

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

MARCH

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 // 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
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VEP'S COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30 p.m. ~ Tuesday

► **March 29th, 2016** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ 3-Large Item Pickup & Disposal ★

Presentation by
City of San Jose Environmental Services Staff

★ CrimeStoppers ★

Presentation by
Desiree Barragan - Board Director, Community Liaison Chair

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

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

Three Events in April:

Saturday, April 2nd

Free Neighborhood Cleanup Event ("Dumpster Day")

Saturday, April 9th

Vista Park Beautification Day
(Spread Wood Chips)

Saturday, April 23rd

City of San Jose All American Litter Pickup
and VEP Spring Beautification Day
~ Sign-in at Vista Park ~

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 26, 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 March Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **Tuesday, March 29th** at the VEP Community meeting!

► **Presentations:** This month will feature two presentations of high interest to our community. First, the City of San Jose Environmental Services staff will provide information on a new program that each residence is eligible to participate in: the 3- Large Item Pickup and Disposal program. The Second presentation will be about CrimeStoppers: How to report crimes in your neighborhood and remain anonymous! Information also on "cash rewards" - up to \$1,000.00.

► **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. Three large events are scheduled for April – see additional information elsewhere in the newsletter.

► **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 **March 29th**. Please join us!

February Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She noted that many of tonight's attendees were long time members of VEP. However, as there were some newer people in the group, she encouraged everyone to take 90 seconds to say hello to someone they had not met and/or had not had an opportunity to talk to before – with such things as name, home street, and how long in the VEP community. Everyone seems to enjoy this activity and it encourages everyone to become better acquainted with others throughout VEP.

Ms. Rodgers began the meeting by introducing the current Board Members and Past Presidents in attendance. She then encouraged everyone to take an opportunity to be in that night's raffle as was a special one – a free membership in VEP for the next year. This was held to celebrate the beginning of the annual VEP Membership drive. She instructed everyone who wanted to participate to complete the membership remit envelopes and include the \$20.00 membership. The winner of the raffle drawing at the end of the meeting would have their \$20.00 returned to them.

Next – upcoming events/announcements were highlighted – with a focus on those that also had flyers on the table in the back of the room. The annual WOWW event – Walk and Resource Faire for Senior citizens, held at the Oakridge Mall would be happening once again on the upcoming Friday morning. Over 50 vendors would be participating in the event this year. The event, now in its 9th year, was initiated by former District 10 Councilmember Nancy Pyle, and continues under the leadership of current Councilmember Johnny Khamis. It also includes Councilmembers Ash Kalra and Don Rocha. Other flyers highlighted included Councilmember Johnny Khamis' Community Office Hours. They are scheduled for the 1st Wednesday every month from 8:30am to 9:30am, at the Almaden Community Center/Library at 6445 Camden Avenue, and 2nd Saturday of each month from 10am to 11:30am at City Espresso Coffee Shop at 630 Blossom Hill Road (close to Outback Steak House). This is an opportunity to meet face to face with our Councilmember to discuss any issue of concern – without having to go downtown to City Hall and make an

appointment. Be sure to take advantage of these Community Office Hours.

The third flyer highlighted attention on another annual upcoming event in April – the City-wide All American Litter Pickup. VEP will once again host one of the areas for District 10 – with a sign-in table in Vista Park. It is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 23rd. District staff would really appreciate people going online to register for the event in advance – as this assists them in having a more accurate "guesstimate" for morning coffee and snacks, and for lunches for all of the volunteers.

Ms. Rodgers also mentioned the upcoming State of the City function to be held on Saturday morning, March 5th.

Next, she introduced Ms. Dora Gonzalez, Council Assistant and VEP's liaison with Councilmember Khamis' office, to speak. She laughed and said that Marilyn had already covered all of her announcements. She did add some additional information on the upcoming Oakridge Mall Walk and Resource Faire for Seniors. She also answered a question as to what entrance should participants enter the Mall – as the Faire starts before the Mall opens. The correct entrance is next to Macy's Court. Ms. Gonzalez also encouraged members to sign up for Johnny's newsletter which is published twice a month online for residents of District 10. Ms. Rodgers thanked Dora.

Ms. Rodgers then announced that she was happy to have the next speakers come to VEP. She had been persistent in attempts to schedule them to come for an update on Almaden Ranch. The first two attempts unfortunately were unsuccessful due to scheduling conflicts. She first introduced Gerry De Young, with Ruth & Goring, who are consultants for Arcadia Development. She said it was nice to have Gerry back for a VEP meeting as there is a long history between them dating back to the fact that Arcadia Developers were the builders for a good portion of the VEP neighborhood homes – all of Vista Park area, and a large portion of the Carson neighborhood. VEP had also been involved with Arcadia in the initial discussions of the development and Planning processes of the now Almaden Ranch project. She thanked Gerry for his long time support of VEP neighborhood concerns. She stated that he also lived not too far away, and always was very receptive to any concerns voiced by the VEP Community Association over the years.

Mr. De Young thanked Ms. Rodgers for her comments. He agreed that he had been involved with several projects that were of importance to the VEP area, and that it was nice to be back once again to talk to the group. He then introduced Sachneel Patel, representing Hunter Storm, who provided an update on Almaden Ranch. He started by providing an overview of the flagship store – Bass Pro Shop. Ms. Rodgers stated that she was not someone who was particularly interested in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor type sports, but that she thought it was a very enjoyable and exciting store and has been called the "Disneyland for Outdoorsmen." She was impressed with the variety that included a place to eat – Uncle Buck's. Mr. Patel then went on to talk about other stores currently under construction, and scheduled to open over the next several months. These include a very large indoor athletic club (that is being build behind Safeway), a large sit-down restaurant, a cosmetic store, and several others. There will also be a small hotel. The golf store that was originally slated to come into the complex has declined to open at Almaden Ranch, as their business (which opened just a few months ago on the Peninsula) is not doing as well as originally expected.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the main speaker for the evening, Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Vishal Bathija. She said that she had been fortunate enough to hear Vishal give a presentation that had been sponsored by Santa Clara County

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Supervisor Mike Wasserman. While most of us believe that we have some knowledge about "Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention" she had found that Mr. Bathija provided very helpful information in an understandable format, which was concise and provided in a very limited amount of time. She was very pleased that he was able to come to do a similar presentation for the VEP community.

The Deputy District Attorney thanked Ms. Rodgers, and said he was very happy to be with us. He also said he is available to provide this information to others, if we are involved with other groups that might find the information beneficial. He stated that over the last few years, he has realized what a significant problem identity theft and fraud has become, as he is involved (through the County District Attorney's office) in attempting to deter this huge problem. He has also found that additional information and education is needed to help protect all of us – the public.

Identity theft is a HUGE problem affecting 16.6 million people in this country. That means **every three (3) seconds** there is a new victim! That amounts to a cost of \$50 trillion dollars in cost to our economy. (More than every major league athletic team generates together!) A huge problem! And, while we often think of this problem being mostly directed at senior citizens (and often it is), it affects every age group.

Mr. Bathija was involved with a case in January 2013, with Adam & Cindy Robertson. They were a young couple planning to buy their first home. They had been planning for this, had good credit scores, and had enough money saved for a 20% down on a home. They put in an offer on a house for \$800,000 with a mortgage rate of 3.3%. However, in the process of closing the deal, they realized that Cindy's identification had been stolen. They found out that this person had rented a house in the area and had incurred a huge amount of bad debt. Everything was on hold while they tried to work through this issue and prove that it was not Cindy who was the responsible person. The defendant was eventually arrested and pled guilty. However, over the period of the several months that it took to clear this up for Cindy, interest rates rose to 4.5%. This meant that the increase in interest over the period/life of the loan amounted to an additional \$250,000 (or \$500/month). The Robertsons had intended to use that money for their children's education. This was very upsetting to Cindy and her family for what this cost them due to no fault of her own!

What is Identity Theft? It includes the unauthorized use of your name, social security number, date of birth, credit card number(s), and/or bank account number(s).

Why is this happening and why is it such a huge issue? This kind of crime poses a very low risk to the crook/criminal! They usually will not go to prison, they may not even be investigated. For instance with credit cards, the credit card company reverses the charges on the victim's cards. Recently a woman who was caught, stated "It is not hard at all to do." Regarding issuance of new credit cards – both banks and major stores/retailers make it very easy. As a result, crooks take advantage of this situation.

In some instances, the information can be obtained with some good old fashioned stealing:

- * **Mail Theft** – if not shredded, provides lots of easy information
- * **Car** – information inside such as name, address, insurance
- * **Dumpster Diving** – again, DO NOT throw away all of those Credit card offers that are mailed to you – shred them
- * **Skimming** – somewhat less of a problem now – using credit Cards at restaurants/gas stations etc.
- * **"Phishing"** – e-mail supposedly from your Bank, Credit Card Company, etc. – asking about your accounts – DO NOT CLICK ON THE LINK
- * **"Phone Phishing"** supposedly from your Bank – asking for

your information – DO NOT GIVE IT TO THEM – it is a SCAM Banks already have your information!

(Note: It is different if you are the one "initiating the call" – they have to ask you for this information to assure that it is you that are calling them.)

In 2009, Santa Clara County had **2,031** cases filed. (This is only a small percentage – as most cases never get to them!)

When identification is stolen, a variety of items may be stolen. Recently there was a case where multiple vehicles were purchased all in the same victim's name. Another went on a lavish Shopping spree at Santana Row - \$1,500 purchase of shoes/purses, \$15,000 for electronics. There was a case where a 4-year old boy had a PG&E account and 8 credit cards in his name (ID victim), with 1 of these cards racking up thousands of dollars at one Vietnamese restaurant (for "extra services").

Obituaries are another source of easy information for criminals. Often, the thefts target people's benefits, like Social Security. Criminals will apply for the spouse's benefits (illegally), before they apply themselves!

So, how do you Prevent Identify Theft?

- * **Don't carry** your Social Security card and/or Medicare card in your wallet/purse.
- * **Social Media** – particularly for younger folks – huge problem. Don't accept "friend requests" from strangers Don't use your Mother's maiden name Should you list your high school, age, when graduated, state of birth, and/or date of birth, you are putting your Social Security number at risk of being stolen. (With the above information, crooks can get the first portions/numbers of your Social Security number – and the last portion of Social Security numbers are readily available and used almost everywhere!)
- * **Your Passwords** – do not use the same passwords for multiple accounts/uses. **For your bank and e-mail – these passwords should be the hardest ones for anyone else to guess and/or find!**
- * **Young People** – Students with smartphones are sharing pictures/ information on Social media sites almost continuously throughout the day – very dangerous. Also GPS coordinates can lead them to your house and/or school. Teach children how to be safe on the internet.

Other Deterrents:

- * **Lock It Up At Home** – High priority items for thieves who are currently breaking into homes include:
 - Tax Records and Supporting Documents
 - Medical Records - Birth Certificates
 - Passports - Firearms
 - Prescription Medications
- * **Locking Mailbox**
- * **Do NOT put the "flag" up or post "Mail Outgoing"** on your Mailbox – it's invitation to "Steal me"
- * **SHRED EVERYTHING**
- * **Credit Check** – check your credit accounts and ratings every 4 months with one of the 3 major credit rating companies (www.annualcreditreport.com). Credit card companies are converting to cards with chips which will continue to increase the protection.

Should you be a victim of ID theft:

- * Close your account
- * Notify Police (Official police reports are important)
- * Help Police
 - You are the first to know which retailer may be involved.
 - These crimes are solvable and provable. Keep a paper-trail.

Continues on Page 4

- * Some information is only available for a limited time, so act immediately - as soon as you recognize that a theft has occurred.
- * Monitor credit card activity constantly
- * Should there be a problem – you can “Freeze your Credit,” meaning no one can open a new account in your name. This is Free if you are over 65 years old, or a Victim under 65. There is a charge of \$15.00 for each credit monitoring company – three companies = \$45.00. Also, you will have to pay to “unfreeze” your credit.

Currently Robo calls are a major problem. Difficult currently to deter and/or manage. **HANG UP ON THESE FOLKS – NEVER SEND MONEY! IF MESSAGE LEFT ON VOICEMAIL – DO NOT RETURN CALLS!** These may be generated in other countries and forwarded through several different numbers before reaching you, making them difficult to trace.

Some common scams/threats are:

The Grandma call – “I am travelling to X country and am in jail – need you to send me money, etc.” **NEVER SEND MONEY** – check with close family members first, if concerned.

The IRS call – “You owe money to the IRS and an arrest warrant has been initiated in your name. You must call immediately and arrange to send X dollars to such and such a place.” Again, **NEVER** send money. The IRS will never call you by phone as an initial contact.

(Note: Regarding Robo calls – U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer from state of New York – just announced he has initiated legislation that will allow telephone providers to stop these types of calls – apparently the technology is now available to do so!)

You may call and/or e-mail Deputy District Attorney Vishal Bathija at 408-783-2970 or e-mail him at vbathiji@da.sccgov.org

Ms. Rodgers thanked him for his presentation.

The winner of the raffle/drawing for a free one year membership to VEP was Irene (and Bob) Shoberg. Congratulations! The Shobergs are long-time residents and long-time VEP members.

Ms. Rodgers reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for the 5th Tuesday of March - March 29th.



Spring Is Arriving! - Tree Trimming and Caring for Street Trees, Other Foliage

By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

Just a reminder to our residents: Residents are responsible for caring for (which includes trimming) trees that are on the street side(s) of their properties. Many people mistakenly believe that it is the City’s responsibility to care for these trees.

It is particularly important for residents to do their part to **trim and/or remove any foliage that blocks the view of vehicle drivers for city street signage** (speed limits, right turn signs, and so forth). Good visibility increases driver safety.

Important Phone Numbers



- 1. Homeless Encampments**
“Homeless Hotline”
(408) 510-7600, Option 3
- 2. Anti-Graffiti Number**
(866) 249-0543
- 3. Abandoned Vehicles on Street**
(408) 535-3850
- 4. Store Shopping Cart Pickup**
All American Cart Service
(408) 629-6030
- 5. 3 Large Items Scheduling & Pickup**
California Waste Solutions
(408) 213-7800
(Editor’s Note: For more information about this service, see the flier included on Page 10 of this newsletter.)
- 6. Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**
Household Hazardous Waste Program
WEB: www.HHW.org
Phone: (408) 299-7300
(Editor’s Note: For more information about this service, see the flier included on Page 9 of this newsletter.)
- 7. City of San José Customer Contact Center**
Phone: (408) 535-3500
Fax: (408) 292-6731
TTY (for the hearing impaired): (408) 292-9337

Got a question? Need some help? We have someone available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer questions, provide information and help resolve concerns. If you need to get in touch with the City and don't know exactly who to call, dial the Contact Center and our friendly staff will be glad to assist you!



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Saving a Seat for Dave

VEP Plans for a Memorial Bench / Plaque at Vista Park in Honor of Dave Fadness

By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

In November, VEP sponsored the 1st Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Event. Prior to that, several people had made recommendations as to ways that Dave Fadness might be honored for his volunteerism and dedication to the Community. Several of these ideas however, cannot be implemented for another 5 to 7 years, due to restrictions and/or requirements by a variety of governmental agencies.

Along with the annual Beautification event, an additional option which can be initiated immediately is a Memorial Bench and Plaque in Dave's honor. This idea, as was the annual Beautification event, has been discussed with, and approved by, the Fadness family. With research and assistance from San Jose Parks and Recreation staff, VEP is initiating this project. The cost for a memorial bench and plaque to be placed in Vista Park will be approximately between \$2,400 and \$3,000. We know that several friends of Dave's have already made donations in his honor: to VEP, to Our City Forest, and to other worthy organizations of their choice. We all appreciate that very much. However, we felt this would be one more option for people to consider and participate in, if they wish. We are hoping to have the funds collected, the bench and plaque ordered and ready for dedication as part of the 2nd Annual Dave Fadness Beautification Event in the fall of 2016.

Should you wish to participate, there are two options:

- 1.) You can send checks to VEP – Please include a note on the "memo" line that says: "Dave Fadness Memorial Bench & Plaque"
- 2.) Should you appreciate having this donation qualify as a tax deduction, that can be done through **San Jose Parks Foundation**. **GO TO:** <http://sanjoseparks.org>
 - a.) On left side of page - choose: "**Donate 3 Easy Ways**"
 - b.) Select "**Donate Directly to Programs & Services**" then scroll down to bottom of page - you will see **VEP**, however, you **cannot donate here**. Go to the right side of page...
 - c.) Select **Donate Now box** (on right side of page)
 - d.) Select **amount** to donate - and **frequency** (ie. once)
 - e.) Bottom of page - "**I want my donation to be dedicated:...**"
 - f.) Type in "**VEP - in honor of Dave Fadness**"
 - g.) Check the box on right side of page to send an acknowledgement to Organization, etc.

Three Saturday Events Scheduled for April In the VEP Community

By Marilyn Rodgers

Saturday, April 2nd "Dumpster Day" Free Neighborhood Cleanup Event 8am – 11am (or until bins are full)

*Note: This event is for the VEP neighborhoods
of Vista Park, Carson, and Parkview only!*

*You must bring the mailed information card – residents should have received in the mail on or about Wednesday, March 16th. Listed on this card are the 7 dumpster line-up streets as well as the type of materials that can be dumped into these bins at each location. Staff will direct you to another line/street if one area is becoming too long. Do not bring items such as garbage, recyclables or yard waste that your regular garbage/recycling service manages. Also, do not bring Household Hazardous Waste – contact www.hhw.org or call 408-299-7300 for arrangements to dispose of those items. Items that are included under Household Hazardous Waste include: automotive and cleaning products, fertilizers and pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, gas cylinders and tanks, paint, and solvents.

Saturday, April 9th Vista Park Beautification Day 9am – 12noon (or whenever you can)

Hauling/Spreading Wood Chips and Beautification. Come join VEP neighbors, and volunteers from a local church to really make a difference at Vista Park. Some supplies and equipment will be available, but bring your own shovel, rake, or gloves, if you prefer. Community Service Hours for High School students are available.

Saturday, April 23rd S.J.'s Great American Litter Pickup and VEP Spring Beautification Day Registration @8am

Sign-in begins at Vista Park at 8am with coffee, snacks, and pictures. Assignments for areas covered made and/or negotiated. Supplies will be available. Great Opportunity for Community Service Hours for High School Students!

Great American Litter
PICK UP



For Immediate Release
March 16, 2016

Media Contact: David Low – (408) 535-4840 or david.low@sanjoseca.gov

Mayor Liccardo Unveils “Smart City Vision” for San Jose

City to use game-changing technologies and data-driven decision-making to transform City Hall in ways that will improve public services and improve the quality of life for San Jose residents

San Jose, Calif. – Building upon a key pillar of his 2nd State of the City Address, Mayor Liccardo formally unveiled his **Smart City Vision** – a comprehensive plan designed to make San Jose the most innovative city in the country by 2020.

“Just as the world looks to Silicon Valley to provide the most creative, impactful technologies to disrupt industries and transform lifestyles, so too San Jose can become a global leader for civic innovation,” Mayor Liccardo said. “Becoming a ‘smart city’ means that game-changing technologies and data-driven decision-making will drive continuous improvement in how City government serves our community, and promote concrete benefits in safety, sustainability, economic opportunity, and quality of life for our constituents.”

Mayor Liccardo’s Smart City Vision is centered around the following five key goals that are designed to make San Jose:

1. **A Safer City:** Leverage technology to make San Jose the safest big city in America.
2. **An Inclusive City:** Ensure all residents, businesses, and organizations can participate in and benefit from the prosperity and culture of innovation in Silicon Valley.
3. **A User-Friendly City:** Create digital platforms to improve transparency, empower residents to actively engage in the governance of their city, and make City Hall more responsive to the complex and growing demands of our community.
4. **A Sustainable City:** Utilize technology to address energy, water, and climate challenges to enable sustainable growth.
5. **A Demonstration City:** Reimagine the City as a laboratory and platform for the most impactful, transformative technologies that will shape how we live and work in the future.

In releasing his Smart City Vision, Mayor Liccardo cited how enduring financial challenges and citizens’ evolving expectations have created an imperative for City Hall to fundamentally change the way it operates. At the same time, he proclaimed that living in “the most innovative community on the planet” provides a unique opportunity for San Jose to embrace technology to vastly improve city services.

“Together, these factors drive us to conclude that the City cannot continue providing the same services in the same ways,” continued Mayor Liccardo. “As we rebuild and restore service levels, we must embark on new approaches and new ideas. To thrive, San Jose must innovate.”



The Smart City Vision provides a comprehensive framework that aligns over a dozen key initiatives to fundamentally improve the way the City of San Jose serves its residents over the next four-and-a-half years. This include initiatives to:

- **Expand use of data analytics** to improve public safety, such as: more effectively deploying our limited police resources via “hot spot” crime prediction and prevention, better targeting code enforcement, and identifying homes with the highest fire risk for preventative measures.
- **Digitize, automate, and integrate city services** to be “user-friendly” such as by enabling online submission of all city forms and permit applications, and electronic payment for city fees.
- **Broaden access to basic digital infrastructure** for all residents, especially our youth, by enabling free or low-cost, 1 gigabit or faster broadband service in several low-income communities.
- **Utilize open data** in easily-usable and understandable formats to inform public dialog, policy-making, and management decisions, and to enable bright minds in the community to use that data to create service-enhancing applications.
- **Build an “Internet of Things” platform**, in partnership with innovative companies, which utilizes smart sensor technologies to improve safety, mobility, and optimize our transit system.

“We are embracing a holistic digital strategy that will become a core part of how we do business and help us serve our residents better,” said Shireen Santosham, Mayor Liccardo’s Chief Innovation Officer. “In particular, our vision focuses on initiatives where we can leverage technology and data analytics to truly drive performance and outcomes in public safety and other key areas that impact our residents. It’s an exciting time at San Jose City Hall.”

To drive his Smart City Vision, particularly in a time of limited resources, Mayor Liccardo has focused on leveraging the skills and expertise of the private sector, universities, foundations, and other outside organizations. See below for a list of partnerships forged to-date.

Mayor Liccardo will be bringing his Smart City Vision before the City Council for its consideration (tentatively set for the March 29 City Council meeting).

Upon adoption of the vision, the Mayor’s team will work with the City Administration to develop a detailed workplan for the upcoming year. In addition, a number of Smart City projects are already underway and will be formally unveiled in the coming months.

You can read Mayor Liccardo’s Smart City Vision at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=5001>
(Or, view a simple text-version (PDF) at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/55021>)

The City of San Jose’s current Smart City partners:

Bloomberg Philanthropies, White House MetroLab network, Code for America and the San Jose Brigade, Microsoft, John S. and John L. Knight Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Citi Community Development, Robert Half International, Beeck Center for Social Impact & Innovation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, SPUR, Socrata, Trimble, Silver Springs Network, Phillips, anyComm, Prospect SV, Results for America, Sunlight Foundation, Behavior Insights Team, NextFlex, San Jose State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, Harvard University, San Jose City College.



[Sustainable City](#)



[Demonstration City](#)



San José Smart City Vision

Continuing the Conversation on the Homeless

From the Office of District 10 Councilmember Khamis

District 10 has its share of homelessness issues, as do all Council Districts within the City of San Jose. The 2015 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey revealed that there are 6,556 homeless persons living within the County of Santa Clara - over 4,000 of whom are living within the borders of the City of San Jose. At least 39% of the homeless have serious addiction and/or mental health issues, and these and other challenges make this a problem that cannot be easily solved or solved using a one-size fits all approach. Many of you have recently reported homeless encampments in your neighborhoods, under overpasses, and along creeks and waterways, and I, myself, have reported encampments that I have seen in my travels throughout the District. Reports of the encampments are appreciated, since we relay these reports to the City's Homeless Response Team so they can begin the process of getting help to the homeless and getting encampments remediated.

When a homeless encampment is reported, the Homeless Response Team sends out an assessment team to evaluate the needs of the people in the encampment and offers services that may be available to them. They also determine who controls the property where the encampment is located and work with the property owner to get a 72-hour Notice to Vacate issued. The City cannot abate an encampment without first giving homeless residents this notice. The notice includes a warning that the encampment inhabitants must separate the property they want to keep from the property they want discarded. The City must store any property that will not stay with the homeless but that they wish to keep. The noticing and property requirements come from court decisions that sanctioned cities that didn't follow this protocol. The entire process can take time, and because of the court protections built in, the City cannot immediately remove any encampment.

Homelessness, along with other Health & Human Service responsibilities, are primary responsibilities of the County of Santa Clara, but because homelessness presents such big challenges to the City, we partner with the County in their efforts to end homelessness. The City Council allocated \$4 million dollars in the current year's budget for case workers and encampment abatements and have initiated many efforts, led by the Housing Department, to get people housed. Here are some specific steps the City Council has taken to combat homelessness and make affordable housing available, utilizing federal, state, or other restricted funding:

- Acquisition and renovation of the Plaza Hotel for 49 units of supportive housing (which makes services available to the homeless for transitioning out of homelessness). <http://bit.ly/Homels6>
- Declaration of a Shelter Crisis in anticipation of harsh El Nino weather, allowing for warming centers to be opened at Bascom Community Center, Tully Community Library, Washington United Youth Center, and Bibliotheca Branch Library. <http://bit.ly/Homels7>
- Creation of a temporary Church Shelter Program by partnering with willing religious institutions, expediting and simplifying permits that would normally be required, and utilizing their volunteers, to provide overnight housing and meals to small groups of homeless individuals for up to 15 people per location for up to 35 calendar days each year.
- Authorization of Housing funds to be used to acquire the Santa Clara Inn and partner with Abode Services to provide 56 units of supportive housing for the homeless. <http://bit.ly/Homels8>

- Establishment of a pilot transitional housing community to address the immediate housing needs of homeless individuals utilizing 16 modular housing units, each having six to eight private rooms with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. <http://bit.ly/Homels9>

The City Council also directed the Housing Department to coordinate their efforts with the County. On February 23rd, the Director of Housing reported to the City Council on the work occurring between the City and the County. Further actions included the establishment of temporary sanctioned encampments – something neither housing staff nor I supported - but that my colleagues decided to move forward with, as well as developing a second unit ordinance that enables homeowners to build small, secondary residential units on existing lots. I did not support sanctioned encampments because they will take a great deal of work to establish, work that will distract our Housing staff from their other efforts to develop other temporary, supportive, and affordable housing units. Other cities that developed “temporary” encampments have found themselves still running these encampments over 10 years later.

What can you do to help? If you notice an encampment forming in or near your neighborhood, please contact the Homeless Hotline at 408-510-7600 and report the location to City staff with as much detail as you are able to provide. If the encampment is located on Caltrans property, you should additionally report the encampment on their website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/mrssubmit/>. The Homeless Response Team coordinates their efforts with Santa Clara Valley Water District, Caltrans, commercial property owners, and others, depending on the location of the encampments.

What else can you do to help? You can volunteer with or donate to one of the many non-profits that serve the homeless, help out at a local meal site, volunteer with a church or other house of worship that is providing temporary shelter. If you focus your efforts on services that provide food, shelter, and supportive resources to the homeless, in a structured environment, you can make a positive impact. For a very large list of groups that you can work with to assist the homeless in a constructive way, follow this link to the City's Homeless Resources page:

<http://bit.ly/Homels10>

Please bear in mind that the City remains short staffed in many of our services and I ask for your patience in dealing with a particular encampment. If your situation becomes frustrating, please don't hesitate to contact Jose Salcido, in my office, via email at jose.salcido@sanjoseca.gov or by phone at 408-535-4979. If you see something going on at an encampment that presents an immediate threat to public safety, please do not hesitate to call the SJPD at 9-1-1 (408-277-8911 from a mobile device).



“How do I get rid of Hazardous Waste items?”

From the Office of District 10 Councilmember Khamis

San Jose participates in the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program whereby residents can drop off unwanted HHW materials including weed killer, pesticides, paint, and more - at no cost - by scheduling a free appointment.

The County holds collection events every week (Fridays and Saturdays) at three locations: San Jose's HHW facility (at the Environmental Innovation Center on Las Plumas Rd), in San Martin, and temporary locations in Sunnyvale.

Residents may visit www.HHW.org for additional information on what HHW materials can be dropped off and to make an online appointment. Residents may also schedule an appointment by calling 408-299-7300.



FROM THE OFFICE OF



D I S T R I C T O N E

SUPERVISOR MIKE WASSERMAN

First Annual “Veggie Fest” at Martial Cottle Park

Save the Date!

FIRST ANNUAL VEGGIE FEST

Saturday, April 9, 2016

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Avenue



Mark your calendars for the First Annual “Veggie Fest” at Martial Cottle Park on Saturday, April 9th from 10am to 3pm. I am participating in this family-friendly event with hosts San José Councilmember Ash Kalra and State Senator Jim Beall. Join us as we celebrate healthy eating and healthy living with entertainment, vendor booths, and more! Martial Cottle Park has been open for less than 1 year, but already, the 287-acre park dedicated to agriculture is very popular with San Jose residents and the greater community. Martial Cottle Park celebrates our shared agricultural heritage and how the tradition of farming continues to shape our landscape, people and history. In 2015, Jacobs Farms/Del Cabo was contracted to plant tomatoes, melons, squash, sugar snap peas and pumpkins on 180 acres. Come see what all the excitement is about! (Editor's Note: See notice on Page 12 of this newsletter.)

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June Election: Park Charter Fund on the Ballot The June 7, 2016 ballot will include a measure to update and extend the current Park Charter Fund. Created in 1972, this fund pays for the County Parks system by designating a portion of the General Fund for parks. More than 50,000 acres in Santa Clara County now are protected as parkland thanks to this effort.

For more information on what is happening with our fantastic County Park system, please visit: www.parkhere.org

High-Tech Homelessness Solutions We now have a sophisticated computer model to identify the most vulnerable homeless individuals in our community. The Silicon Valley Triage Tool is capable of predicting high cost users in our public safety net system and allows prioritization for supportive housing and other vital services. The Triage Tool identifies local homeless residents who have the highest probability of being long-term, high-cost users of public systems. Thanks to this invaluable tool brought forward by Destination: Home, the County of Santa Clara and Economic Roundtable, we can spend fewer resources while achieving better outcomes. Learn more here: www.destinationhomesc.org

Community Choice Energy Authority Last month, the County joined the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCEA). The unincorporated county, along with the Cities of Cupertino, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale, are the four Sponsoring Partners creating a local Community Choice Energy Authority (CCE) that will offer competitive electricity rates and greener electricity sources. Residents and businesses may be offered the program as early as 2017. Under a CCE, PG&E would continue to provide essential services as a partner, delivering the electricity over existing infrastructure, maintaining the power lines, sending bills, and providing customer service. The difference is that customers would receive cleaner energy and profits would be re-invested in renewable energy programs. When a community decides to create or join a CCE, all customers within that jurisdiction are automatically enrolled in the CCE. However, customers can choose to opt-out and remain with or go back to PG&E. Visit www.svcleanenergy.org.

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

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Visit website for program details
sjenvironment.org/largeitems

First pickup appointment is free. Only \$27 for additional appointments.
All pickups include up to three large items.

Help keep your neighborhood clean! Report illegal dumping: 408-535-3500



It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership!

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

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

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

What is VEP Community Association?

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

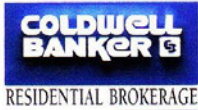
Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year.
- To receive monthly email alerts.
- To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.
- To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.
- To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 47 years of success in our neighborhoods.



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** 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/ mailing prep
- Large Event/Festival, i.e. 4th of July
- 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!

Save the Date!



FIRST ANNUAL VEGGIE FEST

Saturday, April 9, 2016

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Marial Cottle Park

5283 Snell Avenue, San José, CA 95136

Save the date for the first-ever VEGGIE FEST hosted by Councilmember Ash Kalra, in partnership with Senator Jim Beall and Supervisor Mike Wasserman! For more information on the event, please contact Mindy Nguyen at Mindy.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov or call (408) 535-4923.



Let's celebrate
healthy eating
and healthy living
together!



Get ready for
performances,
games, vendors,
and more!



**Paid for by the City of San José*

Calling All Volunteers for Neighborhood Beautification!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Help Us Keep Our Community Beautiful* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Saturday, April 9th ~ 9am – 12noon

★Vista Park Beautification Day★



Saturday, April 23rd ~ Registration @8am, Vista Park

★Great American Litter Pick-Up & VEP Spring Beautification Day★

★For More Information, Please See The Article on Page 5 of This Newsletter★



Gunderson High School
Athletic Booster Club presents

2nd Annual

SPAGHETTI BOWL

Door prizes, raffles, silent auction, games, dancing & more!

Saturday, April 2 @ 4 p.m.

\$25 per person


Horsemen's Hall 20350 McKean Rd. San Jose 95120

For tickets email ghs.boosters@yahoo.com

All proceeds benefit Gunderson High School athletic programs.

VEP Community Schools Calendar

✿ March / April 🌱🐛 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23 JMMS Falcon Feeding Frenzy Panda Express (Meridian & Hillsdale)	24 Parent Brown Bag Meeting ~ 12:00-1:30pm ~ Parent Night ~ 6:30-8:00pm ~ @Gunderson	25	26
27 	28	29 PSCA Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @Parkview Parenting Class ~ 6:30-8:00pm ~ @John Muir	30	31	1	2 Gunderson Spaghetti Bowl Fundraiser (See Page 11)
3	4 Athletic Booster Club Meeting ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ @Gunderson	5 Open House ~ 6:30-7:30pm ~ @Carson PVCA Meeting ~ 6:30-7:30pm ~ @Parkview	6 Las Culturitas ~ 8:45-9:30am ~ @Parkview PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30-7:30pm ~ @John Muir	7 PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30-7:30pm ~ @Gunderson	8 Minimum Day @John Muir	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
San Jose Unified Schools on Spring Break						
17	18	19	20 JMMS Falcon Feeding Frenzy Bogey's Pizza & Yogurtland (Almaden Expwy)	21 SELAC Meeting ~ 10:00-11:00am ~ @John Muir	22	23

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

☘ March / April 🌱🐛 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 Blossom Hill Farmers Market Every Sunday ~ 9am - 1:30pm ~ Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA - Santa Teresa Blvd. & Hwy 85/87	21	22	23	24		
27 HAPPY EASTER HAPPY SPRING HAPPY BEST OF EVERYTHING	28	29 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	30	31		
3 	4	5	6 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	7	8	9 VEP Day of Beautification @Vista Park 9am-12pm
10 	<p>Great American Litter PICK UP</p> <p>Sign Up, Pick Up and Clean Up Your Community!</p>					Join us at one of these events as we work to keep our VEP neighborhoods beautiful!
17 						18

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP Community Meetings

APRIL
 Tuesday, April 26th

MAY
 Tuesday, May 31st

*Everyone is Welcome!
 Invite a Neighbor!*



VEP Community Events

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

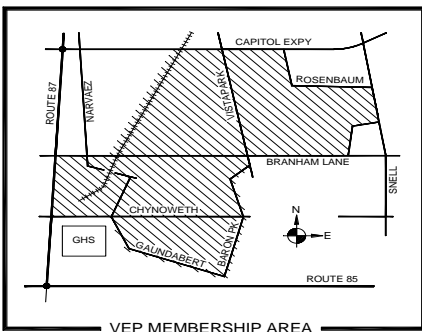
Email: vepca@vepca.net
Website: www.vepca.net

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.

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VEP MEMBERSHIP AREA

Would you prefer to receive your newsletters via email?

Please, 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, March 29th!

*happily hopity...
Easter's on its way!*

