

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

JANUARY

2016



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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

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

## VEP'S COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30 p.m. ~ Tuesday

► January 26th, 2016 ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Dr.

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

## AGENDA

### ★ Update on Homeless ★ New Projects and Initiatives

Presentation by

**Ray Bransom**

Homeless Response Manager  
City of San Jose Department of Housing

### ★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

VEP Begins 47<sup>th</sup> Year!!

VEP Membership Drive Begins in February

Status of Martial Cottle Park  
Community Gardens

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

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 23, 2016

### ★ Your Concerns and Ideas★

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

◆ 2016 is VEP's 47th Year! ◆

## VEP's January Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **January 26th**. Please join us at the January VEP Community meeting, featuring:

► **Please Note:** Featured presentation this month will highlight the progress being made on new initiatives and projects to address the issues of homeless in the City of San Jose. Ray Branham, Homeless Response Manager for the City of San Jose Housing Department, will provide a presentation which includes concise information on an issue of concern to our neighborhoods. Specific information will be included on how residents should report incidents or concerns, and possible options on how interested residents might be additionally involved.

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

Other informational items and announcements will be provided, including updates from Councilmember Khamis and Staff regarding issues of interest on District 10 and the 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 **January 26th**. Please join us!

## November/December Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed a “standing room only” crowd. She said how pleased she was to see so many interested people in attendance. This was a special meeting as VEP was able to play “host to our neighbors” on the other side of the Martial Cottle Park property – those neighbors included Colony Green HOA as well as others who live along Chynoweth, from Snell west to the dead-end (at the park property). As the agenda for this meeting was quite full, she skipped the usual ice-breaker activity of having everyone meet and introduce themselves to one person in the room that they did not already know. She did however encourage everyone to take time at the close of the meeting to stay and chat with neighbors. Ms. Rodgers introduced VEP Board Members and other honored guests.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced Dora Gonzalez, Council Assistant to Councilmember Khamis. Ms. Gonzalez had planned to introduce our guest speakers from the San Jose City Department of Transportation. However, as the Councilmember had just arrived, Ms. Gonzalez deferred to him. Councilmember Khamis stated that as many of us in the room knew, he has been working on plans for improvements to the perimeter roads around Martial Cottle Park since he was first elected. He was very pleased to be able to make the following two announcements. The first, a needed step toward a project to improve Branham Lane from Vistapark Drive to Snell. The easement had been purchased from the County which would allow a project to be planned and implemented. This easement (land outside of the fence next to Branham Lane) had been part of Mr. Lester's property, and of course now was the property of the County. For the room needed to improve this part of Branham, the easement had to be purchased from the County. That has now been accomplished!

The second announcement, in conjunction with the San Jose City Department of Transportation: funds had been obtained (through a grant) to develop a design plan for improvement to Chynoweth, from Snell west to the end of the street where it dead-ends into the Martial Cottle Park property. He then introduced Mr. Zahir Gulzadah, DOT Traffic Safety Division Manager, who would

provide an overview of the initial proposed improvements. This is the first step in the design process. Additional public meetings will be planned in the future as the design progresses. Mr. Gulzadah stated that he understands the concerns that have been voiced by residents in the area regarding the issues and problems with both Branham and Chynoweth, because he grew up in our neighborhood (VEP). His mother still resides in that house (located north of Branham in the VEP Parkview area).

By this point, Mr. Gulzadah and DOT staff had already placed a long visual on a paper rollout across the front wall of the Community Room. This visual was of the Chynoweth as it is currently: beginning at Snell going west to where the street dead-ends into the Martial Cottle Park property. He used the visual to indicate the initial proposed plans for road improvement. First, when coming off of Snell, the public/visitors will be able to drive close to the park, with many spaces all along the property allotted for increased diagonal parking. There would also be planted areas periodically through the mid portion of the street (where dirt is now). This would improve the attractiveness of the street/area, and would separate the street traffic - hopefully preventing or significantly discouraging the current problem of cars “drag racing.” There would also be left-turn lanes at residential streets for easy access by residents to their homes. Inclusion and placement of crosswalks across Chynoweth to the Park Trail entrances were also discussed. While these are all initial proposals, they were very positively received by residents at the meeting.

At the conclusion of this portion of the meeting, several attendees left and continued discussion on the proposal with DOT staff and the Councilmember outside of the Community Room.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced Eric Goodrich, Manager of Martial Cottle Park. Eric attends all of the VEP meetings and provides updates and answers residents' questions about issues and progress for the Park property development. The numbers of people using the Perimeter Trail continues to grow both during the week and on the weekends. The Rangers are periodically checking the trail for “off-hour” users to educate them first, warn them secondly, and, if necessary, write citations if they are disregarding the warnings **not to be on the Trail before Sunrise, and/or after Sunset**. Mr. Goodrich also provided specific information about the amount of time and expense needed to do a “toxic” materials cleanup of a portion of the property. That area is specifically around the Life Estate and the southeast corner of the property (closer to Chynoweth and Snell).

The next presenter, Mr. Jeremy Shoffner is a Supervisor with the Parks and Recreation Department, and works with the Community Center Re-use Program. There are large Community Centers throughout San Jose, often in a complex with a Public Library. In addition, there are several (usually smaller) buildings that are part of a Re-use Program. Mr. Shoffner indicated that they have not gone out to the communities surrounding Re-use Centers to ask for input to how the program is working, and/or not working. That is the reason for his visit/presentation for us. What is the Re-Use Program? What that means is the City has partnered with other organizations (often non-profits) that can provide a specific program(s) for the city and/or the community where the building is located. This is done on a contractual basis. Mr. Shoffner's purpose in coming tonight was to get input from community members about how they would like the Vista Park Community Room used, and/or ...do we want it to remain the same as it is now?

He did indicate that in some ways the Vista Park Community Room was somewhat different from the other Reuse buildings – that this room is somewhat unique. Ms. Rodgers stated that she had previous conversations about the Vista Park Community

*Continues on Page 3*

Continued from Page 2

Room – how it is currently used and so forth. Specifically, regarding the history of this room. VEP initiated talks with a developer (Summerhill) to have the building built, and then turned it over to the City to manage. VEP continues to have a special connection with the Community Room, and is very protective of it. VEP members also have done a significant amount of work to maintain and improve the Room. This includes painting the interior, painting over graffiti on the exterior, and planting all of the plants and trees that surround the Community Room.

Several attendees asked Jeremy for information as to how other Re-use Buildings are currently used. He mentioned one of the large Re-use buildings: the Almaden Winery Community Room that provides a variety of uses and activities. That is unusual as most of the Re-Use building tend to be small in size. One such small Re-Use center is located on the campus of Brete Harte School (also in District 10) at the southern most section of Almaden Valley. That Re-Use program is currently going through some changes. Both the current contractor and the Principal of the Brete Hart School are unhappy with the current arrangement.

Attendees then began making suggestions about activities that they might like to have at Vista Park. Ms. Rodgers brought up CPR classes that VEP had done, and that additional such courses provided by Red Cross or American Heart might be of interest to the residents in the area. One attendee stated that he would not like to jeopardize how the Room is currently used by VEP for the benefit of the community.

Jeremy indicated there are some limitations. It would have to be limited to a single contractor who would provide the service, such as “after school activities” for certain-age students (also done currently at one of the Reuse Buildings). In other words, having multiple contractors/organizations, ie. Red Cross and/or American Heart come into provide a variety of classes would not qualify for the program. A single contractor would control the building/room. Ms. Rodgers stated that one restriction might be that currently Parks & Rec holds (and has held them for the last 5 or 6 years) “Kids Camps” during the Summer months in the Vista Park Community Room. As a result, starting with the first week in June through the middle of August each Summer, no one else can access the Room. Jeremy seemed surprised by this information. He stated that he will provide additional information/suggestions to us in the future. He also wanted to assure us that there is the option to leave the utilization of the Vista Park Community Room as it is currently.

Next, Ms. Rodgers thanked Board Members Helen Castillo and Adina Pierce for all of their exceptional work in providing a very enjoyable, and very well attended “Santa in the Park.” The event was held on the weekend following Thanksgiving, on Sunday afternoon. Thanks also to the Rodartes, VEP members and residents for many years. For the second year, they “played” Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.” Additional thanks to Board Members Rachel Witmeyer and Katherine Decker, as well as VEP Member Josie Supencheck for their assistance in this 9<sup>th</sup> annual event. In addition to having the opportunity for “free” pictures taken with Santa, there were lots of goodies to eat and drink. One of the most popular activities is the “crafts.” Originally started by Helen and recently assisted by Rachel, it was meant to “entertain the children” while waiting for a picture with Santa. However, the adults seemed to enjoy it as much (or more) than the children! If you didn’t attend this year, plan to come in 2016!

Ms. Rodgers reminded everyone about the upcoming Christmas/Holiday Decorations Contest for the houses/yards with the best decorations! Depending on the weather, the VEP Board will start the judging on the weekend of December 15<sup>th</sup> and continue through the following week/weekend.

Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



*\*Holiday Photos! Photos! Photos!\**

Please see the following pages of this newsletter for photos of.. Santa in the Park (p. 6) & Holiday Decorations Contest (p. 7)

## Save the Date – Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> Community Budget Priority-Setting Session By Marilyn Rodgers

Are you interested in learning more about the City of San Jose’s Budget – how priorities are determined, and how the budget is set for the coming year? Would you like to have your say, and possibly even have an opportunity to influence the priorities as they are being developed/determined?

This year, for the first time, the City is opening up the opportunity for additional residents to participate in the initial process. In the past, the Community Budget Priority Setting Session was offered to one leader or representative from each neighborhood/community organization across the City. Community Leaders attended these important annual sessions to represent their communities. This year, the City is making the opportunity available to additional numbers of interested community residents.

What is the plan for that day? The City provides an overview of financials as well as other issues that will affect the budget. Residents will have an opportunity to discuss and provide input on the priorities for the 2016-2017 Budget, including participating in a “Zero-based” budgeting exercise designed around programs and services that impact our neighborhoods.

The date is set for **Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm.** The location for the meeting is Parkside Hall, 180 Park Avenue, San Jose, Ca. 95113. **Information about the registration process and application to attend is not available as of this writing.** VEP will send out additional information by E-mail Alert.



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## Michael Johnson Memorial Highway Project: Mother Interviewed; Speaks to S.J. City Council

By Marilyn Rodgers

VEP Vice President Katherine Decker was interviewed in December by both Channel 2 TV News and the Mercury News. Katherine is the mother of Michael Johnson, the SJPD Police Officer killed in the line of duty in March of 2015. Additionally she was invited to speak at the San Jose City Council Meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This was in response to a proposal Katherine helped initiate to rename a portion of Hwy 87 in honor of Michael.

Assemblywoman Nora Campos (who is the elected representative of the Assembly District that includes the VEP community) initiated the proposal at the State level, and was a strong advocate for its passage. The Assemblywoman attended the San Jose City Council in person, encouraging the Councilmembers to approve the proposal. District 10 Councilmember Khamis spoke in support of the proposal, as did Councilmembers Kalra, Peralez, Vice Mayor Rose Herrera, and Mayor Sam Liccardo. The vote for approval was unanimous.

The honor of re-naming a California freeway or major highway is usually reserved for officers of the California Highway Patrol. For such an honor to be given to a City Police Officer is somewhat unusual. However, as Katherine told the Council, Hwy 87 had special significance to both her and to Michael, as Katherine and Michael (at then age 15) rode their bicycles together on it during the initial construction phase.

Signage for the renamed portion of Hwy 87 will be placed on the southern portion close to the VEP neighborhoods where Katherine lives, and where Michael grew up. On the northern portion of Hwy 87, the signage will be placed close to where SJPD police officers enter and leave the San Jose Police Department building. Signage for the re-naming is expected to be in place within a couple of months.

## Crime and Safety in the VEP Neighborhoods

By Marilyn Rodgers

Note: This information is shared here for members who do not receive E-mail Alerts from VEP, and to provide general information regarding street, and time of day/night incidents occurred.

**1. During the month of November several incidents occurred – between Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Several vehicles were broken into on Ivanhoe Court (off of Barron Park Drive) in the Vista Park area of VEP. These happened at approximately 5am on a Tuesday morning. On Wednesday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – two incidents happened in the Parkview area of VEP. One on Lassenpark Circle involved two vehicles: a work van full of tools was stolen out of a driveway, and a second vehicle parked on the street was broken into. Both break-ins occurred between 12midnight and 8am. The second incident was on Kingspark Way in the Parkview area. Several vehicles (cars, trucks, and vans) were broken-into between 2am and 6am.**

**Just a Reminder:** Please keep vehicles locked and don't leave items visible in the passenger section of vehicles. Be sure to notify SJPD as soon as possible. Make reports on all such incidents.

**2. Good News – Suspects in the Greenpark Home Invasion were Apprehended!** Two of the three suspects involved in the October 22<sup>nd</sup> home invasion and injury/shooting of the homeowner who arrived home unexpectedly, were apprehended and jailed in Monterey County on separate charges from those listed above.

**3. Critical Vehicle vs. Pedestrian Accidents in Our Area.** Unfortunately two critical accidents occurred close to our neighbor-

hoods during the first part of December: December 11<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>. The first occurred on a Friday evening, at approximately 9pm, on Branham Lane west of Narvaez, on the eastern side of the Hwy 87 overpass. The victim was a neighbor, who was in a wheelchair and often seen by neighbors traveling back and forth along Branham Lane to Pearl. He was struck and seriously injured.

The second critical accident occurred just before 8am in the morning. A woman, Rosa Maria Ruminski, had been riding her bicycle on the Martial Cottle Perimeter Trail and had exited onto Chynoweth (west of Snell close to the end of the street). A driver exiting the Colony Green area, heading east toward Snell, unfortunately did not see her and struck and killed her. The driver remained at the scene and cooperated with authorities. Our sincere condolences to the Ruminski family, and our sympathy to the driver of the vehicle.

**Just a note of caution to our neighbors:** During this time of year, the angle of sun rising later in the morning and going down earlier in the evening may cause drivers temporary visual difficulty. We also want our neighbors who are walking and/or riding bicycles to be aware that while they can see the vehicles, often drivers cannot see them until they are almost on top of them.

We have many people out walking or walking their dogs, and/or riding bicycles during these hours on our busy neighborhood streets. Please use lights and/or flashlights, and wear light-colored or reflective clothing, or use reflective tape on yourselves, bicycles, and especially your dogs. It makes it much easier for drivers to see you. *We want to keep everyone safe!*

## 5 TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING



## TOP 6 DEADLIEST WINTER DRIVING MISTAKES YOU SHOULD AVOID

- 1 Driving too fast
- 2 Failing to clear snow off the car
- 3 Following others too closely
- 4 Overcorrecting on ice
- 5 Not getting your car ready
- 6 Driving fatigued



NUTLEY KIA



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

VEP's 1st Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day

More Photos, 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

## A Letter From Mrs. Aiko Fadness & Son

Dear Members of the VEP Community Association:

To say that I was rendered speechless at the November 14, 2015, VEP Memorial Beautification Day in honor of David is an understatement. On that spectacularly sunny day, I was overwhelmed by the large turnout of community volunteers of all ages who made the event a priority at this busy time of year. Your smiles, hugs, and kind words were truly appreciated.

I was touched by the thoughtful words spoken by our elected leaders San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, County Supervisor Mike Wasserman, San Jose City Councilmembers Johnny Khamis and Ash Kalra, and Campbell City Councilmember Mike Kotowski.

The events of the day took countless hours of planning and execution by many volunteers. My heartfelt thanks to Marilyn Rodgers, Ginger Cardona, Debra Suydam, Adina Pierce, and former VEP presidents Dave Noel, Jeri Arstingstall, and Bob Aquino. Thanks also to Mollie Tobias, Volunteer Coordinator of San Jose Parks and Recreation; the crew of city workers on site for the event; and the Parks staff for the donation of two trees planted in Vista Park that day.

Gratitude is expressed to our dear friends Jim and Heidi Chadwick, Don and Mary Church, and Gary and Marla Lenz for the gift of our 50th anniversary tree planted near the Community Room under the careful guidance of Our City Forest Founder and CEO Rhonda Berry. Thank you, Rhonda.

In addition to the clean up and planting done at Vista Park, much hard work was done in other areas at Vista Park Drive and Branham, along Chynoweth Avenue, and at Branham and New Compton Drive. Driving past all work sites later in the day, I was impressed to see the fruits of everyone's labor.

Warmest thanks to all who participated. It was a wonderful show of volunteerism and a tribute to the community, making it one of the finest in San Jose. Yes, Marilyn, David would have been smiling on that bright, beautiful Saturday morning!

With sincere gratitude,  
Aiko Fadness and son Matthew

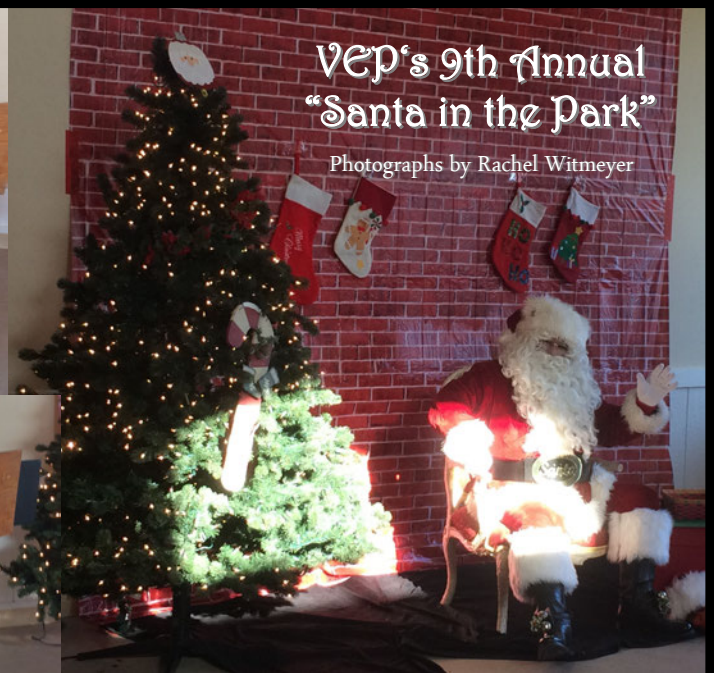
## Did You Know?

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



# VEP's 9th Annual "Santa in the Park"

Photographs by Rachel Witmeyer



Special Thanks to our VEP Board Member, Helen Castillo, organizer of "Santa in the Park" and the Food/Blanket Drive.

Many Thanks to "Santa Claus" and the "Musical Elf."

Thanks to our VEP Board Members who served as the event "staff": Adina Pirez & Daughter, Josie Supneczek, Katherine Decker, Marilyn Rodgers, and Rachel Witmeyer

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

By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

Photographs by Katherine Decker

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual VEP Holiday Decorations Contest was held in December. Decorations of yards/houses were judged starting the weekend December 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>, and continued off and on through the following week, weather permitting. VEP sponsored the contest and the Board of Directors served as judges for the best Holiday Decorating done on a house and/or yard in the VEP neighborhoods – Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview.

This year, several “winners” were selected. However, this is always difficult, and as a result, the Board decided to include several “honorable mentions.” Even then it is difficult, because everyone who has decorated, is a “winner” because you helped bring fun, beauty, and enjoyment to our neighborhoods for the holidays! One more reason we enjoy living where we do! Thanks!

Everyone always asks “what do the winners win?” **The Grand Prize Winner** receives a gift certificate, a yard sign proclaiming their title and a free membership to VEP. **First Prize winners** in all categories win a free membership to VEP (value \$20.00 each). All winners are acknowledged in the VEP newsletter and an E-mail Alert went out about to announce them. Most important, they put smiles on our faces, and of course, they win “bragging rights”!

**The Grand Prize Winner for the 5<sup>th</sup> year** in a row, goes to a very special display at the Olsen’s (**595 Amboy Drive, located just off of Narvaez, south of Branham Lane as Amboy becomes Chiles**). Each year this display continues to awe everyone who sees it while also changing somewhat with many new items. This year’s new items included large snowflakes on the roof. This is in addition to the many reindeers, the artificial snow, and on, and on, and on. This display is one that continues to evoke “ohs and ahs” and “oh my goodness” from observers of all ages! Congratulations!

### **First Prize Winner - “Oh my goodness!” Category**

**4982 New World Dr./Chynoweth (on the corner)**

Honorable Mention: 638 Chynoweth

### **First Prize Winner - Inflatable or Animated Blowups Category**

**610 Albion Drive (just off of west Bluefield)**

Honorable Mentions: 4168 Dulcey Drive and 5079 Tottenham Ct

### **First Prize Winner - Religious Theme Category: 584 Lanfair Dr**

Honorable Mention: 477 Churchill Park (off of Barron Park Drive)

### **First Prize Winner – Connected Neighbors Category (BELOW**

**for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row - 661 and 662 Dunraven Ct. (located between Chynoweth and Narvaez), and other neighbors on Dunraven Ct.** Honorable Mention: 585, 574, & 579 Hyde Park Dr.

### **First Prize Winner – Fantasy Category: 5093 New England Ct.**

Honorable Mentions: 704 Potomac Ct / 575 Gaundabert Ln.

**Streets to See:** Several streets had the majority of the houses along them decorated, making for special enjoyment and friendly competition between neighbors. Many of these streets also included at least one house in contention for the prize categories:

**Hyde Park Drive** - Largest number of homes decorated on a street several blocks long (between Vistapark Drive, west past New Compton Dr., and west past Chynoweth to Gaundabert).

**Chynoweth** - Several houses along this stretch as well as the ones on Chynoweth Ct. (close to freeway overpass).

**Kings Cross Way** (between Gaundabert and Barron Park Drive) including the house on Gaundabert

**Hastings Park Drive** (off of Vistapark and Victoria Park – just south of Capitol Exp)

**Mia** (connects w/Branham, west of the Safeway shopping center)



FROM THE OFFICE OF



# JOHNNY KHAMIS

SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 10



It has been one of my major priorities to address the unwanted activities and improve the traffic safety of Chynoweth area since I was elected into office as your Councilmember. I happy to share that I have successfully, in partnership with our Department of Transportation (DOT), and Environmental Services Department (ESD) secured funding for the narrowing of Chynoweth and this project is currently underway. On Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, we held a community meeting with the residents of the area to discuss the proposed changes of this road. We advertised through our newsletter, NextDoor, Facebook and District 10 website and were pleased to see such a large attendance from residence from the Colony Green and Vista Park area.

DOT and ESD presented their proposal and took feedback from the residents. Now, this project is under the "project design" phase that is due to be completed in spring 2016. We expect construction to begin in summer 2016 and completed in about 10 months. This project includes narrowing Chynoweth by removing a full lane and converting it into public parking for the park. A median with trees and other landscape along it and various crosswalks along entrance points to the park. Some other things that will be looked into are paving the dirt path on the park side and potentially adding some additional street lights at the end of Chynoweth towards the park where it tends to be the darkest. Our office will continue to update the community as the design is finalized.

Thank You,  
Johnny

## Music With Yvonne

Private piano, voice and recorder lessons  
Preschool music classes



Yvonne Reddy  
408.221.1414

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FROM THE OFFICE OF



# DISTRICT ONE

## SUPERVISOR MIKE WASSERMAN

If I could take a "selfie" of this last year as the County Supervisor for District 1, it would be a very crowded picture! 2015 marks my fifth year on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and in the last 12 months I attended 750 meetings and events in San Jose, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy. It was an honor to be chosen as the 2015 Citizen of the Year from the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce and recipient of the 2015 Helping Hand Award from Community Solutions. I look forward to working productively with my colleagues and the community in 2016 - which promises to be another busy one with Presidential and local elections, several large development proposals going before the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), El Nino preparations, increasing homeless services, and maintaining our current health, safety and recreation services for all 1.9 million County residents.

### Keeping kids safe.

As co-chair of the Traffic Safe Communities Network, I co-hosted the Los Gatos Safe Routes to School Summit and kicked off the Las Animas Elementary School "Walk and Bike to School Week" in Gilroy. By encouraging healthier and safer environments for kids, we can help prevent traffic-related fatalities and injuries.

### Preserving open space.

We expanded regional open space with the purchase of 2,748 acres that link Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch and Anderson Lake County Parks to each other. They also link 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.

### Housing the homelessness.

In one year, we lowered the number of homeless individuals in our County by 14% -- from 7,631 to 6,556. Working with Destination: Home, we launched a new program called "All the Way Home" to house 700 local homeless veterans. Additionally, working with HomeFirst, we opened cold weather shelters early and added emergency shelter beds countywide so that homeless families and individuals will have a safe place to stay warm and dry.

### Reforming jail and custody operations.

Following the State moving inmates from prisons to local jails through "realignment" (AB109), we have been adjusting our Department of Correction operations which currently house over 3,600 inmates. We created a Blue Ribbon Commission to evaluate current custody operations and to recommend reforms.

### Preventing fraud and identity theft.

150 people attended the Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention Seminars that I co-hosted with the District Attorney's Office in Morgan Hill and Almaden Valley. A representative from the District Attorney's office provided detailed information about how criminals target their victims as well as important tips for how to avoid becoming a victim. We plan to hold more seminars in 2016.

I wish each of you a healthy 2016 and I look forward to another productive year on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

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.



# Think POSITIVE

## The Power of Positive Thinking

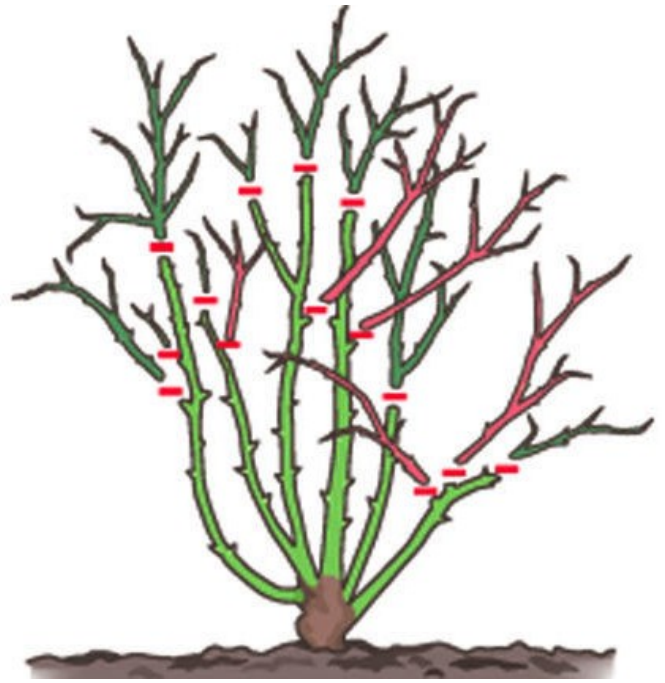
By Tracie Johnson ~ VEP Member

Having a positive outlook on life is a simple and effective way to take control of your life. Positive people expect success, good health, happiness, wealth and good relationships, and those things tend to become part of their lives. This is not because these people are more outgoing or already successful, it is a direct reflection of their positive attitude. Positive thoughts breed positive results! Your thoughts are incredibly powerful and they affect your life, as well as those around you. Thinking positive is something that you must practice. Here are some simple ways to move toward being more positive and reaping the benefits of positive thinking.

- Expect good things to happen. Always be on the lookout for opportunities to meet your goals and then utilize them. Don't second guess opportunities. If you have been expecting them to come, then they are the right opportunities.
- Disregard and replace negative thoughts with positive ones. Take a deep breath and be optimistic.
- Surround yourself with positive people. Positive attitudes are contagious!
- Do things that make you happy. Taking part in activities that you enjoy naturally creates a positive environment. As you become a more and more positive person, you will find that you enjoy other activities that you once didn't prefer.

For more information on how I could help you create the healthy lifestyle you want, please contact me, with the information, below.

Tracie Johnson  
COPE Certified Optimal Health and Wellness Coach  
www.ichooseoptimalhealth.4goodhealth.com Phone: 408-502-4508



## Rose Pruning Time

By John Marks ~ VEP Member & Gardner

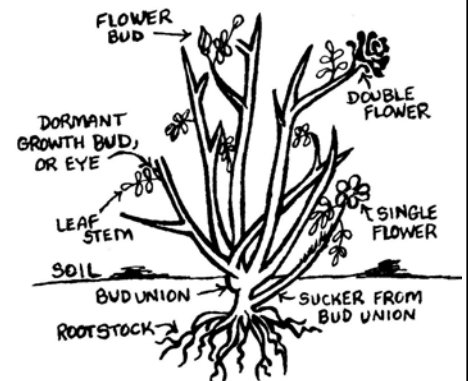
It's Tough-Love time for roses; that means stripping leaves, taking shears to lanky canes, and ripping out suckers. This isn't brain surgery; anybody can do it - and should.

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

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

If you're interested in some easy lessons, and tips from the masters, you can get of instruction and practice at San Jose's Heritage Rose Garden at Spring and Taylor (or Coleman and Taylor).

For more info, go to [www.heritageroses.us](http://www.heritageroses.us)



**Ellen Burtis**  
CRS, GRI, SRES



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# VEP Community Schools Calendar

## January / February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	<b>18</b> NO SCHOOL 	<b>19</b> NO SCHOOL @Parkview PTA Mtg. ~ 7:00pm ~ @Carson	<b>20</b> Blood Drive 8am-2pm @GHS Foothill College Family Engagement Workshop #2 ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ @Parkview	<b>21</b> SELAC Mtg. 10am @JMMS Cash for College 5-8pm @GHS	<b>22</b> SELAC Mtg. ~ 8:05am ~ @Carson	23
24	<b>25</b>  ALL WEEK → @JMMS	<b>26</b> PSCA Mtg. 6:30pm @Parkview Falcon Feeding Frenzy (JMMS) 4-10pm @Giorgio's Parent Info. Night 4-10pm @GHS	<b>27</b> Foothill College Family Engagement Workshop #3 ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ @Parkview JMMS Honors Night 6=5pm 7/8=6:30pm	<b>28</b> Parent Brown Bag Meeting ~ 12:00pm ~ @GHS	<b>29</b> Principal's Coffee ~ 8:05am ~ @Carson	30
31	<b>1</b> NO SCHOOL @Parkview	<b>2</b> PVCA Meeting ~ 6:30-7:30pm ~ @Parkview	<b>3</b> @Parkview: Las Culturitas ~ 8:45-9:30am ~ Family Engagement Workshop #4 ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ JMMS PTSA Mtg. ~ 6:30pm ~	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Falcon Dance ~ 6:30-8:30pm ~ @JMMS Cafeteria	6
7	<b>8</b> SSC Meeting 2:30pm @Carson Athletic Booster Meeting 6:00pm @GHS	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Science Fair! ~ 5:30-6:30pm ~ @JMMS Gym	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> @JMMS: Minimum Day Principal's Coffee 8:30-9:00am Valentine's Dance 7-9pm @Carson	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 <b>San Jose Unified 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

## January / February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>17</b> Blossom Hill Farmers Market <b>Every Sunday</b> ~ 9am - 1:30pm ~ Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA - Santa Teresa Blvd. & Hwy 85/87	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Jewelry Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Knit+Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>21</b> Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>22</b> Bubblemania! ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>23</b> Book Sale ~ 10am-6pm ~ @Edenvale Lib.
<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>	 <b>26</b> VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	<b>27</b> Jewelry Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Knit+Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>28</b> "Bay Area BikeMobile" Event ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Lib. bayareabikemobile.org	<b>29</b> Tessellations! (Math+Art for Kids) ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>30</b> Book Sale \$1 for Hardbacks \$0.50 Paperbacks ~ 10am-5pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
<b>31</b> \$5/Bag Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	<b>4</b> Pete G. Magic Show ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Lib. Valentine's Day Activity for Teens ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>5</b> Lunar New Year Activities for Kids ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> @Pearl Lib. Jewelry Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Knit+Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ Book Club ~ 5:30pm ~	<b>11</b> Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>12</b> Valentine's Day Activities for Kids ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Lib. ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>13</b> District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @City Espresso (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Jewelry Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Knit+Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>18</b> Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>19</b> "Make a Kaleidoscope" ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	<b>20</b>

### ★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

#### VEP Community Meetings

**FEBRUARY**

Tuesday, February 23th

**MARCH**

Tuesday, March 29th

*Everyone is Welcome!  
Invite a Neighbor!*



#### VEP Community Events

**Great American Litter Pick-Up**  
Saturday, April 23rd, 2016

**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

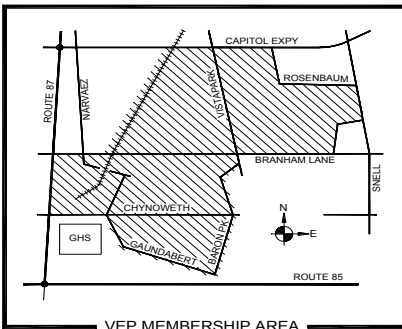
Email: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net)  
Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

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

Community Room

Vista Park

7:30 pm in the

Be sure to attend  
VEP's Community Meeting  
Tuesday, January 26th!