

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

MAY 

2015

Table of Contents

VEP May Meeting Agenda	p. 1
VEP May Meeting Preview	p. 2
VEP April Meeting Synopsis	p. 2 - 4
Community News & Updates	p. 4 - 7
Martial-Cottle Park Updates	p. 7 - 9
VEP Membership Application	p. 10
Community Events	p. 11 - 13
VEP Member Columns	p. 14 - 15
Community Calendars	p. 16 - 17

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

President - Marilyn Rodgers
Vice President - Katherine Decker
Secretary - Adina Pierce
Treasurer - Ginger Cardona
Director - Helen Castillo
Director - Rich Giammona
Director - Peggy Golden
"VEP News" Editor - Rachel Witmeyer



VEP'S COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30 p.m. - Tuesday

► **June 2nd, 2015** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★**Video Camera Monitored Response**★
An Additional Option for Home Security

Presentation by
Francisco De La Torre, TAPS Residential Security Patrols

★**Update on Homelessness**★

Presentation by
Jose Salcido, Council Assistant, District 10

★**Martial Cottle Park – Partner –**
University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)★
By Sheila Barry, Santa Clara County Director & Livestock Advisor

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

By Eric Goodrich, Park Manager

★ **VEP Business Meeting** ★

Election – Slate for VEP Board of Directors

Announcements & Updates

4th of July Fireworks Festival, Almaden Lake

Fundraiser for 4th of July Festival

Sponsored by Playa del Rey Neighborhood Association
June 20th – Buffalo Wild Wings

July 4th Fireworks Festival
Volunteers Wanted

Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff

Status of VTA Project for Hwy 85 Express Lanes
San Jose City Budget

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, September 29, 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 May/June Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **June 2nd**. Please join us at the May/June VEP Community meeting, featuring:

► **Presentations:** Featured presentations will include **Video Camera Monitored Response** – this is an additional option for residents to consider for increased home security. There will be a live demonstration on this equipment by **Francisco De La Torre of TAPS Residential Security Patrols**. The second featured speaker is **Jose Salcido**, Council Assistant to Councilmember Khamis, who will provide attendees with an update on resources and appropriate contact numbers for reporting and assisting with **Homelessness** in the VEP neighborhoods. The third speaker, **Sheila Barry**, is the Santa Clara County Director, and Livestock Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension (**UCCE**) – a **Martial Cottle Park Partner**. The UCCE includes 4-H and Master Gardeners.

► **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.**

Announcements and updates will be included. See the Agenda on Page 1 for more details.

► **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 **June 2nd**. Please join us! (Note – this is the last meeting prior to Summer Break!)

April Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said she was pleased that everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and taking this opportunity to network with others in attendance. She apologized for stopping them, and then asked that they continue, but for the next 3 minutes find someone they did not know and introduce themselves. Everyone seems to enjoy this activity and it is difficult to get them to return to a meeting format.

Ms. Rodgers thanked Josie Supencheck for functioning as the welcoming hostess for the evening. She encouraged everyone to be sure they signed in and received a raffle ticket – the prize would be awarded later in the evening. Ms. Rodgers mentioned that VEP volunteers had participated in a successful All American Litter Pickup on Saturday, April 25th sponsored by City of San Jose. Each City Council District participated. This year Council District 10 had five staging areas – the one for the VEP area was in the Vista Park parking lot.

President Rodgers then introduced **Councilmember Johnny Khamis** who gave a brief report and update. He was pleased with the volunteer turnout for District 10 at Saturday's Litter Pickup. He thanked Marilyn for also assisting in manning the staging-area sign-in booth here in Vista Park. VEP volunteers collected 32 bags of litter. Other areas within District 10 also collected litter, did maintenance projects such as planting trees and cleaning up neighborhood areas.

Councilmember Khamis also wanted to update us on the concern everyone has about the dramatic increase of home burglaries during a one month period of time in the Almaden Valley area of District 10. He, along with the Mayor, Captain Williams, and the SJPD Police Chief, held a public safety meeting at Bret Harte School in the Almaden Valley. Over 1,000 people were in attendance. Everyone had been voicing concern about what might be

causing such a sudden increase in a short period of time. The impacts of Proposition 47 may be one explanation. As a result, Councilmember Khamis has planned a follow-up safety meeting which will focus on Proposition 47, and its impact here in the San Jose area. Implementation of Proposition 47 had led to the release of many non-violent felons receiving changes/reductions in their sentences and being returned to city and county jails and/or given early release. He was also pleased to report that several organized group/gangs working the Almaden area, committing most of the recent home burglaries, had been taken into custody. Councilmember Khamis thanked Captain Schroder for his assistance in this endeavor.

The Councilmember also encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming San Jose City Budget meetings – one will be held in each Council District. District 10 will have their budget meeting on Tuesday, May 5th. He also encouraged residents to come to his community office hours which are held twice a month. One is held at the Almaden Community Center/Library, 6445 Camden Avenue, S.J. 95120 on the 1st Wednesday of the month, from **8:30am to 9:30am** – the next scheduled meetings will be May 6th and **June 3rd**. In this area, the community office hours are held the 2nd Saturday of the month, from 10am to 11:30am at City Expresso, 630 Blossom Hill Road, S.J. 95123. The next scheduled meetings will be May 9th and **June 13th**. Ms. Rodgers stated that this is an opportunity for any resident in District 10 to meet with their Councilmember face to face without an appointment, and without going downtown to City Hall.

Ms. Rodgers introduced **Captain Ed Schroder** who is the new Commander for the SJPD Southern Division. She explained that Captain Schroder was just recently promoted to this position, and that Captain Shawny Williams, who many of you know - had come to two VEP meetings in the last year, was recently promoted to be one of the Deputy Chiefs for the San Jose Police Department. Captain Schroder thanked President Rodgers for the invitation to speak to VEP. As Councilmember Khamis had indicated, Captain Schroder had been very involved recently with the sudden uptick in home burglaries in the Almaden Valley area of San Jose (also part of City Council District 10 and the SJPD Southern Division). There had been a sudden increase to 279 burglaries in one month in Almaden Valley. Residents there were understandably very concerned and upset. Many residents attended the above mentioned meeting, hired private security companies to help with patrolling their area, and initiated Neighborhood Watch principles - watching for unusual cars and/or activity on their streets and neighborhoods. Several pro-active calls from residents assisted SJPD in the capture of the individuals involved in these home burglaries. As a result the numbers of burglaries in that area has now significantly decreased.

Captain Schroder provided some brief statistics for our immediate area. He indicated that he had reviewed information available from the last month, as well as information provided by Ms. Rodgers regarding the specific geographic areas that we would be interested in knowing about (the VEP neighborhoods). During the immediate past month, 7 home burglaries had taken place. SJPD also had calls reporting several vehicles in our area had been broken into – some with contents stolen, others with nothing missing. In addition to the home burglaries in San Jose, there had been a ring of individuals who were targeting vehicles – to steal. Most popular car stolen – older model Hondas. In a recent 7-day period, over 80 vehicles were stolen, four of them in our area. He encouraged everyone to be sure to lock your vehicles, and not to leave anything of value which can be visibly seen from outside the car. Another issue that seems to be on the rise - don't go out in the morning – start your vehicle, then leave it (as in returning to the house) while it warms up." Several vehicles have recently

Continues on Page 3

been stolen this way – it only takes a couple of minutes for the car to disappear.

He mentioned how impressed he was that, as per information from President Rodgers, residents in this area had recently participated in several presentations on Neighborhood Watch. He wanted to strongly encourage residents to attend those meetings. The Crime Prevention Specialists provide a lot of good information and helpful tips. He also indicated that in our area one of the issues which has been resulting in a significant amount of calls for assistance, had to do with “special homes” – these calls were specifically related to reporting “missing boys.” He did not have any further information. This subject initiated several comments and questions from audience members. Ms. Rodgers stated there are several special category “homes” in the VEP neighborhoods – including two on Hyde Park Drive. One member asked who oversees or regulates these homes. Captain Schroder was not certain. Ms. Rodgers stated that depending on the purpose of the home – that the County was the primary overseer. Captain Schroder assured everyone that there was no indication that these homes posed a danger to the neighborhood as a public safety issue.

Captain Schroder encouraged everyone to continue to be alert and attentive to any activity that seemed out of place – “suspicious.” While SJPD officers may not be able to come immediately, reporting these issues/incidents helps alert them to the description of a possible vehicle and/or individual. Then when a patrol car becomes available, officers could zero in on the information that had been provided. Several individuals have been apprehended this way by SJPD. Ms. Rodgers thanked the Captain for coming to the meeting, and invited him to stay as long as he could.

Next, Ms. Rodgers introduced the **speaker from Our City Forest**. Ms. Rodgers indicated that their CEO and Founder Rhonda Berry was unable to attend as planned, as she was quickly trying to complete proposals for grants with looming deadlines. VEP is very proud of the fact that they encouraged County Parks staff to include Our City Forest as one of the Park partners. Our City Forest is a non-profit organization that has been very helpful over the past several years in assisting VEP volunteers to plant over 400 trees in our neighborhoods.

Our City Forest was the first Park “partner” to sign the contract – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara County Parks Department. As a result, Our City Forest has been able to quickly begin the work needed to initiate the “tree nursery” they planned to have at Martial Cottle Park. President Rodgers said that she was pleased that one of the Our City Forest Staff, who is very involved with Martial Cottle Park, was able to attend the meeting. **Jared Slavbaugh** provided three helpful handouts. One included some fun and interesting statistics – such as the number of trees Our City Forest has helped volunteers plant - both in San Jose and in Council District 10. 65,000 trees and 160,000 volunteers since 1994 when Ms. Berry started the organization.

A second handout included very timely information, as it addressed the drought – titled “Trees Help the Drought.” Highlighted information included: Trees save water, Trees only need 10-15 gallons of water per week vs. lawns typically use approximately 1800 gallons per week (replace some lawn with trees), and Trees clean and protect our waterways. Additional positive aspects of having trees includes: trees make your neighborhood safe (tree lined streets tend to reduce speeding and decrease crime), trees increase property value by 3 – 15%, trees make the air healthy, and trees are beautiful. Jared briefly reviewed the third handout – a layout of the nursery site located at Martial Cottle Park. With

Please Note:

The VEP Community Meeting originally scheduled for May 26th has been moved forward one week.

The NEW meeting date is Tuesday, June 2nd!

We hope to see you there!

assistance from several “corporate” partners – who had provided many willing volunteers – significant progress has been accomplished over just a few weeks.

Our City Forest now has at the Martial Cottle location - an innovative irrigation system, a greenhouse, tool shed, potting area, several tree banks, and an area for native plant demonstrations. The majority of the nursery trees have been planted. However, there will be opportunities for volunteers (including those living in neighborhoods close by, i.e. VEP) to assist in caring for the nursery trees. As there was some confusion regarding the location and directional orientation of the area where Our City Forest will be located (from the handout), Ms. Rodgers assisted with some brief additional information.

All of the Park “partners” including Our City Forest have plots/land that are located side by side on the south side of the Park property, west of Snell along Chynoweth. For additional information and/or to volunteer, contact Our City Forest at **ourcityforest.org** or 408-998-7337. Volunteer Coordinators are at Ext. 123. Ms. Rodgers thanked Jared for coming to the VEP meeting to fill in on short notice, and encouraged him to not hesitate in providing VEP with information on any opportunities available for volunteers particularly at Martial Cottle as the VEP community is very interested and committed to the success of the Park – and its partners.

The **third speaker** for the evening was **Ms. Joan Young, Manager for Volunteer Services, San Jose Public Libraries**. Ms. Young provided the attendees with an audiovisual presentation and several handouts. She shared some positive news for the San Jose Libraries which was recently announced by the new Mayor of San Jose, Sam Liccardo. As a result of the passage for the continuance of the parcel tax on the ballot, the continuing requests from residents to have more hours of access to the public libraries, and the commitment from the Chief Librarian to increase the opportunities for, and use of, volunteers in the libraries; the Mayor and City Council are supportive of the goal to increase library hours and have the libraries return to 6-day availability from the current 4-days. The plan is to have San Jose Public libraries open 6 days per week as of July 1st.

Ms. Young's audio-visual presentation highlighted and provided additional detail that was partially provided in two handouts she made available to attendees. One “Get Involved” invites volunteers to contribute their skills and talents in one of several ways: adult literacy tutor, reader to children, library services volunteer,

Continues on Page 4

ESL Conversation Club Facilitator, Tech Mentor (assists customers on basic computer and internet skills), Friends of the Library (advocate for the library and, raise needed funds), and Opportunities for Teens (ages 13-18 join —ensReach” and earn required community service hours through participation). A second handout highlighted the Adult Literacy Tutor volunteer program — inviting individuals to become a Volunteer Tutor for the Partners in Reading program. It lists qualifications/basic requirements and information on the orientation and training sessions. Among the requirements are: participate in 12 hours of tutor training and be available to tutor 3-4 hours per week for a minimum of six months. For additional information on this program call 408-808-2361 or go to www.sjpl.org/par. For information or to apply as a volunteer for the other listed volunteer opportunities go to www.sjpl.org/volunteer. Ms. Rodgers thanked Ms. Young for providing information on such an impressive list of volunteer opportunities at all of our San Jose Libraries.

President Rodgers then welcomed **Eric Goodrich**, Park Manager for Martial Cottle Park. She said that everyone was eager for an update on the park and that everyone missed hearing from him at the previous meeting. The date of the March VEP meeting happened to be a holiday for both the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara — Cesar Chavez’ Birthday. As a result Mr. Goodrich was not able to attend that meeting.

Eric was pleased to announce that the Park would open as of May 15th. There will be no fanfare. Many of the features and activities are currently not available, but will be brought online periodically over the Summer months. Everything should be finished and available before Labor Day Weekend — so the final target date is September 5th. The Master Farmer had been previously selected, but could not be announced until the legal process was finalized. The Master Farmer is Jacobs Farms del Cabo. They currently are planting flowers and melons. As the —Master Farmer”, they will oversee all of the growing areas (including eventually the Life Estate, when it joins the rest of the park property). All produce grown will stay (be sold) within the County (not shipped elsewhere). The Master Farmer will eventually establish and run a fruit and vegetable type stand to sell products grown on the farm.

The current plan is to be organic (Note: originally, this was a strong desire voiced by the community. However during the planning process for the Park property, the County did not believe it would be practical or feasible — as being —certified organic” is a long and expensive process to obtain. So, at that point, the hope was that at least —organic type principles would be utilized.” However, the goal of being organic is being revisited.) As there have been no chemicals used on the property for over 15 years, this should be an advantage in trying to obtain the goal of becoming organic. Next year, the hope is to also have a —Yu Pick” area for visitors use and enjoyment.

Currently, the paths within the park area, educational signage, rest rooms, and Children’s’ Discovery Farm are all available for use and enjoyment by the public. The Children’s’ Discovery Farm (—kiddy farm”) was put in place as Mr. Lester was adamant that there be no —playground” on the property. The perimeter Trail continues to be popular and well utilized — approximately 300 people per weekday and 500 per weekend day. One attendee asked about the problem of rough pavement and weeds growing through the Trail since the storms in December. Eric said he was aware of this issue, and the Trail will be repaired/repaved. Another attendee was concerned about the lack of shade on the Trail. Members had previously requested information on being volunteers/docents for the Park. Eric said that would be possible and more information should be available for potential volunteers in the near future. President Rodgers thanked Eric for his presentation.

Ms. Rodgers then let everyone know there would be a raffle drawing for this month’s prize. Mr. Bob Aquino was the winner — the prize — a canister of specialty cookies (yummy). She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, reminded everyone to attend the upcoming District 10 Budget Meeting on May 5th, and to be sure and participate in the Annual VEP Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale on Saturday, May 2nd. Also, a reminder that the Salvation Army will once again provide a donation truck for neighbors to use for donations following the Garage Sale and/or any other items they may want to donate that day. The truck will be parked at the southern end of Chynoweth (down from Gunderson High School) at the intersection with Barron Park Drive. The next VEP meeting has been moved to the first Tuesday in June — **Tuesday, June 2nd**, rather than the previously scheduled last Tuesday of May (which is the day after the Memorial Day Holiday weekend). She also thanked everyone for their assistance in stacking chairs and helping to clean up the community room.

Presentation of the Slate: Election of the VEP Board of Directors

The May general membership meeting — included in the Business section of the meeting — is the presentation of the Slate for Election of the VEP Board of Directors. The bylaws require that the names of members be included in a slate, and then be announced to the membership for election (in this case during the May meeting). The slate of members running for the VEP Board of Directors is as follows:

Ginger Cardona
Helen Castillo
Katherine Decker
Rich Giammona
Adina Pierce
Marilyn Rodgers
Rachel Witmeyer — who will continue as the VEP News Editor

Once the membership elect the Slate, the Board will then elect officers, i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Board may also appoint members to fill any open/unfilled positions which may occur between election cycles.

Crime and Safety in the VEP Neighborhoods *By Marilyn Rodgers & Rachel Witmeyer*

Home Breakins - During the first two weeks of May, 4 additional homes have been burglarized in the VEP neighborhoods. One, on Marti Way was broken into for the second time in 8 months. The other incidents occurred on Adragna, Sayoko, and on Hyde Park Drive (close to Chynoweth). Break-ins occurred during the daytime, with the exception of the home on Hyde Park Drive which occurred late in the evening on a Friday.

Vehicle Breakins and/or Theft — several vehicles have been broken into in the VEP neighborhoods in recent weeks. Some had nothing taken from the vehicle, several others had items stolen from the vehicles, and 4 vehicles were stolen. The vehicles stolen occurred during a 5-day period in which an auto theft —ing” in very systematic fashion, stole over 80 vehicles in the San Jose area during that 5-day period. (Note: Car most often stolen — older model Hondas.)

Reminder to everyone regarding vehicles — lock all vehicles, do not leave anything of value in vehicles that can be seen from outside of the vehicle, and do not leave a vehicle while the engine is running (usually in the morning to —warm it up”).

Continues on page 5

This summer, when temperatures rise, be sure to remember to check that you have closed and latched/locked all the windows of your home before going out. Burglars are always on the lookout for an easy opportunity.

Encourage your neighbors to be aware, watch for unusual or “suspicious” behavior, and **report all incidents** to SJPD, as well as alerting your neighbors. Many of our neighbors – particularly if they are new to our neighborhoods, may not be aware that they need to be vigilant.

If you live on a street that has had one, or several incidents, consider hosting a Neighborhood Watch Presentation – your neighbors will be interested, and very supportive of your efforts (see article on Neighborhood Watch, below).

Annual VEP Community Garage Sale

By H. Castillo, R. Witmeyer, G. Cardona, and M. Rodgers

Once again, the VEP Community Association sponsored their annual neighborhood-wide Garage Sale. As has become the tradition, the garage sale is held on the first Saturday in May (this year, May 2nd). All residents in the VEP neighborhoods of Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview were invited to participate. The garage sale continues to be a very popular community activity and is eagerly anticipated by many residents each year.

VEP pays for the advertising, including large banners and placards, as well as putting announcements on Craig’s List. This year Nextdoor was also well utilized for announcing which streets were participating. The event is provided free to all neighbors living in the VEP neighborhoods. All neighbors need to do is place their treasures out for all to see – and then reap in the fun and profit! Many had their neighbors join in – and put up signs for their street or cul-du-sac to entice garage sale hunters.

Thanks to Board Member, Helen Castillo for placing the large banners in several locations around the VEP neighborhoods to advertise this event. This is the second year we have utilized large banners to help publicize the event – placing them two weeks in advance. They are located where casual visitors to the neighborhood, or those travelling on main thoroughfares, ie. Branham Lane, as well as residents will be informed of the upcoming event.

Also for the last several years, the Salvation Army has provided an additional service which community members appreciate – the availability of having a donation truck in the neighborhood during the hours of the garage sale. This makes it especially convenient for residents to donate items whether or not they choose to participate in the garage sale. For those that have garage sales, it is easy to donate items that may not be sold (sparing residents the challenge of re-storing unwanted items back into their homes or garages).

The annual Community-wide Garage Sale has now been taking place each year continuously for over 13 years!

If you weren’t able to participate this year, plan now for next year. **It will always be scheduled for the first Saturday in May!**

Neighborhood Watch: Another VEP Member Organizes A Successful Presentation

By Marilyn Rodgers

On the evening of May 14th, another very successful Neighborhood Watch Presentation took place. Neighborhood Watch presentations are given by San Jose Police Department Crime Prevention Specialists – for the VEP area that is Sonia Azevedo.

These presentations start at the “grass-roots” level. A resident or a group of residents are concerned about crime, or the potential for crime, on their street or cul-du-sac.

In this case, the “concerned citizen” was Mrs. Elisia Henson who lives on Stratford Park. She had heard of several incidents happening on both her street and on a couple of adjacent streets. This really concerned her. As a result, she decided to talk to her neighbors and identify a couple of dates that everyone would be available for a presentation. She then contacted Ms. Azevedo to determine her availability. Elisia also called Marilyn Rodgers for help in obtaining the Vista Park Community Room as a location to hold the presentation (VEP will assist in this way, if no one has a home that can accommodate a meeting). A suitable date was determined. Then Elisia made sure all interested neighbors received a copy of the flyer provided to her by Ms. Azevedo, which included the date, time, and location of the presentation.

The evening of the presentation, 22 neighbors representing 16 households met at the Vista Park Community Room. The informative presentation is 2 hours in length and provides a significant amount of current information on crime and safety as well as many helpful, practical tips for residents to make their homes and neighborhoods safer. Attendees also receive a Neighborhood Watch sign to place in their home windows. Everyone in attendance was very pleased, had an enjoyable time, and met some new neighbors. **They all said the presentation was very helpful and that they would highly recommend it to other neighbors.**

If you are concerned about crime, or the potential for crime, in your neighborhood or street, please consider helping to organize a Neighborhood Watch presentation. Sonia Azevedo’s contact information is through www.sjpd.org or at 408-277-4133. Ms. Azevedo requests: a minimum two-week notice to schedule a presentation, a confirmed location, a minimum of 10 households attending, as well as the name of a meeting host. For assistance to schedule a meeting location (for instance the Vista Park Community Room – should a home location not be possible) contact Marilyn Rodgers at 408-225-7553 or MRodgersRN@aol.com.

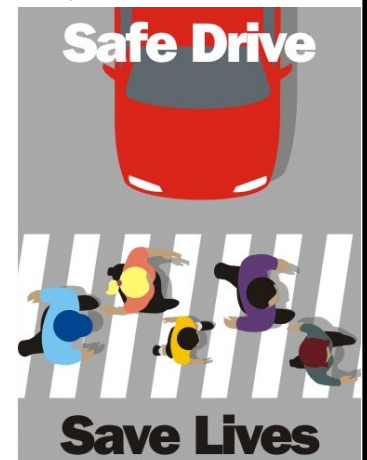
This Time of Year Accidents Tend to Increase! Slow Down on VEP Neighborhood Streets!

By Marilyn Rodgers

Unfortunately, over the last several years, accidents have increased during the month of May in the VEP neighborhoods. Some of this is due to nice weather with everyone looking forward to Summer. Some may be due to celebrations, particularly those celebrating the end of the school year and/or more specifically high school and college graduations!

Be aware of the speed limits on VEP neighborhood streets – **most are 25miles/hr** including all of Hyde Park Drive, and the south end of Vistapark Drive. **Chynoweth** is particularly vulnerable this time of year – which unfortunately in past years resulted in several fatalities and a very serious life altering injury. Most of Chynoweth is 30miles/hr, of course 25miles/hr when passing by Gunderson High School – going in both directions, and a small portion which is 35miles/hr.

Our hope is that this year, May will only be filled with joyous end of school year celebrations! Please be careful!



San Jose 2015 Budget Overview Document

By Rachel Witmeyer and Marilyn Rodgers

If you were not able to attend the District 10 Overview Meeting on the upcoming proposed 2015 San Jose City Budget, you may be interested in having access to the summary document. Each year, the City continues to improve on information provided to citizens on the proposed budget for San Jose for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1st.

Visit the following weblink to access the detailed budget summary:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/43265>

Mt. Umunhum Update: Status of Radar Tower

By Marilyn Rodgers

As part of the recent VEP February general membership meeting, attendees were provided with a presentation by Mr. Basim Jaber of the Mt. Umunhum Conservancy Board of Directors. Mr. Jaber provided an overview of the historical significance of the Air Base on Mt. Umunhum and it's only remaining visible presence, the Radar Tower (which is still standing). The Conservancy was initiated to, hopefully, save the Tower from destruction.

In March, VEP received a notification from the Umunhum Conservancy Board requesting interested residents attend the then upcoming April 16th meeting of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission. The purpose of the notification, and the request to interested residents, was to ask for assistance in convincing the Historical Heritage Commission to put the Radar Tower atop Mt. Umunhum on the County's "Heritage Resource Inventory." Should the Tower be officially declared historic, it would then be more difficult to demolish.

The County currently recognizes two levels of historic structures. The most protected ones are Historic Landmarks. The hope is to have the Tower eventually achieve that status, however, the process is lengthy, and the Tower's owner – Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, would have to agree. In the meantime, however, the Conservancy hoped to secure some interim protection for the Tower by getting it listed in the County's Heritage Resource Inventory. While not as valuable as Landmark status, being designated as a Historic Resource will help protect the Tower from demolition.

The Umunhum Conservancy Board is happy to report that at the April 16th meeting of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, 40 members of the public attended. Of the 40 public members in attendance, 20 people spoke in favor of preserving the Tower; with no one speaking against it. As a result, the Historical Heritage Commission voted to begin the process of moving forward with the formal process to evaluate the historic status of the Radar Tower. This process is expected to take a few months. The Commission, apparently, was very pleased with the amount of input from the community.



Photo Source Credit: www.panoramio.com

Earth Day 2015 Great American Litter PICK UP



Annual Great American Litter Pickup

Article By Marilyn Rodgers

Photograph by D10 Council Staff

On Saturday morning, April 25th several VEP residents came together for the purpose of picking up litter in our neighborhood. For several years the City of San Jose has sponsored this event which now takes place on an annual basis during the month of April. Each City Council District sponsors one or more locations for litter pickup. Depending on the need, additional activities can also be included – such as graffiti clean-up, weed and brush clean-up, tree pruning and/or planting, and sound-wall painting.

This year, District 10 had five locations or "staging areas" where volunteers came to sign-in, pick up supplies including large bags, bright colored Volunteer vests, pick-up sticks, and gloves. Coffee, water, and snacks were also provided for volunteers' enjoyment, along with an opportunity for neighbors to meet and network briefly before heading out to pickup up litter for the next two hours. Volunteers could either be assigned to an area known to be a "problem" area or street, or they were given the option to pick an area they had already determined needed to be cleaned up. For the VEP area of District 10, the staging area this year was in the Vista Park – next to the parking lot. President Marilyn Rodgers volunteered to help "manage" this staging area. Volunteers also had a chance to meet and chat briefly with Councilmember Johnny Khamis who went to each of the five staging areas in District 10. Councilmember Khamis, an avid volunteer himself, always spends the morning at one or more locations, picking up litter and/or painting soundwalls along side other volunteers.

The areas selected by VEP volunteers for cleanup were: in and around Vista Park, Gaundabert Lane down to the entrance to Martial Cottle Park, along Chynoweth from Gunderson High School up to the VTA Lightrail station/parking lot, the trail between Branham Lane and Chynoweth, and along Branham Lane from Vistapark Drive toward Snell.

It was a nice day for litter pickup. A hardy, very determined group of 11 volunteers came together for snacks, some brief enjoyable conversation, and a "photo op" for those that had not already quickly gone to their assigned "problem areas." The group was diverse – two couples, a Gunderson High School student who has already been an active VEP volunteer, 5 women - who are long standing active VEP volunteers – many who have volunteered for litter pickup many times before, or who also do litter pickup throughout the year. Additionally – a nice surprise was one woman who comes to Vista Park on a regular basis, (accompanying her teenage son who plays soccer there) who also volunteered to help.

Everyone always remarks with amazement on how much litter "highs" – those large litter bags get heavy very quickly. This year a variety of litter was picked up, with a dramatic increase in broken glass noted by the volunteers. Also, volunteers indicated they found an unusual amount of fruit rinds left behind – particularly bananas and oranges. (Many people think it is ok to throw out these items as they are "biodegradable." However, until these items biodegrade – they are just plain trash.) Also collected were a large rotten wooden palate and a rotting left behind car battery.

Continues on page 7

Continued from page 6

Volunteers returned for a quick lunch of water or soft drinks, sandwiches, and chips. The following 11 volunteers collected a total of 32 bags of litter – they are to be congratulated and given a very large thank you!!

- Josie Supencheck
- Yvonne & Ian Reddy
- Reena Nanavati
- Joyce Chesnos
- Marianne Damon
- Dave Pfaff
- Jeannette Moghrabi
- Gretchen Forbes
- Menen Tesfahun
- Marilyn Rodgers



An additional thank you also goes out to Jeannette Moghrabi who also spent the previous weekend picking up litter, in addition to weed and brush cleanup along the corner of Branham Lane and Vistapark Drive.

**PUT WASTE
IN THE
RIGHT
PLACE**



Randazzo's
WATER CONDITIONING

WATER SOFTENERS & FILTER SYSTEMS

SALES + REPAIRS

Parts and Repairs for Most Brands

FAST SERVICE * FAIR PRICES

*** Discounts Available to VEP Members ***

Family Owned & Operated

License #514073

(408) 978-5355

* **IMPORTANT REMINDER** *

VEP Will Be on Summer Break June through August

Attend our Last Meeting on June 2nd!

Does VEP have your e-mail address?

E-mail is our primary communication tool during summer months, when newsletters are not published. Contact VEP Secretary, Adina Pierce at adinap@yahoo.com to provide or change your e-mail address.

(Please Note: VEP does not share e-mail addresses with anyone.)

Updates on New 4-H Chapter at Martial Cottle

By Marilyn Rodgers

The following information on the status of the new 4-H Chapter at Martial Cottle Park was provided by Karen Werner Bryce, the 4-H Program Representative for the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) of Santa Clara County.



Karen reports that currently 30 families have signed up as interested in the new Club. She apologizes for the delay in being able to call everyone together for the first meeting. The delay, however, is a result of not having a signed contract in place. The contract, or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the University of California/State of California and the Santa Clara County/Santa Clara County Parks Department is still going through the legal processes. Ms. Werner Bryce is hopeful that the MOU will be signed in the near future.

For those of you who are interested in joining/participating in the new 4-H Chapter, contact Karen at either 408-282-3116 or at kwernerbryce@ucanr.edu.

Martial Cottle Park – Gates Opened May 15th

By Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

On May 15th, the gates of Martial Cottle Park opened – this time without fanfare. Currently, the activities and features available to the public are on a limited basis. The walking paths in the main part of the park, the educational signage, the rest rooms, and the Children's Discovery Farm are all available for public use and enjoyment. The remaining activities and features will become available periodically during the Summer months. The target date for the remainder of the park features being completed and available for use by the public is Labor Day Weekend -September 5th.

A Master Farmer has been selected and will oversee all of the farmed areas of the Park. The selected Master Farmer is Jacobs Farms del Cabo. They are currently planting flowers and melons. The plan is to eventually have a produce stand on the Park property managed by the Master Farmer. This is where produce grown in the Park will be sold to the public. Additionally, all of the produce grown at the Park will be sold within Santa Clara County – none will be shipped/sold outside of the County.

Please, see pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter to enjoy the latest pictures of the Park, taken by Adina Pierce on May 15th.

WELCOME TO MARTIAL COTTLE PARK

Please excuse our dust...we are still under construction.

At this time we can only allow limited access to the park.

PARKING LOTS and PICNIC AREAS are open.

Please park within the designated parking spaces.

PICNIC AREAS will NOT be subject to Reservation until September 5th, but are available until then on a first-come, first served basis. One adult may only hold one table. Please clean up after using the picnic areas so the park is nice for the next visitor.

LAWN AREAS will be closed to all use until Labor Day Weekend. The grass needs to establish a strong root system before it can handle any foot traffic. Please stay on designated walkways.

There will be no fee collection at Martial Cottle Park until our opening date of September 5, 2015.

The Cooperative Management Zones are open only by invitation of the Leaseholders.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy your new Santa Clara County Park!

Comments, Questions or Complaints please call 408-535-4050



All Photographs By Adina Pierce







It's The New Year ...

Time to Renew your VEP Membership!

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December. So if you haven't already - please renew your membership! 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 neighborhood 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.

California
BATHROOM & KITCHEN
Remodelers Inc.

Complete Custom Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling Since 1994
From Planning & Design To Detailed, Quality Craftsmanship
Personalized Service, Clean & On Time
Excellent References

408.360.9700
www.cabr.net
LIC.NO.698718

SHOWROOM BY APPT.
1261 LINCOLN AVE.,
SUITE 112, SAN JOSE, CA 95125




** 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!

4th of July Fireworks+Festival at Almaden Lake

By Marilyn Rodgers

This will be the 2nd Annual 4th of July Fireworks & Festival at Almaden Lake, sponsored by District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis. Plan now to bring your whole family and attend the fun and festivities!

There will be a variety of activities, including booths representing small businesses and as well as non-profit organizations. There will be a variety of food trucks and food booths to tantalize your taste buds – everything from traditional 4th of July fare to other modern delights. Both hot and cold food will be available.

If you have a small business or work for a small business, there are still many opportunities to have your business advertised or showcased at the festival. You won't want to pass up this great opportunity to participant in a very large family-oriented event. Last year over 20,000 people attended. This year promises to have even more attendees.

Additionally.....volunteers are needed...and wanted!!. If you are involved with a large group of volunteers, or are an individual, your help is wanted! If you are involved with a volunteer group (such as through a community, school, and/or church), there are many opportunities with a variety of tasks that will require volunteers. Volunteers will be needed both the day and evening of the event, as well as the day following the event.

Those wishing to volunteer do need to sign up prior to the day of the event – the earlier the better.

For additional information for businesses and/or volunteers, please contact Denelle Fedor at denellefedor@sanjoseca.gov or Rayshelle Edmunds at rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov, or call 408-535-4910.

Additionally, if you are a member of a non-profit group, there are still opportunities for you to have a booth at the festival.

Last year - the festival included, food, activities for the children, a variety of booths, entertainment, and of course it was topped off with a fantastic fireworks display ...it was spectacular! Made even more special, as the fireworks were over Lake Almaden! This year, let's make it even more fun and more special! **Join in – be a sponsor or a volunteer!**

(P.S. - VEP Community Association will once again be a co-sponsor of this event as a large volunteer Community Association in District 10!)

Fundraiser for the 4th of July Fireworks and Festival - June 24th at Buffalo Wild Wings

By Marilyn Rodgers

On June 24th, stop by Buffalo Wild Wings for some enjoyable food and fun! Buffalo Wild Wings will be donating 10% of the proceeds that day (**at each individual customer's request**) to the Playa del Rey Neighborhood Association, who will donate the proceeds to help support the **July 4th Fireworks Festival at Lake Almaden**. For more information, please see the advertisement on page 13 of this newsletter.

We hope to see all of you at both the fundraiser on June 24th and at the 4th of July Fireworks Festival at Lake Almaden!

Additional Donations Can Be Made to Support the 2nd Annual July 4th Fireworks & Festival

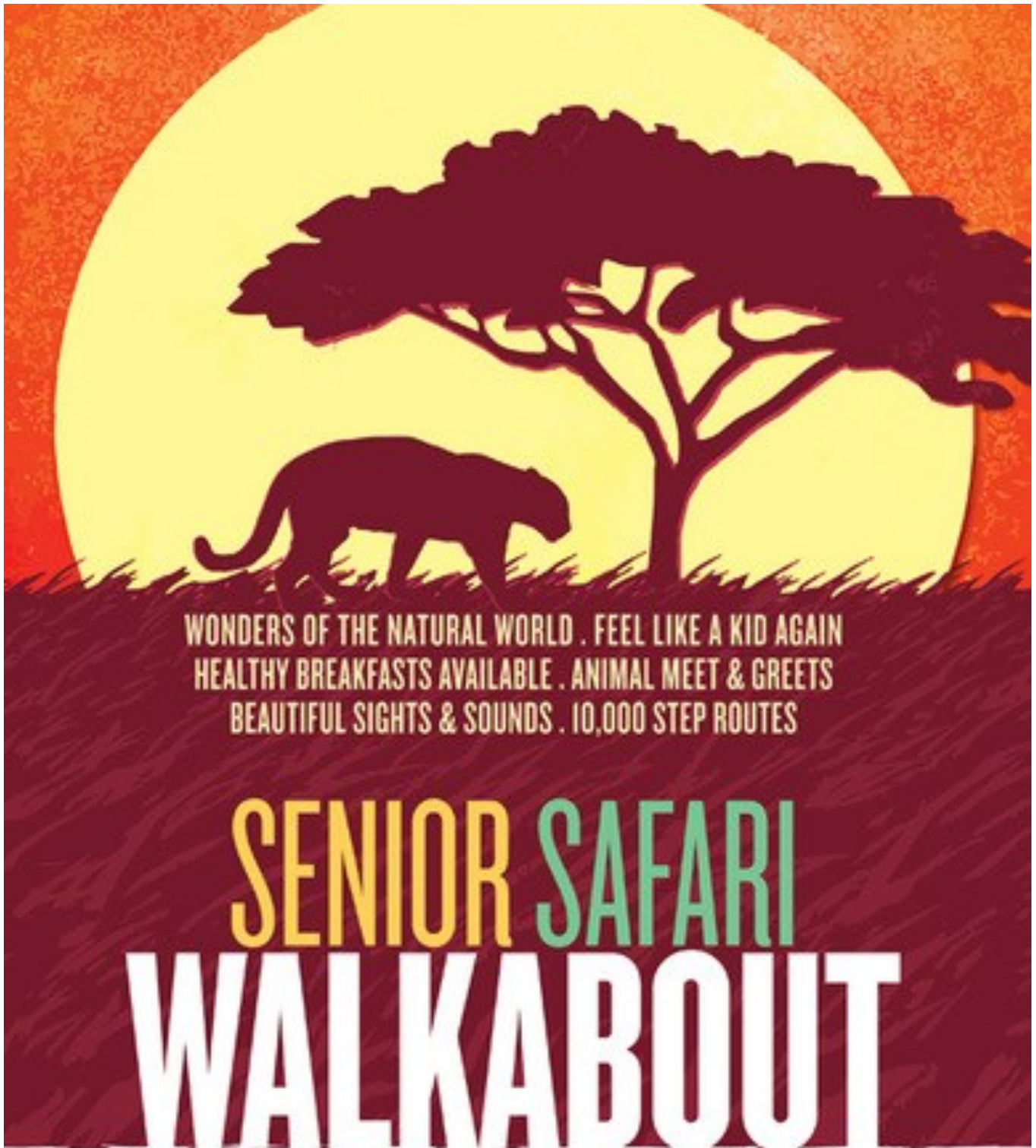
By Marilyn Rodgers

Donations are still being accepted in support of the July 4th Fireworks & Festival. If you are interested in making a donation in any amount, to support the event at Almaden Lake, either as an individual or as a business, tax-deductible donations can be made online to the **Almaden Valley Women's Club**.

Go To: <http://www.almadenwine.org/>

July 4th Fireworks & Festival at Almaden Lake

Picture your family here!



WONDERS OF THE NATURAL WORLD . FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN
HEALTHY BREAKFASTS AVAILABLE . ANIMAL MEET & GREETINGS
BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS & SOUNDS . 10,000 STEP ROUTES

SENIOR SAFARI WALKABOUT

EXCLUSIVELY FOR AGES 50 AND OVER // FREE ADMISSION
PARKING – STAY ALL DAY! SELECT THURSDAYS: APRIL 23
MAY 28, JUNE 25, JULY 23, AUG 27 & SEPT 24 // 9 – 10 AM
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 408-794-6400



COMMUNITY NIGHT FUNDRAISER

You are invited to a **COMMUNITY NIGHT** at Buffalo Wild Wings and support the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association Fundraiser in support of.....

The 2nd Annual Family Fun Festival & Fireworks!!!

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

5:00 PM to 11:00 PM



Located at:
859 Blossom Hill Road
San Jose, CA 95123
(408) 363-1690

To participate in the Community Night:

You **MUST** inform the cashier you are part of the Community Night Event. (If you do not inform the cashier each time you place an order, your purchases will not be counted towards the event.)

Your participation in this event is greatly appreciated! 10% of the net sales will be donated to the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association to benefit the July 4th Family Fun Festival and Fireworks!!



Neighborhood Commission Update

By Rich Giammona

My name is Rich Giammona. I am one of two Neighborhood Commissioners for District 10. The other Commissioner is Nick Labosky. We were appointed in December of 2013, after interview with Council Appointment Advisory Commission, by the City Council. The following is a brief overview describing the Neighborhood Commission: per the City of San Jose website.

The Neighborhoods Commission shall integrate the voice of neighborhoods into the City's decision-making processes; study issues, courses of action, policies, and programs that affect neighborhood quality of life; make recommendations to council and redevelopment agency; and empower neighborhoods. The commission will make regular reports to the San José City Council, City staff, and neighborhood groups. The Neighborhoods Commission work plan will be developed in coordination with, and approved by, the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.

On Wednesday, May 13, 2015 we had our monthly meeting at City Hall – West Wing Rooms 118-119, at 200 East Santa Clara Street, from 6:30pm – 9:00pm. Action items on the agenda were an update on City of San Jose Housing Department Homeless Activities, the 2015-2016 Budget Process, and the development of the Commission work plan for year 2015-2016.

One area that I would like to briefly touch on was the information presented by Homelessness Response Team Manager Ray Bramson. The Homeless Response Team was established by the City Council, to tackle the enormous issue of homelessness in our city. They estimate the number of homeless to be about 7,6000.

Mr. Bramson gave insight into City activities that are currently taking place to provide proper resources to the homeless. A key aspect that was mentioned is in regards to the community: reporting encampments. He is asking the community to contact the Homeless Outreach and Engagement Hotline at 408-510-7600 or email HomeFirst (outreach@homefirstsc.org). It is vital for them to get proper insight about the situation, so a team can be sent out to assess the situation. They will then provide resources and assist in relocation.

The Neighborhood Commission meets again on Wednesday June 10, 2015. If you are able, I encourage you to come and see what we are about. At every meeting, members of the public have the opportunity to engage with the commission, about any concerns they are facing.

Lastly, if you would like a copy of the upcoming agenda, send me a quick email at rich@wonderfulworldlearning.com. If you have any questions for our District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis, you can reach him at district10@sanjoseca.gov.

Emergency Preparedness: Part 8 Eliminate Hazards at Home & Work

By Rachel Witmeyer



Time and resources spent on making your home hazard-free are well-invested in the future safety of your family! Many of the items below apply homes, but do encourage your employer to do the same in your workplace. It makes good sense for them to protect the people working for their company! Advocate for your own safety and the safety of your co-workers. If your employer refuses to make the workplace hazard-free, report them to the state.

Bolt EmDown - Strap Em Up

Tall furniture of any kind should be properly bolted to the wall. Attaching at one central point is the bare minimum, but attaching at two top corner points is better. Metal L-brackets should be used (not plastic!), and longer wood-type screws are highly recommended. Water heaters and other appliances should be strapped to the walls with heavy-duty moving-type straps.

Safely Secure Chemicals

Paints, herbicides, pesticides, kerosene, oils, and all other chemicals found in your typical garage should be kept in a fire-safe cabinet. This way, if an earthquake hits, these containers will be properly contained! If not, an earthquake or other disaster can cause chemical spills, and result in risk of fire and poisoning. Most of these kinds of cabinets are available with locking doors, which adds security and prevents accidental exposure 365 days a year!

Repair and Replace

Windows, doors, and all ceiling-mounted fixtures should be in good working condition, to prevent them from falling down or out in a disaster. Repair or replace window and door facings that are loose, warped, or rotted-out. Routinely check all ceiling-fans, ceiling-mounted lights, and chandeliers to be sure that their mountings are firm, with no signs of crumbling screw-holes or dry-wall. Tighten loose screws, and replace failing mountings. If the screw-holes in the ceiling have widened, you will have to take down the fixture(s), repair the ceiling-section, then remount your fixture(s). Putting "sackle" in the holes is not enough!

I hope you have found my "preparedness" columns this year to be helpful as you work to become better prepared for emergencies of all kinds. Remember, this is just the beginning, and there are always more ideas and strategies out there! Make use of the helpful resources provided by Santa Clara County, the State of California, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Remember: Make A Plan, Prepare Emergency Supplies and Be Prepared to Survive and Thrive in California!!!

Get More Online, Anytime: www.ready.gov



•Sales •Service •Rentals •Body Shop

900 CAPITOL EXPRESSWAY AUTO MALL • SAN JOSE

266-9500

Serving San Jose Since 1875



COMMERCIAL ★ INDUSTRIAL ★ RESIDENTIAL

CA LICENSE #501042

BOB CHESNOS
★ VEP MEMBER ★

(408) 978-6640

INTERIOR ★ EXTERIOR ★ INSURED & BONDED

QUALITY PAINTING SINCE 1977



Gardening, with John Marks

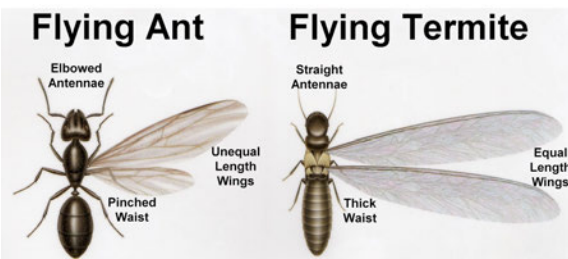
Pruning Citrus Trees

You may get delicious fruits from your orange, tangerine, and grapefruit trees, but eventually, the trees will get out of control and need pruning. You should remove dead or weak branches first, and thin twiggy growth. It is also possible to rejuvenate an older, established citrus tree, which will usually respond well to hard pruning. Start with the dead, injured, diseased and crossing branches, suckers, and branches growing downward. At the next pruning, remove weak branches and over-crowded growth. Never remove more than one-fourth of the tree at one time. Keep in mind that most citrus trees have a limited supply of carbohydrates in their stem tissues. Excessive pruning at one time may set back growth and fruiting. After the tree is back in good shape (it may take a couple of years), continue to thin as needed. You can also cut back long branches at the tips to promote shoots nearer the center of the tree. If more than one shoot arises around a cut, choose the one or two best-placed shoots to develop as the main branches. It is also possible to top an old citrus (or most trees for that matter) by severely cutting back the tree and grafting on the preferred variety.

(Article adapted from 4/16/04 issue of the San Jose Mercury News)

Checking for Termites

If you seem to be invaded by many flying insects with four wings (3/8 to 1/2-inch long) with 3/16-inch ant-like bodies, you may have subterranean termites. Hundreds from the colony develop wings, fly, mate, shed their wings and seek new sites to build nests. They usually leave the nest in October. They will look for pieces of wood or roots next to, or on



the soil, and dig tunnels in the wood. If needed, they construct tubes made from the soil to get to the wood, protecting them from desiccation and predators. Termite inspectors look for these distinctive tubes of dried mud leading from the soil and to the foundation and into wood frames of homes where they feed. You might consider doing your own inspection. Use a strong flashlight and look at each footing of the foundation for the tubes.

Stop Invading Roots

Barriers to our neighbors' vine and/or tree roots may seem needed this time of year. Plastic root barriers, impregnated with chemicals, are available at Orchard Supply in the garden department. The usual practice for installing root barriers is to dig a two-foot-deep trench alongside the fence. If possible, rent a trenching machine to do the digging. These are available from rental yards, and almost anyone can operate them. Place the barrier on the fence side of the trench and backfill. The barriers are supposed to stop all roots from going past them, but some aggressive tree roots will go down and under the barrier in a few years. You can plant shrubs near the barrier, but be aware that the barrier will also prevent the extension of their roots and thus limit their ability to get the nutrients and moisture needed to grow properly. These barriers are not always a permanent solution, but you may be lucky and stop those roots from coming into your yard.

Random Tidbits, with Kathy Wood



The last famous basketball player poster has been removed from the bright blue wall. Empty spots remain where furniture previously lived. Hangers minus clothing dangle from the round wooden rods and trophies are carefully stowed in a cardboard box. My youngest son has moved on to the next chapter of his life, giving my husband and I a new title to write behind our names, —empty nesters.”

Along with this new title comes responsibilities. Laundry is to be done only once a week, the grocery list can be shortened considerably and meal time will be spent at the kitchen bar rather than around the dining table. Water usage should be reduced which will help with the new restrictions being put in place. It's now up to us to take out the trash and recyclables every Monday evening and bring them back on Tuesday morning. A flip of the coin determines who walks the dog.

My head knows that it was time for him to make this move but my heart isn't on the same page. We want our children to grow up and be responsible and happy adults. Many years are spent training them, influencing them, disciplining them, teaching them, and especially, loving them. Wisdom is passed on just as our parents shared their knowledge with us and hopefully will be carried on through our grandchildren.

My son enjoys cooking breakfast and this recipe is one that anyone can prepare. You can toss in whatever you enjoy to start your day. Green peppers, hash-brown potatoes, sausage, and spinach are just a few items that could be added - experiment!

Breakfast Bites

Ingredients:

cubed ham
cooked and crumbled bacon
½ cup finely chopped onions
1 cup shredded cheese

7 eggs, beaten
1/4 cup milk or cream
salt & pepper, to taste
Other Items, as desired

Instructions:

Toss ham, bacon, onions and cheese together in a bowl.

Divide mixture into 24 greased mini muffin pans.

Beat eggs in separate bowl; add milk, salt and pepper.

Pour over mixture in muffin pans.

Bake at 350 degrees until eggs are set, about 15 minutes.



**Better
Homes
and Gardens.**
REAL ESTATE

VENTURA
BARNETT
PROPERTIES

Helen Castillo
Realtor®

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE LLC
VENTURA BARNETT PROPERTIES

5985 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95120

www.bhgrealstate.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Office 408.997.9999 x555

Mobile 408.981.5902

Fax 408.997.1111

HCastillo@vbprop.com

DRE #01472483

VEP Community Schools Calendar



May / June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25 NO SCHOOL memorial DAY HOLIDAY	26 <i>@Parkview School</i> 3rd Grade: Books & Beyond Assembly 8:45am PSCA Meeting	27 <i>@John Muir M.S.</i> Oscars Night <i>@Parkview School</i> 5th Grade: Books & Beyond Assembly 8:45am PVCA BBQ 5pm Choir Show 5:45pm Open House 6:30pm	28 <i>@Carson School:</i> 49ers Camp 2:30pm <i>@Gunderson H.S.</i> Senior Awards 6:30pm <i>@Parkview School:</i> 4th Grade: Books & Beyond Assembly 8:45am	29 <i>@Carson School:</i> SELAC Meeting 8:05am <i>@Gunderson H.S.</i> Graduation Rehearsal 8:00am <i>@Parkview School:</i> Hawaii / Beach Day Parent Volunteer Tea Party 2:45pm	30
31 The SJPL Summer Reading Challenge Begins June 1st! Don't forget to register for all the fun and prizes! Go To: sjpl.org/summer	1 <i>@Gunderson H.S.</i> Graduation Rehearsal 8:00am <i>@Parkview School:</i> 6th Grade: Books & Beyond Assembly 8:45am	2 <i>@Carson School:</i> Talent Show 8:30am <i>@Gunderson H.S.</i> Graduation Ceremony 4:00pm <i>@John Muir M.S.</i> NJHS Pool Party	3 <i>@John Muir M.S.</i> 8th Grade Promotion Rehearsal	4 Last Day of School for Oak Grove S.D. <i>@Carson School:</i> 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony 9:00am <i>@John Muir M.S.</i> 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony <i>@Parkview School:</i> Panda Express Community Night Noon-9:00pm Talent Show 6pm	5 <i>@Parkview School:</i> End-of-Year BBQ Families Welcome! (During Student Lunch Periods)	6
7	8	9	10	11 Last Day of School <i>@Parkview & SJUSD Schools</i>	12	13

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

VEP 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
 WEB: <http://parkview.ogsd.net/> 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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25 Happy Memorial Day	26	27 Knit+Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	28 Computer Help ~ 11am & 4pm ~ @Edenvale Library Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	29 LEGO® CLUB ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	30 Book Sale Hardcovers - \$1.00 Softcovers - 50¢ ~ 10am - 5pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
31 \$5/Bag Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library	1 SJPL Summer Reading Challenge Begins Today!!! Fratello Marionettes Present "Aladdin" ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library	2 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	3 D10 —Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center	4 Computer Help ~ 11am & 4pm ~ @Edenvale Library Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	5 Mr. Science presents Electricity & Magnetism! ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	6 BOOK SALE ~ 10am - 3pm ~ @Alum Rock Library Computer Help 3pm LEGO® CLUB 4pm @Pearl Library
7	8 Kids Story & Craft —Her's Scissors" ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library	9 —G Wild" Presented By Happy Hollow Zoo ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library	10 Father's Day Craft ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library Knit+Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	11 Computer Help ~ 11am & 4pm ~ @Edenvale Library Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	12 Kids Story & Craft —Noisy Paint Box" ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	13 D10 —Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis 10:00-11:30am @City Espresso 630 Blossom Hill Rd
14	15 STEAMstacks: Elements of Art ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library	16	17 Jewelry Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Knit+Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	18 Father's Day Craft ~ 11:00am ~ Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ Manga Mania! ~ 2:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	19 Animal Adventures with Jungle James ~ 2:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	20 Computer Help ~ 3:00pm ~ LEGO® CLUB ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library
21 Happy Father's Day	22	23 BOOK SALE ~ 2:00 - 6:00pm ~ @Vineland Branch Library	24 Fundraiser Nite at Buffalo Wild Wings to Support the 4th of July Fireworks+Festival" (See AD on p. 13)	25 Senior Safari Walkabout (9-10am) @Happy Hollow Zoo Art Meets Math: Flexagons+More! ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library	26 Art Meets Science: Creative Chemistry ~ 2:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	27 BOOK SALE ~ 10am - 5pm ~ @MLK Jr. Library Computer Help 3pm LEGO® CLUB 4pm @Pearl Library

Coming Soon in the VEP:

VEP Community Meetings

Tuesday, June 2nd
Summer Break:
June through August
Meetings Resume
Tuesday, September 29th



VEP Community Events


**4th of July
Fireworks & Festival**
@Almaden Lake

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158
 Email: vepca@vepca.net Website: www.vepca.net

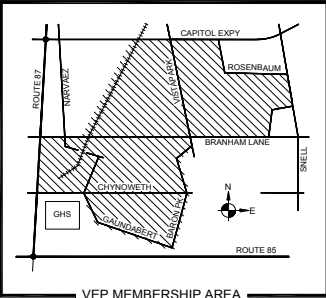
Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to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

VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Marilyn Rodgers	225-7553	mrogersrn@aol.com
Vice President	Katherine Decker		kddedcker@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Adina Pierce		adinap@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ginger Cardona	227-0222	cardona@sbcglobal.net
Director	Helen Castillo		hcastillo@vbprop.com
Director	Rich Giammona		rich@wonderfulworldlearning.com
Director	Peggy Golden		peggygolden@mac.com
Editor, VEP News	Rachel Witmeyer	226-2935	vepeditor@gmail.com

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 SAN JOSE, CA
 PERMIT #5242

Prefer your newsletter via Email?
 Let us know at vep@vepca.net.



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

7:30 pm in the



Be sure to attend
 VEP's Community Meeting
 Tuesday, June 2nd!

