

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2,000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

JANUARY

2015

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The "VEP News" is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, published monthly during the months of September through May each year.

We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Executive Board, attempt to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community.

The VEP strongly encourages local schools to submit news articles about events and achievements on their campuses. Articles written by students will be given extra special consideration.

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 of the "VEP News," Mrs. Rachel Witmeyer. Email: vepeditor@gmail.com // Phone: 408-226-2935

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 18111; SAN JOSE, CA; 95158.

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

VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

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Director - Helen Castillo
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VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. - Tuesday

► **January 27th, 2015** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ **Neighborhood Watch Program Overview** ★

Presented by

Sonia Azevedo

Crime Prevention Specialist for SJPD

★ **Update on Liberty High School** ★

An Alternative Program at Erikson School Site

Presented by

Stephen McMahon

Chief Business Officer, San Jose Unified School District

★ **Updates on Martial Cottle Park & Perimeter Trail** ★

Eric Goodrich and Kristy Barton

★ **VEP Business Meeting** ★

Announcements & Updates

Update on Dave Fadness

VEP Annual Membership Drive Begins in January

Drawing for Free VEP Membership

Be Sure to Bring Your Completed Membership Application for your Chance to Win

Updates and Introductions of New Staff Councilmember Khamis

VEP's Next Meeting - February 24, 2015

★ **Your Concerns and Ideas** ★

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

◆ **2015 is VEP's 46th Year!** ◆

VEP's January Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **January 27**. Please join us at the January VEP Community meeting, featuring:

► **Presentations:** Featured guest speaker **Sonia Azevedo**, Crime Prevention Specialist for the San Jose Police Department, will provide an overview of the **Neighborhood Watch Program**. Attendees will have an opportunity to sign up for a presentation of the complete program for your street or block. Whether you are a new resident or one who has been to a presentation in the past, you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear updated information and strategies. Bring along a neighbor or a friend who shares your concerns! The second featured guest speaker will be **Stephen McMahon**, Chief Business Officer for San Jose Unified School District. He will provide an overview and update on the new program that will be housed at the **Erikson School site on Pearl – Liberty High School, which is an alternative high school program**. Plan now to attend!

► **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.** Announcements and updates will be included.

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

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **January 27**. Please join us!

November / December Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

This year, the VEP Board made a decision to change the November meeting date from the Tuesday just prior to Thanksgiving, to the Tuesday following the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. As a result the "November meeting" was held on Tuesday, December 2nd. This decision was based on low numbers of attendance for November meetings during the last several years. Low attendance was at least partially attributed to people being busy preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday. We are pleased to announce that while the December 2nd meeting did not break attendance records, the numbers did increase however, and those in attendance were very enthusiastic.

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced there would be a few changes to the agenda. Supervisor Mike Wasserman would be arriving at approximately 8pm. With the change in the meeting date, Santa Clara County Parks Staff Eric Goodrich and Phil Hearin could not attend tonight's meeting as they had a prior commitment to attend and chair a meeting in Monterey County. However, they will be well represented by Public Information Officer for Santa Clara County Parks Tamara Clark, who will be providing an update on the plans for Saturday's Opening Ceremony for Martial Cottle Park. Another member of the Santa Clara County Parks staff was also in attendance.

Marilyn said she was very pleased to introduce Kristy Barton, Santa Clara County Parks Ranger. Ranger Barton is being assigned permanently to Martial Cottle Park. Kristy had already been overseeing security issues for the Park property and recently was involved in assisting with one of the single car accidents in the neighborhood which had crashed onto Park property. This incident, which happened in October, involved a car crashing into the west Chynoweth pedestrian gate while the gate was still under construction. Kristy said she is pleased to be assigned to Martial

Cottle. She has already had the opportunity to meet several people on the perimeter trail, and she said she looks forward to meeting and working with all of us.

Ms. Rodgers went on to provide a brief overview of a problem regarding the long-proposed improvements for Hwy 85 between Hwy 101 in South San Jose and north to the connection with Hwy 280. Over three years ago the VTA staff presented a plan to VEP members (as part of their public outreach) regarding a new option for improving South Bay area roads and freeways. This plan, which was developed and suggested by VTA staff as a result of concerns/complaints received from commuters frustrated about the amount of gridlock on our main freeways/roads. Additional complaints included the fact that the HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle – carpool lanes) were not being used at the level of capacity that had been hoped for, or anticipated. The current plan is to convert HOV lanes to "Express Lanes." Express Lanes will be "combination lanes" – HOV vehicles would continue to use these lanes at no charge.

The concept of "express lanes" is that a vehicle that does not qualify to use the HOV lane, could pay a toll, and use it. This would mean that the HOV/HOT lanes would be better utilized, and would relieve some of the gridlock in the remaining lanes. The tolls collected will finance the increased cost in building/changing the lanes from only HOV to express (or toll) combination lanes. These lanes have been built and well used successfully in other parts of California and across the country.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced District 10 Councilmember, Johnny Khamis. The Councilmember is also a representative on the VTA Board. He has become an advocate for this project going forward, as he believes it would benefit many of the residents in his District who drive north on Hwy 85 everyday to go to work. He has become concerned because a few residents of Saratoga and Cupertino are trying to stop the project. Many people in District 10 are either not aware of the project, and/or believe that the project is on track for completion. As a result, Councilmember Khamis has requested that VTA staff provide an informational meeting in his district.

In conjunction with Almaden Valley Community Association, a meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 8th, focused specifically on the Hwy 85 Express Lanes project. It will be held at the Santa Clara Valley Water District offices just south of Blossom Hill Road on Almaden Express (flyers for the meeting were passed out to those in attendance). Councilmember Khamis and Ms. Rodgers both encouraged people to attend this meeting, to write letters, and to attend upcoming meetings of the VTA Board to support the Hwy 85 Express Lanes project.

Ms. Rodgers mentioned that she had attended the November meeting of the VTA Board, and was surprised to find that the project was being delayed, with the possibility of it not going forward. This possible delay or cancellation of the project was as a result of several individuals from Saratoga and Cupertino who were there to speak against the project. Their main concern had to do with increased noise as a result of converting the HOV lane to an Express Lane. Ms. Rodgers indicated that she was the only public person in attendance at that meeting to speak in favor of the project. If residents of South San Jose and communities to the south of us are in favor of this project, they must say so.

Next, Ms. Rodgers introduced Tamara Clark, Public Information Officer for Santa Clara County Parks. Ms. Clark began with updates on the Martial Cottle Park construction. There have been delays, partially due to a change in the Contractor, as well as weather related delays. She also reiterated that the County is aware of the concerns that our members have related to security.

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In addition to the private security patrols that take place during nighttime hours, a Park Ranger is being assigned to Martial Cottle. Ms. Rodgers confirmed that Park Ranger Kristy Barton had already been introduced.

Ms. Clark went on to give details about the Opening celebration for the park. The ceremony will start at 11:30am near the Visitors Center – which is located close to the main entrance (vehicle entrance) on Snell between Branham and Chynoweth. Some of the attractions unfortunately will not be available – such as the Children’s Discovery area. The recent wind and rain storms have damaged this area, resulting in the necessity of having it cordoned off from the public.

Completion of the Perimeter Trail has also been delayed. However, the plan is to have the west Chynoweth pedestrian entrance completed and open, so that people can walk across the bridge over Canoas Creek and onto the currently opened Trail.

Several dignitaries are expected to attend the opening ceremony including Congressman Mike Honda. Assemblymember Jim Beall will not be able to attend. Of course, Supervisor Mike Wasserman will be Master of Ceremonies. Ms. Rodgers thanked Ms. Clark and told her that everyone is looking forward to Saturday, December 13th.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the featured guest speaker for the evening, Santa Clara County Supervisor and current President of the Board of Supervisors, Mike Wasserman. She apologized that it had been so long since Mr. Wasserman had been invited to speak to the VEP. He last spoke for VEP a year after he had been elected, and he is now starting his second term. He offered to come to a VEP meeting each year. As in his previous meeting with VEP, he once again expressed the hope that he could provide information including data and statistics that may not be known to the majority of residents of the County – including some information which may be a surprise to us.

There are approximately 1.9 million people in the County and the County has a budget of \$5 billion. Santa Clara County is the 16th largest – more than 16 states and 65 countries. It includes 15 cities and 15 mayors. He described the area that he represents – population of approximately 360,000 – which includes 6 cities including the southern part of the City of San Jose – the 3rd largest city in the State, and the 10th largest city in the Country. He represents the largest land mass area in the County. Other County Supervisors represent approximately the same number of residents, but smaller land masses, and fewer Cities. For instance, Supervisor Cindy Chavez represents an area of north and east San Jose – but is all encompassed within one city – the City of San Jose. This means she only has to relate to one Mayor and one City Council. Supervisor Wasserman, on the other hand, interacts with 6 cities – 6 mayors and 6 city councils.

There also seems to be a general misunderstanding about the County’s finances. He related a story:

He often finds himself on the elevator at the County offices, when a resident (or several) also enter the elevator. They are usually trying to decide which floor they need – and he usually suggests the floor most often visited: the floor where the Tax Collector and staff are housed. People often grumble about how much tax they have to pay, and how much money the County gets.

Supervisor Wasserman wants everyone to know that while the County does collect the taxes, it only retains (or gets to keep) a small portion of it - Approximately 18%. The State of California gets 60% and cities get 13 to 14%.

Even with the money the County retains, much of how it will

be spent has already been mandated. In fact, close to 80% is mandated either by the Federal government or by the State. For instance, the federal government mandates that the County oversees housing, welfare, and food stamps. Recently, federal judges ruled that there were too many prisoners in California prisons, so through AB109, the State is releasing many –on-violent” prisoners back to the Counties – also, without providing much necessary financial assistance to manage and care for those prisoners.

The County has determined that many people living in the South County need county services, but have been unable to access them due to lack of transportation to San Jose. As a result, a new building in South County is now available – located in Gilroy. Its priority is for Family Services. This area has the largest number of domestic abuse cases.

Supervisor Wasserman also gave everyone in the audience a pre-printed “test” (with the answers included) – everyone seemed to enjoy it!

A member of the audience asked the Supervisor when Branham Lane was going to be improved – particularly given the number of accidents and fatalities that are occurring. The Supervisor indicated that the roads surrounding the Park are City property, however, he and Councilmember Khamis are working on the problem and hope to resolve the issues shortly.

One concern is that the City will have to purchase the property along Branham Lane from the County. This property belonged to Mr. Lester, and now belongs to the County. The County is prohibited by law from “giving away and/or trading” land that it owns.

Note: VEP and Colony Green had initiated a proposal several years ago that the two organizations thought might help to resolve the problem. This proposal was initiated as a possible option to manage needed road improvements to both Chynoweth and to Branham, in lieu of limited financial resources available for these type of projects. The City owns the land in and around Chynoweth. The original plan was to construct a 2-lane road in both directions, which is now no longer needed. Additionally, the residents along Chynoweth were concerned about the number of incidents of “road racing” because of the unused amount of open space. The proposal suggested that some land could be provided to the County by the City to provide additional parking for the Park along Chynoweth. For Branham, the County would provide the City needed land to improve and expand Branham, in other words...to do a partial land swap – without including money. Thus, the reason for the Supervisor’s comments mentioning that the County would not be allowed to do this.

The end of the meeting always includes a fun activity – that of a raffle-type drawing. This month, several prizes were given to attendees. In addition, the members very graciously presented Ms. Rodgers with a huge lovely bougainvillea - thanking her for all of the work she does on behalf of VEP. President Rodgers was surprised and very pleased.

Ms. Rodgers ended the meeting with the following announcements and upcoming events:

- * Santa in the Park on Sunday November 30th was very successful. Over 120 people participated – even though it rained most of the day!
- * VEP Neighborhoods Christmas Decoration Contest – will also begin on the weekend of December 12 to 14th (it may continue into the next week depending on the weather)
- * VEP Membership Drive starts in January
- * Next VEP meeting is January 27th
- * Happy Holidays to Everyone!

Official Opening of Martial Cottle Park & Trail

By Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

Photography by Adina Pierce (Except Where Noted)

The long-awaited opening of the Martial Cottle Park took place on Saturday morning, December 13th, beginning at 11:30am. The weather cooperated, with a beautiful partially clouded blue sky, and no rain for the day! Attendees came together in the designated area under festive large canopies located close to the new Visitors Center. Before the —official” start to the festivities, many pictures were taken of dignitaries and other special guests, of staff - both past and present - as well as members and friends who participated on the Martial Cottle Master Design Task Force – several of whom were VEP members. All of the VEP members on this Task Force were homeowners whose property backs up onto the now Martial Cottle Park (previously the Lester property).



Within a few minutes, Master of Ceremonies, Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman (below) began by thanking everyone for attending. He then thanked Walter Lester for the very special gift Mr. Lester had bestowed to everyone. The Supervisor also provided some humor, remarking on the very large temporary pond – located close to the Visitors Center and very visible to all of the visitors and dignitaries (note – the temporary pond was a result of the recent rain), calling it —Mike Lester.” He then introduced the keynote speaker, Congressman Mike Honda.



Congressman Honda’s remarks took-on a personal perspective as

he related his time growing up not too far from the Lester property. He also thanked Mr. Lester for his gift to the people of Santa Clara County and the State of California. Additionally, he provided insight into how wonderful things can be fulfilled when the Federal government works with State and Local entities in partnership – as was the case with the now Martial Cottle Park.

A special guest representing the State – Lisa Mangat, Acting Director for California State Parks, was very gracious in her remarks. She was very pleased with the amount of commitment and dedication shown by community members toward the development and establishment of Martial Cottle Park.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis spoke, as the Park is in his City Council District. He acknowledged VEP President Marilyn Rodgers and all of the community members involved in this project. He also indicated that he is continuing to explore options for funding needed to improve Branham and other streets surrounding the Park property.

Councilmember Ash Kalra spoke on how important this project is to him as he lives just a short distance away, in the Hayes area. He thanked community members for their contribution to this project. He also committed to assisting in the still-to-be-completed transportation projects that surround the park property.

Supervisor Dave Cortese spoke of his remembrances of Walter Lester, as he had been Mr. Lester’s private attorney. He had come to that position partially as a result of his family’s agricultural heritage in the eastern part of San Jose.

Two other Supervisors spoke: Ken Yeager & Cindy Chavez. Ms. Chavez thanked the contributions and work of the members of the Martial Cottle Master Design Task Force and its importance to her husband, who had been a member of that task force.

Other guests and dignitaries were thanked and acknowledged, particularly if they were in attendance. Included in that group were members of the Board for the Open Space Authority – Virginia Holtz, and Mike Potter, Board Chair. (Note: OSA assisted in providing some of the funding needed for Planning and development of the Perimeter Trail.) Members of the Santa Clara County Parks Commission were recognized, including John Gibbs, Chair of the Commission, and whom also happens to be Chief of Staff for Supervisor Wasserman, as well as Greg West, who is a Past President and member of VEP.

Following the official tributes, all of the dignitaries surrounded the new, very tall, official flag pole for Martial Cottle Park. Several pictures were taken before and after the official —flag raising ceremony.” The flags were raised in order – first, the flag of the United States, then the flag of the State of California, and then the Martial Cottle flag. (Article and photos continue on page 5.)



Visitors were then treated to cake and hot drinks, such as coffee. The cake was in the form of the official emblem for Martial Cottle Park. Visitors had an opportunity to stroll through the Visitors Center and walk around the surrounding area. In the open area of the Visitors Center, tables and representatives of “partnering” organizations provided information to visitors. These organizations included Our City Forest, 4-H (who plans to start a chapter for Martial Cottle area), the University of California extensions related to agriculture and growing of healthy food, and Master Gardner’s. The City of San Jose will also have a space to be utilized for a Community Garden.

Unfortunately, as was very evident to visitors at the Opening, there had been some significant weather-related delays in construction, as well as weather-related damage (from rain and wind storms over the previous two weeks) to the Park property and to the Perimeter Trail. As a result, the Park was immediately closed after the ceremony. As necessary repairs are done, and construction is completed, the Park will re-open. The pedestrian entrance located at the end of west Chynoweth (down from Gunderson High School), is open for use. However, immediately past the entrance (going in a westerly/south westerly direction), the remainder of the Perimeter Trail is still under construction – and therefore closed to visitors. As more of the Trail becomes available and open for use, announcements will be sent out to all interested parties.

Please enjoy the photos displaying the Opening and the Park!



Visitor Center



“Lake Lester”



Trail Walkways



Photo by Charlie Fredericks



Successful Santa in the Park Event

Article By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer
 Photographs by Lindsey Friedberg, Reena Nanavati, Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

Despite the rain on Sunday, November 30th, —Santa in the Park” was another successful event! There was a steady flow of children coming in for pictures with Santa (but not so many folks at once as to cause waiting in lines). One young lady even brought her —letter to Santa,” so she could deliver it in-person!

Mr. & Mrs. Klaus (pictured, right) were very nice, and everyone enjoyed meeting them. It is especially nice that they are long-time residents and VEP members - whenever they aren't at the North Pole, that is. Helen Castillo, VEP Board Member and organizer of this annual event, is hoping that they will continue in this role for the next few years.

For the —official” Santa photos, we were very fortunate to have a new volunteer photographer. Miss Reena Nanavati, (pictured, right, with Santa) is a Freshman at Gunderson High School and also happens to live in the neighborhood.

After Santa, the biggest hit for the children (and the parents who got involved as well) was all of the crafts. The adults worked with their children, and used it as an icebreaker to talk with other parents and adults in attendance.

At the end of the day, VEP had over 36 sign-ins - accounting for over 100 people (children and adults) in attendance. This was quite a respectable turnout for such a miserable, rainy day. What was really exciting was how many new families in the neighborhood came by. We have one new member who signed up on the spot and several others who took a membership application.

Special thanks go out to Helen Castillo and her family for doing an outstanding job of organizing so much of the event in advance, and for all their hard work on the day of the event.



Helen had banners made to advertise the event, as well as providing all of the decorations (including a tree and an inflatable Rudolph), all of the crafts for the children, and all of the goodies to eat and drink. Helen also made the arrangements with Santa - who came prepared not only with his own Santa suit, but with a very attractive "Santa's Throne."

Helen and her family arrived with all of the decorations, crafts, supplies, and food in the back of their truck. With help from VEP News Editor and Board Member, Rachel Witmeyer, and her housemate Lindsey Friedberg (see right), everything was set up and decorated in about 1 hour. After all the fun was over, the take-down and clean-up was done within about 40 minutes.

After the event, Rachel Witmeyer commented in an email to the VEP Board: —I am so impressed that Helen and her family can transform our plain little community room into a festive winter play-land. Outside, the temperatures were low and the boots were sloshing, but inside it was warm with holiday cheer and neighborly goodness. Strangers became friends and children became artists. I looked around the room and just thought how proud I was to be part of this event and part of the VEP!”

Helen says she is looking forward to making —Santa in the Park” even bigger and better next year! Those of you that missed it, plan to come and get in on the fun next year!



Bryan, Albert, Helen & Jaclyn Castillo



Left to Right: VEP Board Member Helen Castillo, Mr. S. Klaus, VEP President Marilyn Rodgers, and Mrs. Klaus



4th Annual VEP Christmas Decoration Contest

Article by Marilyn Rodgers, Katherine Decker, Adina Pierce
Photos by Katherine Decker, Adina Pierce, and The Olsens

Congratulations to Bob & Francine Olsen (pictured, below) of 595 Amboy – the grand prize winner of the 4th Annual VEP Christmas Decorations Contest!



The Olsen's house and yard display continues to awe and inspire all who come to see it. Each year the Olsens add a few new items, while maintaining the continuing overall beautiful display. The display includes over 27,000 lights, large stars on the roof, two 12-foot soldiers, 15 reindeer, decorated brick pillars, and lots of artificial snow. Additional snow was added this year which nicely covers grass, shrubs and other green plant life. Also added this year - two additional artificial trees. One of the nice aspects of this particular display is how attractive it is during the daylight hours, as well as being a spectacular light display at night.

The Olsens were presented with a yard sign as the VEP Christmas Decorations Contest Winner for 2014, along with "tagging rights" of course, a free VEP membership for 2015, and a gift certificate at local eatery and VEP advertiser, Layla's Bistro.

Despite the wind and rain storms following Thanksgiving, which delayed many VEP neighbors in their decorating efforts, many outstanding displays were provided for all to enjoy!

This year the VEP Board had decided to acknowledge winners in more than one category. (Note – the VEP Board want to acknowledge that anyone who decorated is a "winner" because

the decorated houses and yards added to everyone's holiday enjoyment in our VEP neighborhoods!) VEP was very pleased to receive a congratulatory e-mail from Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman who thought VEP's tradition of having a Christmas Decorations Contest was a great idea and fun tradition!

First Prize Winners in the "oh my gosh" category:
4982 New World/Chynoweth; and 309 Viewpark Circle

New World Drive / Chynoweth Ave



First Prize Winners in the "inflatable" or "blowup" category:
610 Albion Drive; and 4168 Dulcey Drive

The Moores - 610 Albion Drive



First Prize Winners in the "connected neighbors" category:
661/662 Dunraven (at New World); and 4670-4672-4674 Mia

Streets that had the majority of houses decorated - "most sees":
Biggs Ct at Calida; Devon Park Court/Savendish Ct; Churchill Park Drive; Kings Cross Way; New England Ct; Chynoweth; Hyde Park Drive; and Hastings Park Drive.

Thanks to everyone in the VEP for decorating and participating!

Hyde Park Drive





The Olsens - 595 Amboy



Savendish Court



Gaundabert / Kings Cross



Dunraven Court / New World Drive



New England Court



New LED Lights Come to VEP Neighborhoods

By Marilyn Rodgers

Starting during the week of Christmas, the City of San Jose Department of Transportation began installing the first of the new LED streetlights within the VEP neighborhoods. DOT chose the area from Branham and Vistapark and going west to New Compton Drive as the first area within VEP to install the new LED lights. (As a reminder, this area has been the scene of two fatal vehicle and/or vehicle/pedestrian accidents/fatalities in the last year, and 5 fatalities in the last 2 years.) The City has indicated that the new lights will be installed first throughout the City as the old lights need to be replaced and/or in areas of high safety concern (both accidents and/or criminal activity).

LED light installation quickly followed on the portion of Vistapark Drive south of Branham to Hyde Park; part of Hyde Park Drive; Birmingham Drive; Wellington Park Drive and then north of Branham Lane on several additional streets. It is anticipated that several parts of the VEP neighborhoods will have the LED lights installed by the time this edition of the VEP January newsletter is in the mailboxes of members.

The new lights are much brighter – with a blue white light rather than the soft yellow light that everyone has been used to seeing. A few neighbors have commented that the new lights are “erily” bright – and may take some time to get use to them. Most people has been positive in their comments as the amount of light generated is significant. The expectation is that the lights may also help deter criminal activity. These lights also have an extended life and are less expensive to power.



Report exposed wires or damaged poles immediately

(408) 794-1900 weekdays 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(408) 277-8956 all other times, including weekends/holidays

They're Back..... Home Burglaries!

By Marilyn Rodgers

Unfortunately home burglaries and/or attempted home burglaries begin again the first two weeks of the year in the VEP neighborhoods! This, after a decrease during the last 3 months of 2014. These initial incidents happened in the Parkview and Carson areas of VEP. (However, as has been the past practice – Vistapark area incidents are likely to follow soon after.)

Some of the streets affected included:

1.) Vistapark at Grandpark Circle – an attempted break-in with the homeowner at home, during the morning hours. Suspect ran

down the street and jumped into a vehicle. Another neighbor followed in a car at a safe distance and obtained the car license – police responded.

2.) A break-in and home burglary (during the day) on Lanfair.

3.) An incident that started on west Bluefield close to Victoria Park as a car accident involving a DUI driver. The Driver ran from the scene to avoid arrest – running through several neighborhood backyards. Suspect followed by a neighbor at a safe distance – police called, responded, and suspect taken into custody.

Just a reminder to be aware and be vigilant. As most home burglaries take place during the daytime between 9am and 4pm, take note of cars parked with occupant(s) sitting in them for an extended period during these hours.

Security experts are also advising homeowners to not “advertise” new purchases made over the holidays, by simply not putting out large boxes and/or containers that indicate what was purchased to passersby. Rather cut up boxes and/or put them out in the trash/recycling a few at a time.

Also, if you are concerned by something you see in the neighborhood, follow your instincts and call in a report to 311. If you believe it is a crime in progress – call 911. If you are a TAPS security patrol subscriber, be sure to contact them – they also are very responsive to following up on suspicious behavior.

Stay vigilant, alert, and safe!

(Note: VEP will have a presentation on the Neighborhood Watch program at the January 27th meeting – plan to attend – and bring a neighbor! Everyone is welcome!)

Does VEP have your e-mail address?

E-mail is our primary communication tool during months that newsletters are not published.

You can provide or update your e-mail address when you renew your VEP Membership for 2015!
(See Application Form, Page ##)

Or, contact Adina Pierce at adinap@yahoo.com to provide or change your e-mail address.

(Note: VEP never shares your e-mail address with anyone.)



Proud Supporter of the VEP

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News from District 10 Councilmember Khamis

District 10 Community Office Hours

We have made a slight change to our twice-a-month community office hours. I wanted to make sure I was accessible to you as possible, so rather than meeting in the evenings of the third Wednesday of every month, we will be meeting the second Saturday of the month from 10:00am to 11:30am. The location will remain the same, and our morning sessions will move forward unchanged. You can see the list of dates and times below. If you have any questions, call my office at 408-535-4910 or email us at district10@sanjoseca.gov.

First Wednesday of Every Month from 8:30am to 9:30am
Almaden Community Center
6445 Camden Ave; San Jose, CA 95120

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3

Second Saturday of Every Month from 10:00am to 11:30am
City Espresso
630 Blossom Hill Road; San Jose, CA 95123

January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13

Mentoring Outreach Meet Up and Celebration

You can learn about becoming a mentor at the annual Mentoring Outreach Meet Up and Celebration from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose. Representatives from a dozen organizations can tell you about making a difference in your community by connecting one-on-one with a child, teenager or young adult. The guest speaker will be Quon Reaves of Boldly Me. The free event is presented by the South Bay Mentoring Coalition and sponsored by the office of Supervisor Dave Cortese and Supervisor Cindy Chavez.

Register at www.sccgov.org/mentoringconference.



Super Guadalupe River Run

Kick off Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 1 in San Jose with the Super Guadalupe River Run! Don't fumble the opportunity to burn some calories. Whether you go long for 6.2 miles, run a 3.1 mile buttonhook, or tackle the kids' 1K quarterback sneak, you'll earn your guacamole on the Guadalupe. Proceeds benefit the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

raceroster.com/events/2015/3613/super-guadalupe-river-run-2015

News from District 1 County Supervisor Wasserman

Looking back on my year as President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, it's been an eventful 12 months. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors for their support and their initiatives to help our residents. Highlights for Santa Clara County in 2014 include:

1. Thanks to the generosity of donor Mr. Walter Lester, the new Martial Cottle Park became Santa Clara County's 29th Park! The State, County, and the Park's neighbors worked collaboratively to ensure that the Park honors the donor's vision to highlight the agricultural heritage of Santa Clara Valley. Martial Cottle Park offers trails, picnic areas and other low-impact recreational uses, plus agricultural and community gardens.

2. A new service for our veterans was established this year. The Santa Clara County Office of Veterans Services will begin issuing Veteran I.D. cards. The identification cards can be used as proof of military service to access services, benefits and discounts offered at many local businesses to those who served our country.

3. We also took steps in the battle against human trafficking. The County's new Human Trafficking Commission is actively investigating the nature and scope of trafficking in the County, including both labor and sex trafficking. We will collaborate with regional, national, and international partners to share information and strategies for ending modern day slavery.

4. Thanks to the new "Water To Go" initiative, 38 Santa Clara County schools now have Hydration Stations to encourage kids to choose water instead of soda and to reduce disposable plastic water bottle usage. This effort is the result of a partnership with FIRST 5 and the Santa Clara Valley Water District as part of on-going efforts to increase water access in schools, especially those with student populations at high-risk for obesity.

5. Smartphone users can download three new County services apps for free: SCCVOTE allows users to access voter services. Residents can report problems with harmful vectors like mosquitoes, rats, and wildlife with SCCVECTOR. And the Santa Clara County Library District app, SCCL, gives users access to the library's website and catalog. Another app will soon enable hikers at County Parks to report problems at parks and on trails.

In addition to these accomplishments, the County Library District celebrated its 100 year anniversary. We passed a balanced budget of almost \$5 billion, launched a new easy-to-use restaurant grading system, and reduced County water usage significantly. We also raised the profile of the County and the "ReLife Help" provided to our 1.9 million residents. 2015 is already shaping up to be no less busy: A few policy discussions to keep your eye on are next steps for our voting system, and outfitting sheriff's deputies with body-worn video cameras.

Contact: (408) 299-5010, or mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

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It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership!

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. You'll find a remit envelop in this newsletter. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it back to us as soon as possible--while it's still fresh in your mind. That's all there is to it!

In a very real sense, renewing membership is your vote of confidence and support for the work we do as VEP volunteers. Yes, we get an occasional "Thank you," but proof positive of your appreciation is your willingness to renew membership each year. We also appreciate the nice comments many of you offer along with your renewal—for that, we offer our thanks!

VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today and ask your neighbors to join our growing family. Thank you.

What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.
- VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels.
- VEP was founded in 1969. We are one of the largest, most successful, and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year.
- To receive monthly email alerts.
- To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.
- To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.
- To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 40 years of success in our neighborhoods.

YOU COULD WIN a **FREE** 2015 VEP MEMBERSHIP!

Bring your completed Membership Application, with payment, to this month's VEP General Meeting on Tuesday, January 27th! You will be entered in a drawing to have your membership fee returned to you, that night!



Just imagine getting all the great benefits of VEP Membership, *free!*

Tell your neighbors!



** VEP Membership Application **

Note: None of the your personal information will ever be shared with any third party.

**** Please type or print legibly ****

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address:

Telephone # _____

Email address(es):

Comment(s):

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

I am willing to volunteer for:

- Beautification/clean-up projects
- VEP News/mailling prep
- Memorial Day Parade & Festival
- Distribute flyers
- Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- Other: _____

Please let us know:

- I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

Mail your \$20 check to:

VEP
P.O. Box 18111
San Jose, CA 95158.

Thank you!

News from District 10 Leadership Coalition

By Peggy Golden

The last general meeting for the District 10 Leadership Coalition group met on Saturday, November 15, 2014 at the Almaden Branch Library on Camden Avenue in San Jose.

Pat McMahon, D10LC Acting Chair, gave a brief report on a recent survey conducted by board members as to what member groups valued most and least, what meeting format they preferred, as well as any suggested improvements for the future. Out of 68 people invited to respond there were a total of 22 responses. 14 were interviewed by phone and the remainder were sent an email survey. The response summary follows.

Most Valued: Networking and idea sharing; learning about community issues and events.

Least Valued: People speaking for far too long; developer and planning presentations

Meeting Format: Workshop

Suggested Improvements included: Better communication (minutes, agenda, community issues), participation of a broader range of member groups, more sharing of member groups activities and best practices, more food and fun, and they would like the group to sponsor an annual event.

A panel of leaders from a few strong neighborhood groups gave us "reports" on effective community organizations. Among them were **Dave Noel, President of Erikson Neighborhood Association, Ed Brooks, Community Relations Director from District 1, Bob Strain, President of Almaden Valley Community Association, and Marilyn Rodgers, President of VEP**. The panel provided a wealth of information, far too much to include here, but one thing that rang true throughout all the speakers' presentations was how hard it is for any organization to find enough active volunteers.

As a guest from District 1, Ed Brooks shared the experience of writing a CAP grant that allows for a year's worth of driveway parties. These easy-to-do social events bring neighbors together in a fun atmosphere to encourage discussion of neighborhood issues and needs. As a matter of fact, there will be more on this concept presented at the D10LC meeting on Saturday, Jan. 17th.

Magdalena Carrasco, the new **District 5 City Councilperson** and guest speaker, gave a powerful account of how she unseated an incumbent and is now leading the charge in her district, specifically in the areas of school reform, safety and housing. Her assistant, Karen Martinez, has championed the school reform agenda. Magdalena cited some very dire statistics in crime (ie, gangs, robberies) and achievement gaps for children. She understands the private and personal challenges that some of the residents in District 5 face and wants to work on giving families options to access the right tools for success in the way of private, public and charter schools, as well as economic development. Magdalena listed the following as her main challenges: working across districts, population diversity, partnerships & resources.

Member Activities Reports:

John Salah was concerned there were no flagmen directing traffic around the Almaden Ranch construction sight, which is frustrating and stressful for anyone in that traffic congested area.

AWNA's Nick Labosky covered the SJPD drone issue and is asking the PD for more transparency with the community.

Rich Crowley, from Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, assured us that his group is political, does endorse candidates and works with council to ensure our money is used effectively.

Bill Hubka, with the Almaden Senior Association, has been

heavily involved with the city and Councilman Khamis' office working on the recent issues surrounding cash handling procedures of senior associations. The ASA is the largest and most active senior organization in the city.

Marilyn Rodgers, VEP President, recently supported Councilman Johnny Khamis' position at a Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority meeting on how it will move forward with the concept of express lanes on SR-85.

This was the last year that **Bob Vonderwerth, Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association**, will host the annual Toys for Tots event held at his home. He plans now to focus on the July 4th event sponsored by Johnny's office.

Linda Wilson, from the Martin-Fontana Parks Association, reported that PRNS has plans for major turf reduction and will not replace old irrigation lines in large city parks to save on maintenance and watering costs.

Report from Councilman Johnny Khamis: Councilman Khamis was soliciting help with getting the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority to move forward with the Highway 85 Express Lanes Program. A recent meeting with the SCVTA, and a handful of people from Cupertino and Saratoga who came to speak against the program, provided big doses of frustration considering the added freeway use that will come with various development projects in the south bay. Marilyn Rodgers was the only District 10 resident at this SCVTA meeting to support Councilman Khamis. Citing approximate numbers of added residential homes (3,600 on Cottle Road, 2,200 off Highway 87, two new urban villages in south San Jose, not to mention Apple's new spaceship headquarters in Cupertino), the added commute traffic in the south bay will be unbearable. Councilman Khamis recently authored an editorial piece in the San Jose Mercury News, advocating for the express lanes, which was countered a few days later by one Saratoga resident and one San Jose resident. The San Jose resident urged the San Jose City Council to stop allowing massive residential developments on what used to be commercial properties along the 85 corridor and in the south end of San Jose. Whichever side of this debate you are on, I would urge you to express your opinion to the VTA board of directors, listed below:

Councilman Khamis	408-535-4910	district10@sanjoseca.gov
Nuria Fernandez	408-321-5559	general.manager@vta.org
John Ristow	408-321-5713	john.ristow@vta.org
Ken Yeager	408-299-5040	supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org
Cindy Chavez	408-299-5020	cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org
Jose Estevez	408-586-3029	jestevez@ci.milpitas.ca.gov

You can learn more about this project at www.vta.org, click on Projects & Programs, then Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program, then SR85 Project.

The last item on the agenda was the nominations for election of the 2015 D10LC Board:

Suzan Bartlett – Cahalan Neighborhood
Raylene Fedor - Individual member living in Almaden
Peggy Golden - VEP Community Association
Shiraz Kotadia - Almaden Valley Community Association
Nick Labosky - Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association

Rich Crowley, acting as the Nominations Committee Chairperson, presented this slate of D10LC that have indicated an interest in serving on the Board of Directors for 2015. Voting will take place at the January 17th meeting. The next general meeting will be March 21, 2015 at the Almaden Branch Library - 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120 at 9:00am. Everyone is welcome.

Emergency Preparedness: Part 2 Creating a Family Disaster Plan

By Rachel Witmeyer



In the South Bay Area, we could be faced with all kinds of emergencies, from fires to creek flooding to earthquakes. The good news is that a good —Disaster Plan” will help your family be prepared for any kind of emergency!

According to the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services, there are several components to a well-developed plan. The first and most important step is to include all the members of your family in making the plan (as appropriate for individuals’ age and abilities).

Put the plan in writing and keep multiple copies easily accessible in various locations within your home, save one in your car, and keep one at your workplace, or office. Women may prefer to keep one copy in their purse, and men may prefer to keep one copy in their briefcase or computer bag, rather than keeping copies in their car and workplace.

Components of a Written Disaster Plan

A.) Emergency Contact Information for Local Services

Examples: Police & Fire - Call 911
Poison Control - Call 1-800-876-4766
Power Outages - Call 1-800-743-5000

B.) Emergency Information for Each Family Member (pets, too!)

- Name and Date of Birth
- Social Security Numbers
- Medical Insurance Numbers
- Medical Information: allergies, medications, etc.
- Contact Information for each Person, so they can be reached at school and/or at their workplace

C.) Emergency Contact - Extended Family

- From the SCCOES:
- Establish an out-of-state family contact to coordinate information. (After an emergency, it is usually easier to call long-distance.) Everyone should know the contact’s phone number and email address. For school-aged children, write the number in their binder or backpack.”

D.) Best Evacuation Routes

- Two exits for each room (*and keep them clear!*)
- For window exits, install escape ladders, and train all family members in their proper usage.
- Best exit from the home, and a second best (*in case the best route is blocked*)
- Best route out of the neighborhood, and a second best (*in case of downed power lines / trees or blocked streets*)

Note: Families with young children may wish to make a floor-plan drawing of the childrens’ bedrooms with the exits clearly marked. Post these —Evacuation Maps” the wall of their bedrooms, at the children’s eye-level.

E.) Utility Shut-Down Checklist

- Make a list of all the utilities at your home (water, electricity, gas), and the locations of the shut-offs. Teach all appropriate family members how to properly operate the shut-offs.
- Keep any tools (like wrenches) required for shut-off operation close to the shut-offs themselves.

Safety Notes About Utilities:

Electricity: One should always shut-off all the individual circuits before shutting down the main circuit. If the circuit box is sparking or in flames, do not attempt to shut-off the power.

GAS: One should never turn the gas off unless it is a real emergency. Once gas has been shut-off, it should only be turned back on by a utility professional. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself!

F.) Designate —Pet Savior(s)” who will evacuate your family pet(s).

G.) Designate Meeting Places

- A good meeting place will help your family members to find one another following a major emergency.
- Two locations should be chosen: One should be very close to home in the case that family members are at home, or in the neighborhood, during the emergency. A second location should be in a nearby area (like a shopping center) in case family members are outside their own neighborhood at the time of the emergency.

Once your family has established your disaster plan, you should have periodic —evacuation drills” to practice exiting safely by the best routes and properly shutting-off the utilities. These —drills” can also be the perfect time to include family member practice in the proper use of a fire extinguisher and in first aid skills.

You will also want to know the Emergency Plan for your children’s schools and your workplace. You can encourage your employer to hold periodic —drills” to help make your co-workers and your workplace more prepared.

If you are ready to get started, FEMA has a great website to support families’ Emergency Planning (www.ready.gov). They even have a section with samples and templates to make planning easier! Visit: <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

In the Next Installation...

Part 3: Building Disaster Supply Kits for your home, office and car

But, if you can’t wait, visit: <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>



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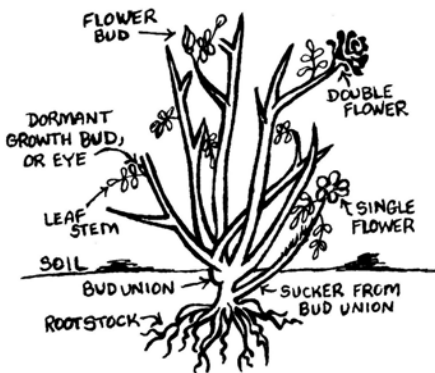
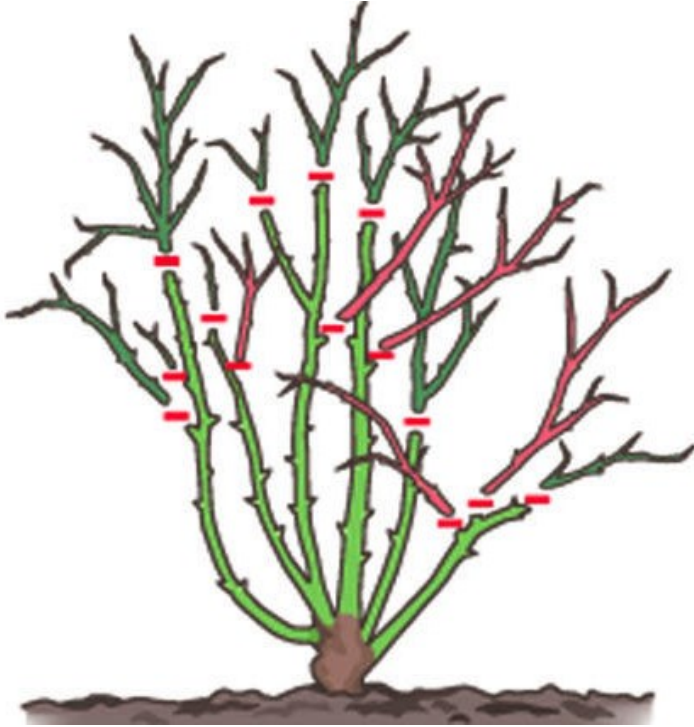


Gardening, with John Marks

Rose Pruning Time

It's Tough-Love time for roses; that means stripping leaves, taking shears to lanky canes, and ripping out suckers. This isn't brain surgery; anybody can do it - and should.

You don't have to thin out the center of the plant, but you should clip any interior cane that crosses another. Remove all the leaves, so the rose will think it's going dormant. Cut above the node, where the a new shoot will grow.



4 Easy Rules of Pruning Rose Bushes

1. Remove all dead branches and twiggy growth. Cut cleanly to bud union or to branches from which twigs grew.
2. Open up the center of the bush by removing branches that cross over or grow into the center of the plant.
3. Remove up to one third of the length of all remaining branches. Heavier pruning robs the plant of nutrients needed for new growth.

If you make a mistake, don't sweat it; roses are pretty good at handling themselves. Feed them compost if you have some. Let the aphids come, and then two weeks later, the ladybugs will come and eat the aphids.

If you're interested in some easy lessons, and tips from the masters, you can get three hours of instruction and practice at San Jose's Heritage Rose Garden at Spring and Taylor (or Coleman and Taylor) from 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday and Friday.

For more info, go to www.heritageroses.us

Random Tidbits, with Kathy Wood



Happy New Year! After five years of baking and blogging I've decided to hang up my apron...except during meal time. Year 1 involved baking a different cookie every single day. This was a challenge but soon became a daily ritual and ended with 365 different cookie recipes. Year 2 brought cake, but on a weekly basis rather than daily, and with this same schedule Year 3's theme was pie. Attempting to break away from so much sweets, Year 4 was entitled bread, although a few sweet bread recipes made an appearance. And, of course, last year's choice (Year 5) was sandwiches, salads, and soups.

I learned a lot in those quick-to-pass five years, from trying different baking procedures to discovering new flavor combinations. Several recipes have been prepared a second and third time, while others were given their freedom after the first making.

I still enjoy baking and probably always will. Peace and happiness surround me as I walk into my kitchen, begin pulling out my favorite mixing bowl, my trustworthy measuring cups and spoons, and my can-take-the-heat baking pans. If the radio is on there may be a little singing occurring which isn't fit for human ears but my dog and cat don't seem to mind. They have also learned to stay out of the way if I begin dancing. After a few minutes of being in the oven, a wonderful smell emits that fills the kitchen and slowly penetrates the remainder of the house. This technique is better than any room freshener on the market. Walking into a house where anything chocolate or anything cinnamon is baking is definitely a nose-satisfier and makes one feel at home.

A sense of accomplishment is what takes over after the last dish has been washed, dried and put away, the spices put back on the shelf, and the end product tasted and approved with a satisfying and throaty groan. Baking may not be for everyone, but everyone should try baking - you may be surprised at what you accomplish!

In this new year, I will continue to share a recipe that I have either just tried and liked, or one that hasn't been in any of the previous categories, but is included in my favorite recipes cookbook(s). This isn't necessarily a recipe, but more of a way to "spruce up" something ordinary.



Spruce Up Some Chocolate Pudding



Ingredients:



- 1 Box of Instant Chocolate Pudding Mix & Milk to Mix With
- 1 Container of Whipped Topping (your favorite brand), thawed
- Block of Chocolate or Chocolate Candies

Directions:

- Stir up a small package of instant chocolate pudding.
- Divide half of the pudding between four individual serving dishes.
- Add 1 to 1½ cups of thawed whipped topping to the remaining pudding. Mix together well.
- Spread this mixture over the pudding in each dish.
- Grate a little chocolate (I use a few chocolate chips) over the tops, and you have a simple, but yummy dessert!

VEP Community Schools Calendar

January / February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19  NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	20	21 NJHS Meeting @JMMS ----- SELAC Meeting ~ 6:00-7:30pm ~ @Gunderson HS	22 Blood Drive ~ 8:30am - 3pm ~ @Gunderson HS ----- SELAC Meeting ~ 10:00am ~ @JMMS Library	23 SELAC Meeting ~ 8:05-9:05am ~ @Carson School	24
25	26  Scholastic Book Fair This Week @John Muir Middle School, Library	27	28	29	29	31
1	2	3 JMMS Falcon Feeding Frenzy @Giorgios' Italian	6	5  JMMS: 7th Grade 4-Day Field Trip ~Through Sunday~	11 Principal's Coffee ~ 8:30-9:00am ~ @JMMS Library	7
8	9 NO SCHOOL Oak Grove Schools ----- SSC Meeting ~ 2:30-3:30pm ~ @Carson School Room C-10	10	11 NJHS Meeting @JMMS ----- JMMS PTSA Mtg. 6:30pm / Library ----- GHS SELAC Mtg. 6pm @Library	12 CA\$H for College ~ 5:00-8:00pm ~ @Gunderson HS	13 Minimum Day @JMMS ----- Valentine's Dance ~ 6:30-8:30pm ~ @Carson School Cafeteria	14 
15	16 President's Day NO SCHOOL @Parkview No School All This Week @San Jose Unified Schools (Winter Break)	17	18	19	20	21

Community Schools Contact Information

Carson Elementary School ~ Home of the Cougars

WEB: <http://www.sjUSD.org/carson/> PHONE: (408) 535-6287

Parkview Elementary School ~ Home of the Panthers

PHONE: (408) 226-4655

John Muir Middle School ~ Home of the Falcons

WEB: <http://sjUSD.org/john-muir/> PHONE: (408) 535-6281

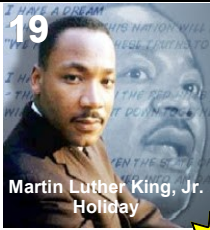


Gunderson High School ~ Home of the Grizzlies

WEB: <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/> PHONE: (408) 535-6340



VEP Community Calendar

January / February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19  Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	20	21 Friends of the Library Meetings ~ 6:00pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library @Pearl Library	22 Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	23 Make A Whimsical Wind Vane ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	24 Mentoring Outreach Meet Up / Celebrate 10 am - 12:30 pm @County Gov't Ctr. 70 West Hedding St ----- Library Book Sale @Edenvale Library
25	26	27  VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	28 Knit & Crochet ~ 12:30pm ~ Jewelry Making ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	29 Lunar New Year Kids' Craft ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	30	28 Mad Science presents Water! ~ 2:00pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library
1 	2	3	4 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center	5 TeensReach Meeting ~ 4:00 pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library @Pearl Library	6	7
8	9 African & African-American Folklore w/Kirk Waller ~ 3:30 pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	10	11 Jewelry Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Book Club ~ 6:30pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	12 Valentine's Day Kids' Craft ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Lib. ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	13	14 Valentines' Day D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis 10:00-11:30am @City Espresso 630 Blossom Hill Rd
15	16	17	18 Knit & Crochet ~ 12:30pm ~ Jewelry Making ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	19 Author Oliver Chin: "The Year of the Sheep" ~ 3:30 pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	20	21

Coming Soon in the VEP:

VEP Community Meetings

Tuesday, February 24th
Tuesday, March 31st
Tuesday, April 28th
Tuesday, May 26th



VEP Community Events

VEP Community-Wide
GARAGE SALE
Saturday, May 2nd

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158
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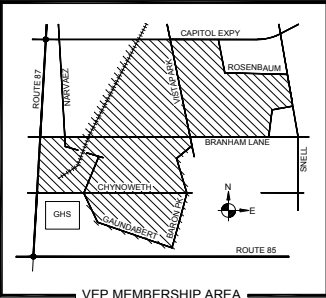
Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to 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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Community Room
Vista Park

7:30 pm in the



Be sure to attend
VEP's Community Meeting
Tuesday, January 27th