

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

## NOVEMBER 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](mailto: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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Vice President - Katherine Decker  
Secretary - Adina Pierce  
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## VEP'S COMMUNITY MEETING

6:30 p.m. ~ Tuesday

\*\*\*\* Please Note Time Change\*\*\*\*

► **December 1st, 2015** ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Dr.

***Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!***

### AGENDA

#### ★ Chynoweth Narrowing & Improvement Project ★ Overview of Project and Input from Residents

*Presentation by*

**Zahir Gulzadah, Manager - Traffic Safety Division**  
City of San Jose Department of Transportation

#### ★ Update and Input for Use of Vista Park Community Room ★

*Presentation by*

**Clarissa Garcia**  
City of San Jose Parks & Recreation Department

#### ★ VEP Business Meeting ★

##### **Announcements & Updates**

Councilmember Khamis and Staff  
Updates on District 10 and City of San Jose

Updates on Martial Cottle Park  
Eric Goodrich, Manager

Santa in the Park  
Vista Park Community Room ~ 2-4pm Sunday, November 29th

Christmas/Holiday Decorations Contest  
VEP Neighborhoods ~ Weekend of December 12th & 13th

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, January 26, 2016

#### ★ Your Concerns and Ideas★

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

# ◆ 2015 is VEP's 46th Year! ◆

## VEP's November/December Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **December 1st**. Please join us at the November/December VEP Community meeting, featuring:

► **Please Note: This meeting will start at 6:30pm with the Chynoweth presentation. (It is important that residents attend meeting even if their arrival is after the meeting begins.)**

Featured presentations this month will begin with an overview and perimeters of a **grant obtained by DOT** with the support and encouragement of Councilmember Khamis. Following the initial overview of the grant, the main purpose of the meeting is to **provide for resident input on preferences for improvement of Chynoweth from Snell west** to the deadend of the street – where fencing for Martial Cottle Park property begins. The second presentation will be by Parks staff for the purpose of obtaining **resident/community room users'** input as to their concerns and preferences for possible additional uses/activities at the Vista Park Community Room.

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

Other informational items and announcements will be provided including upcoming events. Items that will be highlighted include updates on Martial Cottle Park and issues of interest by Councilmember Khamis on District 10 and City of San Jose.

► **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 **December 1st**. Please join us!

## October Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting. She began by encouraging attendees to take a short time (90 seconds) to meet and introduce themselves to someone in the meeting that they did not previously know. She explained that while this is a popular activity, the reason for the short amount of time was the busy agenda for the meeting.

Ms. Rodgers introduced Jerry Strangis, a consultant and representative of the developer for the Communications Hill project. She also mentioned that Mr. Strangis lives close by and as a neighbor he also shares and understands the concerns of the VEP neighborhoods. He has also known Dave Fadness for many years, and worked with Dave in an attempt to develop a proposal for plans, that while not an ideal solution to the traffic congestion problems at Capitol Expressway, Narvaez, and the onramp north on Hwy 87, will definitely be an improvement to this area. Mr. Strangis thanked Marilyn and began with a brief overview of the approved plan – actually Phase II of the plan which was approved several years ago. This project was projected to be built in phases over an extended period of time (15 to 20 years). During this phase, approximately an additional 1900 housing units will be built, as well as a small shopping center complex (on the hill), the already built firestation (currently closed) will be reopened by the City, room for a gradeschool, improved/additional “stairs” that have been so popular with residents (outside of this community) as a means for exercise, and improved roads onsite as well as access roads. The first part of the improvement to roads will take place with Capitol Expressway/Narvaez/Hwy 87 north onramp. This will be improved by adding an additional lane(s) in each direction on Capitol Expressway. Following this, the next portion will be a large project at Curtner. This is to improve access into and out of Communications Hill, as well as easier access onto Hwy 87.

Concern and frustration was immediately voiced by several members of the audience. More than one attendee brought up what was the plan to improve the traffic congestion with the increased volume of traffic on Hwy 87, especially due to the large number of homes being built along Hwy 85 (at Cottle Road etc) which has increased traffic to gridlock at times along this section of Hwy 87. Ms. Rodgers interjected that the City of San Jose is under tremendous pressure to build additional homes as the economy bounces back and job growth in the Valley increases. She also commented that developers who build in the City of San Jose are required to pay for “traffic mitigation” and provide (pay for) improvements regarding traffic. Ms. Rodgers stated that the City of San Jose is the only city in this area that requires this. As traffic is an issue for the whole region, this should be required of all cities, as it is definitely a regional issue! Ms. Rodgers thanked Mr. Strangis for being brave enough to come and provide the group with information on the Communications Hill project.

Next, Ms. Rodgers introduced Councilmember Khamis. He gave several updates on housing and transportation. As a member of the VTA Board (representing San Jose) he announced that with some effort and difficulty he was able to convince other members on the VTA Board to go forward with a plan to improve Hwy 85 north. He also discussed the issues regarding Hwy 87 and recommended that VEP invite State Senator Jim Beall to come and discuss how Hwy 87 might be improved. Both the Councilmember and Ms. Rodgers stressed that San Jose cannot do all of this alone. That assistance and intervention is needed by both our State and Federal legislative/elected representatives to come to the aid of San Jose. Ms. Rodgers thanked the Councilmember for coming. Council Aid Dora Gonzalez announced a reminder of an important upcoming meeting. That of Vision Zero San Jose – the third and last meeting in a series will be held at the Edenvale Library Community Room at Branham and Monterey Road. The focus is to obtain input on safety measures for pedestrians and bicyclists in San Jose as there has been twice as many deaths this last year as vehicle fatalities.

Ms. Rodgers next introduced Councilmember Ash Kalra who had come to say hello and make a quick announcement. He thanked Marilyn for giving him a few minutes on the agenda. He wanted to let everyone know about the HAWK signal that is the first one to be installed in the City of San Jose. It is located on Snell at the vehicle entrance to Martial Cottle Park. Ms. Rodgers thanked the Councilmember for coming, and indicated that VEP had a presentation on the HAWK signal, but appreciated him coming to remind everyone for the need to educate themselves about the differences in this signal. It is activated by a pedestrian who wants to cross Snell. Its purpose is to provide additional safety for pedestrians while not causing vehicle traffic gridlock on a busy street such as Snell. As this is somewhat different from other intersection signals, it will take some time for both pedestrians and vehicle drivers to learn about, and get use to those differences. Ms. Rodgers thanked the Councilmember for coming to our meeting, and invited him to come any time.

The next speaker is one that everyone always looks forward to....an update on Martial Cottle Park and Trail, by Park Manager Eric Goodrich. Mr. Goodrich was pleased to provide information on how successful the First Martial Cottle Park Harvest Festival had been. Over 3,000 people attended and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. He stated Marilyn had been very pleased and said this is “what Mr. Lester had envisioned.” Ms. Rodgers thanked Eric for all of his hard work, and told him that the Harvest Festival was wonderful (see pictures in the October edition of the VEP Newsletter). He mentioned that all of the Park's partners including Our City Forest and Master Farmers had very successful demonstrations and events at the Festival which took place on

*Continues on Page 3*

Continued from Page 2

Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also indicated that there is one contract with a park partner that remains to be signed – that is with the City of San Jose for the Community Gardens. The contract proceedings have run into a snag, but he is hopeful that it will be completed/signed in the very near future. An attendee asked can everyone sign up for the garden plots and when will the community gardens be available. Eric indicated that it would begin probably in late 2016. Marilyn answered “yes” to anyone interested in being on the “waiting list” to go to the website on Community Gardens and sign up as soon as possible.

Eric also indicated that the Park Rangers are doing additional “later in the evening” patrols, and that unfortunately there have been people on the Trail “after hours” – particularly in the evening. Just a reminder that **the Trail is only available and open from Sunrise to Sunset.** Eric indicated the Rangers are having some challenges with “attitude” of some individuals on the Trail after hours. Several of these folks unfortunately state that they “live in the neighborhood and they should be able to use the Trail whenever they want.” The Rangers don’t want to have to do it – but **they will give offenders to the policy a “warning” and the second offense will be a written citation (which requires a fee be paid).** He also indicated that the Rangers have some discretion as well – depending on attitude of offender – that is ....they can write a citation on the first offense!

Regarding the Almaden Ranch Bass Pro presentation, Ms. Rodgers stated that unfortunately the developer’s representative was out of town, and that Bass Pro representatives were too busy finalizing plans for the grand opening the next day to be able to attend the meeting. However, VEP has a commitment that someone will come to do a presentation at a later meeting. Note: all of the stores, with the exception of Bass Pro, are scheduled for openings after the New Year. Ms. Rodgers stated she did go by the facility and also went online to obtain some information. The Grand Opening for Bass Pro will start at 6pm on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be door prizes for the first 200 attendees. There will also be a series of celebrities (names known in a variety of different sports – i.e. Football, fishing, etc) which will add to the excitement of the store’s opening. Marilyn indicated that she was concerned about adequate parking especially for the grand opening, so she drove by the facility and was quite impressed with the amount of parking – several parking lots behind (east) of Safeway have been built and are available. There is also a restaurant inside of Bass Pro – called Uncle Buck’s. Several attendees stated they intended to go to the grand opening the next day.

Ms. Rodgers then made several announcements. She stated that the San Jose City Council had held a “council adjournment” in honor of Dave Fadness earlier in the afternoon – Council meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> that started at 1:30pm. This was a ceremonial honor in acknowledgement of Dave. Mayor Sam Liccardo spoke about Dave, as did Councilmember Johnny Khamis. Councilmember Khamis’ comments were especially moving. The Mayor also acknowledged and thanked Aiko Fadness and their son Matt, as well as other family members and friends for attending and honoring Dave’s memory.

The VEP Board of Directors, in acknowledgement of Dave’s many years of dedicated volunteerism to the VEP Community, had immediately began to plan for a **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day** event. Dave’s wife Aiko and son Matt had reminded everyone that this is how Dave really wanted to be honored and remembered. The event is planned for Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9am at Vista Park. Be sure to attend!

Additional announcements included...VEP will be sponsoring

## Please Note:

**This month’s VEP Community Meeting on  
Tuesday, December 1st  
has an earlier start time: -> 6:30pm <-**

“Santa in the Park” on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. It will be held again this year at the Vista Park Community Room. Plan to come and have a picture taken with Santa!

The next VEP meeting will be the Tuesday after Thanksgiving – which means it will actually be held in December – the first Tuesday in December....Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you there. Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

## Thank You to Parkview Parents and Staff By Cyndi Lubben & Lisa Jackson

We want to send a big thank you out to all of you. Our Walkathon could not have been what it was without ALL of you! Much of the feedback we have been hearing was how much fun the kids had. Many of you stayed well into the end of the event which was great to see.

Thank you for sending in donations of money, drinks, canopies, coolers and all the baked goods. Those of you that helped out with volunteering, we cannot thank you enough!! Your help was really appreciated. To the staff that stayed after work hours to help with booths or helped with cleanup, or helped by donating for the teacher experience, we cannot thank you enough for taking time from your personal lives to help out!

Hopefully we don’t miss thank anyone, so please know that we appreciate any help that you as parents have given, no matter how big or small. Thank you!



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# A Day for Dave or, "Trees for the Tree Man"

## VEP's 1st Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day

Article By Marilyn Rodgers

Photographs By Dave Noel (ENF), Adina Pierce (VEP), Mollie Tobias (City of San Jose), Our City Forest, and The Office of District 1 County Supervisor Mike Wasserman

On a beautiful Saturday morning, November 14<sup>th</sup>, VEP Community Association sponsored the First Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day. The VEP Board of Directors, in collaboration with Dave's wife Aiko and son Matt (and with their strong approval), had begun plans to honor Dave with such an event almost immediately after Dave's passing on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Everyone who knew Dave, knew about his passion and commitment to volunteering for the improvement of his community – both his beloved VEP neighborhoods and the City of San Jose. He particularly enjoyed helping to sponsor and coordinate projects involving "beautification" and of "planting trees." On this first annual event to honor Dave's memory, and to continue his legacy – both were accomplished!

The event began at 9am, with coffee and snacks in the Vista Park Community Room. Neighbors and friends of Dave enjoyed visiting and networking. A special highlight was the opportunity to greet and visit with Aiko Fadness.

A short formal portion of the event was started by VEP President Marilyn Rodgers, who thanked everyone for coming, and then introduced several past presidents – Jeri Artstingstall, Bob Aquino, and Dave Noel who is also now President of neighboring association Erikson. She also introduced VEP Board members Adina Pierce who would be the official event photographer for the day, Debra Suydam who brought coffee and snacks, and would be one of the day's site coordinators for beautification, as well as Ginger Cardona – also would be a site coordinator for the day. Additional introductions included Mollie Tobias, Volunteer Coordinator for San Jose Parks & Recreation, and Rhonda Berry, Founder and CEO of Our City Forest.

Ms. Rodgers stated that Dave would have been so pleased to see everyone in attendance for this event and excited about the opportunity to both plant trees and do additional beautification work in the community. She stated she knew he was with the group and smiling in the back of the room.

Several of Dave's friends in attendance also happened to be elected officials. Ms. Rodgers gave each of them an opportunity to speak, but said they would be limited to "two minutes" - similar to speakers at the City Council meetings. Everyone seemed to enjoy that comment. Speakers included San Jose City Mayor Sam Liccardo, Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman, San Jose City Councilmember Johnny Khamis, and San Jose City Councilmember Ash Kalra. All had very moving and kind comments to make.

Additionally, a long time friend and colleague on several strategic committees/work groups including one that evolved into the successful construction of Hwy 85, was Mike Kotowski who

brought a picture from 1989 of the group. He informed everyone that Dave had been the Chairperson of the group. Mr. Kotowski currently is on the City Council for the City of Campbell.

Ms. Rodgers asked Aiko Fadness if she would like to speak. As Aiko began, she understandably became emotional. Ms. Rodgers interjected on her behalf to say Aiko wanted to thank everyone, and to say how much she appreciated everyone coming for the event.

Ms. Rodgers informed the group that three trees would be planted at Vista Park to start the beautification part of the event. The first tree would be planted on the west side of the Community Room, between the building and the parking lot. This tree was donated by three of Dave and Aiko's friends in remembrance and celebration of Dave and Aiko's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (which took place June 5<sup>th</sup>). Two additional trees, donated by San Jose Parks staff, would be planted elsewhere in Vista Park. Volunteers could then go to projects on Vista Park Drive and Branham with Ginger Cardona, or along Chynoweth with Debra Suydam, or along Branham at New Compton Drive with Dave Noel. Rhonda Berry and Mollie Tobias would remain at Vista Park to oversee planting of the trees and coordinate other projects in the Park.

Prior to the plantings, however, the Mayor suggested (to everyone's acknowledgement, agreement, and joy) that a "group photograph" be taken. Due to the large group, the challenge was where to have the picture taken. A location was quickly decided upon: the children's play area – on, and in front of, the equipment.

As the pictures will prove, between 100 to 120 people attended the event! Several people joined in the planting of the trees including our elected officials – Aiko Fadness and Mayor Sam Liccardo seemed particularly to enjoy helping dig the hole for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tree!!

Over the next 3 hours, three trees were planted, backstops and gates were painted at Vista Park, and an amazing amount of bush pruning; weed, dead bushes, leaves, liter and garbage removal was accomplished at Vista Park, as well as the three locations listed above.

Everyone went home knowing Dave would have approved!

*(Please note: As the Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day event took place just prior to the VEP newsletter deadline – not all Attendees names and/or pictures were included in this edition of the newsletter. However, we do hope to publish attendee's names and additional pictures in the next edition of the VEP newsletter.)*

## Did You Know?

Photographs of VEP community events can be found online, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/vepca/>



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## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual VEP Holiday Decorations Contest

By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual VEP Christmas/Holiday Decorations Contest will be held again in December – decorations will be judged over the weekend of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>, (and possibly into the beginning of the week). Do you and/or your neighbors really enjoy decorating the exterior of your houses and/or yards for the holidays? If so, this contest is for you! The VEP Board of Directors is once again sponsoring a contest for the best Holiday Decorating done on a house and/or yard in the VEP neighborhoods – Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview.

What will you win? This year, there will be more than one winner, as was done last year. There will, of course, be a Grand Prize Winner, plus three additional winners, by categories: 1) Spectacular (this one puts everyone in awe)!, 2) Religious theme, 3) Fantasy theme, and 4) Best use of Animation and/or Inflatables. Prizes will include for 3 of the categories: membership in VEP Community Association for the calendar year 2016 (\$20.00 value each), and bragging rights of course!

For the Grand Prize Winner: a yard sign indicating they are the winner for 2015, a gift certificate, and membership in VEP for 2016 – and of course, bragging rights! In addition to these winners, there are usually several “honorable mentions” as well. There will be pictures and an article in the January edition of the VEP newsletter, so be sure to watch for it!

The Board of Directors functions as the judges for the contest! However, member and resident participation are greatly encouraged. Everyone can help by notifying the Board at [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net) of houses/yards to consider. Please nominate your house/yard, and/or nominate a neighbor(s) for consideration!

A VEP e-mail alert will go out prior to Christmas, indicating the winners, so that you, your family, and visiting friends and relatives, can drive (or walk) around the VEP neighborhoods enjoying the spectacular decorations our neighbors put up for all to enjoy!



2014 Winner: The Olsens of Amboy Drive

## January – Annual VEP Membership Drive: Volunteers Needed for the “Mailing Party”

By H. Castillo, D. Suydam, K. Decker, B. Aquino, M. Rodgers

It's hard to believe that it is that time again, but the VEP annual membership drive begins in January. An important part of kicking off the annual membership drive, is the Membership Drive “party”! The party is an enjoyable event for VEP volunteers who come together to prepare the January newsletter and the membership letter for mailing. The tentative date for this event is Sunday afternoon, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3pm at the Vista Park Community Room! To volunteer, please contact Helen Castillo at 408-981-5902 or e-mail at [hcastillo@vbprop.com](mailto:hcastillo@vbprop.com).

## Martial Cottle Park Perimeter Trail – Reminder Park Open from Sunrise to Sunset Only!

By Marilyn Rodgers

Park Rangers will be posting larger signs at entrances to the Park and Trail to remind visitors that the Trail is only available during daylight hours. Please do not go on to the Trail prior to Sunrise, or be on the Trail after Sunset. (Note: Trail closes at Sunset. That does not mean it is ok to stay on the Trail until dark).

Park Rangers have informed us that they have already started warning people who are on the Trail outside of the above listed hours. They have informed us that they will be giving citations for those that are in violation of these Park and Trail regulations. Apparently some residents, who have been on the Trail at times outside of the approved hours, have been somewhat defiant of Rangers informing them of such. Be aware that while the usual practice is for a Ranger to first give a warning, and then a citation with the second offense; it is within Rangers' authority and discretion to “issue a citation” on a first offense. These regulations are for everyone's enjoyment, safety and security.

## Holiday Safety Tips

By Helen Castillo

As you're decking out your homes for the holidays, there are many safety tips folks can follow to celebrate Christmas without any problems. Before stringing holiday lights on the roof, carefully inspect the strands to make sure there aren't any frayed cords. Residents are encouraged to shut off holiday lights when out of the house or before going to bed. The Christmas tree can become a huge fire hazard if the needles dry out. It's important to water the tree regularly, and make sure it is at least 3ft away from any heat source.

### Other Home Safety:

- Make sure you have a properly working fire alarm
- Use only outdoor lights on the exterior of the home
- Connect no more than three strands of lights together
- Never use an indoor extension cord outdoor
- Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords
- Have at least one working carbon monoxide detector, in-house
- Have a fire extinguisher available

Car break-ins around the holidays are no secret at shopping centers. If you decide to leave some of your purchases in the car, be sure to place those items in the trunk where they aren't visible to tempt a thief. If you order something online try to have it delivered at a time when you will be home. There have been numerous instances in the Bay Area where packages have been stolen right from residents door steps.

By following these tips you'll be sure to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Happy Holidays!

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# *Santa in the Park*

By H. Castillo, A. Pierce, R. Witmeyer, and M. Rodgers

Don't forget...plan to attend this fun event.....and have a picture taken with Santa Claus!! Such a nice way to finish up the Thanksgiving Weekend, and begin to think about the Christmas holiday season.

This year, all of the previously included fun activities will still be provided – crafts for youngsters, a cup of hot cider for all to enjoy, and of course – the main event...a picture with Santa. Also included will be a **Baked Goods Share and Swap** – so bring your favorite homemade holiday treats to “trade” with your neighbors. Please, use the “Baker’s Note Card” provided on this page, or use your own! This year, there will be 3 big prizes for the participants of the Bake Swap, and an additional raffle! Bring the raffle ticket (also provided on this page!). New this year will be a “canned food and blanket drive.” This part of the program will have extended hours of 12noon -4pm!

Volunteers are welcome. High School students can earn Community Service hours for graduation as well. All of these fun activities will take place at the Vista Park Community Room, 475 Hyde Park Drive, San Jose, Ca. 95136. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Helen Castillo, [hcastillo@vbprop.com](mailto:hcastillo@vbprop.com)

## “Santa in the Park” ~ Raffle Ticket

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Holiday Donations Drive

By Helen Castillo

The Holidays are almost here and it is that special time of the year where we can show our spirit for those in need.

I would like to invite you to our canned food and blanket drive. All donations will go to our local charities. I will be out in front of the Vista Park Community Room from 12:00 to 4:00 on November 29th. If you would like to get in the spirit, put your Santa cap on and come one come all, for a jolly good time!

Please fill free to call me at 408-981-5902. Merry Christmas!

## \* Baker’s Note Card \*

Baker’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Baked Good: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergy Alerts - This Baked Good Contains...  
(please circle all that apply)

Dairy/Milk    Eggs    Wheat Flour/Gluten

Nuts (list types): \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# **Santa is Coming!**

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Dr.  
**Sunday, November 29th**  
**Santa Hours: 2 pm to 4 pm**

**Bring the kids or the whole family for a free Santa photo with Santa Take a photo by a VEP photographer or bring your own camera.**

**Crafts \*Baked Goods Share & Swap! \*Food Drive**

Bring your favorite homemade holiday baked goods to share. You may also enter your baked goods into a contest for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place prize. sponsored by Helen Castillo. For questions call 408-981-5902

**\*All Baked Goods - Please bring a recipe card with ingredients because some people may be allergic\***

**Canned food and blanket drive will be from 12 - 4 pm.**

# ~ Random Tidbits ~

\* A Column By VEP Member, Kathy Wood \*

—THE HOSE HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO, OUR BEDROOM IS TRASHED, AND....”

This was the frantic call I received from my husband on a typical Thursday morning as I was approaching the grocery store entrance to pick up some necessities for dinner. I immediately returned to my car and sped off towards home, wondering all the way what information came after the word —AND that my husband didn't want to tell me. All I could think about in that short 5-minute drive was where was our dog, Lily, during this unfortunate event and what did they do to her??? I had noticed the police helicopter hovering over one particular area as I was walking toward the store and thinking with resignation, “more trouble in the neighborhood, wonder what happened now...”

I parked the car, ran towards the house, and passed through the door between the garage and the house, noticing that it had been kicked in. Right there, lying innocently on the sofa, was Lily. Everything downstairs was untouched, except for a laptop they had picked up and laid on the entry floor. They didn't take with them for whatever reason. My husband took me upstairs to inspect the damage. He had some cabinets opened but nothing was removed as far as we could tell. More cabinets and dresser drawers were opened in my sewing room, but again they weren't finding what they wanted (needles and thread and craft items probably don't bring a lot of money). On the other hand, our bedroom was a total mess. Most dresser drawers had been turned upside down and emptied, my jewelry cabinet had been completely wiped free of jewelry. Our walk-in closet had items pulled down off of shelves and a wooden toolbox belonging to my husband that contained a couple of nice watches and various other trinkets had been transferred to the bathroom floor where access was easier.

What a scene!

Cameras! We have video cameras! My husband installed them a couple of years ago when there had been some trouble in the neighborhood. After this incident, those cameras were worth every cent! The police officer sat with us as we played back the events of the morning. Right before our eyes, we watched as the culprits entered our house shortly after I had left. Burglar #1 walked up our driveway (looking directly into the camera), and knocked on the front door a couple of times. When he got no response, he quickly got on his cell phone to pass on the information. We continued to follow him as he walked into the garage, paced back and forth a couple of times, and again, was on his phone, most likely receiving instructions. The next time we see him, the front door is being opened from the inside and he and burglar #2 enter. After thirteen minutes, they can be seen exiting the front door with a pillowcase filled with items from our bedroom and hopping into the getaway car. Thirteen short minutes is all it took to ransack and steal items that did not belong to them, and make us question our sense of security.

A few days ago we found out that 2 out of the 3 had been captured in Monterey. My grandmothers' and great aunts' jewelry that can't be replaced is most likely gone - things only important to me, along with everything else. It could have been so much worse - we are alive, our animals are alive and the destruction could have been more extensive.

Cameras - everyone needs cameras - they DO work in catching scum. Be safe, neighbors!

FROM THE OFFICE OF



D I S T R I C T O N E

SUPERVISOR  
MIKE WASSERMAN

We lost a passionate community advocate with the passing of longtime volunteer Dave Fadness. I adjourned the October 6th Board of Supervisors meeting in his memory, and the VEP Neighborhood Association held a Memorial Beautification Day in Dave's honor. Volunteering to beautify the community was of utmost importance to Dave.

Regional open space and parklands are expanding in Santa Clara County. I and my colleagues on the County Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of 2,748 acres that link Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch and Anderson Lake County Parks to each other and also links to Henry Coe State Park - the largest recreational land holding in the California Park System - resulting in a potential, future trail network linking these three parks. Additionally, the County has made an offer to purchase 41 acres adjacent to the Almaden Quicksilver County Park. It is my hope that the offer will be accepted and that the property can be purchased and added to the park.

For the first time in 34 years, the U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship will be held in California next July - and right in our backyard, at Corde Valle in San Martin. All eyes will be on Santa Clara County for the world's biggest women's golf event that draws the best golfers, international media and many spectators. South County is playing host to this prestigious and historic championship, and we can all play a part in its success. Learn more about volunteering or attending: [www.2016uswomensopen.com](http://www.2016uswomensopen.com).

The County is expanding our Real. Life. Help. in new ways: Life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) were installed at high-risk locations throughout the County. Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in America. An AED is an effective treatment for restoring a regular heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest and doesn't require medical knowledge. The project is a joint effort between the Santa Clara County Fire Department, El Camino Hospital, Racing Hearts, and the American Heart Association.

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me at [district1@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:district1@bos.sccgov.org) with your comments and concerns.

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**Councilmember Johnny Khamis  
invites you to:**

# **COMMUNITY MEETING FOR CHYNOWETH NARROWING**

## **WHEN**

**Tuesday, Dec 1st, 2015  
6:30pm - 7:30pm**

## **WHERE**

**Vista Park Community Room  
465 Hyde Park Drive, San Jose CA**

**FEATURING • Department of Transportation  
Traffic Safety Team •**

**[WWW.SJD10.COM](http://WWW.SJD10.COM)**



**COME SHARE  
YOUR  
THOUGHTS!**



**QUESTIONS?**

**(408) 535-4910**

**[district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov)**

# VEP Community Schools Calendar



## November / December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23 Oak Grove Schools on Turkey Break All This Week	24	25 Minimum Day @All SJUSD Schools	 <b>Thanksgiving Break</b> No School SJUSD Schools		28
29	30 NJHS Meeting ~ 2:45-4:15pm ~ @JMMS Cafeteria	1	2 Las Culturass ~ 8:45-9:30am ~ @Parkview	3 Principal's Coffee ~ 8:00-10:00am ~ @GHS Library	4	5
<b>JMMS 6th &amp; 7th Grade Basketball Tournament</b>						
6	7 NJHS Meeting ~ 2:45-4:15pm ~ @JMMS Cafeteria	8 PSCA Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @Parkview Old Comp. Lab	9 High School Night ~ 6:00-7:00pm ~ @JMMS Cafeteria	10 COSMOS Meeting ~12:00-12:30am~ @Gunderson Media Center	11 Falcon Dance ~6:30-8:30pm~ @JMMS Cafeteria	12
13	14 NJHS Meeting ~ 2:45-4:15pm ~ @JMMS Cafeteria SSC Meeting ~2:30-3:30pm~ @Carson Rm A-2	15	16	17 Parent Brown Bag ~ 12:00-1:30pm ~ @SJUSD D.O. SSC Meeting ~ 7:15-7:45am ~ @JMMS Library	18 Minimum Day @JMMS	19 
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 
<b>All Neighborhood Schools on Winter Break</b>						



### 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  
 Facilities Calendar → <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/pages/calendar/facilities.html>



# VEP Community Calendar

## November / December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>22</b> Blossom Hill Farmers Market <b>Every Sunday</b> ~ 9am - 1:30pm ~ Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA - Santa Teresa Blvd. & Hwy 85/87	23	24	25	<b>26</b> 	27	28
 Santa in the Park ~ 2:00-4:00pm ~ @Vista Park Community Room	30	 <b>1</b> VEP Community Meeting ~ 6:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	<b>2</b> District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	3	4	<b>5</b> District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @City Espresso (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 	8	9	10	11	<b>12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 13<sup>th</sup></b> 
<b>13</b> 	14	 Winter Wonderland, together with Downtown Ice and Christmas in the Park, makes Downtown San José the place to be for the holidays in the Bay Area. <b>2015 / 2016</b> November 25 - January 3				19
<b>20</b> 	 www.downtownicesj.com HAWAIIAN AIRLINES KRISTI YAMAGUCHI Nov. 13 to Feb. 7				<b>25</b> 	26

### ★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

#### VEP Community Meetings

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**  
 Tuesday, December 1st

**JANUARY**  
 Tuesday, January 26th

*Everyone is Welcome!  
 Invite a Neighbor!*

*Join Us  
 for Fun  
 With  
 Santa  
 Nov. 29!*



#### VEP Community Events

**Santa in the Park**  
 Sunday, November 29th, 2pm-4pm

**VEP Holiday Decorating Contest**  
 Judging Weekend: December 12th & 13th

**Community-Wide Garage Sale**  
 Saturday, May 7th, 2016

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



# THE VEP NEWS

## VEP Community Association

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

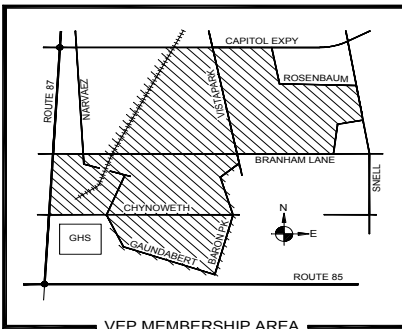
Email: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net)  
Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

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

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VEP MEMBERSHIP AREA



Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

Community Room

Vista Park

6:30 pm in the

Be sure to attend  
VEP's Community Meeting  
Tuesday, December 1st!

