

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

MAY

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
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

7:15pm ~ Ice Cream Social

► Tuesday, May 31st, 2016 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ Martial Cottle Park ★

Park Issues & Updates - Summer Plans

Presentation by

Eric Goodrich, Park Manager

★ Martial Cottle Park-Partner ★

Master Farmer - Jacobs Farm / Del Cabo

Presentation by

Brendan Miele, Director of Domestic Farming Operations

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

VEP Board of Directors: Presentation of Slate for Election

VEP Recognition of Neighborhood Veterans

Announcements & Updates

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

Upcoming Summer Events:

California Primary Election - Tuesday, June 7, 2016

San Jose Parks Foundation Summer Soiree Honors Dave Fadness
June 23, 2016

3rd Annual - 4th of July Fireworks & Family Festival, Lake Almaden

VEP Summer Break: June through August

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, September 27, 2016

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

◆ 2016 is VEP's 47th Year! ◆

VEP's May Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Presentations:** The meeting will begin early with an Ice Cream Social. Everyone is welcome! The formal presentations will follow, including an Update on Martial Cottle Park and plans for the Summer from Park Manager, Eric Goodrich. Additionally, Park Partner – Master Gardener Jacobs Farm / Del Cabo will be represented by Brendan Miele, Director of Domestic Farming Operations, who will present an overview of the professional farming operation at Martial Cottle Park. You will not want to miss this exciting meeting with a focus on our popular neighborhood park!

► VEP Business Meeting / Updates / Announcements

Annual election of the VEP Board of Directors is scheduled. A slate of names will be presented for election by the members. 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. Announcements and information will be highlighted on upcoming events scheduled for the months of June, July, and August. (Reminder: VEP takes a "summer break" during the months of June through August.)

► 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, immediately following the Memorial Day Holiday Weekend, on **Tuesday, May 31st!**

April Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed a small but very enthusiastic group to the meeting. She quickly introduced Board Members and Past Presidents that were present. She announced that there would be some changes to the agenda. First Tammy Green, the Community Outreach Coordinator with the County of Santa Clara Household Hazardous Waste Program had a conflict and would not be able to attend tonight's meeting. She hopes to be able to come at a later date. She did provide interested members with some handouts regarding the program, which are available on the back table. We do have another speaker, who was available and more than willing to come tonight to provide us with information on an issue of concern to all of us who pay property taxes. This is an issue concerning the possible sale/or long-term lease of 27 acres of property currently owned by the Evergreen and San Jose City College Community College District. This property is located at Evergreen. Sandra Randles is a Community Leader and Activist who will be speaking to us about this issue later in the program. The first speaker, Nancy Creveling, who is here to present information to us on the Master Gardener Program at Martial Cottle Park, volunteered to step in, as her partner in the program, Pam Roper, (who is listed in the Newsletter as the speaker) was not able to be here tonight.

With Nancy's permission, we will however, invite our **Councilmember Johnny Khamis**, who just arrived to speak first. Johnny is always well represented at our meetings by Council Assistant Dora Gonzalez, but of course we appreciate it when the Councilmember is able to attend himself. As the Council often meets late into Tuesday evening it is sometimes difficult for him to attend our meetings. Councilmember Khamis thanked President Rodgers and said this was an "early evening", as the Council had met the previous night until almost 2am in the morning – discussing and hearing from residents regarding the issue of raising the

rents 8% on older multiple units. He said he understood everyone's concerns about how rents are going up at an alarming rate in San Jose. However these folks that own older properties are already under "rent control", while the new developments that are currently under construction are not under rent control. The older properties owners are struggling to pay taxes and then make needed improvements in their properties with this limitation. As a result, many of them can't make it financially, and feel they have no option other than to sell the property to the developers. The developers then tear down the old properties, build new ones without rent controls, and the rents go up significantly. He said that is why he is supporting the "mom & pop" owners, as he calls them, and why he voted to help the current owners with an increase to 8%. This way they can continue to offer tenants a place to live. He also talked about the proposed San Jose City Budget and encouraged everyone to attend the Community Budget meetings scheduled in each city council district. The Mayor, as well as himself, and City Staff will be there for a presentation to residents on the proposed Budget. He thanked everyone. Dora Gonzalez spoke next. She reminded attendees of the Councilmember's Community Office Hours – flyers on the back table listed the upcoming dates and times.

Ms. Rodgers also stated that a big event that was coming up was the 4th of July Fireworks Festival that is sponsored by Councilmember Khamis' office, and VEP is a Community Sponsor. Needed are sponsors, vendors for both food trucks and food booths, and volunteers to help the evening before, the day of, and the day after the event. If you are involved in a non-profit organization, and would like to have a booth at the event, there is a special rate for non-profit organizations. This is a "family-friendly event" – no alcohol sold or allowed at the Park, and it is a very exciting event. Plan now to attend with your family.

Ms. Rodgers also thanked those volunteers who came out to help with the annual Great American Litter Pickup which was held on Saturday, April 23rd. We had more families come this year. The neighborhood looks no much better as a result.

By way of announcements – plan now for the VEP Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale on Saturday, May 7th.

Ms. Rodgers introduced **Nancy Creveling with Master Gardeners**. She reminded everyone that Master Gardeners is one of the five partners with Martial Cottle Park that is listed in the original documents signed by Mr. Lester as part of the agreement he signed when he made the donation of his land. Master Gardeners is an all-volunteer organization. Nancy's role is that of Co-Liaison and Steering Committee Co-Lead for Master Gardeners at Martial Cottle Park. She is also the Advisory Board Events Chair for the University of California (UCCE) Master Gardeners Program for Santa Clara County. She spearheads the training coordination at the Park as well. The training for volunteers goes over a 4 month period.

Currently going on is the Raised Garden Beds – garden plot program. There are a significant number of programs through Master Gardeners. For instance, through UC Davis – Pests and Pest Control – they have a significant amount of gofers. There is a school garden program, including free seeds and plants, a Speakers Bureau, and a "Hot Line" – live people answer the phone during the morning hours – it is an "advice line" for any growing/planting problem you may have. This advice line is linked to UC Davis for assistance/answers.

The partnership and property at Martial Cottle Park is a huge project for them. They have 4-1/4 acres with a budget of \$100,000. They currently have tomatoes and are available Saturday 9am to noon. They are located on the Chynoweth side (the east side of

Continues on Page 3

Chynoweth down from Snell). They provide "advice to grow by" workshops - usually held on workdays: Wednesday through Saturday, 9am - noon. You can sign up on the clipboard, and/or just drop by.

They are planning to have a barn – currently putting in pathways. One issue that took them somewhat by surprise, was the lack of immediate and easy access to water for growing. This has caused some delay, and the need for additional funds. Most of their budget is raised through sales of plants etc, and/or donations. The irrigation will eventually be provided by "drip irrigation" for raised beds. Currently they have a large/involved project to provide water – they have to pay for a 3inch line from Chynoweth going under the path (Trail) for water. It will cost \$11,000 to get to the curb, and \$12,000 to go under the path/Trail to the fence.

For the raised beds, flowers are grown as well as food. Cut flowers will be available – and sold as part of their volunteer efforts to raise money to further their projects. They have a native plants class, a class on growing tomatoes from seeds, and one on growing succulents. At Christmas time, there will be a "wreath workshop" in early December.

There are plans for a modular building – this is where they will have demonstration lawns and gardens. Two of the acres will include a 70 foot greenhouse that has the expertise of a landscape architect involved. They hope to have that up and running by Fall.

Also scheduled for Fall – October 1st, Saturday, will be the Fall Festival – plan now to attend. Ms. Rodgers thanked Nancy for her very informative and exciting presentation. Should make everyone want to become a Master Gardeners Volunteer!

Additional contact information for resources listed above:
Information Hotline – San Jose
408-282-3105, M-F 9:30am – 12:30pm
E-mail questions to mgsantaclara@yahoo.com . Learn more about Integrated Pest Management at: www.ipm.ucdavis.edu . Visit Master Gardeners online at: www.mastergardeners.org .

The next presenter was **Sandra Randles**. As previously mentioned Sandra is an active community member and volunteer. She handed out an 'information sheet' for the audience. Anyone can request this information at All4Education@yahoo.com

Sandra informed the audience that in April of 2015 the residents of Evergreen learned that 27 acres of land – land that is part of the Evergreen Valley College property, was approved for lease by the District's Board of Trustees to Republic Urban Properties. This was a surprise and very disturbing. This land was initially obtained in 1967 for Evergreen Valley College's expansion. Now it would be turned over for commercial development for up to 95 years (which essentially would mean the land would no longer ever be available for the original intention of use by the College for educational purposes for the community. In doing this, the Board of Trustees were hoping for an increase in district revenue – however this amount will be quite small – 1.5% of the \$100 million annual budget. This group of community residents believes there are much better ways for the District to fund, and/or cut costs, instead of leasing the land for 95 years.

By way of a reminder, property owners (which includes this area of San Jose) pays tax into the San Jose City College/ Evergreen Valley Community College district. These 27 acres for college expansion was purchased with our tax dollars. 7% of our property tax goes to the District – that is approximately \$700/year for every \$10,000 of property value. Should the long term lease be approved for commercial (rather than for educational) purposes,

residents' tax liability/bills would remain the same – the \$700/year for every \$10,000 of property value would continue to be assessed to property owners and paid to the Evergreen/San Jose Community College District.

The information sheet included several issues of concern as to how money is currently being spent, as well as how many of this District's students are going across town to DeAnza/Foothill and/or West Valley Community Colleges for classes. Many of these classes are not currently available at Evergreen (and should be). A couple of examples included the fact that Evergreen/San Jose District pays for 5 Vice Chancellors vs 3 at DeAnza - at a salary of approximately \$250,000 each. Number of students at Evergreen/San Jose is 13,000 plus students, and at DeAnza - approximately 27,400. Degrees offered at SJ/Evergreen 172 – at DeAnza 263, and so forth. The community group believes much more could and should be done to increase and improve on the programs offered at Evergreen/San Jose. Note: Some programs at Evergreen are highly touted with excellent reputations – the Nursing program and the Automotive programs to name two.

Additional concerns around appropriate and best use of funds spent by the district include the decision to move the District's administrative offices from Evergreen campus, to a much more expensive (and less accessible) office building in downtown San Jose.

The future of the 27 acres will eventually be determined probably in the Fall of 2016 – first by the San Jose City Planning Commission, and finally by the San Jose City Council. (Note: Usually educational issues are not determined/managed by local elected officials – those issues pertaining to education go up through a separate chain of decision makers – the Board of Education up to the State level. As this issue has to do with property-land ownership/management, it will be determined by the City Council).

For information about the upcoming Planning Commission hearings and dates that this issue will be heard and discussed, as well as by the San Jose City Council, interested residents can contact the City project managers Jared Hart and/or Kimberly Vacca – send your e-mail address, ask to be placed on a distribution list for all future community meetings and Planning Commission hearing dates. Their e-mail addresses are: jared.hart@sanjoseca.gov and kimberly.vacca@sanjoseca.gov

For additional information on this issue, including data sheets provided at the VEP meeting, e-mail All4Education@yahoo.com

(Please Note: VEP usually makes every attempt to provide pro and con speakers for every topic that may be controversial. However, in this case, an opportunity to hear information from a speaker opposed to the issue was seen as a beginning point to obtain information on an important issue for our community.)

Slate for Election of VEP Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is elected annually at the May VEP membership meeting. A slate of directors is put forward to the membership in advance, in writing (VEP Newsletter). The following active members are in good standing, and are included in the Slate for Election:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Ginger Cardona | Adina Pierce |
| Helen Castillo | Marilyn Rodgers |
| Katherine Decker | Rachel Witmeyer |
| Rich Giammona | |

Following the election of the VEP Board of Directors, the members of the Board will select the officers, at the next Board of Directors Meeting. Offices include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Memorials to Honor SJPD Officer M. Johnson

By Marilyn Rodgers

In late March, fallen SJPD Officer Michael Johnson was honored with the dedication and renaming of state Hwy 87 in San Jose (see article in April edition of VEP Newsletter). Michael was the son of long time members and Vice President of VEP, Katherine Decker, and husband Dann. Michael was killed a year ago, March 24th, while actively serving the city and residents of San Jose.

During the month of May, 2016, several memorials were held both locally in San Jose, as well as in California at the State Capitol, and in Washington, D.C. All of the memorials were to honor fallen officers, who had been killed during the previous year.

Starting the very beginning of May, the State of California had very impressive ceremonies at the Capitol, in Sacramento. This was a multi-day event to honor 4 officers killed in the line of duty last year, in the state of California. Michael was the first of four officers that were honored, which included having their names engraved on the monument at the Capitol. An additional officer was also honored. He had been critically injured several years ago, and succumbed to those injuries last year.

The ceremonies in Sacramento, were followed with ceremonies held locally – first at the San Jose Police Department in San Jose, and two days later, at the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department. Both the City and County honored local fallen officers, including Michael.

During the middle of May, Katherine and her family, as well as many of Michael's police academy classmates, travelled back to Washington, D.C. for the national memorial. These ceremonies and activities are for all fallen law enforcement officers across the country, who had died the previous year. The ceremonies and activities at the nation's capitol are scheduled over a week's time. Included are memorials, as well as classes and other informational sessions of support for families of fallen law enforcement officers. It also included an introduction and visit with the President of the United States.

Katherine has been deeply moved and honored by all of ceremonies to honor her son Michael, as well as all of the other officers who lost their lives in service to their communities. She also wanted to thank everyone for their kind words of support to her and her family over the past year.

Get Acquainted with Your Neighbors – Consider Having a Driveway or Block Party! D10 Leadership Coalition and VEP Can Help!

By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

Whether you are relatively new to the VEP neighborhoods, or a long time resident, you may want to consider having a "get acquainted" driveway or block party. And now, the District 10 Leadership Coalition and the VEP can help!

If you and/or your neighborhood would like to initiate a driveway/block party, you can apply for a grant of up to \$150 with the D10 Leadership Coalition. Please see the informational flier, printed on the facing page of this newsletter (page 5). In addition, VEP may provide small stipends of up to \$100 for groups of neighbors who want to host a driveway/block party. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact the D10 Leadership Coalition (see flier, page 5), and/or contact VEP President, Marilyn Rodgers (see contact information on the back of this newsletter). Time is limited to apply for these funds, so act now to put party plans in your future!

Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower Declared Historic

By Marilyn Rodgers

As there are many members of the VEP Community that have a personal connection to, or special interest in, the Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower, the following information is being reprinted in the VEP Newsletter for everyone's information.

At the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting held on May 10, 2016, the Supervisors unanimously voted to list the Radar Tower atop Mt. Umunhum on the County's Heritage Resource Inventory. The following information was sent by Sam Drake, President, Umunhum Conservancy.

"On May 10th 2016 the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to list the radar tower atop Mt. Umunhum on the County's Heritage Resource Inventory. For the first time, the tower has official "historic" status! While listing on the Inventory does not make it impossible to demolish or decapitate the tower, it makes any such attempt much more difficult. This is a major milestone in our community's long effort to preserve the Tower and the history it represents. On behalf of the Umunhum Conservancy, I'd like to thank everyone for their support!

While preliminary, the tower's owner, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MidPen), has indicated that they will honor the supervisors' decision. Their General Manager was quoted in the Mercury News as saying "I think the tower is probably going to be there long after you and I are gone." The Conservancy is happy that MidPen seems willing to drop their proposals to demolish the tower or to reduce it to a one story shade structure.

With this objective achieved, what's next? While the tower now is recognized as historic at the county level, it does not yet have such status at the state or federal level. The Conservancy will immediately begin working on those projects.

The tower still needs over a million dollars in repairs, according to MidPen's 2012 estimate. If the tower is safe from demolition, we still need to move forward with those repair efforts. The tower must be preserved, not simply abandoned. The Conservancy has been working since 2013 to raise funds to preserve the tower. To date we have raised approximately 25% of MidPen's 2012 estimate. Many thanks are due to the wonderful individuals and businesses that have contributed to this effort to date!

At this point the Conservancy believes that the following steps are needed:

1. An assessment of the tower's current condition should be performed by an independent qualified contractor. That assessment should result in a prioritized list of specific repair projects that are needed, with an estimated cost for each. The Conservancy should pay for such an assessment and should select the contractor to perform it.
2. Repair projects identified by the assessment should be performed as funds are available. The most urgent repairs should be performed first. The Conservancy should continue to raise funds for those projects, one at a time, until the repairs required to preserve the tower are complete.
3. Follow up assessments by an independent qualified contractor should be performed every 2 years thereafter, paid for by the Conservancy.

We believe this course of action will insure that the tower is preserved for future generations while minimizing public expense and maximizing transparency.

I and the Conservancy welcome the opportunity to discuss the next steps with MidPen and hope to quickly reach a mutually agreeable plan going forward.

Thanks again to the community for your support!

Sam Drake
President / Umunhum Conservancy

email: umunhum.conservancy@gmail.com
phone: (408) 827-5150
web: www.umunhumconservancy.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/umunhum

The Umunhum Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law."

Hosting a Block/ Neighborhood Party? Let us help!

D-10 Leadership Coalition

P.O. Box 41476
San Jose, CA 95160

Email: Raylene Fedor
vchair@d10-leadership.org

Website:

D10-leadership.org

We understand the importance of bringing neighbors together. What better way than to host a Neighborhood/Block Party?

The District 10 Leadership Coalition wants to help!

Whether you need help with take-out food for your event, costly street closure permits or if you're looking for t-shirts to promote your groups awareness... We can help!

The process is easy. Contact us to send the application via e-mail or go to our website located at the left, print and fill out the application.

Return it to our P.O. Box address.

We're offering up to \$150 for your eligible expense towards your next Neighborhood event.

All events must occur before August 5, 2016. Receipts must be submitted by August 8, 2016, sorry, no exceptions.

If you're not sure if an expense is eligible, send an e-mail to Raylene Fedor at the address to the left. We want your event to be just as successful as you do.

Let us help with your next Neighborhood/Block party. Contact the D-10 Leadership Coalition!

Don't delay contact us today!

Chynoweth - New, Red Reflective Signs at Dead-end of West Chynoweth

By Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce
Photographs by Adina Pierce

For those VEP residents that live close to the dead-end of the west side of Chynoweth (south of Gunderson High School) you will be pleased to know that there are now three red reflector signs just above the street curbs and on the City side of the pedestrian entrance to the Martial Cottle Trail.

Unfortunately, over the last several months, this location has had three serious car accidents with the vehicles driving into and damaging both the street curbs, and the decorative fence at the pedestrian entrance.

While these accidents had various causes, VEP asked to have additional street lighting and additional signage to help drivers realize that this is a dead-end, with no street access through to Oakridge Mall.

Lighting and street signage has been replaced and improved. Having the red reflective signage has made a very real difference in notifying drivers of the dead-end.

VEP would like to thank Councilmember Khamis and Council Assistant Dora Gonzalez, as well as the San Jose Department of Transportation for their assistance in providing three bright red reflector signs - placed at the dead-end of west Chynoweth.



Photo by Dora Gonzalez

Photo By Andrew Pickard & Family

VEP Neighbors Join in the Annual Great American Litter Pickup!

By Marilyn Rodgers

On Saturday morning, April 23, an enthusiastic group of 24 neighbors came to sign in, network, and have a cup of coffee, before obtaining supplies and heading off to pick up litter in the VEP neighborhoods.

This year, we had a significant number of families with children - ages ranging from 2 to 18. One neighbor who lives on Bluefield brought his son, as well as another neighbor with her son who took supplies and headed off to pickup litter on the Martial Cottle Trail. They also said they would recruit interested others on the Trail. Another Dad and his two-year old son who live on Barron Park did a great job picking up litter in the Vista Park.

Several of our long time "die-hard" litter pick up volunteers spread out to their "favorite" problem area in the neighborhood. Josie Supencheck and grandson headed for Chynoweth just past Gunderson H.S leading the effort all along Chynoweth. Joyce Chesnos went to Branham Lane and the Trail from Branham to Chynoweth. The Reddy's went down Chynoweth to the Park entrance and back up Gaundabert. Additionally we had folks come from other areas close by - thanks to our neighbors from Tanglewood! Two other volunteers, another Mother and Son team - Georgia and Andrew Pickard took the area of Vista Park Drive up to Branham and then toward Snell. They did a fabulous job along this area - several large bags and an old tire - Andrew adopted the name "tire boy." We also had three students from Gunderson H.S. who live in the VEP neighborhood - all did a great job and earned Community Service Hours toward High School graduation.

Of course we also want to thank our Councilmember Johnny Khamis who as has been his habit for several years, came by and pitched in to help collect litter along Chynoweth up to the VTA station parking lot. Thanks Johnny! Special thanks to Council Assistant Dora Gonzalez for organizing our area, and "manning" the sign-in booth, and arranging for snacks for everyone.

Over 24 very large bags of litter were collected from our neighborhood streets, and the attractive appearance of our neighborhoods was greatly increased! Thanks to everyone who participated!!! You all are very much appreciated!





\$aving 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.*
***Watch for details in the September '16 Edition of VEP News!**

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** (i.e. 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 acknowledgment to Organization, etc.

July 4th Fireworks & Festival at Lake Almaden >>Sponsors, Vendors, and Volunteers Needed

By Marilyn Rodgers

4th of July is only a little over a month away. Planning is underway for this very popular event sponsored by District 10. **Put it on your calendar and plan now for your family and friends to attend!**

We currently would like additional **sponsors, vendors – businesses small or large, who would like to have a booth at this event**, and more **volunteers** are needed to put on this "family friendly" and very fun – event!!

So if you have your own business (or work for a business) who might be interested....please contact me as soon as possible. Note: There is a discounted rate for non-profit organizations.

Volunteers: Are you involved with a volunteer group that might be interested in participating with this event? We are looking for individuals and/or groups – such as Girl Scouts, Church groups, High School students – especially Juniors who need Community Service Hours for graduation next year, and **adults** who would be interested in volunteering! (Note: There may be a perk for volunteers who volunteer for 4 hours or more for this event!)

Volunteers are needed the evening of July 3rd, the morning, afternoon, and evening of July 4th, and the morning of July 5th. If you can volunteer, or if you have suggestions/names of individuals or groups who may be interested, please let me know. Contact Marilyn Rodgers at 408-225-7553 or MRodgersRN@aol.com as soon as possible! Thanks!



VEP is an all-volunteer organization that relies on the participation of its members. If you have a **LITTLE** spare time, you can make a **BIG** impact in your neighborhood.

Current opportunities for VEP Volunteers:

1. Flyer Distribution in VEP Neighborhoods
2. Coordinator for VEP Beautification Projects
3. Gunderson High School Liaison/Contact

Please contact VEP President Marilyn Rodgers if you would like to help with one of these, or any other volunteer positions.

408-225-7553 / mrodersrn@aol.com

VEP to Recognize and Honor Veterans in Our Own Community

By Marilyn Rodgers

As part of the Memorial Holiday celebration, VEP would like to recognize and honor the Veterans who live in our community. As we have just started collecting information on who is a veteran, we will begin this recognition with a list in the May Newsletter, followed with recognition at our May membership meeting the end of May, as well as continuing to solicit additional names and follow-up through November for Veterans Day. We want to make sure that our neighbors know how much all of us appreciate your service and your sacrifice which continues to make this the great country we all love and want to live in.

So....Thank You Very Much!!!

It is not too late to contribute your name, or the name of a family member. Please contact VEP President, Marilyn Rodgers, by email, MRodgersRN@aol.com , or call 408-225-7553.

Please provide the following information, for each individual:

Full Name and Branch Served In

The Years Served and/or the War/Conflict Served In

For Memorial Day: "The Story of Taps"

www.usmemorialday.org/taps.html

There is a myth about the origin of Taps that is circulating about the Internet. The true story is that in July 1862, after the Seven Days battles at Harrison's Landing (near Richmond), Virginia, the wounded Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, Gen. Daniel Butterfield reworked, with his bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton, another bugle call, "Scott Tattoo," to create Taps. He thought that the regular call for Lights Out was too formal. Taps was adopted throughout the Army of the Potomac and finally confirmed by orders. Soon other Union units began using Taps, and even a few Confederate units began using it as well. After the war, Taps became an official bugle call. Col. James A. Moss, in his Officer's Manual first published in 1911, gives an account of the initial use of Taps at a military funeral:

"During the Peninsular Campaign in 1862, a soldier of Tidball's Battery A of the 2nd Artillery was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods. It was unsafe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, on account of the proximity of the enemy, and it occurred to Capt. Tidball that the sounding of Taps would be the most appropriate ceremony that could be substituted."

There are no official words to the music but here are some of the more popular verses:

Day is done, Gone the sun, From the hills, From the lake, From the sky.
All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.

Go to sleep, Peaceful sleep, May the soldier or sailor, God keep.
On the land or the deep, Safe in sleep.

Love good night, must thou go, when the day, and the night, need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all, To their rest.

Fades the light; And afar, Goeth day, And the stars, Shineth bright
Fare thee well; Day has gone, Night is on.

Thanks and praise, For our days, 'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky, As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

More about the true history of Taps can be found online, at:

www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/taps.pdf

www.west-point.org/taps/Taps.html

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taps>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Bob Shoberg

U.S. Army – 1963-1966

Craig Ash

U.S. Army - Vietnam era

Bob Olsen

U.S. Marine Corps – 1969-1975

Don Ferguson

U.S. Air Force – Vietnam – 1963-1967

Linda Ferguson

U.S. Air Force – 1963-1965 Vietnam (Nurse)

Stuart Scott

Ca. Army National Guard – 1964-1970

Pat Hanna

U.S. Navy – Security Group – Vietnam War 1969-1976

Micheal (Mike) Reppas

U.S. Army – Vietnam

Rey L. Call

U.S. Navy – World War II – July 1942-Sept 1945
Army National Guard (Lt.) – June 1950-July 1952

George L. Prior

U.S. Navy – Pacific Theatre, WWII – 1944-1947
U.S. Army – 1949-1951

Tony Fischer

U.S. Air Force – 1962-1966 – Cold War
Stationed at Almaden Air Force Station, Mt. Umunhum

Quan Nguyen

U.S. Marine Corps – 1990-2004
Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom

Gerald (Jerry) Bradley

U.S. Navy - 1956-1980

Arthur (Bud) Sliger

U.S. Air Force - 1962-1966 - Vietnam War

Frank Kistler

U.S. Navy - 1948-1952 - Berlin Airlift & Korean War



In memory of many,
In honor of all,
Thank you



VEP Membership Drive 2016

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so if you haven't done so already, 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 VEP 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.

New to VEP?

If you are new to VEP, you may have some questions. Here are some answers!

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 the safety of our neighborhoods, 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 help 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 local high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 46 years of success in our neighborhoods.



Reach Thousands of Local People Through:

VEP News (in-print & digital)
VEP's Website

Contact VEP Treasurer
Ginger Cardona

408-227-0222 / cardona@sbcglobal.net

** VEP Membership Application **

- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY -

VEP NEVER SHARES OR SELLS YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email address(es): _____

Please let us know:

I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? Yes No

I am willing to volunteer for:

- Beautification/clean-up projects
- VEP News/ mailing prep.
- Large Events / Fireworks & Festival (July 4th)
- Distribute flyers to neighborhood homes
- Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair

Other: _____

Comment(s):

Please mail this form and your \$20 check to:

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

Thank You!



Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.

(Franklin D. Roosevelt)

izquotes.com

Get out the vote: June 7th Primary Election

Reprinted from "Mid-May 2016: District 10 Announcements!" from the Office of D10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis

For the upcoming June 7 Primary Election, there are **City Council elections in Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10**. You will be able to vote in these Council District races if you live in one of the City's even-numbered districts. The top two candidates with the highest number of votes will move on to the General Election on November 8.

Also on the June 7 ballot are two measures that specifically affect San Jose residents and neighborhoods:

Measure B is a proposal to increase the current sales tax by ¼ cent. The City Council placed the measure on the June ballot to enact a ¼ percent sales tax for 15 years. If approved by San José voters, it would provide about \$40 million annually to support basic City services such as police and fire response, repair potholes and streets, and maintain the City's long-term financial stability. The measure would require Independent Citizens Oversight with public review of spending, and all revenues controlled locally. This measure would require a simple majority vote to pass.

Measure C is an initiative to amend the San José Municipal Code regarding the local regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries. This measure was placed on the ballot through a citizens' initiative. It would amend Title 6 and Title 20 of the Municipal Code to include medical marijuana collectives as an allowed land use in more areas of the city such as agricultural, commercial pedestrian, commercial neighborhood, industrial park, light industrial and heavy industrial zoning districts. The initiative also would revise the City's current medical marijuana registration process and zoning code verification certificate process. If passed by a majority vote, Measure C would replace the City of San Jose's current medical marijuana program with a different program as outlined in the initiative.



For more details about these two measures and the upcoming June primary, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/Election2016.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF

D I S T R I C T O N E



SUPERVISOR
MIKE WASSERMAN

Hundreds of families braved the rain last month to come out for the **First Annual Veggie Fest at Martial Cottle Park**. If you missed Veggie Fest, be sure to check out the many community events happening at any one of our 29 County Parks by visiting the Santa Clara County Parks website www.parkhere.org

Protecting our animals is important, I'm happy to report that my **fellow Supervisors have agreed with my recommendation to look into funding for a new animal shelter in South County**. The current shelter was built over 40 years ago in a converted residential property. The facilities are insufficient, outdated, and in constant need of repair. The size of the current shelter also results in animals living in cramped conditions, which can cause stress, disease, and leaves little space to properly quarantine and treat sick animals. I have asked staff to identify the funding options needed for a new shelter.

It was my honor to serve as the auctioneer alongside Sam VanZandt of 94.5 KBAY who served as emcee for **HomeFirst's "Home SWEET Home" event last month**. All proceeds of the event benefited HomeFirst's work to end homelessness. HomeFirst is focused on eliminating barriers to housing and stability for the more than 4,000 adults, veterans, families with children, and youth that they serve each year.

Go Green.

You can sign up to receive the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet electronically instead of by regular mail, saving paper.

Vote-By-Mail for Free.

Put away the stamps; the 72% of voters who vote by mail can now do so for free. The Board of Supervisors recently approved paying the postage for all vote-by-mail voters, making it easier than ever to participate in elections.

Volunteer at the Polls. Be a part of democracy in action! Thousands of volunteers are needed to help on Election Day, especially those who are bi-lingual. Volunteers receive stipends of \$115 - \$200 and must be registered voters or legal permanent residents of the United States. Students 16 years and older may apply for the Student Election Officer Program. www.sccvote.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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FROM THE OFFICE OF

JOHNNY KHAMIS

SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 10



STOP Graffiti & Illegal Dumping

I am sure all of you are as frustrated as I am when you drive around our scenic district and take in the natural beauty of it, only to be disturbed by unsightly graffiti or a sofa lying on the side of the road. We need to put an end to this blight!

To that end, on May 3rd, my colleagues unanimously approved my recommendation that we begin the Report and Reward program to deter graffiti and illegal dumping. Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Herrera, and Councilmembers Carrasco and Peralez joined me in authoring a memo that focused on ways to prevent the scourge of illegal dumping and graffiti vandalism in our neighborhoods, such as offering rewards of up to \$1,000.00 for each tip that leads to arrests or fines against graffiti vandals and those dumping illegally within San Jose. We also want to expand the use of technology to make it as easy to report illegal dumping as it is to report graffiti and help catch people who spoil our community.



Aside from offering rewards for those who turn in graffiti vandals and dumpers, the action we took this week authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a shared data agreement with Graffiti Protective Coatings (GPC) to make it easier for businesses and private property to easily report vandals to GPC for clean-up and to SJPD for investigative follow-up. When it comes to illegal dumping there will also be a shared data agreement that will ultimately convey reports to Code Enforcement. City staff will report back on progress toward the objectives spelled out in our memo in winter 2016. In the meantime, I want to insure that all District 10 residents are aware of the tools available to us to fight this blight. The City relies on each of us to report graffiti that we see and it is easy to do so if you have a smart phone! Just search the Android or Apple app store for the San Jose Clean app. Once you've downloaded the free app, it is extremely easy to photograph and report the graffiti, which generates a work order to get the graffiti cleaned up within 48 hours. You will even receive a message after the clean-up is completed with a photo of the clean surface (fence, wall, tree, etc.). If you don't have a smart phone, you can instead call in the location and details about the graffiti to 1-866-249-0543 or send email the information (with photos, if you have them) to toantigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov.



When it comes to illegal dumping, calls are made to the City's Environmental Services Department. We are trying to bring the same efficiencies that exist in reporting graffiti to the reporting of illegal dumping, but, in the meantime, please visit this link to report any illegal dumping found in your own neighborhood, or anywhere else your travels may take you:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=606#graffiti>

Let's keep District 10 clean so that we all may continue to enjoy our beautiful surroundings!!!

It's Time For A Neighborhood Watch

During the last two months, I have noticed a drop in requests for Neighborhood Watch meetings. This concerns me, because whenever I see us become complacent burglaries start to rise. Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Most burglars drive the neighborhoods before they decide to strike; this is called "casing the neighborhood." If the burglar finds himself or herself on a Neighborhood Watch block, he or she is going to think twice before deciding to break into your house. The reason Neighborhood Watch groups are so effective in deterring crime is because the neighbors in those groups are watching out for one another.



As all of you know, our police department's staffing is stretched thin and they are trying everything they can to keep us safe. In the last 60 days they have arrested 10 suspects for burglary, but they can't do it alone. We must provide them the information they need to make their job easier. Neighborhood Watch meetings are the best way to prepare our residents to do that. They teach our residents how to be good witnesses and how to identify suspicious activity that warrants a call to the police. If you have not participated in, or organized, a Neighborhood Watch group on your block, please contact the SJPD Crime Prevention Unit: **408-277-4133**, or <http://www.sjpd.org/BFO/Community/Crimeprev/>

Let's help keep our neighborhoods safe!



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July 4th Festival & Fireworks at Almaden Lake

Picture your family and friends here!

VEP Community Calendar

☀ May / June ☀ 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Blossom Hill Farmers Market Every Sunday ~ 9am - 1:30pm ~ Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA - Santa Teresa Blvd. & Hwy 85/87	23  Book Fair All Week! @ Parkview	24	25 JMMS "Oscar's Night" ~ 6:00-7:30pm ~ GHS Science Fair ~ 4:00-6:00pm ~	26 Senior Safari Walkabout ~ 9am-10am ~ @Happy Hollow Park & Zoo 	27	28 Book Sale \$1 hardbacks 50¢ softcovers ~ 10am-5pm ~ @MLK, Jr. Library
29 \$5/Bag Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library	30 NO SCHOOL Happy Memorial Day! 	31 VEP Community Meeting & Ice Cream Social ~ 7:15 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	1 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	2 Last Day of School @Carson & JMMS JMMS 8th Grade Promotion, 4pm Talent Show, 6pm @Parkview	3 Last Day of School @Gunderson South First Fridays southfirstfridays.com Art Walk ~ 7-11pm @SoFA District	4 San Jose Greek Festival sanjosegreekfestival.org June 3rd-5th @St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
5  Blossom Hill Farmers Market Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA Station, San Jose	6 First Day of Summer School (Last Day June 24) @Gunderson	7 Last Day of School @Parkview	8	9	10	11 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @City Espresso (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
12 	13 weekly FRIDAY DINNER: WILLOW GLEN 5P - 9P 	14 MOVEABLE FEAST 	16	17	18 Dancin' on the Avenue www.willowglen.org ~ 2pm - 8pm ~ @Downtown Willow Glen *Live music acts and special vendor at Willow Glen dinner market every Friday.	
19 	20  HAPPY first day of SUMMER	21	22	23 Senior Safari Walkabout ~ 9am-10am ~ @Happy Hollow Park & Zoo 	24	25 Valley of Heart's Delight Fundraiser hsvalleyofheartdelight.org ~ 5pm - 9pm ~ @History Park

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP's Meetings

Tuesday, May 31st

Ice Cream Social @7:15pm



Tuesday, September 27th

Everyone is Welcome!
 Invite a Neighbor!



Reach Thousands of Local People Through:

VEP's Website & News (print & digital)

Reasonable Rates!

Contact VEP Treasurer, Ginger Cardona
 408-227-0222 / cardona@sbcglobal.net

VEP Community Events

4th of July

🎆 Fireworks & Festival 🎆

@Almaden Lake



THE VEP NEWS

VEP Community Association

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

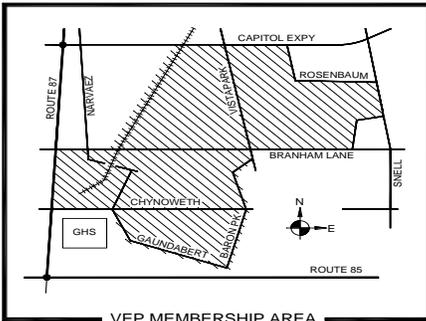
Email: vepca@vepca.net
Website: www.vepca.net

Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to active involvement in civic affairs. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to schools and government officials serving our membership area. For membership or paid advertisement information, contact our Treasurer or write to the address listed above.

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Please, let us know at vep@vepca.net



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Social @7:15 pm ~and~ Meeting @7:30pm
in the Vista Park Community Room

*Be Sure to Attend VEP's
Ice Cream Social and
Community Meeting
Tuesday, May 31st*

