for several years with her grandchildren’s school activities.

Peggy has also been an active volunteer with VEP. She has been involved with cleanup activities, distributed VEP flyers, assisted with membership drives, and most recently has become an Adopt-a-Park volunteer for VEP neighborhood park, Parkview II.



Most of her work career was centered around being a sales professional.

She is particularly interested in marketing and communication techniques, and hopes to assist VEP in this arena.

We are pleased to welcome Peggy to the Board!

Green Energy Match Program (Note: The program is continuing!!)

Save Money, Save Energy, Shop Local.

Join Green Energy Match (GEM), a program sponsored by the City of San Jose that helps you save energy! The FREE online service provides personalized energy-saving recommendations and shows how your usage compares to similar homes!

- * **Join Your Neighbors** – hundreds of San Jose residents are already participating
- * **Save on PG&E Bills** – most participants are saving over \$200/year from simple changes
- * **Receive 50% Off Coupons** – get BIG discounts at local stores and restaurants for signing up and saving energy

Sign up at greenenergymatch.org

Text Energy to **68398** to receive weekly energy-saving tips, and enter GEM’s weekly contests for your chance to win additional rewards.

This program is sponsored by the City of San Jose, Silicon Valley Energy Watch, WattzOn and Acterra.


**Gunderson High School
October 2012**

The first 6-weeks of the school year has flown by quickly! Gunderson recently returned from its one-week fall break. Students, faculty, and staff are rested and relaxed and ready to take on the remainder of the semester.



Before the Fall Break, Gunderson enjoyed a successful Hip-Hop Festival that was spearheaded by social science teacher Joseph Miclette. Numerous performers joined an enthusiastic student body and community to celebrate art and music. Gunderson's annual *Grizzly Idol* singing contest is well under way. This annual event, sponsored by the girls' basketball team, brings together Gunderson's best singers. It's also a great fundraiser for our Lady Grizzly Basketball Program.

Preparations are also underway for Gunderson's annual homecoming activities. Homecoming runs throughout the week of October 15, with numerous activities planned such as the annual powder-puff football competition, the Homecoming performance skits, homecoming parade during half-time of the football game and the homecoming dance. The homecoming football game will be played against Mt. Pleasant High School. Go Grizzlies!



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**Dave Fadness Honored as
"Outstanding Volunteer"**

by Marilyn Rodgers

During the September VEP membership meeting, Councilmember Nancy Pyle presented Dave Fadness with a plaque commemorating

him as an "outstanding volunteer". The San Jose City Department of Parks and Recreation initiated the honor to Dave for his commitment to parks and trails. Nancy highlighted Dave's long time volunteer commitment to parks, and most recently in his official volunteer capacity as the "adopter" of Vista Park. He also has coordinated volunteer cleanup activities with Gunderson High School, which allows students the opportunity to earn



"volunteer hours" for their high school graduation requirement.

Thank you Dave, for all that you do for the VEP neighborhood!

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Fall Fundamentals

By John Marks

What! You don't have a compost? still receptacle or pile You can learn how to compost yard waste and food scraps, and get a schedule of free how-to composting classes through the Master Composters program. Just call 299-4147.



I routinely throw grapefruit and orange peelings, coffee grounds, onion tops, wilted greens, banana peels, apple cores, carrot peelings, over-ripe fruit, radish tops, celery tops, and trimmings from most meal preparations into a plastic corner box that sits in our sink. That gets carried to the compost in the yard, which is no more than 18-in. square and 2-ft tall with a lid. You can get attractive compost boxes from Orchards. Give it some thought!

Yes, it's time to get the ladders out and peer into the rain gutters. There, you'll find stray tennis balls, toys, and worst of all, a bunch of rotting leaves. Not only will they rust out the gutters, but render the downspouts useless. So plan to get up there on a sunny Saturday and clear them out.

The leaves that fall on the ground can be tossed into the compost pile, too. Or you can use the lazy gardener's method by raking them into garden beds and use them to cover exposed soil. The leaves will break down over the winter and turn into rich garden humus by spring.

Cool-season vegetables to plant included broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, radishes, green onions, beets and lettuce grapefruit

The National Gardening Association web site, www.garden.org is full of general information for gardeners. One of its most useful features is a localized report. There are also how-to basics, on-line courses, a horticultural dictionary and plant name finder, events calendar, message board, seed swap and links to a children's gardening site. You can search the site's library for articles. Plant spring-flowering bulbs, including daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and crocus now.

If the recent heat wave sizzled your bougainvillea, don't over-react and take it out. The branches and roots are still healthy and will have new growth, more leaves, and dazzling flowers next spring.

Rose Lovers Take Note

Barbara Milo Ohrbach's 16th book on roses, "Roses for the Scented Room: Beautiful Ideas for Entertaining, Gift-Giving and the Home" (Clarkson Potter, \$25) is now available. This lavishly photographed book covers everything from the history of the rose to selecting the best varieties and decorating with roses.



Among her helpful suggestions in buying, gathering, conditioning and arranging roses include: Pick roses from the garden in the early morning when their scent is strongest; revive drooping roses by inserting a straight pin in the stem to perk up droopy rose heads.

Interesting recipes include rose-petal vinegar, jasmine rose tea, rose cuticle cream and rose-petal splash and fabric wash. There is also a source list for books, suppliers, catalogs, organizations and associations.

October 20th – New Phone Dialing Requirement

Reminder - starting October 20th a new area code will be implemented - 669, will join the current 408 area code. As of Oct 20th both 408 and 669 area code telephone numbers – when calling from a landline phone will be **required to dial 1 + area code + telephone number**. To complete calls from a mobile or cellular phone, callers **may dial either 1 + area code + telephone number, or...just area code + telephone number.** This process will be mandatory beginning October 20th.



A flyer was included in recent telephone bills explaining this process and providing 800 numbers and websites for your telephone provider for additional information.



Ken Wall
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Pie For a Year

By Kathy Wood, Baker—Pieforayear.blogspot.com

R-E-M-O-D-E-L These 7 innocent letters follow one another in single file to form one *dangerous* word...*dangerous* to a marriage, *dangerous* to an ego, and *dangerous* to a budget.

The beginning of such a project brings **excitement** (can't wait to see how it will look!) and plenty of **energy** (can we start now?) with a side of **confidence** (I know what I'm doing!).

Soon, though, **anxiety** (why is it taking so long?) creeps in along with its traveling companions, **doubt** (not sure this is right...) and **regret** (shouldn't have started this!).

Several days, weeks, or months later, when the remodel is finished, when the marriage survives, the ego is only slightly bruised, and the budget has been thrown out the window, the only emotions left are **satisfaction** (we did it!) and **pride** (how great it looks!).

My husband and I are in the midst of replacing our outdated countertops making pie construction a real challenge. I was thankful to find this simple but delicious pie recipe that required hooking the stove back up, but needed little counter surface to get the job done (TV trays make excellent counter substitutes...temporarily).

Burrito Pie __ Ingredients: 2 lbs. ground beef, 1 onion, chopped, 2 t. minced garlic, 1 (2 oz) can black olives, sliced, 1 (4 oz) can diced green chile peppers, 1 (10 oz) can diced tomatoes with green chile peppers, 1 (16 oz) jar taco sauce, 2 (16 oz) cans refried beans, 12 (8 inch) flour tortillas, 9 oz shredded Colby cheese.

Instructions: In a large skillet over medium heat, sauté the ground beef for 5 minutes. Add the onion and garlic, and sauté for 5 more minutes, or until browned. Drain any excess fat. Mix in the olives, green chile peppers, tomatoes, taco sauce and beans. Stir mixture thoroughly, reduce heat to low, and let simmer 15-20 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread a thin layer of meat mixture in the bottom of a 4-qt casserole dish. Cover with a tortilla followed by more meat mixture, then a layer of cheese. Repeat tortilla, meat, cheese pattern until all the tortillas are used, topping off with a layer of meat and cheese. Bake for 20-30 minutes, or until cheese is slightly brown and bubbly.

This recipe was submitted on allrecipes.com by KATHIMC. I adjusted the recipe to suit my family's tastes (no beans, no olives, and picante sauce rather than taco sauce). Topping each serving with a scoop of quacamole and/or sour cream would be a delicious addition.

To view a picture of this recipe and to find more pie recipes, visit pieforayear.blogspot.com.

"As easy as pie!"



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**Santa is Coming to the Vista Park
Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive**

**Bring your kids or the whole family for a free photo
with Santa. We will also have arts and crafts, and
light refreshments.**

**Have a photo taken by VEP photographer Adina
Pierce, or feel free to bring your own camera.**

**When: Sunday November 25th
Santa hours: 2 pm to 4 pm**

**VEP wants to thank you for \
your support**

**Wishing you and your family a
joyous holiday season**





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Fourth Annual Neighborhood Development Training Conference

by Peggy Golden

Saturday, September 29, 2012.

This is a story of how three neighborhood residents became enlightened. Bonnie Boucher, Yogendra Singh and Peggy Golden teamed up to attend, (what they thought) was a training conference put on by the new neighborhood social net-working site



Nextdoor.com. These three had all recently joined Nextdoor and had responded to a link on that site that invited them to the conference taking place at San Jose State University. They were very excited as the conference was offering many workshops with titles like, Great Neighborhoods: Everyvoice Engaged, Neighborhood Communication Skills and Tools, Voting Matters in Neighborhoods, Practical Solutions for Public Safety and even Garden to Table: Grow, Harvest, Share.

One of the highlighted draws to this conference was the ability to win a mini CAP (Community Action & Pride) Grant of up to \$450 for your neighborhood. Bonnie was especially keen on this idea. Her mind whirled with all kinds of possibilities for helping her neighborhood (Nextdoor Parkview). Whether it was for clean up, safety or just throwing a neighborhood party and socializing with her neighbors, Bonnie was on board.

Yogendra was interested in finding solutions to keeping the neighborhood safe. Lately the Parkview neighborhood has had several instances of crime, not to mention speeding cars down neighborhood streets, and unsafe street corners.

Nextdoor Parkview was just getting started with about 24 households. Nextdoor is structured like Facebook, but with a little different platform. Members joining have to live within the boundaries on the Nextdoor map. The site is secure and any new member has to "verify" their address. You share as much personal information as you feel comfortable with, then just get to know what's happening in your neighborhood. Like sharing local recommendations, lending, borrowing, maybe selling something. Reporting any suspicious activity, needing a babysitter, advertising a garage sale, or help find a missing

pet. Posts are strictly kept to events or activities that are pertinent to your neighborhood.

So the three of us got up early on Saturday morning armed with a map of SJSU and eager to see what information they could glean from their chosen workshops. A little confusion ensued as they put their heads together and realized that in order to win those prized grants, they may have to be part of an already established community organization. Light bulb goes on!

Somewhere between choosing workshops and reading the material in the stuffed envelopes, it had become quite evident that this whole conference thing was not just about Nextdoor, but was actually the Fourth Annual Conference put on by the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County and the Neighborhood Housing Services of Silicon Valley. Another light bulb!

We attended workshops, had lunch and learned a whole lot of things about engaging the community in learning, service and leadership. This annual event strives to strengthen the voices and skills of neighborhood residents in Santa Clara County. All of it works to improve the welfare of neighborhoods. We, along with everyone else who attended this workshop had the opportunity to apply for the mini CAP grant (this was the first time that participants were all coached through the process of applying for a CAP grant as part of the conference).

Two of the three of us were already active VEP members. However we came thinking this was a conference for new Nextdoor members, so we wrote the grant with the idea that we would be focusing on the Parkview area of VEP. Because, this conference was the first one to encourage participation by neighbors involved with Nextdoor, we were a "first", in breaking new ground in applying for a grant. We were, however, (like everyone else who wrote a grant), promised that we would receive the grant (on a contingency basis). We will have an update in a few weeks when the protocol has been worked out.

So, what we learned is that there are many ways to join in the process of being an active member of your neighborhood. VEP as our larger community association, as well as Nextdoor - we're all on the same streets!

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VEP Community Calendar

October / November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 VEP Commu- nity Meeting— 7:30 PM— Vista Park Community Room	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween 	1 Dia de Los Muertos 	2	3
4 Fall Back (Clocks go back 1 Hour) 	5	6 Election Day 	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings

November 27, 2012
January 22, 2013
February 26, 2013
March 26, 2013
April 23, 2013
May 28, 2013

Community Events

Halloween
October - 23rd - Election Forum
November 27th - VEP General Membership Meeting
November 6th - Election Day
November 4th - (Sunday) Return to Standard Time (drop back)
Santa at Vista Park - Sunday, November 25, 2012
Community Garage Sale - Saturday May 4, 2012

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

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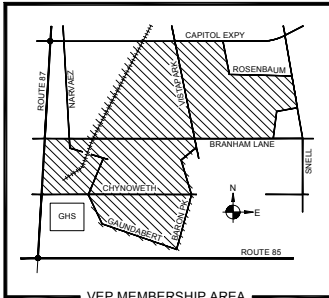
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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. For membership or paid advertisement information, contact our Treasurer or write to the address listed above.

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Let us know at vep@vepca.net.



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

in the
7:30 pm

October 23rd Meeting

VEP's

Be sure to attend